

KSA SR 25
KUWAIT KD 2.50
BAHRAIN BD 2.75
QATAR QR 30
UK £ 6.5
JORDAN JD 7.5
LEBANON LL 20,000
MOROCCO DH 75



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ASK

THE ULTIMATE DESTINATION FOR YOUR DESIGN INSPIRATION

Kissed by the Mountains
in **Alila Jabal
Akhdar, Oman**

*Egypt's 'The Gate'
Designed for
Exemplary Green
Living*

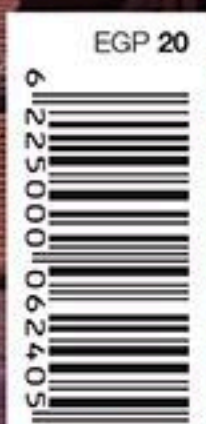
Salone
del Mobile
2015: Milan
Makes History

A TRIP TO CHANG'AN
AVENUE IN **BOOMING BEIJING!**

Blend Furniture's
In-Store Experience Opens in
Heliopolis

Living Well at
38,000 Feet!

'Our Wedding Carnival'
Making Marriage Easier





A SANCTUARY OF MOROCCAN INSPIRATIONS

By Nader Ramadan
Images courtesy of Sandra Espinet

Los Cabos, Mexico....A land of taste, tradition, not to mention tantalizing tortillas! Mexico has just about everything you need to lead an alternative lifestyle, the warm weather all year around by itself is a plus. But even in the land of Mexico, many would like to reminisce on living an Oriental dream such as that of the princes of Morocco and Andalusia.

Multi-award winning interior designer **Sandra Espinet** (owner of **S.E. Designer Services**) designs a house that not only satisfies her client, but builds a traditional bridge back to the great relics of the Moroccan architecture, one that very much sets the foundations for the construction of the Al Hambra palace as well as many other ingenious structures throughout the Grenada in Spain.

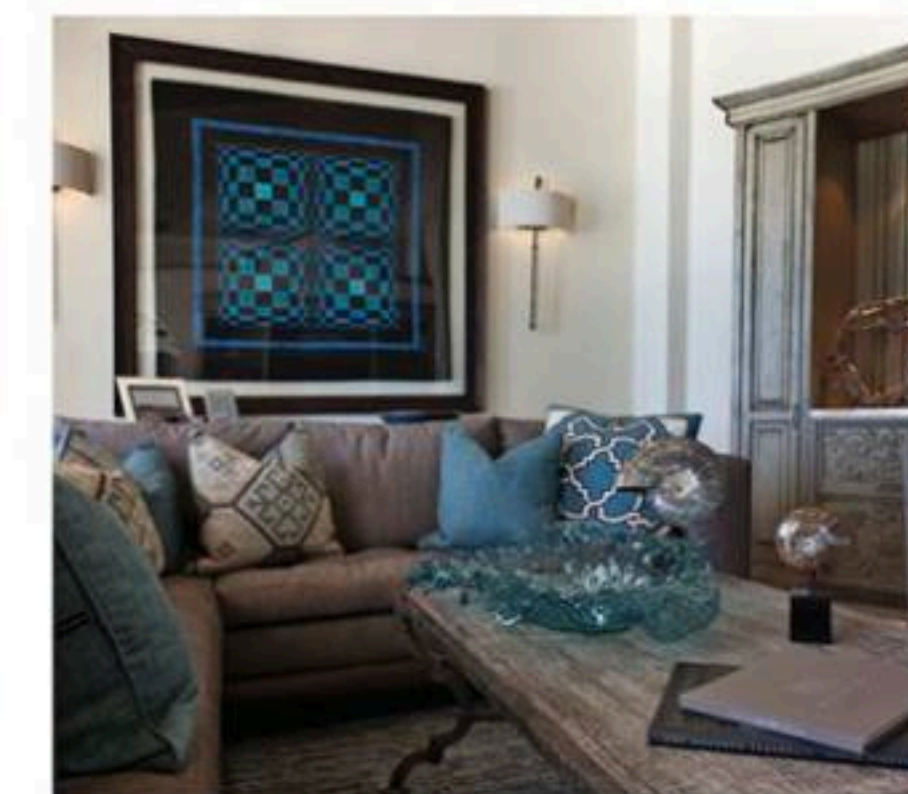
The first and most accomplishment that the Cabos residence achieves is its intimate interaction with the ocean via visual cues systematically placed within the structure, especially with manipulation of the pool and other furnishing elements in the interior space as per the client's request.



