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The Exquisite
Touch of

SANDRA ESPINET

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By Malinda J. Pernel

Critically acclaimed interior designer Sandra Espinet celebrates cultural brilliance and traditions through her artistic ability to create upscale luxury spaces that harmonically fuse worldly sophistication and individualistic grandeur. With her distinctive approach to design, she is widely recognized for her exceptional brand aesthetic and alluring flair which inject an eclectic mixture of styles. Yet, for Espinet, it reflects a point of view which visually captures her incredible creativity.

She defines her signature design concept as approachable luxury in which she creates high-end, yet personalized, livable, spaces. "I believe you can be completely stylish and not be uptight," Espinet states. "A home is to be lived in, not to show off in." Inspired by her extensive travel, culture and nature, she incorporates elements of those experiences to create uniquely designed,

spectacular spaces to accommodate personal lifestyles.

"I love natural hues," says Espinet. "I love indigenous textiles and rare, unique art." She enthusiastically emphasizes her inspiration also comes from her clients and their lifestyles. "The most important thing is not what I like because the homes I design are not all mine," she stresses. "I am also inspired by the client and their lifestyle, and I have some very fun and interesting clients!"

According to Espinet, the key to breathtaking interior designs begins with good architecture. "It is very hard to make a poorly designed home look good, so I do rely on creative architects to do the first part of the process," she states. "It is difficult to work with architects who do not understand and design spacious



bathrooms, or who do not create rooms with enough light. Those are things I cannot change and that will always affect the feel of a home," she adds.

An expressive visionary, Espinet views interior design more as an art form than science. "Interior design is a creative field in which inner visualization skills as well as color combinations are used," she says. "There is no formula that can create distinguishing, one-of-a-kind rooms, and people who try to use a formula end up with 'same same' applications versus creative solutions." It is that philosophy which allows Espinet to use unrestricted imagination in her choices of unexpected, exotic color palettes and high quality, natural materials.

Most importantly, however, because of her current use of wool, cotton and bamboo, Espinet has been able to easily adapt to the growing popularity of sustainability in luxury design.

"Everyone is quite aware of sustainability, and we are all trying to find the best and most innovative products to use that are environmentally safe," she stresses. "We also recycle old pieces of furniture and reuse old wood to create custom pieces of furniture. We hire local artisans to keep from having to export from China."





Recognized as a world-class design talent, she embraces her love for art, painting and organization to forge an impressive and successful career in interior design.

"I think some people just know what they like and have a talent for," says Espinet. "From a young age, I knew I was more creative and artistic than analytical."

She also credits her design team as the key to her esteemed career in the industry. "No designer is an island," states Espinet. "I work with a great group of women, and we love what we do...and we love each other.

We have a happy office, and it shows in our work."

Her work has been featured in various interior design publications such as Houses by the Sea and numerous magazines including Architectural Design Mexico, Home by Design, Cabo Living, California Home + Design, Signature Kitchens & Baths, and Home Accents Today; and, she has appeared on HGTV's Celebrity Holiday Homes.

Recently, Espinet has expanded her brand into home couture products. "Transitioning from interior design into product design was a natural extension," she states. "For years, I have created custom designs for my clients, so doing it for myself was the next step." She started with candles, working with a graphic designer and manufacturer to create her first signature fragranced candle.

Also, she is currently working on a line of rugs for Aga John Carpets as well as a furniture collection.

Today, Espinet spends her time between Los Angeles and the coastal town of San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, where she owns and operates Square One Interiors and Gallery, a full-service, high-end residential design studio and furniture gallery featuring a variety of hand-selected, exotic, international furniture and accessories from such countries as Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Thailand, Tibet, Morocco and Spain.

Espinet looks forward to continuing to create magnificent spaces for clients from around the world.

"It's all been great, and it's all been good," she acclaims. "I have designed amazing homes, yachts, cruise lines, hotels and spas, and I have met some incredible people along the way." But, she readily admits that she does not view interior designing as a job but a reflection of who she is.

"I am excited to go to work, and I enjoy what I do," she states. "It is what I do, it is who I am, and it is an expression of what I like." For Espinet, though, her love for interior design has been a journey as she gains knowledge and perspective with each passing year.

"Buddha said life is like a river, it is always flowing," she states.

So stay tuned!

There is always something floating by in my world!"

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Sandra Espinet









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