

The magazine of design, architecture, and Texas lifestyle

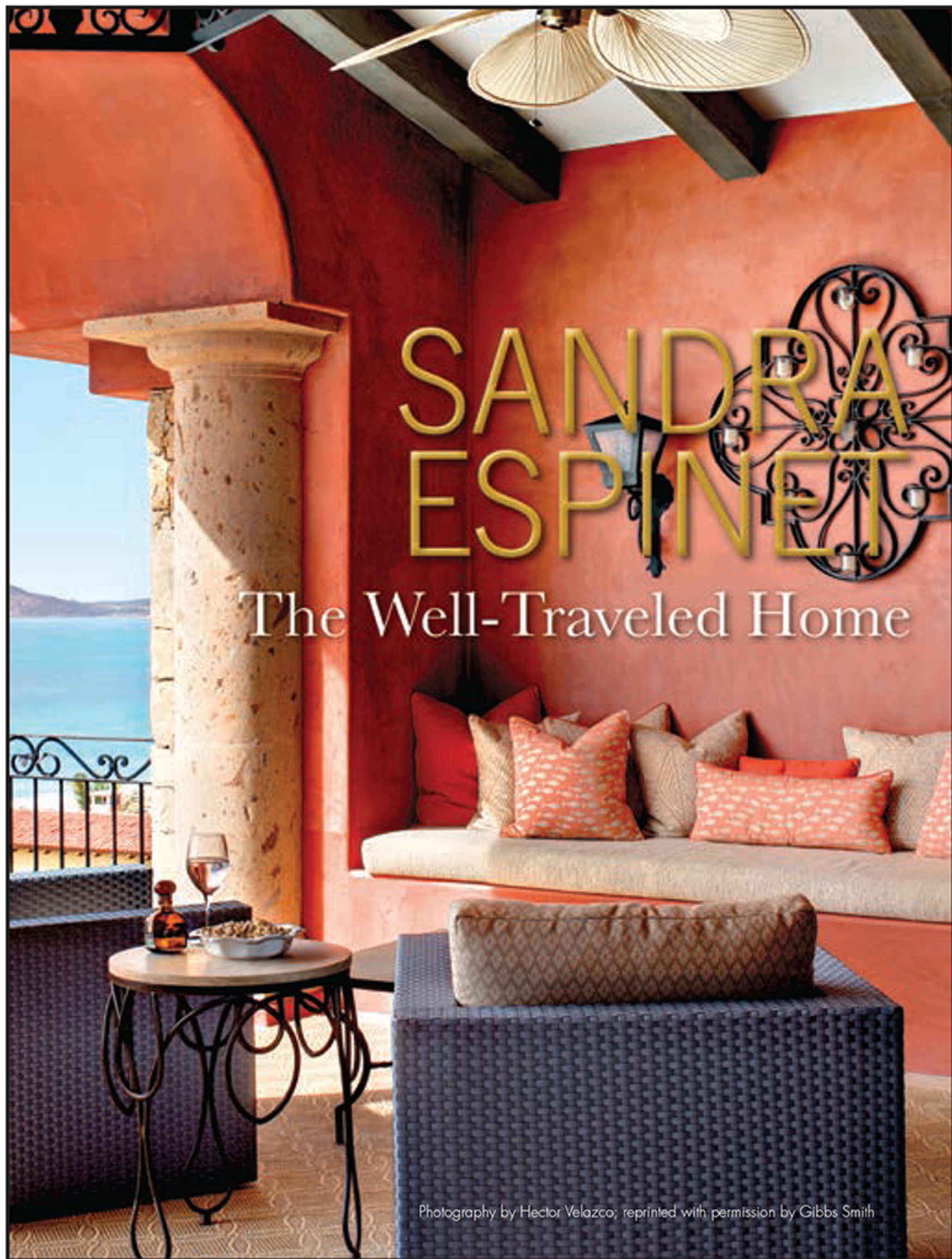
texas HOME & LIVING

*Aristocratic
Estate*

by Interior Designer Kari Whitman



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Photography by Hector Velazco; reprinted with permission by Gibbs Smith

THE WELL-TRAVELED HOME

LUXURY HOMES WITH INTERNATIONAL PANACHE

Text by Kylie Pool

Domestic and international design collide in Sandra Espinet's recently published book, "The Well-Traveled Home." An interior designer and lifelong gypsy, Espinet takes readers on a voyage through spaces where exotic elements are incorporated into traditional settings.

Espinete describes her role as a designer as being "a mix-master of eclectic convergence, a specialist in the fearless melding of exotic elements with traditional furnishings from our neck of the woods into stylish and unforgettable presentations of comfort and calm, exhilaration and extravagance—in a word, the world."

Throughout the book, Espinet shares examples of the stylish and unforgettable interiors she has created for discerning clientele. More than 180 stunning photographs illustrate her designs. She focuses on simplifying environments, choosing to feature a spectacular vista instead of overly ornate décor. Her belief is that interiors should soothe and inspire, so she ensures each item in a room works in harmony, taking out those that clutter the space.

"You know, when unique objects and found treasures from anyone's travels are pulled together, they tell an authentic and personal story," Espinete writes. "As an interior designer, the compelling





challenge for me, then, is to ensure that this story is beautiful and accessible to my clientele and their families and friends going forward, that this story is as visually arresting and appealing as it is welcoming and comfortable.”

Her spaces flow seamlessly into one another, including those in coastal areas where she ensures the focal points are the views of

the sea. Each photograph is accompanied by a caption where she explains her inspirations for the color palette and other design elements. Not only do the photographs of the spaces inspire, but also Espinet’s tips and explanations are sure to add to the understanding of exotic interior design. Each piece of every room was carefully selected to add a sense of culture and history to the space. The results are dramatic and alluring.

Espinete, ASID, lives between Los Angeles and San Jose Del Cabo, Mexico. She has degrees from the New England School of Design in Boston, the American College of Art in Atlanta and the American Film Institute In Los Angeles. She has appeared on several HGTV shows and been featured in numerous publications. “The Well-Traveled Home” is published by Gibbs Smith, which specializes in beautifully illustrated lifestyle books. [THWEL](http://www.thwelltraveledhome.com)

