

# CHANINTR LIVING

Spring 2010

Exclusive Interview with Thomas O'Brien  
Charles and Ray Eames: A Life In Design  
Dining in NYC





EAMES LOUNGE CHAIR

DESIGN BY CHARLES AND RAY EAMES, 1956

# CHANINTR LIVING

BAKER • BARBARA BARRY • CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE • DEDON • HBF • HERMAN MILLER • HICKORY CHAIR • KRAVET • MARTHA STEWART  
MCGUIRE • MINOTTI • POSH • SHAW • SLEEP TO LIVE • THOMASVILLE • VISUAL COMFORT

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# CHANINTR LIVING

Spring 2010

Can you believe it is already March?

This New Year really seems to be roaring in like a Tiger. My New Year's Day started out in a very surreal state sailing in my family's Chinese junk in Phangna Bay with Martha Stewart and a group of her friends. It was an incredible day of just serenity, calmness and relaxation, not to mention, great seafood, Rosé champagne and a masseuse. Just writing about it brings me back to the moment captured so beautifully in a photo collection by famed ad-man Peter Arnell that we will show you in an upcoming issue.

Martha came unexpectedly to Bangkok just after Christmas day and was hosted for a dinner by Martha Stewart Living Thailand and Post International Media to which I was fortunate to be invited. Having met Martha before and having mutual friends, I invited her to visit our store (Page 26) and to take our boat out while she was in Phuket. More on her visit later.

This year is an exciting one for us and in many ways related to this newsletter and the way we keep in touch with you.

First of all, for the innovators and early adopters out there, we have launched an online version of this newsletter that is actually bigger (more photos and contents) and better (it is greener!). We also have other access points for those of you who are avid Facebook, Twitter, or blog users. Whatever your preferred method of receiving news and updates or communicating with us, we are there.

Another great feature for this year is that each issue of our newsletter will feature a beautiful cover from our favorite photographer and friend, Rodney Smith. If you enjoy his works, his newest book, 'The End' is not to be missed. It is available for viewing and ordering at the Barbara Barry showroom.

Thank you for your continued patronage and I look forward to seeing you very soon.

Sincerely,



Chanintr Sirisant

*PS.* From April 1, we will start a Customer Service Call Center where you can call and ask questions about any of our brands, service or activities. The Call Center number is +662.655.0415.

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## ON THE COVER:

ZOE IN CHAIR, SNEDENS LANDING  
NEW YORK, 2007  
PHOTOGRAPH BY RODNEY SMITH

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*casestudylimited.com*

MATERIAL POSSESSIONS:

# The Guide of What and Where to Buy

## Setu

Designed by Studio 7.5

*Herman Miller*

What is the first thing you notice when sitting in Setu? Nothing. There's nothing to tilt, nothing to tweak. From the moment you sit down, you and the chair move as one. It's form and function working together in harmony. Designed for how you live and work now.

Baht 23,900



## Pagoda Etagere

*Baker*

Collector's Edition

The Pagoda Etagere from Baker has just arrived in the Baker showroom. This beautiful, steel shelf is finished in Venetian antique gold leaf and features a stylized finial crown and faux bamboo legs. Perfect for a Chinese Empress.

Baht 120,000



## Maui

*Christian Liaigre*

The Maui Console from Christian Liaigre is the juxtaposition of urban and island living. The fine high-gloss ebony console top countered with the natural rugged solid French oak base is Christian, personified.

Baht 167,000



# Wearing Bed

Design Rodolfo Dordoni

*Minotti*

A tufted headboard with double stitching makes the Wearing bed so unique and a perfect compliment to the Wearing Leather Button Down sofa. The reduced scale and proportion make this tailored bed, intimate, elegant and timeless.

Baht 382,500



# Rosebridge Brass Console

*Martha Stewart Furniture*

Inspired by the Biedermeier and Art Deco movements, The Rosebridge Collection is as clean, functional, and harmonious as Martha's favorite modern designs.

Ornate detail is minimized, allowing bold, architectural shapes to draw the eye while dramatic waterfalling veneers in lustrous Rosewood animate surfaces. The Rosebridge Collection reveals how a fresh sensibility transforms homes into true living spaces.

Baht 68,000

# Gallery Sofa

*Barbara Barry*

This modern, boxed back sofa has canted sides and a deep luxurious seat that make it a classic Barbara Barry. The walnut finished square tapered legs have an integral sabot detail. The tuxedo design and loose seat cushion make this sofa an enveloping experience.

Baht 279,000



# Slim Line

Dining Set

by Jean Marie Massaud

*Dedon*

Get the Slim Line Dining Set by Dedon. Skin, comfort and perfect for outdoor terrace in your new condo.

Baht 55,000 *Table*  
Baht 42,000 *each chair*



# Studio 455 Desk

*Thomasville*

Modernism takes a classic turn with easy softened lines and flowing shaped-in curves draped in a striking dark finish.

One pull-out keyboard tray with glass top and metal base.

Baht 121,500

Sleep to Live

# Body Caress

*Sleep to Live*

The Body Caress™ bed is designed to give you the ultimate postural alignment beginning with our first night's rest, and the pressure relief you need for a great night's sleep.

Baht 148,000 *Mattress only*



# The End

*Rodney Smith*

As seen in Vanity Fair, The Robb Report and Sotheby's. The very limited-edition copies of The End by world-renowned photographer Rodney Smith are here. Exclusively at Barbara Barry, 3rd floor of Siam Paragon.

Baht 33,000

CHANINTR LIVING SUGGESTS...

