



TEXT MARGARET ZAINÉY ROUX

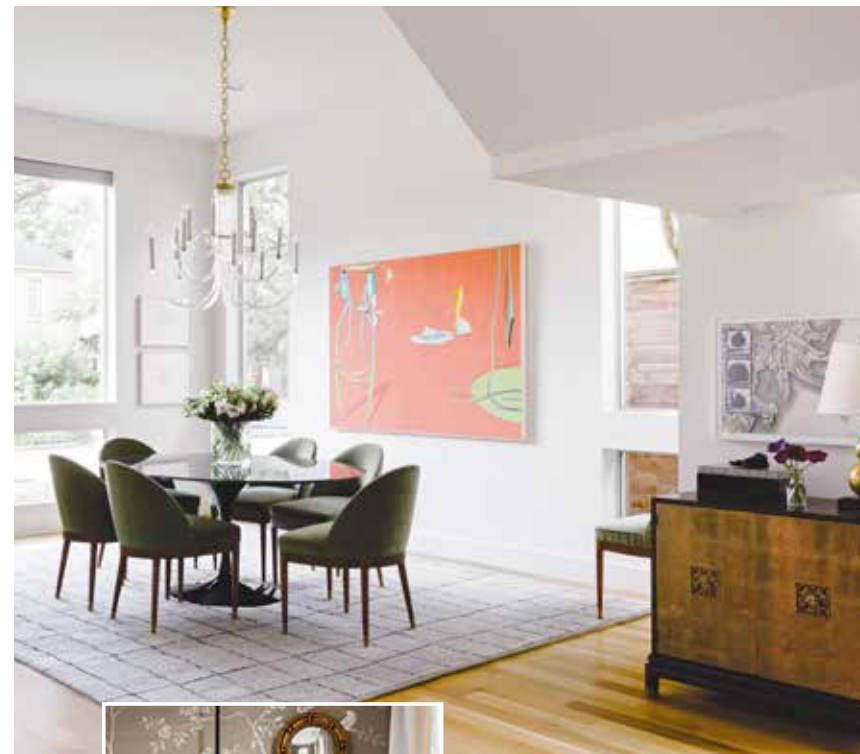
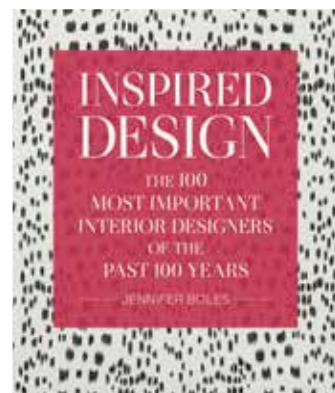


Who's Who

IN HER NEWLY RELEASED BOOK, *INSPIRED DESIGN: THE 100 MOST IMPORTANT INTERIOR DESIGNERS OF THE PAST 100 YEARS*, JENNIFER BOLES RECALLS AN EXHILARATING CENTURY OF DESIGN AND THE PEOPLE WHO DEFINED IT.

One hundred designers; one hundred years; one gorgeous book. In Jennifer Boles' second title, *Inspired Design: The 100 Most Important Interior Designers of the Past 100 Years* (Vendome, 2018), the "Peak of Chic" blogger offers comprehensive commentary on designers spanning the century and globe—from trailblazers such as Elsie de Wolfe to rising stars like Jean-Louis Deniot. Thoroughly researched and thoughtfully written, the 400-page book includes profiles divided into 10 categories. Some categories, like "The English Masters," are more straightforward, while others, like "Making Their Mark," are a bit more subjective.

"We took the selection process very seriously," Boles says. "We spent hours considering people past and present, and our decisions were made neither hastily nor arbitrarily. The occasional disagreements were always met with cool heads and open minds. Some of the designers we chose may seem like obvious choices, while others will surprise you. You may disagree with who did, or did not, make our list, but what can be said of all 100 is that in some shape or form, they influenced the course of design and made a lasting impression."



IN HER FIRST BOOK, *DREAM DESIGN LIVE*, HOUSTON-BASED DECORATOR AND BLOGGER PALOMA CONTRERAS PROVES THAT THE SWEETEST SPACES ARE ALSO THE MOST PERSONAL.

Living La Dolce Vida

"I'm not the type of decorator who knew her calling from the time she began experimenting with crayons," says Paloma Contreras. In fact, it wasn't until many moons later that the former high school Spanish teacher even contemplated a career in design. While travelling throughout Europe with her husband, Contreras started logging her experiences in a digital diary that she shared with family and friends. Praise for her stunning photos and poignant reflections ultimately led to her to launch "La Dolce Vita," her uber successful lifestyle blog that explores the latest and greatest in interior design, fashion, and luxury travel. The young taste-maker quickly gained a loyal following and, as she posted photos of her own design projects, began receiving inquiries and offers for decorating projects around Houston and even across the country.



This past fall, Contreras published her highly anticipated first book, *Dream Design Live* (Abrams, 2018). The 240-page volume goes beyond helpful tips and pretty pictures to show readers how to find a design approach that works best for them. In keeping with the book's title, Contreras elegantly articulates how to live "the sweet life" by starting with a "dream" and then how to elevate that dream into reality through "design." Finally, she reveals how to "live" authentically and pursue the things you love in your own signature space. "I've come to realize that *la dolce vita* starts at home because that's where we are our truest selves," Contreras says. "Our homes can be tools for living the lives we want. They provide an environment where we can retreat from the rest of the world and set the stage for the type of life we want to live."