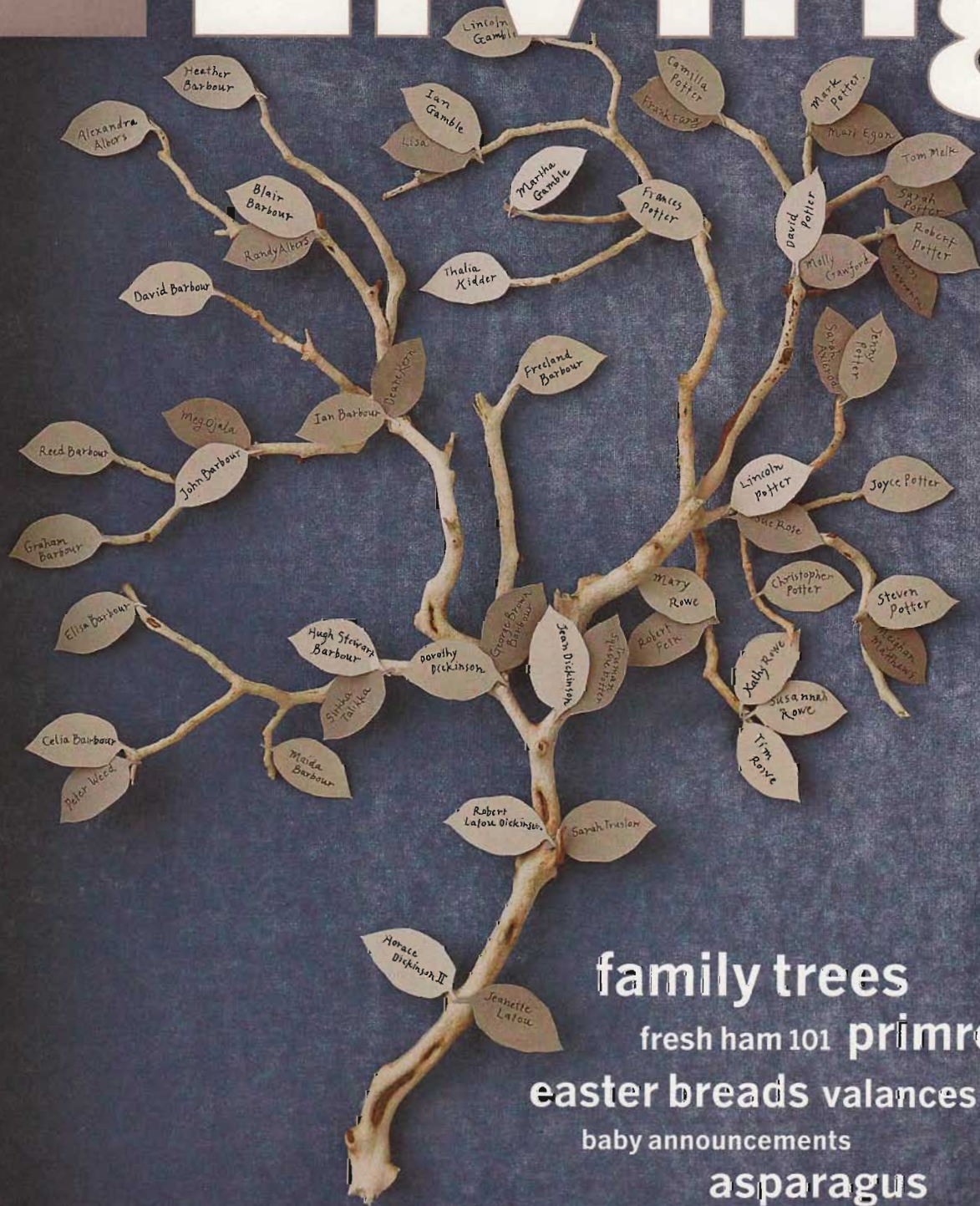


MARTHA
STEWART

Living



family trees

fresh ham 101 primroses

easter breads valances

baby announcements

asparagus



BALL-GOWN VALANCE

A short valance of satin-faced silk pulled into pencil pleats looks like a party dress. It adds a touch of elegance to Martha's sitting room (left) without hiding the window's frame. The color of the lustrous fabric is a close match to that of the paint on the wall, so the valance blends into its setting. Its appearance belies how easy it is to make: Just sew pencil-pleating tape, found at sewing stores, to the back of the fabric, and tug the strings in the tape to form the pleats.

PIQUE PELMET

The term *pelmet* refers to a short, structured valance (opposite), as well as to a more rigid construction, like a cornice. Here, the opaque white piqué pelmet visually anchors floaty dotted-swiss sheers. Its design echoes the detailing on the bed's canopy.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
FERNANDO BENGOCHEA
TEXT BY AMY CONWAY

Valances

THEY'VE SHAKEN OFF THEIR STUFFY PAST, AND WILL BRING POLISH TO ANY WINDOW TREATMENT, EVEN THE MOST MINIMAL — NO CURTAINS AT ALL



