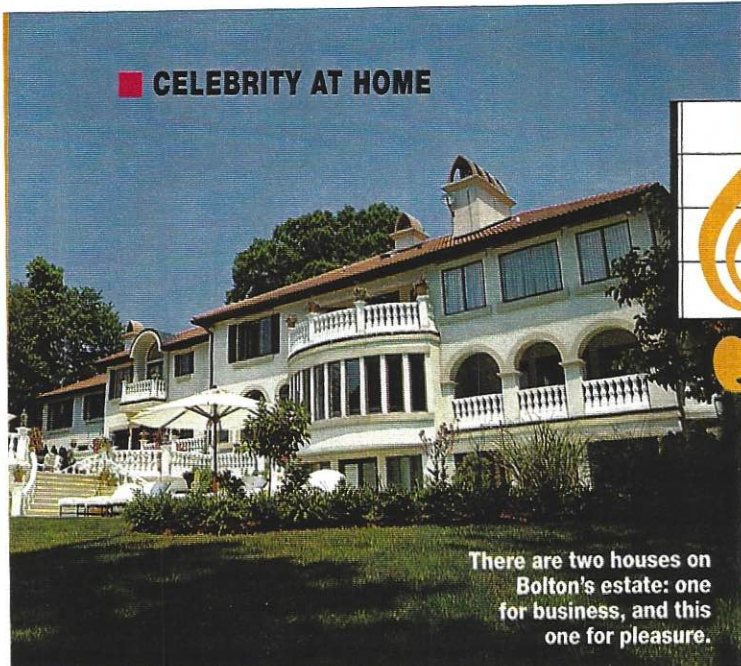


■ CELEBRITY AT HOME



There are two houses on Bolton's estate: one for business, and this one for pleasure.

Music

PHOTOGRAPHED BY DANA FINEMAN

Someone is singing opera in the shower. Loudly. Loud enough to wake the neighbors in this sleepy burb and send a large flock of sparrows scattering for cover.

"Opera is meant to boom," says Michael Bolton. It seems that the 44-year-old pop singer, famous for his soft, sultry soul renditions of such hits as "When a Man Loves a Woman" and "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay," has suddenly developed a passion for Pavarotti. In addition to his new pop album due out this fall and his recent sin-

gle, "Go the Distance," for the sound track of Disney's *Hercules*, he's working on a collection of arias.

Bolton walks out onto his bedroom balcony and surveys the pond shimmering on his three-acre property. "I know I'm singing it right when the water vibrates," he says, winking. "If you can move the water, then you can move the people."

People moving is not exactly a problem for Bolton—women swoon at his concerts and write him mile-long love letters, rhapsodizing over his chiseled features, golden locks and piercing blue eyes. "I'm a manly man," he jokes, undoing another button on his shirt before posing for the camera. "But I also like beautiful things—colors, fabrics and textures that are soft and warm."

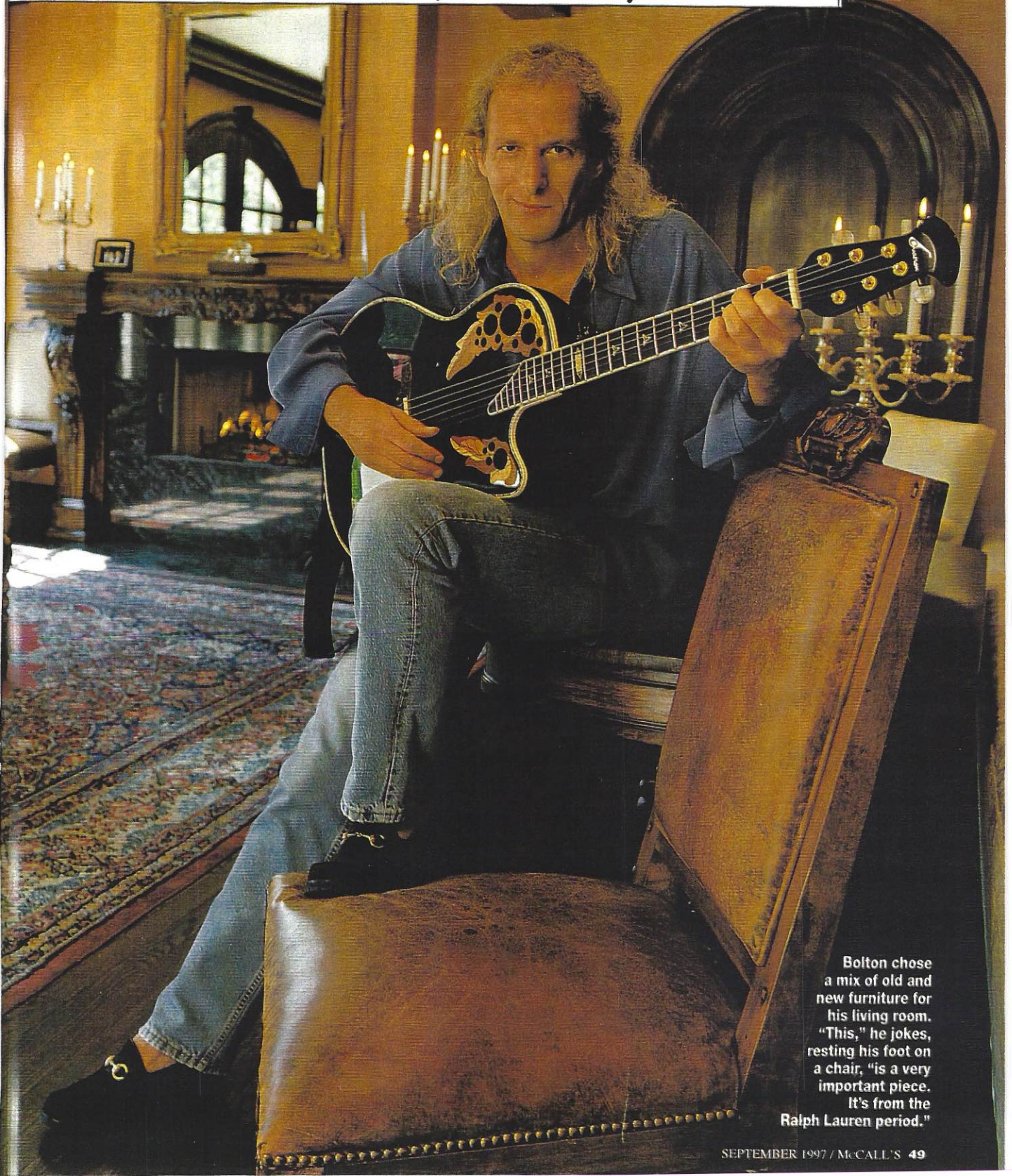
His tastes are reflected in his 18-room, Mediter- ▶

