



# Cottages in the Sun

## Bungalows of Venice, California

Margaret Bach

Photography by

Melba Levick

**M**ore than a century after tobacco millionaire Abbot Kinney envisioned and realized in California his Venice-of-America—a place of romantic canals, quaint cottages, and fanciful Venetian-styled streetscapes—its descendant, the present-day Venice, shimmers with energy. Images of vibrant boardwalk, beach, and street life come to mind. However, it is the century-old bungalows and cottages on its remaining canals, quiet lanes, and walkstreets, that are its beating heart.

*Cottages in the Sun: Bungalows of Venice, California* features 28 houses that are an iconic collection of small-scale studies in creativity. Having emerged from the neglect and disrepair of the 1950s and '60s, the homes featured have been lovingly restored or wonderfully reinvented by owners attuned to and engaged by the challenges of small space and intimate community.

At times eclectic, charming, whimsical, or bold, these extraordinary houses are a testament to passionate love for domestic space and a convincing argument for the virtues of an intuitive, highly personal approach to home design. The imaginative interiors and abundant gardens of the cottages and bungalows of Venice sparkle like gems in this multifaceted treasury infused with the light of the California sun.

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RIZZOLI  
NEW YORK

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