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ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

A New Book Offers a Glimpse into Elizabeth Taylor's World

A collection of photographs by Firooz Zahedi shows the enchanting actress at home and abroad

TEXT BY MAYER RUS · PHOTOGRAPHY BY COURTESY OF GLITTERATI INCORPORATED · Posted February 1, 2016



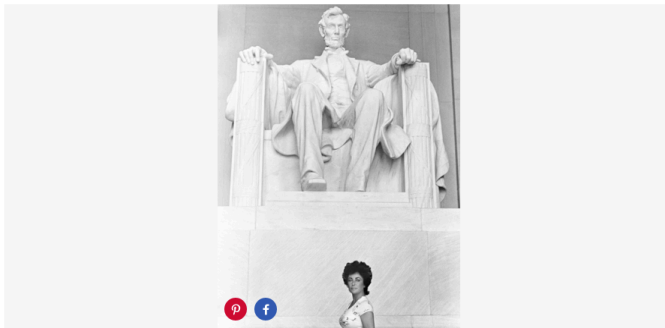
My Elizabeth, a new book by Glitterati Incorporated, compiles Firooz Zahedi's colorful photographs of Elizabeth Taylor such as this one, snapped in 1976 at the Tomb of Sa'adi in Shiraz, Iran.

In the 1958 film *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, Paul Newman's character, Brick, asked the question: "What is the victory of a cat on a hot tin roof?" Maggie, played by Elizabeth Taylor, had the answer: "Just staying on it, I guess—long as she can." Few stars have ever managed stay atop the hot tin roof of Hollywood longer—and with more graciousness—than Dame Elizabeth. Her life and storied career were photographed and chronicled perhaps more than any other actress of her time. Yet photographer Firooz Zahedi's tantalizing new book, *My Elizabeth* (Glitterati Inc., \$75), manages to bring the great lady to life in a way that will make even her most die-hard fans revel in delight and discovery.

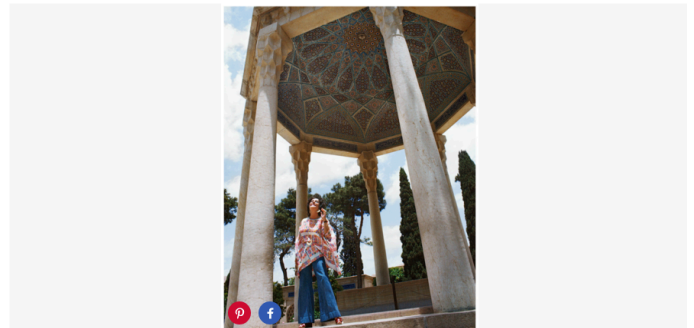
Zahedi, of course, is the right man for the job. For roughly 35 years, he served as a sort of court photographer to the imperial actress, shooting official portraits, magazine covers, images from movie sets, party pictures, travel diaries, and candid moments at home. Zahedi first snapped Taylor in the spring of 1976 at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. It was the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship that lasted until her death in 2011. In his introduction to the book, the photographer describes his subject as a “combination fairy godmother, mentor, and dear friend.”

Along with a wealth of previously unpublished images, Zahedi provides details about the duo’s peregrinations through the beau monde in a series of memoirs that shed further light on their extraordinary bond. In his foreword, writer Bob Colacello describes the compendium as “a love letter in words and pictures,” and that it is. Fittingly, all proceeds from the book will go to the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation, one of the many profoundly important legacies of a woman who was so much more than the sum total of all her astonishing films, jewels, dresses, and husbands.

