

CHANINTR LIVING



THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

Summer 2010



BARBARA BARRY

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A MEMBER OF CHANINTR LIVING

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I am not sure whether my concern for sleep is just a sign of aging and my seeking out different remedies to help deal with a body that is not what it was 10 years ago, or because of the fact that I am really feeling the warnings of all the sleep research that is being published nowadays. Whether it is that extra glass of wine, the espresso after a great meal, or sleeping on a hotel bed that just is not right for my body; I realize that my next day is affected. I don't feel so fresh waking up, my mind is less focused and the tendency to get stressed out or annoyed by little things increases. More than ever, I look forward to returning home to my own bed, that is just right for me as do many people who are already using a Sleep to Live mattress (formerly known as Kingsdown).

This April we introduced Sleep to Live in Singapore at Courts Megastore and the reaction far exceeded our expectations. On July 1st, we will be launching this revolutionary solution in 13 branches of Central Department Stores in Thailand, as well as the new Courts on Orchard Road in Singapore, to make sure that you and your partner sleep on the right mattress. Although we can't be there to tell you that you shouldn't have that final single malt or shot of caffeine before going to bed, I could not be happier to be introducing a product that has the potential to genuinely improve your sleep and hopefully, your health.

We recently returned from a long trip to Italy for the Milan Furniture Fair and to the High Point furniture market in North Carolina. We had the chance to meet some very interesting people on the trip, one of which is Alexa Hampton, whom we are pleased to share an interview with. You can find some highlights of our trip in this print issue, online version and blog. To see the online version, please visit chanintrliving.com.

For those of you who are fans of Bruce Weber and his work for Abercrombie & Fitch, you will be taken by his photography for Dedon. We can easily say that it is the most fashion-forward advertising campaign of any furniture company we have seen. Read more about this in our section 'Coming Home' describing what went into the making of it. As part of the new campaign, Dedon traveled the world doing a 'Tour de Monde' to shoot in various locations including Chiangmai (visit www.dedon.de/en/blogazine to see more).

I hope you are enjoying this journal of ours and would love to hear your thoughts.

Healthy sleep,



Chanintr Sirisant

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ZOE ON MATTRESSES
SNEDENS LANDING, NEW YORK, 2007
PHOTOGRAPH BY RODNEY SMITH

DESIGN BY
CASESTUDY LIMITED
casestudylimited.com

MATERIAL POSSESSIONS:

THE GUIDE OF WHAT AND WHERE TO BUY

Wall Covering

Barbara Barry for Kravet

Inspired by the soothing hues of watercolor paintings, these elegant collections combine palette, pattern and texture in a manner that once again demonstrates the timelessness of Barbara Barry's signature style.

From Baht 9,900 / Roll



Repose Slipper Chair

Barbara Barry

A classic form with a new sculptural line, this fully upholstered slipper chair can be the finishing touch to the perfect seating arrangement. It has a generously padded pullover back and tight seat, while the sculptural rear legs make it beautiful from any angle. Alone or in a group, it is a neat addition to any room.

Baht 139,000



Marsouin Side Table

Christian Liaigre

This red lacquer topped table is reminiscent of equestrian accessories with its bronze dressage bridle as the base.

Baht 288,000



Greenwich Street Secretary

Martha Stewart Furniture

For the business person's home office, the Greenwich Street Secretary is the perfect place to store all of your work at home. The drop-down lid construction is ideal for large homes or condominium living.

Baht 145,000

Daydream

Design by Richard Frinier

Dedon

For daydreamers and night dreamers who feel the expansiveness of the world and let their thoughts run free, this much copied canopy bed invites openness and conversation. Why not own the original that will stand the test of time?

From Baht 136,000



Edwardian Chandelier

Visual Comfort

This medium round Edwardian chandelier in polished nickel defines classic lighting. Sleek, beautifully finished and nicely proportioned, this light is available by order at all Chanintr Living showrooms.

Baht 105,000



Cortina Armchair

Design by Gordon Guillaumier

Minotti

This modern Italian lounge chair is sleek while at the same time classic because of the use of saddle leather for its seat.

Named for Cortina d'Ampezzo, the town in the Italian Alps, you can imagine yourself sitting après-ski in this chair around a fireplace, sipping a nice warm beverage.

Baht 208,600

Swan Center Table

Baker

The Collector's Edition

Deriving its name from the head of the graceful swan forged from steel and finished in Venetian Gold, the Swan Center Table is set with an antique mirror.

The top rests on three stylized legs, its upper supports curved to resemble the profile of a swan.

Baht 98,000



Eames Molded Plastic Chairs

Herman Miller

Introducing a variety of new colors and bases for the Eames molded plastic chairs. The additional options expand the classic's ability to suit multiple applications and also reinforce the company's commitment to authentic, sustainable design.

Baht 11,700 - 26,500





THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA

There was once a prince, and he wanted a princess, but she must be a real princess. He traveled right around the world to find one, but there was always something wrong. There were plenty of princesses, but whether they were real princesses, he had great difficulty in discovering; there was always something, which was not quite right about them. So at last, he had come home again, and he was very sad because he wanted a real princess so badly.

One evening there was a terrible storm; it thundered and lightened and the rain poured down in torrents; indeed it was a fearful night. In the middle of the storm somebody knocked at the town gate, and the King himself went to open it. It was a princess who stood outside, but she was in a terrible state from the rain and the storm. The water streamed out of her hair and her clothes; it ran in at the top of her shoes and out at the heel, but she said that she was a real princess.

"Well we shall soon see if that is true," thought the Queen. She went into the bedroom, took all the bed clothes off and laid a pea on the base of the bed, then she took twenty mattresses and piled them on top of the pea, and then twenty feather beds on top of the mattresses. This was where the princess was to sleep that night.

In the morning they asked her how she slept. "*Oh terribly bad!*" said the princess. "*I have hardly closed my eyes the whole night! Heaven knows what was in the bed. I seemed to be lying*

upon something hard, and my whole body is black and blue this morning. It is terrible!"

They saw at once that she must be a real princess when she had felt the pea through twenty mattresses and twenty feather beds. Nobody but a real princess could be as sensitive as that. So the prince took her to be his wife, as he was sure that he had found a real princess.

Finding the right mattress can be similar to the story of the sleep-deprived princess and the pea. Perhaps you are the "princess" who isn't getting a good night's sleep because the mattresses have been stacked against you for too long and you bought the wrong bed. Buying a mattress is an important decision and Sleep to Live wants to make it easy and foolproof.

Sleep to Live now takes the guesswork out of choosing a mattress by utilizing a patented Sleep to Live diagnostic computer system that uses 18 statistical measurements and over 1,000 calculations to match you to your perfect mattress, all in just a few minutes. It's Sleep, Personalized.

