

Furniture & Accessories [®]

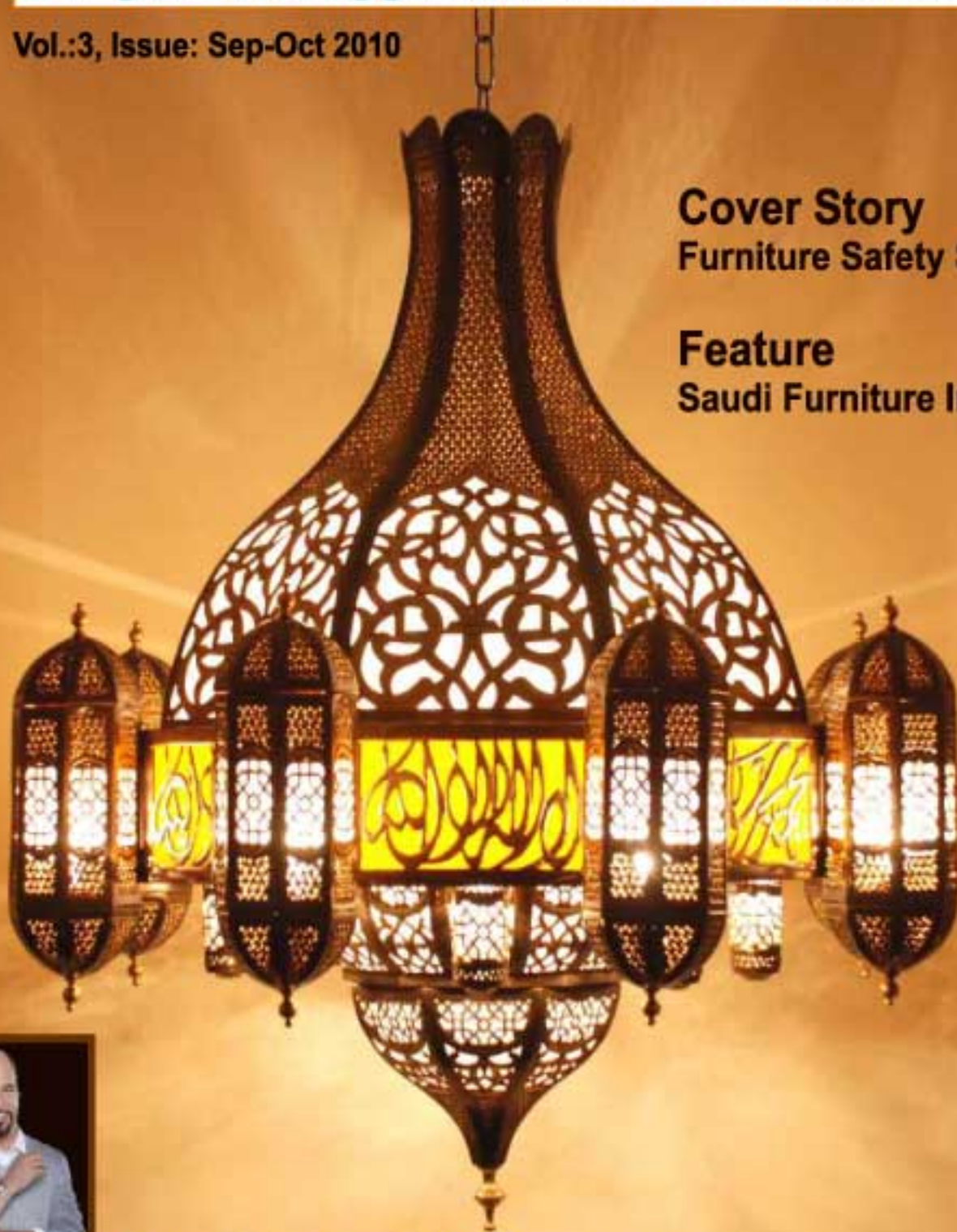
WORLD

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Furniture Safety Standards

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A Cultural Cocktail

Sandra Espinet

Sandra Espinet is the name familiar in design world for her extraordinary blend of luxury, comfort, style and individuality. Her creations are a rich mix of diversity of multicultural heritage and modern contemporaries. Sandra imbibes inspiration from different cultures in her creations she experiences during her tours across extensive destinations around the globe. Nature always plays an immense role in her choice of color palette and materials. Spectacular locales and fascinating natural splendor characterizes each creation conspicuously.