"The owners wanted the main goal to be, to make the ocean the main feature of the home. Thus walking through the main floor to the back of the living room and opening the wooden panel doors, the home immediately blends and interacts directly into the pool that connects to the ocean," said a statement. "Espinete and the client filled the terrace with giant furniture that was hand selected, each piece based on comfort and volume, while the fabrics were chosen to resemble the Mexican beach.

To complete the package, the pool had to have a complete makeover so that it could complement the outdoor area, perfect for taking in the desert night stars as well as the sights and sounds that makeup the beautiful area.

"The large pool was completely redesigned, adding romantic accent lighting and spouts that create a gentle ripple to the water. Finally, serving as a beautiful personal and relaxing retreat is a cozy bench on the foot of the pool overlooking the ocean; perfect for stargazing and watching sunsets," it added.





Just like Al Andulus was the fusion of Islamic near eastern styles, this house testifies and echoes the same level of aesthetic sophistication. It seeks to comfort the eye, asserts high functionality, and supports the client's lifestyle in the most sophisticated way.

MEET THE DESIGNER

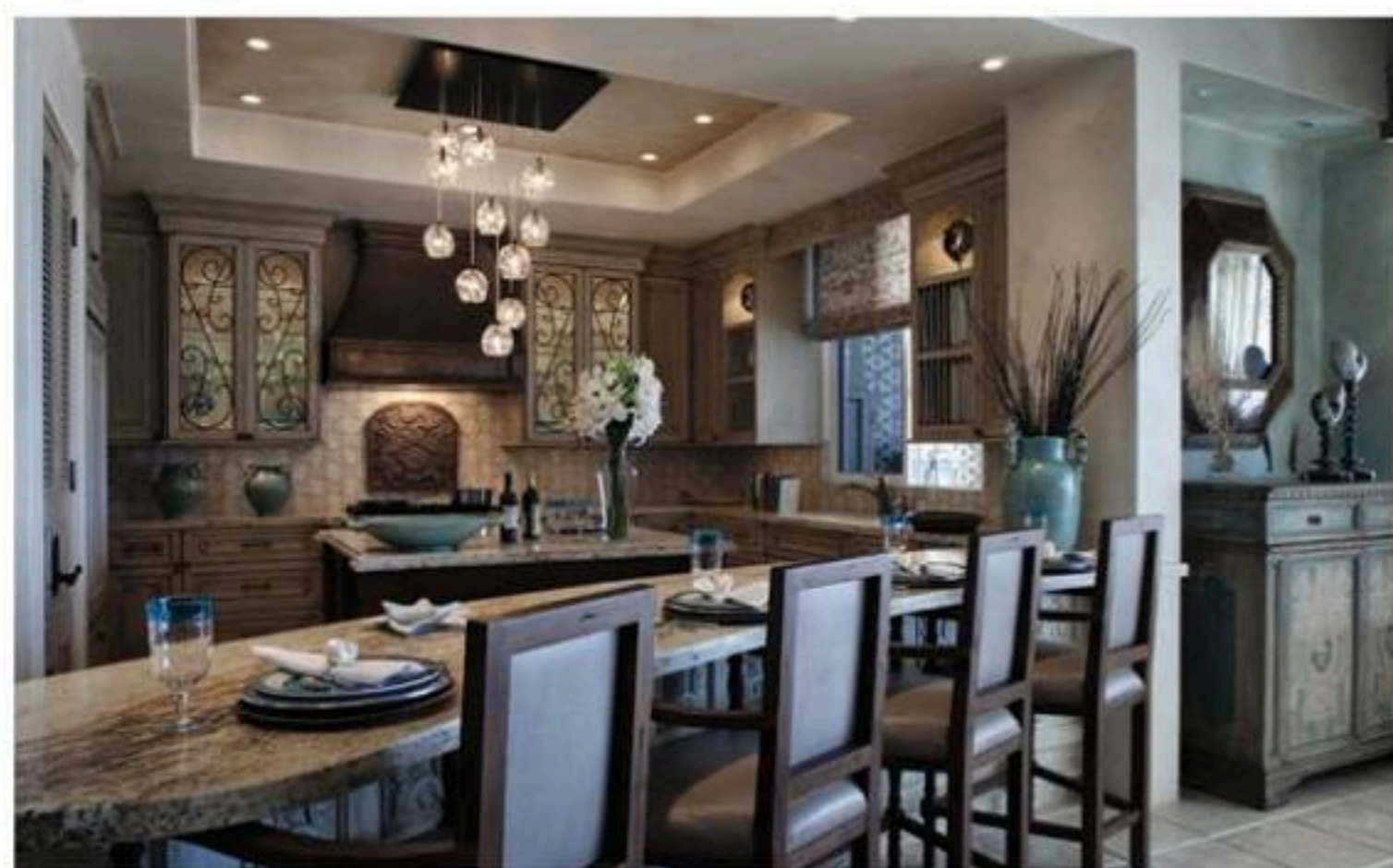
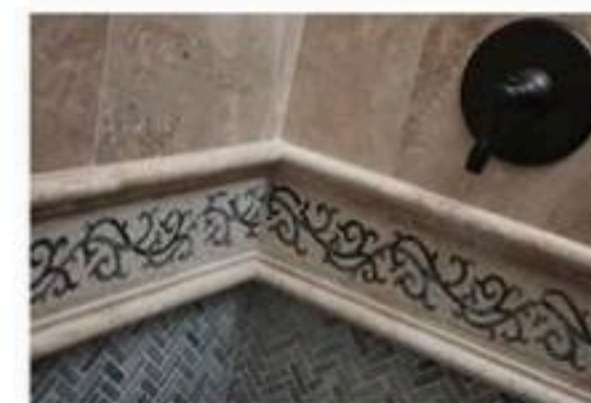
For many years, Sandra Espinet, being the owner of **S.E. Design Services** has successfully established herself as a prestigious name in the interior design field, drawing from her various travel experiences, particularly from her regular visits to Mexico. Espinet is a member of **American Society of Interior Designers (ASID)**, having an associate's degree from the **New England School of Design** in Boston as well as a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interior Design from the **American College of Art** in Atlanta, Georgia.



