

"I'd rather have an apartment that has some mistakes in it than something that is so damn perfect. I'm very much for personality and expressing yourself."



IRIS APFEL CONFESSES her preference for idiosyncratic imperfection in a conversation with designer Hutton Wilkinson in **Home: A Celebration** 1, a new book edited by Charlotte Moss featuring reflections from notable voices (including yours truly) on the meaning of home. When asked by Wilkinson what makes a house a home, Apfel, who is celebrating her 100th birthday August 29, responds with an eye toward a personal past. "Everybody has a history," she says. "And I think you should have bits and pieces of where you were and what you did and what you bought."

Her steadfast commitment to individual style makes Apfel an ideal muse for this issue. Like so many of us, Apfel found comfort in her collections—antiques, jewelry, even Mickey Mouse ephemera, all acquired during a lifetime of travel for her interior design and Old World Weavers textiles

business—while sheltering at home since March 2020. The notion of filling a home with memories of globe-trotting inspired two shopping features in this issue: a "Shop the World" special section (pg. 15), with more than 60 exquisite items 2 made by artisans from Mexico to Morocco, and "Old Things, New Guard" (pg. 59), an introduction to the next generation of antiques dealers who are proving there is nothing conventional or tired about decorating with antiques, nor selling them. (But you knew that already.)

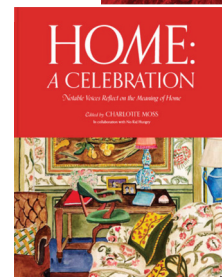
Apfel, a native New Yorker, is also an embodiment of the singular creative beat that reverberates in cities. Published 20 months into a pandemic that has wreaked unique havoc on urban life and on the eve of the 20th anniversary of 9/11, this issue is a celebration of that distinctive energy fueling a resilient revitalization in cities around the world. From a former prime minister's art-filled penthouse rising from a historic chapel in Montreal (pg. 74) and a New Orleans boudoir elaborately redecorated in celebration of a milestone anniversary (pg. 102) to the women in Harlem boldly protecting their neighborhood's cultural memory in order to preserve its artistic future (pg. 50, beautifully photographed by Flo Ngala 3, one such creative resident), evidence abounds that city life is back—and perhaps more stylish than ever.

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Proceeds from **Home: A Celebration** featuring Iris Apfel, among others, will support No Child Hungry, which feeds more than 11 million children living in food-insecure homes.



For their latest collection of accessories handmade in Sweden, Eleish van Breems worked with artisan Malin Appelgren to create this brass **Chestnut Leaf candleholder**.
evbantiques.com



Photographer **Flo Ngala** took this self-portrait outside her home in Harlem.

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Editors' BOOKSHELF

FOUR TITLES ON OUR READING LIST THIS SEASON



FROM LEFT: **Thomas Jefferson at Monticello**, edited by Leslie Greene Bowman and Charlotte Moss (Rizzoli Electa, 2021) • **Victoria Hagan: Live Now** by Victoria Hagan (Rizzoli, 2021) • **Style Comfort Home** by Andrew Howard (Abrams, 2021) • **Collected Interiors: Rooms That Tell a Story** by Philip Mitchell (Rizzoli, 2021)

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