Recently felicitated with the 2010 CH+D Reader's Choice Designer of the Year Award, Sandra holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Interior Design from the New England School of Design in Boston and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Interior Design from the American College of Art in Atlanta besides a Masters Degree in Production Design from the American Film Institute in Los Angeles. An accomplished interior designer, she is also an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Sandra has established several design business, in the US she has Interiors by Sandra Espinet which is a high end design firm. In Mexico she owns Square One Interiors and Gallery which is an elite residential design studio and storefront gallery. Her furniture gallery displays an assortment of unique items of accessories and furniture from various countries around the world such as Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Thailand, Tibet, Morocco and Spain.



Sandra provides for many a reason to notice and applaud her style and work. She keeps on gathering motivation through her travels and lets it flow in her work combining design elements with innovation. Here in an interaction with FAW she talks about her upcoming projects and more:

FAW: Tell us something about your design Muse.

Sandra Espinet: I'm in the business of creativity on demand. I am asked all day long "what do you think of this?" or "what do you think of that?" So to keep my creativity flowing, I travel. Anytime I have free time I go to new cities and look at the way other people live. I study colors and furniture and I'm always looking at architectural solutions. It is my job to always be informed on what's going on in interior design and architecture. India, Bhutan and Italy are some of my favorite countries to get inspiration from. I take millions of photos and I organize them in my computer so I can use them as reference when I get back to work. Sometimes a photo I took 6 years ago will come back to my mind and I can immediately show the client my concept when I pull up the picture. I'm so happy digital cameras were invented!

FAW: Project some ideas on your upcoming.

SE: I always have lots of projects on the table. I am the kind of person who thrives with a busy office and with millions of phone calls. The busier my office gets the happier I get. Right now we have many exciting interior design projects we are working on and are designing several outstanding homes in Mexico and in the USA. One of my favorite jobs right now is a horse ranch I am working on in Northern California. I will also be

appearing on the 2010 HGTV Christmas Special in which I will be designing a celebrity's home for Christmas.



FAW: Tell us something about your dream project.

SE: All of my jobs are "dream" projects. I am very fortunate to have the amazing clients I have. We do incredible homes for jet setting people with private planes, yachts and multiple homes. We create the stage for the elite to live in. However, if I could dream further, I would have to say that I would be involved in the project of a royal family. There are not many royal families left in the world anymore and I have always found royal lives to be extremely fascinating. I think that because of my world shopping experience and my ability to create unique and luxurious homes I would be the perfect designer for someone like Queen Noor of Jordan or any other queen.

FAW: What according to you will be ruling the design world in the coming years?

SE: Design trends come and go and I try to stay as classic as I can but always add in personal touches to personalize a project. I try not to use any colors that are too trendy or too in vogue because then 3 years later the home will look dated and tired. But one trend I do notice is that because people are traveling more and more, sophisticated designs combining various cultures seem to be important. People always want to display artwork or accessories they bought on their trips and knowing how to combine that well with modern furniture is very current. There is an art to create interesting and well traveled interiors. Mixing beautiful carved antiques with handmade pottery and modern upholstery takes a certain eye. As far as color combinations I am seeing neutrals move away from light cream to grayish tones.



FAW: Do you think American home will change its countenance after the recession?

SE: We are very fortunate to work for clients who are recession proof. So we have not really seen any changes due to the economy in our business. A home is an investment in life and it's not the place to save money. You can stop buying handbags, fur coats and jewelry. But in order to be comfortable and to relax you need a great home. Home expenses are not frivolous. You need to

look at your home as the most important space in your world and the place where you spend the most of your time. Investing in your home is investing in your and your family's personal happiness. The only change the economy has brought about is that people now shop longer and look at more options before they spend their money and make their final decision. They are educating themselves more.

