

CH WINT R LIVING

A man wearing a dark suit, a striped tie, glasses, and a bowler hat is sitting at a long wooden desk. He is leaning forward with his chin resting on his hand, looking out of a large window. The room has green walls and a wooden door with a glass panel. A small wooden stool is visible under the desk. The lighting is warm and comes from the window.

Fall 2010

PLAYING WITH PHILIPPE STARCK



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A MEMBER OF CHANINTR LIVING

CHANINTR LIVING

Fall 2010

Purpose & Passion.

Is there an order to these two transformative words?

Take one without the other and the story becomes far less interesting; the magic just goes away. Meet someone with these qualities and you can feel it when they walk in the room. For many of them, the calling has been with them since youth, although many experience difficult challenges and obstacles along the way, their fiery commitment has eventually led them to great success.

In this issue, we feature three persons who clearly demonstrate these qualities. Two of them, Philippe Starck and Bobby Dekeyser, have joined together to create the DEDON PLAY range. A product that has characteristics that are usually deemed impossible: high quality, affordable, customizable, beautiful and not easily copied. In this instance, Philippe has broken the bounds, as he has done many times before, of design and innovation.

As for Bobby, his big heart, charm and generosity - so clearly shown in his bringing 80+ dealers to Cape Town for four very memorable days of bonding, some work, and the Germany vs. Argentina game (thank you, Bobby!) - have led all of us to join his pursuit of realizing his DEDON million chair march.

The third person, Michael Han, came totally by surprise during one of my frequent visits to Singapore. During a foodie restaurant exchange program between myself and our close friends in Singapore, they brought me to FiftyThree. Without having put a spoon in my mouth, I knew I was at the crossroads of great taste and great taste.

Wishing you purpose and passion in all you do,



Chanintr Sirisant

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MATERIAL POSSESSIONS:

THE GUIDE OF WHAT AND WHERE TO BUY

Play

Dedon

Designed by Philippe Starck for DEDON, the leading producer of hand-woven outdoor furniture, the PLAY chair and armchair is the fruit of two opposing yet interchanging design concepts. It marries the high technology of a moulded polypropylene and fibreglass frame with the unique style of chairs and backrests handcrafted by master artisans.

From Baht 12,000



Cerused Wood Collection: Table Lamp

Martha Stewart Furniture

Made of hand-fabricated solid-wood this table lamp features a cerused finish that is a Martha favorite and unique in the marketplace. With a smoke-gray taffeta shade that perfectly complements its white finish, this lamp's intricate shape is inspired by ancient Greek and Roman vases.

Baht 32,000



Enchord Desk

Herman Miller

The work we do at home makes special demands on our space and furniture.

Designed specifically to support the wide range of tasks that happen at home, the Enchord desk and mobile cabinet are an affordable, simple, and downright clever solution to getting the homework done, keeping the papers you're using now organized and at hand, and letting you keep your phone and a sandwich nearby while you shop online.

Baht 30,900



Crawford Vanity

Baker

The Crawford Vanity is an elegant flowing form, as functional as it is beautiful. Designed by Bill Sofield to second as a small desk, the piece is outfitted to accommodate a computer with ease, if desired. The vanity is crafted from solid walnut, its table top laid with highly figured pau ferro veneers in sophisticated juxtaposition to the creamy ivory lacquer base. A slightly raised gallery surrounds three sides of the top its back cut out to allow computer cords to nestle behind.

Baht 532,000



Well Suited Sofa

Barbara Barry

This sophisticated, tightly tailored piece is strict, yet luxurious, with two deep back cushions and armrest pads covered in fabric or soft leather. Reversible cushions assist in maintaining the sofa's good looks. Dark walnut base. Shorter versions available.

Baht 415,000



Chaise Médaille

Christian Liaigre

Solid oak frame in new finishing from Christian Liaigre, *chêne peuplier*. Back and seat are upholstered in Christian Liaigre's white textured leather called *coquille grené* which means seashell.

Baht 112,000

Andersen Bed

Design by Rodolfo Dordoni

Minotti

The large family of beds has been further expanded with Andersen Bed, which has involved removing superfluous elements but keeping the care for tailoring details. The strength of the know-how about sofas acquired over many years, also applies to the upholstered beds.

