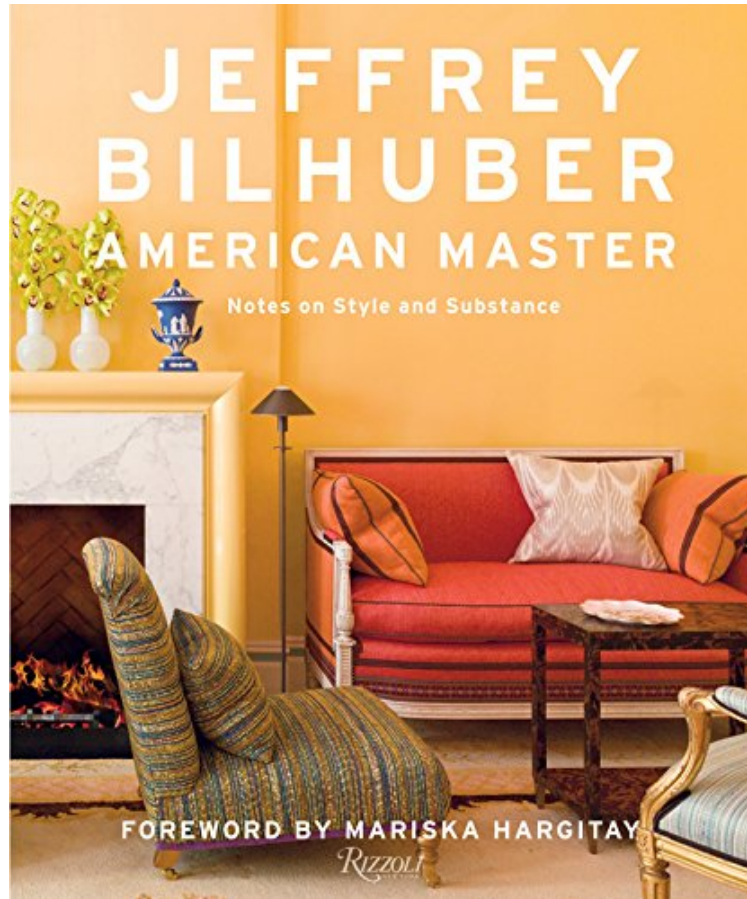


(Free) Jeffrey Bilhuber: American Master

## Jeffrey Bilhuber: American Master

*Sara Ruffin Costello*

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**Sara Ruffin Costello : Jeffrey Bilhuber: American Master** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jeffrey Bilhuber: American Master:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. I always thought that if I won the lottery Bilhuber ...By Solange I always thought that if I won the lottery Bilhuber would be my designer. I adore his work. That said, his ego has gone overboard in this work. I read whatever I can about and by him, but his pronouncements about his mastery at the "top of (his) game" become a bit trying in this latest volume. Still, he is learned, imaginative, a definite one-off, and I still want to have dinner with him. 4.5 stars. So, I decided to add a few notes about this book. Like a couple of Bilhuber's other books, this one is instructive in successful, unexpected color and period combinations and is full of other decorating surprises besides. Bilhuber challenges convention. His projects are gargantuan. One features moving a huge skylight from the second to the third floor of a building. He is bold. Most would not have the nerve to cut down an antique area rug so that it could function as a wall-to-wall in a smaller space. Nothing is too sacred. Despite his obvious research and reverence for beauty and period detail, he adds witty notes and fun to his extravagant projects. Still, I think he is risking trying too hard to out do his prior achievements and letting his ego run amok. 4 of 5 people

found the following review helpful. The Master's Latest By L. M. Keefer If you have been tapping your fingers wondering what Jeffrey Bilhuber has been up to lately regarding decorating, you don't have to wait any longer. Oh - there have been teasers of his Hay Fever home - my favorite - on One King's Lane, and the NYSD just visited his New York City home, but there's never enough images to satiate. This book should help to satisfy Bilhuber fans as it has recent projects with brilliant narration by Sara Ruffin Costello and captivating photos by William Abranowicz. In my review of Bilhuber's last book, I was wishing his Hay Fever country home was featured in it - so was delighted to see it included in this book which makes it a 5 star read for me. Have you found that your favorite rooms of designers are in their own homes? It is one of my favorite homes of all time. Would actually like to see a separate book just of Bilhuber's homes with photos of the rooms from every corner and all the vignettes. Every once in a while you see a home and you realize you could move into it and not change a thing - it speaks home to you. That's how this home feels to me. I tell class members in my design classes to start collecting rooms which feel that way to them, as they offer clues to their signature style. To find a whole house which feels that way is a treasure. There's a variety of projects in this book from vibrant high voltage rooms to subtly neutral rooms. It is fun to see one talent expressed in a variety of homes. Here's a sampling of the range of projects in the book which include some of the following elements of style:

