



Wallpaper designer Alix Soubiran, owner of Los Angeles-based Princes & Crows, contemplates the characters she'll create for her Russian-inspired fall collection. *Opposite:* Tony Duquette, Soubiran's design icon, modeled this modern-day fireplace installation—composed of teak and mirrored glass—after one he originally created for internationally known costume designer Adrian in 1941.

OPPOSITE: JONATHAN BECKERMAN; OPPOSITE: TIM STREET-PORTER

Alix Soubiran spent her Parisian childhood prowling the teetering stacks of books lining her grandfather's living room in the très chic Arrondissement de Passy. Peeking between the leather-bound piles one day, she was startled to see a face peeking back—a tiger hiding in Zuber's "Views of Brazil" wallpaper. She says the lushly detailed paper created both an indelible memory and a lifelong mission: "I want my artwork to tell a story with images." Her much-praised residential mural work has morphed into a delectable line of wallpapers under the name Princes & Crows (christened for one of her more whimsical art exhibitions). The entire collection is covetable, but it's in her children's wallpapers where Soubiran's passion for storytelling really comes through. One look at the caped canine cannonball vaulting through her "Circus Circus" paper and you'll see what we mean. A mother herself, Soubiran says she wants her wallpaper to invoke something children will carry through life: "A happy thought." *princesandcrows.com; 213.271.5609*

Woad-dyed silk scarves from Bleu de Pastel de Lectoure. Soubiran has recently become enthralled with the company's artisanal approach to textiles.



PAPER CHASE

ALIX SOUBIRAN



Greatest influences:

Vermeer, Jean-Baptiste-Siméon Chardin, David Hockney, and the band Love from the 1960s. They're my favorite group in the world, and they inspire me to bring my craftsmanship to that level, to be as beautiful visually as they are musically. I listen to them when I paint.

Design icon:

Tony Duquette, because he was a fountain of imagination and ideas. Brilliant, a genius, theatrical and intense. I could stare at one of his rooms for hours.

Trend you're excited by:

There's a color I discovered fairly recently, a blue dye made in the southwest of France. There's also a company called Bleu de Pastel de Lectoure that's rediscovered the French art of dying clothes with pigments that were only used for the royal family. Some of the fashion houses in Paris have started using them for their runway shows.

Dream dinner party guests:

David Sedaris, Yoko Ono, David Hockney, Grace Jones, Marion Cotillard and Salman Rushdie. I think that would be a very interesting and entertaining time!