

METRO

VOL. 11 NO. 2

home

& Entertaining

IT'S ALL ABOUT...

RESORT STYLE LIVING

70+ TIPS AND SOLUTIONS THAT
MAKE YOUR HOME A DREAMY RETREAT

VACATION-THEMED STYLE

ECLECTIC RUSTIC
NEATLY NAUTICAL
MODERN URBAN RESORT
COZY MEDITERRANEAN

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Create your own version of resort living



PHOTOGRAPH BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO

TRENDS IN ARCHITECTURE and interior design are not as fickle as those in fashion, but there are moments when a trend morphs into a direction. In my own projects and in popular magazine features, as well as coffee table books, the desire for resort living, even while in the city has become the dominant request.

We are so connected to each other, and our work is all-consuming, that a home is not just a mere shelter but a retreat, an escape from the whirl of the world. A resort is a perfectly orchestrated, self-contained universe. It also implies a sense of fantasy, so whether you prefer a mountain retreat or a seaside getaway, there will be a feeling of being away. There must also be delightful vistas, so a freer, more lush landscape that “invades” the indoors is a vital element.

We have devoted this issue to resort living to inspire the most important element in achieving a resort feel in your home: the imagination! Let all your favorite images and emotions inform the planning of your urban oasis. A feeling of openness that comes from careful space planning can be the best de-stresser.

Though working on this issue was certainly no vacation, it was an interesting and creative exercise. It made me look back on all the breathtaking resorts I have been fortunate enough to experience, and opened my mind to some changes I will soon implement in my personal space.

We all hope that this issue lets you take your own mental holiday, even for just a few moments. And that with these images and suggestions, you can create your own version of resort living.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "anton".



A lifestyle photographer, **Maitina Borromeo** specializes in bespoke portraits of people, products, places, and food and regularly contributes to local and national magazines. Considered the go-to-girl for shooting anything related to Cebu, she is known for her discriminating eye in styling and capturing enthralling photographs. This issue, she photographed Bernie and Jimmy Aboitiz's Balinese-inspired beach retreat situated off Cebu's Northern Coast ("Southern Exposure," p.72).

Harold Tapan is an independent photographer specializing in portraiture and interior. His professional

experience spans a wide variety of work covering advertising, editorial and travel photography. His interests/hobbies include architecture, classic cars, and scuba diving. In this issue, he shot beauty queen/architect Shamcey Supsup who just started out her own firm ("Design Diva," p.16).

Before doing fulltime work for magazines, **Barry Viloria** was a writer-reporter for ABS-CBN News Online for its sports and lifestyle sections. Currently, he is affiliated with the ABS-CBN Publishing as the deputy managing editor of *Vault*, a men's luxury magazine, and as the lifestyle editor of *Chalk*, a youth-oriented magazine. Conveying a story behind a home is always a challenge for Barry, who writes about an impressively designed resort-inspired home for this issue ("A Resort-Feel Home in the City," p.44).

For this issue, **Maan D'asis Pamaran** wrote about artist Michelle Gemperle and her colorful pieces of art ("Eye Candy," p.34). A freelance writer who enjoys talking to people

from different industries, Maan is quite appreciative of beautiful homes and gardens, even though she is hopeless when it comes to keeping her own home organized and her houseplants alive. Her madcap world consists of four boys, a cat, a dog, and a slew of deadlines.

Rafael Calero earned his degree in Industrial Arts and his General Contractor License in 1987 in San Francisco. As a General Contractor in the US, he did his cabinetry design, installation, and quality control. He worked closely with electricians and plumbers to ensure the overall effective design. He further enhanced his skills as a kitchen specialist by attending classes and seminars organized by the National Kitchen and Bath Association. Later on, he was able to establish kitchenstudio as a leader in its field. This being **Metro Home & Entertaining's** Resort Living issue, Rafael shared his expertise by writing about an *al fresco*-style kitchen perfect for those who love the outdoors ("The Outdoor Kitchen," p.122).

The Coastal Life

SWIM, SURF AND BASK IN THESE RESORT-STYLE FINDS

BY BARBIE PARDO TIANGCO / PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTANARES

ON THE WALL: Wide weave baskets, Craftsmith. **FROM LEFT:** Deco wooden lighthouse tower, P16500, Rustan's. Large glass vase, Rustan's. Leaves, Rustan's flower shop. Trina Turk pillows, P6450 each, Shelter. Round accent table, P12,290, Shelter. Small topiary on black pot, P1600, Shelter. Ceramic white frog, P1950, Rustan's. Large topiary, P5900, Shelter. Silver ice bucket, P3850, Shelter. White ceramic bulldog, P4750, Shelter.



WHETHER YOU'RE DECO-RATING your second home by the beach, or perhaps wanting to include that very same relaxed and carefree environment in your home in the city, make sure you mix in effortless simplicity with some understated elegance to create a well-balanced mix of rustic coastal living with contemporary sophistication.

Metro Home shares some simple tips to achieve a cozy, resort feel in your home.

Introduce a few whimsical pieces. Include an oversized lighthouse or perhaps nautical knots or boat fittings in your room. This will bring all your ocean side adventures indoors and put a smile on everyone's face.

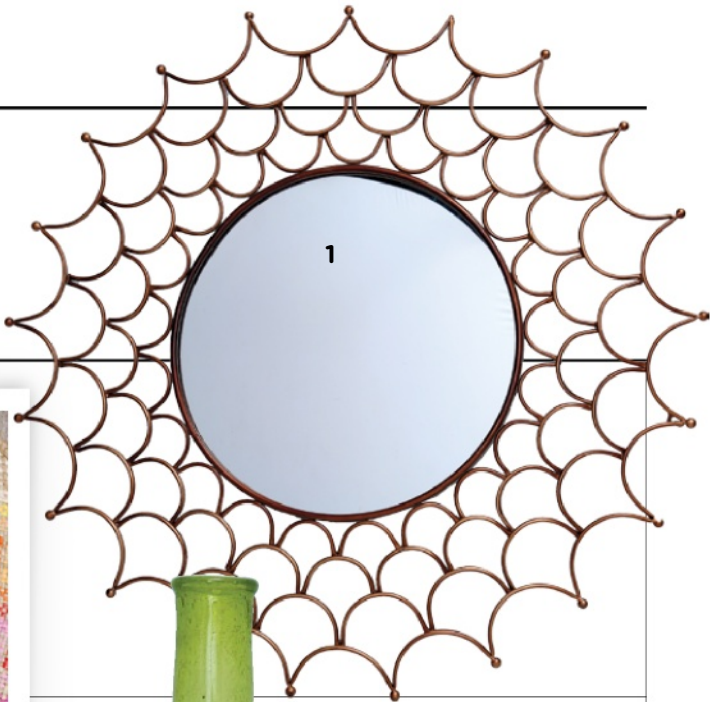
Bring some of nature indoors. Decorate with driftwood, large shells, corals (faux, of course), live plants or introduce a simple tabletop aquarium. Incorporating a bit of nature to your living space always creates a relaxing environment.

Use colors that pop. When accessorizing for the beach, you often use bright colors. Turquoise blue bracelets, a hot pink bikini or a lime green oversized bag. Use these colors to accessorize your rooms with throw pillows, mats and tabletop décor.

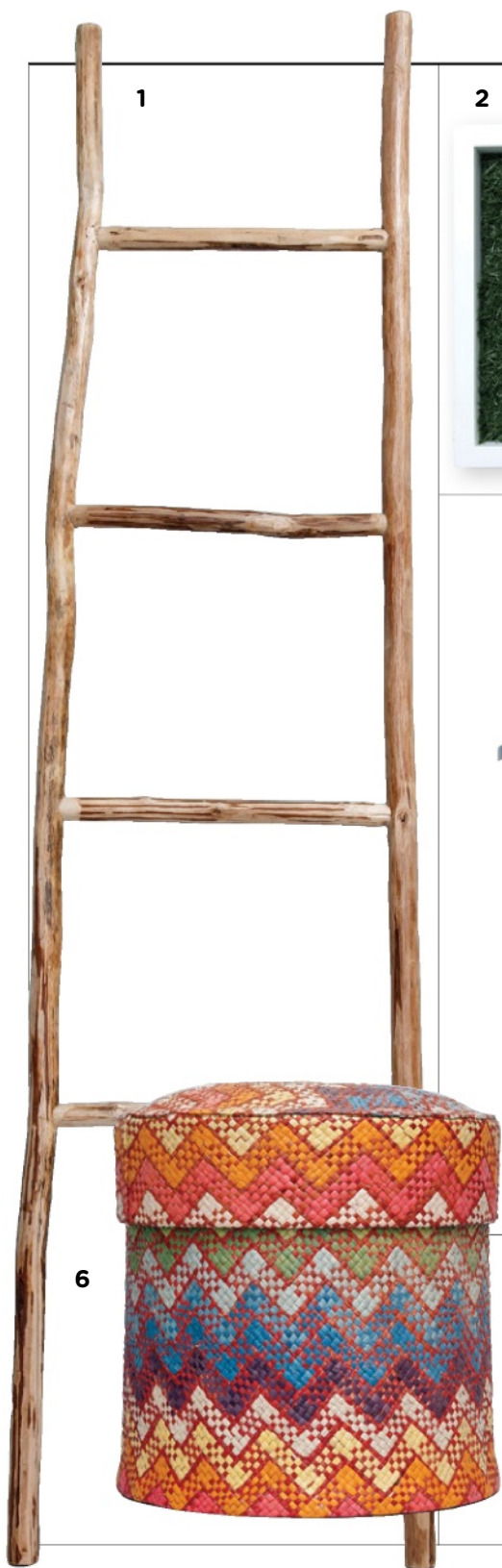
Mix the rustic outdoors with that 5-star resort feel. Don't be afraid to mix your refined taste with what you love about the simple, rural life. Use distressed wood that highlights grainy finishes, and mix them with your polished silver lanterns and coffee tables. You'll find that it works and balances each other out.

elements / LEADS

1. Bronze metal wall mirror, P11200, Shelter. 2. CLOCKWISE: Large yellow light, P3500, Urban Abode. Artificial white roses with round vase, price upon request, Silk Décor in Rustan's. Gianna Rose Le Petite Turtle soap, P1550, Shelter. Cake stand, P300 (big) P200 (small), Regalong Pambahay. Bonsai scissors with natural twine handle, Craftsmith. Succulents, P195 each, Rustan's flower shop. Glass jar, P4650, Rustan's. Scented candle, P595, Rustan's. Round *banig*, P1100, Urban Abode. 3. Two's Company green vase, P2295 (taller) P1195 (shorter), Rustan's. 4. White tolix armchair, Craftsmith. 5. Soy candle, P200, Regalong Pambahay. 6. Vintage apothecary jars, Craftsmith. 7. Gianna Rose Magic Frog soap, P1800, Shelter.



1. Wooden ladder, Craftsmith. 2. Shadow box, P3300 (hashtag) P4200 (shoe cast), Urban Abode. 3. Deco sailboat, P3250, Rustan's. 4. Deco wooden beach house, P7950 (big) P3950 (small), Rustan's. 5. Lantern, P16500, Rustan's. 6. *Tikog* ottoman, P1300, Urban Abode. 7. Trellis dolomite mug, P100 each, Regalong Pambahay.



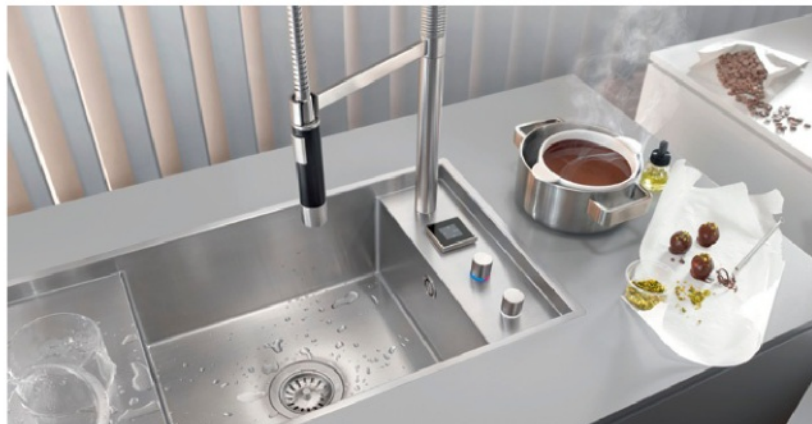
Current Luxuries

THE NEWEST BOUTIQUE RESOURCES FOR THE HOME

SOMETHING BLUE

With a writing portfolio that includes international titles like *The Huffington Post*, *Forbes* and *Hong Kong Tatler*, fashion and lifestyle editor Blue Carreon has finally branched into interior design and décor. Bringing his own brand and style in the local market, he opened his first store, Blue Carreon Home, in Makati. "I like the look of Upper East Side apartments in New York. I like a lot of Chippendale and chinoiserie," says Blue. The store includes an array of home accessories and furniture pieces chosen by Blue from his trips to the United States and Europe as well as some pieces of his own design.

—Anzenne Roble /
Photographs by
Jovel Lorenzo
Visit the chic boutique Blue Carreon Home at 2/F Century City Mall, Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City, or call 556-7812; email: info@bluecarreonthome.com; website: www.bluecarreonthome.com



SPECIFIC-DESIGNED STAINLESS STEEL SINKS

Water Units, the first separate Dornbracht series of sinks for the kitchen, includes overmount and undermount single sink variants as well as double sinks specifically developed for combining with Dornbracht fittings. All Water Units are hand-made stainless steel sinks and their specific design is geared to the different areas of activity in the kitchen. For instance, deep double sinks are particularly suited for washing the dishes, and there are large sinks with flat drainage surfaces for washing fruit and vegetables. *Dornbracht is showcased in the Focus Global showroom at Pioneer, corner Reliance Streets, Mandaluyong City. For more inquiries, call (02) 6348587, or visit www.dornbracht.com*

THE REINVENTED BLEACH

Fashion-forward clothing brand Bleach Catastrophe is now reinvented as a lifestyle store called Bleach. The move was prompted by the success of the Bleach Home line. Apart from the quirky and unique t-shirt dresses, pocket tees, printed dress shirts, and polos, Bleach now offers a wider range of home products and stationery, arranged in a series of well-crafted themes to suit everyone's personal style: Love from Paris, Urban Rustic, Smothered in White, My Secret Red Garden, and Curious Polka. Bleach's statement canvas totes and pouches are also among the store's great finds. *Bleach is located in 2/F, Greenbelt 5.*



BEAUTY AND PRACTICALITY

Brabantia has built a reputation for beautifully-designed products that are made to last. In fact, it offers a 10-year warranty on many of their items. Founded in 1919 in the small town of Aalst in the Netherlands, Brabantia started as a manufacturer of milk cans, jugs and sieves. In the 1950s, it started manufacturing two of their iconic products: the pedal bins and laundry and ironing boards. Today, Brabantia is active in 90 countries around the world. "One objective for opening a store in the Philippines is to get customer feedback, so we can improve the type of assortment we have here," Danny den Hartog, Brabantia Area Sales Manager (Asia Pacific), tells **Metro Home & Entertaining**. "Our vision is basically to enrich people's lives with sustainable, functional, and beautiful products." *Brabantia's first store in the Philippines is located at the 3rd floor of Dimensione in Bonifacio High Street.*



'HAFA ADAI' AND SHOP!

"Hafa Adai" (pronounced as "half a day"), which means "Hello," is a greeting in Chamorro, the native language of Guam. Sooner than later, you will find yourself heading for Tumon, the center of Guam's fashion and shopping paradise. The DFS Galleria Guam is a good place for branded makeup and scents. Boutiques carrying designer brands line the promenade. Beyond Tumon are three large malls: the Agana Shopping Center in Hagåtña, Guam Premier Outlets in Tamuning, and Micronesia Mall in Dededo. Take the family to the world's largest Kmart and explore aisles of hard-to-find grocery items that are not available in the Philippines. *Visit their website www.aganacenter.com*



TASTE OF INDIA

Colorful, vibrant and intricate Indian pieces with a hint of the modern—these are the stuff that you'll see once you set foot inside Om Lifestyle and Café. This new Indian lifestyle store also happens to be a café, which offers authentic (and delicious!) Indian cuisine. Owned by mother-daughter tandem Suman and Anjie Gogna, the store carries a unique assortment of Indian home décor, linen, clothing and accessories that are personally picked by them when they go to India.

—Anzenne Roble / Photographs by Jovel Lorenzo. Visit OM Lifestyle + Café at 2/F Fox Square Building, #53 Connecticut St., North East Greenhills, San Juan, or call 705-7072 or 631-6983; email: info@omlifestyleandcafe.com; website: www.omlifestyleandcafe.com.



Ensign Media
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and Property
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Jules Kay

MAGAZINE FOR LUXE REAL ESTATE, ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN NOW IN PHL

Property Report magazine, Southeast Asia's leading magazine for luxury real estate, architecture and design, is finally coming to the country through advertising sales representation and distribution with ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. Established in 2004 in Thailand, the magazine has since branched out to Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Macau, and now, the Philippines. *Property Report* of Singapore-based Ensign Media delivers details on everything one needs to know about real estate, showcasing properties across borders. It also offers market analysis, developer interviews, project profiles, architecture, and interior design trends. *ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. (API)*, a subsidiary of media conglomerate *ABS-CBN Corporation*, is the leading provider of Philippine-developed magazine brands with 11 homegrown titles such as *Metro*, *Metro Society*, *Metro Home*, and *Vault*.



THE NEW ECLECTIC

Ethan Allen redefines Modern Glamour with new products, all new wood and hardware finishes, along with a handsome array of eclectic metal tables and functional accent designs. To enhance the new wood finishes, there is a new polished nickel finish on the decorative hardware, designed to coordinate beautifully with the nickel finishes popular today in decorative accents and lighting while providing a durable and lasting finish. *Ethan Allen* is exclusively distributed by *Focus Global Incorporated*. Its design centers are located at *Pioneer cor. Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong* and *The Residences at Greenbelt, San Lorenzo Tower, Esperanza St., Makati*. For inquiries, call 634.8587 or visit ethanallen.com.

Tile Style Cushions

TILE PRINTS ARE ALL THE RAGE ON FASHION RUNWAYS, AND THEY ARE NOW COMING HOME

BY ANTON BARRETTO

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES AND JOVEL LORENZO



LEFT:
Antique Moroccan
carpet throw
pillow 28x14 inches
RIGHT: Black and beige
print throw pillow
20x20 inches. All from
Nest. See "Where
to Buy."



THE GLOBAL MANIA for ethnic prints is still going strong, and the hottest stop on this visual journey is the evocative cities of Granada, Spain, and the Moroccan trifecta: Marrakech, Fez, and Essaouria. Inspired by hand painted tiles in geometric patterns that are the design hallmark of these fabulously ancient cities, these prints are now seen in fabrics not just for clothes but also for the home. This selection of throw pillows in tile prints are the quickest, chicest way to inject desert nomad patterns into your interior. ①



CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP LEFT:
Beaded Indian throw
pillow 16x16 inches.
Rectangular shaped quilted,
mosaic-like throw pillow
19x9.5 inches. Orange throw
pillow 18 x 18 inches.
Beige throw pillow 15x13 inches.
Grey & white oversized throw
pillow 23x23 inches.
All from Nest. See
"Where to Buy."



Weaving Success

REVOLUTIONIZING
FURNITURE DESIGN
FOR RESORT LIVING

BY NANA NADAL



TOP:
Dedon's Dala
poufs. RIGHT:
Bobby Dekeyser,
founder of
Dedon.