From July 1st, Sleep to Live will be introducing their sleep systems at 13 Central Department Stores in Thailand. Come in today to get a free test and discover how Sleep to Live replaces guesswork with science.

To find out more about Sleep to Live and the diagnostic system, go to www.sleepolive.co.th or visit your nearest Central store.

*GREAT SLEEP:
IT DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN
BY CHANCE.*

BEHAVIOR

Sleep research continues to show that your behavior prior to bedtime can affect how well you sleep. Achieving a high-quality sleep may be possible with a few minor adjustments.

Take a look at some of the behavioral factors that affect sleep.

DIET

Improve the quality of your sleep by improving your diet. Avoid heavy or spicy foods. Don't eat protein late in the day. Eating carbs in the evening and proteins in the morning allows you to fall asleep more easily. Avoid liquids, caffeine and nicotine before bedtime. Don't use alcohol to help you fall asleep - once it wears off, you'll be awake again.

EXERCISE

Regular aerobic exercise is proven to help you sleep better, because it reduces stress hormones. Exercising in the sunlight in late afternoon is even better. However, exercising 3-4 hours before bedtime will increase your core body temperature and prevent you from falling asleep.

NAPS

If you're sleepy during the day, you're not getting enough nourishing sleep at night. When you find yourself dragging, find a quiet place with no phones, loud noises, disruptive people or direct sunlight and take a 15-20 minute power nap (preferably before 3 p.m.). Napping too long can lead to sleep deprivation at night, which leads to decreased alertness and memory loss.

PARTNER

How can you and your partner both enjoy deep, nourishing sleep? Simple steps, like getting a larger bed with two unique sleep surfaces. Wear earplugs, stagger bedtimes, sleep with a vibrating alarm clock in your pillow, or make a pillow barrier to muffle sound and movement. Use two twin sheets and blankets on your Queen- or King-size bed to prevent cover wars. Your relationship will thank you in the morning.

ENVIRONMENT

Your sleep surroundings affect how well you sleep. It sounds simple, and it is. Creating an environment that promotes deep, healthy sleep inevitably contributes to waking up refreshed.

Here are some additional ways to improve them.

TEMPERATURE

Make sure the room is well-ventilated and the temperature is set between 20-21°C. Heat is more disruptive to sleep than noise. As we sleep, our body temperature naturally drops a degree or so. If a room gets warmer while our body lowers its temperature, it'll work against our natural system and actually begin to wake us up.

LIGHT

When it comes to the ideal sleep environment, darkness is king. Melatonin production improves when it's dark. Thus, better sleep. If you can't completely darken a room, consider blackout curtains or a sleep mask. Position the alarm clock and other digital displays so you can't see them, and use low bluelight bulbs for your nightlights.

SOUND

We sleep better when it's quiet. That's a no-brainer. Incorporating low levels of ambient sound such as white noise or fans helps to mask most household disruptions to a certain point (equipment cycling on and off, clocks chiming, etc.). If necessary, use comfortable earplugs to block the rest (sirens, pets, rude neighbors, etc.). Avoid watching television in bed, but if your partner watches TV, ask them to wear headphones.

BEDDING/SLEEPWEAR

Avoid heavy bedding. Instead, try several light layers that can be easily removed to accommodate your body temperature. Wear loose clothing if perspiration is a problem for you.

PETS

Man's best friend, but not at night. Their movements and sounds wake you up, and their body heat adds to yours.

KIDS

Be sure that children have a healthy sleep environment of their own to ensure nothing's waking them up or keeping them awake. If they do disrupt your sleep, make a plan with your sleep partner in advance about who will take care of them so that at least one of you can stay asleep.



“COMING HOME”

BRUCE WEBER'S WORLD OF OUTDOOR LIVING FOR DEDON

DEDON launched a groundbreaking new ad campaign, shot by the legendary fashion photographer Bruce Weber. The shoot represents the first time that Weber — best known for his timeless imagery for the likes of Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Gianni Versace and Abercrombie & Fitch — has photographed an advertising campaign for a furniture company. It also marks Weber's first ever collaboration with a German brand.

At a time when many of the world's premiere fashion labels are scaling back their campaign productions, Weber's photographic series for DEDON, titled "Coming Home", is big, bold and expansive, bringing together more than 20 models of diverse ages and ethnicities —

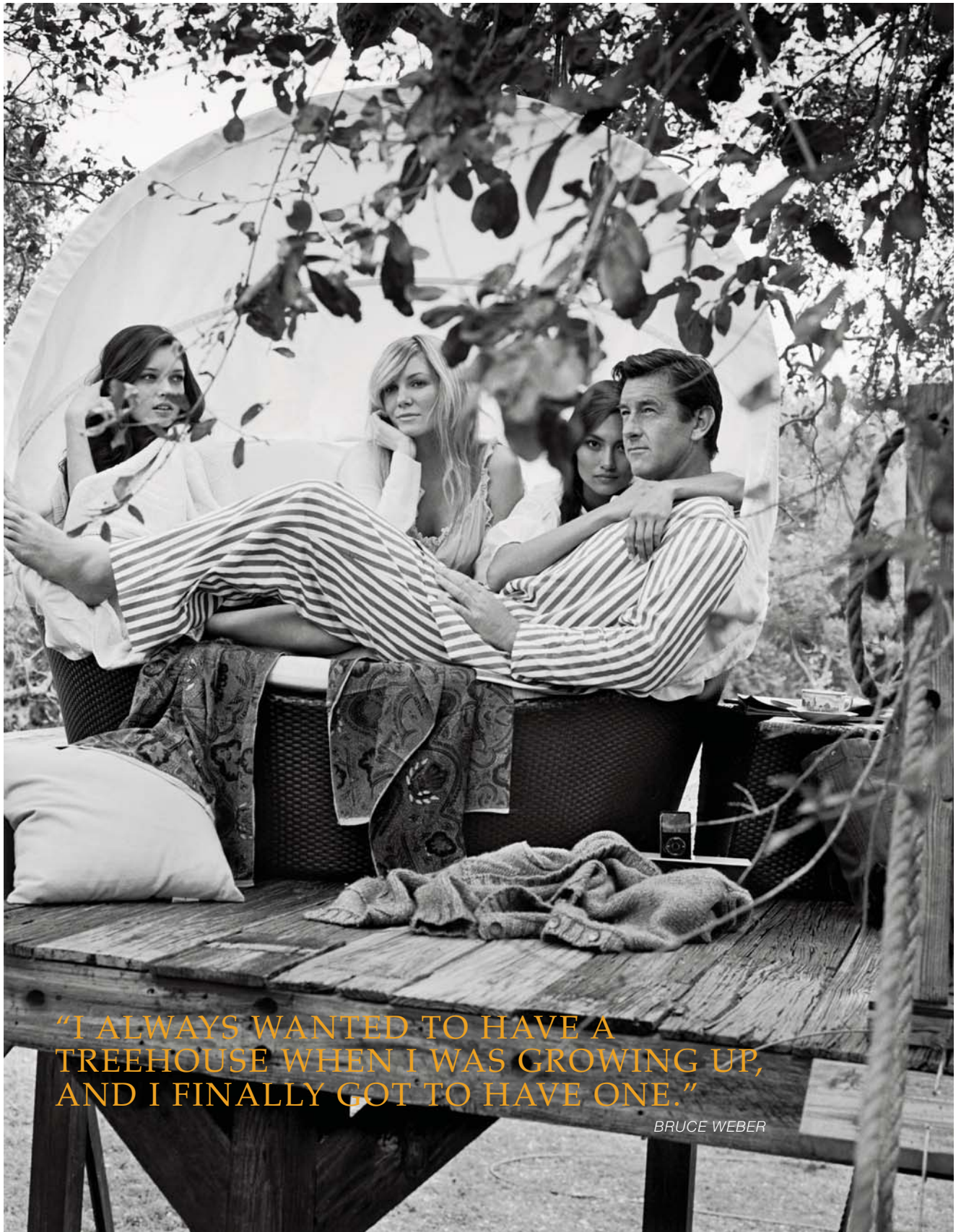
many of them longtime favorites of the photographer — plus an assortment of dogs, birds, donkeys and even butterflies, to create a furniture shoot unlike any before it.

