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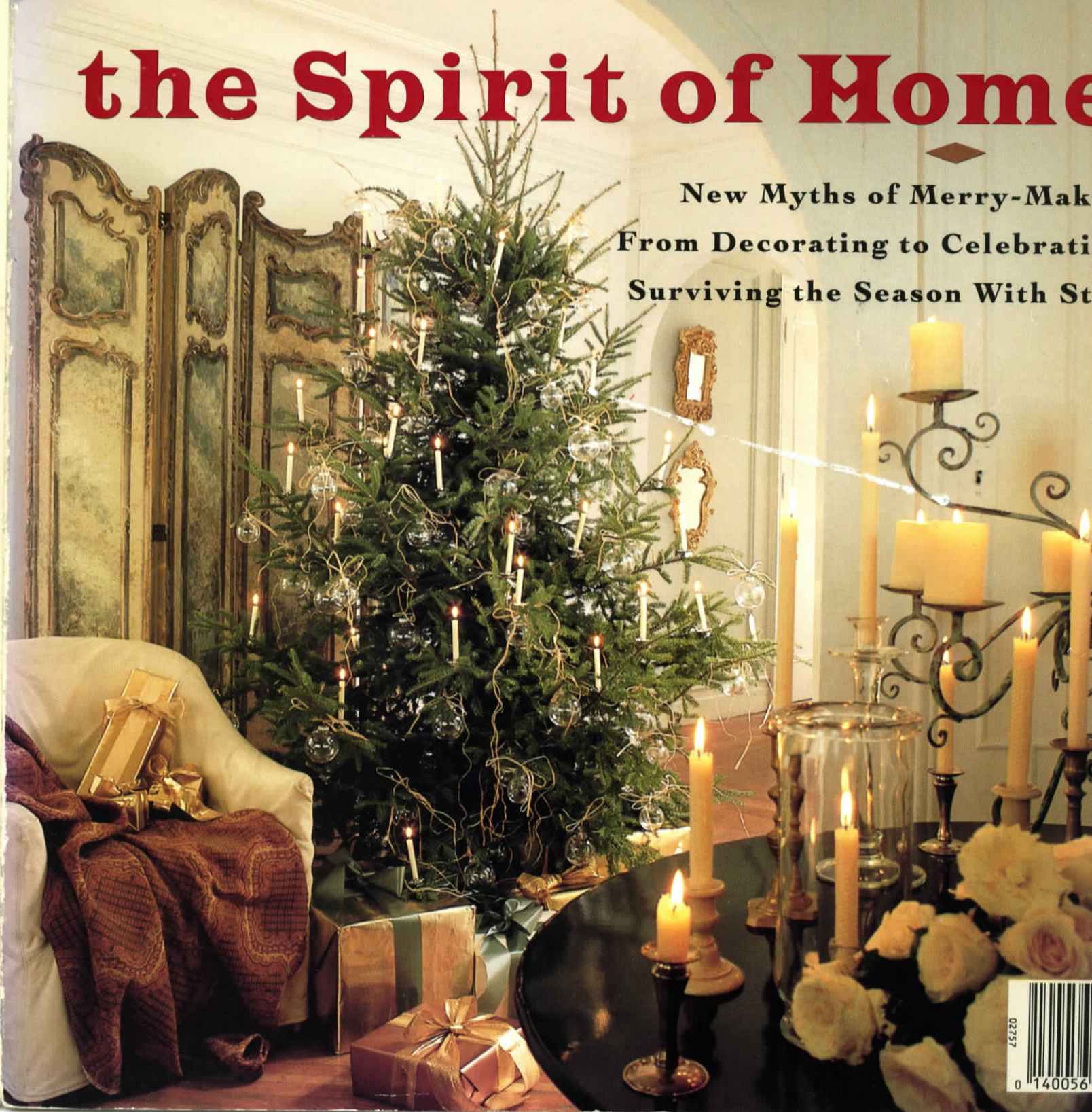
METROPOLITAN HOME®

DECEMBER 1989 • \$3.00

the Spirit of Home

New Myths of Merry-Making
From Decorating to Celebrating
Surviving the Season With Style