DEDON REVOLUTIONIZED the furniture industry by being the first to weave synthetic fiber into luxury outdoor designs. Founded by Bobby Dekeyser in 1990, Dedon had a barn for a warehouse and a chicken shack for an office in Munich. Today, Dedon is a global brand, extending to 80 different countries, with the heart of its operation in the Philippines.

Dedon's sprawling, state-of-the-art factory in Cebu is abuzz with activities that include administration, logistics, and research and development. However, a large portion of the roughly 3,000 employees in the city are made up of weavers. These exceptional artisans are what initially drew Dedon to establish its facilities in the island. "It just felt like home from the very beginning—the smile, the warmth and the hospital-

ity of the people. They have the same mentality as us. They're open-minded, they enjoy life, they appreciate the moment. And this all fits better with the Dedon spirit than anywhere else we've known," explains managing director Vincent Lampert. This spirit is what Lampert largely credits for maintaining the brand's status. "We have this attitude of friendship and mutual respect that pervades our company culture," he adds.

But what propelled their name to the top is the highly durable but ecologically degradable synthetic fiber that they use. It is washable, extremely easy to care for, not affected by salt water, sunlight, and high or low temperatures. "What makes us unique is that we do everything ourselves, from fiber development to delivery of the final product," Lampert points out.

It takes them anywhere between six and 12 months to

launch a design, usually done every April during Salone Del Mobile in Milan. The process begins with a briefing which provides direction to their designers. "Upon receipt of proposals, a specialized team in Cebu, including myself, selects and edits them," Lampert narrates.

Then the proposals are converted into two- and three-dimensional renderings. Once the entire team agrees on the designs,





CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP LEFT: *Fedro* by Italian designer Lorenza Bozzoli, for Dedon. View of the *Fedro* in its stackable configuration. The *Nestrest*, a hanging lounger by designers Daniel Pouzet and Fred Frety. Herve (left) and Vince Lampert, managing director and technical director at Dedon's Cebu operations.

a product engineer is assigned to the collection. "Under the watchful eye of the product engineer, each item is thought through down to the minutest detail, from the composition of component parts to the most efficient production procedures," he goes on.

At the prototyping workshop, builders work on the aluminum frames. These are rigorously tested for strength and durability before they move on to powder coating, which is monitored and tested as well. Then the weaving begins. "The weaving is the step that takes the longest. Each new design presents enormous challenges. It's up to the weavers to develop the technique that will be used in the actual production. Often enough, the weavers aren't just dealing with new furniture designs but with new fiber variations as well," he relates.



Their design inspirations have the most unexpected origins. "Fedro, a playful and colorful rocking chair with no legs by Italian designer Lorenza Bozzoli, was inspired by her son, who would balance in front of the TV on the seat of an old chair, its legs removed, while playing video games," Lampert cites an example.

Always forging close relations with their designers, all collaborations are special such as the long running partnership with Philippe Starck. "His newest collection for Dedon, *Rayn*, has just been launched. We've developed an unprecedented combination of textures and materials; *Rayn* might blur the line between outside and inside and we've created it to dissolve just such boundaries," Lampert enthuses, who promises more collaborations in the pipeline. 1

Design diva

BEAUTY QUEEN SHAMCEY SUPSUP RECLAIMS HER LOVE FOR DESIGN AS THE HEAD OF HER OWN ARCHITECTURAL FIRM AND AS THE NEW HOST OF *INTERIOR MOTIVES*

BY BARRY VILORIA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAROLD TAPAN



ANNEXED TO SHAMCEY
Supsup's home in Cainta, Rizal, where she and her mom have resided for the past 22 years when away from their native General Santos City, is an area where the beauty queen's architecture firm currently holds office. The place is a simple, intimate, peaceful nook with less than ten people.

The firm is called 1237 Gridlines, Inc., aptly named after the rankings Shamcey and her three friends obtained when they took the architecture board examination in 2010. (She came in, of course, at No. 1.) It was the brainchild of Marcy, a civil engineer, and her daughter Shamcey even before she joined Binibining Pilipinas in 2011 and eventually became a runner-up at the Miss Universe pageant. The firm is fairly new, having been fully operative only late last year.

Dream come true

Having 1237 Gridlines, Inc. is a dream come true for Sham-

cey, 27, who has always been into design. She kept an interest in painting and sketching early on while looking up to her engineer-mom as her "idol."

She went on to study architecture at the University of the Philippines (an experience she recalls as "very tough, *pumayat talaga ako nun!*"), graduating *magna cum laude*. For her undergraduate thesis, she explored the creation of a place where homegrown films are archived and kept—a venue for Filipinos to gather and appreciate local cinema.

"My interest in architecture goes beyond building a home. *Hindi lang mag-design ng bahay, gusto ko ng problem solving,*" she says.

"*Iba yung pakiramdam* when you're part of constructing and creating a place. *Kasi everyday andun ka, you become very involved. I learned everything from the materials and the mechanical to the electrical aspects,*" she says of the experience. "*Dapat mapagsama-sama*



TOP LEFT: Renderings and blueprints of a five-star condo hotel resort in Davao, of which Shamcey's 1237 Gridlines, Inc. is in charge as in-house project managers. **ABOVE:** Architect Shamcey Supsup juggles life as host of lifestyle network's *Interior Motives*, a design professional, and, most recently, as wife to businessman, Lloyd Lee.

mo yung mga elements to make something useful."

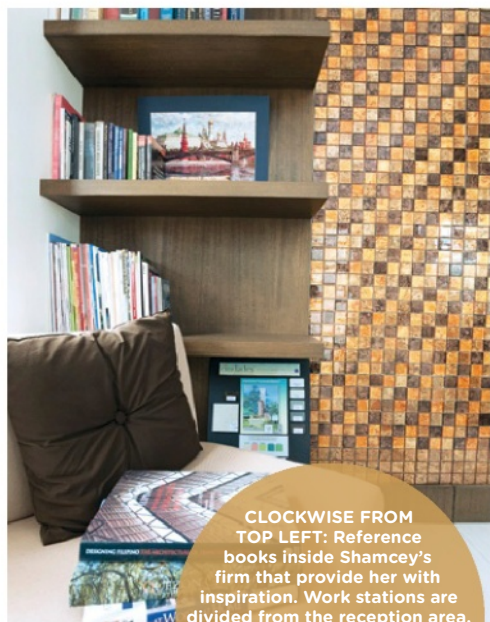
Principle of functionality

Shamcey follows the principle of functionality, adding that design should transcend more than the aesthetics. At 1237 Gridlines, Inc., she and her colleague Alvin Dimalanta work primarily in the design and architecture department.

Her mom Marcy, together with her staff of six, takes on the project management side. Another set of consultants

tackle the engineering aspect. The firm got a big assignment recently as in-house project managers of a five-star condo hotel resort in Davao.

While becoming more involved with the firm, Shamcey still keeps busy as a TV personality, most recently as the host of the latest season of *Interior Motives* on Lifestyle Network. The interior design show seems to be



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Reference books inside Shamcey's firm that provide her with inspiration. Work stations are divided from the reception area. Shamcey with her staff, which includes her mom, Marcy, an engineer by profession (who handles all of the firm's project management).



tailor-made for her, and she likes it that she is given the chance to do two things that interest her—hosting and designing.

“When *Interior Motives* came in, my love for architecture—which was kind of put aside because of my showbiz commitments—came back,” she says. “I like it that *ang daming* ideas *na dumadating* every time I visit someone’s home or space, or when we feature do-it-yourself renovations and upgrades. It’s always a learning experience.”

One of the many reference books Shamcey keeps at the office is the first volume of *Towns and Cities of the Philippines: Selected Cases on the History and Evolution of Settlements*. On its first page is a note from mentor, fellow beauty queen, and Manila Historical and Heritage Commission Secretary Gemma Cruz-Araneta, who signed the book for her in September 2011. Fittingly, as if to remind Shamcey about her power and potential in helping the advancement of local design, the note goes, “I hope you promote Filipino architecture at all times.”



Building a resort home

SHAMCEY'S POINTERS ON CONSTRUCTING YOUR OWN CABANA

Study the location and the contour. That’s the essence of a resort house. Don’t attempt to destroy the natural contour of the place, whether it’s on a seaside or on a slope. Building a resort home is basically being part of nature.

Look for the best view. A balcony with sliding doors that lead to it, overlooking the ocean or the mountains, is always a staple when designing a resort home.

Maximize the natural elements. Check the ventilation and the lighting. A home in the middle of nature can do without air-conditioning or with minimal artificial lights. *Pag-aralan mo yung pagsikat at paglubog ng araw, pati na yung pagpasok ng hangin.*

Utilize natural materials. Whether for the interiors or the exteriors, make sure that you lean towards the more natural. Use wood and bamboo. Adapt earthy colors for the palette.

Young and Creative

UP-AND-COMING FURNITURE DESIGNER JOSEPH RASTRULLO MAKES A STATEMENT WITH HIS NATURE-INSPIRED DESIGNS

BY ANZENNE ROBLE / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



TOP LEFT: Young designer Joseph Rastrullo. BOTTOM LEFT: Earthquake-inspired Terremoto coffee table created in collaboration with Cancio Cadi. LEFT: Ragno chair that looks like a spider's web.

HE MIGHT BE YOUNG, but age is just a number that cannot define Joseph Rastrullo's own creative vision. His showcase at the recently held Manila FAME, where his pieces were displayed together with the works of other renowned Filipino designers, undoubtedly marks Joseph as a designer to watch. With a sterling aesthetic, and an impressive background, this budding designer can well follow the footsteps of his design heroes.

Discovering the beauty of design

An industrial design graduate from College of Saint Benilde, Joseph's passion for design started in high school.

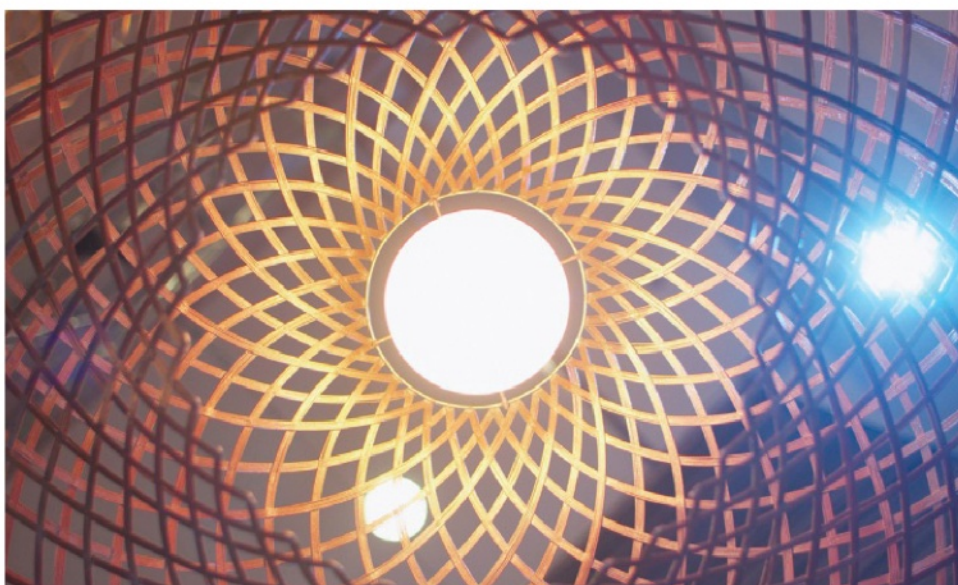
But it was when he worked under the guidance of acclaimed Filipino designer Budji Layug in 2009 that Joseph realized he wanted to design furniture. "I had to draw 100 different types of designs a day for Budji Layug; it's like he was forcing the beauty out of me. He was very straightforward on my style, which I appreciated, because I learned to love this craft," says Joseph, who considers Budji his mentor.

It was also through Budji's advice that Joseph decided to study in Italy. "After my apprenticeship, he told me to go to Milan if I wanted to improve my design. Immediately, I applied to Domus Academy to take my masters in business design.





CLOCKWISE:
Joseph's Cresta
clutch bag in
collaboration with Bon-
Ace Fashion Tools, Inc. The
Manta chair. Geometria
hanging lamp created in
collaboration with Prado
Filipino Artisans.



There I learned more about Italian design, and I was exposed to the different trade fairs and shows for our industry," he says. Also, he was able to meet and learn from international design stars like Domenico Dolce of Dolce and Gabbana, Andrea Branzi of Vitra Design, Aldo Cibic of the Memphis Project, and Stefano Giovannoni of Alessi, who were then visiting professors at the academy.

Fluid shapes and patterns

"I have two styles. If it is commercial, I may be considered a modern minimalist. If I express myself, I play around with geometric patterns to fluid shapes and try to make the materials I use follow my structure," says Joseph. His design aesthetic is greatly influenced by Budji and designers from Zanotta, an Italian industrial design firm. By combining and reinventing the use of fibers,

resin, iron, wood, and plastic, Joseph is able to capture the intricate beauty of nature with contemporary flair in his pieces.

For Joseph, designing furniture is more than vanity and aesthetic satisfaction. "I do realize that my work not only benefits myself or the factory owners. I have to be very particular of what I create to make sure it works and sells because when these designs sell, they take care of hundreds or thousands of people who work in the factories," he explains.

Joseph hopes that his work

will be more than an expression of art and show the world what Filipino craftsmanship can do. Describing his ultimate dream design, he says, "To design something monumental but functional; to create an iconic structure that would represent the blessing God gave to Filipino craftsmanship." His first step in realizing this is Connessione Design Studio, an architectural and product development firm that he and his partner Jim Caumeron recently established. **1**

Visit www.connessione.co or email design@connessione.co.

YOUNG FURNITURE DESIGNER JOSEPH RASTRULLO GIVES A FEW POINTERS ON PICKING OUT FURNITURE FOR RESORT LIVING-INSPIRED SPACES:

1. Use natural materials to complement the environment.
2. If the material is plastic, the aesthetics should be linear to allow wind to pass through.
3. Try to invest in good lighting and enjoy its ambiance at night.

Oceanic Fantastic

NO LONGER HIDDEN, TREASURES WITH SEASIDE MOTIFS GIVE A RESORT FEEL, WHATEVER THE SEASON

BY ANTON BARRETTO / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG

A TRIP TO THE BEACH or a day out at sea conjures escape at its best. The senses are refreshed and rejuvenated by the combination of the open vista of the sky, the soft ocean breezes and the rhythmic rolling of the waves. Bring an evocative touch to your space with objects imbued with an oceanic vibe. They will give your home a vacation feel every day of the year.



FROM LEFT:
Small fork with
black horn handle,
P3200. Medium fork
with ivory handle,
P4200. Large fork
with mother of pearl
handle, P3980. All
from AC+632.



CLOCKWISE:
Thomas Paul by
Duralee pattern 21073
color 213 Lime, price
upon request, Fabric Bar.
Starfish dinner set, P2500,
Gourdo's. Starfish dish,
P950 each, Gourdo's.
Silver fish, P985,
Pietro.



LEFT:
Aluminum fruit
bowl, P4900, Sifra.
RIGHT: Turtle Paua
shell paper weight,
P7400, Arden.



Art Inspired

DERIVED FROM WORKS OF ART, TABLEAUS THAT ILLUSTRATE THE LATEST TRENDS FOR RESORT LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES, JOVEL LORENZO AND PAUL DEL ROSARIO



Shell Chic

The sexy curve of a conch shell, the lace-like intricacy of a fan-shaped piece of coral and the lunar texture of a barnacle-encrusted rock are natural and provide fascinating elements that add charm and visual punch to a room. The uniqueness and minute undulations of details in these pieces will add a layer of fascination and verve to your design scheme. —**Anton Barretto and Marissa Alejandro Lopa**

Inspiration: Anne Vallayer-Coster, *Still-Life with Tuft of Marine Plants, Shells and Corals*, 1769, Louvre. **In photo:** Antique jar with barnacles, price upon request, Nest. Coral mounted on wood, P1800, Nest. Assorted shells, Balikbayan Handicrafts. Red coral mounted on wooden base, P2300, Nest. Natural sea fan, P11000, Cura V.



INSET PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF COMMONS.WIKIMEDIA.ORG



Cultural Crossover

One trend that is showing no sign of waning down anytime soon is the feverish admiration for all things ethnic. From the runways to fashion editorials, colorful beads in a multitude of shapes and sizes and vibrant textiles marked by handmade traditions are seeing its moment in everything that chronicles the hot and the now. It may be a trend, but an appreciation of the ethnic is here to stay. Anyone with a love for things crafted by hand, be it local or foreign, can understand the colors, textures, playful lines and forms that come with this trend. Most significantly, it celebrates provenance in its emphasis on the vernacular language of design. As most resorts are rooted in a specific locale, their designs celebrate the aesthetics of the region in which they are built. So go ahead, infuse your space with a resort vibe in full ethnic regalia.

—Anna M. Rosete

Inspiration: Artist unknown, *Madhubani* painting, India.
On the wall: Handpainted Indonesian Mask, P699, L'Indochine. Indian embellished maxi skirt, P1800, OM Lifestyle and Café. **On the table:** Celadon horses, P5499 (large) P3999.75 (small), Morocco Ikat vase, P1499.75, Nampan bamboo trays, P499.75 (small) P899.75 (large), all from L'Indochine. Lizard letter opener, P3750, Blue Carreon Home. Silk *Kantha* table runners, P6500. Wooden jewelry box, P1500. Antique Radha Krishna carved icon, P4500. Teal long tassel, P700, all from OM Lifestyle and Café. **Below table:** Hand block printed table covers, P3600, OM Lifestyle and Café. Handpainted *katung*, P3399.75, L'Indochine.

INSET PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF TRADE.INDIAMART.COM



Found Narrative

An offshoot of the “Bohemian Chic” look is the found narrative trend. Here, tableaus composed of your sentimental objects and ephemera are carefully put together. Whether by color scheme or by theme, these typically have a story behind them. Seashells from your favorite beach on an anniversary trip, branches and twigs from long walks with your loved one in your favorite park, baskets, figurines, and framed artwork—everything is fair game, but put together with a story to tie them together, these vignettes make interesting conversation pieces, and distinctive décor nobody else but you can call your own. —**Anna M. Rosete**

Inspiration: *The Packing Case* by Georges Braque, 1947. All items, Craftsmith by Mia de Lara, Kitty Bunag, Heidi Aquende and TheVanillaCo.





Boho Bravura

Channel your inner free spirit with the boho look. It's not just a look, but a lifestyle that honors escape and fantasy. Made popular by artists, musicians, travellers and eccentrics, there are no rules for this. Marked by a mingling of textures, shimmer, color, and a mix of materials, this style serendipitously happens when the most loved tschotchkes from your travels are combined with heirloom pieces from your favorite grand aunt and scents that transport you to an otherworldly place. It's a look that seems effortless, underscored by freedom and wanderlust.

—Anna M. Rosete

Inspiration: *Odalisque in Red Trousers*, 1921, by Henri Matisse.

Top: Typewriter saving box, P995, Dimensione. **Middle from left:** Wooden candelabra P2500. Wooden chair, price upon request. Silk brocade seat cushion, P1500. Cotton printed quilt, P8500. Beaded fabric belts, P800 each. Embroidered fabric umbrella, P5000. All from OM Lifestyle and Café. **Owl boxes**, P1995 (set of 3), Dimensione. **Foo dog lamp**, P18000 per pair, Blue Carreon Home. **Tassel**, price upon request, OM Lifestyle and Café. **Chinese peony candle**, P3500, Blue Carreon Home. **Bottom:** Harry Barker dog bed, P4500 (small), and stuffed dog bone, P650 each, all from Blue Carreon Home. **Framed embellished mirror**, P8795, Dimensione.

