

TIPS FROM A PRO

The Triumph of Good Taste

BY MARIROSE KRALL



MARINA CASE
The Red Shutters
Warwick, New York
845-988-1840 | theredshutters.com

Certain books have the power to change lives. That's the case for designer Marina Case, principal and lead designer at The Red Shutters, which is based in Warwick, New York, and works throughout the region. We asked Case, "What book should be in every design-lover's library?" She answered without hesitation and with unrestrained fervor: *The House in Good Taste* by Elsie de Wolfe.

"It's the classic of all design books," Case says. The book, first published in 1913 by The Century Co., is now distributed by Rizzoli International Publications. When Case discovered *The House in Good Taste*, it marked a turning point in her career. "This book was the foundation of my start," she says. "I began as a hobby decorator with small children at home, and this is the first book I read. That's how the name of my blog came about. (Case's blog, "The House in Good Taste," can be found at theredshutters.com/blog.)

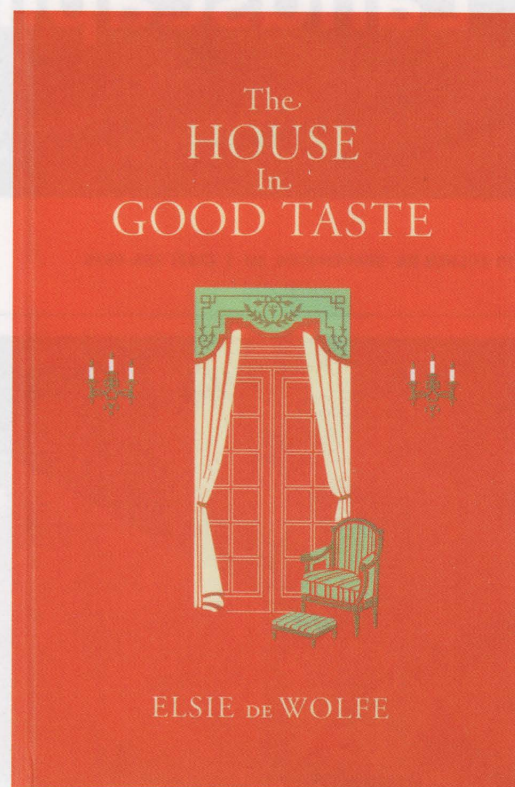
De Wolfe was quite an accomplished woman, Case says. "She was the first female to do interior design. She was really a pioneer." Her effect on the industry continues to this day. "She turned around interior design almost single-handedly," Case says. "She was brilliant in articulating what interiors should be. What strikes me most in her book is the sense of suitability for a home. She knew what would be right to use where and when. She understood her clients."

The 220-page book is available for \$26 from rizzolibookstore.com. DNJ

Timeless Tips

Though *The House in Good Taste* was originally published in 1913, many of author Elsie de Wolfe's practical pointers on interior design remain relevant today. Here are Marina Case's top takeaways from the book.

- ✓ Fit the decorations and furnishings to the house and the requirements of those who live there.
- ✓ When in doubt, keep it simple! When you are confused about what to do, go back to the principle of simplicity. Do the simplest thing you can and go from there.
- ✓ Use the things you love — your best things — and eliminate anything that doesn't speak to you.
- ✓ There was never a house so bad that it couldn't be made into something worthwhile.
- ✓ Do what makes sense for your house and for you. This isn't always easy to figure out without professional help. You can go "blind" to your own spaces very quickly.
- ✓ Optimism and white paint go a long way to refresh a space into a whole new place.
- ✓ Always incorporate comfortable chairs with tables beside them for a drink and a light for reading. Creating comfortable surroundings means you are thinking of everything to make someone feel at home.
- ✓ Mirrors can act as windows or inexpensive art. They reflect light and offer a powerful way to dress up a room.



De Wolfe understood the importance of incorporating comfortable chairs to make people feel at home.

FROM THE HOUSE IN GOOD TASTE, 1913

INSPIRATION.

