

* HIGH|LOW: Save or Splurge—You Decide

Metropolitan Home

37 Inspiring
Rooms from
London to L.A.

Comfort
& Joy

Great Gifts
\$10 and Up

New Orleans
Holiday Feast

Smart Sexy
Storage

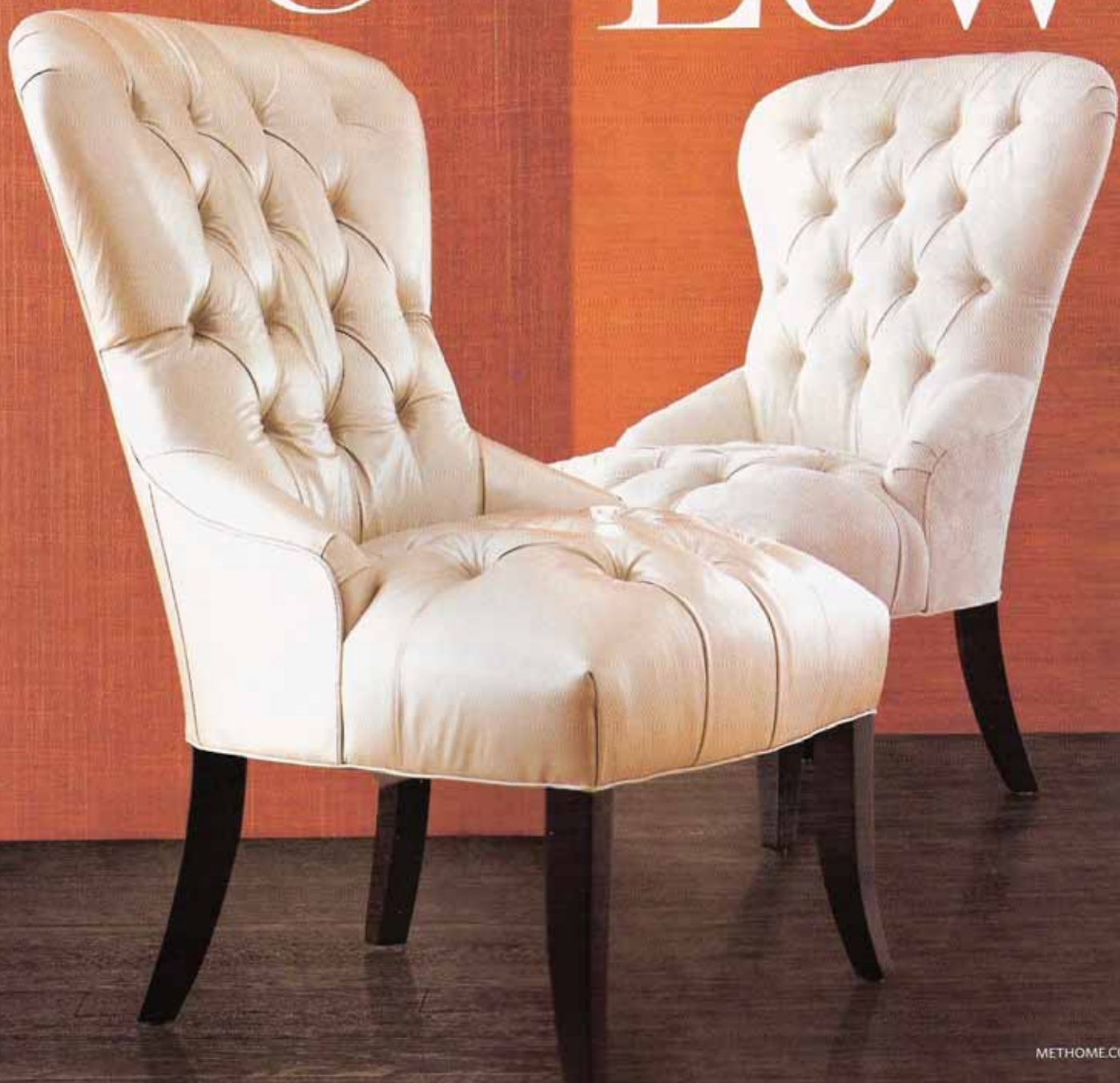
Q+A
Cindy
Crawford

*Our cover
mixes pieces
from our
High room
and our
Low room,
p. 41.*

Either of these entries invites guests to step in to style. One is done with a prudent eye on the purse; the other has a more expansive bottom line.