INSET PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF HENRI-MATISSE.NET



Saint Tropez

Few places in this world are as timelessly glamorous and superbly stylish as the French Riviera. Jetsetters on yachts, heiresses and movie stars on cliffside tanning decks, the glitterati and the paparazzi all converge on this paradise in the South of France. An explosion of yellows, blues and oranges will bring this favored destination right into your home. —**Anton Barretto and Marissa Alejandro Lopa**

Inspiration: *Le Gorille, Saint Tropez* (acrylic) by Doriane Heyman, 2012. **In photo:** Majolica platter, P4950, Nest. Yellow planter, Landmark. Gold alligator skin tray, Gourdo's. On tray: Vintage blue fruit tray, P1800, The Vintage Store. Tuscan pitcher, P3895, Nest. Carnival glass flutes, set of 4, The Vintage Store. Striped napkins, P295 (set of 4), Nest. Olive server, Gourdo's.



Exotic Escapade

TWO DIFFERENT TAKES
ON CREATING THE ULTIMATE
POOLSIDE LOUNGE

BY ANZENNE ROBLE
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



Team
Metro
Home

African Allure

Inspired by the captivating prints, artifacts and earth tones of the plains of Africa, the **Metro Home** team used pieces that channels tribal chic. A canopied loveseat filled with assorted throw pillows made of African *kuba* cloth takes center stage, with its large and round shape that resembles a secluded island. Adjacent to it are Lorenza Bozzoli's woven floor rockers (whose colors were inspired by Latin American tropical birds) that bring a pop of color and add a contemporary appeal to the set-up with its sleek form. Completing the look are the woven accents, a lantern to the right and a planter to the left, that flank the arrangement and the African mask installed on a stand.

FROM LEFT: Dala planter, Dedon. African mask on stand, NEST. Orbit Loveseat with canopy and half moon table, Dedon. *Kuba* cloth throw pillows in assorted African prints, NEST. Babylon stool, Dedon. Glazed brown jar, NEST. Fedro floor rockers, Satellite table, and Dala lantern, all from Dedon. For all, price upon request.

DESIGN SMARTS

1. Dress up your outdoor set-up with unexpected elements like the African mask on a tall stand.
2. Use focal pieces so you don't confuse the eye with too many elements—like the love seat, a solitary plant on a vase, and big planters.
3. Choosing a furniture piece with a built-in retractable sunshade will screen you from sunlight on a hot day or envelop you on a moonlit evening.
4. Position tables around seating areas for refreshments and food, reading material and music, or for the all important sunblock that needs to be within reach. —Anton Barretto



Anna M. Angara

Easy and comfortable luxury — that's what resort style living is all about for interior designer Anna Angara. She gets her inspiration from the arts and her travels, combining these influences with what she learned at the Inchbald School of Design in London and her innate ability to spot beauty in every detail.



Moroccan Opulence

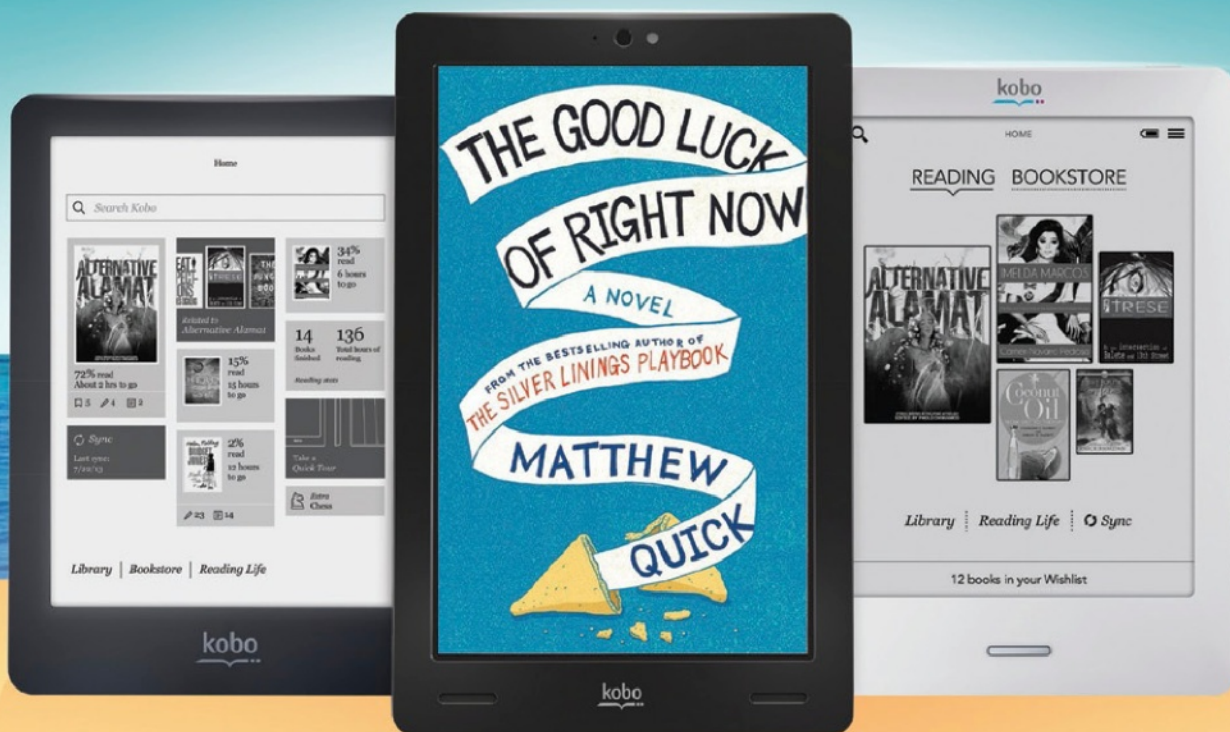
Utilizing “clean lines, good proportions, with pops of color, and interesting details and accents,” there's no doubt that Anna was able to put together a colorful and refreshing poolside retreat. Adapting the seamless transition between indoor and outdoor spaces, Anna made use of elements such as water, greenery, wood, and stone to create a Moroccan-inspired look. Providing a focal point is an over-scaled lounge chair, reminiscent of a cozy seashell. White pieces such as the chair and coffee table spell elegance, while the Moroccan bowls add an exotic touch. *Special thanks to Living Innovations.*

DESIGN SMARTS

1. For that lounge appeal, use a lot of throw pillows—to make your outdoor oasis exciting and inviting—mix and match colors and sizes, patterns and prints.
2. Flower arrangements will always brighten your space and make you happy. -Anton Barretto

FROM LEFT: Green wall, Dedon. Assorted Moroccan bowls, NEST. Seashell lounge chair and Mangrove coffee table, Dedon. Moroccan ashtray, NEST. Babylon planter, Dedon. Swingrest standing lounger, Dedon. Moroccan leather pouf, NEST. For all, price upon request.

Summer just got even hotter!



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ART / DESIGN / PLACES / INSPIRATION

Oman: A World
of Resorts, p.30



Oman: A world of resorts

FABLED PLACE OF MYTH AND MYSTERY

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY **ANTON BARRETTO**



LEFT: Anton at the historical Jabreen Fort. RIGHT: The stunning Shangri-la Barr Al Jissah Resort & Spa that overlooks the Gulf of Oman.

THE SULTANATE OF OMAN is a fabulous, fabled place, full of myth and mystery. They say it is the birthplace of legendary seafarer Sinbad the Sailor and the true home of the biblical Three Kings. Old Muscat, the oldest part of the capital, blends seamlessly with the breathtaking Sultan Qaboos mosque and the new Opera House.

But legends and architecture aside, the stunning topography and varied landscapes of Oman make it a must-see destination. There are sybaritic *wadis*, or oases; Grand Canyon level rock formations and burnt terra cotta tinged deserts. And to top all these natural attractions, some of the world's most stunning resorts make Oman a resort lover's dream.

The first resorts

A popular ditty from a beloved musical exhorts us to start at the very beginning. In a manner of speaking, the very first resorts in Oman were actually forts. Each fort contained its own little universe, as they were often residences, judicial and government centers as well as army bases. There are over 500 forts in Oman, and 20 have been named heritage sites.

One of the more striking ones, which my friends and I were lucky enough to see, was the Jabrin Fort. Built in 1670 as a defensive stronghold by Imam Sultan bin Saif Al Ya'Arubi, it is known for the fine carvings and exquisitely painted flowers on its walls and ceilings. We were struck by the cozy and homey scale of the rooms, considering that it was also a seat of authority.

Timeless oasis

Our first desert resort destination was The Chedi. Standing alone on a wide desert property, the decor combines traditional Arab motifs such as colorful lamps, arches, and courtyards with a tailored, contemporary elegance.

The lobby evokes a nomad's tent with a cascade of lamps defining the space. The adults-only pool is surrounded by indulgent four-poster outdoor lounges and is a dream



The Gulf of Oman boasts of amazing natural rock formations dotted with centuries old outposts and towers.



of a chill-out space. There is also a family pool, for the younger nomads.

The Club Suites are bungalows or villas, some with silver-painted cupolas over the huge beds. The newly built spa is the largest in Muscat, and combines calming Asian architecture with dramatic Omani touches.

The Restaurant, designed by Japanese architect Yasuhiro Koichi, has an eclectic contemporary menu and an award-winning pastry chef. We made sure to try all the macaron flavors and a good sampling of ice cream and pastries. We took a walk on the beach, and took pictures by The Beach restaurant, which only serves dinner, and is among the most-awarded restaurants in Oman.

Once cheekily dubbed as Lawrence of Arabia meets Philippe Starck, The Chedi has masterfully combined a contemporary feel with a distinct sense of place. It is truly one of those transportive hotels, possessing that elusive magic of a true getaway.

The pleasure of a palace

The Al Bustan Palace is one of those rare hotels included in the list of “1,000 Places to See Before You Die.” And it doesn’t take long to see why. The 38-meter high-domed atrium lobby makes you feel immediately that this is one hotel that is worthy of the designation “palace.” The hotel, also called the jewel of the sultanate, has just undergone a multimillion dollar renovation.

Set on 200 acres with its own beach and an incredibly dramatic mountain backdrop, the Al Bustan was originally built to host the Gulf Cooperation Council in 1985.

The Al Khiran Terrace restaurant is right on the beach, and you can dine with a fantastic view and the hypnotic rhythm of the waves. Lobsters are abundant in Oman, and you must have some when you visit.

A thousand and one delights

The Wahiba sands are a nation unto itself. It has an area of 12,500 sq. km, and was the subject of a Royal Geographic Society expedition to study its 16,000 invertebrates, 150 species of native flora, and 200 species of wildlife.

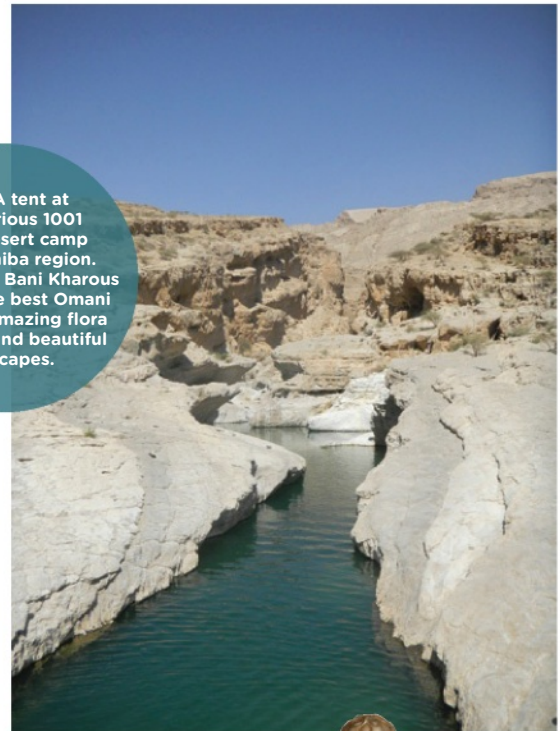
Stay in the 1,001 Nights camp, where they simulate a desert camp with luxurious “tents.” Enjoy sunset cocktails on the high dunes, and go dune bashing, an experience akin to a roller coaster ride but on the desert sands.

The pool and the beach restaurant of the Chedi Muscat, a must to stay in or visit while in Oman.





LEFT: A tent at the luxurious 1001 Nights desert camp in the Wahiba region. RIGHT: Wadi Bani Kharous is one of the best Omani sites with amazing flora and fauna and beautiful landscapes.



There is also a tour of an authentic Bedouin camp, where you will interact with these descendants of the Arab world's original nomads. Make sure to see the sunrise and get an early morning camel ride. And enjoy Omani masala on lamb, the camp specialty.

Three's a charm

Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa has three hotels and its own Chi Spa. It is nestled in the bay of Al Jissah and surrounded by the most picturesque rock formations in the Sultanate.

The Al Waha is designated as Oman's first family hotel. Its name means oasis and it boasts of several pools that form an oasis; all rooms and suites have ocean views.

The architecture is Dhofari, a traditional style seen in the southern part of Oman. The Al Bandar is inspired by Old Muscat, and features ornate balconies and a layout like the meandering paths of an ancient village.

Al Banda is actually the centerpiece of the resort, housing its seven restaurants and its monolithic ballroom. The Al Husn, the luxury hotel of the resort, is inspired by old Arabic royal palaces and is graced with Omani art. It also has its own adults-only private beach.

Chi, the Spa, takes its inspiration from the story of Shangri-La itself, from James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*. In the novel, Shangri-La is a mystical, harmonious valley; it is one of those fictional locales that has entered the lexicon and has come to mean an earthly paradise, a permanently happy land,



LEFT: The well appointed tent in the 1001 Nights desert camp is furnished in the traditional Bedouin style. BOTTOM RIGHT: Traditional Omani silver souvenirs, and frankincense found in the bazaar.



impervious to woe and worry.

The dramatic stone formations that rise above this particular spa village truly evoke a mountain land of legend. Each spa villa comes with outdoor showers and a deep tub, and it is easy to get lost in reverie. Our whole group decided to do double treatments and we were lulled into our own internal wonderlands. A tranquil mind is the best and last resort. ❶

Local Color

THE 59TH MANILA FAME SHOWCASED LOCAL CRAFT AND DESIGN FOR EXPORT

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



TOP: The OTOP (One Town, One Product) Marketplace, a regular FAME attraction showcased local vendors from different Philippine regions. RIGHT: Baskets and figurines from RC & H Export. LEFT: The Red Box booth featured various designers mentored by CITEM. In the foreground are Liliana Manahan's creations.



Tabletop ornament and seating from Nature's Legacy are made of indigenous materials like wood and cardboard, dead shrubs, twigs and branches.



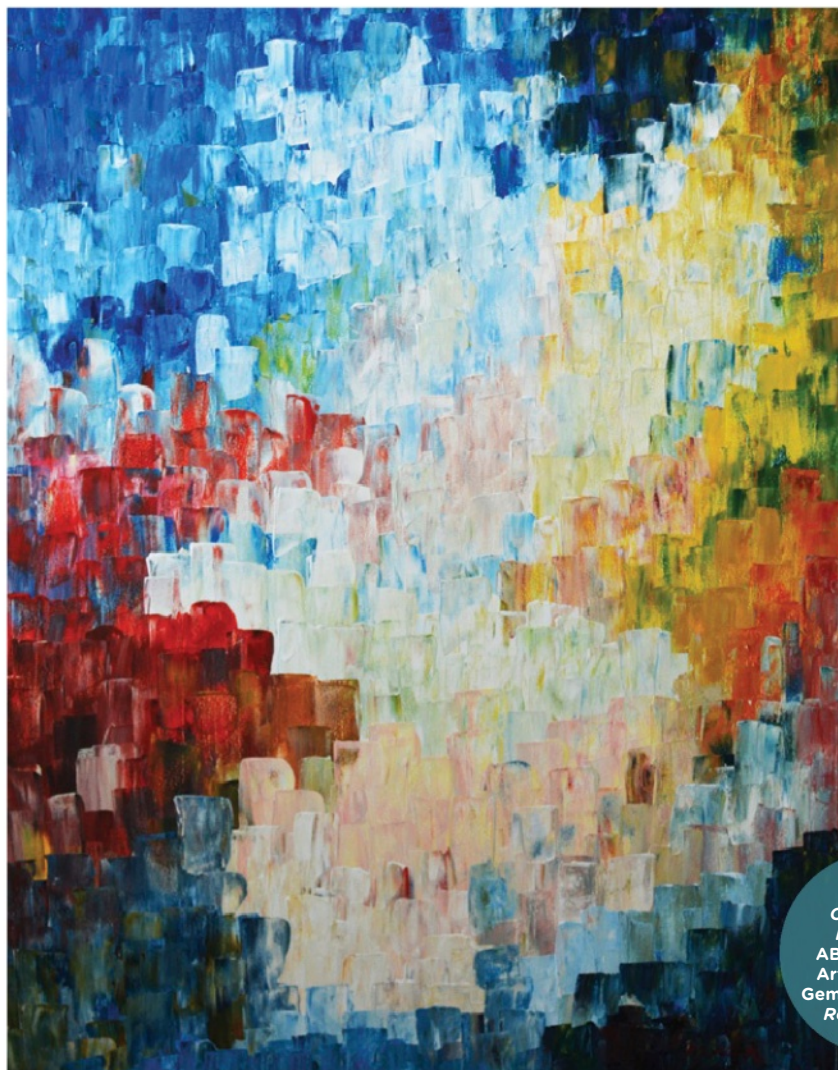
LEFT: Various Ilokano *inabel* weaves in a multitude of colors from Balay ni Atong.



Eye Candy

ARTIST MICHELLE GEMPERLE
SETS A BRIGHT, MODERN
VIBE WITH HER CREATIONS

BY MAAN D'ASIS PAMARAN
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LITA PUYAT



LEFT:
*City Lights,
Rainy Day.*
ABOVE RIGHT:
Artist Michelle
Gemperle. RIGHT:
Renaissance.

WHILE BIG PIECES such as furniture can fundamentally set the feel for a home, works of art can give out an intimate sense of the homeowner's sensibilities. They give a micro view of the owner's aesthetics, aside from adding pops of color to a blank wall or bare tabletop.

Michelle Gemperle's pieces would definitely fit into a home that aims for a vibrant, organic vibe. Her decisive use of colors and shapes stand out, imparting feelings for something fun yet vital at the same time.

Infinite possibilities

"I think what is distinct in my paintings is the use of color and light to evoke a sort of

dreamlike feeling that transports the viewer out of the tangible world and into the essential," she says. "To quote Oscar Wilde: 'Mere color, unspoiled by meaning and unallied with definite form can speak to the soul in a thousand different ways.'"

While she does not have a formal degree in the arts, Michelle has, through the years, "continuously sought to learn what I can." She has apprenticed in Madrid under artist Angela Crespo de Pereira, done a short course in pottery in Switzerland, and took several short courses in acrylic painting, mixed media, drawing, abstract art and portraiture in Sydney at the Kurringai Art





FROM LEFT TO
RIGHT: *Breakout*.
Untitled. Skydive.
Going Full Circle.