A mirror-and-glass cabinet, left, houses Bolton's many awards for recording and composing, including two Grammys.



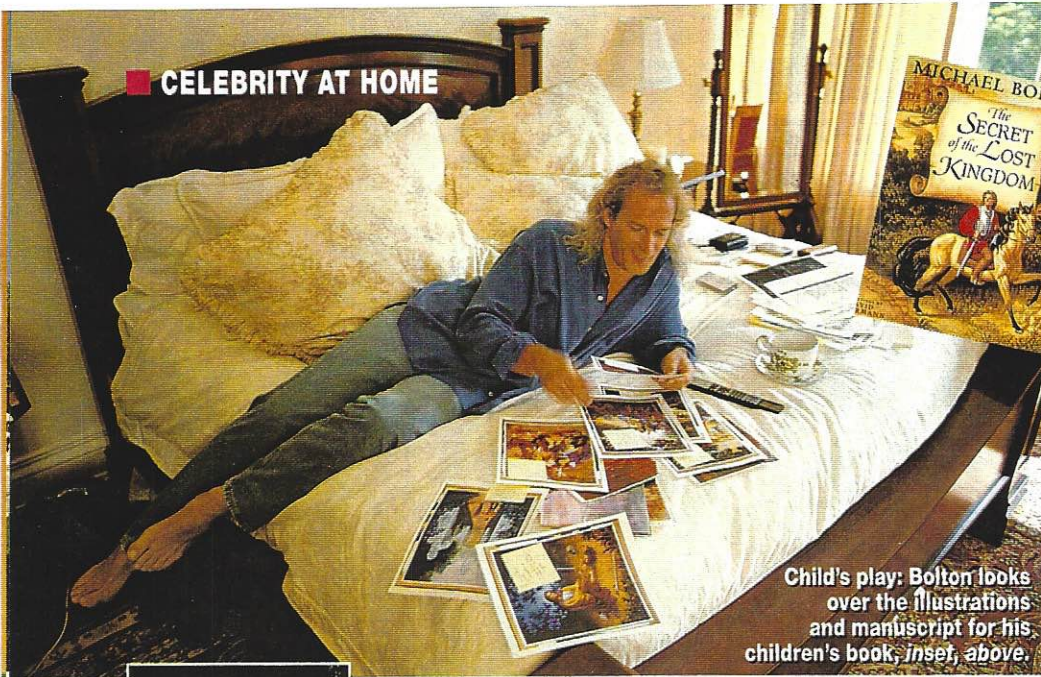
man

Michael Bolton's New England estate blends masculine furnishings and romantic details in perfect harmony. BY SHERYL KAHN



Bolton chose a mix of old and new furniture for his living room. "This," he jokes, resting his foot on a chair, "is a very important piece. It's from the Ralph Lauren period."

■ CELEBRITY AT HOME



Child's play: Bolton looks over the illustrations and manuscript for his children's book; inset, above.

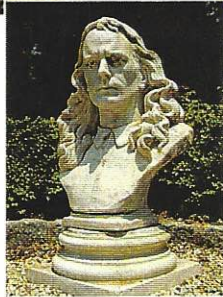
(continued from p. 48) reanean-style Connecticut home, which he bought in 1991 for himself and his three daughters—Isa, 21, Holly, 19, and Taryn, 17—from his former marriage to Maureen McGuire.

