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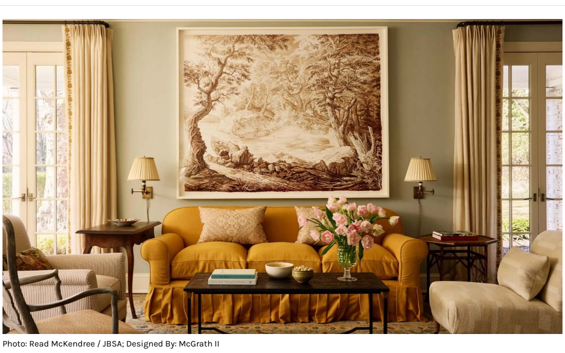

Photo: Read McKendree / JBSA; Designed By: McGrath II

INTERIORS

Interiors Photographer Read McKendree on What Makes the Most Beautiful Spaces

Both visually and emotionally.

By *Ariel Okin*

JULY 26, 2022

Interiors photographer Read McKendree has seen a lot of beautiful homes. In his 20-plus years shooting a myriad of subjects, from surf shacks to city penthouses, the Rhode Island-based lensman has honed in on what makes a space not just beautiful but unique, evocative, and compelling. A champion of harnessing light and a master of color, the photographer, husband, and father sat down with Coveteur to chat about the common threads he's noticed running through the most special spaces, no matter their style.

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"This space reminds me of summers in New England," says McKendree. "I carry a straw hat in my car, always ready for an impromptu beach day." Photo: Read McKendree / JBSA; Designed By: Lilse McKenna

What are some common themes you've noticed between homes that photograph beautifully?

"A strong design intent. Empty walls that are meant to be vacant can be beautiful, especially when they catch a streak of light or a shadow. Likewise, an overflowing bookshelf can be an incredible moment. When homes are designed with the owner's way of life in mind, a layer of personality takes over."

What is your most favorite home you've ever photographed and why?

"My wife works part-time for an architect, managing social media and producing their photo shoots (dealing with me). One of the shoots was a home that consisted of three cabins on an island in Maine. The town was mostly shut down for the season so we had to pack food, wine, and any props we would need. Besides a few people we met while out there, it felt like the island was ours to explore. The home was really laid-back and only one cabin had insulation. It was obvious that the homeowners treated simplicity and their land and views as the ultimate luxury—I could have moved in and never left."

"This was an older home that had been renovated and Robert [McKinley] kept a lot of the original wood paneling," explains McKendree. "There is a warmth and soul to old wood that comes only with time." Photo: Read McKendree / JBSA; Designed By: Studio Robert McKinley

Do you prefer working with a stylist on set? If so, why?

"Absolutely. Stylists bring so much to a shoot and the final images. Their interpretations of the space, realized through propping and floral decisions, are just as important as the angle and lighting that the photographer chooses. They are also just as focused on small details like tangent lines, wrinkles, and crooked lampshades as I am, which allows me to focus on composition and light. It's nice to have a partner in obsessiveness!"

How did you get your start photographing interiors?

"I almost transferred out of photography school to pursue a degree in architecture. So there has always been an interest in design and the built environment. I ended up graduating with a degree in photography and began shooting right away. One of my very first clients was actually an interior designer. At first, there were a lot of odd jobs mixed in with the occasional interiors or architectural gig—whatever it took to pay the rent. It was years later, while photographing surfers' homes for a book called *Surf Shacks*, that I really fell in love with capturing interior spaces. I focused my attention entirely on capturing built environments and how to best translate the essence of a space into a two-dimensional image. I've been learning how to do this as efficiently and beautifully as possible ever since."

"The pieces that a homeowner collects can say so much about them and add a really rich layer to the interior design," says McKendree. Photo: Read McKendree / JBSA; Designed By: Lucy Harris Studio

What do you love most about photographing interiors?

"I love seeing how other people live and how designers and architects adjust and create around that. I get to spend a day or two in *a lot* of houses throughout the year, and each one tells its own unique story. Of course, there are challenges that come with this—endless changing variables, logistical challenges, and lighting puzzles. It keeps things fresh and exciting. And I love the way light dances around a room; it often leads me to a composition. Light is important to all photographers, but inside of a home, it almost feels like a guest. It can completely transform a room."

Do you have any tips for someone trying to create vignettes at home?

"When I capture a vignette for a client, what I leave out of the frame is just as important as what I include. It's helpful to focus on the specific objects and understand how they interact with one another while momentarily ignoring the rest of the room."

"I really appreciate a nod to the natural environment surrounding a home," says McKendree. "This room brought in so many colors and textures of its surrounding Carmel, California, landscape." Photo: Read McKendree / JBSA; Designed By: Workshop/APD

What are the top three lessons you've learned from being inside some of the most beautiful homes in the country?