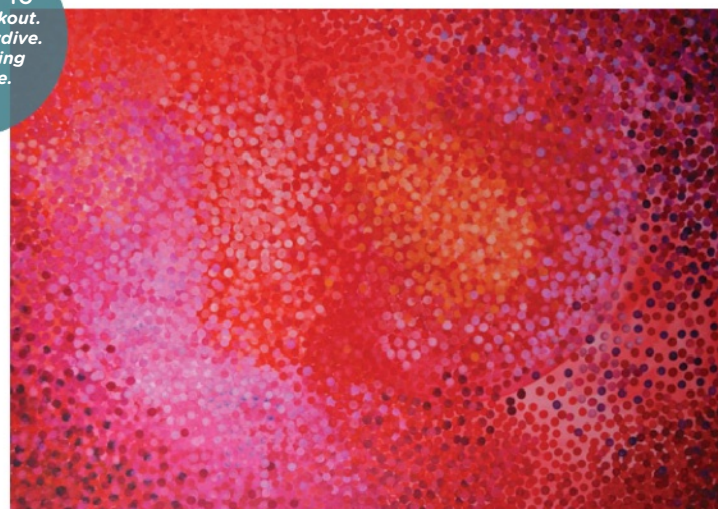
Centre. She is currently studying impressionist painting under Dutch artist John Windus.

"I get inspiration from just about everything—nature, art, movies, stories, moods and emotions. I try to see the color and feeling in everything. My favorite subject these days is no subject—the formless and abstract. I find that going beyond definite form allows infinite possibilities," Michelle shares.

Art Everyday

Underscoring the value of her travels as reflected in her art, she explains, "Having lived many years in Australia, I cannot help but be influenced by aboriginal art and culture—their dreamtime and spirituality as a way of life. These various styles and techniques as well as the experience of having lived in Asia, Europe and Australia come together in my work and my own distinct style. For one year, I was immersed in European culture and I learned how art is valued in Europe and how much it is a part of the daily lives of everyone, even children."

She is happy with the wonderful resurgence of interest in decorating the home with artwork, with a lot of new artists coming to the fore. "Appreciation of art should be a passion and part of our daily lives. Art should surround us where we live, where we spend most of our time, so that it can inspire and enrich our lives and uplift our spirit. I think that the things we treasure in life should be enjoyed as much as possible," she enthuses. "Whether you paid a lot for the piece or not is not the point, the point is to enjoy it and derive as much satisfaction and joy from it as possible." 📌



Choose your true colors

MICHELLE SHARES TIPS ON CHOOSING THE RIGHT ART PIECES FOR YOUR HOME.

Educate yourself and discover your personal taste.

Expose yourself to different styles and artists. Go to museums, look at books and surf the Internet to get a feel of which paintings excite and stir your soul.

Fall in love. First and foremost, you should really like the art work. If you will be seeing it every day, it had better be something you'd

like to see. If it is something that you like, and your decor is also composed of pieces that you like, chances are they will go together well. Ask yourself: What feeling does it bring out in you? Does it evoke sadness, fear, tranquility, joy? What feelings do you want it to stir in you every day?

Talk to art collectors and consultants. It can be quite

intimidating to buy art. You can learn a lot from people with experience. You may want to ask about prices, and how much previous works sold for. Remember, ultimately, the choice of an artwork is very subjective and personal.

Consider emerging artists. Apart from their fresh approach, there is potential for an increase in value of their works.

The Art of the Curios

AWARD-WINNING ARTIST
KARL FREDRICK M. CASTRO'S
FIRST SOLO EXHIBIT
SHOWCASES HIS INTUITIVE
APPROACH TO PAINTING



PHOTOGRAPH BY IAN CASTAÑARES



TOP LEFT:
The artist, Karl
Castro. TOP RIGHT:
39 - *Kettle and Old
Lawn* 18 x 18. OPPOSITE
TOP: 12 - *Apple and
Pig Mandible* 9 x 12.
OPPOSITE BOTTOM:
4 - *Blue Shoes*
18 x 18.

A **STO. NIÑO FIGURINE** and a bottle of rugby, a framed old photograph and a PET bottle, a sneaker and a figurine of the Roman goddess Venus—these are just some of the unlikely pairings recently showcased in award-winning artist Karl Fredrick M. Castro's first solo exhibit "Two Things" at Silverlens Galleries.

His still-life acrylic paintings each feature two ordinary objects from his immediate surroundings, but the beauty of his artistry comes from his ability to make his viewers think about the underlying messages and why two disparate things are paired.

Painting and spontaneity

"They're personal, and specific to my own existence," Karl points out, adding that these objects' significance to him perhaps "lies somewhere within the personal and the archaeological." His interests include cinema and mass media, history and culture, literature and journalism, design and cultural development, and social movements.

Seeking a break from his freelance graphic design work (he's currently the creative director of luxury men's lifestyle magazine *Vault*), Karl—who took up Visual Arts at the Philippine High School for the Arts, and Bachelor of Arts in Film and Audiovisual Communication at the University of the Philippines—decided it was high time he revisits his love for painting. Compared to graphic designing, painting allows him to be more spontaneous, which he likes.

On what inspired his "Two Things" collection, Karl shares, "I'm greatly influenced by Giorgio Morandi, whose work and process gave us a new way of seeing—and doing—still life. I'm also indebted to Irving Penn, whose plain backgrounds revolutionized still life and portrait photography. I also love Giorgio de Chirico's surrealist mix of architecture, landscape and still life; Rene Magritte's psychological treatment of the mundane; van Gogh's expressiveness and honesty. Of course, I'm also greatly indebted to dialectical materialism, semiotics, and archaeology."

Interpret your own meaning

He further explains, "My work is not pre-occupied with grand societal statements, but neither does it preclude them. Each piece may be viewed and appreciated on its own. However, they're part of a continuing series, and I suppose they do take on a broader meaning when appreciated collectively.

"I try not to impose meaning. After all, meaning is ideological and, to a large

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY
OF **SILVERLENS GALLERIES**

CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP LEFT:
16 - *Last Year's Moet*,
This Year's Shoe 14 x 16.
34 - *Two Mermaids* 12 x
14. 41 - *Umbrella Falling*
Off the Map 14 x 16.
30 - *Mismatch*
14 x 16.



extent, particular to one's specific contexts in culture, class and other positions. Meanings, moreover, are not immediately apparent, and it is precisely this process of discovery that I'm undergoing. Viewers are free to read or tease out or interpret meanings."

Karl has several awards under his belt, including two Philippine National Book Awards in the category of Book Design for *The Philippines Through European Lenses* by Dr. Otto van den Muijzenberg in 2009, and *Palaspas: An Appreciation of Palm Leaf Art in the Philippines* by Elmer Nocheseda in 2010; Best Use of Design for *Vault* in the Layout & Presentation category at the Asian Publishing Awards in 2012; and Best Design in the Book category at the Adobo Design Awards 2012 for *Si Amapolasa 65 na Kabanata*.

Where, when, and how Karl will delight art enthusiasts next with his predictably unpredictable aesthetic is certainly something worth looking forward to. —*Interview by Lora Lumba, courtesy of Vault magazine*

Kohler: The Experience

PRIMACY OF DESIGN AND
THE BEAUTY OF ART ARE
PILLARS OF THEIR PROGRESS

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ANTON BARRETTO

JUST AS THERE IS A TOWN called Hershey, Pennsylvania, and numerous Disneylands, there is a place called Kohler in Wisconsin. When I tell friends that I am attending the Kitchen and Bath International Symposium in Las Vegas and then traveling on to Kohler, Wisconsin, they would reply, "I always thought Kohler was a European brand."

Going by the tagline *The Bold Look of Kohler* since 1965, design has always been a driving force at Kohler, and this mode of business has always been considered a more continental approach. But ever since their founder John Michael Kohler, in 1883, was inspired to take a cast iron pig trough and turned it into a bathtub, Kohler has been an innovative and game-changing company. That bold stroke was out-of-the-box thinking, even before that phrase became a cliché of contemporary marketing, and Kohler has never been afraid to shake things up and redefine the scene.

A worthy descendant of John Michael was Walter Kohler who led the company from 1905-1940. He often cited this quote by the philosopher John Ruskin: "Life without labor is guilt; labor without art is brutality." This philosophy of infusing daily life with the uplifting effect of art became part of the Kohler DNA.

In 1911, Kohler introduced the first one-piece, built-in bathtub. The 1920s, called the Roaring 20s, saw the company's marvelous innovations: the forefather to the dishwasher, then called the electric sink in 1926; and cast iron and vitreous china plumbing fixtures in matching pastel colors. The 1970s were a fun and carefree time, and the pastel colors were updated with stronger, brighter hues. By the 1980s, Kohler was a defining force in the Asia Pacific region, supplying bathroom fixtures for hotels in China.

But their achievements also involved aesthetic exuberance. In 1929, they participated in an exhibit of the Museum of Modern Art on the beauty of everyday objects, and designed a wood and black bathroom that would look like home in a present day boutique hotel. The first ever black toilet made by Kohler is part of the permanent collection of the Smithsonian.

The spirit of artists continues. In 2012, a Kohler collaboration with ceramicist and book author and innovative retailer and dec-



TOP:
The impressive and amazing display of Kohler products at the recent KBIS (Kitchen and Bath International Symposium) in Las Vegas.
BOTTOM: A personal favorite, the Moxie shower head is a true testament of the innovative and dynamic design vision of Kohler.



orator Jonathan Adler won a Best of the Year award from *Interiors Design* magazine, and last year, Ann Sacks and Martyn Lawrence Bullard, a cast member of the reality show *Million Dollar Decorators* and the decorator of Elton John and the Ozzy Osbourne family, launched a line of tiles.

We are family

To this day, members of the Kohler family own and run the company. And they prefer to still call their conglomerate the

Kohler Family of Businesses. In the Kitchen and Bath division, their brands include Kohler, Karat, Sanuura, Sterling, Novita, Englefield, Jacob Delafon and Mira. The Interiors Group boasts of such brands as Baker, McGuire, Ann Sacks, Kallista, Dapha, Roborn, and Mark David.

The Global Power group became part of the Kohler family in the 1920s, when the world's first engine-driven electrical engine was powered by a Kohler cast-iron gas engine. This division provides complete power



KOHLER showcased their diverse product lines from sinks designed by different artists, beautiful bathroom accessories, fantastic tiles designed by Anne Sacks, their very own selection of delicious chocolates, and state of the art generators. These items and many more proved that indeed Kohler is a true brand leader.

systems to the industrial, residential and marine makers.

The Hospitality and Real Estate Group is guided by focusing on historical and environmental concerns, such as The American Club and St Andrews Golf Club, the birth-place of golf itself.

What shows in Vegas

When I finally made it to the exhibition space of Kohler, I was absolutely and truly astounded. The displays on bathtubs alone, showcasing all the varieties of bathtubs such as whirlpool tubs, bubble massage, effervescence (which create champagne-like bubbles to surround the body), VibrAcoustic (my personal favorite, which infuses the water with vibrations to ease stress and enhance well-being), was a mind-blowing exposition of just how advanced the science of bathing has evolved. And some of the tubs, taps and showers were working so that you could see and feel for yourself how they worked.

The Artifacts display, true to its name, artfully and comprehensively displayed the faucets and taps from their line. The display of Artisanal sinks was arranged on a wall like an art installation, complete with a DJ to keep the vibe hip and happening. The display of Moxie, Kohler's shower head that comes equipped with its magnetic Bluetooth-enabled speaker, called to mind a sci-fi movie set. The display of generators involved a psychedelic-colored light installation, which was a hypnotic visual of how magical electrical power truly can be.



Friendly tour guides with snappy black headsets periodically gave detailed talks covering each and every part of the exhibition. Large video screens surrounded the exhibition space, looping visuals and brand information. In a corner was a delightful surprise, a counter with the delicious Kohler brand of chocolates, making the whole experience a true celebration of all the senses.

Pouring over all the materials on the company and my own photos, I was over-



whelmed that a giant and time-tested company could list the primacy of design and the beauty of art as pillars of their progress. It always confuses me when people say that design and aesthetic appreciation are frivolous. In my own life and career, trying to inject some graciousness into life deepens my sense of purpose. It is thus so empowering to know that a huge business conglomerate lives by the same ethos—and is phenomenally successful at it as well. **11**

Inside PIFS 2014

DESIGN AND PRODUCT EXCELLENCE ON DISPLAY

BY DODO DAYAO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



TOP LEFT: Vignette by Stonesets International. TOP RIGHT: Display of fine chinaware from Limoges, France by Jacques Pergay. BELOW: Pouf executed by Twenty Nine Eleven.



THE RUNWAY WAS A HUNDRED meters long and, in many ways, epic and fitting, given how it was meant to convey many things: expertise, versatility, heritage, evolution, vision. Like everything in the Philippines, the furniture industry came from humble beginnings. And the exhibit, called “Interior Lifestyle Vignettes,” had the necessary grandeur and scope, serving as both a celebration and showcase of how far the industry has come in recent years, and how vibrant in its development.

“Interior Lifestyle Vignettes” was part of the recently concluded PIFS 2014, notably also the first time in 21 years that it struck out on its own. PIFS, of course, stands for Philippines International Furniture Show. The show’s organizers, the CFIP, or Chamber of Furniture Industries in the Philippines, is both a catalyzing influence on and a strident advocate of the furniture industry. Part of its central thrusts is striking that crucial balance between achieving sustainable growth and global competitiveness, ensur-

ing consistency with the individual needs and aspirations of its growing membership, and fostering the spirit of collaboration and cooperation within the industry.

Design and product excellence remain its paramount endgame, but the bigger picture has always been what PIFS is about at its core, the brokering of ties, and the sustaining of collaborations between the established masters and the fledgling new talent.

Architect and interior designer J. Anton Mendoza is the new Creative Director of PIFS 2014, tasked not only with upholding the show’s tradition of world-class sophistication but with progressively notching it up in terms of energy and excitement. And his vision is guided by this synergy between past and present as groundwork being laid for the future, as oil to grease the skids of constant innovation.

Fittingly, one of the highlights of “Interior Lifestyle Vignettes” were four large murals, in which Juan Luna’s and Felix Martinez’s 19th century paintings, graciously provided by the National Museum, were

CLOCKWISE
FROM LEFT:
Side table by
Detalia Aurora. Side
table by Stonesets
International. Vito Selma's
Kawayan floor lamp,
winner for Best Home
Accessory. Ito Kish's
Juana chair.



digitally re-sized and re-imagined with contemporary Philippine furniture. The murals afforded foreign guests a glimpse of how rich our cultural history and Hispanic heritage was and reminded Filipinos to take pride in it. It also exemplified, rather succinctly and eloquently, the driving philosophy behind PIFS, whose own ramparts are built from a similar spirit of consolidation.

The respective furniture industries of Cebu, Manila and Pampanga have always had their own local associations and local shows to provide the support and platform they need: CebuNext, Manila Now and Pampanga One. PIFS, under the name NextOneNow, a riff on the names of the three furniture shows, is not only a unification of these associations, but more importantly, of the regions, making a cohesive whole from the country's vast resource of talent, a whole that has become the country's biggest furniture trade show, the central showcase, no less, for the national industry.

"Asia plays host to a circuit of furniture shows annually, every March. For the Philippines it's PIFS," Mendoza notes. Beyond the sheer excellence on display, there's also an undeniable collective spirit coursing through the exhibit.

"The industry took the lead to ensure that it continues to have a home show that responds to its needs and that of its buyers," Mendoza says, adding, "PIFS is by the national furniture industry, for the national furniture industry." **11**

**A FRESH SEASON
TO JUMPSTART
YOUR SUMMER**

{LISTED}

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Karen Pamintuan
and Walter Demesa

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homes



A Nipa Hut Revisited, p. 54

A RESORT- FEEL HOME IN THE CITY

A FAMILY ENJOYS THE SIMPLE LIFE,
UNPERTURBED BY THE CHAOS
OF THE URBAN JUNGLE

BY BARRY VILORIA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY TERRY UY



To achieve the modern, Asian-inspired resort theme of the house, Architect Ed Ledesma plus sisters Shiela and Mara Asuncion worked on the idea of minimalism to complement the generosity of space of the house. For example, the tall glass windows allow light and the verdant outdoors to “come in” and share a natural atmosphere. The use of wood plus the furniture in earthy colors like green, dirty white, and coal was to “mimic the outdoors, and mirror the green outside just with a few pieces, including the Barrington carpet in green and white pattern. There’s no other furniture that has a pattern, as you can see,” says Shiela.





LEFT: The security door to the right of the intentionally bare foyer. Made of *narra*, the humongous door can be maneuvered and locked at night, guarding the staircase that leads to the individual rooms and master's bedroom in the second floor. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The combined living and dining areas, with not very many furniture except a couple of paintings, including one done with foil by Tessa Mendoza Daza, a close friend of the lady of the house. This, Shiela says, is also to showcase the couple's passion for art collecting.

THE RESIDENCE SEEMS almost an irony, really.

It's majestic at best—the parkway facing west shows a landscaped garden featuring a golden-aged mango tree. The giant door made of *narra* opens into the house, which is designed with lots of tiles, wood, and plants, plus a lanai and a pool.

This house in Mandaluyong City is a resort home, situated between two long boulevards and the MRT track on one side, which create noise and air pollution. The home's design, though, refutes all the trappings of urban living.

We are chatting with the lady of the house, wife to a lawyer-husband and mother to four children. She says, "I love it that even if I'm in the city, I hear the sound of the birds, but I also hear the sound of the MRT." It is precisely this contrast that makes her admire the house more. It's a place where she can relax, bond with her family, and be at ease in a seemingly uneasy world outside.

Priceless historical link

"You could say it's my dream house," the lady of the house begins.

As a kid, she lived on the same street in this exclusive village. When she got married, she eventually moved out to Quezon City and then to Alabang. In 2010 she and her husband decided to build their new home on the same street where she spent her youth.

They sought the expertise of respected architect Ed Ledesma, who

brought in sisters Sheila and Mara Asuncion of Leandro V. Locsin Partners, Architects, to help in the interior design. The couple was "very involved," as it was their first time to conceptualize a house from scratch. It took 18 months before they moved into their new home in 2011.

The property was previously owned by President Ramon Mag-saysay's family. This was where they resided when they moved out of Malacañang Palace after the president's untimely death in 1957. The property therefore has a priceless link to history, though in practical terms, the land orientation is unconventional, being narrow and long rather than wide and horizontal. The old trees on the lot also added to the challenge of design and construction.

The couple and the design team agreed on working with the contour and verdant nature of the lot. Pining for the wide open spaces and fresh air reminiscent of their former residence in Alabang, they eventually decided on building a modern, Asian-inspired resort home.

"I didn't want anything formal, I wanted to feel like I'm in a vacation (home), where I would always feel at home," the lady of the house explains.

Bringing the outdoors in

Every detail of the house was directed towards the tropical theme, stressing the modern and minimalist, while completely embracing the natural elements that were already there.



The impressively constructed and designed lanai, which makes up the other half of the first floor. It is adjacent to the kitchen and leads to the lap pool on the right. This is the highlight of the resort home, cooled with natural air and lit with bare sunlight. Everything is kept in wood, including the dining table (an old piece of property from the family's former residence in Alabang), daybeds and sofas by Nicole Arellano, ceiling fans, and the ubiquitous wooden slots that shoot down from the ceiling. "We wanted the higher ceiling *para mas maaliwalas talaga*," relates Shiela on the architecture.







OPPOSITE PAGE: The kitchen, photographed here with the family's English Mastiff. This area is the favorite of lady of the house. "I cook a lot. For me, it's my space. In fact, sometimes, I insist to have dinner there. I just find it cozy. It's bright and airy, and it opens up to the lanai," she explains. The kitchen tabletops made of granite with aluminium finish complement the intricate pattern of the tiles. **RIGHT:** The entertainment area, found left from the foyer. Here, Shiela and Mara used a theme that is nonetheless simple and calming with that of the the living area, as seen with the use of wood, white sofa, Chinese porcelain, and a Barrington carpeting work for the rug. A nude painting by Francesca Enriquez auctioned off by the uncle of the lady of the house after his death creates drama on an otherwise blank wall.