The centerpiece of the new campaign is a sprawling, open-air treehouse. Built around a massive old tree selected by Weber himself, the house consists of four independent platforms of different heights, plus a bell-tower perch near the very top of the tree. The platforms are appointed with a full range of DEDON's unique, luxurious, handwoven outdoor furniture, along with props ranging from surfboards to antique bird cages to volumes from Weber's own library.

Against this dreamlike backdrop, suffused as it is with charm, character and romantic beauty, Weber's carefully chosen cast of models

enact scenes of everyday domestic life. From showering to sunbathing, taking a siesta to jamming with the band, relaxing with a book to having a dinner party, these enchanting scenarios, some twenty of them in all, effortlessly convey the key DEDON message of feeling at home wherever you are — even in a treehouse.

"For 20 years now, DEDON has pioneered the idea of the outdoor living room," says DEDON Founder and Chairman Bobby Dekeyser, "and with this treehouse shoot, Bruce has given that idea a fantastical new twist. What's more, he's captured the warmth, optimism and esprit de corps that DEDON has always stood for. Easy-going, free-spirited, yet highly professional, Bruce is very much on our wavelength. DEDON is proud to be the first furniture company to work with him."



"I ALWAYS WANTED TO HAVE A
TREEHOUSE WHEN I WAS GROWING UP,
AND I FINALLY GOT TO HAVE ONE."

BRUCE WEBER

Best known for his timeless imagery for the likes of Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein, Versace and Abercrombie & Fitch, the legendary fashion photographer Bruce Weber speaks about the DEDON "Coming Home" campaign, his first ever collaboration with a furniture company. Interview by Alex Marashian, AnOther Magazine

Q: What was your inspiration for this shoot?

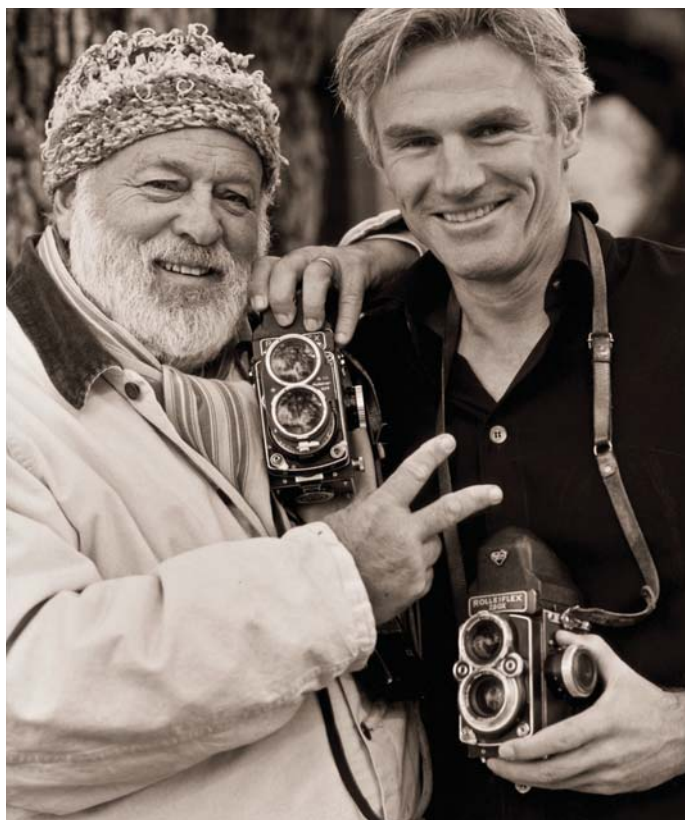
A: I always wanted a tree house when I was growing up, and my parents wouldn't let me have one. When Alex [Wiederin, the campaign's art director] first proposed building a tree house, I thought it was a great idea. I finally got to have one, even though it wasn't in my backyard.

Q: What does a treehouse say about DEDON?

A: I thought it related a lot to getting closer to nature and therefore was a novel idea for furniture.

Q: I noticed The Swiss Family Robinson among the props and was told it came from your personal book collection.

A: Growing up, I read and re-read an old edition of the Swiss Family Robinson. I loved the escapist value, and the idea that the whole family could be so close and enjoy each other's company so much.



"WE WANTED TO SHOW FAMILY AND FRIENDS LIVING AND PLAYING TOGETHER IN A PLACE THAT WAS OPEN AND COMFORTABLE."

BRUCE WEBER



Q: How did you conceive of the various scenarios that played out on the different platforms of the treehouse?

A: Once Alex and I decided on the theme of a family living in a tree house, that's when the casting became very important: We wanted to show family and friends living and playing together in a place that was open and comfortable.

Q: What was it like shooting a campaign for a furniture brand? How did the furniture influence the shoot?

A: My father was in the furniture business, so I have a long history of looking at it and thinking about the important role it has in our everyday life. The great thing about the furniture you pick for your porch, your home, your barn or your tree house is that it says a little bit about who you are. I wanted to show that when you move from place to place in your life, it's the furniture that goes with you.

Q: What was your approach to the styling?

