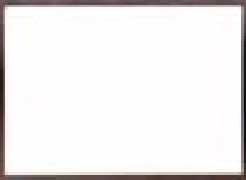
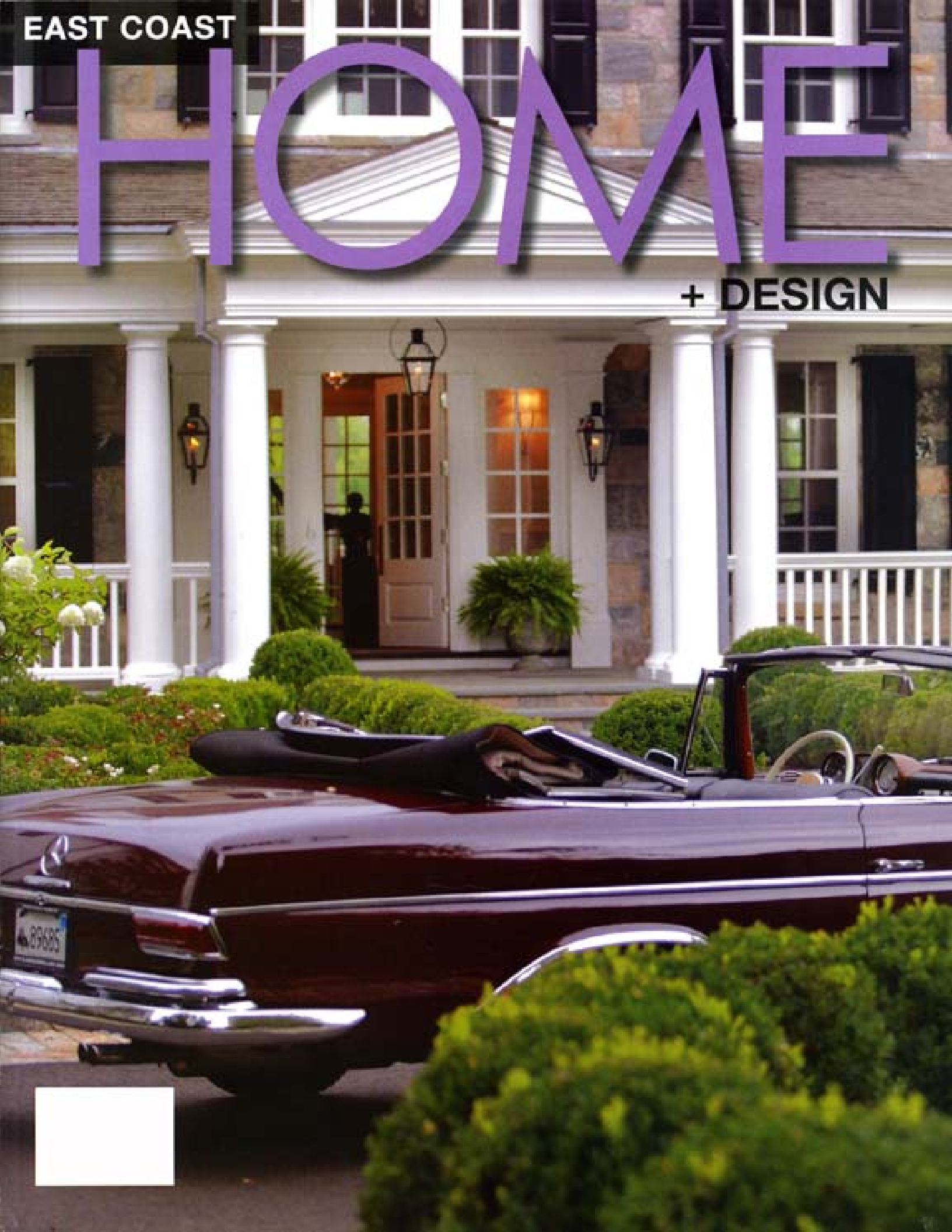