"My architect said, 'Less is more. Not everything should look too cluttered,'" the lady of the house says. "So we said, 'Let's try to keep it simple, and bring the outdoors in.'"

The tall front door, made of *narra* with a *kamagong* handle, for example, is structured between glass walls, giving it a "floating" effect. It leads into a foyer featuring a wall, which eventually reveals the large space comprising both the dining room and the living room beyond.

The living area has sofas and pillows in a sandy white palette imported from Italy, a custom-made green-white patterned carpet from Barrington Carpet & Flooring Design in Oklahoma, and artworks of Arturo Luz, H.R. Ocampo and Gus Albor, among others, plus a painting portraying the lady-owner done by Tess Mendoza, a close friend. In the dining area is a long table made of glass and eight white leather seats.

With the glass walls that shoot up to the ceiling, almost the entire area has a full view of the landscaped garden, the lap pool, and the lanai. Assured that it would never be cut down, the elderly mango tree extends to the second floor, which has white stone floors, adding to the calming resort feel of the place.

The lanai is another soothing sanctuary, with the family's old din-

ing table—transported from their old residence and refurbished as the centerpiece—plus old daybeds and sofas, and newly fashioned wooden chairs and tables by Nicole Arellano. It faces the four-foot deep lap pool and the green scene that extends to the creek outside. Adjacent to the lanai is the kitchen, kept bright with a high ceiling and tabletops and counters of granite in aluminum finish.

The entertainment area in the foyer is aligned with the theme, with wood and ceramics plus another Barrington carpet masterpiece for the furniture. An oil painting by Francesca Enriquez—an auctioned piece that had been won at a family bid—hangs on the side.

The way to the second floor is at the right of the foyer. It welcomes one to the warm but, at the same time, cool atmosphere, with the wooden flooring and white walls. The second floor houses the four children's individual rooms, a family lounge, a gym, and, located east and at the far end from the stairs, the master's bedroom.

The master's bedroom is in itself a resort hotel suite, complete with sandy white and wooden furniture, a high ceiling, finished in wood, with a fan, and wooden blinds that let slip in a view of the tamarind tree, the pool, and the morning sun.

A resort hotel suite at its finest, the master's bedroom faces the east to greet the sunrise. An aged tamarind tree, instructed to be never cut down, offers a very natural ambiance, too. Inside, all elements lead to the wooden theme: from the high ceiling, the blinds, the table set by Nicole Arellano, the bed by Designs Ligna, to the floor.

Entirely a family affair

The tropical theme also speaks of the couple's love for the outdoors, as they are avid runners who have joined marathons here and abroad.

"I love the outdoors. My husband and I run three to four times a week. We bike. We swim. Everything here is incorporated into our lifestyle," the lady of the house says.

"A lot of people say that couples fight when they're building a house, but, *kami*, no. Everything—from the budget to the choice of furniture—was a conscious decision. It was made together. It was good. We enjoyed the process," she says.

She joined the Asuncion sisters in purchasing furniture, and, as attested by the two designers, was practical but just as meticulous with quality. She sourced most of the items locally, going to W17, Designs Ligna, and aforementioned brands for the best.

Having gone through the process of house-building together, the couple have become truly concerned about making their house a homey place even with the generous amount of space. But even that was a no-brainer, after all, as they are warm, friendly, and close-knit.

One can say that family rooms abound in this house. Consider these: The lanai is where both sides of the family ("huge families," describes the lady of the house) come together on special occasions. The kitchen, the lady-owner's favorite spot in the house (she loves that it's naturally airy and illuminated) is where she can cook a simple dinner for the family or a huge group. The entertainment area is where the members of the extended family and friends gather to watch the international bouts of boxing champ Manny Pacquiao. The designated family room has a TV set and a couch to compensate for the intentional absence of televisions in the individual rooms. Why, even the old mango tree is a family haven for various species of birds who fly in from the nearby golf course.

Indeed, all creatures great and small in this family sanctuary have learned to appreciate life more amidst the quietude—"far from the madding crowd"—that is the gift of nature. ❶







ANIPA HUT REVISITED

THIS COUPLE, OWNERS OF A
110-YEAR-OLD HOUSE IN FRANCE,
FINDS BEAUTY IN THE *BAHAY KUBO*

BY CAL TAVERA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL DEL ROSARIO



The couple loves the natural lighting of their beach home and the minimum amount of maintenance it requires. With the common problem of termites in the area, the owners decided to stay away from wood and stick with concrete. They kept the surface raw, dressing it up with Lanko finishing and nothing more. Inspired by the husband's love for sailing and other water sports, they shaped the canvas into a sail to shade the outdoors. In picking the ideal property, they opted not to settle by the beach. With typhoons threatening the country at least once a year, this area gets a lot of water. The wife shares, "I get seasick when I just see water. This position is an amicable compromise of water and greens."



ABOVE LEFT: To introduce texture in the flooring, the architect placed Machuca cement tiles to break the monotony. They serve as a backdrop to the husband's nautical collections from around the world. They are displayed on a table which originally works as an artwork for the wall until the couple decided to optimize its purpose.

LEFT: For an accent piece, interior designer Ivy Almario installed the remaining coco lumber for the wall against the stairs. To fortify them, the timber is dipped in salt water for a couple of weeks. According to Ivy, the charm lies in the age of the coco lumber. The older it is, the better it looks. Traces of the wood's fibers are still visible, creating a more natural look to the space. Narra wood planks make up the stairs leading to the second floor.



RIGHT: The living room on the ground floor can easily be converted into a fourth bedroom should there be extra guests staying over. The L-shape sofa is a sofa bed in disguise, purchased by the owners' daughter as a gift. The distressed louvered partitions can be rearranged to create privacy. Since the interior designer is not fond of air conditioners, the units hide behind slots to minimize their presence.

NESTLED IN THE COASTAL EDGE of Nasugbu and surrounded by Punta Fuego's fine white sand, a nipa hut-inspired beach house is the perfect vacation home for its wayfarer owners. The wife shares, "My husband, who is French, dreamed of having a nipa hut."

While most of the neighboring houses mirror city homes, this couple opted for something low maintenance with abundant natural lighting and flexible with good bones. They collaborated with veteran interior designer Ivy Almario and Cebu-based architect Ed Gallego, who is known for his *bahay kubo* inspirations and cross ventilation ideas. He worked on the initial drawing of the husband, who happens to be an engineer.

While the idea is quaint, living in a hut is not very practical for a country prone to typhoons. Architect Gallego helped the couple to build a fortified version of a nipa hut home. He brought a modern eye to the traditional ways, retained the best qualities and edited some of the

less successful ones. The wife says, "When you enter the living room, the corridor is pretty wide. In case a typhoon visits, we have to close everything and the space is pretty small. The living room can be converted into a fourth bedroom because the sofa doubles as a sofa bed."

Continuity and simplicity

Repetition in the architecture and interior design is fundamental to this two-storey house. To infuse continuity and simplicity, the house was restrained in both the materials and palette. Concrete played a pivotal part as the flooring, walls and ceiling. To soften the look, the architect insisted on a surface preparation finishing material called Lanko for the exterior and interior. Specially shipped from France, it produces a milky effect over time.

The sociable couple likes to host intimate parties for family and friends. Guests who decide to sleep over stay in identical bedrooms;

"You know what is nice about working with Ivy? We told her what we had and she worked around it," says the wife. This is their second project with the designer and it's worlds apart from their home in Alabang. For this home, the designer had to work with the owner's several nautical instruments which includes compasses, barometers and a hard hat diving helmet. **BOTTOM:** A closer look at the vintage navy ship compass that was salvaged from an old boat.



even the beds, designed by the architect, are the same. Each room comes with their own private bathroom dressed in the same grey tiles, and kept hidden through distressed louvered doors camouflaged as closet doors.

Yet, the finished effect is not at all severe. All areas, for example, have display walls for their eclectic, colorful art. The couple acquired them from Vietnam, which is known for their art galleries. Currently, the husband is living in Hanoi so the wife divides her time commuting between the Philippines and Vietnam.

Aside from the art, the husband's nautical objects are found throughout the beach house. The wife says, "He has been collecting them even before we got married, and we have been husband and wife for 32 years. They come from all over the world, some from French antique shops and some from a 100-year-old boat from the Pakistani navy. They say all boats have to die at a certain point and the government auctions them off. These came from the Admiral's quarters." The collection is inspired by the husband's hobby of sailing, which is a common pastime for the French.

View from the south

While the couple is adamant on keeping things simple, they had one requirement while scouting for the ideal property: a view facing the





Before the husband accepted a consulting job in Hanoi, the couple enjoyed spending intimate time with their friends during the weekends. A group of eight to ten people is ideal because when the party is too big, they hardly get to talk to them. Since the beach house is out of town, the guests have the option to stay over in the house that holds three identical bedrooms. Each bed is from one design, customized by the architect and built locally.





LEFT: All the furniture found in the dining area is ideal for the outdoors so even when it rains, it doesn't matter. Fish artworks from Vietnam are shipped over to go with the nautical accents around the house.

ABOVE: Since they also lived abroad previously, the couple is independent and not used to people catering to their needs. While there is a kitchen downstairs for the staff, they also constructed one beside the dining area. Just like the husband, the wife prefers a small kitchen and bar where they can cook for themselves and make their own drinks.

sea going in the south direction. The wife says, "My husband claims it is more alive. You feel an energy that is not present when facing north."

The property is blessed with just such a view, and the architect and designer focused on producing invisible borders between the indoors and outdoors through large windows and flexible partitions that can open up for more space or enclose one. They maximized the seascape by using sliding doors instead of a permanent wall for the back of the house. This also helps cool the place and make it brighter.

To enjoy the view further, a patio was created with a mini bar, lounge and dining area. For this couple, the heart of the house remains its outdoor spaces. In the daytime, the wife's favorite area is the swimming pool. At night, she enjoys staying in the upstairs balcony because it is wide, and during the months of October and November, they receive a special treat of falling stars. She says, "We do not really like air conditioners, but we installed them for guests. We just didn't expose the aircon."





OPPOSITE PAGE: The couple decided to work with Architect Ed Gallego after experiencing his beach house in Cebu. He enjoys playing with the structure of the nipa hut and his projects have been featured here and abroad. For this home, he placed wide windows and partitions for the rooms that can open for ventilation. The design is kept simple. The original ceiling was designed with black and white stripes but the husband insisted it should be plain. The husband explains, "I do not want it to look like a five-star hotel because it is not." **ABOVE:** Most of furniture pieces found outdoors come from Coast Pacific, a furniture company that creates natural looking pieces made from plastic. They are mixed with items from their other beach house in France. The outdoor spaces remain the couple's favorite areas to relax in.

Nothing contrived

Due to the husband's banking career, the couple has traveled the world and changed houses 14 times, residing in such places as Egypt, India, Caracas, and Paris. They previously set up residence overlooking the English Channel, a project her husband was part of. In the Philippines, their house looks Indian. In France, they have a 110-year-old house.

They admit that the styles of their homes vary. However, they stand by one philosophy: Nothing should be too contrived. The wife says, "I do not want guests to be swimming, then telling them later not to sit in certain areas and make them feel uncomfortable. We want everything to be functional and not just for display. Every piece of furniture has to be used. This is a very practical house. Things have to mix and match and we share the love for open spaces.

She admits, "To be honest, we didn't warm up to the idea of building a home here initially even though we have been members for the longest time. We felt it was too manicured and preferred Tali, but we thought it was a good place in the end because our children had many good memories here when they were younger.

"Also, the marina is just nearby. When my husband gets old, he can go down with his telescope and spy on people," jokes the wife. ❶



MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL

THERE IS NO ONE WORD TO DESCRIBE
THE XERES-BURGOS HOME—EACH
AREA HAS ITS OWN STORY TO TELL

BY MARISSA LOPA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



The Spanish/Mexican inspired living room welcomes every guest right after entering the gate.



THE SIMPLE FACADE of the Spanish style home of Alfred “Alby” and Maria Clara “Maricar” Xeres-Burgos belies the many facets of this beautiful home. The first hint is when you are welcomed in through a small side gate entrance straight into the living room. That’s right, no traditional front door.

Right off the bat, the impression is that this couple built their home around what suits them as opposed to what was expected of them, given that Alby is CEO and president of Landco Pacific Corporation, leisure resort developer and purveyor of prestigious properties such as Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas, among others.

The Spanish/Mexican flavor throughout the house is inspired by Landco’s earlier projects, the Ponderosa leisure farms. Seven years ago, with three children in tow, the couple hired a contractual firm and worked with the in-house architect to help them put their vision into paper. Today, the family has grown with the addition of another child and a dog.

Vignette of family heirlooms

The living room holds precious family heirlooms and mementos. It is classically furnished in wood framed colonial style sofas and arm-chairs, which are very comfortable to sit on. Maricar’s grandmother’s intricately carved antique divan holds court on one side, and family pictures are lovingly displayed on a side table.

TOP LEFT: A beautiful corner in the garden. **TOP RIGHT:** Mexican tiles are prominently installed in the kitchen backsplash and on the walls of the pocket herb garden that opens at the far end wall. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The dining room is reminiscent of those intimate Spanish dining rooms with its rich brocade chairs and crystal candlesticks, and is used for special occasions.







The master bedroom has its own little balconies looking into the inner courtyard and to the front of the property.

The living room is usually the “staging” area or reception area when they entertain guests for lunch or dinner. This is where they gather and served with Maricar’s delectable *hors d’oeuvres* and fine wine from Alby’s private collection before everyone goes to the formal dining room or the roof deck, which is the piece de resistance.

Alby saw the roof deck at a family friend’s home in San Bernardino, California. Wooden posts and trellis with an opaque fiberglass sheet make up the roof to protect it from the rain and the sun, which can be quite intense, especially in the summer. This is where most, if not all, their entertaining is done. This is where Alby’s state-of-the-art stainless steel grill grandly sits and awaits the master of the house to grill to his heart’s content. The clear view and the constant breeze give the area an aura of calm.

On one side of the deck is a little corner vignette of family heirlooms with three dainty wooden settees and lounge chair perfect for late afternoon tea. Maricar usually sets up a long table, much like in European homes, with crisp white linen tablecloth and heirloom china and flatware. To complete the elegant yet uncontrived look, she rents prettily turned out wooden Tiffany chairs from Maru Ocampo. Potted bougainvilleas run riot with their vibrant hot blooms.

A week long cruise to Mexico, while the house was being built, further enhanced the Spanish influence and spurred a mini shopping spree for authentic Mexican terra cotta glazed tiles and a hand painted sink that is the powder rooms’ main feature.



A grand table setup in the roofdeck where most of the entertaining is done. RIGHT: A little corner vignette of family heirlooms with three dainty wooden settees and lounge chair perfect for late afternoon tea.



Perfect spill-over space

The dining room, living room and kitchen corridor open up to a tiled patio in the middle of the house. It's the perfect outdoor spill-over space while Maricar prepares special treats from her well-equipped kitchen, which is her domain. It is spacious enough to entertain a few guests comfortably and to have a 40-inch flat screen TV in one corner. This is where she eagerly watches her favorite cooking shows and whips up new and better dishes along with the standard house specialties to the delight of family and friends. The Mexican tiles are prominently installed in the kitchen backsplash and on the walls of the pocket herb garden that opens at the far end wall.

All the doors are antique hardwood doors from Vigan, Ilocos, adding to the old world feel of each entranceway.

The dining room is reminiscent of those intimate Spanish dining rooms with its rich brocade chairs and crystal candlesticks. This is the most formal room in the house and is used for special occasions.

The bedrooms are located on the second floor. Each of their four children has their own bedroom. The master bedroom has its own little balconies looking into the inner courtyard and to the front of the property.

There is no one word to describe the Xeres-Burgos home because each area has its own story to tell. Here is a family full of love for life, which translates into a home that continually unfolds and surprises you. 



SOUTHERN EXPOSURE

A STRETCH OF VERDANT LAND
ENVELOPS THIS CEBU GETAWAY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY **MAITINA BORRAMEO**





The main portal into the estate is finished in *runo*. An imposing concrete structure frames it while overscaled planters on concrete pedestals frame it.

BERNIE ABOITIZ DESCRIBES HERSELF as a “lover of life, an empty-nester who has been married for a lifetime—29 years to the love of [her] life, a minimalist, an educational advocacy enthusiast, a pescetarian and a vegetable lover with a passion to keep fit...” A rest home in Cebu functions as her personal haven, one where she can bask in the glow of the stars during moonlit evenings, and enjoy clear oceanside vistas during the day.

Building this home was a function of her desire to carve out a space for her and her husband, “a rest house away from the bustle and traffic of Cebu... to while away our weekends to rest, entertain or explore the neighboring north islands around Cebu.” The rest house and its environs are the antithesis of the city, where Bernie and her family experience life’s simple indulgences.

A formidable team was involved in building this vision which sits on an expansive lot, with a view that showcases Cebu’s north side. Architect Pilar Romero-Salas Streegan, a relative and a family friend to the Aboitizes, helmed the design and the development team for the project. “I trusted her skillful design in making it glorious, expansive. From the Balinese-inspired villas encompassing ocean views with open-aided bathrooms, to the designs of the finials, rooftop, unpainted cement columns and the high-lit wooden ceiling in the living area and dining room and bamboo ceiling in all rooms with high visible glass windows.”





Generous helpings of natural light filter into the living areas, replete with furniture meticulously chosen from Cebu's best designers and manufacturers.





OPPOSITE PAGE: The dining area looks out to a vista that celebrates the glorious seaside. A rustic wooden table plays host to dining implements that have the marine theme. **TOP LEFT:** An outdoor shower provides relaxation in suite to each bedroom. **TOP RIGHT:** View of the outdoor shower from the bath's vanity side shows that it is treated as an escape, an outdoor getaway to while away concerns and woes.

For the interiors, interior designer Rene Orosa gave life to Bernie's vision of having a Balinese-inspired retreat, where each villa shares a view of the ocean, and the omnipresent humming of the waves from the sea lulls visitors. Of her design team, Bernie enthusiastically shares, "[They] shared and helped me create my vision," speaking of the inspired collaboration palpable in the team which yielded pleasing results. "With the flowing waters of the koi pond, the landscaping, Indian and African decorations around and the lit high wooden ceiling in the living room, it has become an oasis of relaxation, feasting, dining and an essential space for family and friends' get-togethers," she says.

Numerous highlights

The home has numerous highlights, beginning with the bedrooms, each with an ensuite outdoor bath. "The open air bathrooms with the rain showerhead under the blue sky take your troubles away. When you bathe under the stars, it feels like a relaxing haven for us and all of our guests. Another feature is taking a rest on the bed in the room and seeing the ocean waves and the horizon. You don't want to leave at best," the proud owner and hostess says.

On special weekends, or on ordinary days, the gazebo hosts an array of activities. It can function as the owner's favorite perch while reading



ABOVE: The gazebo presents the perfect opportunity to perch with a good read. On occasions, celebrations complete with dancing grace the space. **RIGHT:** A bed that echoes the undulating waves is the centerpiece of this bedroom. The outdoors are called in through large doors that ushers in light. A painting of a tropical fruit crowns the walls.

a book, or on more festive occasions, a veritable dance hall teeming with verve and celebration. “It has a sofa for you to catch up on your reading, or where [you can have] *pica-pica* and drinks before dinner and during special weekends. [You can also have] dance instructors there, too. On my last birthday, I had a band with instructors and [we were] dancing through the night. It was truly enjoyable,” Bernie says.

