

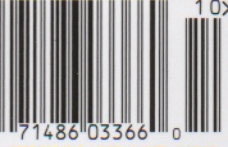
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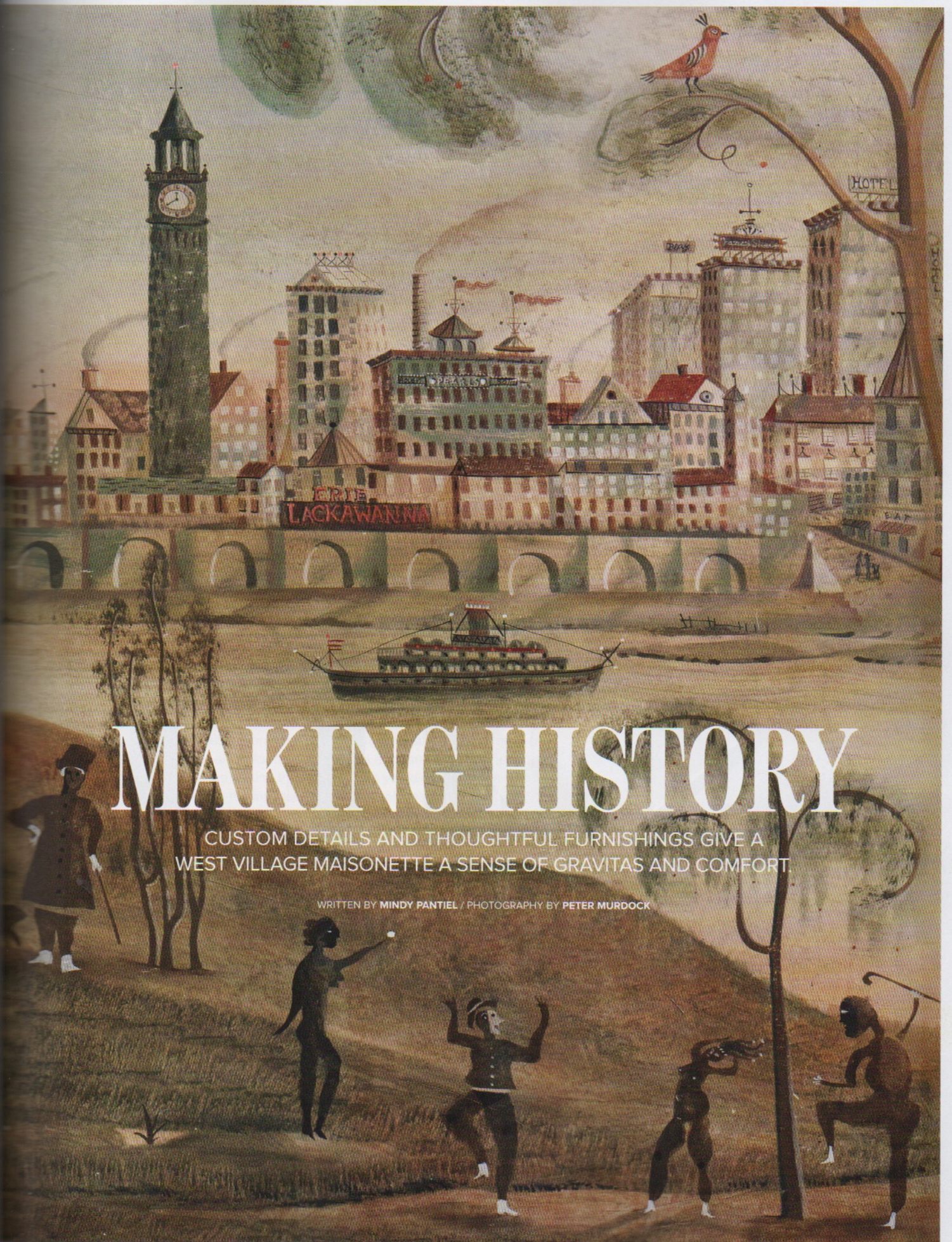
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MAKING HISTORY

CUSTOM DETAILS AND THOUGHTFUL FURNISHINGS GIVE A WEST VILLAGE MAISONETTE A SENSE OF GRAVITAS AND COMFORT

WRITTEN BY MINDY PANTIEL / PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER MURDOCK



All the public spaces fan out from the central foyer, including the decidedly unfussy living room. "In their previous home, the clients had a living room they never used," Gissler says. "They dubbed it 'the fancy room.'" The designers avoided that moniker here with a playful blend of furnishings, such as a Bohemian-leaning woven tapestry on the sofa, a midcentury coffee table and a pair of side chairs that evoke the Vienna Secession. "On one level, the furniture silhouettes are more classical," Gissler says, "but there are tweaks—like a colorful contemporary rug instead of a Persian under the baby grand—that tell you: This is not your mother's prewar apartment." Plaster crown moldings, a picture rail alongside the piano and baseboards scaled to the room evoke a time gone by, but a bold canvas by Robert DeNiro Sr. brings visitors back to the current century.

Art plays a critical role in the overall design of the home. From the living room, it's possible to glimpse the sextet of Walton Ford's large-scale bird editions dominating a wall in the library. "It was decided early on that the prints needed to hang together, and they were a driving force for the palette," says Gissler, who in response painted the walls a deep olive green. "In galleries, you always see art on harsh white walls, but I prefer to use color to frame the art." A cushy upholstered sofa mimics the wall color, while patterns on the lamps and decorative pillows punctuated with tones of terra cotta provide an ethnic accent.

While most spaces incorporate a sense of modernity, the ambience in the kitchen is pure turn-of-the-last-century. New ceiling beams painted to match the deep blue recessed-panel cabinets and a wall of hand-wrought

The first-floor landing is encased in the same cerused-oak paneling as the staircase. A pair of 1980s bronze table lamps from Rago Arts and Auction Center in Lambertville, New Jersey, rest on a 1940s French trestle table from Galerie Sommerlath in Culver City, California. The Moroccan-style area rug is from Marc Phillips Decorative Rugs.

To compensate for the lack of windows in the dining room, Gissler commissioned artist Kevin Paulsen to paint murals depicting fantasy landscape elements based on New York City history. The images, on distressed synthetic plaster on muslin, were painted off-site. The custom area rug is by Marc Phillips Decorative Rugs.



Below, left: Also in the dining room, a 1940s Charles Dudouyt cabinet provides storage. The oak-and-antique-bronze dining table is by Holly Hunt; the Whidbey chairs upholstered in Duralee fabric are by Roman Thomas.

Below, right: A close-up of the mural shows views of what might have been New York Harbor mixed with unexpected fantastical elements such as palm fronds and hot-air balloons. The 20th-century vintage-brass chandeliers are from Downtown, via 1stdibs, in Los Angeles.