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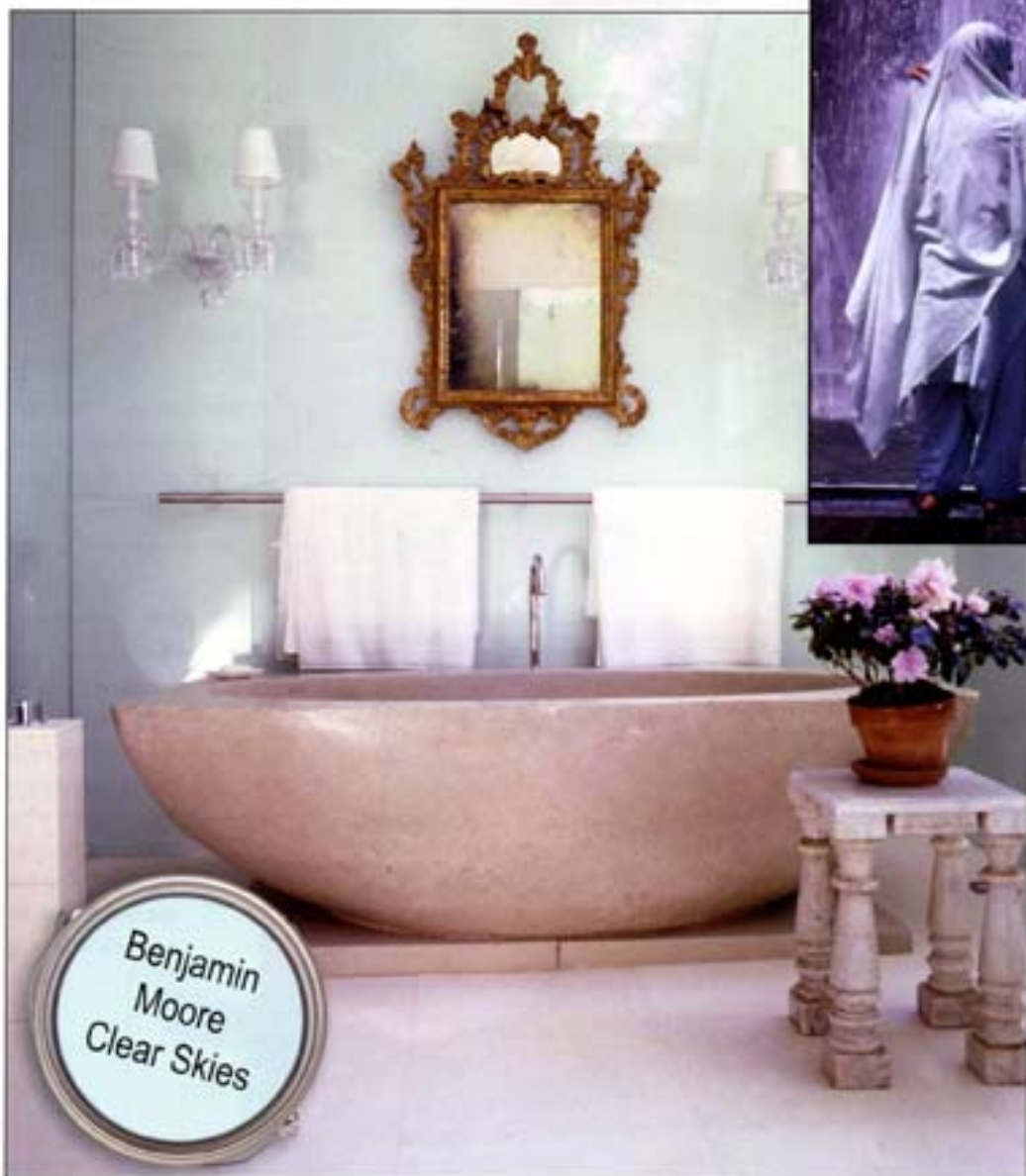




Sharp contrasting colors and textures in this dining room evoke light and darkness witnessed in Laos. Inlaid chair available through VW Home.

OPPOSITE RIGHT Stone bench relates to stone fountain in Syria outside mosque, where faithful wash prior to entering for prayer. 18th century mirror and Baccarat sconces reflect glistening light.





VICENTE WOLF

Travels Captured



It is important to understand that the value of travel is not simply just "getting away." Rather, it is a form of educating oneself. Vicente Wolf understands this: he knows that travel requires learning to see things in a different way. He appreciates that travel expands the visual creative self as it broadens personal horizons.

Each of Wolf's projects exhibits a deft handling of color, light and contrast, combining to achieve brilliant environments inspired by travel. His soon to be released book *Lifting the Curtain on Design* is the third Wolf-authored tome essential to every design library.

Look at the spaces of select travels photographed by Wolf; then, analyze the translation to Wolf's intelligent interiors.



A Burmese monastery inspired the bathroom at MGM Grande's restaurant Diageo, with an alter-like concrete sink, open mirrored niche and stained floors; the result is sleek with purpose.