Baht 340,000



Playing

with Philippe Starck

"I'm not trying to create a beautiful object. I'm neither a cynical designer nor a fantastical designer. I'm just a designer. Cynical design is design whereby the product is designed to sell more. Fantastic design is design for other fantastic designers. I try to design the object so that the end result gives something useful to the user because I have no power to change anything."

- Philippe Starck

What do you get when you mix Philippe Starck with Dedon outdoor furniture? You get an injection-molded plastic chair with interchangeable back rests and seats made of woven fiber and A LOT of crazy interaction between Bobby Dekeyser, the former footballer-now owner of Dedon and the "mad man" of design, Philippe Starck.

Designed by Philippe Starck for Dedon, the PLAY chair is the realization of two interchanging design concepts. It marries the high technology of a molded polypropylene frame with the unique style of chairs and backrests handcrafted by master artisans. Based on a concept of interchangeable aspects of materials and colors, PLAY opens the horizon to a future of specially customized furniture and an array of possible combinations.

PLAY will be offered in three base colors; chalk, carbon and terracotta with 30 different combinations from which to choose. The PLAY chair has also inspired PLAY with Dedon, a collaboration that includes the BISTRO table, with its glazed porcelain ceramic tabletop that stands on a central pedestal made of molded polypropylene, and DINING, a four-legged table in mirror-finish aluminum and profiled in aluminum, and which, thanks to the use of an inert compound of powdered bamboo and plastic, looks just like real wood and can be ordered with a built-in champagne bucket that runs the length of the table.

PLAY with Dedon by Philippe Starck will be available this FALL in the Dedon store located on the ground floor of The Promenade Décor.





Philippe Starck

Philippe Starck is a legend in modern design. He's known for his playful hotels and eateries around the world, notably the Felix restaurant in the Peninsula Hotel Hong Kong, the Hotel Delano in Miami, the Mondrian in Los Angeles, and Asia de Cuba restaurant in New York, designing the total environment from interiors to furniture to linens.

But he has made perhaps his most permanent mark on design through his bold reworking of everyday objects. In reimagining and rethinking the ordinary, he has produced some of the iconic shapes of the 20th Century, including his leggy chrome juicer, the re-imagined Emeco aluminum chair, and the witty Louis Ghost polycarbonate armchair.

Philippe Starck is an untiring and rebellious citizen of the world, who considers it his duty to share his ethical and subversive vision of a fairer planet, creates unconventional objects whose purpose is

to be "good" before being beautiful. Most of his designs have become cult objects, and his hotels are timeless icons that have added a new dimension to the global cityscape. An enthusiastic advocate of sustainability, this visionary recently developed the revolutionary concept of "democratic ecology" by creating affordable wind turbines for the home, soon to be followed by innovative wooden prefabricated ecological houses and solar boats. He himself lives, with his wife Jasmine, mostly on an airplane, in Paris, Burano, or on his oyster farm in the southwest of France.





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Barbara Barry

Color Talk

*COLOR IS EVERYTHING BECAUSE COLOR IS MOOD
AND WELL, MOOD IS EVERYTHING, RIGHT?
GOOD MOOD? BAD MOOD? CALM MOOD?*



We would be surprised if we knew how much color affects our moods and therefore our lives. I happen to be aware of this because I experience the world as one big walk-in painting. And as a designer, I have thought a lot about this and learned a lot exercising my color theory in rooms as well as fabrics, china and carpeting.

My color theory is the belief in the calming effect that multiple shades of a single color create. It is a mesmerizing, almost hypnotic effect. I believe it is because the eye delights in picking up the various and subtle nuances between different values of the same hue. Think about the grains of sand on the beach, the colors of greens in the garden or the shades of blues in the ocean. Whenever you take those experiences in you feel nurtured and nourished by them. These subtle shifts go deeper into your nervous system and that is what evokes the calming response. The good news is that you can experience the same thing in your rooms of your home. If you want a calm backdrop for your life then don't be led astray with too many color choices and/or too much contrast. Be diligent about your use of color remembering that the eye picks up everything. And that means everything that you bring into your space too. Not just the walls and the carpets and the fabrics but the accessories, the artwork and the flowers.