# Dining in New York City



Photo: jean-georges.com

## Fine Dining For Less Than Bangkok Buffets Jean-Georges

1 Central Park West, New York, NY 10023  
(212) 299-3900  
jean-georges.com

Go to Jean-George for lunch. Yes, lunch. At \$29 for the two-course lunch with additional plates at \$14.50, you would not believe that you are dining at a Michelin 3-star restaurant, voted several times over as the city's best. Especially when you are still suffering from jetlag and long drawn out dinners are torture, this is a treat and a great deal.

Try Butternut Squash Soup with Black Trumpet Mushrooms and Foie Gras Brulee. Also save room for Marshmallow Ribbons for dessert.

**Tip:** Plan ahead and make reservations long before you arrive in New York because it can sometimes take a few months to get a table here.

This is the original Jean-Georges restaurant and what we believe is still the best.



Photo: kestepizzeria.com

## The Ultimate Neapolitan Pizza Keste Pizza & Vino

271 Bleecker St, New York, NY 10014  
(212) 243-1500  
kestepizzeria.com

Not from a romance novel, but a restaurant review. We went. We tried. And we are in love.

"It was from a pizza margherita. My knife brushed against a charred spot on the rim of the crust, knocking a fine black powder to either side before I sawed softly through an airy pocket. I cut my way an inch or two toward the center, collecting a molten glob of mozzarella and partially singed basil leaf along the way.

Coming back out to the edge, I hit a slick of tomato sauce as vibrant and red as the fruits must have been on the vine. The dough in the middle was thin and pliable. Even with sparingly applied toppings, etiquette suggested a fork and gravity demanded it."

**Tip:** We have been eating New York pizzas since we were kids and thought they were pretty good, that is, until we bit into a real Neapolitan pizza.

A great Neapolitan pizza deserves praise and awe as there is a lot of competition in "the best in New York" category but Keste is simply the best. Opened recently by a supplier and teacher to many pizza houses, the owner finally decided to do it himself.



Photo: clintonstreetbaking.com

## Best Pancakes and Breakfast in Manhattan

# Clinton Street Baking Company

4 Clinton Street, New York, NY 10002  
(646)-602-6263  
clintonstreetbaking.com

Whenever we are in New York, we never miss having breakfast at Clinton Street Baking Company. We have braved rain and cold to wait in line to have what has been voted as the best pancakes in the city many times. Order their signature Wild Maine Blueberry Pancakes with Warm Maple Butter.

**Tip:** If you are not familiar with the city, we recommend that you take a taxi. Also, be prepared to wait over an hour on weekends...just put your name on the list and wait in front with everyone else. And don't forget to take some muffins home.



Williams, seating system  
design: Rodolfo Dordoni

[www.minotti.com](http://www.minotti.com)

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CHANINTR LIVING SUGGESTS...

# Dining in New York City



Photo: garenatesy.com



Photo: gathumar.com



Photos: russanddaughters.com



Photos: momofuku.com

*A Great Snack &  
Wine Bar*

## 'ino Café & Wine Bar

21 Bedford Street, New York, NY 10012  
(212) 989-5769  
cafeino.com

A tiny little room in the West Village, Ino's panini, tramezzini, and bruschette are little masterpieces of bold flavor and superb texture. It also is a lovely place to linger over a carafe or bottle of rare, Italian wines.

**Tip:** We like to drop in after a day of shopping and have a snack before dinner. For weekend brunch, order their famous Truffled Egg Toast.

*If You Love Salmon and  
Bagels, This Is It*

## Russ & Daughters

179 East Houston Street  
New York, NY 10002  
(212) 475-4880  
russanddaughters.com

An institution that has been around since 1914, Russ & Daughters has been called the "Louvre of Lox."

A few blocks away from Clinton Street Baking Company on Houston, we always stop in to delight in the beautiful array of salmon, caviar, cream cheeses and bagels. Since there are no seats, grab a number and order a toasted bagel with cream cheese, capers Gaspé Nova smoked salmon.

If there are several of you together, order Martha Stewart's Favorites Package (she's been coming here since she was a little girl) and take it back to your hotel, open a bottle of champagne and have a great party!

**Tip:** Don't be afraid of the men behind the counter, they can be intimidating. Take a number, decide what you want BEFORE your number is called and simply smile.

*Comfort Food for the Weary  
Traveller*

## Momofuku

171 1st Ave, New York, NY 10003  
(212) 777-7773  
momofuku.com

For those of you who end up craving for a good bowl of noodles and Asian treats while traveling, look no further than Momofuku.

Nestled into this location in the East Village, David Chang, the former Daniel Boulud chef, has sought out the best ingredients and methods from Berkshire pork to working with a Japanese ramen master just to learn the craft.

Despite the difficult economy in the US, David has grown to 5 restaurants in NYC over the last few years.

**Tip:** Go very late and to be assured of a seat at the counter alongside the superchefs of NYC. Order the Momofuku Ramen and don't miss the Steamed Pork Buns.



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[www.dedon.de](http://www.dedon.de)

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# Barbara Barry: The Lifestyle Coach

Interior designer Barbara Barry's style evokes classic Hollywood stars Grace Kelly and Audrey Hepburn: serene, sophisticated, and timeless. And quite naturally, she has become a sort of life coach to her clients.



© 2009 Barbara Barry. All rights reserved.

When Barbara, who has been on Architectural Digest's list of 100 top designers, visits clients, she sometimes rolls up the sleeves of her white blouse and begins organizing the lives of her clients. She removes the labels stuck on fresh fruit.