Verdant Grounds

Not to be missed are the verdant grounds that surround the space. Encompassing a kilometer, the green lawn is a favorite spot for daily exercises and rejuvenation. It is a prelude to the expanse this area offers, where activities such as speedboat rides and exploration of the neighboring islands await its visitors.

With all the pleasures of owning one’s own resort getaway, Bernie is grounded, and warns of the maintenance and other issues a homeowner needs to be aware of when venturing into building a rest home. “It is another household to run. You have to train another staff to put up a clean room with nice bedding, serve food and maintain the grounds and repairs. This takes much effort for my husband and me, but when we enjoy our own private, breezy haven on the outskirts of the bustling city, it is so well worth it. We are doing rehabilitation now from Typhoon Yolanda and it was more lush with the *talisay* trees and surrounding green fence prior to the storm surge. Now, we are challenged with making it look the way we want it, and finally reactivate our beach forest. Our beach house isn’t complete, but there is pleasure in putting our personality in it while still inviting friends and family,” says the gracious hostess. **11**





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It's Thrilling!

Resort Living



The idea of vacation these days is no longer limited to a day full of exploration and exciting adventures. It has become a lifestyle. That's why, even if you simply spend your day resting and relaxing inside a resort's room, you are, in effect, vacationing. It is for this reason that the term "staycation" was also coined, because a lot of people nowadays would rather spend their spare time cozied up in a room, enjoying a good movie over good food and in good company. Now, if you're one of the many people who are dreaming of bringing the peaceful and laid-back resort vibe into your own home, you will find the following pages inspirational and aspirational. From minimalist, luxurious, eccentric, rustic to the local, **Metro Home & Entertaining** shows you key resort looks you can easily recreate in your own abode.

The Island of the Sun

One of El Nido, Palawan's resorts, Pangulasian Island in Bacuit Bay is a luxury hideaway that's located on a pristine beach with an incredible marine sanctuary and a tropical forest where a diverse flora and fauna thrive. Dubbed as the "Island of the Sun," Pangulasian provides guests with scenic views of the sunrise and the sunset.

The beauty of this island isn't limited to what can be seen and experienced outside, though. Wait until you get inside Pangulasian and experience its modern, luxurious amenities. It has a contemporary Filipino and cutting-edge "green" design aimed at respecting the natural cycles of the island. The design team behind Pangulasian is headed by Leandro Locsin and Associates led by Andy Locsin and Ed Ledesma, in collaboration with architects Conrad Onglao and Noel Saratan. For the lamps and wall sconces, furniture designer Kenneth Cobonpue took cue from fishermen's lanterns. The pieces of furniture and décor used in Pangulasian are made of natural materials, reinforcing its commitment to being an eco-resort and to adhering to the standards of sustainable tourism in the Philippines.

For inquiries and reservations, contact 902-5990 or visit their website www.elnidoresorts.com/pangulasian-island-resort.

DESIGN SMARTS

- When going for a Filipino design aesthetic, incorporate elements of the *bahay kubo* to your interiors. These are characterized by key features like raised floors that reference the *papag* and pitched roofs.
- For resort-inspired homes, emphasize the organic by using elements, accents and finishing inspired by nature, such as tables with wood trunk and twig bases and thatched roofs.

"Pangulasian is a newly opened resort that's well-developed, well-managed and well-maintained. The staffers are courteous and efficient. The amenities are new and updated. The food is good and presented well. The resort has a beautiful beach and is surrounded by beautiful lagoons and caves, which guests are privileged to visit. These island-hopping activities are all first class, with the staff very knowledgeable about the tour and the islands. The personalized service, the modern Filipino tropical look, the delicious food available and, of course, the gorgeous beauty of nature around it make this resort worth a visit."

—Grace Baja, blogger (thespoiledmummy.com)







Pangulasian boasts of 42 deluxe accommodations: eight Canopy Villas perched on stilts above the forest, 24 Beach Villas, six Pool Villas, and four Kalaw Villas in a secluded cove at the west end of Pangulasian. Resort facilities include a boutique, library, restaurant and bar at the Clubhouse, an infinity pool with beach bar, gym, spa, hiking trail with view deck, Scuba Shack and marine sports center. Experience the best vacation: take a morning or afternoon walk in the 750-meter stretch of white sand beach; enjoy different watersports like diving, windsurfing, sailing, and kayaking; go on Guided Eco Tours across the 45 islands and islets of El Nido; or pamper yourself at Pangulasian's spa, which offers a variety of Asian, European, and tropical face and body treatments, including the traditional Filipino *hiyo* massage.





Hidden Paradise

A secluded utopia of sun, white sand and pristine sea waters, Dedon Island's reputation for being the best place to retreat, rejuvenate and return to the world in a "barefoot state of mind" is more than just hearsay. Utilizing local materials and craftsmanship and integrating it with nature, this premier resort breaks the boundaries between indoors and out. Promising to be an unforgettable nature experience, Dedon is truly a home away from home.

—Anzenne Roble

For inquiries and reservations, you may visit their website www.dedonisland.com or email home@dedon-island.com. For assistance with booking and travel, you can contact 09177017820.

DESIGN SMARTS

- If space allows for abundant grounds on your property, spruce it up with clusters of oversized outdoor furniture. These function as islands on which guests can lazily bask in the sun, and enjoy their getaway.
- Consider developing the property in groups. You may build the main beach house or villas first, then progress to imbue the space with cabanas that offer spots for meditation, yoga and other relaxing activities that make the place a veritable oasis of calm. These may be simple structures with thatched roofing, but syled with luxurious sheer drapes, candelabras and small receptacles for flower arrangements in water; these touches afford the space character and charm.
- Pay attention to all the details. In the Dedon Resort, charming tassels made of sea shells function as tiebacks to the bed's canopies. In the same way, incorporate the theme wherever you can. It may take time, but the process should be as luxurious as the idea of having your very own resort-style getaway.
- When all color schemes seem to fail, remember that white works very well in resort-like settings. White canvas for upholstery, white muslin for drapery—they all reference large ship sails, sailor uniforms and white sand beaches.
- Don't be afraid to repeat the tried and the true. In designing resort style, take advantage of available local materials and craftsmanship for wall treatment, ceilings and furniture. Especially in the Philippines, there are varied resources for woven items, *runo*, bamboo and nipa. They seem to be prevalent in numerous resort settings, but that's only because they work, are available locally, and hence, are stylish yet sustainable. Remember that working with local resources may make maintenance easier for you.









OPPOSITE PAGE: A spa area in one of Dedon Resort's cabanas is styled with sheer drapes, providing privacy, and candles that set the relaxed mood. **COUNTERCLOCKWISE:** The suites are appointed with canopied beds against intricately carved wooden screens. The bar area is wrapped in weaves, reminiscent of the finishes found in Dedon furniture. An assembly of white woven furniture looks out to the magnificent ocean view. The luxurious shower area takes center stage in the bathroom whose ceilings are finished with a grid of woven materials and wood trim.



Barefoot Luxury

A haven hidden in the mysterious cloak of Baler, a city tucked in between the formidable Sierra Madre mountain range and the waters of the Pacific Ocean, Costa Pacifica draws in people who seek a memorable getaway. Its architecture, interior design, feel, and look have been intended to celebrate a laidback spirit, or in the words of The Raintree Hospitality Group vice president Andrej Wisniewski, “barefoot luxury.” Inspired by Baler’s natural ruggedness, the friendly vibes of the people, mystique of the surfing culture, Costa Pacifica combines modern amenities and features with organic details evoking that easygoing lifestyle.

Renowned architect Ed Calma brought all these influences together and created a paradise of clean, architectural lines using local wood species and found materials such as native stones and fibers.

Aiming to provide the best home-away-from-home in Baler, experiencing Costa Pacifica becomes a real pleasurable discovery—of a province, a culture and a natural beauty that is distinctively Baler. —**Anzenne Roble** / *Photographs courtesy of Raintree Hospitality Group*

For inquiries and reservations, call 09178536040, or the Manila Sales Office, (632) 576-4555 or (632) 576-5000. Email inquiry@costapacificabaler.com or visit www.costapacificabaler.com.

DESIGN SMARTS

- Study the location on which you will build your resort hideaway. Often, the terrain of the land and its orientation give powerful design direction on issues such as the development’s main axis, procession of space, and approach to the area. Many beach side properties offer dramatic vistas. Don’t let this go to waste. Analyze your site plan, and express your thoughts to your architect before any design takes place.
- Consider teak or wood composite materials as pool decking. There are numerous varieties in the market. In planks, they can be replaced as needed.
- When using metal furniture for the outdoors in beach side projects, make sure they are stainless steel or powder coated, as the salty sea air proves to be extremely corrosive to metal.







ABOVE: White with splashes of color, each room in Costa Pacifica is a playful mix of casual luxury and beauty. RIGHT: A room with a view, the wide glass sliding doors doubles as a window letting in the sunlight and the sea breeze. OPPOSITE PAGE: Lounge and unwind in one of their pools (top) while enjoying the tropical paradise vibe. Costa Pacifica's bungalow (bottom left) and the Beach House (bottom left) that serves savory international and local cuisines, amid a laidback and cozy ambience.





Boracay Beauty

The favorite summer destination of many, Boracay has become associated with crazy parties and the nightlife. But in the midst of all that summer revelry in the island's Station 1, a new resort crops up to offer a cozy sanctuary where one can experience and indulge in the ultimate meaning of rest and relaxation. A Craftsmith project, its interiors were designed by Kitty Bunag, and brand identity by Mia de Lara. Located a few feet away from the breathtaking white sand beach, Lugar Bonito is a sight to behold with rooms inspired by the stark white villas of Greece. It has six rustic-themed rooms that are uniquely designed and furnished. The rooms are named after ancient Greek words that speak about their key styles: standard rooms *Myron* (sweet) and *Thales* (blossom), superior rooms *Kallias* (beauty) and *Hilarion* (cheerful), and family rooms *Bion* (life) and *Photine* (light). As Astrud Gilberto hummed with her signature bossa nova tune that inspired this getaway, a stay in this place assures, "Lugar bonito [is] a pretty place."

—**Photographs courtesy of Kitty Bunag**

For inquiries and reservations, contact tel. 475-6827 (Metro Manila office) or 09997955266 and 09173273970. Email at bookings@lugarbonitohotel.com

DESIGN SMARTS

- Apart from looking neat and clean, a predominantly white room serves as a great canvas for intricate and bold-colored pieces of furniture, decors, and accents. It makes a stylish and organized chaos in a decorated room possible.
- Feel free to spruce your all-white interior with vibrant colors found in ethnic textiles such as *suzanis*, or choose one powerful color (such as teal) to add interest.
- A resort-inspired room can be easily achieved with a refreshing bright white palette mixed with touches of wood and splashes of cool aquatic and earthy hues.
- Bring the feeling of vacationing to your room by incorporating an outdoorsy feel to it with items like a garden chair and lamp cages.
- Recycle! Vintage wrought iron pieces, and wood panels may be repainted and refinished to serve as clever repurposed accents.





RIGHT: The Kallias room features a bed with a white wooden carved bed frame in the “shabby chic” manner. This contrasts well with other brown wooden elements found in the room. **BOTTOM, FROM LEFT:** The restrooms are in a whitewash palette, with the Machuca-style floor tiles giving them a sense of eccentricity. All the rooms come with a slab of wall-mounted wooden table, a garden chair, and a bamboo ladder that doubles as a towel rack. True to its name, the Myron room looks sweet with the cool mix of blues and greens incorporated in the room through the steel bed frame accent, garden chair, drawers, pillows, and carpet. **OPPOSITE PAGE:** The Thales room looks chic, warm, and inviting with the wooden elements, dolly accents, and subtle pops of navy blue.





Redefining the Boracay Experience

A good friend of mine, after staying at the Discovery Shores in Boracay, declared, “From now on, it’s Discovery Shores or bust for me. I can’t go to Boracay and stay in any other place.” Many others echo this sentiment. And I feel exactly the same. From the minute I boarded their special speedboat, and took the welcome iced towel, I knew I was in good hands. When I got to my room, I was so touched to see my personalized ‘Welcome Home’ sign, along with homemade cookies and token presents, and a customized pillow. The complimentary footbath also eased my mind and got me in holiday mode.

The gracious proportions of the bedroom and bath are truly indulgent. The sense of openness and spaciousness redefines the Boracay experience. The streamlined and contemporary interiors add to the restful, laid-back vibe. But the Filipino furniture and accessories give this resort an appropriate sense of place. The lush landscaping and the minimalist architecture strike the right balance.

The poolside is also a favorite hangout, with its own bar; and the pool attendants who are constantly replenishing your drinks, bringing you your towels and cleaning your sunglasses. The beach butlers also make your sunbathing a completely relaxing pastime; they will usher you to the available loungers, again offer you drinks and fresh towels, and basically make you feel like royalty.

The breakfast buffet is a veritable feast and might make you too full to don your swimsuit. But whether it is a happy hour cocktail or a celebratory dinner at Indigo, the meals at Discovery Shores are always sumptuous.

The complimentary cookies and poolside snacks will also transport you to carefree childhood summer afternoons.

Discovery Shores have won many accolades from many travel websites and publications but the true award must be the legions of loyal clients who return year after year. I am just one of those who consider a return to Boracay as a return to Discovery Shores. —**Anton Barretto**

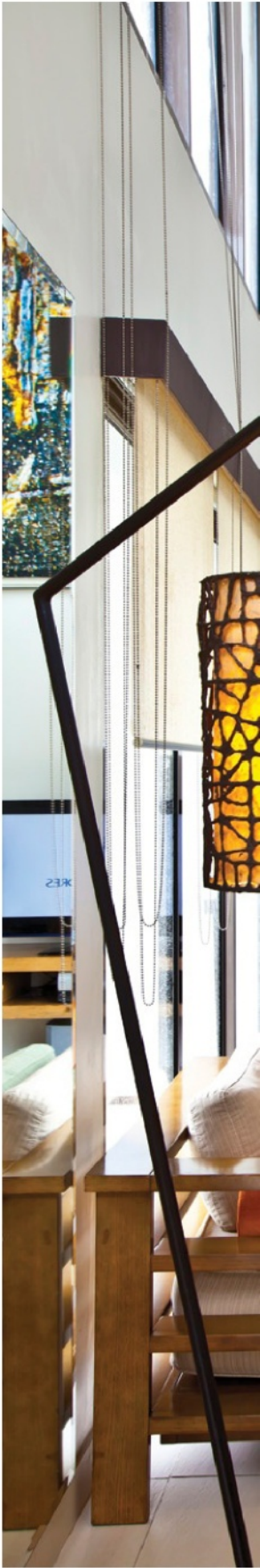
For inquiries and reservations, visit www.discoveryshoresboracay.com or call tel. 720-8888.

DESIGN SMARTS

- Space permitting, consider incorporating a double height room in your resort-inspired home. These let loads of light in, reminiscent of sun-kissed afternoons by the beach.
- Incorporate shrubbery, bamboo plants and other greens into your poolside landscape scheme. These lend ample shade and can function as screens for privacy.
- Use poufs and low tables on colorful woven mats to reference a casual, laidback beachside retreat.









OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: The poolside area of the Discovery Shores is replete with patches of greens, a soothing complement to the summer sun. **OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM:** A relaxed vibe is obtained through this arrangement of colorful poufs on woven mats on the shoreline. **CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** The double height living area in one of the suites affords luxurious natural lighting. Wood floors warm the bedroom suites. An open plan is marked with groupings of furniture that delineate the living and dining areas.



Shaped organically, a petrified wood center table serves as a statement piece in this living room. It references the outdoors, and provides a strong counterpoint to the stark white L-shaped sofa and the pops of colors that come from the striped carpet on which it stands.



Nordic Bliss

Located in a village situated in busy Makati City, this laid-back three-bedroom, split-level house is home to couple Paolo and Ria Prieto and their three sons. A family property built in the '70s, this used to be Paolo's bachelor pad. While it later underwent a makeover to suit the taste of the young couple, much of its structural design was retained; the renovations were mainly limited to the installation of walls and doors to separate one space from another, creating rooms for different purposes.

The couple moved into this house after they got married eight years ago, and over that span of time, they have created a home filled with an extraordinary collection of captivating artworks, tasteful pieces of furniture, and interestingly storied décor.

"We didn't start with a plan. We just bought what we like. But we're drawn to [the clean lines of] Scandinavian Design, [and the] Bauhaus, so we started with simple lines, then it just grew from there. Basically, when we buy stuff for the house, we don't really have an end goal in mind. If we like an item, then we'll buy it," Ria shares when asked about their vision. "If you look at it, our house feels easy. You can just sit and relax." —**Grace Libero**

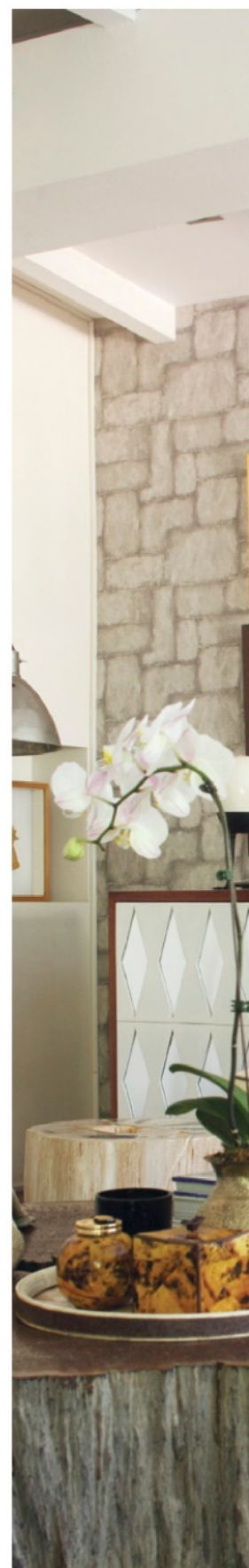
/Photographs by Terry Uy

DESIGN SMARTS

- Pared-back isn't synonymous to boring. A key element in the Scandinavian aesthetic is a neutral palette that can go from bright white to putty hues. It is mainly characterized by a fresh-air vibe underscored by the abundance of natural light that flows through the space, and the so-called "beautility" appeal wherein refined style, function and practicality merge impeccably. Making this subdued overall palette interesting is the incorporation of other elements key to Scandinavian style, such as wooden pieces or items that reference the outdoors to create a contrast with the light backdrop.
- Introduce pops of colors through an artwork spectacle. Since a Scandinavian-inspired home is predominantly subdued, inject some color through pieces of art since they further lend a feeling of warmth to the space.



The Scandinavian feel of the house extends to the dining room. But unlike the living room—which features polished wooden floors—the former has shiny white tiles that give it a clean and elegant bright white look. Adding drama are the black drapes that function as the backdrop for the scenes that take place in this room.





Mounted animal horns and faux taxidermy add an element of adventure to your space. Reference the wild outdoors with these.

The custom bar cabinet designed by Ria is her Fathers' Day gift to her husband. Its glossy finish, courtesy of the mirrors peeking through the diamond cut-outs, adds an interesting polished element to the area. The textured gray brick wallpaper adds a subtle roughed-up look to the living room.



The foyer features a warm and intriguing mix of textures and elements. The glossy white flooring is contrasted by the wall covered in "crazy cut" stones, a decidedly '70s interior touch. Hinting at the Scandinavian theme of the house are the textures found in the wooden elements, such as the twig table.