A: I don't like to over plan the way I see photographs. I prefer to dip my foot in the pool and feel the temperature of the water first. I wanted to dress people who had a life at home and didn't need to run out to a nightclub. The most amazing thing for me was when I met Bobby and the people from Dedon, I could imagine them all living in this tree house and having the time of their lives.

www.dedon.de/treehouse

DEDON®

CHANINTR LIVING II

Known the world over as the man who photographed the nearly naked Calvin Klein underwear model that graced New York City billboards in the 1980's and catapulted Calvin Klein into the stratosphere for controversial ad campaigns, Bruce Weber continues to work today, thirty years after that ground-breaking photo shoot however, this time he takes all of the photographs of his past and marries them in a new campaign for furniture. Yes, Dedon furniture, the first time a photographer of this caliber has been commissioned to photograph furniture.

There is much written about Bruce Weber's photographs, but very little written about the man and even less, directly from Weber. Weber was born in 1946 in Pennsylvania and attended New York University in the late 1960's. He always wanted to be a photographer, but one day he happened to meet the soon to be internationally famous black and white photographer of the surreal, Diane Arbus. "I met Diane when I was having a really rough time," Weber related to Karl-Peter Gottschalk in 1995.

"Nobody liked my photographs, and nobody could understand why I was photographing men, and rock'n'roll people and blues singers. I remember the first time when I was photographing this

blues singer, John Lee Hooker. People said: "Why are you doing him? You should be photographing pretty girls and models", and this was pretty discouraging."

"I was having a coffee at a place in the Village," he continues, "and Diane Arbus was sitting there. I knew her photographs very well, and I really admired her a lot. So, I went up and said: "Hi, my name is Bruce Weber, I'm studying photography, and I really like your photographs". After we got to know each other, she was one of the few people who liked my photographs, and she got me into classes at the New School For Social Research with Lisette Model."

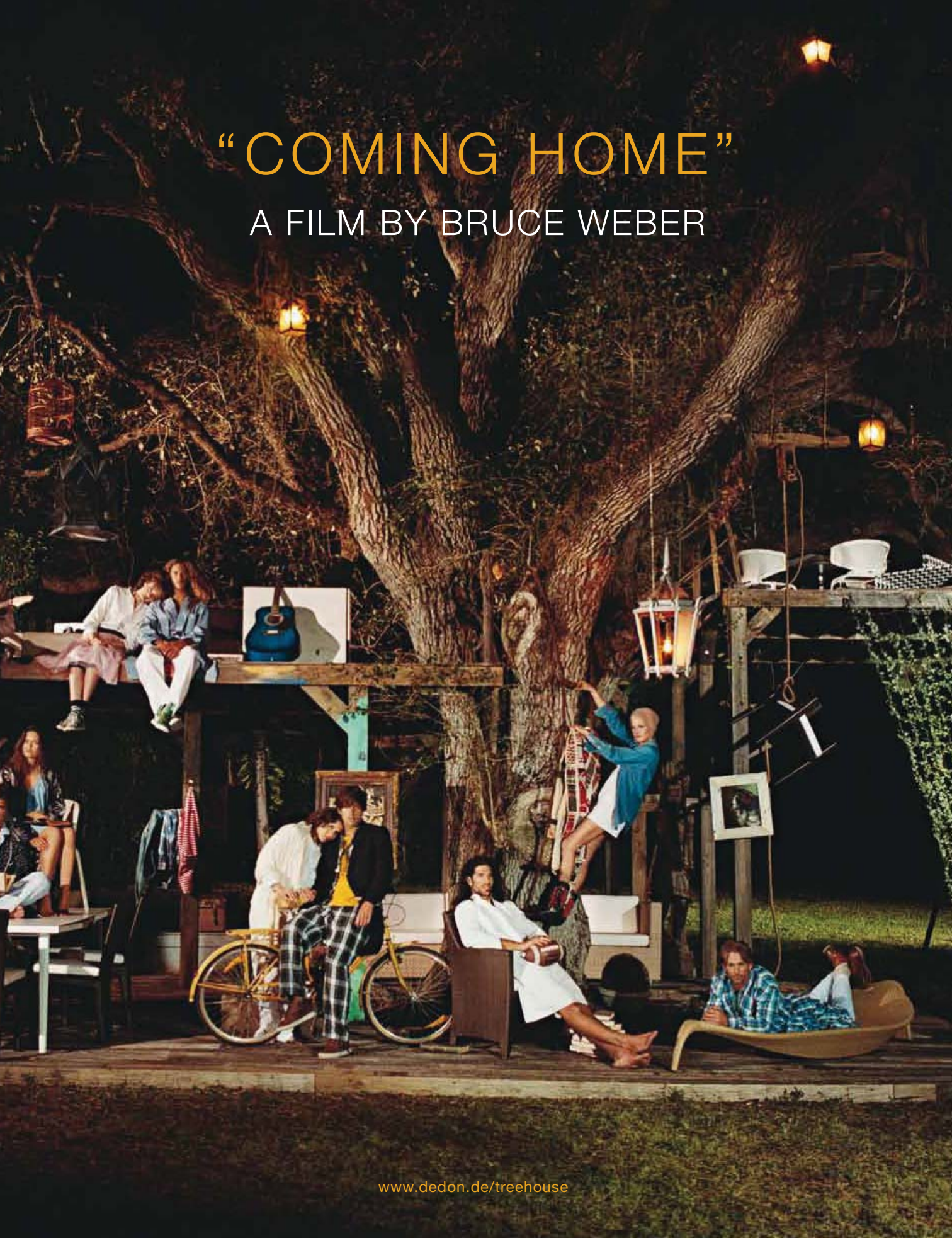
BRUCE WEBER FOR DEDON

Weber was quoted in an early interview saying he wanted fashion photography to be about throwing some nice shirts on a group of friends and having a fun experience with them, rather than it being a big production about couture clothes, supermodels and large support teams. Many of his most memorable shoots, like the underwear billboard for Calvin Klein in the '80s, came out of Weber creating enjoyable occasions for a team of strangers who became fast friends and once again, has applied this same philosophy to his new campaign for Dedon.



“COMING HOME”

A FILM BY BRUCE WEBER





“ I
DON'T
WANT TO
LIVE
SOMEONE
ELSE'S
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OF
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LIVE”

DENYS FINCH HATTON

CHANINTR LIVING IID

AS A
CHILD
YOU FIND A
BEAUTIFUL
TREE
TO CLIMB,
AND WHEN
YOU RETURN
TO IT AS A
GROWN UP
YOU WANT
TO CUT
IT DOWN.
BUT DON'T!
INSTEAD MAKE IT
"HOME
SWEET HOME".