"I prefer it natural, like from the farmers market", she says. Or she rearranges the fridge, lining the drawers with white linen dishtowels. "The lettuce looks gorgeous on white linen", Barbara continues.

She might take jelly jars and fill them with fresh mint, tarragon and cilantro, and line those up on the shelves as well. "Berries look better in beautiful bowls. Small things mean a lot," muses Barbara, who has taught many a clients of her well-ordered ways.

Barbara, who opened her design company in 1985, has built a design philosophy on the belief that luxury is using beautiful things everyday. Her furniture has velvet-lined drawers. Her teacups have a shape that comfortably rests in your hands. She prefers colors in a restrained palette, which means various hues of the same Pond Scum Green or Elephant's Breath Grey which have become trademark Barbara Barry colors. But Barry is quick to note, "I largely work in my own bubble. I'm not looking for the next trend; I'm offering a philosophy of living, not so much as a style but a simple, elegant, yet easy way to live."

"I'm not about fashion. I do what I want, trends are not relevant to the way I live."

## Q1. WHAT IMPORTANT DETAILS DO PEOPLE OVERLOOK IN THEIR HOMES?

Clean out your closets. Throw out what you have around your kitchen sink: the grungy sponge, the ugly soap dispenser with the label on it and the dead plant on the windowsill. Replace them. You can tell so much about a person when you look at their sink.

## Q2. CAN YOU SHARE SOME FAVORITE PLACES TO INSTALL WALLPAPER?

I like wallpaper in closets. The coat closet, your bedroom closet and even in the pantry. It can make a rather boring space feel very special. It can be a personal luxury, like having a beautiful lining in a jacket.

## Q3. WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE PAINT COLORS?

For walls, I like pale green (Moon Shadow by Benjamin Moore) or pale taupe (Coastal Fog by Benjamin Moore). For trim, I do off-white (White Down by Benjamin Moore). My own living room is Donald Kaufman's DKC-8. It's sort of a gray-celadon. I call it the color of water in a bathtub.

## Q4. YOU HAVE MORE THAN A DOZEN LICENSING PARTNERSHIPS FOR PRODUCTS. WHAT'S NEXT?

Luggage for the woman on the go. I think she's been forgotten.

## Q5. YOU HAVE DESIGNED A LOT OF SHEETS. WHAT IS YOUR THEORY FOR BEDROOMS?

Your bed should look like you've moved into the best hotel in town. Buy the highest-quality bed linens you can afford.

## Q6. WHAT ABOUT TOWELS?

I use only white or ivory towels. In the guest room, I use a blush color. I don't like monograms.

## Q7. WHY?

Because you already know who lives there.

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*\*Excerpted from various interviews with Barbara Barry.*





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# Martha Stewart's Remarkable Upholstery



Every piece of upholstery reflects Martha Stewart Furniture's commitment to delivering superior quality for superior value. That's why they take special care with every element that goes into their upholstery, from how it's made, to how it looks, to how it works for your lifestyle. You can be sure that you will take home a style that you love, with craftsmanship that will last for years.

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## Martha's Upholstery Cleaning Tips

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- \* Vacuum cushions and chair and sofa frames twice a week with the upholstery tool.
- \* Fluff and rotate cushions after they are vacuumed; this helps keep their fillings evenly distributed and ensures even wear.
- \* Once a week, lift cushions off sofas and chairs, and use the upholstery and crevice tools to vacuum the deck (the area under seat cushions and the nooks and crannies).
- \* Once or twice a month, gently beat the dust out of cushions with your hands; take the cushions outside first, so dust does not settle on floors.

From 'HOW TO CARE FOR UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE',  
Martha Stewart's Homekeeping Handbook:  
The Essential Guide to Caring for Everything in Your Home,  
Clarkson Potter/Publishers, 2006.

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## QUALITY AND CONSTRUCTION

All of the upholstered furniture features reinforced, engineered hardwood framing and sinuous, carbon-tempered steel-spring construction to prevent sagging and squeaking. A limited lifetime warranty guarantees frames and springs. For an especially comfortable seat, luxurious down-, feather-, and fiber-blend cushions with high-resiliency polyfoam cores and down-proof ticking covers come standard throughout the assortment.

## DESIGN AND STYLE

To help you find just the right upholstered piece for your lifestyle, the Martha Stewart Furniture assortment reflects three distinct design sensibilities: modern, casual, and formal. For a look that's sleek and simple, they have pieces with wood stretcher bases, track arms, and tight backs. To create a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere, they have pieces with side seats, pillowbacks, and plump rolled arms. Or, to set a sophisticated tone, they have pieces with tufted backs, specialty trims, and turned wood detailing.

