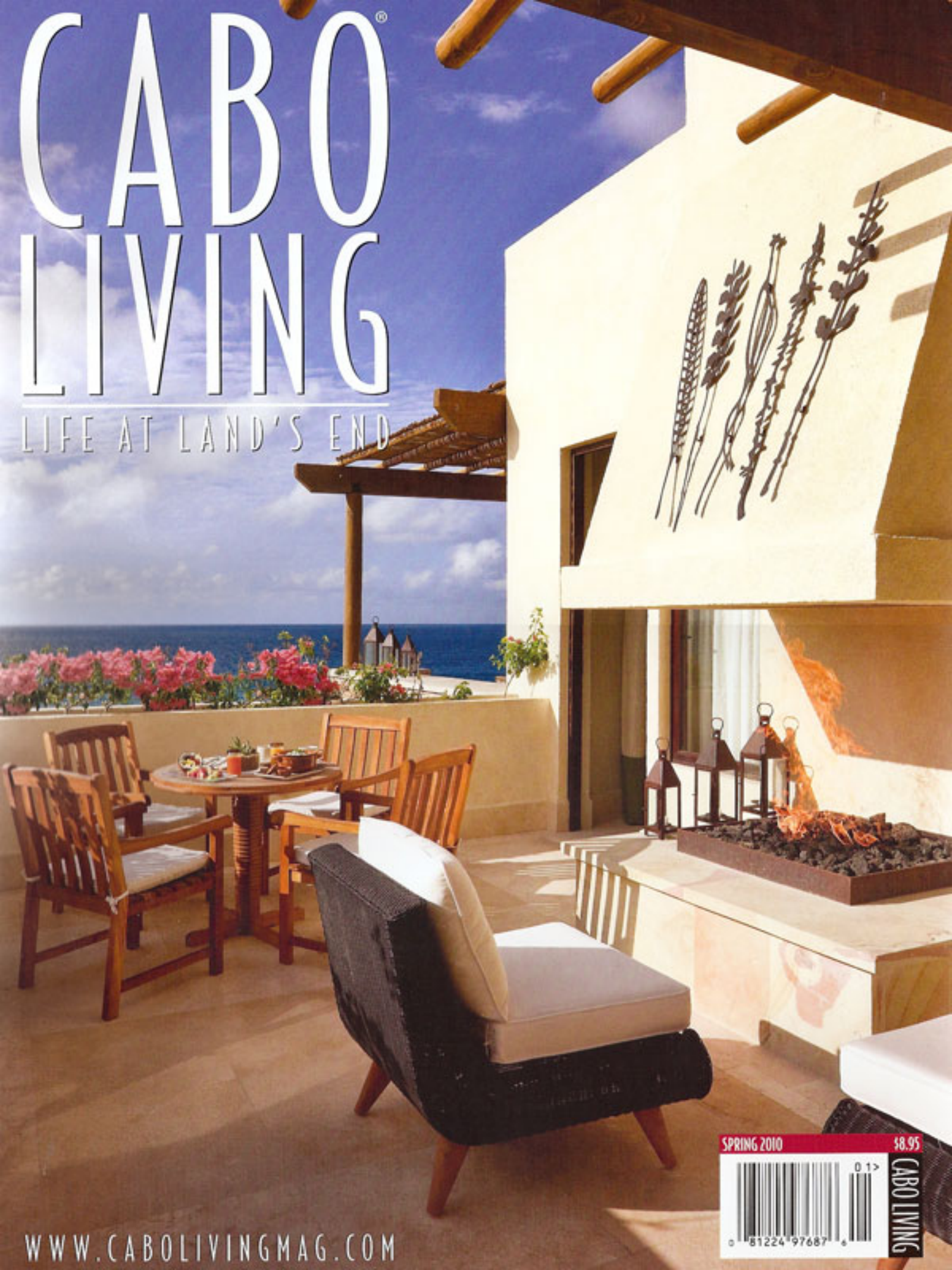


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# clean SIMPLICITY

*This Point Reyes Home weds the Tastes of the  
Owners with the Essence of Southern Baja*

*-by Michael Koehn | photos by Drew Neerdaels-*

Walking into Square One, Sandra Espinet's interior design studio at Plaza El Faro near San Jose, you have the sense you're entering a major art gallery.

