

MARNI

FROM PAGE 5H

get the photos.

• *What did this book teach you?*

What I always suspected. That there is a thing in life that is almost divine, and it's called gracious living. It doesn't really have to do with money stance, but with training the eye so arrangements are pleasing to look at and also provide pleasure and security.

• *What do you hope others learn from it?*

I hope readers will start at the beginning and go through and notice where they pause and where they feel good, not where they're shocked, not where they say, 'Oh, my God, they're so rich,' but where they're pleased. I would also like for them to take away that the beauty of an interior relies on one's personality and self-expression, not on one's ability to shop — although shopping comes in handy.

• *Do you have a favorite room?*

I do. It's a Paris apartment, and the home of a friend, designer Carolina Irving (page 225). I love this room because it's so personal, and such a beautifully composed mix of ideas.

• *What are you worried about?*

I'm worried about who might not be in the book who should be, about blatant omissions. I woke up for months every night scrambling to the computer and confirming whether someone was there or not. And I worry about the details. What if it wasn't silk damask but it was silk gazar?

• *Why four different colored covers?*

That was a risk, and it was our CEO's idea. I wasn't so sure, but he wanted to give consumers a choice.

• *Well, I'm glad. I got Midnight Blue, because I wanted to put the book on my coffee table, and the other colors wouldn't have gone with the decor. Is that too lowbrow?*

Not at all. It's practical. I haven't gotten my copy yet, but it will be Platinum.

Syndicated columnist Marni Jameson is the author of five home and lifestyle books, including "Downsizing the Family Home - What to Save, What to Let Go" and the forthcoming "Downsizing the Blended Home - When Two Households Become One" (Sterling Publishing, Dec. 2019). You can reach her at www.marnijameson.com.

Why remodeling projects are facing delays, higher prices

A remodeling labor shortage continues to impact housing projects by increasing prices and delaying timetables, a new survey from the National Association of Home Builders shows. Remodeling jobs that involve carpenters, framing crews, bricklayers, and electricians are seeing some of the largest shortages.

"The labor shortage continues to be one of the top concerns for remodelers across the country," says Tim Ellis, the NAHB's Remodelers chair. "An ongoing challenge for remodel-

ing is keeping their prices competitive while dealing with the increasing costs of labor."

Remodelers said that the labor shortages are having a widespread impact on their business. Seventy percent to half of the remodelers surveyed by the NAHB reported that the top effects of the labor shortage have been higher wages and subcontractor bids; higher prices for customers; difficulty completing projects on time; and they've even had to turn down some projects because of it.

Source: National Association of Realtors

SHORTAGES

According to the NAHB's survey, remodelers reported "serious shortages" or "some shortages" of labor for the following jobs:

84% carpenters - finished
85% carpenters - rough
81% framing crews
71% bricklayers/masons
58% electricians

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