## FABRICS AND ACCENTS

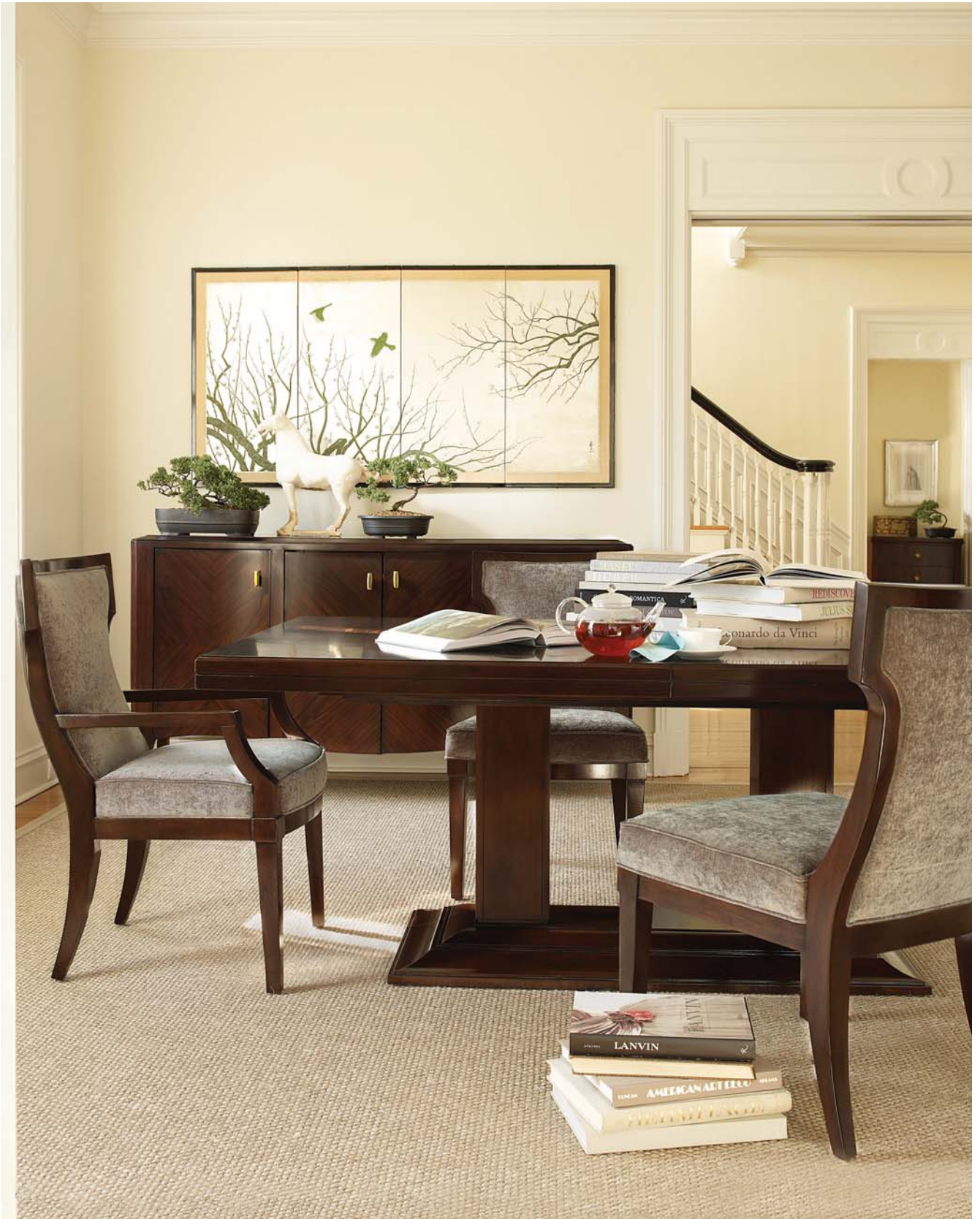
Every item is available in a specially selected cover, as well as in more than 140 other exclusive fabrics. From low-maintenance microfibers to sumptuous velvets to crisp stripes, all of Martha Stewart Furniture fabrics are chosen for beauty, durability, and comfort. You can also choose to have a piece covered in your own fabric. Accent pillows included with each sofa come in the same fabric as the frame, or in a coordinating fabric to add dimension and textures.

## COORDINATING FINISHES

To help make creating a complete look easy, all of the upholstery coordinates with the Martha Stewart Furniture case goods, sharing the same wood finishes (from Walnut to Espresso to Antiqued Cherry), so that legs on sofas, chairs, love seats, and ottomans coordinate perfectly with the tables, armoires, and beds.

























# Charles and Ray Eames: A Life In Design

Charles and Ray Eames, the husband-and-wife design team associated with the mid-century modern movement turned their curiosity and boundless enthusiasm into creations that established them as truly great designers. Their unique synergy led to a whole new look in furniture. Sleek, sophisticated, and beautifully simple. That was and is the “Eames look.”

Charles and Ray met at Cranbrook Academy of Art where they collaborated with some of the greatest 20th century designers such as Eliel Saarinen who offered Charles a fellowship to study architecture and design at Cranbrook Academy of Art. There, Charles and Ray deepened their friendship with Eliel and his son Eero, with whom he won the 1940 Museum of Modern Art Organic Furniture Competition.

Charles and Ray married in the summer of 1941 and soon after, moved to Los Angeles. In LA, Charles found work as a set designer on the back lot of MGM studios and Ray created covers for California Art & Architecture magazine, which was the magazine that created the low cost housing project, now famously

known as the Case Study Houses. At night, they conducted molded-plywood experiments in their Richard Neutra-designed apartment on Strathmore Avenue in Westwood, California. A year later, the US Navy placed an order for 5,000 splints made from molded-plywood and the Eames’s moved their workshop out of their apartment into a rented studio on nearby Santa Monica Boulevard, which was to become the incubator for their collaborative experimental designs in sculpture, chairs, screens, tables and even children’s toys.

## The Eames Look

George Nelson, the head of design at Herman Miller, persuaded Herman Miller to put some of these pieces into production. All of the Eames’ plywood designs combined an elegant organic aesthetic with a love of materials and technical ingenuity. That look and their relationship with Herman Miller started in the late 1940s and continues today.