***“IT IS POINTLESS TO SHOW
THAT YOU ARE A DESIGNER
WHEN NATURE PROVIDES
THE DECORATION”***

- CHRISTIAN LIAIGRE

If you haven't visited the Christian Liaigre showroom in Bangkok recently, the time to do so is now. The quiet restraint of Christian Liaigre is evident from the moment that you walk in the door. It is a temple. A place to contemplate design and discover craftsmanship that is very rare to find in today's production-focused world. The hum of the air-conditioning falls to a meditative calmness and the light scent of nature from Christian Liaigre candles subtly permeate the air.

Christian Liaigre has said that the reason he is able to design in different countries, climates and for various clients while maintaining the hallmark Liaigre look is because he adapts to each new project, respecting its setting, roots and endeavor to contribute to an atmosphere



of pleasure and calm. He tries to ease the features that already exist and transform the site as a whole, while at the same time helping to give the feeling that it has always been this way. To achieve this, Christian seeks inspiration from local traditions and materials: always natural, always hand-treated and sometimes even mistreated to achieve the perfect color or patina. Plastics and perishable materials are banished. The sole aim is to enhance an interior with elegance and discretion, to find materials which will preserve and harmonize with their setting, and to express the characteristic essence of one man and his time: an individual style. Space, calm and light are the three seemingly simple words that Christian attributes to luxury.

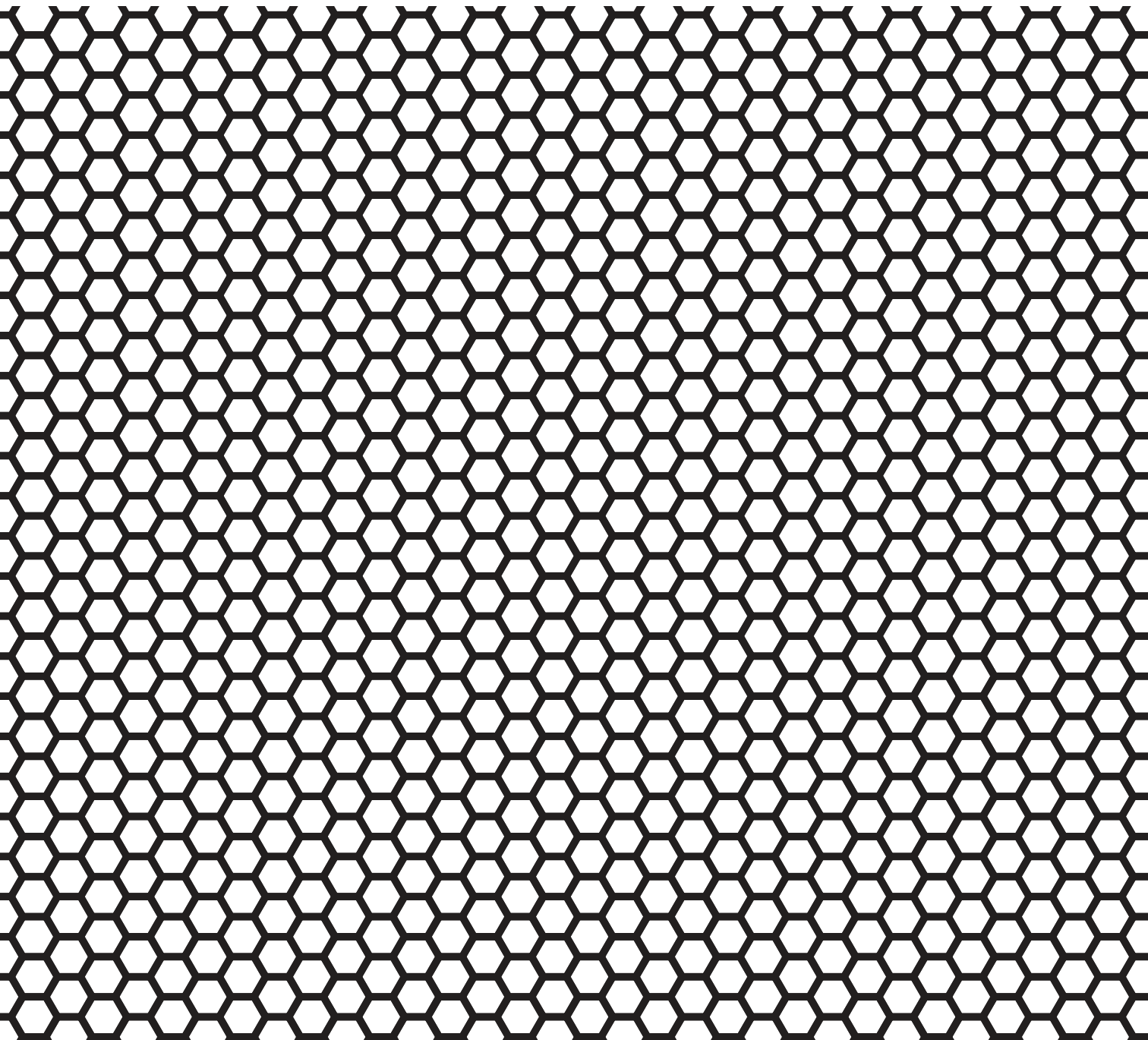
Christian has also said that he prefers to design private residences be it in the city or country. However, he believes that one of the greatest luxuries that can come from any residence is maintaining the calm and personality of the people that live there. His love of beauty and respect of a place and the people, is clearly rooted in his country upbringing, where simple, traditional virtues were valued and taught; his love of the sea and nature which has nurtured a capacity for quiet contemplation with precision and the pleasure in a job well done.

Please visit the Christian Liaigre showroom at The Promenade Décor to experience the contemplative world of this master.



