



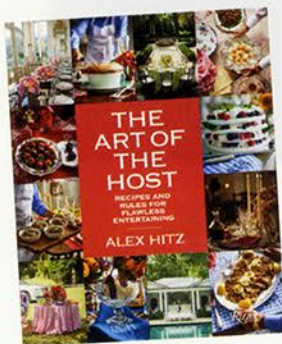
The Art of the Host

RECIPES AND RULES FOR
FLAWLESS ENTERTAINING

WE LIVE IN A CASUAL TIME. With tech mag-nates in T-shirts and ladies who lunch in athlei-sure, it's a long way from the suits and pearls of *Mad Men*. Entertaining, too, has become more casual, as open kitchens invite guests to sidle up to the island and culinary tastes have shifted from 'haute' to 'home.' Much of this change is positive, making entertaining more democratic and accessible. Amidst the shift, however, something has been lost, and in *The Art of the Host* (Rizzoli New York, 2019), chef and host extraordinaire Alex Hitz is on a mission to reclaim it.

Hitz plants his flag firmly and unabashedly in the tradition-alist camp. When it comes to old silver, fine china, tall candles, and fresh roses, more is always in vogue. Though much of the book is recipes, the first few chapters are the real draw,

with personal recollections and words of advice under the (subtle) headlines "The Things I Always and Absolutely Love," "Always," and "Never." Here Hitz includes tips like "Never use your guests as guinea pigs" and "Always turn the lights down—no one came to bear witness to a root canal." For Hitz, entertaining is theater, demanding mystery, surprise, and a hefty dose of preparation. "Make an effort—a huge effort," he writes. "Other-wise why are you having guests?"



Renewing Tradition

THE ARCHITECTURE OF ERIC J. SMITH

ARCHITECT ERIC J. SMITH loves the stories of houses. At a recent speaking appearance, he was describing the renovation of an old lake cottage he purchased in Michigan. The home is near a golf course and, over the decades, golfers had trudged up and down the stairwell in their golf shoes, leaving spike marks all over the stairs. "In the end, I decided to keep the spike marks," said Smith. "To me, they are part of the house." It would be natural for Smith, an esteemed architect, to want to put his own stamp on his home. Instead he approached the renovation with reverence and humility, not so much as an owner but as a steward.

In his new book, *Renewing Tradition* (Rizzoli New York, 2019), Smith offers an extended meditation on the same themes. Whether it be a Georgian mansion, a Dutch Colonial, or a French Country home, he cleaves to the tenets of classicism, which always renders a home that feels right and true in its place.

Gorgeous photography, combined with Smith's notes and—delightfully—his drawings, tells the story of each residence and showcases many of the jewels of the archi-tect's 30-year career. —Kirk Reed Forrester

