

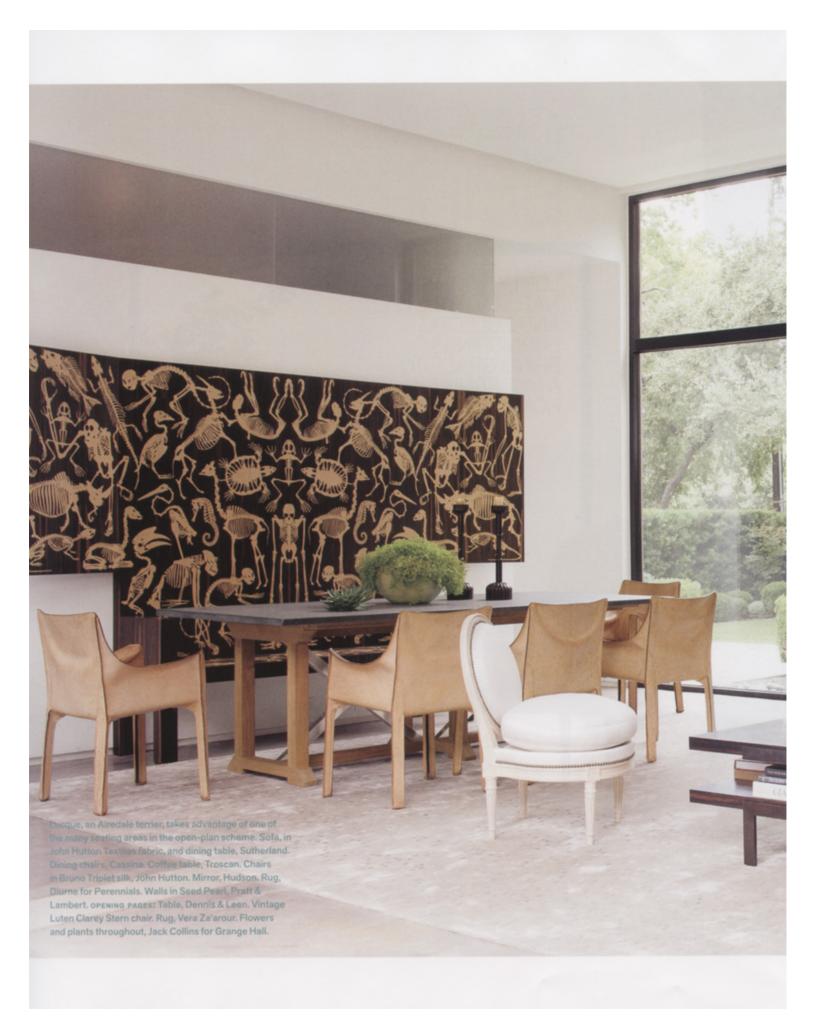


OPEN EMBRACE

LOFTY ROOMS, A
NATURAL PALETTE,
AND ECLECTIC
FURNISHINGS
BRING GRACE TO
A MODERNIST
HOME IN TEXAS.

INTERIOR DESIGN BY ANN SUTHERLAND
ARCHITECTURE BY LIONEL MORRISON PHOTOGRAPHY BY MAX KIM-BEE PRODUCED BY VICTORIA JONES WRITTEN BY DOUGLAS BRENNER







"OUR HOUSE," DAVID SUTHERLAND SAYS, "IS FULL OF YINS AND YANGS." RESTRAINED YET HOSPITABLE, SOPHISTICATED BUT EASYGOING, AT ONCE LOFTY AND INTIMATE, THE HOME HE SHARES IN DALLAS WITH

his wife and business partner, Ann Sutherland, presents a study in contrasts. But finding harmony where others might sense discord is second nature to this couple. For nearly two decades, the Sutherland furnishings company, which David founded and heads as CEO, has defied convention by giving outdoor pieces an elegance, comfort, and craftsmanship formerly confined to top-drawer interiors—and making them so stylish they effortlessly move indoors.

Ann presides over six showrooms coast to coast, directs the Perennials outdoor fabric line, and runs her own design firm, Square Foot Studio. A stopover with David on a business trip to Indonesia (a prime source for sustainable teak, Sutherland's hallmark

wood) inspired the layout of their Texas residence. "In Bali we had an open living area, a little cottage for our bedroom, and a plunge pool outside," Ann recalls. "That private inside-outside zone was so serene—it could have been anywhere in the world."

Translating this tropical idyll onto a Dallas lot, however, meant breaking with American custom. "We back up to a noisy highway, so we oriented our play area—the pool courtyard—to our front yard," Ann explains. The deceptive simplicity of architect Lionel Morrison's response to complex challenges belies his masterstroke: defining seclusion while strengthening the links between calm inner spaces and a lush landscape. Besides setting off sinewy live oaks and clipped boxwoods, Morrison's geometry allows the graphic outlines of uncurtained windows and glass doors to frame vistas of greenery.

Black and white compose Ann's favorite interior palette: "I don't feel the need for lots of applied color." She prefers art, upholstery, and floor





coverings in muted tones to bring out subtle texture and pattern and create a tranquil mood. But, David adds, "put a couple dozen roses in a bowl and you've got a magical feeling. It becomes a backdrop for some spectacular people and parties." Spectacular furniture, too, much of it by Sutherland design stars such as Philippe Starck. Who wouldn't be charmed by John Hutton's take on Louis XVI, or John Dickinson's tongue-in-cheek "draped metal" console? New pieces that the couple have picked up in their travels add to the fun—like the tall Belgian bench with inlaid-maple skeletons at the dining table.

Regardless of pedigree, though, no sofa or chaise seems precious. Twelve grandchildren, two Airedale terriers, and a stream of guests have the run of the place—not a problem, Ann says, thanks to innovative solution-dyed textiles supplied by the family enterprise. "That's why we don't have to worry about a beautiful hand-knotted rug when somebody runs in with muddy feet or spills red wine."

Ann frequently rearranges furniture in the livingdining area to ensure that everyone has a cozy spot to chat, eat, read, play games, or just unplug. Sooner or later, most people end up near the pool—or in it. Submerged built-in seating along two sides invites tête-à-têtes and general schmoozing. "Day or night," David says, "this is our conversation pool."