THE SPIRIT OF HOME



CHEZ SCHARF, HOME IS A 24-ROOM CANVAS ILLUSTRATING HIS MOTTO, "ART IS FUN." SEE RESOURCES

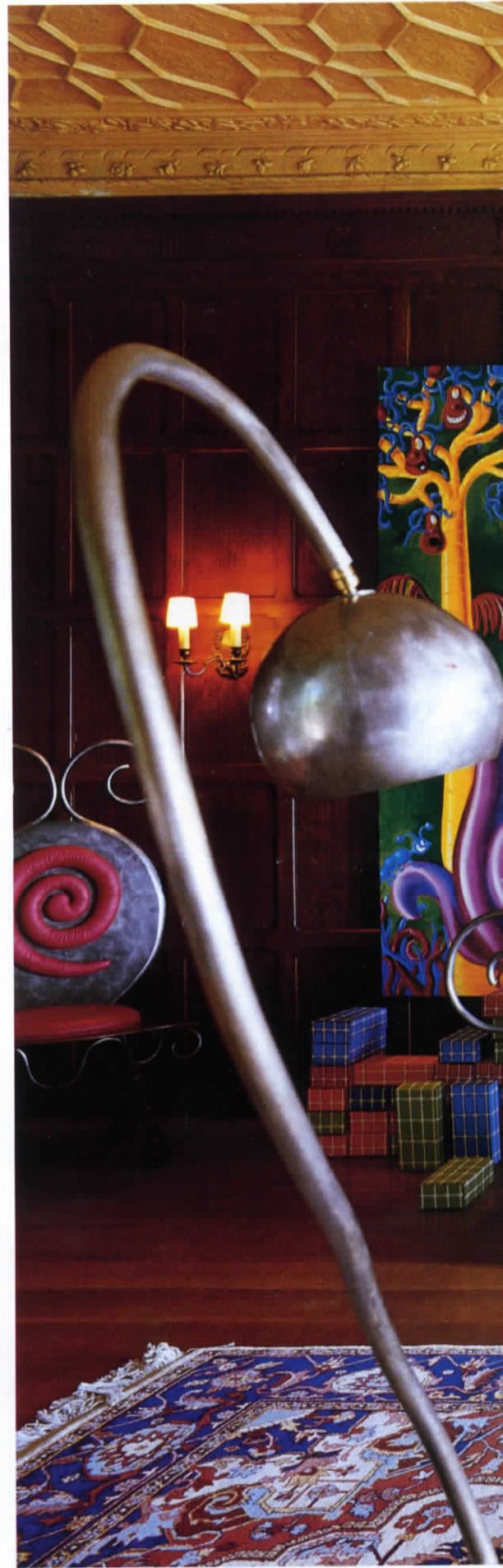
The Artist in The Funhouse

BY LUANNE SANDERS

GIVE KENNY SCHARF A CANVAS and he'll people it with laughing trees and Pac-Man-eyed space goblins. Give him a 7,000-square-foot Charles Addams house (left), 40 miles up the Hudson River from his old haunts in NYC, and the meteorically successful 30-year-old pop-surrealist transmogrifies it into a family pleasure palace for himself, his wife Tereza, and their daughters Zena, 5, and Malia, 18 months (below). For the former graffiti artist, home is even better than the streets for indulging a compulsion to create. His art spills cheerfully into his new designs for furniture, such as the beetle-browed steel-and-velvet sofa putting out feelers in the living room. Scharf did the chair, lamps and coffee table, too, all as phantasmagoric as his paintings.

Luanne Sanders is an Atlanta-based entertainment correspondent for the Cable News Network. Produced by David Staskowski; Photographs by Antoine Bootz

An East Village renegade turns country gent, this time painting joy all over the house







“Take plain and boring things, and in just five minutes you can customize them”

IT'S HARD TO TELL WHERE THE STUDIO (WITH NEW WORK, ABOVE) ENDS AND HOME BEGINS. LIKE SCHARF, THE VINE (RIGHT) IS A TRANSPLANT FROM NYC. SEE RESOURCES

HOME DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A place with a serious face: Visit Kenny Scharf's and see. In interior design, Scharf (his brooding artist pose notwithstanding, left) would rather mug, or cut up. With no angst apparent, he turns the mundane into the magical. He even leaves the impression that you don't have to be an artist to perform a similar alchemy. In an otherwise unexceptional sitting room (right), Scharf has convened his outrageous buglike chairs, and a cartoon-character rug he designed for a French company. The scene stealer, though, is his pothos plant, strung from the ceiling—a gesture that makes a sun-room an enchanted garden. The pothos also is a measure of Scharf's growing reputation. He has cultivated *Continued on page 136*





Ebullient swirls wink at sober decoration.
Who says that home can't be a frolic?

FOR KENNY SCHARF, SPONTANEITY is the mother of invention. His signature cartoons, doodles and squiggles are ubiquitous exclamation points. "It's how I clean the paint off my brushes," the artist explains. To disguise a stretch of water-damaged plaster in a corner of the dining room (above), he simply painted a pattern over it. His designs for a bed, chairs, a sofa and a table are born of the same impulse. Says Scharf: "We'd gone shopping for furniture and couldn't believe how expensive everything was. I figured I could make my own." He dashed off sketches for Brooklyn welder Chris Bundy, who fabricated the pieces in steel. These one-of-a-kind creations are in a style that Scharf calls "Ancient

HOOKED ON CARTOONS, SCHARF ANIMATES THE BEDROOM (RIGHT), HIGH CHAIR (ABOVE) AND MOTORBIKE, IN HIS STUDIO.



Future." George Jetson would covet the bed with its atomic bed posts and galactic headboard (right). Beam me up, Kenny.



