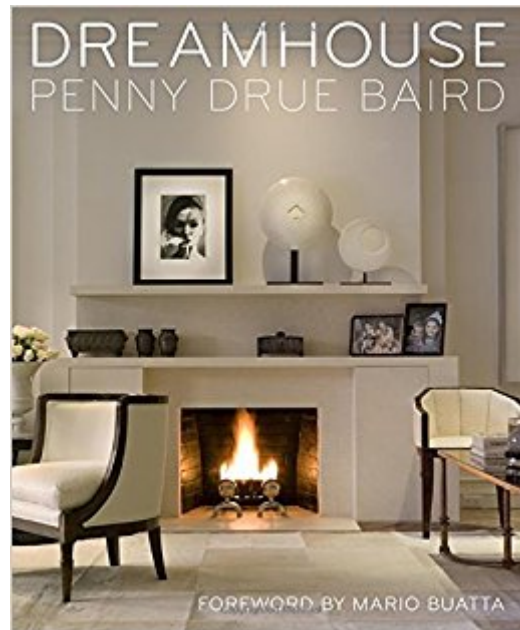




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# **Dreamhouse: Penny Drue Baird**



## Synopsis

Architectural Digest Top 100 interior designer Penny Drue Baird's rooms are universally admired for their seamless weaving of past and present. From luxurious Manhattan apartments and a jewel-toned Parisian pied-à-terre, to family homes in Connecticut and New Jersey, and a whimsical Bucks County barn, Baird's work is the result of deep client relationships that have lasted for decades. A Tudor-style house is redesigned to feel fresher as its owners' tastes mature, an airy Beverly Hills villa follows a young bachelor's first apartment in The San Remo, and sumptuous fabrics and textures provide a modern backdrop for the vintage collections of the chicest person Baird knows. • Baird incorporates bold architectural gestures—tufted niches, gold-leaf and turquoise coffered ceilings, classical moldings and other made-from-scratch details—with fabrics from taffeta to practical corduroy, and unexpected finishes like mother of pearl and striated painted walls, trompe l'oeil limestone, classic bead board, or end-grain wood wallpaper. In his warmly written foreword, Mario Buatta lauds her skill and taste in sourcing unique pieces for each room. Art Deco cabinets, Sputnik chandeliers, and gracious European antiques discovered in France, England, and Italy are received with the same delight as salvaged barn siding and old crates. A courant but never trendy, with elements both classical and contemporary, each DREAMHOUSE is infused with Penny Drue Baird's irresistible sense of romance, charm, and joie de vivre.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

• Tells you how to be the best client you can be. How to get the most from your decorator. And

like Penny's earlier books "Bringing Paris Home, The New French Interior" it's filled with ideas to steal, lighting solutions, closet extensions, tricks to shortcut your needs, luxurious touches to look for in your own flea markets. —Gael Greene, "Insatiable Critic" —To be sure, Penny Drue Baird's work often incorporates salon- and ch teau-like details drawn directly from France —not to mention plenty of finds from the March  Biron and March  aux Puces, in Paris. —But her rooms are also suffused with a distinctly American tendency toward casual comfort —often filled with soft, upholstered furniture —and many accommodate children in a way that is decidedly un-French. —As she proves in DREAMHOUSE, elegance and practicality are not mutually exclusive. —"1st Dibs' Introspective" —Innovative ideas abound in this classic retrospective of interior design. Most of the selected homes feel lived in rather than staged, in spite of the spotlessness. The sampling of styles, locations, and types of homes displays Baird's range and ability to satisfy any client. —Publishers Weekly

Penny Drue Baird is an internationally renowned interior designer, known not only for her design talents but also for her knowledge of history and culture. Her delight in all things French is legendary —her first two books, *Bringing Paris Home* and *The New French Interior*, were published by The Monacelli Press —but her first priority is creating designs that bring her clients' tastes and preferences to life. Baird's firm, Dessins, is based in New York and Paris. An AD Top 100 Designer, she is frequently featured in *Architectural Digest* and other prestigious shelter magazines.