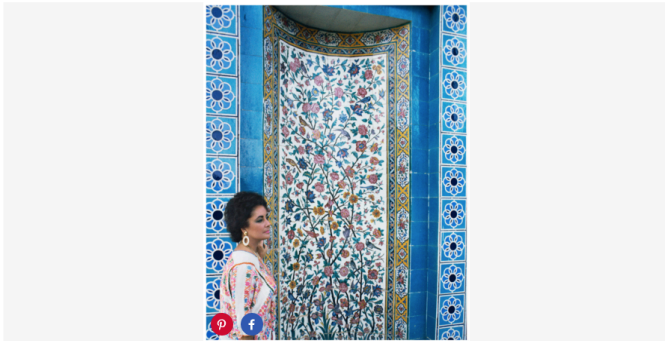
Look inside *My Elizabeth*



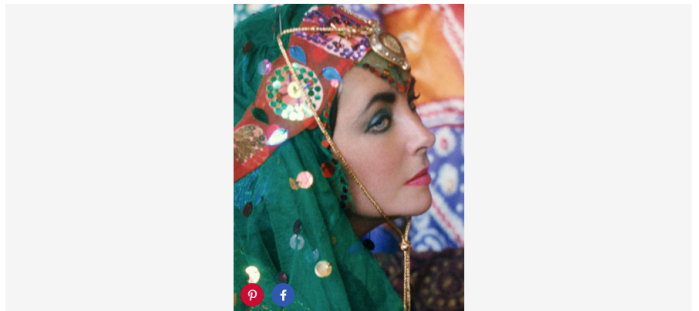
Photographer Firooz Zahedi’s earliest photo of actress Elizabeth Taylor was taken at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., in 1976.



Shortly after their first meeting, Zahedi accompanied Taylor on a tour of his native Iran. Here, the photographer captured a jubilant moment at the Tomb of Hafez in Shiraz.



Taylor visiting the Tomb of Sa'adi in Shiraz, Iran, in 1976.



True to form, Taylor was smitten with the dazzling tribal costumes and silk fabrics she found in Iran. Here, she paired them with the famous Taj Mahal diamond pendant, a gift from her fifth husband, the actor Richard Burton.

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Taylor with her beloved Maltese, Sugar, at her Bel Air home in Los Angeles in 1995.

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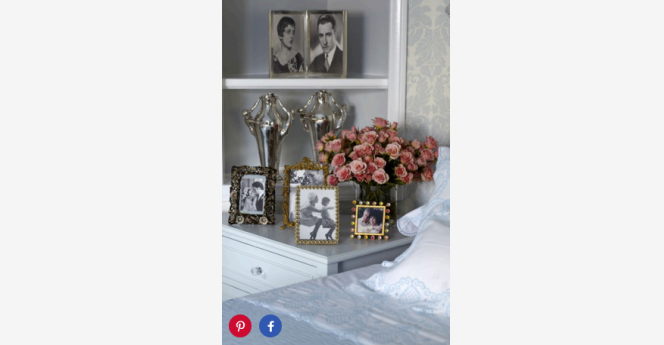
The living room of Taylor's Bel Air estate, as seen in the July 2011 issue of *Architectural Digest*.

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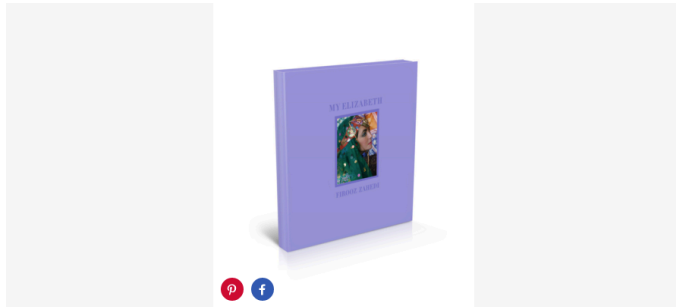
Taylor's bedroom in Bel Air, photographed for *Architectural Digest*, features a deer scene she painted as a teenager.

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A vignette from the Bel Air estate features portraits of Taylor's parents.

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My Elizabeth by Firooz Zahedi, is published by Glitterati and priced at \$75; a special limited edition (shown here) includes a signed print and costs \$750. Proceeds benefit the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation.

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