Lifestyles elements were taken into consideration, such as their habit of leading a highly active social life entailing frequent gatherings with family and friends. "For such a large family who enjoy gathering together among soft ocean breezes and warm sunrises, Espinet added several large and inviting social settings into the main floor; each sectioned off with mosaic tiles that act like carpets. Whether it's an outdoor barbecue or a lavish three course meal this villa has giant open cooking areas complete with tables and bars so that the chef can always have company. The kitchen is designed around an enormous marble and wood island, to serve the guests and residents as an elegant food haven; it's intricate patterns/ carvings, soft pops of teal, and the low twinkling LED lighting all work together to make the perfect kitchen."



Espinet also pursued graduate studies in production design at the **American Film Institute** in Los Angeles. Her efforts have earned her the attention of many in the media such as *Architectural Digest* Latin America, *Cosmopolitan Magazine* and *Kitchens & Baths*. She's also been on the air with HGTV's "**Celebrity Holiday Homes**" and *Martha Stewart's Living Radio*. Espinet is a multi-award winning designers earning the **ASID's Best Designer award** in 2011 and the **California Home & Design's Readers Choice Designer of the Year Award** in 2010. ...



Customization was a key element in making this villa victorious! Each and every piece furniture was made to the fit with the interior space and reinforce the general visual themes. "Almost every piece of furniture in the home is custom and designed to fit the style and wants of the owner. However nothing is quite as exceptional as the 10 foot King canopy bed that was hand carved from sandy colored woods and draped with sheers to portray a sensual retreat. Attached to the master bedroom is the dimly lit palatial spa-bathroom; the giant tub has a mixture of brown mosaic tile and jade colored marble under a delicate LED pendant. The details in the bathroom make it unforgettable what with: custom semi-precious stone knobs, a mirrored vanity and thick carved wood doors," the company's press release said.

