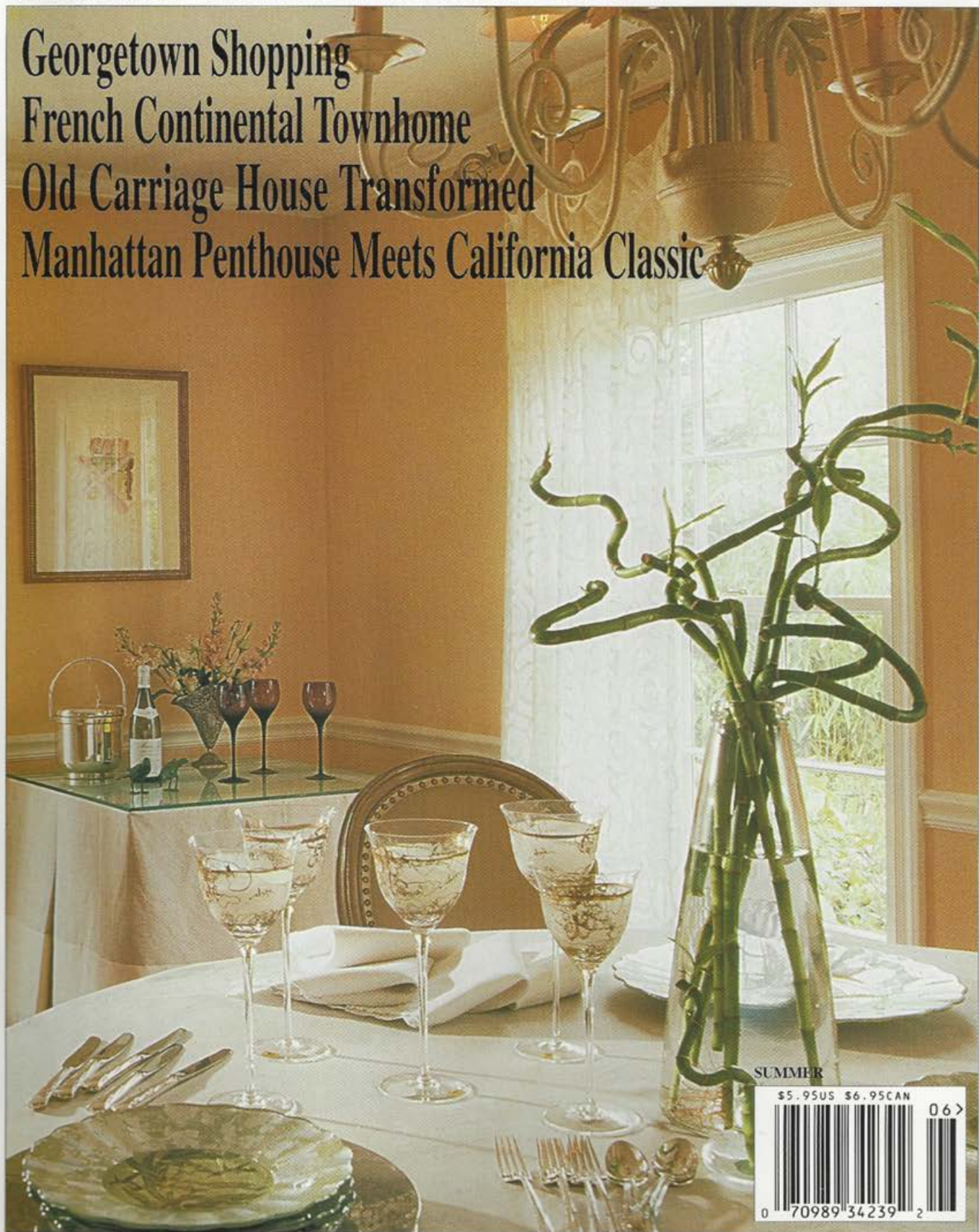


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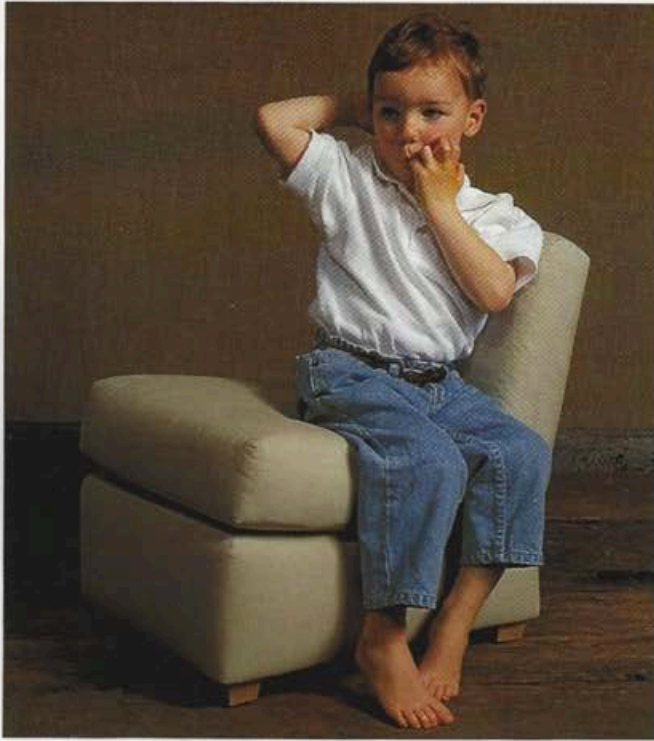


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TRENDS IN DESIGN FOR CHILDREN

Full-Grown Style

TEXT Kate Premo, New York, NY



ABOVE: The Baby Baldwin Slipper Chair by Billy Baldwin Studio is scaled to children. It is available through Niermann Weeks at The Washington Design Center.

Products from some of the design industry's leading companies demonstrate that one need not be grown-up to have full-grown style. While they feature the same sophisticated sensibilities as their more mature relatives, children's collections from Winhall Collection, Billy Baldwin Studio and Julia Gray have a unique appeal for more youthful design schemes.

These lines feature elements similar to collections designed for adults. For example, furniture has clean lines and textiles have refined compositions. But designers have taken care to make these collections distinctly child-friendly with new proportions, palettes and prints.

For David Parrett and Judi Coté, co-owners of Winhall Collection, designing children's textiles was a labor of love. "The idea of designing a collection for children all began at a barn sale in Vermont," Coté said of Cranberry Hill, the company's new children's line, which is available through J. Lambeth at The Washington Design Center. "We found an antique book of drawings of children's figures, and these served as inspiration for several of the patterns in the line." Life with their three young children has provided more inspiration. For example, during a

cookout at the family's vacation home in Vermont, the children discovered frogs in a nearby pond. Winhall Collection translated the frogs' distinct silhouette into a repeating pattern in shades of pink, blue, green or beige against a white ground, to create Petite Bunis Frogs. Coté said while the collection features a range of prints, such as stripes and "really animated" animal illustrations, "all the patterns communicate warmth and family."

Family also inspired Susan Dempsey of Billy Baldwin Studio. The company's Baby Baldwin collection features re-proportioned versions of classic pieces by legendary designer Billy Baldwin.

"When I was out shopping for my children, I realized that there are very few shops that make good children's furniture," Dempsey explained. Inspired by her children's own habits, she realized that "there's always a need for a comfy chair in a children's room where they can curl up and read a book." She looked to Billy Baldwin Studio collection of Billy Baldwin designs and concluded that many of those classics could be altered for children. The Baby Baldwin collection, which is available through Niermann Weeks at The Washington Design Center, features child-size chairs, an ottoman, a

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