

ZUBER

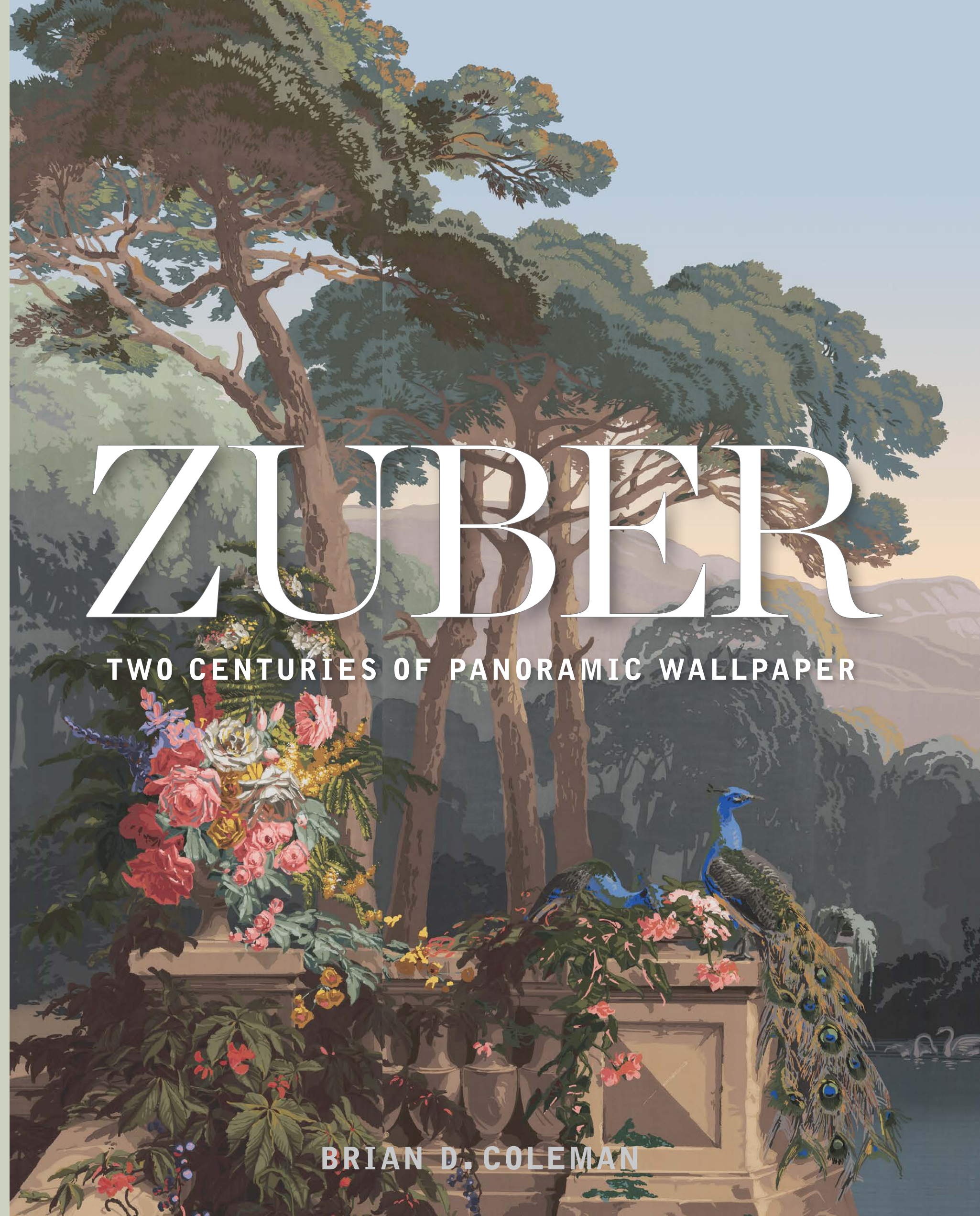
TWO CENTURIES OF PANORAMIC WALLPAPER

BRIAN D. COLEMAN

Zuber has for 200 years been the premier manufacturer of scenic wallpapers. Long admired for its panoramas of historic North America, Italy, Japan, China and more, the company's reputation for superior quality has spread far and wide. Today, these stunningly exquisite papers are printed using the original antique woodblocks, the same paint formulas, and the time-honored processes that were used in the 1800s. And the result is magical.

Here, we see gorgeous hand-printed Zuber wallpapers in home settings—grand foyers, elegant dining rooms, sumptuous salons, and private retreats. More than 300 beautiful photographs, plus informed commentary from author Brian Coleman, reveal the luxury of Zuber in locations as varied as the United States, France, and Scotland, in settings ranging from townhomes and metropolitan apartments to a governor's mansion, an eighteenth-century colonial home, a private chateau, a castle, and a very modern apartment.

Become immersed in Zuber's magical scenes of flora and fauna from exotic locales, as well as episodes from the histories of countries. Gorgeous displays of friezes, borders, ceiling roses, and architectural trompe l'oeil showcase Zuber painted wallpapers in enhancing home settings. The art and highly specialized craft of Zuber will take your breath away.