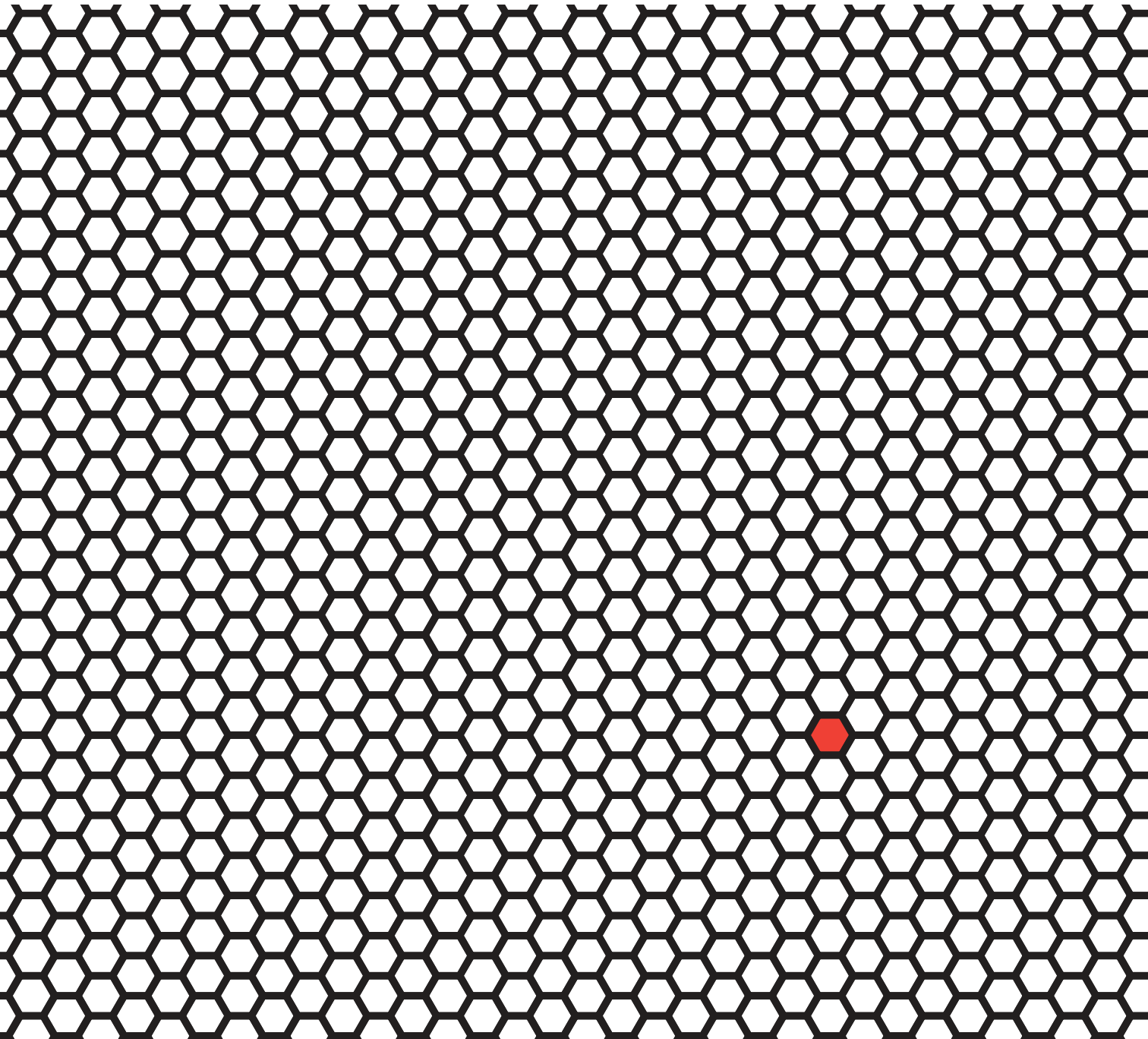
SWEET SOLUTION:

Capturing Corporate Philosophy
in a Four-Ounce Bottle



Several springs ago, the staff of the Herman Miller GreenHouse manufacturing facility in Holland, Michigan, realized they had a serious insect problem. Large colonies of paper wasps had decided that the GreenHouse, with its ample welcoming windowsills and rain-sheltering eaves, was a great place to take up residence. Unfortunately, wasps can be aggressively territorial, as GreenHouse employees and visitors soon learned. Since Herman Miller follows a strict 'no pesticides' policy, this was a tricky situation. While wasps were wreaking havoc around the building, the flowering terrain surrounding the GreenHouse was not living up to its colorful expectations. Experts suggested there might be a pollination problem. Further investigation led to a beekeeper and a plan was devised to bring beehives to the GreenHouse grounds.

The company was concerned that the wasps might chase the bees away, but the beekeeper said that in fact the bees would take over the main food source and the wasps would be the ones to leave. In late June, the beekeeper brought 122 hives, inhabited by approximately 600,000 honeybees, to the natural areas around the GreenHouse. Within a month, most of the wasps had left. While this was happening, the GreenHouse bees also went about their business of cross-pollinating the gardens. By the end of summer, their efforts had spurred the growth of a wonderful array of colorful flowers. The bees also started making honey, lots of it. Herman Miller now bottles approximately 20,000 four-ounce jars of honey a year! Another colorful example of Herman Miller's thoughtful approach to the environment.



BAKER: OLD-WORLD CRAFTSMANSHIP IS ALIVE IN AMERICA.



Down a small dead-end street on the outskirts of High Point, North Carolina, passed row after row of boarded up brick factories with for sale signs in the windows, sits a non-descript red brick building with late model cars lined up in the gravel parking lot. As we walk into the building, we are handed protective eye goggles to shield us from dust and anything that could harm our eyes. A Southern gentleman greets us, introduces himself to us and then welcomes us to the Baker Bespoke upholstery factory.

We have been on many factory tours over the years from hi-tech German factories where you can figuratively eat off the floor to very dimly lit factories that I wouldn't want wish upon anyone however, the first thing that strikes me about this factory is the age of the workers and the relics of history that are pinned to every wall and piled upon every desk. A desk calendar from the 80's that is still being used to scribble telephone numbers and the old wooden yard sticks with years of patina on them are now shiny from use.

The factory workers are not old by any means, but they are not young. They have enough age and experience however, to command the respect of all of us on the tour. I then realize that this is an "old school" factory. The Southern gentleman leading us on the tour has been here for so many years that he even pre-dates the current owner, Baker furniture.

From the lovely woman tracing out the patterns on the fabric to the men building the solid-wood frames to the elderly gentleman who is tying and knotting the springs into place in what's going to become the base and back cushions, the Baker Bespoke upholstery factory is just what it is; a custom factory. Not a huge production factory where there are lines of workers spraying on paint or using staple guns to attach foam to frames but an atelier that happens to be in North Carolina. This is old-world craftsmanship right here in the United States. This is as close as you get to haute couture furniture in America.



When the tour is finished, I stop and chat with the ladies who are now sitting around their worktables eating lunch. A country song is playing on the transistor radio in the distance and a woman with long hair looks up and asks me about my life in Thailand. The women offer me some lunch. I decline but I thank them for allowing us to tour their workplace, their gracious Southern hospitality and for keeping bespoke craftsmanship alive in America.

To request more information about the Baker Bespoke upholstery program, please visit the Baker showroom where you can custom design furniture from the frame up, creating a piece of furniture that is truly one of a kind.

