

body & soul

TRADITIONAL HOME
BEFORE & AFTER

50+

WAYS TO SIMPLIFY,
BEAUTIFY & ADD STYLE



BRIJU A. WESTBROOK / PRODUCED BY JESSY BRADLEY



perfectly content

Designer Helene Aumont recharges in her California country home

Picture a soccer mom in sequined mules. That's Helene Aumont—a down-to-earth but chic former model, current designer of furniture and interiors, co-owner of an upscale antiques and art shop with husband Patrick, equestrienne, and mother of teens Arthur, 15, and Anouk, 13.

"It's so nice to live in the country," says the Paris-born designer who, despite her hectic schedule, radiates tranquility. "The atmosphere is conducive to creativity. I unwind here."

"Here" is Pepperhill Farm, an oasis of country living in Santa Barbara's wine country. The beat of the 10-year-

compound—set in a broad valley ringed by mountain ridges—is the Aumonts' main residence, a cozy 1940s-vintage farmhouse. Down the hill is a studio for Helene's beloved ➤

Helene Aumont relaxes in the landscaped retreat that she created in her backyard.



summer hues

The color in the nest, Hélène's son, Arthur, painted the 18th-century cabinet in Provencal blue. Europa Antiques 1905/9607-43881. Above: Hélène did the plates from Cheminée Moss New York, \$145-\$225 (212)7308-2888. Below: Grange "Provencal Bookcase," \$5,995. 18031472-54311. Inside art:



Friesian horses, Floris and Romeo. A vegetable garden, tended by Hélène and her children, provides produce for family meals. The Aumont clan also shares Pepperhill Farm with two dogs, a dozen chickens, and a rooster or two.

In an outbuilding, three assistants work with the designer, known for simple styles punctuated by dramatic flourishes, clean design mixed with opulent fabric, and mid-century blended with baroque. Here she checks on her latest projects—a new line of setbacks and ribbon-covered chandeliers, and a jewelry boutique within Europa Antiques, the couple's retail shop in Summerland, down the coast from Santa Barbara.

After tending to design projects, trips abroad, soccer games, and piano

lessons for Arthur and Anouk, Hélène sometimes needs to recharge. Her spots to relax include a rose garden just outside her office, a nearby stone table under weeping willow branches that sway in the breeze like underwater seaweed, and places where she can view cows and horses grazing in the valley and grapes ripening in the sun. She also enjoys the sound of children playing that drifts up from the small school just down the hill.

But often she heads for the backyard. Tucked into a corner at the end of the verdant lawn sits an Italian canvas tent fringed playfully with green tassels and decorated with Hélène's usual panache. As with everything ▶

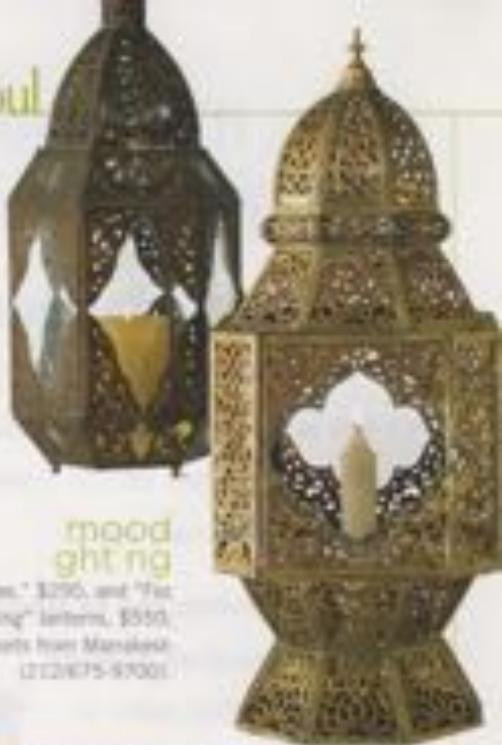
bo-she bash

Use pattern to add extra appeal. The John Robshaw Textiles "Maharaja" scatter pillows, \$65-\$125 (212)594-40061. Hotel vinyl





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mood lighting

"Tigris," \$295, and "Pic Wedding" lanterns, \$550. Imports from Marquesa. 1-800-4EPPS-4700.



pattern power

Patterned pillows are perfect for outdoor spaces. Hélène's camp from *Rooms and Gardens* (800-565-4877).