That's because the entryway is flanked by an expansive exhibit of large scale art by local artists like Jill Logan, Joaquin Pineda, Dennis Wentworth Porter, Victor Cauduro, Susan Diaz Rivera and others. Looking up you see a gorgeous light-catching chandelier made up of about a hundred glass calla lilies suspended above the reception area. You get the immediate feeling that, entering the world of Sandra Espinet, you're in the presence of someone with impeccable taste.

And that is exactly what you'd expect from an interior designer who has been so

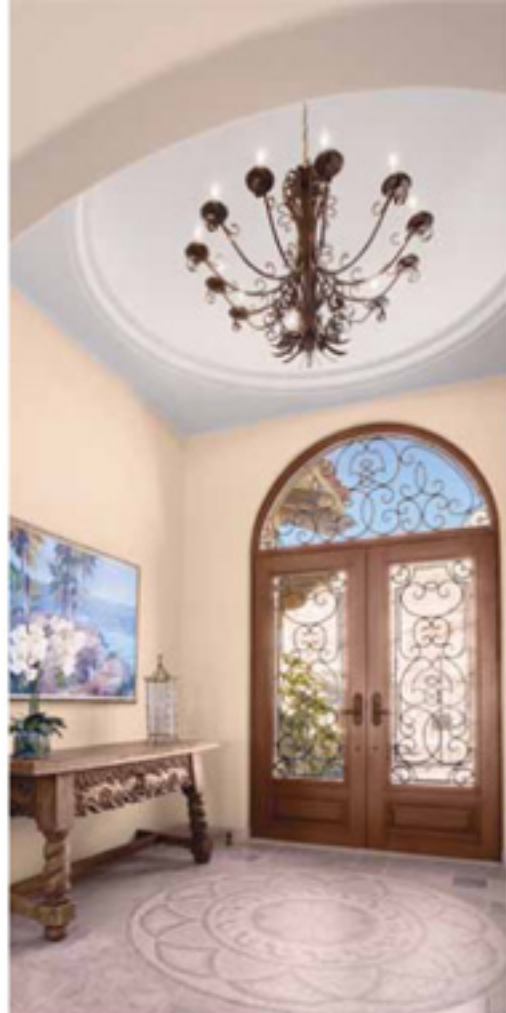
highly successful, building up an enviable business and now at the top of most lists when people mention interior design in Los Cabos. Over her career, Espinet has decorated homes in some of the most prestigious luxury enclaves in the area, including Villas Del Mar, Cabo Del Sol, El Dorado, and Palmilla, becoming a much sought after talent when a client is looking for something uniquely beautiful.

Walking through Square One, you can see some of the reasons for her success. There are dozens of bins and shelves meticulously

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**(ABOVE AND FAR RIGHT)** | Colors and textures from the surrounding environment of the home's location were used as inspiration for the materials and items that were used in the interior design.

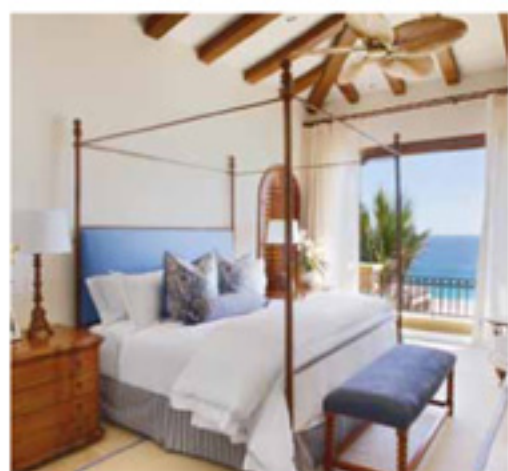


organized by material type and colors, and presentation boards that feature colors, textures and physical design samples so that a client can get a sense of the relationship between the design elements and a tactile feel for the tones and textures to be used. It's part of a meticulous, hands-on style that ensures that every client's needs are met.

