

C home

Santa Barbara STYLE SPY

Interior designer
Hélène Aumont is
no stranger to
un beau monde.
Here, she lets C
in on her best-kept
Santa Barbara
design secrets

Aumont, here at Europa,
once modeled for Hubert
de Givenchy, who encour-
aged her to attend Paris'
École des Beaux-Arts.





From her first project, the interior of a Parisian penthouse facing the Eiffel Tower, to her very own vintage clapboard farmhouse in Santa Ynez, Santa Barbara designer H  l  ne Aumont's projects are as varied as the architectural styles and design sensibilities that inspire her. And her resources are as diverse, with rare orchid farmers and French ironworkers among them. ¶ What started as a hobby 50 years ago has become the largest cymbidium grower in the United States. In addition to Aumont, who can get "lost for days in the glorious greenhouses," Martha Stewart is a fan of **Gallup & Stribling Orchids** (3450 Via Real, Carpinteria, 805-684-9842). ¶ "I adore the selection, but I can't claim I have anything to do with it," laughs Aumont about husband Patrick's 11-year-old **Europa Antiques & Fine Art** (2345 Lillie Ave., Summerland, 805-969-4989; antiqueseuropa.com), a store that specializes in 20th century French, Renaissance and Baroque furniture and art. ¶ Named for a wooden figurine purchased by owner and designer Sally McQuillan on her honeymoon in Oaxaca, Mexico, **Raoul Textiles** (to the trade only, 805-965-1694) is Aumont's constant source for inspiration. Even N.Y. interior designer Bunny Williams has made a pilgrimage

"I LOVE the search for the charismatic objects that catch the eye



to this design studio and factory for McQuillan's hand-printed linen, hemp and silk. ¶ "It has been my best-kept secret for nine years," says Aumont of **World Wide Originals** (to the trade only, 805-343-1050), an antique and home furnishing house filled with curious Chinese and Anglo-Indian pieces. ¶ **Leslie Taylor** (to the trade only, 805-966-9762) is devoted to the expert artisan restoration of stone, tile and wood, and **European Iron Works** (by appointment, 805-967-8076) specializes in authentic French hand-forged ironwork. *Europa Design*, 805-884-0440; heleneaumont.com •

ANDREA STANFORD



FROM TOP Gallup & Stribling Hanging Ant plant; Aumont appreciates a Pondicherry Lake linen blend at Raoul Textiles; Blending palette and inspiration board at Raoul's design studio. OPPOSITE All from Europa. Owner Patrick Aumont says Santa Barbara is the ideal place for Europa's treasures: "The thick walls and tall ceilings of Mediterranean architecture are perfect to support objects with real guts and soul."





and spark discussion." — HÉLÈNE AUMONT