Charles and Ray achieved their monumental success by approaching each project the same way: Does it interest and intrigue us? Can we make it better?



© 2008 Herman Miller, Inc., Zeeland, Michigan. All rights reserved.

Will we have “*serious fun*” doing it? They loved their work, which was a combination of art and science, design and architecture, process and product, style and function. “The details are not details,” said Charles. “They make the product.”

Charles and Ray embrace this spirit of celebrating the beauty of everyday objects as well as precious ones, especially in the way they dressed: he in open-necked shirts and loose pants, she in a bohemian version of a conventionally feminine wardrobe of short-sleeved blouses and full skirts. The film director Billy Wilder and his wife Audrey, who befriended the Eames, remarked that Ray’s idea of formal dress was to put on a clean blouse and Charles’ take on black tie was literally to wear a black tie. Ray’s self-consciously feminine guise underscored the role she adopted within their relationship of Charles’ younger, adoring protégé and underplaying her contribution to their work.

The combination of visionary design and ingenuity that had prompted Charles and Ray Eames to prototype a mass-manufactured product in their spare room was to

characterize their work over the next four decades. Together they not only designed some of the most influential and innovative furniture of the late 20th century, but through their films, teaching, writing and their life together in the house they designed in Pacific Palisades, they defined an open, organic, emotionally expressive approach to design and lifestyle.

Work remained the center of their lives until Charles’ death on August 21, 1978. Ray then worked hard to complete any unfinished projects. She devoted the rest of her life to communicating their ideas through seminars and writing. Ray Eames died on August 21, 1988, ten years to the day after Charles.

A design critic once said that this extraordinary couple “*just wanted to make the world a better place.*” That they did. They also made it a lot more interesting.

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Charles and Ray Eames designs are available in Thailand exclusively through Chanintr Living at the CHM Systems showroom on the ground floor of The Promenade Décor.







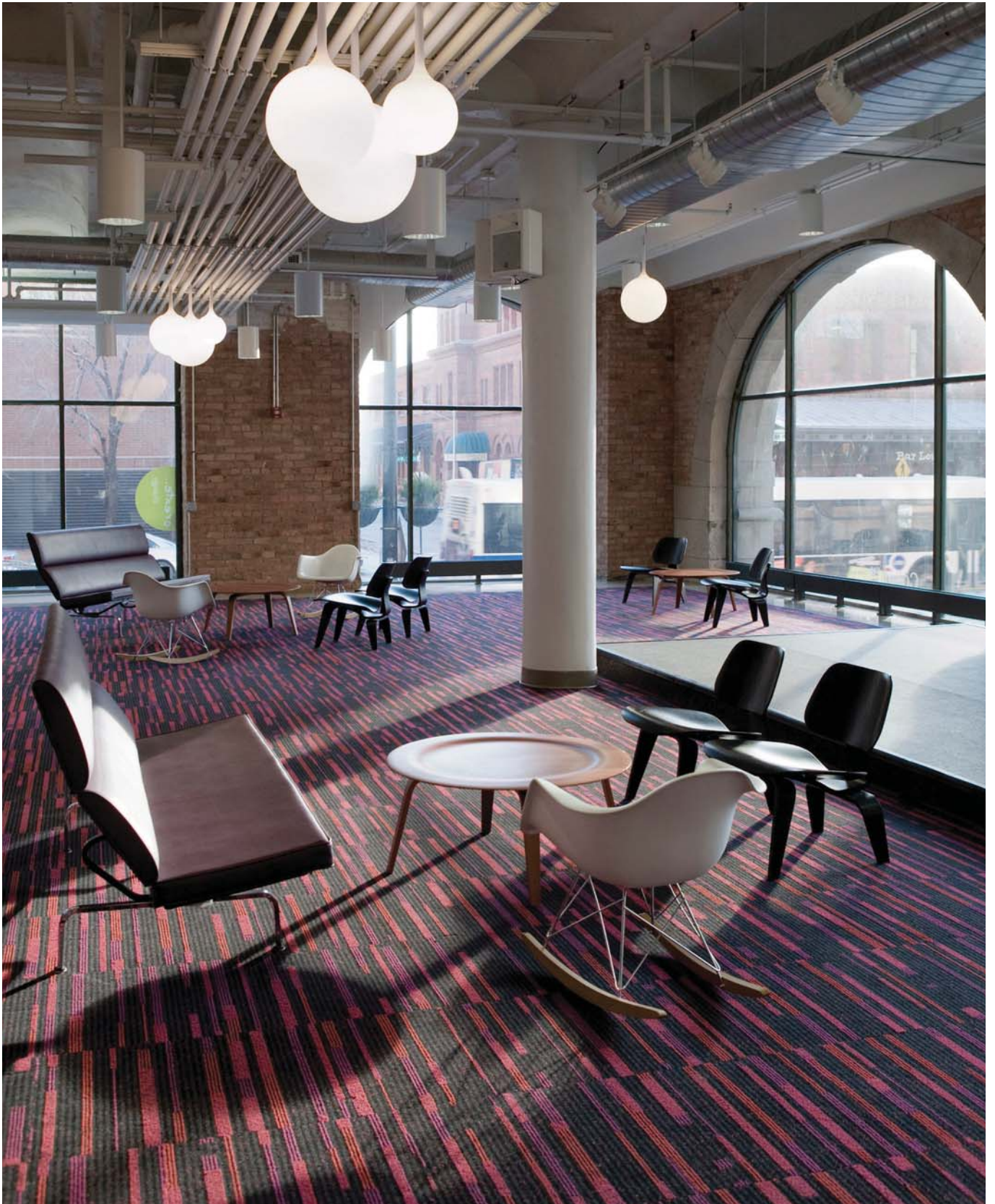














# McGuire

## Timeless Classics

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Have you ever wondered who is the maker of the black leopard print upholstered rattan armchairs at the Bamboo Bar in the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok? Well to connoisseurs of fine furniture, it is easy to distinguish that they are Gondola Armchairs designed nearly 50 years ago by Elinor McGuire. The name McGuire is synonymous with style and elegance. For over 60 years, McGuire Furniture Company of San Francisco has built a reputation for design and quality as gracious and lasting as the furniture it makes.

