

premiere issue

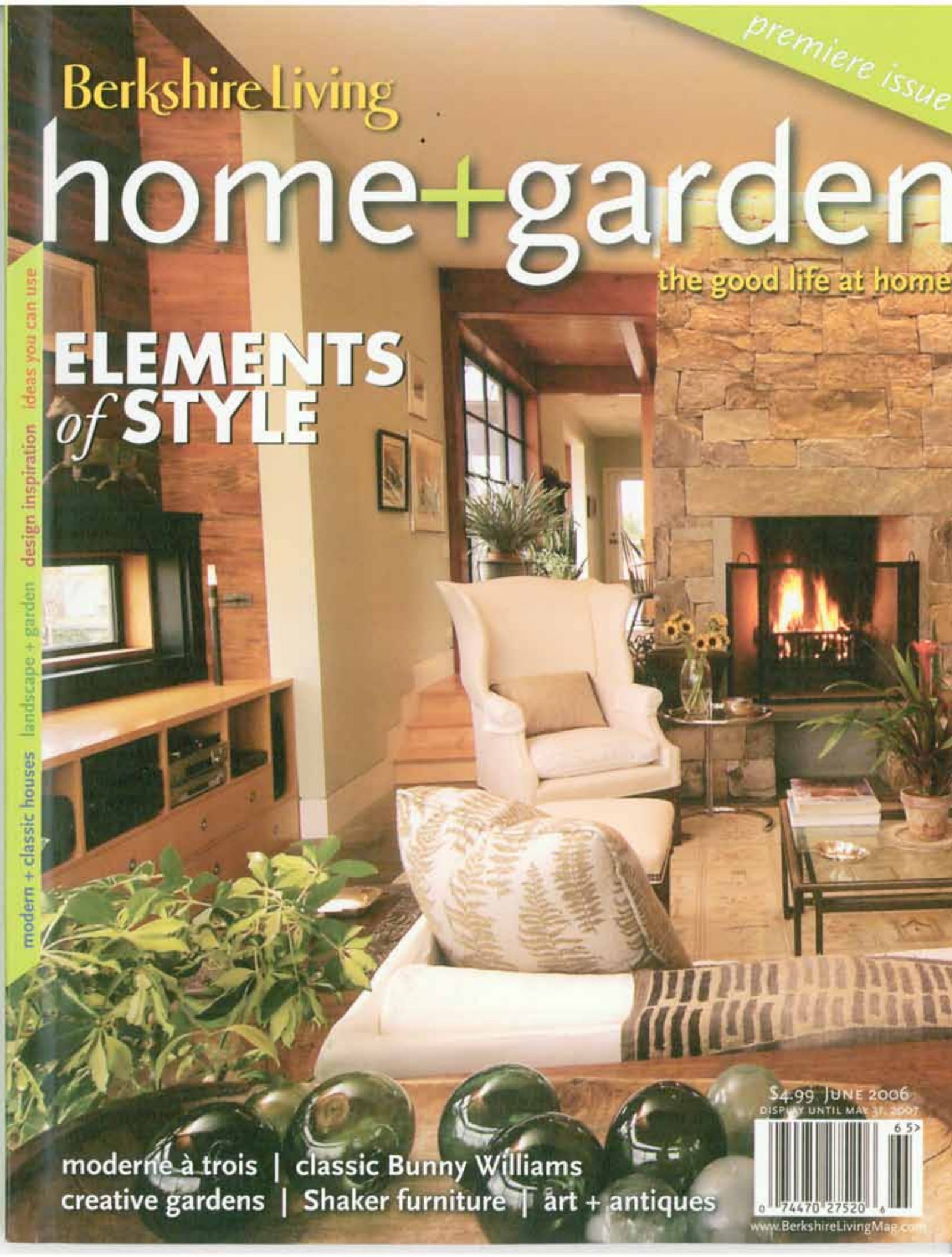
Berkshire Living

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the good life at home

ELEMENTS *of* STYLE

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the *inside* Right Stuff



William Caligari, the founder and driving force behind the award-winning firm William Caligari Interiors/Architecture in Great Barrington, Mass., and widely recognized for his expertise in designing innovative interiors, reveals his top choices of design elements, several of which are produced right here in the Berkshires.



1 Surface Attraction

Berkshire Veneer supplies designers all over the country. The cool thing is that they're right here. Wood veneers are sliced out of a tree. A flitch of veneer is like a ream of paper: you can match sheets. You can go there and create the veneer layout yourself. They have veneers of sycamore, chestnut, and hickory, ebony, crotch mahogany, Central African *Sapele*, East Indian *Macassar*, along with limited quantities of rare vintage veneers. Anyone can do it. It's beautiful, environmentally sustainable stuff, and Ben Barrett is friendly as can be.

At Berkshire Veneer Company, 29 Locust Hill Rd., Great Barrington, Mass., 413-844-9596, www.berkshireveneer.com

2 Fresh Frescoes

Clifton Jaeger does custom murals. What I like about them is that he applies twelve coats of old-fashioned plaster gesso to canvas. Then he rolls it up, so the gesso gets crazed, and paints it using natural powdered pigments used in paintings of the past. When he's done, the piece looks two hundred years old, like it just came out of a Venetian villa. His murals can be used as room dividers, screens, and wall art.

By appointment from Clifton Jaeger, Falls Village, Conn., 860-844-5474, www.cliftonjaeger.com

Flies on the Wall

3 This is a great product that you can get via the web. Clipso takes a photograph and turns it into wallpaper up to six feet tall. It can be modern or traditional. If you don't have the budget for a high-end mural, you can do a great scene on wall-covering. Imagine a dining room with a panoramic black and white still life of forks, like modern art. You put it up and bang—there's your design statement!

From **Clipso Design**, Letterberg 114, 4133 Attitashet, Sunrise, FL 33153 (407) 581-1111, www.clipso.com or through local designers

What's Afoot

4 Sam Kasten is one of the country's foremost hand-weavers, and he imports wool and silk Tibetan rugs. They're the kind I used to source in New York City, but Sam is right here—you can drive over there—it's more convenient and less expensive. The wool is high in lanolin, so the rugs take the dye in really splotchy color, which is wonderful. When you touch them, you can actually feel the lanolin on your hands. They're one hundred knots-per-inch so the quality is great and you can customize any color scheme.

From **Sam Kasten Handweaver**, 41 Melville St., Pittsfield, Mass., 011-253-8800, www.samkastent.com



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