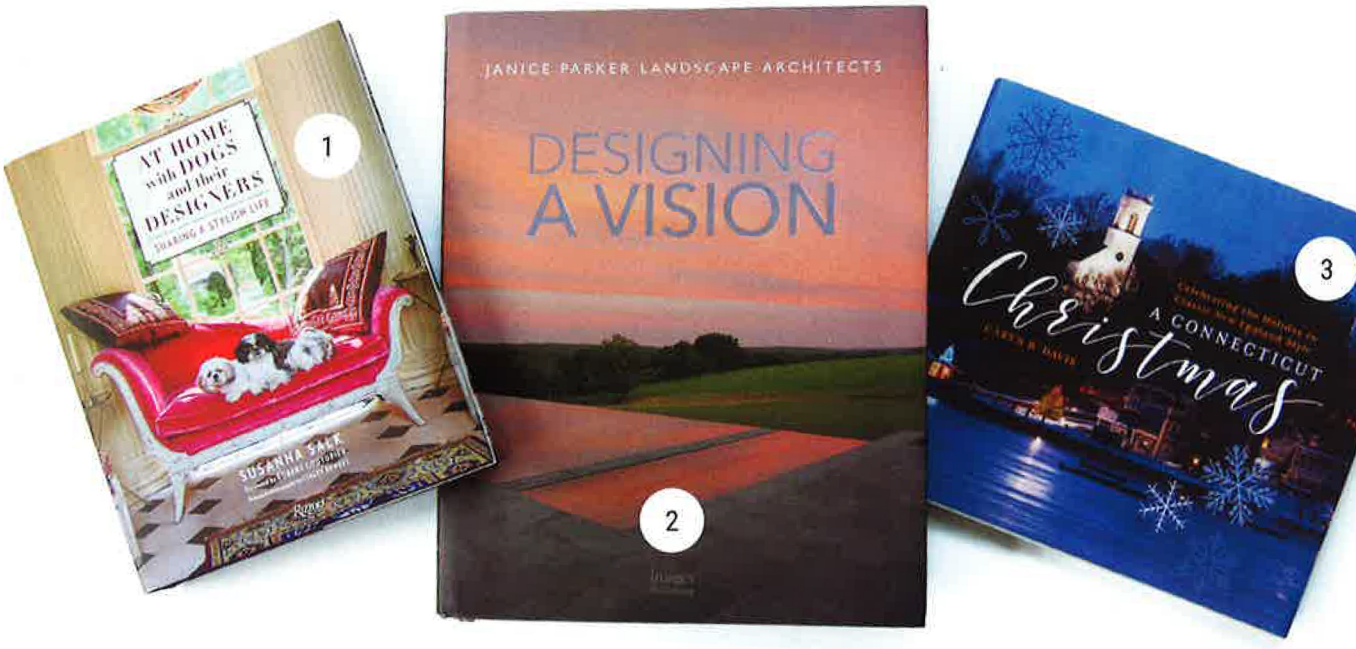
Bookshelf



1 At Home with Dogs and their Designers

By Susanna Salk

A house, no matter how beautifully appointed, doesn't become a home until it's inhabited. The twenty-one designers featured in this charming book would go a step further, insisting that it takes a dog (even better, multiple dogs) to give a house its soul. Stacy Bewkes's photos—of Sharon designer Carolyne Roehm being lovingly set upon by her six pooches, of Robert Couturier's quartet of pups lounging on a Louis XVI daybed in his Kent home, of Schuyler Samperton serenading Tricky, her sheepdog-terrier mix, in their Maine cottage—celebrate puppy love. The designers' own words make it clear that chic interiors and dog ownership go paw in hand very nicely. Each home reflects its owner's style, but they all have one thing in common: no space is off limits to canine members of the family. This book, which includes a guide to animal adoption and rescue organizations, offers both design inspiration and major "Aww" factor. | *$35, Rizzoli, rizzolibookstore.com*

2 Designing A Vision

By Janice Parker

Greenwich-based landscape architect Janice Parker works with many of the leading architects, interior designers, and builders in Connecticut and New York. Her garden designs are strikingly beautiful, yet much of their strength lies in the fact that they are perfectly attuned to the houses they surround and the families who live in those homes. Show-stopping as they may be, they do not insist on being the show. Rather, Parker listens—to her clients, to the other professionals, and to the land itself—and composes landscapes with grace, rhythm, and harmony. The gardens featured in her new book were created for houses contemporary and classic, on farmland, in the hills, and by the water. Different as they are, every property is a finely tuned visual symphony. Residential landscape design is, says Parker, "a subtle art." It is clearly an art she has mastered, as the thirteen gorgeous projects showcased in this richly photographed book testify. | *$59.95, The Images Publishing Group, imagespublishing.com*

3 A Connecticut Christmas

By Caryn B. Davis

There's nothing quite like a New England Christmas, is there? A red-bowed wreath looks so at home on the door of a colonial house, a snow-covered town green is just the place for a fir tree festooned with lights. Our part of the world seems tailor-made for the season. This pretty book focuses specifically on Connecticut, with page after page of festive photographs of Christmas as it's celebrated around the Nutmeg State. Historic houses such as Hartford's Mark Twain House and Norwalk's Lockwood-Mathews Mansion, whose halls are decked every December, are featured, and so are events like Mystic Seaport's Lantern Light Tours and the Gingerbread Festival at Woods Memorial Library and Museum in South Windsor, making the 200-plus-page book part celebration and part guide to the season. Eric D. Lehman's expressive essays and Caryn B. Davis's photos come together to make *A Connecticut Christmas* a welcome reminder to slow down and enjoy this special time of the year. | *$24.95, Globe Pequot, globepequot.com*

| REVIEWS BY PAULA M. BODAH |