McGuire is internationally known for creating high-end designer furniture of rattan, solid teak, bamboo, laced rawhide, aluminum and other premium materials. John and Elinor McGuire founded the company in 1948 with the notion that the natural strength and beauty of rattan coupled with classic designs could move this furniture from the outdoors to the living room. Today, McGuire furniture is not only found in living and dining rooms, but in corporate board rooms, five-star resorts and hotels, elegant restaurants, luxurious yachts and private clubs throughout the world, including the Mandarin Oriental Bangkok.

McGuire's famous rattan designs achieve their strength and beauty through the use of wet rawhide strips lashed at the joints—a unique process developed by the company. When dry, the rawhide tightens to form a strong, permanent binding and leaves each piece with clean lines that flow uninterrupted.

Skilled artisans transform the frames by hand staining, glazing and painting several coats of colored lacquers. Creating many of the lustrous and brilliant finishes, such as Oxblood, Hunter Green and Safari, takes hours of handcrafting. When the furniture is ready for upholstery,

great care is taken to ensure that each piece is designed to the customer's style and preference. The fabric, usually the customer's own, is positioned, cut and sewn by a team of expert tailors. Given the endless combinations of styles, finishes and upholstery, McGuire must custom make each piece for its discriminating buyer.

Domestic and foreign patents protect many McGuire designs and some of the first McGuire designs are now part of the permanent Smithsonian Collection at the

Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York. Many of the early McGuire pieces designed by John and Elinor McGuire have become classics and remain in the company's line today.



© McGuire. All rights reserved.

McGuire furniture has a feeling of relaxed sophistication. Today's consumers have diverse tastes, combining what they love from the styles of the past with fresh, new interpretations of present designs. Put a McGuire original next to a fine antique or a Minotti Italian sofa with a classic McGuire chair and the two immediately establish a rapport, because both are classic designs, which uses beautiful materials simply and sensitively. This results in a quality of timelessness. So versatile is McGuire's furniture that it can be found in fine hotels in Monte Carlo and the West Indies, corporate offices in New York, and elegant U.S. embassy residences in 20 countries overseas.

Perhaps it's time to reacquaint yourself with McGuire furniture.

---

McGuire furniture is exclusively sold through Chanintr Living at the Baker store at The Promenade Décor or Barbara Barry for McGuire through Barbara Barry at Siam Paragon.

he had me at  
BONJOUR

*Baker*<sup>®</sup>



IMAGE: THE JACQUES GARCIA COLLECTION

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AMARI RESIDENCES HUA HIN

Exclusively furnished by Chanintr Living using Martha Stewart Furniture, Dedon, Sleep to Live, Visual Comfort and Bolier.





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# Dr. Robert Oexman answers your sleep questions.

---

**Q:** How much sleep  
do I really need?

**A:** - Chutima B., Bangkok.  
The right amount and timing of sleep for each of us is as unique as the size of our feet. One of the most widely held misconceptions about sleep is that we supposedly need less sleep when we are in our 60's as compared to when we are in our 30's. As we age, we still need the same quantity of sleep as when we are younger.

First, let's get the amount of sleep correct and the timing will take care of itself.

1. Do you use an alarm clock to wake up? Do you fall back to sleep immediately after hitting the snooze button? If you do, you are most likely not getting the sleep you need.

2. To get an estimate of the amount of sleep you need: Without using an alarm, try sleeping in on a day that you do not have to get up, on the weekend for example. The next time you have to wake up with an alarm, calculate the amount of sleep you were able to get on a weekend night and go to bed at the time needed to get that amount of sleep. It is important that you go to sleep and wake up for 14 days at the same time.

3. If the alarm is still waking you from a sound sleep, and you are still falling asleep after you hit the snooze button, begin adding 30 minutes to your sleep schedule by going to sleep 30 minutes earlier.

4. If you are waking up prior to the alarm, and you feel fully refreshed, you can begin decreasing your amount of sleep 30 minutes by staying awake later at night. Do this for 14 days prior to making any further changes.

5. Once you find the amount of sleep you need that allows you to feel refreshed upon awaking with an alarm that only "reminds" you to wake up, you need to maintain that schedule of going to sleep and waking up all week long. Remember, our sleep is as unique as the size of our feet; so, we should not be forced into wearing a size 8 ½ shoe, just because that is what the average person wears.

---

## Dr. Robert Oexman

Dr. Oexman oversees the Sleep to Live Institute and has done numerous researches on sleep and how the environment impacts sleep. He is a member of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine and received his post-graduate training in sleep at the Sleep Medicine Center in Stanford, California. Dr. Oexman has lectured to physicians and the general public in the United States and internationally.

Great Sleep:  
The natural way to better health.

Sleep to Live offers a patented computerized diagnostic test which identifies what mattress you should be sleeping on.

Come in today, for your complimentary test and discover your ideal sleep system.