*Produced and written
by Katherine E. Nelson*

High Low



High \$14,562

• **"Bamboo" chair** \$650 • **Pillow fabric** \$396/yd. • **Console** \$1,400 • **Mirror** \$1,275 • **Vase** \$2,900 • **Monkey** \$90 • **Obelisk** \$120 • **Tufted chair** \$2,140 • **Sconce** \$400 • **Wall covering** \$120/yd. • **Flooring** \$11/sq. ft. • **Rug** \$3,000

Pull up a seat in our fashionable HIGH/LOW foyer, the first thing your guests will see when they come to visit. Front and center in our HIGH room (this page), Jonathan Adler's Chippendale faux-bamboo armchair (JonathanAdler.com) feels edgy with its boxy shape and shiny lacquer finish; it's decked out with a Kravet (Kravet.com) pillow in opulent *Mirella*, a viscose-cotton velvet. At right, in our LOW room, the *Macau* armchair from Ballard Designs (BallardDesigns.com) has similar dimensions but a more traditional look, with curved corners and a rubbed finish; the Kravet pillow is a cotton-poly woven (#29983-816). Both foyers feature Parsons-style tables. On this page is Saloom's *Cityscapes Urban Leg* console (Saloom.com), custom crafted in solid maple with a floating, ebony-finished edge; the LOW *Crate & Barrel* console (opposite; CrateAndBarrel.com) is designed in tubular steel with a floating glass top. Above our HIGH console is Oly's *Moon* mirror (OlyStudio.com) with its gleaming antiqued finish; opposite is Two's Company's *Kaleidoscope* wall mirror (Two'sCompany.com) of beveled clear glass. Also greeting guests are impish decorative monkeys. Our HIGH room features a hand-painted porcelain figurine by Mottahedeh (Mottahedeh.com), famed for its historic Chinese export designs; its LOW country cousin, *Monkey with Banana Bowl*, is ceramic, from Madison Ave. Gifts (MadisonAveGifts.com). The HIGH decorative obelisk from Ethan Allen (18" h; EthanAllen.com) has an antique silver-leaf finish and architectural trim; its counterpart, *Z Gallerie's Mirrored Glass* obelisk (ZGallerie.com), is plain glass and two inches shorter. The HIGH *Black Turtle* vase from Lalique (Lalique.com) is mouth-blown into a mold and hand-finished in black crystal, a labor-intensive process; designed by Dror Benshetrit, the LOW counterpart, Rosenthal's *Vase of Phases* (opposite; RosenthalUSA.com), has a similarly textured surface, but it's slip-cast in porcelain.



Low \$4,785

“Bamboo” chair \$250 • Pillow fabric \$130/yd. • Console \$450 • Mirror \$435 • Vase \$250 • Monkey \$30 • Obelisk \$40 • Tufted chair \$1,380 • Sconce \$168 • Wall covering \$32/yd. • Flooring \$5/sq. ft. • Rug \$800

At the window, peeking out from behind the orange wall, *Audry* armchairs from Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams (MGBWHome.com) offer up inviting perches at two price points: While the *HIGH* is upholstered in supple, opalescent leather, the *LOW* version sports basic polyester faux suede. Handcrafted in Charleston, S.C., the distinctly modern, 21-inch-long *HIGH Melissa* sconce from the Urban Electric Co. (UrbanElectricCo.com) is made of brass and finished in bronze; the *LOW Bryant* sconce by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort (CircaLighting.com), shown in bronze, is 6½ inches shorter and has a more traditional feel. Phillip Jeffries (PhillipJeffries.com) provided handmade natural-fiber papers for both rooms. The richly hued *HIGH Madagascar* raffia is woven in Africa and finished in Japan; it's fabric-backed, which makes it usable for light upholstery as well as on walls. Produced solely in Japan, the *LOW Juicy Jute* grass cloth has a flat color and a paper backing, so it works only on walls (both through designers). For our *HIGH* flooring, we chose Capstone White Oak in Onyx, a stunning engineered hardwood with wire-brushed details from T. Morton (TMorton.com); the *LOW Reserve Collection Black Forest* floor from Bruce (Bruce.com) offers a similar dark shade in inexpensive laminate. For some softness underfoot, we chose toe-tickling 6' by 9' India-made rugs from ABC Carpet and Home (ABCHome.com). While the *HIGH Nilya* is handmade and hand-tufted using plush New Zealand wool, the *LOW Miron* is constructed by both hand and machine of less-rarefied Indian wool. Whether you chose all *HIGH* or all *LOW* pieces or mix them up, your guests will feel at home for years to come. ■