The color that you choose does not have to be pale or washed out, it can be vibrant and saturated if that is what you really want but then stick to different shades of that

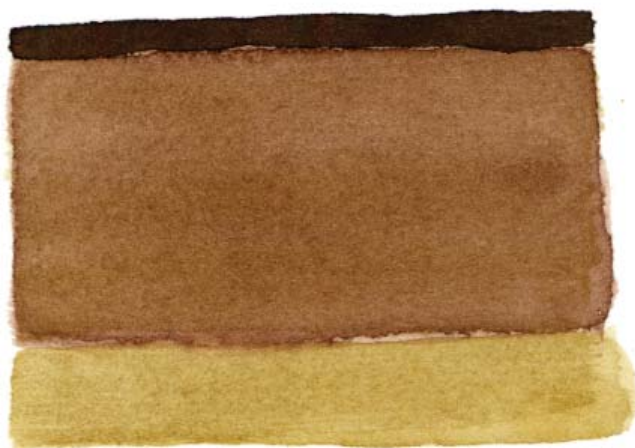
one color. Let's take red as an example...go for burnt red, faded red, brown red and pink red. Layer them like a painter would paint on a canvas. Your eye will do the work of blending them together. Use texture as another layer of interest for the eye. Work with solid fabrics so that they layer one atop the other. Think how gorgeous an ivory bowl sitting on a dark wood table would look in this room.

If you prefer, instead of red, take the color of gold...honey spun gold, faded gold, bright gold, burnished gold. Like liquid sunshine these tones feel warm and rich. Think how lovely a single stem of a fresh white flower with bright green leaves would look in this room.

Working in this way is timeless as you will be able to refresh your room with simple moves like a different colored pillow; a simple crisp white linen pillow in summer or a deep bronzed pillow in the winter set against your palette of choice can change the whole mood like a splash of color in a modern painting.

In my office we delight in keeping a library of the many values of my favorite hues. Just walking into our library I get inspired. It almost doesn't matter which color you choose. There are no ugly colors. You just have to choose the right shade of the color. And this explains why I like to watercolor because watercolor stains the page with layers of glazes and allows you to build up a color story. That is how I begin each project whether it is a scheme for a room or a line of fabrics...always searching for those color pairings that are elegant and easy to live with.

Nature is my most profound and endless teacher. I have only to look out my window, crack open a pistachio or gaze at the clouds from the plane. It is the painterly way I see the world and once you see it that way too you will never be the same or lack for inspiration!







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Minotti
BY
CHANINTR LIVING

Accessories à la Christian Liaigre



For the modern equestrian who cares about design, the Porte Selle Ecuyer designed by Christian Liaigre is the perfect gift for the young knight in training.



Japanese Ink Box

Taking inspiration from ancient Japanese ink boxes or suzuribako, Christian Liaigre introduces his modern take on the Writing Box.



The Console Belier

The Console Belier is evocative of the astrological sign Aries whose symbol is the ram.



Cirrus Bronze Table

This small bronze table is named for the cloud-like formations that open to the world.



The Lampadaire Florentine

The Lampadaire Florentine is a matte brushed floor lamp.



Interview with Laura Kirar

Laura Kirar is the founder and creative director of Laura Kirar*TRU Design. Under her direction the teams in New York and Miami work in tandem to create elegant, innovative interiors and product for the home with timeless sensibility. Laura has shaped the design of an array of interesting projects—from high-end residences to award-winning commercial interiors of restaurants, showrooms and hotels.

A designer with the soul of an artist, Laura completed her degree in sculpture and interior architecture at the prestigious School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her passion for artistic exploration in numerous mediums has continued to infuse her work with originality and thoughtful attention to detail. Laura currently designs for Baker and McGuire furniture companies.

Personal Information:

WHEN AND WHERE WERE YOU BORN?

In the US, Chicago, Illinois...
I'm a Sagittarius!

WHERE DID YOU ATTEND UNIVERSITY?

The Museum School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

WHERE DO YOU CURRENTLY LIVE?

New York and Miami, occasionally Mexico.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PETS?

The most enlightened black cat...
Mr. Snapps, who thinks he's a dog!

WHAT IS THE NAME OF YOUR DESIGN BUSINESS?

Both my interior and product licensing businesses operate under Laura Kirar * TRU design.

General Questions:

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE?,
HOLIDAY DESTINATION?