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SLEEPTOLIVE.COM

**Sleep to Live** 

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## *Alexa Hampton:*

With the death of her father, Mark Hampton, in 1998, Alexa Hampton took over the mantle of Mark Hampton Inc. With a staff of a dozen people, her office does about 5 big and 15 to 20 small jobs a year. Hundreds of thousands of potential clients have seen her on TV: She is appearing with antiques and decorative arts experts Leigh and Leslie Keno on the PBS series *Find!* and is also senior design consultant for *This Old House*. “The biggest mistake clients make is not trusting themselves to know what they don’t like. Nobody should ever be talked into something that they find distasteful,” advised Alexa Hampton to *Architectural Digest*. Alexa is on the AD100 list, *Architectural Digest*’s list of the world’s best interior designers.

## *Mariette Himes Gomez:*

Gomez, who grew up in Alpena, Michigan, knew at the age of 14 that she wanted to be an interior designer. She attended the Rhode Island School of Design and, later, the New York School of Interior Design and worked at Parish-Hadley and Edward Durrell Stone before founding her own firm in 1975. Based in Manhattan, Gomez Associates currently employs a staff of 20. “You shouldn’t try to include everything you ever liked in one house or apartment,” says designer Mariette Himes Gomez. Mariette is on the *Architectural Digest* (AD) 100 list.

## *Suzanne Kasler:*

For over twenty years, Atlanta designer Suzanne Kasler has created warm, inviting environments that strike a balance between elegant, traditional design and practical comfort. Kasler is known for her love of all things French and brings a fresh mix of Continental flavor and classic style to her interiors. It was recently written, “The Atlanta-based designer brings southern charm, European sensibility, and an architectural eye to her interiors.” By mixing both antiques and modern pieces, she creates environments that are timeless, sophisticated, and, most importantly, livable.

## *Thomas O’Brien:*

For over a decade, Thomas O’Brien has been one of the design industry’s best known modern tastemakers. With a focus on vintage forms translated for modern living, O’Brien’s designs are executed in a spectrum of luxurious materials that are at once elegant and easy, crisp yet anything but cold. This warm, engaging spirit embodies the collaboration between Thomas O’Brien and Hickory Chair. The Thomas O’Brien and TOB collections draw on a wide range of inspiration from machine age motifs to neoclassical ideas of the 19th Century then executes those forms in premium materials, rich finishes and luxe hardware. Thomas O’Brien is on the *Architectural Digest* (AD) 100 list.



## Lakehouse Bed

Inspired by a classic 1840’s acorn post bed, the Lakehouse Bed designed by Thomas O’Brien features the elegantly scrolled headboard, shapely turned posts, and gracious proportions. Instead of executing the headboard in wood, however, O’Brien translates the form in curvaceous upholstery with standard nail head trim. Available in Queen, King and California King sizes along with endless finish, nail, fabric and leather choices.



# Famous Designers Call Hickory Chair Home

For nearly 100 years, Hickory Chair has been crafting furniture in North Carolina and in 1988, Hickory Chair took its first foray into working with interior designers by teaming up with famed New York society designer, Mark Hampton. Today, their attention to design remains unchanged and they have added several more leading interior designers to their stable of design talent.



## Alexandra Chair

The Alexandra Chair by Suzanne Kassler features one of the most renowned architectural motifs—the quatrefoil. The hand-carved chair is a very fluid neoclassical design incorporating quatrefoil forms. The quatrefoil-shaped back makes a graphic statement creating visual interest from all angles.



## Kimball Dining Table

Adapted from a circa-1810 original, this pedestal table is scaled to feel intimate, yet able to accommodate eight with the 22-inch leaf. The turned, central column features an attractive pendant finial and four lyre-shaped legs with countoured steel stretchers and brass casters.

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Hickory Chair is available exclusively through Chanintr Living showrooms or to view a sampling of Hickory Chair, please call +662.655.0415 to make an appointment.



©Thomas O'Brien courtesy of Aero Studios. All Rights Reserved.

# Interview with Thomas O'Brien

## *Personal information:*

**Q** WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU BORN?  
May 29, 1961, in upstate New York.

**Q** WHERE DID YOU ATTEND UNIVERSITY?  
The Cooper Union, in New York City.

**Q** WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?  
New York City and Bellport, Long Island.

**Q** DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?  
I have two dogs, a Maltese named Elcy Jones and a Cairn terrier, Totie O'Hara, and a blue point Siamese cat named Esmeralda. Through many generations of pets, I have had pairs of these two dogs together. And I've always had the cat with them.

**Q** WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR DESIGN BUSINESS?  
My business is the Thomas O'Brien Company. My design office is Aero Studios, and my store, which is a retail space in front of the studio, is also called Aero.

## *What is your favorite...*

**Q** HOLIDAY DESTINATION?  
London, Los Angeles, my country house.

**Q** CLOTHING DESIGNER?  
Ralph Lauren.

**Q** RESTAURANT?  
Ed's Lobster Bar, in Soho on Lafayette Street, one block from my office.

**Q** STORE?  
There are always my favorite antique shops that I visit. But I also like to go to Muji in Soho, a wonderful, Japanese, modern design general store.

**Q** CANDLE?  
Diptique Bais, a mix of black currant leaves and Bulgarian roses.

**Q** WINE?  
Livio Felluga Pinot Grigio.

**Q1. WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?**

Lately, I actually have been cooking a lot and reading cookbooks old and new. The one I'm reading now is *Terrine* by Stéphane Reynaud (Phaidon). The subject is so unusual and intriguing to me, since I had never made a terrine before, and also because it is presented with the most elegant modern photography and design.