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Foreword

7

Introduction

9

The Grand Entry

13

Private Retreats

73

Sumptuous Salons

131

Elegant Dining Rooms

189

How It Happens

259

The Rixheim Factory

267

Acknowledgments

280

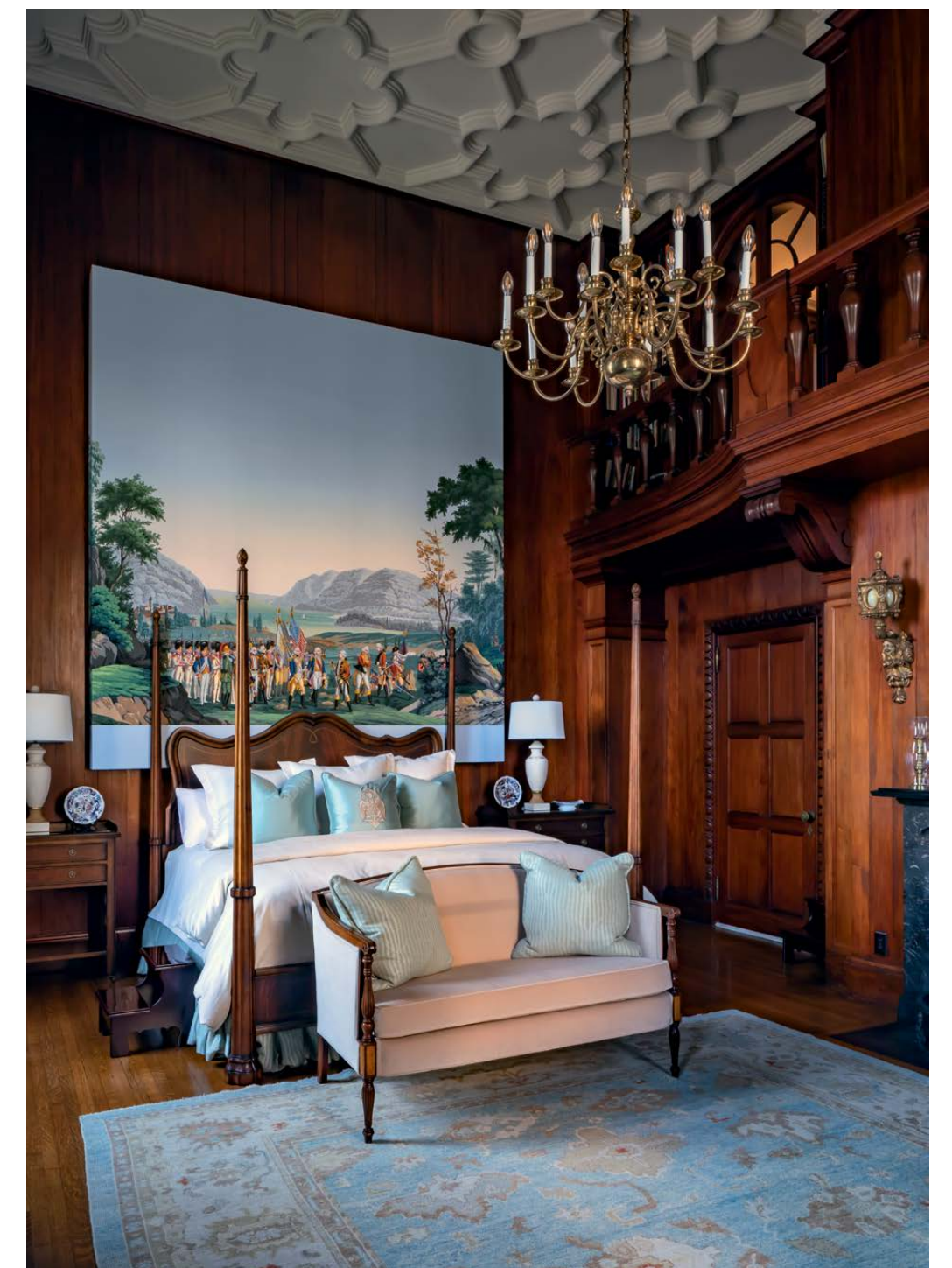


The center hall of this gracious, early-twentieth-century Dutch Colonial Revival runs the length of the house and continues upstairs with a broad, open staircase. Designer Michael Levinson used two full sets of vintage "Eldorado" found at auction to unify the two levels into a welcoming and grand entrance.



◀ In 1852, Zuber took advantage of the new democratic spirit sweeping the United States (begun with the presidency of Andrew Jackson) and created “La Guerre De L’Indépendance,” celebrating the American War of Independence. Revolutionary figures were added to scenes from the 1834 “Les Vues de l’Amérique du Norde.” Here, West Point becomes the setting for the “Capitulation of General Cornwallis at Yorktown.”

