

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

# spaces

*Canyons & Valley Edition*

## MY FAVORITE ROOM

LA architects & designers share their best kept secrets

## HOME EC 101

Tips to make grandma (and Al Gore) proud

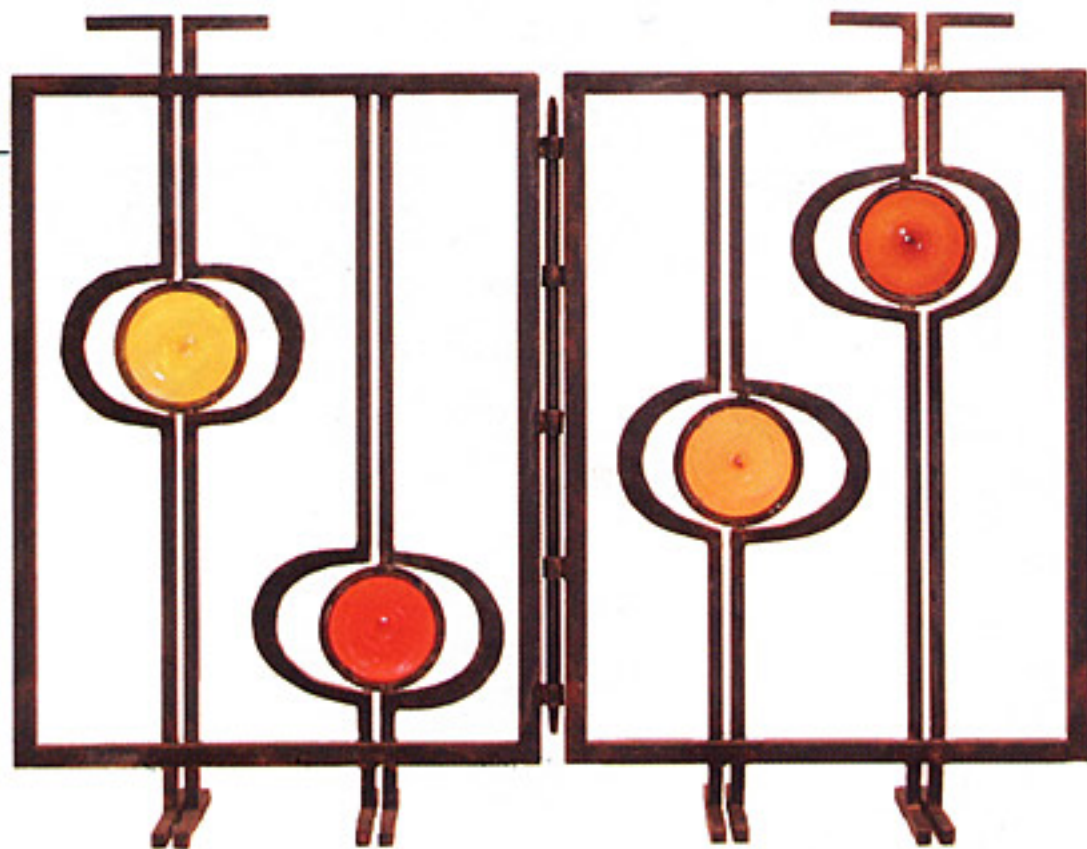
## A ROOM OF HER OWN

This local guru has one, so should you

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**PREMIERE ISSUE**

March/April 2008 • \$3.95



Thomas Lavin  
www.thomaslavin.com

Michael S. Smith looks to his favorite antiques for inspiration, and mixes various styles and periods in his collection to create an inventive group of classic shapes. Among them is the designer's featured item, the Lyon Biblioteque, a mid-century European style three-tiered bookcase on a swivel base, finished in a warm antique brown mahogany.



The elegant Madeline Stuart collection is at home in both traditional and modern settings. The Emma Lounge chair, chic yet comfortable, comes in mahogany or walnut and is crafted with hand-stitched upholstery and a nailhead trim, hand-tacked in brass or nickel hardware.

They may be meant for the fireplace, but some collectors think of Philip Nimmo's custom wrought-iron fire screens as artwork and hang them on the wall. Others prefer to see them in action: Accented with colored glass and semi-precious stones such as rose quartz and agate, the screens create fascinating shapes that glisten and glow in the firelight. The featured Goccia screen is named after the Italian word for raindrop because it creates what appears to be a shower of embers when backlit by a warm, blazing fire.

LYON  
BIBLIOTHEQUE  
BY MICHAEL S.  
SMITH

EMMA LOUNGE  
CHAIR BY  
MADELINE STUART

GOCCIA FIRE  
SCREEN BY  
PHILIP NIMMO  
IRONWORKS

## Design dna

• **Afraid those doorknobs are full of germs?** Actually, it depends on the doorknob itself. Some can automatically disinfect themselves. The antimicrobial chemicals in brass, copper and silver are lethal to many common bacteria. Glass, porcelain, aluminum and stainless steel don't have the same properties, so keep your hand sanitizer handy.



• **Need a little light in your cave?** Cave dwellers living around 70,000 B.C. illuminated their prehistoric homes with hollowed-out rocks and shells that were filled with moss, soaked in animal fat and then ignited. These primitive vessels were considered to be the first lamps.



• **Most people try to avoid glass shards,** but Louis Comfort Tiffany came up with the idea of arranging discarded bits and pieces of remains from his stained glass windows. The result: the Tiffany lamp. He later teamed up with Thomas Edison to create the first electric Tiffany lamp.