In Laos, the contrast of light and dark is striking. Brightness sparkles in everyday sunlight against flat stone pavers, in vibrant yellow flower blossoms against dusty dirt roads. The lush environment constantly is in contrast with impoverished routine.

All of these sentiments translate to interior design. The bright yellow chairs contrast with white walls in this sharp light-infused dining room. Light bounces off surfaces used. Woven textures like basket weave and wicker are reminiscent of Laos flower baskets.

A substantial wood tabletop contrasts its sleek white enamel tulip bases. An inlaid ivory and ebony tray and an inlaid Indian chair add global exoticism (both are available through VW Home.)

Accommodations are not selected merely for comfort; rather, a deeper sense of place is explored by embedding exotic culture. As local characteristics from travels segue into one's soul, the sense of self is freshened and altered.

The predominant elements of light and water in Tunisia inspire a sanctuary bathroom rendered in Long Island. Before entering any Syrian mosque, water from the fountain commonly is used to wash hands, face and feet. The coolness of water combined with



its cleansing sense of renewal underscores this bathroom as an otherwise rudimentary space transformed with refinement.

Glistening water reflects light and is refracted by light, splaying golden shimmer and beads of iridescence just as with a spraying fountain. The blue painted glass on bathroom walls achieves a similar reflective quality, encapsulating through aqueous blue that sense of buoyancy. Water quenches as it supports.

An eighteenth century English mirror and Baccarat crystal sconces play off the substantial carved stone bench in the foreground.

Pinks and purples frequently pop up in Burmese textiles. The interplay of these bright colors contrasts with the simple austerity of stone and concrete. A bathroom in the MGM Grande's Diageo restaurant in Las Vegas expresses such clever textural and color contrasts with vibrancy.

Utilizing sharp angles and geometric forms rendered in concrete, the sink basin becomes reminiscent of an altar. Stained flooring and textured walls proffer vibrant color. Wolf creates depth with a false open mirrored niche under which sit four planted pots, drawing the eye down the tall wall to achieve comfortable human scale.

Horizons are expanded literally and figuratively with clever material use. Visiting the pyramids of Giza, light becomes an integral part of the experience, as its blinding force seems to penetrate every molecule. This links to a home in Venice, California where light also is fused to the landscape: a shimmering screen of heat seems to wave before the eyes as it forms a gentle undulating film.

Wolf recreates that sense of shimmering desert heat with frosted glass as it acts as a film – the heat emanating from the sand, shimmering up, a haze of movement rising.



Light filters through frosted glass in this Venice, California dining room suggestive of the filmy heat rising up from sands near the Pyramids of Geza. Desert colors resonate; form and composition create balance.





A remarkable wall relief in Myanmar launched cloaking this room with bold vibrant red as a perfect foil to elements in the space; a mesmerizing photograph taken by Wolf of Lake Inle floats over the sofa.

Essential elements so dominant in memories of Giza are reflected in the colors used in Venice: tones of taupe, grey, beige, sand. Bleached wood parched by heat and striking green papyrus leaves relate directly to the Egyptian experience. Audacious shapes provide structural elements, relating to the overall geometry of inspiration.

Red becomes a perfect backdrop in a Los Angeles study. After experiencing the exceptionally dramatic juxtaposition of relief shapes against the flat red wall of a Myanmar temple, Wolf recognized how red can heighten energy.

Note the power of various shades of red allowing meaningful objects to take center stage. Treasures like the Japanese flag over the mantle and the photograph of Inle Lake jump out against the bold background as red sits back acting as a foil to the elements in the space. This normally hot color becomes calming and soothing when employed in this way.

Wolf manages to be visually creative by expressing meaningful memories through objects' display: it is an art, a special intrinsic talent he possesses, that enhances the overall sense of being within his rooms.

In Borneo, the intensity of stacks of color demonstrated by baskets of fruits left an indelible impression. Geometry and texture again rise to the forefront. Repetitive grids of rug rectangles used in this Miami room evoke the impact of market fruit stacks





Geometry and texture comprise foundation elements for this luxe Miami space inspired by Borneo. Repetition of linear form in colorful fruit stacks translates to the rectilinear skin rug that underscores focal artwork.

found in Borneo. The sofa plays so well with white walls and ceilings in Miami while complementing the extraordinary artwork.

"Part of the fun of travelling is to find interesting objects that really appeal to me, and then to bring them back, where they can be brought into people's homes and truly inspire them," states Wolf. "If I love it, I buy it!"

Fortunately, many of these treasures are available through VW Home. "It's wonderful to share!"

Lifting the Curtain on Design is slated for an October 19, 2010 release. ■

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