- \* Palm Beach home with a Moroccan feel - there's corner banquettes, tables with tassels, green Moroccan fretwork, hand-painted paisley, lilac leopard print chair, thick bullion fringe trim on a divan and hand-blocked Indian prints.
- \* Bilhuber's Manhattan apartment - it "references the gilded age" 1868-1900. There's a peacock called George, gold fillet around the drawing room ceiling, a Belle Epoque suite of furniture with original gros-point needlework and damask, Directoire sconces, pagoda lamp shade, Mauny French 19th century block print wallpaper, baize covered dining table, noir needle point armchair, crimson wool velvet carpet, course linen hopsacking drape, arabesque John Henry Belter armchair, and de Gournay wallpaper with gold in Bilhuber's bedroom.
- \* Sybaritic Manhattan townhome - lacquered yellow walls with mural, yellow leather bergeres, Spanish 1930's carpet, Louis Seize banquettes made to order, gimp strapwork on seams of 19th century flocked wallpaper in bedroom, milk glass lamp, Josef Hoffman Viennese chair, apple green liner in a bed's corona, abalone chair, Maison Jansen writing desk, and a Coromandel screen transformed to a closet.
- \* Stone Federalist house near Kent, Connecticut - 5 foot wide tufted ottoman, 1930's parchment waterfall table, demilune banquette, and lacquered red shirts as art installation.
- \* Elizabethan house in San Francisco - top floor decoration with rooms reached by pull down ladder. Bilhuber wanted to build on San Francisco's historically explored designer inventiveness with the likes of Tony Duquette, John Dickinson and Michael Taylor. Fuschia damask fabric on walls balance cheetah carpet underfoot. Victorian hooded wing chair, Motherwell graphic inspired wallpaper, Persian stained glass, malachite resin console table, magenta corduroy ottoman, 1980 style mirrored mosaic on bathroom walls, and made-to-order Tillett canvas in guest room with egg yellow lining on bed coronet. And an amazing skylight.

Bilhuber's Masterpiece Hay Fever home - foundation from 1600's and home emulates Mount Vernon, George Washington's home. Wallpaper print from GONE WITH THE WIND movie re-created by John Knott at Quadrille in foyer, apple green sitting room with chintz prints and striped cotton, French blue decorative trim on walls, 19th century Henry Northey Hooper girandole candlesticks, column of silhouettes on wall, "grandly florid 1940's hooked round rug", lacquered paper mache deer head trophies, shed antlers, French glass, mirrors placed around and above doorways, waist high banking table in library, hand-woven Scottish ingrain carpet, sumptuous red linen canopy bed with Puritan white lining, 1842 print of THE SENATE CHAMBER over fireplace in Bilhuber's stunning red bedroom which you can look at forever drinking in its je ne sais quoi. Yes, this home definitely needs its own book. Can we pre-order now? Throughout the book are Bilhuber's design insights which are always enlightening and provocative. "30 pithy statements" by Bilhuber anchor the book. Here's one: "Everything must register on one level or another. That's what details are for." If you enjoy Bilhuber's genius, you should find something in this book to delight you. I did. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bilhuber has done a few interiors I love, so I thought I'd purchase the book. By Debra Ellison Way too much going on in these interiors.. Mr. Bilhuber has done a few interiors I love, so I thought I'd purchase the book...., the interiors in this book are for readers looking for the "more is more" look.