The Society of the Cincinnati is the nation’s oldest patriotic organization, founded in 1783 by members of the Continental Army. It is fitting that the Georgia Suite guest bedroom in Anderson House, the Society’s elegant headquarters in Washington, DC, is centered on a panel of “La Guerre De L’Indépendance.”





Sumptuous Salons

SALONS ARE MEANT TO IMPRESS, places where guests can be entertained in style, and Zuber hand-printed wallpapers most surely convey lavishness. Perhaps it's a grand salon on Park Avenue with gilded and richly upholstered furniture reminiscent of a Venetian palazzo, its walls papered with green and gold damask. Or an airy music room in the Palisades high above the banks of the Hudson River, with sweeping vistas of "Eldorado" for guests to view as they listen to a recital. Zuber helps provide the right atmosphere and setting in any elegant home.

Contrast and juxtaposition make a room lively, and the living rooms and libraries featured herein show how traditional Zuber panoramas can be used in very modern settings. For instance, the soft, gray tonalities of "Les Courses de Chevaux" are combined with a vintage orange velvet sofa in an unexpected twist, bringing a grand salon in the famous New York City Dakota into the twenty-first century. In another instance, a young homeowner chose midcentury-modern Jonathan Adler furnishings, including a Sputnik chandelier, for her Upper West side apartment, and balanced them with a four-paneled set of "Hindustan" panorama hung as artwork. These homes both delight and surprise.

Elegant Dining Rooms

ZUBER IS KNOWN for its richly saturated color, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the dining room. For example, the delicate pinks, reds and soft greens of “Eldorado” are an ideal complement to the eighteenth-century fine porcelain and Tiffany wine glasses in an elegant Connecticut dining room. Their colors are further highlighted against soft, fading blues in the delicate *dégradé*, or background shading of the sky—a signature Zuber detail.

Zuber not only sets the tone for the well-appointed dining room but can be a topic of conversation itself. In “Hindustan,” elephants and camels parading amidst faraway temples sparks discussion of foreign travel in a Hollywood star’s home, while the tropical foliage of “Isola Bella” in the dining room of the Florida governor’s mansion is a perfect introduction to the pelicans and alligators of the 1910 *USS Florida* battleship’s silver displayed in the room.

While color in the dining room is essential, many times a simple gray-and-white grisaille is the best backdrop for the room’s furnishings. For example, “Les Courses de Chevaux’s” soft gray horses galloping across the walls of an elegant dining room accent the rich gold and burgundy tones of Fortuny upholstery and a sparkling crystal chandelier. A grisaille can provide an elegant counterpoint for modern design as well, as in Brooke Shields’ dining room, where the lush landscape of “Les Lointains” (first designed in 1825) is just the right background for the room’s twentieth-century furnishings





Panoramic wallpapers were important teaching tools in the nineteenth century, illustrating scenes of historic battles, as seen in “La Guerre de L’Indépendance Américaine” in this Federal-style dining room in a Connecticut home. Note how the alcove was seamlessly incorporated into the room’s design. Designers Douglas Graneto and Wear Culvahouse set the family’s mahogany dining table with Wedgewood “Florentine” china, William Yeoward “Gloria” water goblets and “Elizabeth” wine glasses for an elegant repast.

► George Washington accepts the surrender of British General Cornwallis at Yorktown in a scene from this complex paper. A full set contains 32 panels, with 360 colors, and uses 2,300 wood blocks to print.





Brooke Shields recalls dining in beautiful rooms with Zuber papers as a child, and so she asked designer David Flint Wood for Zuber but with an up-to-date ambience for the dining room in her New York City townhome. The imaginary landscapes of “Les Lointains” (which means “faraway” in French) were chosen, its muted gray palette a pleasing contrast to her Modern movement furnishings: a Lucite Klismos chair by Andrew Martin, monolithic 1970s Lucite lamps from Vermilion, and a wood and tole chandelier bought at auction.

► White-and-gilt-painted dining chairs accented with oxblood leather seats by Jansen are juxtaposed with the home’s nineteenth-century architecture, for an updated appeal.





The soft, sepia ruins of “Les Côtes de Villefranche” are set between columns above a classic dado in this dining room by Holly Holden. Eighteenth-century furnishings include a Louis XVI parquetry commode made from Kingwood and Purpleheart wood. The balloon chairs are nineteenth-century copies of chairs originally made c. 1780 to celebrate the Montgolfier brothers’ first ascension in a balloon.



1. Color Gradient Printing

Zuber developed a technique called “dégradé” to print color gradients. On the drop’s full length, printers apply the background colors simultaneously using different brushes. This creates seamless gradients of color that lend unique richness and depth to the scenic papers.





2. Velour Papers

On July 2, 1852, the Zuber factory patented a process to print velvet on paper and fabric, commonly known as flocking. Flocked paper is a thin layer of dyed wool glued onto base paper.

First, the background paper is brushed, then woodblocks are used to apply glue in a pattern. Before it has dried, the printer gently sprinkles wool powder through a screen over the glue. The paper is then carefully shaken, using thin wooden sticks. This process is repeated along the length of the drop.