Bolton has a passion for antiques. "I wish the house were older, so I've tried to make it look as if it is," he explains. It's no surprise, then, that his first children's book, *The Secret of the Lost Kingdom* (Hyperion Books for Children), is set in medieval times.

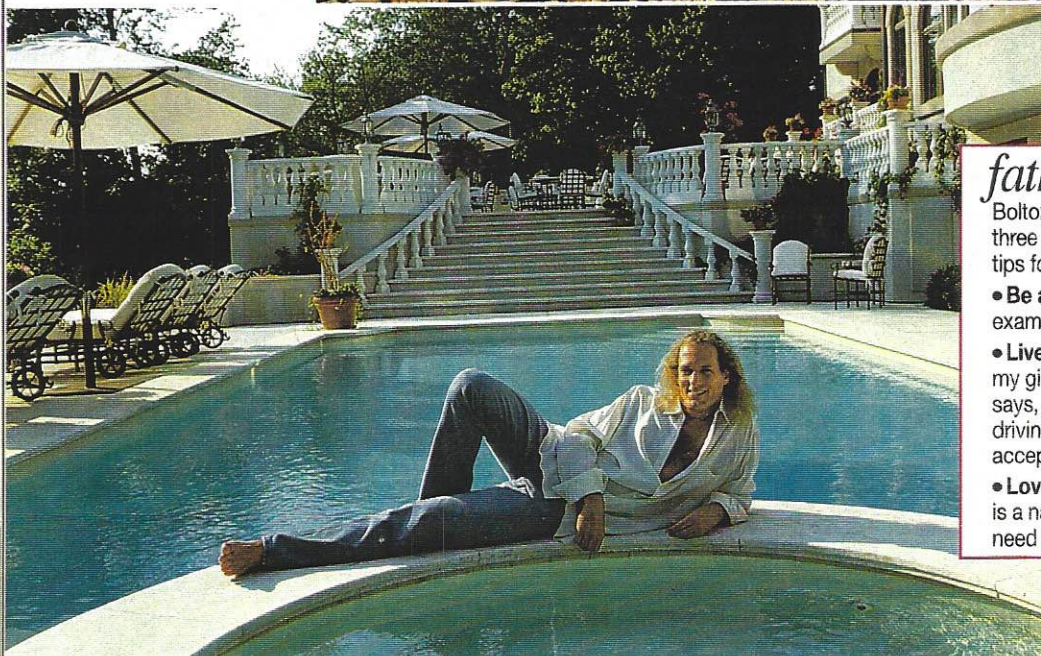
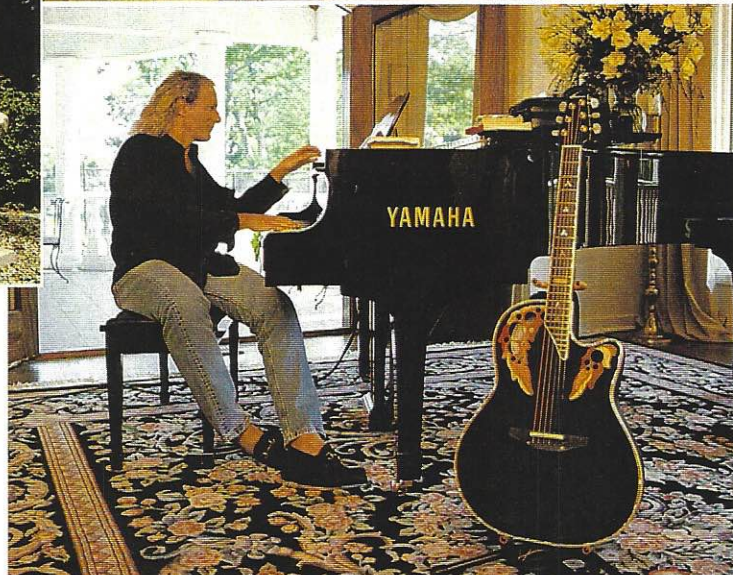
"When I perform in England, I stay at a magnificent old castle," he says. "Once while I was there, this story came to me."

The fairy tale is a lesson in love, loyalty and learning to be a hero. And Bolton hopes to gain new fans—namely, the kindergarten kind—when it hits stores this month. Part of the proceeds from the book's sales will benefit The Michael Bolton Foundation, an organization that supports women and children who are suffering from abuse or poverty.

"I hope my book inspires children," he says. "It inspires me. I'm a firm believer that you can create your own magic, wherever and whenever you want." ■



A fan created this bust, above, for Bolton's sculpture garden. "Call me Mozart," Bolton laughs. "I just wish the nose hadn't been so accurate!" Right, at work in the music room.



father knows best

Bolton boasts that he's "surviving three teenagers." Here, he shares his tips for raising kids sans agita.

- **Be a role model.** "Set a good example—and they'll follow it."
- **Live in the present.** "I still think of my girls as babies in diapers," Bolton says, sighing. "Only now they're driving cars and dating. I have to accept that they're young adults."
- **Love—don't limit.** "Overprotecting is a natural parental urge, but kids need some space to grow."

It's a water-ful life, left: "This pool and Jacuzzi are very Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous," Bolton quips.