From the living room, a glass sliding door leads to this lanai, contributing to the natural light that comes into the house. The outdoor seating deviates slightly from the home's Scandinavian scheme. Notice the white frame through which the vines creep, referencing the Baroque. Adding a surreal touch is Hive by Kenneth Cobonpue's Animal Farm planter.



White is a popular choice for the wall, but keep in mind that there are various shades of white. Warmer whites make an understated backdrop to wooden furniture and accents.

One of the many draws of resorts is the local color that can be experienced while on vacation. A locale's flora and fauna are part of these, and are often inspiration for artisans. Sprinkle your space with figurines and planters in animal shapes for a fun, adventurous vibe.



Assembling a collection of anything takes tremendous time and effort, not to mention the sentimental value each piece brings. Display them proudly within built-in niches. Typically determined during a home's design development phase, these can be designed specifically, according to the showcased item's dimensions.

Wood gives warmth to a space. Here, it highlights each niche as a detail. Reference resort design's fondness for the natural with wood.

Weaves instantly lend a tropical resort vibe to a space. In the Philippines, these come in various incarnations as baskets, woven pillows and rugs. Find them in weekend markets to give a space rustic appeal.

Southeast Tropical

When the owners of this home originally built it, they enlisted esteemed Filipino architect, Francisco Mañosa, to execute this tropical haven for their family. In the architect's hands, the house was endowed with touches that are typical of his zeal for the contemporary adaptation of Filipino vernacular architecture. Hence, it possesses elements that champion local materials and large, open spaces that allow for natural ventilation. As it stands today, this urban oasis has experienced a renovation. Formerly a wide, open space, part of the garden was converted into a pool designed by Paulo Alcazaren for the lady of the house's daily exercise routine. A hut-like cabana occupies part of the garden, a space for the owner's fondness for al fresco breakfasts.

True to the owners' flair for the tropics, its interiors are decorated with accents that have been lovingly brought home from jaunts to Bali. Mingling these with home accessories from the Philippines' neighboring Southeast countries has enriched the home's design as the family grew. Nowadays, the owners delight in the company of their grandchildren who enjoy these tropical-inspired spaces, designed perfectly for family gatherings set in a space that feels like a perennial vacation.

—Anna M. Rosete / Photographs by William Ong

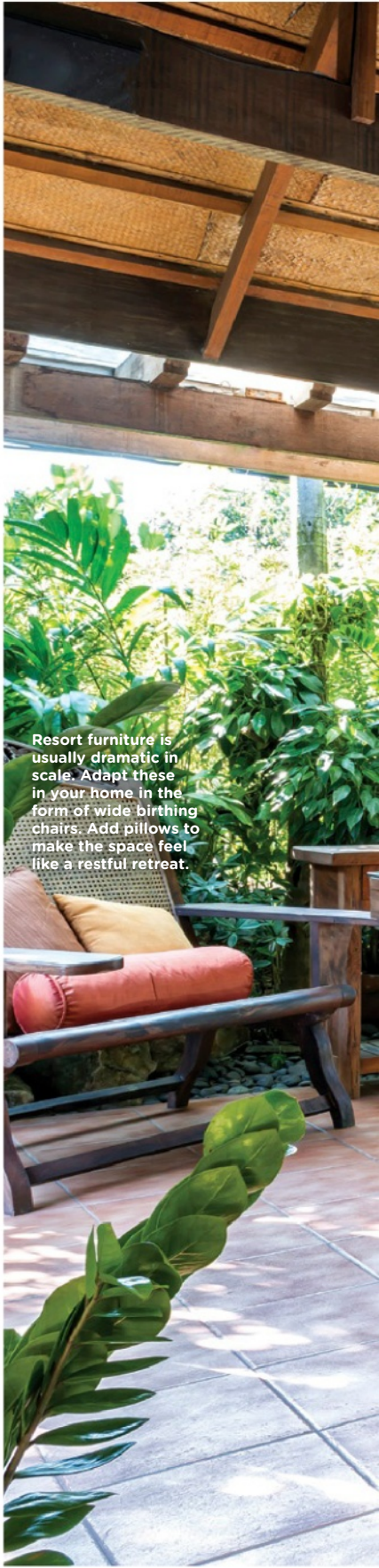
DESIGN SMARTS

- Consider opening up your interiors to the outdoors with the use of sliding partitions that let the refreshing breeze in. Rendered in glass, these lend your interiors with a dose of the greenery outdoors, making them feel fresh and open.
- For families or for the purpose of entertaining friends, large sofas function like islands within a room. They become a welcome respite and encourage mingling.
- In a setting with a predominantly neutral color scheme, go bold and daring by sprinkling jewel tones and ethnic motifs in accent cushions, figurines and in various decor. Used thoughtfully, these references to exotic cultures imbue a space with that well-traveled look.



Tucked in what could have been an awkward corner by the pool area is the outdoor bathroom in which the shower is playfully installed on a tree trunk. Massive Balinese doors headed by a transom with Asian motifs and latticework open to reveal this space.

Neutral is not boring, given the perfect combination of textures and shades. Nowadays, tiles come in random sets that represent a range of colors and textures. Take advantage of this for an easy wall treatment that recall the nature version.



Resort furniture is usually dramatic in scale. Adapt these in your home in the form of wide birthing chairs. Add pillows to make the space feel like a restful retreat.



Enjoy the outdoors without suffering the heat of the scorching sun by constructing a cabana by the pool area. Endow this space with high pitched ceilings that characterize Southeast Asian architecture. Install ceiling fans to cultivate a breeze.

The combination of blue and white references beach vistas and island getaways. It is a tried and tested color scheme for the resort look. Spice it up with shades of orange, blue's complementary color.

Sleek and modern furnishings are no strangers to the resort look. Here, they are set against a backdrop of long, white drapery that offer a light counterpoint to the severe lines and colors.

When decorating with sleek and modern furnishings, choose an element that will bring the organic into the composition to render a resort vibe. Here, the sisal rug functions as this element.





Unadulterated Oasis

Called “The Bridge House,” it is the abode that furniture designer Carlo Cordaro masterminded like no other. Built on top of a bridge, it sits on a hill and perfectly frames the breathtaking city view of Cebu. The use of natural light coming in through the large glass windows enhances the neutral colors of the interior. Each of its structural and functional areas has its own material. Carlo invented a compound material that looks like white sand compressed in cement and used it for the kitchen and study area flooring. The deck of the pool and the lanai is made of carbonized wood, making it both stylish and sustainable. Its unique architecture and execution garnered praises from esteemed architects like Duccio Grassi and the then owner of Studio Lissoni of Milan.

A beauty that is made of raw and natural materials, its minimalist appeal evokes a very relaxing ambience perfect for one’s retreat. *—Anzenne Roble / Photographs by Gaetano Aleano for Metro Society*

DESIGN SMARTS

- Employ sheer curtains that diffuse soft light into your space.
- Mix sleek, modern furniture with organic textures to reference resort style.
- Judiciously combine materials for a textured look that recalls the outdoors.
- Use whitewash finishes for furniture. They make the composition of the space feel light.

A careful mix of naturally-occurring materials adds texture, and recalls a palette found in the outdoors.







This expansive lanai—which features different types of wood found on the ceiling, floor, and pieces of furniture—is the homeowners' favorite area, as this is where most of their family gatherings take place. The sprawling thatched ceiling, *attap*-like roofing, and the exotic mix of natural materials make for a very interesting design. The construction allows fresh air to pass through the house, a design that is typically found in homes with Malay architecture.

The creative use of shells, as finishes for mirror frames, as servers or as chandeliers, as seen here, captures the beachside feel succinctly and effectively, for resort-inspired spaces.

Enclosing windows in *capiz* brings the vernacular language of materials into any space. It instantly makes a design convey an affinity for Filipino aesthetics.



Wide wood floor planks warm the space, a fitting contrast to the stone walls that envelop it.

Filipino Flair

Owned by a prominent family in Cebu, this house located in Bantayan Island stands on a property beside the ruins of an old Spanish fort. With the Spanish-Muslim conflict in the country lasting for several centuries, many Spanish forts were built by the shores to defend the towns from the Muslim. But partly because of this resistance, Spain never got to conquer Mindanao, so the Muslim's Islamic heritage was kept intact.

Inspired by the historical element and the rustic eccentricity of that landmark, the owners wanted a Malay look with a mix of Filipino and Islamic elements for their home. "They wanted a relaxed, warm, and family-friendly atmosphere in the house, with no obstruction of their view of the beach," someone close to the family shared, adding that what the homeowners love about their place are "the white sand beach, pristine waters, tall and big trees, and the sense of history because of the fort." —*Grace Libero / Photographs by Erwin T. Lim for Metro Society*

DESIGN SMARTS

- Sustainability is of great importance. Pay attention to energy efficiency, taking advantage of environmental qualities, and use of naturally sourced materials.
- Key elements in a Malay-inspired home are high ceilings and open, airy spaces to make way for natural ventilation.
- Use materials like teak and bamboo.
- For partitions, door headers and timber panels above windows, incorporate cut-out carvings. They make good ventilation in an area possible. Because of their fretted design, air flows through them.

Notice the timber panel that functions as a valance in the doorway opening. Its *okir*-like cut-outs are one of the key elements in a house that follows Malay architecture. Used in this manner, it creates a focal point by softening the interior architecture. Aside from the warmth that comes from the predominantly wooden surrounding, little details such as this valance ultimately create a comfortable space to live in.



This relaxing pebbled outdoor shower area allows its dweller to be one with the environment. The other restrooms in the house make use of wooden furniture and have small square window frames that may be opened wide to allow fresh air to pass through.



In keeping with the Filipino aesthetic of the home, large Venetian mirrors, reminiscent of ones used in local heritage homes, are used in the bathrooms.



Consider using tile complements to break the visual field.

Using a free-standing piece of furniture, such as this *aparador*, is a good alternative to predictable built-in closets. These also present more opportunities to design a stylized space.





If you have the opportunity, take advantage of the view outdoors. Bring them into the interiors with wide, open doors and windows.



In settings where the interiors are open to the outdoors, it is perfectly fine to employ neutral furnishings indoors, so that they do not compete with the exterior's verdant colors.

The New Oriental

This dream home situated on a hill took five years to make, but despite the long wait, owners Michel and Amparito Lhuiller felt that the result is worth it. In an interview with ***Metro Society***, Amparito explained how this secluded sanctuary came to be. "I planned it with Architect Filoteo 'Teng' Jacinto from Bacolod. He constructed a beautiful house for us and everything was executed to perfection. With Manila-based architect, Conrad Onglao, we shopped for fabric, Chinese carpets, lamps, antique frames, French chandeliers, and décor in Beverly Hills boutiques and Los Angeles galleries. "The antique Chinese and Japanese scrolls and porcelain and Lalique crystals I've accumulated over time are also displayed prominently. Local interior decorator, Rosebud Sala, collaborated with Onglao. Rosebud, who is also a good friend, helped me with the collection of my antiques, paintings, and setting up my gallery. Jaime Chua, a local landscape artist, did a fabulous garden for us," she recalls.

From the architecture, the materials used and down to the very last detail, this haven depicts Filipino in modern form. Its spacious and open rooms that face the breathtaking view of the sky, mountain, and sea of the City of Smiles bring about the relaxing ambience. **—Photographs by Philip Sison for Metro Society.**

DESIGN SMARTS

- As long as it is allowed by floor to slab heights, open up your ceilings to create a light, airy feel. Incorporate the natural by cladding these pitched ceilings with wood and wooden beams.
- Bring the outdoors in with large door and window openings.
- Layer textures, like the layered rugs in this lanai. Use organic textures such as sisal to create a vernacular feel.



Where you have ample space, consider planning your furniture in clusters. These create plenty of opportunities for entertaining.



An open plan allows for spaces to flow into each other, considering the interchangeable functions of each space. This way, they become versatile, and functions may be assigned to them as needed.



Adding fixtures in wrought iron gives the space a Mediterranean feel. Choosing these types of lanterns serve its purpose to illuminate, but do not overwhelm with heaviness.

For more height and visual texture, elevate your planters with a stand.

In tropical settings, the local *solihya* functions as a great alternative to warm and heavy brocades. Use them in hot and humid spaces.

The Outdoor Kitchen

THE HOME'S NEW HUB
IS SITUATED AL FRESCO

BY RAFAEL CALERO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LUCA TETTONI



Outdoor kitchen in Rafael Calero's Puesto del Sol in Calatagan, Batangas. Strained bamboo was used as cabinetry finish. On the countertops, teak for the island and black granite for the main counter. To the side, the Filipino version of the hearth, a *pugon* for outdoor cooking of roasts and pizzas.

NOWADAYS, THE OUTDOOR KITCHEN MEANS so much more than just being your friendly cooler filled with ice and drinks, and the barbecue grill. With the modernization of kitchen equipments, you can now easily have all the conveniences of an indoor kitchen while enjoying the view, the cool breeze and the company of family and friends.

Although most outdoor kitchens still have the grill as its focal point, it is not uncommon to be able to bake, roast, or even

mix drinks outdoors (as opposed to just using the bottle opener). The outdoor kitchen could well become the “new entertainment area,” especially for people who love to entertain guests. Here are some important things to consider when planning your very own outdoor kitchen:

Purpose. “Obviously, to cook!” you might think with exasperation. What I mean is you have to think of the function of the area, aside from cooking. Are you a secretly aspiring chef?

Will this also be used as a regular kitchen, or for special occasions only? With the purpose in mind, it would be much easier to know how the design of the kitchen will be as well as the equipment you would have to purchase, or even customize. Some brands carry appliances expressly for outdoor cooking, such as the Viking Series grills as well as its Gas Wok and Charcoal Smokers. They are perfect partners for both professional and kitchen aficionados.



Crushed limestone from the premises of the property was used judiciously for fabrication of floor tiles, bordered by pebble wash. The wall framing the cabinetry was similarly treated in limestone. In the *pugon*, bricks line the furnace. Mango wood is used to fire it up.

Location. Most outdoor kitchens are connected to the main house, particularly to the indoor kitchen. This is for easier access when gathering knives, bowls, and other utilities. This also makes food transport and relocation (in case of sudden rain) very convenient. You need to make sure that there is enough ventilation, and that the smoke does not go directly to your neighbor's house.

Materials. Being in a tropical country, it is easy to choose the materials for your outdoor kitchen. Just make sure that the materials are durable, weatherproof and heat resistant. Using stone-like tiles, granite, and stainless steel are still advisable rather than wood because wood tends to rot at some point, especially if it always gets wet. Electrical wiring should also be considered, if

you are planning to use electrical appliances.

Sense of style. Fashion sense should not be limited to the color of your apron and toque. There are so many stylish appliances nowadays to suit your whims. Want to show your flair for Italia? Why not install a pizza brick oven? Like watching the game or listening to music? Have an iPod dock installed, or a flat screen TV.

The possibilities for your outdoor kitchen are endless, limited only by your imagination and budget. However, the most important thing is to make sure that you will have a good time. Slaving away in a hot kitchen while friends and family are having a good time is no way to spend your weekends. Having an outdoor kitchen ensures that there is involvement from everyone. So let's start sizzling! ①

Design Smarts

PUGON-BUILDING TIPS FROM THE KITCHEN EXPERT

- The dome of the *pugon* should be a maximum of 30" high. Otherwise, heat doesn't stay in.
- Line your *pugon* with thick bricks.
- Mango wood is recommended for cooking. There are other varieties such as *molave*, but it seems a waste to use it for this purpose. Besides, mango wood laces the food with a wonderful flavor. It should be heated for 4 hours before cooking.
- Play around with the damper to adjust the flame and the smoke. —Rafael Calero

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gardens

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THE ARTISAN'S GARDEN

WITH A COMMITMENT TO ECO-CONSCIOUS LANDSCAPE DESIGN, THE POWER OF THIS RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE HAS ADDED IMPACT TO THE OWNERS' DAILY LIVES

BY IRISH DEGALA / PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES





ACKNOWLEDGED AS ONE OF THE MOST beautiful tropical gardens in the Philippines, situated in a self-contained community south of the metro, this 3000-sq.m. serene estate is proof of high aesthetics incorporated in outdoor living. Tapped to create an inspired design for this property, the homeowners hired Architect Pablo “Jun” Antonio Jr. of the FGU Builders Inc., and landscape design consultant, the late Frank Borja of DQA Designs, who specializes in integrated environmental design.

“We met with Frank Borja several times to discuss and develop our concept of designing the garden as if you are in a private resort, [with elements like] a pool and a nearby cabana where you can feel nature’s best against a backdrop of bamboo trees lined along the pool area,” says the owner.

The space has created an uplifting and surprising experience that begins at the concrete driveway of the house. There is a traditional formalism to the overall design, but the details represented in its execution are modern tropical. A palette of steel, wood, concrete, and ceramic *martaban* jars combined with gravel stones, pale bricks, white slatted panels and carefully considered plants such as bamboo, palms and shrubs are meticulously orchestrated in this sanctuary.

Executing the idea of repetition, contrast and color are carried throughout the garden. Divided by a central path, one side of the garden is almost entirely gravelled. It creates sound so subtle that the focus is on it rather than the surrounding street sounds while the cozy 5-ft. deep swimming pool anchors the far end. Plants are sculptural. Their color palette is governed by green, brown, and tan. Each element

ABOVE: The swimming pool serves as a contained expanse of blue amidst a sea of green rendered by the grass and other plants in this garden. **RIGHT:** The native mango trees in the larger landscape add additional visual interest.







The owners commissioned a Cebu-based furniture maker for this outdoor dining set that comes with new cushions, adding vibrance and purpose for outdoor relaxation.

has a purpose and contributes to the whole.

“We also wanted to capitalize on the three very old mango trees when one takes a stroll in the late afternoon. Plus a generous view of a spacious garden well manicured with carabao and bermuda grass,” the owner explains.

The idea was to create a landscape garden that is more fitting to a resort park environment, where the family can gather for an intimate dinner, spending quality time while enjoying recreational activities with their grandchildren, grilling with their siblings, cooking using the *pugon* or just hanging out, basking in the precious scenery and fresh breeze all over the place. There is also a spa garden just outside the master bedroom.

To complete the relaxing experience, Cebu-sourced outdoor furniture items accent the entire garden, and the jars on display are collected artifacts of the owner. Many of the existing mango trees are tucked into sunny spots. The small details that make this garden personal are everywhere. Neutral colors become punctuated with bright citrus green. This area is more playful, and the space is less strictly defined than in the front. A series of low, pebble platforms create a transition between the driveway and the back garden.

“In short, this is a garden configured to provide green serenity in a resort-like layout for total relaxation and meditation. Borja had no problems translating the concepts and themes. He is simply talented,” beams the proud owner.

