

SPRING DELIGHTS

New York winters can be long and cruel, but it's not too soon to start thinking spring. We asked several designers how they keep the bounce in their step when the skies are at their bleakest and the sidewalks at their slushiest. Here's how our stylish friends are inspired by the prospect of fair weather, and some tips on how to prepare for those long, warm days ahead.

BY JULIA LEWIS



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William Sofield

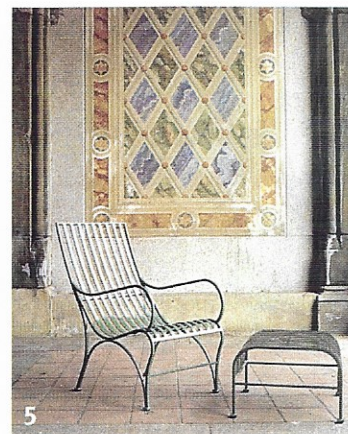
1. Throw out unnecessary items and give appropriate ones to charity. Spring will look fresher with a simplified inventory. 2. Add a jolt of strong color with accessories, throws, and pillows, and change them every other month or so. You'll feel like the entire house has been redecorated. 3. Euthanize the braided ficus and mile-long philodendron. 4. Take a look at how your spaces are used when you entertain. Change where guests huddle by placing cocktail carts, cabinets, or other "centers of gravity" in little-used corners.



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Sheila Bridges

1. Scoop up Catherine Memmi scented candles. My favorite is cucumber. Great scent, nice spring color, and long lasting. 2. Wear anything by Lilly Pulitzer. A little pink and green always puts me in a Palm Beach frame of mind! 3. Slip on a pair of Christian Louboutin shoes. Something about those sexy, beautifully made shoes with their red-hot soles is an instant pick-me-up, even when it's three below. 4. Buy anything "orange"—it doesn't matter if it's tangerine, mango, or cantaloupe. It's my new favorite color for clothes, fabrics, and home accessories. 5. Take a trip to Dylan's Candy Bar (perfect when shopping at the D&D). Go wild with bags of Good 'n Plenty, Sour Patch Kids, Pez, and jawbreakers!



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Robert Stilin

1. I love to eat outside at sidewalk cafes in New York City—at the first hint of warm weather, book an outdoor table at La Goulue or Café Boulud. 2. Order custom-monogrammed pool towels from Valerie Smith at the Monogram Shop. I'll get several dozen in fresh, new colors and have them simply monogrammed "POOL." 3. Repaint! I go to Janovic Plaza to buy a few cans of Pratt & Lambert in haze green to brighten up my son Dylan's bedroom. 4. Take a trip to Palm Beach to get in the warm-weather spirit: Shop Worth Avenue and stock up with spring and summer wardrobe essentials from Vilebrequin, Trillion, and Polo. 5. Order new outdoor furniture from Munder-Skiles.

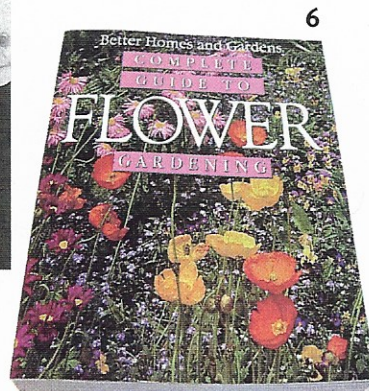


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Sue Bednar & Christina Sullivan

1. Check out Sergio Rossi's spring shoe collection—sexy and fabulous! 2. Stack up Hermès "Caleche" enameled bangle bracelets in aqua, cream, and celadon—there's a new design every spring—collect them all! 3. Crawl into newly laundered, cream-colored, embroidered Pratesi sheets. 4. Take in an evening concerto at the Frick Museum to enlighten your cultural soul. 5. The scent of a Diptyque "Lilas" candle in the bedroom or bath is an instant pick-me-up. 6. Pick up a bouquet of freshly cut lavender hyacinths and place in the center of a dining table. 7. Go antiques shopping in Venice. 8. Start planning next season's garden with Carolyn Roehm's *Spring Notebook*.



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Susan Zises Green

1. Bring fine restaurants into your home—I love serving Francois Payard's fabulous bouillabaisse in their giant copper pots. 2. Learn a language! I take my granddaughter to Italian lessons at Italian for Tots in the hopes of spending a spring vacation with her in Venice. 3. Wear your favorite scent—mine is Japanese Musk Oil from the Body Shop. People actually stop me on the street to ask me what I am wearing! 4. Stubbs & Wootton pink slippers with a whale and sailor—thoughts of Nantucket always make me smile. 5. Organize photo albums. Winter gives me time to put away photos from last spring and summer. 6. Go peruse the gardening books at Crawford & Doyle bookstore on Madison Avenue.