



ast year, we gave out two new awards to coincide with the publication of our Top 100 Interior Designers -Designer of the Year and Project of the Year – as well as the Pineapple Award for Outstanding Contribution to Hotel Design. This year, with the publication of the inaugural Top 25 Garden Designers list, we've added Garden Designer of the Year to these accolades. We are also introducing awards for Best New Product and Rising Star. I like to think that these celebrate the people and the companies forging their own particular paths, pushing boundaries and creating things - be they products or whole projects - with beauty, integrity and originality. Turn to page 27 to see who the winners are.

I'm writing this letter while many members of my team are running round Milan, during the annual Salone del Mobile, looking out for interesting things to be featured in future pages of *House & Garden*. In these days of the internet and Instagram, it is easy to forget that a magazine like this one thrives off its team being out and about, seeing things for themselves and meeting people. When they return, we'll meet to discuss their discoveries and plot for future issues, while it is all still fresh in their minds.

The quickest of introductions and the briefest of conversations can sow the seed for an article. For instance, in this July issue, the story on Russell

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Pinch and Oona Bannon's house in France (from page 72) came about when, on a whim, I popped into their London shop following a meeting on Pimlico Road. In the same way, a single product or idea can inspire a whole shoot conceived by our Decoration team. The seed for Gabby Deeming's schemes for 'Green Spirit' (from page 104) was the combination of materials and colours – a mint green concrete floor and red leather on wroughtiron chair seats – she had admired a week earlier in the café at Petersham Nurseries in Covent Garden.

As we edge towards the summer holidays, so does the magazine's content. In this issue, as well as the Pinches' dreamy holiday house and the story of its renovation, we have an enchanting garden in rural Italy (from page 110), an account of Nick Ivins and Bella Pringle's life by the sea in Lyme Regis (from page 63) and some highly covetable pools pictured in 'Design Ideas' (from page 53). Plus some perfect summer recipes – inspired by Eleanor Maidment's travels in California (on pages 123-128). Let's hope for some hot, lazy days ahead  $\square$ 

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