There is a multitude of ideas within this small urban lot, yet the hand of a thoughtful and skilled designer is evident in its unity. This garden proves that intensely personal and experimental ideas can contribute to a fully realized design when there is thought behind the process. ❶



*With hundreds of nominations submitted for this year's **Philippines Property Awards** and judges well underway with the process of selecting the best of the best in the property sector, early seat reservations are now available.*

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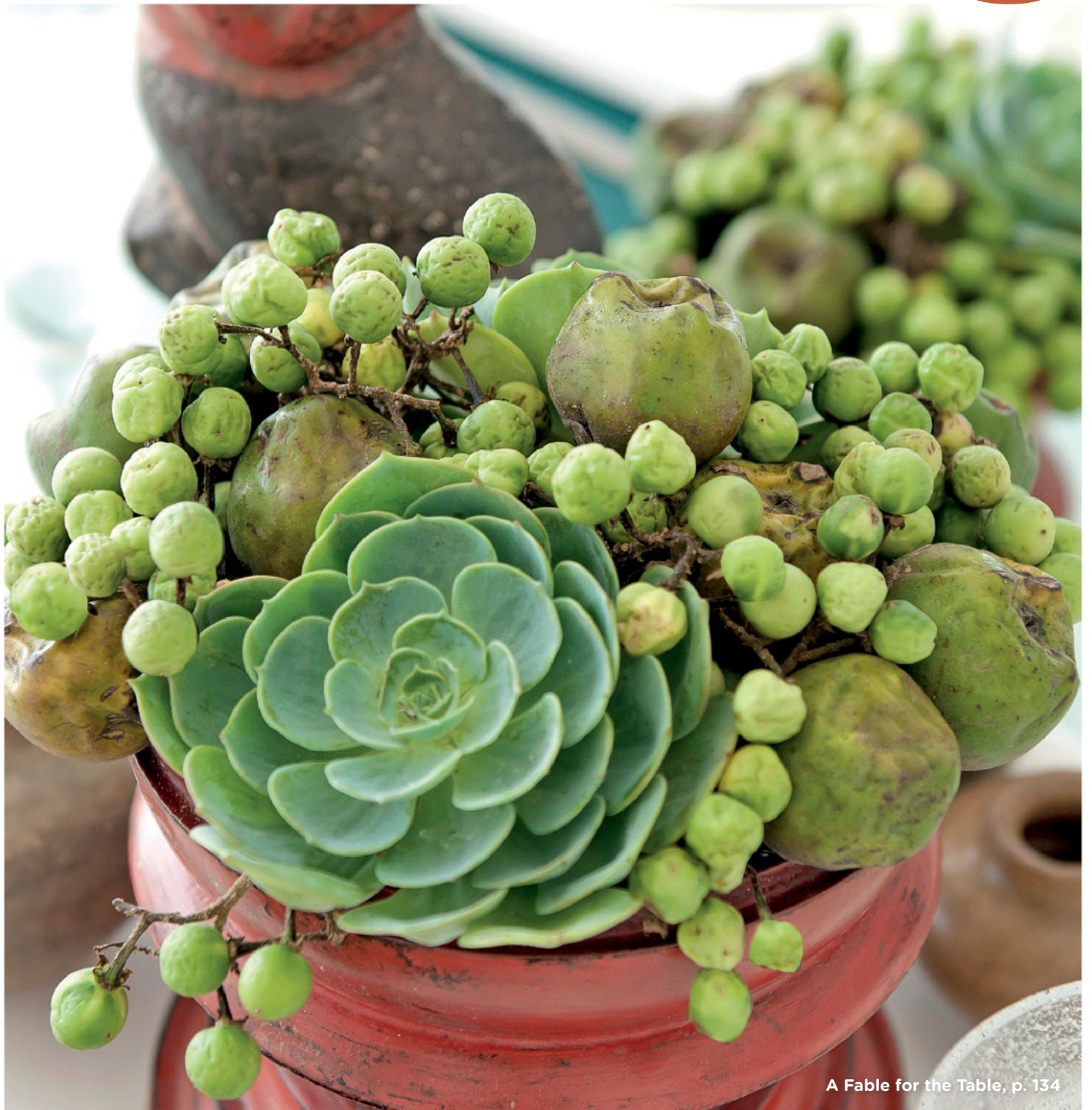
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A Fable for the Table, p. 134

A fable for the table

A TABLE SETTING
WORTHY OF YOUR OWN
PERSONAL NARRATIVE

BY ANTON BARRETTO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES



LEFT: A red shagreen napkin ring complements the Burmese lacquerware, providing color to the table. Plates by Alessi. RIGHT: Local berries make fun alternatives to a flower arrangement. Here, a frog playfully rests on a bed of green berries.



EVERY GREAT RESORT has a story. And behind every journey is the deep and essential need to lose the weight of daily duties and find once again, our sense of wonder. Or as Pico Iyer, the poet laureate of travel writing, once philosophized: “We travel initially to lose ourselves; and we travel, next, to find ourselves . . . And we travel, in essence, to become young fools again, and fall in love once more.” The concept behind this table setting is the romance of travel. Just as a meal satisfies not just our hunger but our need to reconnect with others, a table setting can take us on a voyage not just of the senses but of the heart and soul. Inspired by the reflective and quietly luxurious spirit of many Asian resort destinations, antique Burmese lacquerware were filled with tropical foliage and succulents. The bright red and green palette pops against the pale table and white walls. Pre-colonial Filipino jars and an antique Thai angel complement the Pan Asian feeling. Customized mother of pearl bread plates and butter knives with garnet and peridot stones add a subtle sheen and rich pale sensuousness to the dining experience. Shagreen and *kamagong* napkin holders add another layer of texture and nature. The repetition of squares and circles in the succulents, the plates and dining accoutrements creates harmony and visual cohesion. The balance of elements can be compared to a perfect itinerary, a happy mix of spectacular sights and quiet moments to keep the voyage equal parts exploration and relaxation. ❶

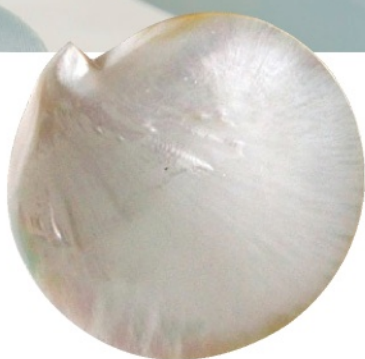


A custom-made butter knife made of mother of pearl is dotted with a peridot.

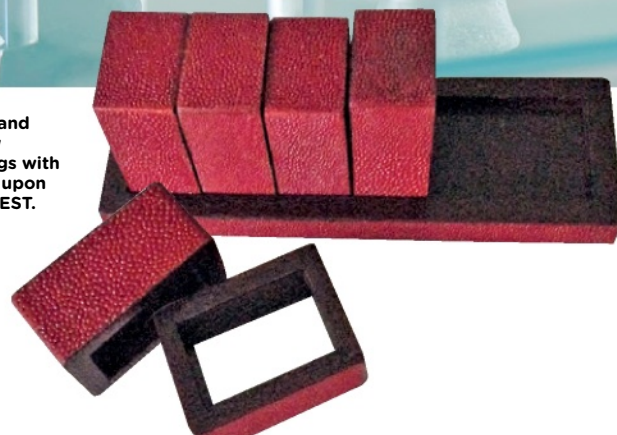


TABLESCAPE 101:
Play with different heights of objects and floral arrangements in your table settings. Use small pedestals to create this. Similarly, have fun with materials. Treat the centerpiece like a carefully-orchestrated still life.

Mother of pearl dish, price upon request, Tesoro's.



Shagreen and kamagong napkin rings with tray, price upon request, NEST.



Summer Bites

QUICK RECIPES FOR YOUR NEXT CANAPÉ PARTY

BY CARISSA COSCOLLUELA
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES

SOMETIMES WE FIND ourselves called to whip up a dinner party at a moment's notice, with no time to spare for going to the market or grocery, or for cooking an elaborate feast. Of course, we would want to serve nothing short of perfect for our houseguests—so what's a host to do when a delicious meal is the order of the day?

Using only the freshest premium ingredients, Acorn Kitchen is a valuable resource for ready-to-serve food, ranging from sophisticated appetizers and hors d'oeuvres to savory pasta sauces and casseroles to delectable desserts. Acorn Kitchen draws from years of family cooking and offers delicious dishes and desserts that are reminiscent of the fares our mothers and grandmothers used to prepare.

For a recent party, we asked

Acorn Kitchen to prepare our spread from start to finish. The order we picked up was practically ready for the table, requiring only minor arrangements into our own serving dishes. Pass around appetizers included barquettes filled with ham and cheese, bomboloni stuffed with mushrooms and ricotta, and asparagus cake. The main table had a cold seafood salad, roasted leg of lamb in garlic and rosemary, and rustic meat lasagna. The dessert buffet was a visual feast of canonigo with creme caramel and fresh seasonal fruits, a 12-layer cinnamon torte, and a flourless chocolate cake.

Here, the seasoned chefs of Acorn Kitchen share with us two recipes for our seaside-inspired dinner party. 🍷

Orders can be placed at 0915-3457272 or 0999-6840768.



Easy Cheese and Ham Barquettes

4 sheets bought filo or shortcrust pastry
3/4 cup milk
2 lightly beaten eggs
1 cup chopped ham
1/2 cup grated Swiss cheese
salt and pepper
pinch of nutmeg

1. Preheat oven to 220°C.
2. Trim the pastry to fit into the barquette moulds, ensuring the pastry is pushed firmly into the moulds.

3. Place the milk in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly.
4. Pour milk over the beaten eggs. Stir through the ham, cheese and seasonings.
5. Spoon 2 teaspoons worth of the mixture into the moulds. Garnish with more grated cheese. Bake for 15 minutes or until golden.

Seafood Salad

1 pound large peeled and deveined cooked shrimp
3/4 pound large cooked squid, sliced into tubes
1 cup chopped celery
1 large carrot, shredded
1/2 cup chopped onion
2 hard-cooked eggs, chopped
1 1/4 cup mayonnaise
salt and pepper to taste
green onions, chopped (to garnish)

1. In a large bowl, gently toss the shrimp, squid, celery, carrot, onion, eggs, and mayonnaise.
2. Season with salt and pepper. Chill until ready to serve.
3. Garnish with chopped green onion.

From Provincial to Cosmopolitan

VERSATILE PARTY-
PLANNING FOR
DIFFERENT SETTINGS

BY RACHEL ARENAS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOVEL LORENZO



CLOCKWISE
FROM TOP
LEFT: Former
Congresswoman, Third
District, Pangasinan
Rachel Arenas. Sugar-
free meringue from
Mom and Tina's.
Moroccan silver.



CLOCKWISE
FROM ABOVE:
Point a La Ligne
lily and shell
candles, Nest.
Heirloom candelabra.
Silver ice bucket.



HOSTS. Dinner parties at my flat for anywhere from 6 to 20 people, usually just my closest friends. Anything above 20, I usually ask the assistance of The Mandarin Oriental. I like inviting my friends to the farm at Malasiqui, Pangasinan for a laid back get-together.

FOOD. I like the idea of serving heritage dishes that I grew up with. We serve home-cooked and local delicacies like *bangus*, *longganisa*, and the famous *puto* at *kutsinta* from Calasiao. We also have a vegetable garden so our cooks whip up the most delicious vegetable dish of prime *pinakbet* with *bagnet* and *ginataang hipon* with *kalabasa*. We also serve mangoes grown in our orchard.

FAVORITE FOOD ORDERS. All-time family favorites include Strawberry Shortcake from Baby Yulo, Butter Cake from the Vargas Kitchen, White Icing Cake from Costa Brava, Canonigo from Acorn Kitchen and Bucky's. Our *lechon* from Pangasinan is always a crowd pleaser.

TABLE SETTINGS. I like mixing and matching tableware and flatware. Luckily, my mom has lots of beautiful antique lace and *piña* tablecloths and napkins that she inherited from her mother, and her own collection of Sheffield silver. At the farm, we set our table picnic-style. I also like mixing vintage patterns with streamlined and modern glassware for a touch of whimsy.

FLOWERS. The Mandarin Oriental flower shop does a fantastic job with our flowers when we entertain. We love to have huge long-stemmed red roses. Stargazer lilies are another favorite. In Pangasinan, I usually decorate the table with urns and bowls filled with fruits and flowers from our farm. Orchids in pots with greens and wild berries, phalaenopsis, and dendrobiums are good choices.

MUSIC. My friend's brother is one of the resident DJs in one of Manila's top clubs so I ask him to make a playlist for me. I have my own playlist of favorite songs. Jay Cayuca is a staple in most of our events.

GIVEAWAYS. Usually, we give assorted delicacies from Pangasinan such as Calasiao *puto*, peanut brittle, dried mango. Most of the time, we include an image of Our Lady of Manaoag and an accompanying prayer book. On our travels, my mom and I like to hoard things for party giveaways such as Santa Maria Novella soaps, Diptyque and Pointe a la Ligne candles, Japanese handkerchiefs, rosaries and scapulars wherever our pilgrimage takes us. ❶

The Thank You Letter

WRITTEN SIMPLY
AND SINCERELY, IT IS
MUCH APPRECIATED

ILLUSTRATION BY ARLENE SY

MS. DEMEANOUR: Do you still send thank you notes?

CAT: I send you thank you notes! Why are you asking?

MS DEMEANOUR: Because it's just easier to text or IM! And no one really writes thank you notes anymore.

CAT: Well, yes, but when people tell me how touched they are that I made the effort to express in writing how much I enjoyed what they gave me, it makes it all worthwhile.

MS DEMEANOUR: I think you continue to do it because everyone compliments your calligraphy level of handwriting. My scribbles are barely legible.

CAT: Then just print out your letters. There are lovely papers that can be used with printers now.

MS DEMEANOUR: But I always run out of things to write after "Thank You!"

CAT: Well, it always helps to just write what you feel. If you enjoyed a home-cooked dinner, just rave over how delicious the meal was. If you loved staying at a friend's weekend home, just

reiterate how fun it was to get away from your daily grind. And if you are truly at a loss, have you ever tried googling "what to write in a thank you letter"? You will find tons of ideas on the Internet, just tweak the phrasing, and you're done.

MS DEMEANOUR: Oh my, I am going to have to write you a thank you letter for all this nifty advice! 📧



Gentle Reminders

- The thank you note is the perfect opportunity to make use of personalized stationery. If you are very intimate with the person you are writing to, make a small slash mark across your last name to indicate informality and closeness.
- Make a quick reference to the gift or occasion that brought upon your gratitude. If it was a gift, perhaps an item for the home, write, for example, that you have placed it in your foyer where it can be seen by all who enter your home.

BY ANTON BARRETTO
PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES AND JOVEL LORENZO



THE GLOBAL MANIA for ethnic prints is still going strong, and the hottest step on this visual journey is the osseous cities of Granada, Spain, and the Moroccan tripartite Marrakech, Fez, and Essaouira. Inspired by hand-printed tiles in geometric patterns that are the design hallmark of these fabulously ancient cities, these prints are now seen in fabrics not just for clothes but also for the home. This selection of throw pillows in tile prints are the quickest, chicest way to inject desert nomad patterns into your interior.

**CLOCKWISE FROM
TOP LEFT:** Beaded
Indian throw pillow 14½
inches. Redangular shaped
quilted, smoozer-like throw
pillow 19x9.5 inches. Orange
throw pillow 10 x 10 inches.
Light throw pillow 15x15 inches.
Grey & white oversized throw
pillow 23x25 inches. All from
Hest. See "where to Buy."

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City. Tel. 941-3113. Email: salesrp@regalongpambahay.com. Website: www.regalongpambahay.com; **Rustan's**, Shangri-La Plaza, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Tel. 633-4636. Website: www.rustans.com.ph; **Shelter**, 6/F Shangri-La Plaza East Wing, EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City. Tel. 633-1626. Email: sheltermanila@gmail.com; **Sifra Interiors & Objects**, 3/F Greenbelt 5, 3/F, Home Zone Glorietta 4, 2/F LRI Design Plaza, N. Garcia Bel-Air 2, Makati City. Tel. 501-3220 / 752-7174. Email: sifra.interiors@yahoo.com; **Tesoro's**, 1016 A. Arnaiz Avenue, Makati City. Tel. 887-6285, 887-6997. Website: www.tesoros.ph; **The Fabric Bar**, 3/F Greenbelt 5, Legaspi St., Ayala Center, Makati City. Tel. 501-3164 to 65; **Urban Abode**, CW Home Depot - Ortigas, #1 Dona Julia Vargas Ave., cor. Meralco Ave., Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City. Tel. 586-0026. Mobile no. 09175775683. Email: urbanabode.ortigas@gmail.com

elements / TRENDS

Art Inspired

DERIVED FROM WORKS OF ART,
TABLEAUS THAT ILLUSTRATE THE
LATEST TRENDS FOR RESORT LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY IAN CASTAÑARES,
JOVEL LORENZO AND PAUL DEL ROSARIO



Shell Chic

The sexy curve of a conch shell, the lace-like intricacy of a fan-shaped piece of coral and the lunar texture of a barnacle-encrusted rock are natural and provide fascinating elements that add charm and visual punch to a room. The uniqueness and minute undulations of details in these pieces will add a layer of fascination and verve to your design scheme. —*Antea Burretto and Marissa Alejandro Lopez*

Inspired by Anne Vallayer-Coster, Still-Life with Gift of Marine Plants, Shells and Corals, 1769, Louvre. In photo: Antique jar with barnacles, price upon request, Nest. Coral mounted on wood, P1600, Nest. Assorted shells, Philippine Handicrafts. Red coral mounted on wooden base, P2300, Nest. Natural sea fans, P1000, Cura V.

Outdoor Inspirations

CEBU-BASED FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS ANDREAS AND ALEXANDER KLEPP GIVE NEW MEANING TO FINELY CRAFTED AND CUSTOMIZED OUTDOOR PIECES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WILLIAM ONG



LEFT: Brothers and All Season Furniture Manufacturing and Trading owners Alex and Andy Klepp. RIGHT: Customized outdoor pieces by All Season Furniture.



WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Andy: It's working with clients, customizing their needs and incorporating these into designs that fit their vision.

Alex: I find inspiration in each new and different place I travel to as well as each new location or resort that we work with. It's always a new challenge to execute. No two scenes are ever alike!

WHEN DID YOU START MANUFACTURING OUTDOOR FURNITURE?

Andy: In 2004.

Alex: My twin Andy and I saw the local demand for quality outdoor furniture back when everyone else focused solely on exporting.

PLEASE SHARE WITH OUR READERS YOUR EXPERTISE ON FINELY CRAFTED OUTDOOR

FURNITURE (COMPONENTS, MATERIAL, WORKMANSHIP).

Andy: We work with a specific aluminum frame, and we customize the color of the powder coat to match. The final step is our PE (polyethelene) weaving.

Alex: Our expertise is definitely in our quality. We don't scrimp on materials, even offering thicker aluminum support. Apart from that, we're known for our extensive after-sales support.

WHAT IS THE MOST FULFILLING ASPECT OF BEING IN THE FURNITURE BUSINESS?

Andy: Working with talented people, from the interior and structural design fields.

Alex: Unexpectedly seeing our pieces in print or television ads for other products and even in movies. Referrals from happy

customers come our way, giving us the fulfilling thought that we are indeed getting things right.

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM PROJECT AND WHY?

Andy: Designing and furnishing my family's dream home, somewhere in the mountains, with a stunning view.

Alex: Having been born and raised in Vienna, Austria, it would be nice to come full circle and see our pieces in a bistro or hotel in our hometown halfway across the globe.

IF YOU HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO COLLABORATE WITH ANY FURNITURE DESIGNER, ARTIST OR DESIGN PERSONALITY, WHO WOULD IT BE AND WHY?

Andy: Patricia Urquiola. Her style is diverse. She thinks in

different scales.

Alex: It would be a delight to make furniture collaborating with the works of the German architect Ole Scheeren of Buro Ole Scheeren.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST FAVORITE PIECE IN YOUR LINE OF OUTDOOR FURNITURE, AND WHY?

Andy: Definitely our Poli Dream Daybed. It's a beautiful Italian-designed daybed with a mattress and curtains hanging from the top of the frame. It brings to mind a relaxing time at the beach.

Alex: Relaxing on our Bali daybeds even in the hustle and bustle of our office factory always makes me think of lazy weekends with a good breeze and an even better drink in hand. ☺