THE BOLD LOOK
OF **KOHLER**



FROM THE HOUSE IN GOOD TASTE, 1913

ELSIE DE WOLFE



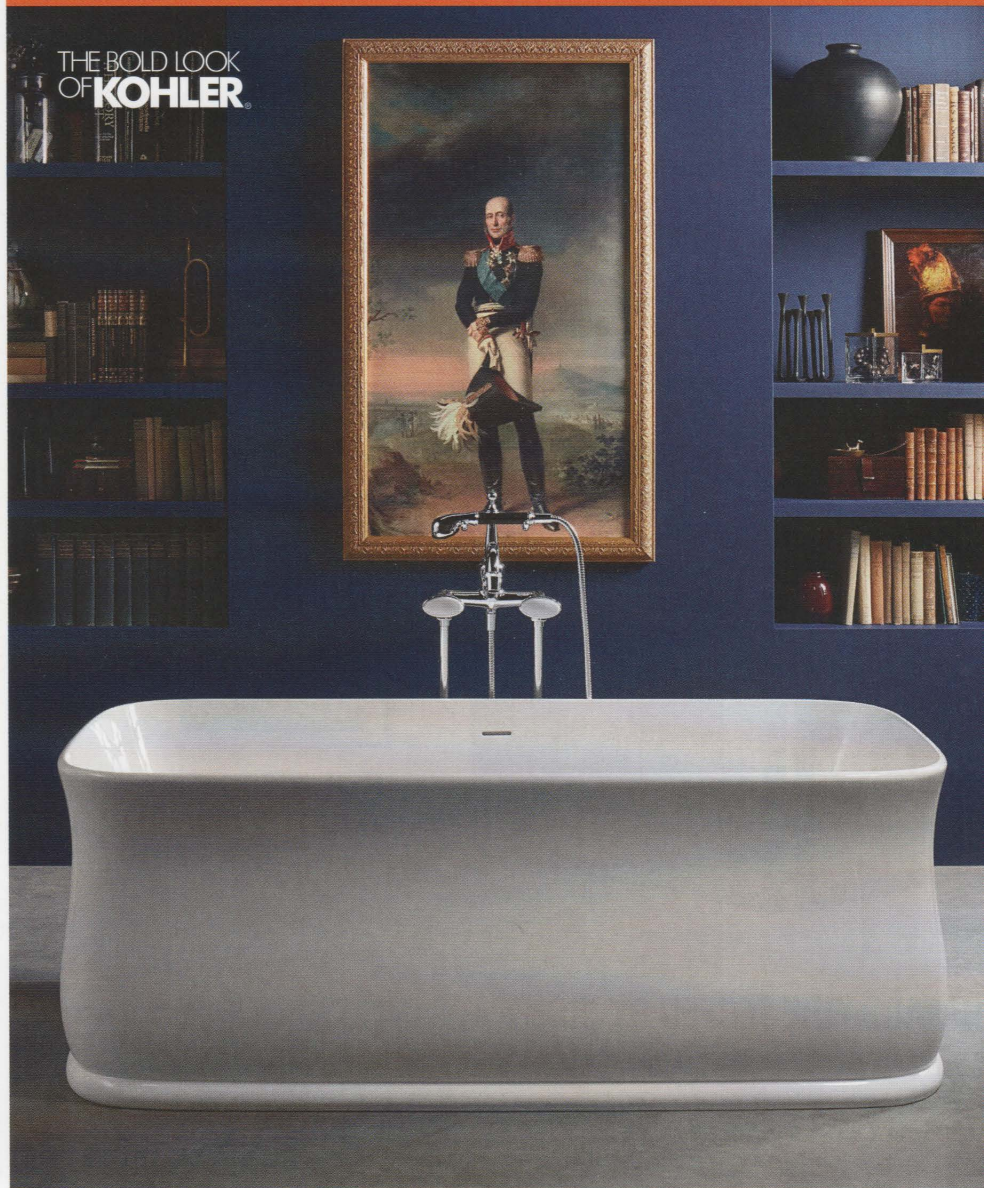
FROM THE HOUSE IN GOOD TASTE, 1913

De Wolfe was a proponent of mirrors because they reflect light and can dress up a room.



FROM THE HOUSE IN GOOD TASTE, 1913

The designer advocated simplicity at a time when interiors tended to be elaborate.



It's the GPS Edge. Your imagination and our inspiration make a great combination. GPS has the **knowledge, expertise, brands, showrooms, inventory and service** to give you the kitchen and bath of your dreams. Come, be inspired. Come get the GPS Edge.

GPS KITCHEN
BATH
LIGHTING
CABINETRY
General Plumbing Supply

1.800.CALL GPS | gpsliving.com

Design Showrooms: Edison | Morris Plains | Bayonne | Hawthorne | Orange
Lakewood | Matawan | Bergenfield | Green Brook | Paramus
For additional locations please visit our website