"1) Quality over quantity. My wife and I are trying our best to wait for the right piece of furniture instead of rushing into one we'll either regret or will fall apart. 2) I only want to live in a home that builds character as it ages. My parents still have the kitchen table I used to do my homework on, and you can see my early handwriting in the wood. Those imperfections are memories. 3) Art is so important. And it doesn't have to be expensive to be meaningful. Support friends that are artists or pick something up at a thrift store. If it brings you joy, buy it and hang it!"

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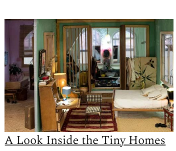

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FASHION

Editor-Approved Summer Shoes That Won't Give You Blisters

No need to sacrifice comfort, thanks to these top picks from Coveteur staffers.

By *Katie Mok*

AUGUST 05, 2022

Dressing in the summer can get pretty tricky. To remain chic while beating the heat can be quite challenging, especially when it comes to footwear. For a summer shoe to be a shoo-in (pun intended) it needs to be comfortable, practical, and fashionable, like the classic Birkenstock sandals and the beloved flip-flop. With so many footwear choices out in the market, Coveteur staffers are making the search a bit less overwhelming by sharing their favorite summer shoes, ahead.

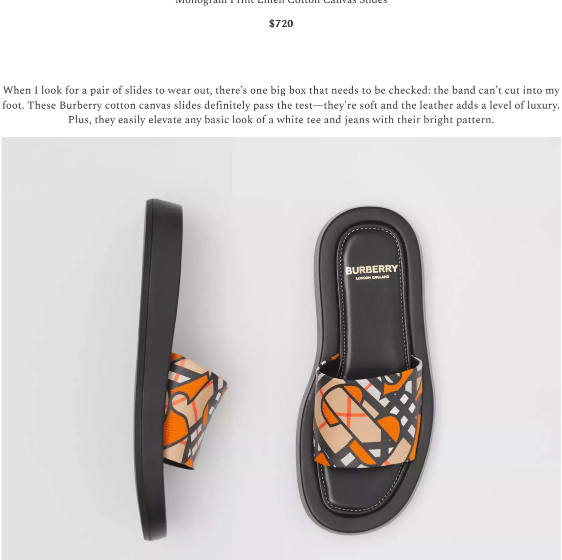
Katie Mok, Editorial Production Fellow

CHAUSSURE LAPIN
Neva Thong Sandals
$210

For a few more weddings and get-togethers this summer, this sandal is my top pick. The heel isn't too high, so there's no pain, and I love the straps, which makes the shoe a bit more elevated.

BURBERRY
Monogram Print Linen Cotton Canvas Slides
$720

When I look for a pair of slides to wear out, there's one big box that needs to be checked: the band can't cut into my foot. These Burberry cotton canvas slides definitely pass the test—they're soft and the leather adds a level of luxury. Plus, they easily elevate any basic look of a white tee and jeans with their bright pattern.



VEJAS
Venturi Alveomesh Sneakers
$195

Breathability is key for any summer shoe, especially in a sneaker. Not only are these Vejas breathable and lightweight, but the colorways are uber chic and made from 100 percent recycled polyester.

Sasha Alexander, Senior Manager, Brand Partnerships & Sales

REPETTO
Lou Ballerinas
$410

Repetto's forever—they're so timeless!

MELISSA
The Real Jelly Possession Sandal
$69

I love the comeback Melissa is having—my jelly sandals were a childhood staple and have come full circle the last few years. The colors are so fun and add personality to any outfit.

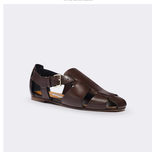
BIRKENSTOCK
Arizona Eva
$50

There are my go-to summer slipper, bishop-inc beach flip, all in one shoe. I keep my Birks by my front door all summer long for when I need to make a quick run, errands or head outside for the day. They're easy to clean, waterproof, and affordable.

Camille Freestone, Style Editor

ANNE-MARIE
Frame x Espresso
$475

This is the sexiest summer I've been completely obsessed with Scherman sandals. After wearing a Birk this year I realized how important it is to have a good flip flop. I love the fact that they are waterproof and have a little more than their slightly greater coverage and lift (whopping 1/4 inch) than my Birkenstocks (lol). I love the chocolate but they come in a few other fun summer colors.



CHANEL
Lambskin Patent Cap Toe Ballerina Flats
$790

My mother purchased a pair of Chanel flats years ago that turned out to be slightly too small and I finally convinced her to pass them along to her slightly smaller friend daughter. I've been thoroughly enjoying pairing these feminine classics with denim capsule and an oversized men's blazer dress this summer.