-B. SMITH

*THIS FACTORY IS AS CLOSE AS
YOU GET TO HAUTE COUTURE
FURNITURE IN AMERICA.*















A ROOM WITH A VIEW

WHERE TO STAY

Villa d'Este
Via Regina, 40
Cernobbio 22012
+39.031.3481
villadeste.it

Relais Regina Teodolinda
Via Vecchia Regina, 58
Laglio 22010
+39.031.400031
relaisreginateodolinda.it

WHERE TO EAT

Giardino Ristorante Pizzeria
Via Regina, 73, Cernobbio 22012
+39.031.511154
giardinocernobbio.com

Il Gatto Nero
Via Montesanto, 69
Cernobbio 21020
+39.031.512042
il-gatto-nero.it

Lake Como. The name conjures up romantic villas, gorgeous Italian food and George Clooney. Well, in fact, the lake delivers all of this and more. This year while attending the Milan Fair, we decided to stay in a villa on Lake Como. It does sound opulent, but when you consider that hotel rooms in Milan were starting at 600 Euros a night, for a single room, and we were traveling with 6 people, it was far cheaper for our group to stay on Lake Como and travel 45 minutes by car into Milan for the fair.

We stayed at a lovely villa in the village of Laglio, a few minutes drive around the lake from Cernobbio, the epicenter of all things fashionable and noteworthy on Lake Como. Relais Regina Teodolinda was highly recommended to us by the proprietors of Il Gatto Nero, a charming restaurant in the hills above Lake Como. Relais Regina Teodolinda is extremely private and could easily house a large family for a private holiday. Behind the gates of this villa we experienced a tranquil lake side setting and enjoyed early mornings watching the ducks paddle across the lake while sipping our cappuccinos.

Beautiful villas dot the banks of Lake Como, but probably none so grand as the ones on Via Regina from Cernobbio to Laglio. Many villas are privately owned and the most famous resident of the area is George Clooney, the American actor. As we drove by his house every morning, we always slowed down, as the girls in our group would strain their necks to get a glimpse of the place that Mr. Clooney calls home.

Many villas have been converted into hotels, and the most impressive is the large and very grand Villa d'Este, whose original structures were constructed in 1568 for Cardinal Tolomeo Gallio, a native of the area. The Villa is built on the site of an old convent or “*Coenobium*” in Latin, and this is the origin of the town’s name, Cernobbio.

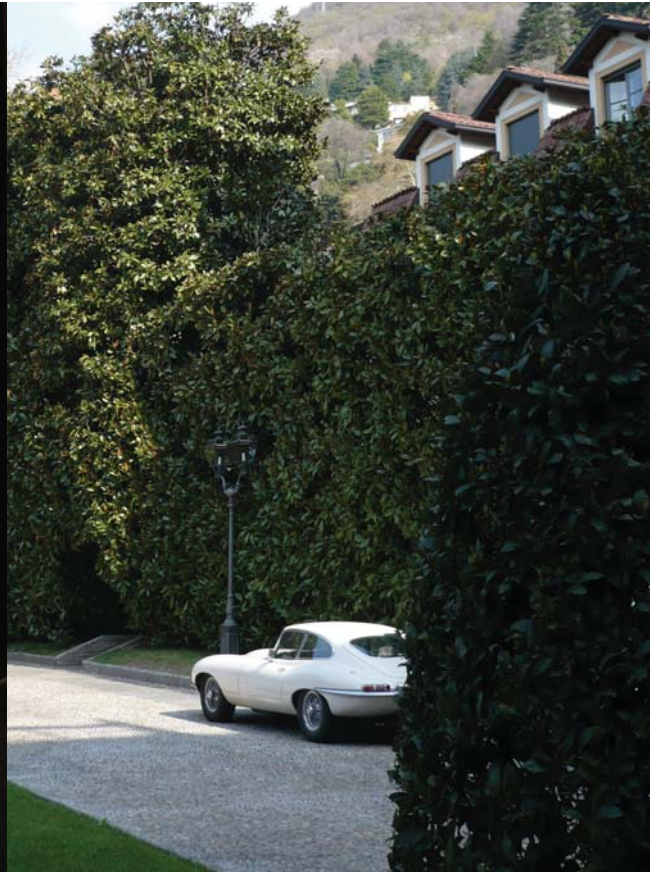
The property was purchased by Princess Caroline of Brunswick a descendant of the d’Este family who ruled Modena and Ferrara through long stretches of the late middle ages. Princess Caroline was England’s Princess of Wales at that time, later becoming Queen Consort to her husband King George IV.

Princess Caroline bestowed English-style gardens on the Villa’s estate, and refurbished it into the high style of the mid 19th century, La belle Epoque. The current owners of the hotel have retained that hushed and elegant style. The large, well-tended gardens that surround the main structures feature natural caves, fountains and sculptures. Famously, there is a large floating swimming pool that reaches into the fresh, cool water of Lake Como.

High season begins in late April thru October and peak season is in June and July.

*Opposite page clockwise:
Terrace of Villa d'Este overlooking Lake Como,
the monochromatic Gaming Room,
the sun-drenched terrace at Villa d'Este.*







MINOTTI: MILAN FAIR

In April, over 300,000 visitors came to the Salone Internazionale del Mobile or as it's commonly called the Milan Fair to see what's in store for all things in modern home design. The weeklong fair is held annually and more than one person told us that the Milan Fair is now more important to Milan than fashion week drawing more press and participants. This year alone, the event drew over 5,110 journalists from around the globe.

This year, a burst of bright creative designs were showcased in the 24 halls that make up the Fiera Milano Complex. Perhaps we are slightly biased but we thought that the Minotti space stood out above all of the rest and by the number of people packed into the very large Minotti exhibition space, others agreed. This year they created a modern city apartment in two separate spaces; one being for the general public and another 2-story space reserved for Minotti dealers and press.

The key words for this collection were Linen and Petroleum, which is what Minotti is calling the aqua-teal blue that served as accent colors that made the space pop. Minotti is known for their modern sofas but this collection was beyond modern. It was classic. This wasn't furniture made for its trendiness and will be passé in 2 or 3 years, rather, this is furniture that will stand the test of time. This collection from Minotti will look just as good in 10 years as it does today.

As always, the Minotti brothers were there to greet us and show us their extraordinary space that changes from year to year. Renato Minotti, owner of the 60-year-old luxury furniture company founded by his father, Alberto, after World War II, has grown his family business into an international brand recognized the world over for being the leader in Italian furniture design.

"The 2010 collection is welcoming, vintage and couture," explained Renato. "Welcoming because when you see our sofas, they look more comfortable and inviting to sit on; vintage because of the lines that are reminiscent of Scandinavian design; and couture, because of the fabrics that are similar to those used by fashion houses. When it comes to color, we stuck to the classic shades of copper and pewter to create a timeless, yet masculine feel for the furniture and overall ambience that the furniture gives in a living space."