Beginning with the cover, the book has an arresting, gorgeous graphic character and typography that remind me of the chic 1960s work of designers like Paul Rand. It is a book to enjoy looking at as much as cooking from.

**Q2. WHAT IS ONE NECESSITY WHEN TRAVELING?**

A fragrance. At home I always tend to mix more than one fragrance, but when I travel, I will bring one small bottle of something special. Recently I've been wearing an older classic, *Eau Sauvage* by Christian Dior. It is this wonderful new-old scent from the mid-1960s, in a vintage bottle that I can carry in a travel size.

**Q3. IF YOU COULD LIVE IN ANYTIME THROUGHOUT HISTORY, IN WHAT TIME WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE AND WHY?**

I am always drawn to the early years of modernism, in the 1920s and 1930s. I'm fascinated by the artistic culture of that time, in Europe, Paris, the Bauhaus, and also in New York. I would want to visit the studios of those artists, photographers, designers, to see the connections between all the different design disciplines that they were working in.

I'm also fascinated by Georgian-era England, in the architecture and art collecting of that period. There is something so pure about Georgian design and houses that sets up a lot of what I think of as modern.

**Q4. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE WORST TREND IN HOME FURNISHINGS HAS BEEN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS? THE BEST?**

I think the how-to movement genuinely taps into a desire that people have to improve their quality of life. But I am not an advocate of the staple gun renovation approach. I don't really believe in trends and tips as an idea or even as a place to start.

I think quick fixes can be superficial and generic, and they run counter to what most people really want, which is value and quality and good things. I believe in doing real, honest things that will be classic. These can be easy, approachable, simple ideas, but they are still connected to good design.

**Q5. WHICH PRODUCT LINE OF YOURS ARE YOU MOST PROUD?**

I'm proud of all my product lines and especially the way they all relate to each other. I am particularly pleased with how quickly my lighting group with Visual Comfort has grown. This is a category where we create and launch a full range of original lights twice a year, every year. That gives me a chance to keep designing, which I appreciate. And I have always really loved the mix of materials, engineering, and industrial influences in vintage lighting, which I'm able to bring forward in this collection.

**Q6. DESCRIBE YOUR DESIGN STYLE IN 3 WORDS?**

I'd say it's not three words, but two: American Modern.

**Q7. IF YOU COULD GIVE ADVICE TO YOUNG DESIGN STUDENTS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I believe you can learn about design and interiors in so many ways. My route was through art school at The Cooper Union in New York City, which was a practical, hands-on program founded in Bauhaus principles. And going to school in New York, I was inspired by the museums as much as anything.

Getting out into the world and educating yourself creates a foundation. And practical knowledge is always best. You should truly know how to make things, whether from a good studio program or finding work within a design office.

**Q8. IF YOU COULD GIVE ADVICE TO INTERIOR DESIGNERS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

I prefer work that is about a place rather than a signature style that has been forced onto all places. I believe what something becomes really needs to come from what it is – the architecture, the clients, and then all the ideas you develop for that unique project.

**Q9. IF YOU COULD GIVE ADVICE TO SOMEONE SHOPPING FOR FURNITURE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?**

Over the years I have certainly created all kinds of custom designed pieces for various clients, many times based on antique forms. But one tricky thing that people can fall prey to is the game of what I call the 'imaginary antique' – when you find something that's beautiful and wonderful, but still you want it to be even more ideal in some way. If you find the most special Venetian chest that is magical, but you wish it had five drawers instead of four, or six more inches of length; if you think there might be a better one out there, you will be disappointed. With vintage things, let them be what they are, and work around those qualities.

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Thomas O'Brien for Hickory Chair is available exclusively through Chanintr Living showrooms or to view a sampling of Hickory Chair, please call +662.655.0415 to make an appointment.























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### HERMAN MILLER

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Wireless Road, Bangkok  
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### HICKORY CHAIR

T. +662.655.0415 hickorychair.com

### KRAVET

Available at: *Barbara Barry*  
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T. +662.129.4799 kravet.com

### MARTHA STEWART FURNITURE

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T. +662.129.4577 marthastewart.com

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## AROUND TOWN...



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## Aeron Hockey CHM Systems and Chanintr Living hosted Aeron Hockey 01 at Bed Supper Club on February 8.

Thirteen teams from design firms around Bangkok participated for a chance to win the 1st place prize of 10 Aeron Chairs for their offices.

DJ Poom from Virgin Hitz 95.5 FM was our MC and Khun Burin from Groove Rider and Khun Changnoy from A Day magazine were our celebrity guests.

1st Place went to DBALP, Duangrit Bunnag Architects Limited Partnership and 2nd Place went to IA49. Aeron Hockey will be an annual event and thank you all for taking part.

## Martha Stewart

During our bi-annual visits to the High Point Furniture Market in the US over the last few years we had the chance to meet Martha Stewart and show her pictures of our store and client homes.

We invited her to come and visit the store herself one day in Bangkok but never expected her to do so this past holiday season. She is seen here visiting our store and signing her books for excited local fans. Before coming up to the store she had a tour of the Gourmet Market at Siam Paragon, trying out all the local delights while being greeted by shoppers.





























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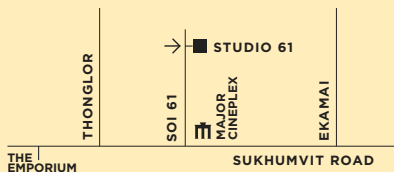
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