

SPECIAL: DECORATING TRENDS THAT ARE HOT—AND NOT!

TRADITIONAL HOME

October 2011

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Designer Secrets

HOW TO BRING DIVINE DECORATING HOME



35 Southern Comforts

ROOMS WITH ELEGANT, EASYGOING STYLE

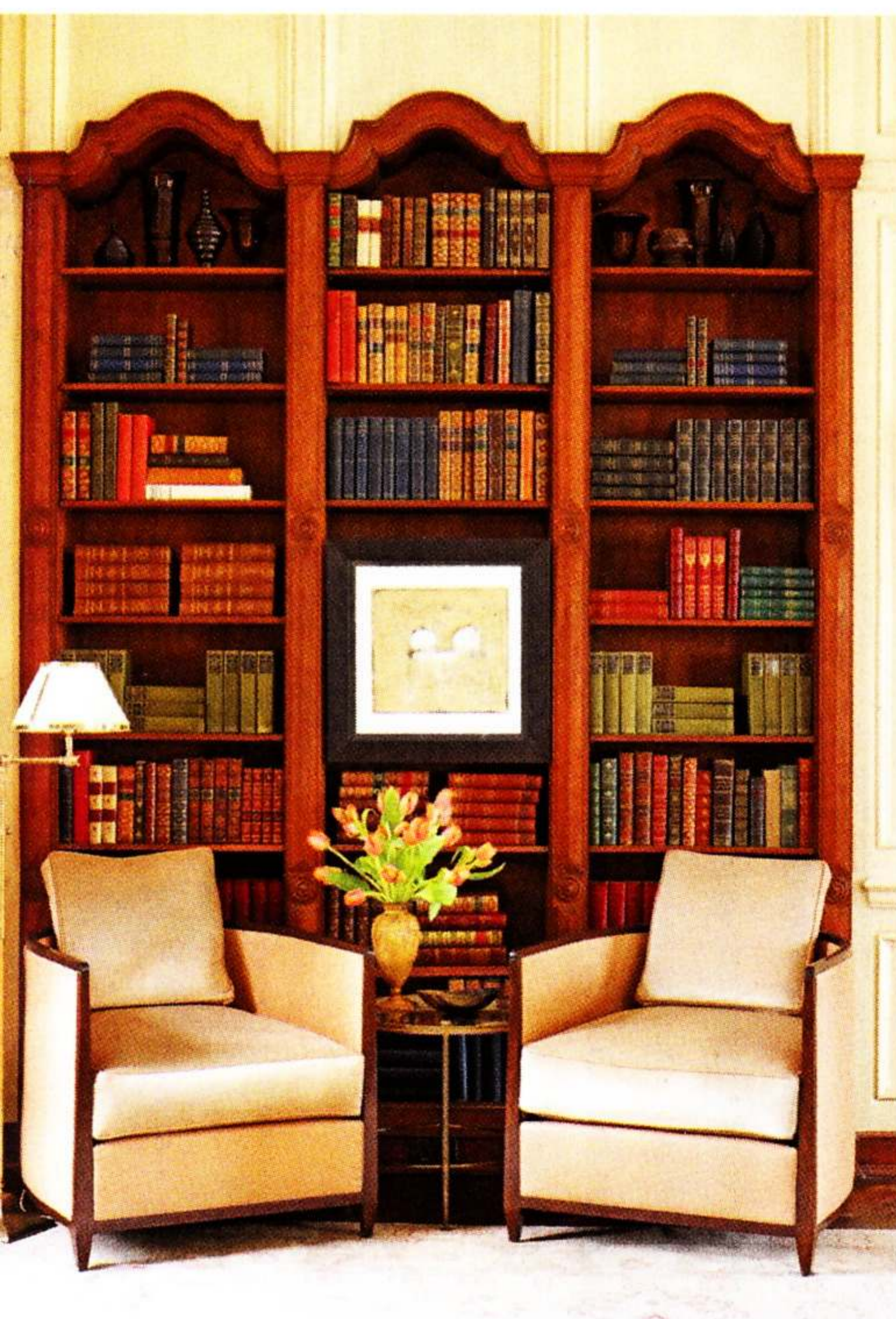
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Frank Ponterio Lake Forest Showhouse / Lake Forest, Illinois

Libraries are well known for the serious and cerebral atmosphere they create. They are, after all, places where intellect and imagination can be nurtured.

Designer Frank Ponterio wanted this library to look refined and debonair but with a comfortable and laid-back attitude that embraces new technology as well as the timeless magic of print.

“This library exudes a soft masculinity without being stuffy with heavy accessories and staid colors,” says Ponterio. “Modern libraries are not always quiet, with

electronic devices now adding to the information retrieval process. I showed that if you aren’t hung up on design rules, you will be able to create a space that is multifunctional and comfortable, too.”

Before furniture was placed, Ponterio bathed the walls of the large room in a creamy ivory color that radiates a pervasive glow. A gray-and-white marble fireplace surround creates a robust presence in the room, serving as an anchor that keeps the luminous space from feeling too expansive. Matching sofas—perfect for curling up

with a laptop—are covered in a textural, cream-colored fabric. They are topped by pillows in an edgy combination of deep rust and flannel gray.

Bookshelves in warm and rich wood tones highlight the reading area, where comfortable contemporary armchairs are arranged. 

Photography by Werner Straube
Produced by Hilary Rose and Mara Boo
For more information on these showhouses, see sources on page 172