The new collection from Minotti is now available for pre-ordering only through Chanintr Living.









*INTERVIEW WITH
ALEXA HAMPTON*

*“ANY TREND IS THE WORST!
GOOD TASTE SHOULD INFORM
ONE’S STYLE, NOT TRENDS.”*



Hickory Chair designer, Alexa Hampton has design in her genes. As the daughter of the late legendary New York designer, Mark Hampton, she served as Senior Design Consultant for This Old House, an American TV show and was the show's first and only regularly appearing female cast member. Her mother, Duane, has roots in Thailand and spent her youth in Bangkok as the child of a diplomat and grew up next to the American Embassy. We think you'll agree that Alexa is interesting, talented and real. May we introduce, Alexa Hampton.

WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU BORN?
April 24 in New York City.

WHERE DID YOU ATTEND UNIVERSITY?
Brown University.

WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?
New York City.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?
No.

WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR DESIGN BUSINESS?
Mark Hampton LLC.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE:
HOLIDAY DESTINATION?
Greece.

CLOTHING DESIGNER?
I'm very into Roland Mouret these days.

RESTAURANT?
La Table de Joel Robuchon in Paris.

CANDLE?
My own "Alexa Hampton Black" Candle, available by special order. It smells of Orange Blossom and Tuberose.

WINE?
Bordeaux and Super Tuscans.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?
Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, by Stieg Larsson.

WHAT IS ONE NECESSITY WHEN TRAVELING?
A good hairdryer and an electrical adapter.

IF YOU COULD LIVE IN ANYTIME THROUGHOUT HISTORY, IN WHAT TIME WOULD YOU CHOOSE TO LIVE AND WHY?
I love living right now- especially as a woman with so many opportunities available to me.

WHAT DO YOU THINK THE WORST TREND IN HOME FURNISHINGS HAS BEEN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS? THE BEST?
Any trend is the worst! Good taste should inform one's style, not trends.

WHICH PRODUCT LINE OF YOURS ARE YOU MOST PROUD?
That's like choosing between my children. I love all of my lines. I've invested a lot of time and energy into developing each product and love to see each and every one produced and used.

DESCRIBE YOUR DESIGN STYLE IN 3 WORDS?
Classic, Eclectic, Logical.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ADVICE TO YOUNG DESIGN STUDENTS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Originality should not be prized over good sense and great style.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ADVICE TO INTERIOR DESIGNERS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Never forget that you're in a service industry.

IF YOU COULD GIVE ADVICE TO SOMEONE SHOPPING FOR FURNITURE, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
Make sure to always sit in your furniture first. Comfort is key!

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES WITH KRAVET

What do Oscar de la Renta, Calvin Klein and Barbara Barry all have in common? They all designed a fabric collection for Kravet. Kravet is a fourth-generation family business, offering the widest range of fabrics and furnishings in the home decorative industry. The company began by supplying fabrics to the interior design trade in 1918. Nearly a century later, its wide array of luxury fabrics, trimmings and carpets eases the lives and engages the creativity of designers and consumers the world over.

With more than 60,000 individual fabric products from which to choose, Kravet offers fabric collections from over 40 designers including:

Barbara Barry
Alexa Hampton
Thomas O'Brien
Kelly Wearstler
Vicente Wolfe
Oscar de la Renta
David Easton Design
Michael Weiss
Thom Filicia
Ralph Lauren Home
Laura Ashley
Pierre Deux
Waterworks
Calvin Klein Home

Kravet trimming is a great way to add a finishing touch to any upholstered piece of furniture or window decoration. Kravet's vast collection ranges from the simplest cord to the most elegant tassel to give your furniture a custom, one-of-a-kind look.

Kravet is available exclusively through Chanintr Living. Contact any of our stores and they will be happy to assist you in selecting fabrics that will add your own personal touch to your home.



GOING GREEN AT ABC KITCHEN

We realize that we write often about Jean-Georges Vongerichten, but we admire him so much. He is always innovative, creative and he started his career at Mandarin Oriental Bangkok and therefore, loves all things Asian. So when we were in New York City after High Point market, we decided to go to ABC Carpet and Home to see the furniture displays and what they had to offer. Much to our surprise, we ran into Jean-Georges at his latest innovation, ABC Kitchen, his new locavore restaurant on the ground floor of ABC. He was pleased to meet us as Bangkok is very close to his heart.

In cooperation with ABC Carpet and Home's president, Paulette Cole, he has transformed the back portion of the ground floor into a stylish, warm dining room, using recycled materials. Beautiful old beams from a barn and the whitewashed floor creates a farmhouse effect that matches the market-driven menu. Local artists made the ceramic plates and the bread and dessert dishes and all the silverware are different and purchased off ebay. Placemats and menus come from 100% recycled paper and coasters are squares of cardboard from shipping boxes.

Jean-Georges has been interested in sustainable living and this is his first foray into a restaurant where everything is environmentally correct and everything comes from within 100 miles of New York City whenever possible. In fact, he told us that this month the officials would come in to inspect the restaurant and decide whether it can be officially declared a green restaurant.

Jean-Georges said that he wants this restaurant to reflect the farm-to-table experience with a casual and convivial atmosphere and the servers will make diners feel very much at home. They even found some of the front-of-house staff uniforms at local thrift stores in the spirit of sustainable recycling. Even the cocktails are made with local, organic liquors and juices. An extensive list of biodynamic wines and local beers accompany the mixed drinks. If Jean-Georges' enthusiasm has anything to do with the success of this restaurant, it will be a stellar success. After taking us around the restaurant and into the pantry, he said thank you in Thai and gave us a very polite wai and smile and a slight bow and we returned the compliment.

The menu changes daily so we can't tell you what to eat but we can guarantee that you will have a great experience at ABC Kitchen next time you are in New York.

ABC Kitchen
35 E. 18th Street, at Broadway, New York
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AROUND TOWN...



MARTHA STEWART IN BANGKOK

In addition to the pictures shown in the last issue, Martha Stewart, while in Bangkok last December, took a culinary adventure to the famous Polo Fried Chicken restaurant. She savored a delicious lunch of Somtam, Larb, Northeastern Sausages and of course, Fried Chicken with extra crispy garlic. The owner was kind enough to let her in the kitchen to observe their cooking.

Later on, we took her to Or Tor Gor Market where she appreciated the fresh local Thai produce. Martha asked questions and tasted popular Thai snacks at every stall she visited. She also took home some traditional cooking utensils.

That night, we topped it off with a tasty dinner at Je Fai, our favorite dining spot on Mahachai Road. Je Fai was proud to share some secret recipes and cooking techniques and posed for photos with Martha.

Baker[®]



IMAGE: THE THOMAS PHEASANT COLLECTION

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