Fabric-free art: "Poppies" from *Cassina House*, 800-980-2800; Nanci Correa's "Cafe Cards," 800-945-4879; and *Cassina House's*, "Monica." All trade only.



coffee break

The porch (far left) the master pavilion is ideal for sipping coffee. Porcelain and pewter cup and saucer from *Rooms*, 800-565-4877.

the Aumonts tackle, fitting out the cabana-like structure has been a family affair. Arthur and Anouk assisted in the tent's construction—installing a section of the flooring composed of recycled Italian and French tiles that surrounds thick, rope-like abaca matting. A 19th-century cabinet was painted by Arthur and filled by the family with seashells and coral. Rattan furnishings are covered in a lively mix of fabrics and patterns that adds energy to the otherwise peaceful space.

Fresh bouquets of Hélène's roses scent the air in the tent. Hélène, who has become a bona fide country girl, insists on no phones and no electricity

in the space. Set under enormous pine trees, the tent is silent except for the soothing sounds of a fountain pouring into the backyard swimming pool. The quietude allows for some much-needed relaxation and leisurely lunches. "I love to have lunch in the tent in the summer," says the designer. "This is a place where I feel in total harmony with the world, where my mind can rest from the constraints and frustrations of my active life."

Even when simply lounging and gazing around, however, Hélène confesses she finds herself "redesigning parts of the garden."

Seems this creative mind rarely takes a rest—even in the country.

JUVÉDERM™ Injectable Gel
Important Patient Risk Information

In the U.S., JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel is indicated for injection into the mid-to-deep dermis for correction of moderate to severe facial wrinkles and folds (such as nasolabial folds), and is generally well tolerated. The most commonly reported side effects are temporary injection site redness, swelling, pain/tenderness, firmness, lumps/bumps, and bruising. Exposure of the treated area to excessive sun and extreme cold weather should be minimized until any initial swelling and redness have resolved.

If laser treatment, chemical peel or any other procedure based on active dermal response is considered after treatment with JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel, there is a possible risk of an inflammatory reaction at the treatment site.

Patients who are using substances that can prolong bleeding, such as aspirin or ibuprofen, as with any injection, may experience increased bruising or bleeding at injection site. You should inform your physician before treatment if you are using these types of substances. As with all skin injection procedures there is a risk of infection.

JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel should be used with caution in patients on immunosuppressive therapy, or therapy used to decrease the body's immune response, as there may be an increased risk of infection. The safety of JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel in patients with a history of excessive scarring (e.g., hypertrophic scarring and keloid formations) and pigmentation disorders has not been studied. JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel should not be used in patients who have severe allergies marked by a history of anaphylaxis or history or presence of multiple severe allergies. JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel should not be used in patients with a history of allergies to gram-positive bacterial proteins. The safety of JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel for use during pregnancy, in breastfeeding females or in patients under 18 years has not been established. The safety and effectiveness of JUVÉDERM™ injectable gel for the treatment of areas other than facial wrinkles and folds (such as lips) have not been established in controlled clinical studies.

Please go to www.jvederm.com to see a complete summary of risks and complications.

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hang it

Helene adorns hanging fixtures outdoors for an unexpected touch. The "Passo Poco" chandelier, \$3,600, from The Helene Aumont Collection comes in 22 custom colors (800/584-0440).

cabana couture

Create your own beach boudoir with decorating tips from Helene:

- Use a garden setting and white, clean, and peaceful colors.
- Lanterns are a must. Helene's collection ranges from simple Moroccan lanterns to the more gaudy, tropical variety.
- Add candles of varying sizes and fragrances, and those flowers...it's all about ambience.
- Cover the windows with cloth or the outside of robes take you.
- Using bright-colored fabrics is a favorite of Helene's.
- Add something metallic, reflective, and shiny.
- Create an intimate atmosphere. Surround the room chairs in Helene's fabric from Pier 1 with your favorite pillows, and cushion.



light it

"It's all about ambience," says Helene. Brick House candles, \$36, and soaps, \$34, come in a plethora of garden scents (brickhousecandles.com).



eggy beauty

The organic "Negrone" outdoor sofa, \$5,800, is designed by Helene and incorporates her love of the outdoors (800/584-0440). A woven resin chair adds a bit of the exotic to any space. Thomas Pheasant outdoor lounge chair from \$2,805, from McGuire (mcmillanmcguire.com). ■

Find it

For more information on The Helene Aumont Collection, visit heleneaumont.com.