

Metropolitan Home[®]

prize
design
ideas from
our contest

winners!

best affordable dream kitchen

the abc's of decorating

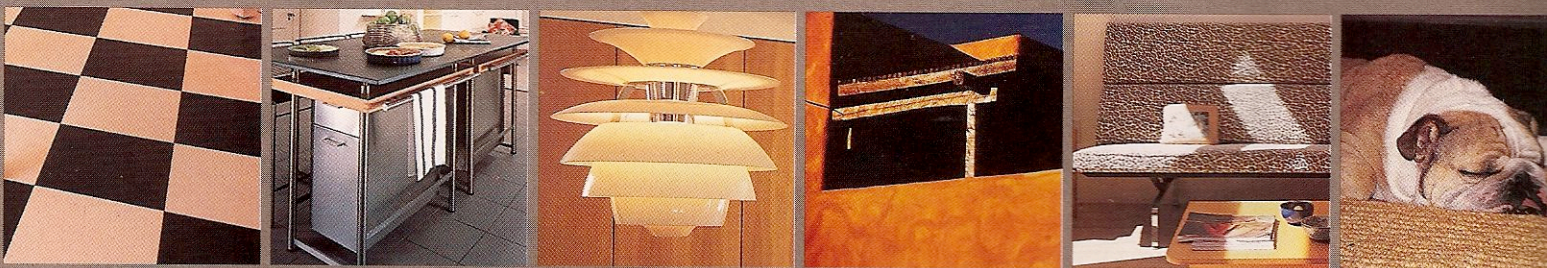
seed catalog sourcebook

17 little lights that shine



winners!

On the following pages, we honor **FOURTEEN** readers' homes. We loved looking at the thousands of slides submitted to our **CONTEST** and noted many pronounced **TRENDS**, some of which are pictured here. For example, we saw perennially chic black-and-white **CHECKERED FLOORS**, both parallel to the wall and on the diagonal... a comeback for slick, glorious, **STAINLESS STEEL** (and many great kitchens)... **'50s LIGHTING**, particularly of the unpeeling-artichoke variety (and slews of great '60s furniture)...



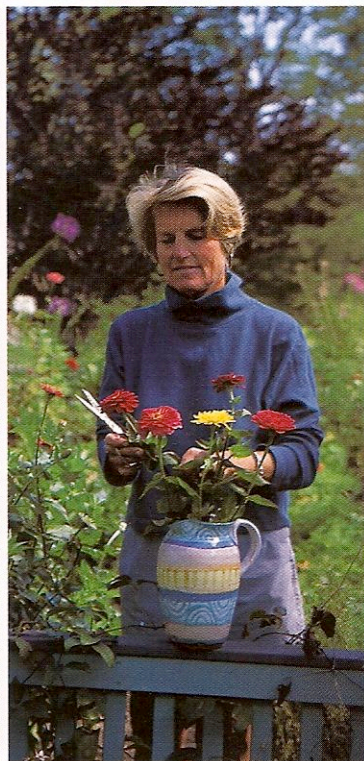
POWERFUL COLOR, from furnishings to the adobe walls of houses in Mexico... leaping **LEOPARD SKINS** (the fake kind)... and, again this year, extraordinary **DOGS** (and cute cats, too).

Produced by Rima A. Suqi and Arabella Mills



KILBOURNE-TARA

Potter Nan Kilbourn-Tara accessorized with majolica finials (left); Scott Larimer and Rick Orr drew on a sense of drama to art-direct a bent-willow teahouse (below); Jennifer Bain and Michael Mew planted drought-resistant plants (opposite). See Resources.



**Runner-up:
Kilbourn-Tara**

For the garden that inspired her art, and for handcrafted fences of whimsical style.

Bath, Maine Nan Kilbourn-Tara, a potter, threw majolica finials to cap the enclosure of her vegetable garden. Then she collaborated with her husband, architect Jozef Tara, on a backdrop for her perennial border. "I made a brushstroke on paper," she reports, "similar to the decoration on my pottery, and Joe translated it into wood segments I arranged on the fence. People read them as birds or mountaintops. I see them as abstract play."