In his latest book, Jeffrey Bilhuber distills thirty years of expertise and creative inspiration designing beautiful and brilliantly modern rooms. Presenting a diverse range of decorators most recent and important work from around the country, the book is centered around 30 signature statements by Bilhuber pithy and insightful bedrock principles and axioms that have fueled designers process. Rounding out these statements Sara Ruffin Costello, the highly regarded writer and editor, sheds light on Bilhuber's inimitable style through charming anecdotes and bright, rich descriptions, revealing a decorator at the top of his profession. Anchoring the ideas that drive each project, the statements represent different angles from which to appreciate the decorator's vision and mastery of his craft. Some are broad and philosophical: What's liberating is to be fearless and Modernity is not about a new material, it's about how you navigate your way through the world. And others, specific and practical: It's easy to get white wrong. It takes talent to get it right and it's powerfully important to sit at the table and talk to each other. Capturing the breadth and beauty of Bilhuber's work in city townhouses and rambling country houses throughout the country in New York City, Palm Beach, Aspen,

and San Francisco, each project reveals itself to be a standard-bearer of great style, reflecting the decorators optimistic and classically informed point of view.

"There is an irresistible American harmony in [Bilhuber's] creations. It takes a fine eye to gather loud contemporary furniture with quietly thoughtful antique pieces, flirty prints with playful needlepoint, the perfectly preserved with the well-loved and well-used. The resulting rooms have a convivial atmosphere, where furnishings converse and welcome carefully chosen newcomers. . . No party happens twice, and each Bilhuber room is a one-off, client wishes filtered through his fertile imagination, an understanding of modern lifestyles the driving force behind every decision."- ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST"Designer Jeffrey Bilhuber feels his client is critical to a room's success and its staying power. In Bilhuber's own rooms, his genius is evident. His hand is in everything. Circling back to his maxim: 'It's liberating to be fearless,' his rooms are certainly that and never so evident as in his New York apartment with its Gilded Age elegance, belle Epoque glamour, Victorian sentiment, and present day precision, all evoking the catalysts Bilhuber adores, and masters."-LITTLE AUGURY BLOG"It's not very common that decorating books actually motivate you to read. However, this book is a stunning exception. . . Bilhuber is an amazing decorator, and his effusive designs are incredibly welcoming. . . I'll be keeping [Jeffrey Bilhuber: American Master] close at hand for design inspiration. What could be better than a book that galvanizes your creative spirit?"-MarthaStewart.com"The title couldn't be a better moniker, as Bilhuber truly is an American Master, creating remarkable, seemingly effortless, timeless interiors for over 30-years. . . [Jeffrey Bilhuber: American Master] features eight homes from around the country . . . From large Manhattan townhouses, to rambling country houses, to compact apartments off Park Avenue, the rooms all have Jeffrey's unmistakable finishing touch."- NiagaraNovice Blog"When looking for decorating books to inspire, or even to assemble on the tabletops of our enthusiastic decorating friends and clients, were sure to include a book by Jeffrey Bilhuber. He is a master of assembling daring color combinations. His latest book, American Master, has just been published by Rizzoli, and we suggest you add it to your collection A.S.A.P!"-McGrath II Blog"[Jeffrey Bilhuber] invites us on a tour of some of his most stunning projects, ranging from New York City and Palm Beach to Aspen, and San Francisco. From city townhouses and country homes to a Federalist stone home and Bilhuber's own Manhattan apartment and Locust Valley residence known as Hay Fever, this collection shows his diversity, as well as his genius with color combinations (e.g. blue cornicing with fuchsia wallpaper), show stopping curtains and layers of pattern."-TheTravelMemo.com About the Author Since the founding of his eponymous firm, Jeffrey Bilhuber's high-profile clients have entrusted him to bring beauty and comfort into their lives and residences. His work has been published in every major national and international shelter magazine, and he has been a featured guest on a wide variety of television shows, including Charlie Rose, The View, and Conan O'Brien. His successful first book, Jeffrey Bilhuber Design Basics, also by Rizzoli, is now in its fifth printing. Sara Ruffin Costello was the Founding Creative Director of Domino, and contributes to the New York Times T Magazine, Wall Street Journal, Travel and Leisure, and Vogue. William Abranowicz is a world-renowned photographer and artist who has been featured in all of the major home and interior design publications. Mariska Hargitay is an award-winning actress, best known for her role on NBC's TV drama Law Order: Special Victims Unit.