JACKIE
Sandy Pagoda
$90

Along with the rest of New York City, I've jumped aboard the Sandy train. As previously stated, I prefer slim footwear. I've been a dedicated Converse wearer, so this seemed like a logical step. I managed to score a pair of originals with teal stripes down the side, but the black series essentially the same function.

Caroline Dunn, Manager, Sales & Brand Partnerships

ADIDAS ADE
Trainly Pearl Embellished Sandals
$100

Arizona Love makes some of the most comfortable shoes on the market right now, and I love this pearly glam take on their classic Trainly style. If embellishment isn't for you, I can almost guarantee that the French mani-style version of this shoe and cashmere will offer something that I'm your speed.

GIANVITO
Gina Sandals
$660

I'm a gold I wish the plunge on this sandal (that coming it for other fall this ages. The Gina is the most versatile option in a wardrobe and, since you will wear a version of it for regular use in the fall and in several years

SEA STAR BEACHWEAR
Cabana Slide Water Shoe
$70

This has been my go-to beach sandal for the past few summers, and it has yet to let me down. Super lightweight and easy to grab, these sandals are perfect for weekend getaways.

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BEAUTY

Summer Fragrances That Evoke Just the Right Hint of Freshness

Spritz these on during the warmer months.

By Nora Wolf
Editor
Updated 06.06.2022

I'm obsessed with fragrance. I have a diffuser here, a room spray there, and, yes, the fabrics I frequently spray scents on a scarf I love my life more people. however, I wrap my sensitive perfume with sweater. Before AJ Dunne, I was a Jo Malone girl, and I still am to a degree. I love the fact that I can mix and match, and I feel like I'm a mixologist (actually) in the Sephora aisle from time to time. Below are my summer fragrances to spritz on during warmer temperatures. Enjoy.

CHANEL
N°5 L'Eau
$150

This citrus version of a Chanel classic has notes of lemon, neroli, mandarin orange, and lime.

ACQUA DI PARMA
Colonia Eau de Cologne
$102

Acqua di Parma's classic, citrus scent known as Colonia Eau de Cologne is made up of Sicilian citrus, lavender, and rosemary, which results in a perfectly fresh perfume for summer.

PALLIS
Sea Fizzy Sally
$96

If you love summer scents, this perfume is your perfect match. Vanilla, tuberose, and cardamom are featured notes without making you smell like you ever doused in sugar.

MAISON MARGIELA
Replica Coffee Break
$100

This coffee-scented floral scent overpowers you in a romantic coffee shop chorus not vanilla (or listen by the minute.

NEST
Wild Poppy Eau de Parfum

$69

I rarely ever buy perfumes in full size, but this is an exception. I had just finished my small tester when I heard about a Best sample sale in the city. I knew I had to grab Wild Poppy perfume and, to and behold, they only had the 1.7-ounce size. One spritz of this and all I continue to hear when I enter my friend's car is "juice the perfume." It's a good thing I bought the bigger size!

ELOREA
Fire

$125

I never would have thought to say a fiery spicy scent in the summer, but you know what they say: Fight fire with fire. With hint citrus and spices as the top notes, the citrus scent is fresh not sensual and romantic. It's perfect for a casual hangout or date night.

FRAGRANT AUTHORS
The Soft Leave

$75

With hazel, ivy leaves, and fresh tastes leafs as base notes, this perfume is reminiscent of a fresh garden. Each scent from Fragrant Author has a curated synopsis to perfectly describe and set the scene for each fragrance.

LE LABO
Jasmin 17

$150

If you like the strong scent of jasmine, this is the perfume for you. The flowery scent is complemented with mellow notes of sandalwood and musk for a hint of playfulness and sensuality.

VERSACE
Bright Crystal

$90

Inspired by Donatella Versace's favorite floral notes, this scent is a perfect everyday fragrance. Four spritzes is all you'll need.

VILLAGE PERFUMERIE
Mango Skin

$90

A perfume TikTok put on my radar, Mango Skin hasn't faded on me. It's a bit sweet yet warm, and has the perfect blend of fruitiness for summer.

CLEAN RESERVE
Classic Warm Cotton

$76

Who doesn't love the smell of fresh linen? This fragrance was inspired by new sets that have just been pulled straight out of the dryer, and its spot-on.

DAYTIQUE
Pitbuchin Solid Perfume

$68

This light, floral perfume is a fly lover's paradise. I find the best place to apply a few dabs is on your neck and behind your ears. Plus, the metal is makes it look ultra luxurious!

DIME BEAUTY
7 Summers

$38

It's all in the name! This creamy lemoine scent, accompanied with some of pear, is great for the season. The fragrance itself is made from clean ingredients, and it's engineered to be safe and hypoallergenic.

AESOP
Karst

$195

Karst is fresh and sophisticated. It's a little bit smoky, but still fresh and clean for summer.

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