Excellent

Every one deserves a dream house writes designer Penny Drue Baird in this book on design. And indeed that philosophy is reflected in the title of this book. Penny takes you through her geographically diverse and original rooms which she has designed with clients. A variety of style is represented depending on the area (Palm Desert or Paris?), the taste of the clients, and the architecture of the home itself. Penny narrates how she and the clients came up with the many design decisions in rooms. A blue antique rug inspired the color scheme in a Palm Desert room, for example. I've enjoyed seeing Penny's rooms in magazines, and now on Pinterest, throughout the years. In perusing these rooms you notice the attention to detail Penny which employs in the design whether it's a recycled French parquet floor or an antique lamp. Two of my favorite details are a Hermes scarf painted on the ceiling of a bathroom and white boards applied in various direction on the walls and ceilings of a small room with gray trim painted on. It seems many of the clients have

the means and taste to buy quality items. Some are collectors. But you can translate some of the style ideas to fit a more modest budget. In looking at the diverse rooms, you can't tell they were designed by the same decorator because Penny doesn't have a "look" which she imprints on every room she designs. Her design is definitely original - the Hermes scarf ceiling is brilliant. It seems she is inspired by the spaces and the clients' dreams. Penny may have come by her originality through her parents. She said when all of her parents' friends were decorating their homes 'faux French' in replication of the French taste coming out of the Jackie Kennedy White House (decorated by Jansen in part), Penny's parents home went for a more Spanish style with elements which would still be in vogue today says Penny. Design aficionados who enjoy reading about the thought process of a designer will enjoy seeing these rooms. My only suggestion for improvement would be to enlarge some of the photos so they would be full page. There was more white space than needed on some of the pages and more of the rooms we can see, the better. My favorite homes were the French apartment and the barn. And that home with the Hermes bath, of course. 4.5 stars

My husband likes to joke that book's like this and garden's that start at \$200K are "Porn For the Poor." LOL And I do have to agree with him, as much as it pains me to do so. Just as the kind of porn of the human body shows impossible to achieve perfection, homes of the 1% (of which this book showcases) are equally unobtainable for 99% of the globe's population. Like another reviewer mentioned, I, too, work for the 1% as their landscape architect and am privy to the interiors of their homes. I've known client's that have waited for ONE YEAR to have silk fabric custom made in France to reupholster a chaise that NO ONE sits upon, in the massive foyer of their home. HOWEVER, and it's a \*BIG\* 'however', there is NOTHING that prevents the artistic/empowered/thrifty homeowner from being utterly inspired by Penny's designs and bringing those delightful elements into their own home. Whether it's being inspired by COMPLETELY AFFORDABLE IDEAS of creating a beautiful stencil on a hard wood floor, ingenious designs for storage within any room, lighting ideas, etc., if YOU love to create a beautiful home for yourself, family and friends, you can absolutely use this book as a wonderful "idea source" and pick impressive designs within your budget. The pages are THICK...so thick that I often thought that two or more pages were 'stuck together'; only looking at the page number assured me that 2-3 pages weren't stuck together. I own several interior books like this one but what makes THIS book different from the other's I own, is that Penny incorporated a vast selection of styles from Paris Chic, Suburban Splendor, Uptown Cool and my absolute FAVOURITE interior: a magnificently rustic renovated barn in Buck's County. I was deeply inspired by the repurposing of the original barn's

siding for the kitchen cabinets and a wicked cool banister of welded together old farm tools/equipment. Perhaps it's because I was raised on a farm and see the sad decline and elimination of such an American icon that this look was my favourite interior. Whether as a gift for your own inspiration or a gift to a friend who shares your passion for lovely interiors, there is NO WAY that you can not be inspired by Penny's designs to bring a few delightful design ideas into your own Home Sweet Home. :D

I am not an interior decorator, but I happen to work with some of them and help bring some of their visions to life. As a professional interior painter, I get to see a lot of distinct homes, and some of them are pretty fabulous, inside. It's always interesting to see the different touches people have employed to bring flavor and character to their interior spaces. It was enjoyable to turn through the pages of this book and see all of Baird's interior designs, too. Though it's highly unlikely I'll ever own a house that looks like any of the ones in this book, I will certainly be working in some of like caliber. I know several of my associates that are interior decorators would really enjoy looking through this book, as well. Maybe I can pass it along to one of them after my time with it is through.

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