For Greg and Vanessa Reyes, homeowners in the prestigious community of El Dorado, one of the most exclusive areas in Los Cabos, the professional skills of Sandra Espinet and Square One resulted in a design that perfectly complements the natural environment. The five bedroom, six bathroom home has an elevated location overlooking the sparkling Sea of Cortez,

and includes a gourmet kitchen and open media room, and well as a pool, Jacuzzi and spacious outdoor living area.

The design put together by Espinet and her team weds a clean, unfussy simplicity with classic Spanish accents like wrought iron chandeliers and hand carved woodwork and cabinetry. The overall scheme integrates the color palette of the exterior seascape with an indoor décor using light neutrals and shades of blues, in effect pulling the outdoors in. In the bedroom, sage and olive greens and soft corals connect with the exterior views of tropical plants. It's a synergistic use of color and style where the visual effects of the exterior views are complemented by the interior.



One of Espinet's great strengths is her ability to source any item that she thinks will fulfill the vision of her clients, including handmade furniture, antiques, wall coverings, sculpture, fine art, folk art, lighting, linens, draperies and accessories, all the way down to silver and china. "The vast majority of interiors here are done in Mexican or Spanish colonial styles," Espinet says. "We'll travel the globe to find things that are unique and original, and that will provide the kind of visual touch the project requires. Once we get a feeling of what a client wants, then we'll go to any length to

*Continued on page 74*





fulfill that vision, even if it means sourcing metal sculpture from Morocco, linens from Italy, or custom woodwork in Mexico."

That means part of the fun of being Sandra Espinet is going shopping in exotic places for objects of beauty. "Many times I'll go shopping with the client, and we often end up on exactly the same page," she says. "For this project, I made two shopping trips with Mrs. Reyes, and we picked out much of her furniture and accent pieces together."

Sometimes the design work begins without even a fundamental visual reference. "With the Reyes' home, we started working with just the floor plans," Espinet explains. "In a case like that, we also have input with the architect, helping with the final details on how things are finished. We're very detail-oriented, and that extends all the way to selecting the dinnerware and choosing the style of embroidery for the towels, all



down to the smallest detail. We make sure that everything in the home is perfectly coordinated and is an exact fit for the client."

That can sometimes mean creating design elements from scratch. "There are a lot of developments in Cabo that have cookie cutter interior styles," says Espinet. "We're never involved in anything like that. When you want something original, that fits your tastes exactly, that's when you come to us. Our clients come from the most exclusive areas, and are people who are looking for something truly unique."

For the Reyes' home, that meant having much of the woodwork and cabinetry in the media room hand-built in Mexico, and sourcing the original wrought iron chandeliers in the living and dining areas in San Miguel de Allende. Most of the soft goods conveniently came from the U.S.

As you move through the house, each

room seems to be organic, an expression not only of the tastes of the owners, but also complementary to the environment outside, the colors and textures picking up the color scheme at play in the sea and sand. There's also an unmistakable sense of quality, a solidity that is the direct result of the uncompromised design. You sense that if you added or removed one thing, or changed the tone of the paint, the perfectly unified effect would be lost.

And that's what you can expect with the creative work of Sandra Espinet and her design team at Square One. They're a large part of the reason that so many people in Los Cabos are now living in such perfectly harmonized style, and why the lifestyle of the area continues to remain among the world's most desirable.

**From more information:**  
[www.sandraespinet.com](http://www.sandraespinet.com)

**El Fin!**

**(FAR LEFT AND BELOW)** | A fireplace and comfortable chairs give a cozy feel to the space adjacent to the patio. The patio itself is quite soothing, with lounge chairs resting poolside. Color schemes in the bedroom reflect those in the tropical plants around the outside of the home. In designing the interior for the Reyes' home, Sandy Espinet worked with the homeowners in seeking out the right items from a wide range of geographic locations so as to fit the feel of the interior. Much of the woodwork and cabinetry in the media room was hand-built in Mexico.

