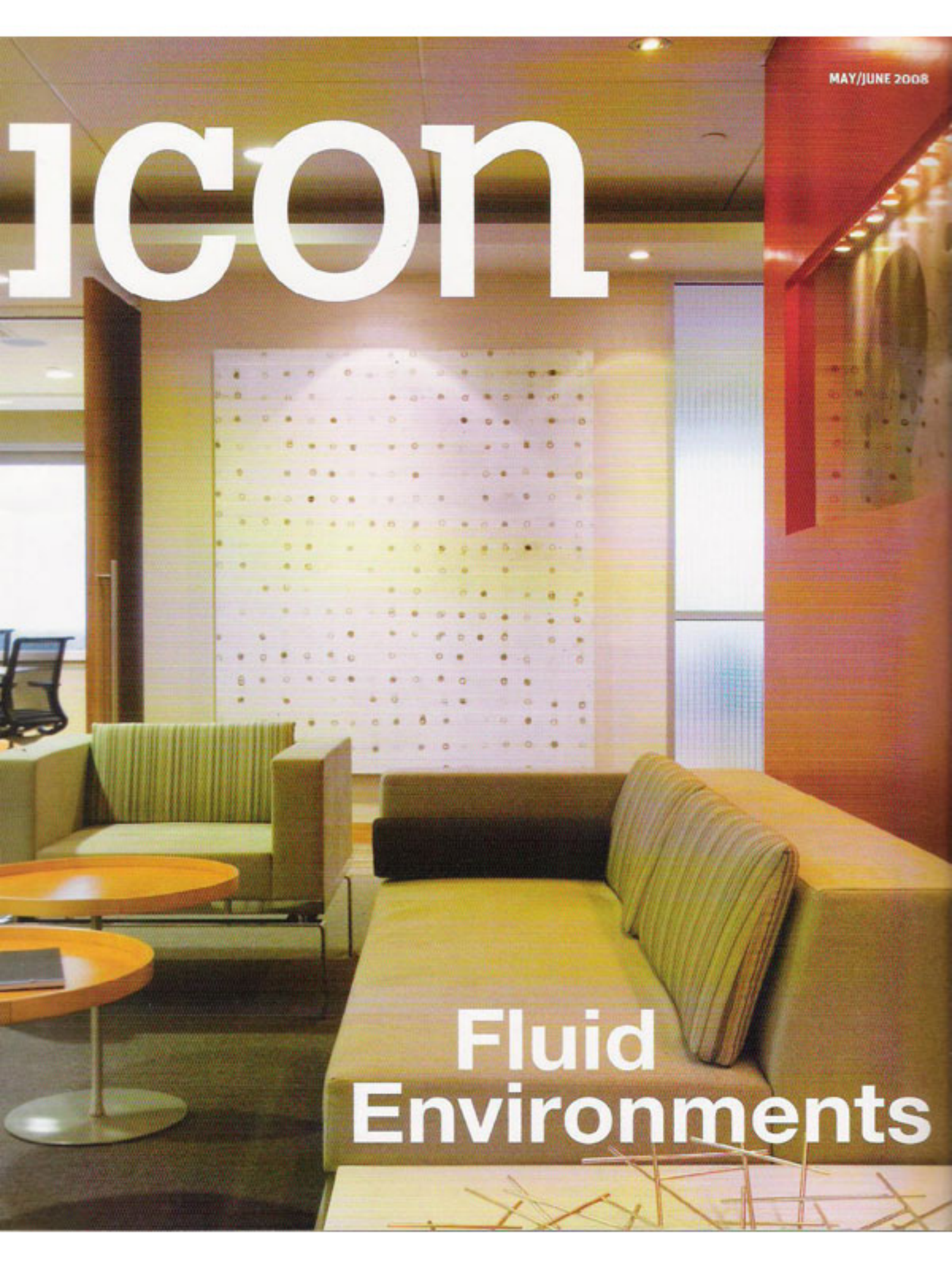


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icon

**Fluid
Environments**





Getting to Know You

Member: Sandra Espinet, Allied Member ASID

Company: Interiors by Sandra Espinet

Member Since: 1994

Chapter: California San Diego

What inspires you? Without a doubt, I am inspired by travel and culture. I spend a lot of my free time traveling and I am always amazed at the creativity and ingenious ways other countries interpret luxury, style and comfort. I like "out of the box" experiences that give me a chance to see the world from new points of view. After great trips I always return home full of creativity and with a renewed appreciation for life!

What keeps you coming back as a member?

I think it's important to unite and have a voice that represents professional designers. ASID also creates an environment where professional college educated interior designers can set themselves apart from the non professional "flair for color" decorators who often misrepresent their services and abilities.

What is the best business advice you would give an emerging designer?

Several young designers have asked me that question. And because interior design is such a layered business it's hard to give a simple answer. But I think that finding a mentor, someone you admire and trust, is important. You can learn and model your habits from that person and then flower on your own when you feel comfortable.



In each issue of ASID ICON, we will feature a member of the society that you can "Get To Know." If you, or another member you know, are someone we should get to know, log on to www.asid.org/memberprofile and download the member profile questions, fill them out and e-mail them back to memberprofile@asid.org. You might be the next member we feature!



What information is most critical to your ability to practice great design?

Interior design is all about information and access to the latest product specifications. We primarily use vendor catalogs from our design library to obtain all of our information, but more and more we are using online Web sites such as www.asid.org to find new vendors or information. I can now go online and download plumbing or appliance specifications for a client in less time. I can find hardware, cabinetry, electronics and curtain rods online. But at the end of the day, I still like to feel my fabrics, touch my tile samples and sit on my upholstery—that information is still tactile.

What impact does technology have on your business?

I am addicted to the Internet, Macs and iPhones! Technology is also closely intertwined with our interior design work. We spend lots of time reviewing electrical plans to ensure proper function and placement of electronics, computers, remote controlled lifts, curtains and fun appliances such as the Miele built-in coffee maker.

What kinds of hobbies and outside interests keep you busy?

I love entertaining and I host lots of dinners and parties. ... But the bulk of my free time is spent traveling and exploring new places of interest. I dabble in amateur travel photography and writing and keep lots of albums and journals of my adventures. I am also involved in a life-changing organization called the Cambodian Children's Fund that rescues orphan children from the Phnom Penh city dump and offers them housing, medical attention, food and education.