

## Design Inspirations

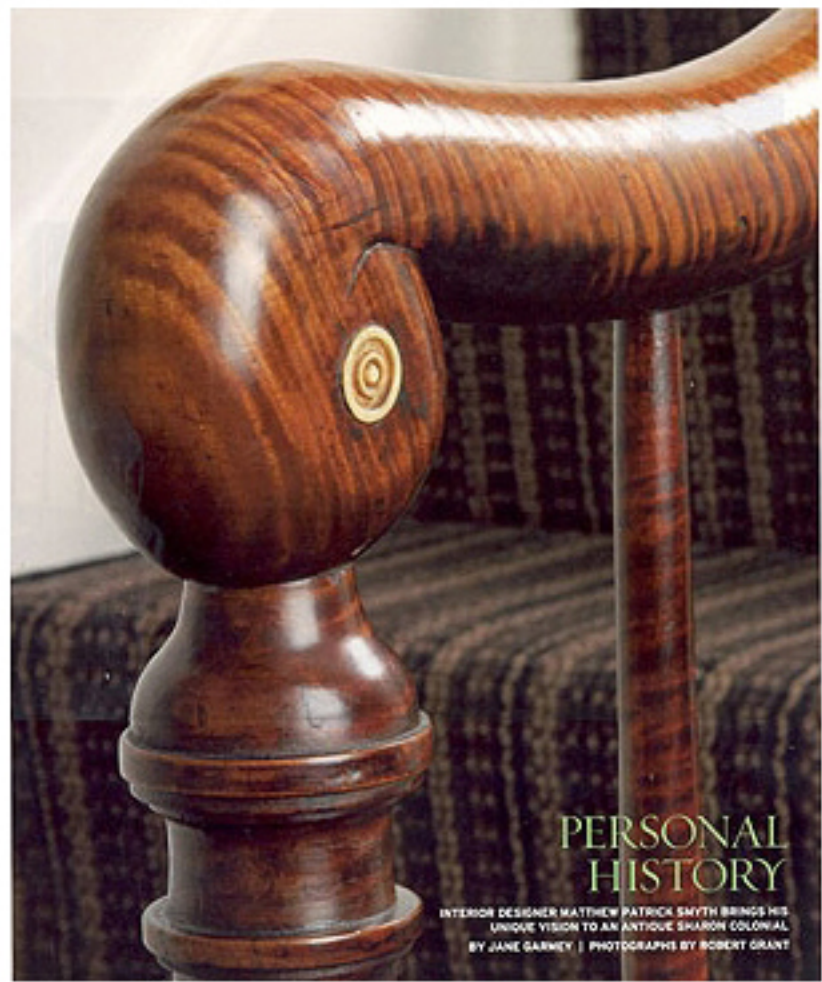
Couture Fabrics, Interiors and Products

Exclusive Excerpt of Bunny Williams' New Book



### Matthew Patrick Smyth

Interior designer Matthew Patrick Smyth's work, which has spanned the globe from Westport to Hungary, has appeared in *Elle Decor*, *House & Garden* and *New York* magazine, among other publications. Recently he launched an eponymous collection of carpets for Patterson, Flynn & Martin, and F. Schumacher will present his fabric collection in 2008. For this issue, Smyth lets CTC&G into his home in "Personal History," pg. 78.



### PERSONAL HISTORY

INTERIOR DESIGNER MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH BRINGS HIS UNIQUE VISION TO AN ANTIQUE SHARON COLONIAL  
BY JANE GARNNEY | PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT GRANT

**T**he task was exactly as daunting as the house," says Smyth. "It was almost like a detective story. You take all the floorboards, see the intricate paint colors and tell where rooms have been added by the color of the floor." The upstairs required most of the major work. Those five tiny bedrooms were reconfigured into a spacious private master suite with a dressing room.

Smyth bought the house, which at one time had been expanded and converted to an office, after flipping through real estate ads on the Internet. Advertised as having five bedrooms, it sat on the market for some time and needed a good deal of work. The upstairs had been cut up into a maze of tiny rooms—an awkward arrangement Smyth believed discouraged other buyers. But the layout didn't phase him. From the moment he set foot in the door he knew he had found the right house. This sense was truly reinforced when he later discovered that the parcel date engraved on the 19th-century metal and brass front doorbell was September 8, 1835—the same month and day as his birthday.



**Open Door** The avid collector of antique, vintage design and decorative objects, Smyth found a treasure trove of items in the house's attic. **True Exposure** During renovation, a discovery was made: an antique well-preserved 19th-century furniture piece—a **Wardrobe and Chest**. Also part of the CTC&G collection is the **Sharon Colonial** collection. **Lighting On** In the dining room, Smyth designed the light fixture which was painted in the 1800s for the **Sharon Colonial**. **Chair** This is the main, a side chair. **Desk** Smyth carries a special well-preserved 19th-century desk. **See Stories**



**Map Quest** A map of the entire town was drawn in 1835 and used as the design guide. The table and chairs were from the **Sharon Colonial** collection. **Bedroom** The 18th-century bed was a **Wardrobe and Chest**. **Lighting** In the dining room, Smyth designed the light fixture which was painted in the 1800s for the **Sharon Colonial**. **Chair** This is the main, a side chair. **Desk** Smyth carries a special well-preserved 19th-century desk. **See Stories**





and bathroom, two guest bedrooms, a new guest bathroom and, at the top of the stairs, a small sitting area under a beautiful Palladian window that previously had been built in back of a closet.

Downstairs, Smith closed off two entry doors to the dining room and removed a wall that bowed in the main staircase. This allowed a teenage niece to congregate with the dining room while creating an elegant, well-proportioned space. Because the Smiths believe would never have survived had a new been built. It would have been possible for children to use to disk (domestics, he says). In addition, a bathroom was enlarged and a small bed and a study library was created out of a top-down stairs bedroom. In the kitchen, new appliances were installed, an island was removed to make room for a pantry and dark cabinets were replaced. The heating and electricity were updated completely, and one of the fireplace mantels was rebuilt.