My 17th Century hacienda on the Yucatan peninsula, Mexico.

CLOTHING DESIGNER?

My closet is filled with vintage YSL, Ungaro, Valentino, and I love every piece of McQueen I own.

RESTAURANT?

Fasano in Sao Paulo
Avec in Chicago
Anything by Jean Georges in New York.

STORE?

De Vera in New York
L'Eclaireur in Paris
10 Corso Como in Milan.

CANDLE?

I love handmade unscented tapers and pillars for light but if you are talking about scent I'm devoted to incense... particularly high quality Japanese like Shoyeido in scents Misho, which mean "gentle smile" and Go-un or "five clouds."

WINE?

I was introduced to the lovely Clos Bourbon 2003 given as a gift at one of my dinner parties, it's a wonderful Bordeaux...however I prefer tequila, 4 Copas Anejo, which is fragrant sipping of vanilla, caramel and agave.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?

I'm re-reading The Leopard, an "Italian classic" and just finished Danny Meyer's "Setting the Table."

WHAT IS ONE NECESSITY WHEN TRAVELING?

Distilled water and Davinci Spectra Greens Powder—keeps me healthy and energized.

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

From the perspective of decorative arts, Vienna at the turn of the last century and fashion, Paris in the 50's but as a designer I truly prefer to be in the present with both traditional craft and materials and incredible modern technology at my fingertips.

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

Amorphous plastic furniture because it seems so trendy, temporary and eventually, ecologically wasteful.

THE BEST?

A turn towards quality over quantity and the mixing vintage and antique furniture with modern and contemporary. It is a sophisticated and layered look that celebrates quality and craftsmanship and of course the personality of the designer or client.

WHICH PRODUCT LINE OF YOURS ARE YOU MOST PROUD?

It is hard to decide as they all represent ideas I feel strongly about, however, my collection for Baker is the largest and most comprehensive of my vision for interiors, showing upholstery, case, lighting, even rugs and textiles. It illustrates the complete Laura Kirar lifestyle.

DESCRIBE YOUR DESIGN STYLE IN 3 WORDS?

Authentic, Conceptual, Elegant.

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

Apprentice when given the opportunity working and watching is the best way to learn the business and complete studies in business and psychology as well as hand drawing. Communication in an immediate way, both verbally and visually is extremely important.

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

Educate your clients. Teach them about quality and show them the difference between product made with care and something temporary. Beautifully made furnishings help create incredible spaces, memorable interiors and, ultimately, happy clients.

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

Always purchase the highest level of quality your budget will allow. Choose things that are well crafted and that you love and the piece will endure both years of use and design trends. You'll never regret the good investment.





Thomas O'Brien and the American Modern

Designer and merchant Thomas O'Brien has always had a passion for making useful things. Now, that sense of purpose has led him to a new medium and a debut as an author, with the publication of his first book, *AMERICAN MODERN*, from Abrams, published in April 2010.

O'Brien's venture into books has been long anticipated by followers and design fans, yet this meticulously made volume is not the usual designer retrospective. Instead, it is a more deliberate meditation on a philosophy of modernism in his work, organized into seven extensive chapters that each portrays one home and one variation of modern style. The book progresses almost as a series of short stories, strung together in a gentle arc from the surprisingly traditional sensibility of an antique Connecticut country house to the art-filled studio modernism of O'Brien's own 1930s New York City apartment.

O'Brien modeled *AMERICAN MODERN* on the serene, studied simplicity of vintage modern photography and interior books; and like their luxurious pace, this book invites the luxury of delving deeper into homes than is typical in today's media. There is a wealth of details, pictures, and anecdotes that have never before been published, including O'Brien's generous account of his own homes, past and present. Chapters are laid out in spare page-for-page pairings of large photographs and discrete essays, making for concise reading and a chance to pause over interesting moments in the unfolding of each project. O'Brien's disarming, unguarded narration shares information that is both conversational and practical, from architectural and restoration decisions to the collecting of furniture and art. The elegant, crisp photography casts light on the ingredients of a room as much as the rooms themselves.

The sum of these elements, like the interiors they illustrate, is beautiful and unhurried, authentic and thoughtful. The book feels instantly classic, for all its moods of modernism. And that is exactly what O'Brien is after: showing what is most lasting and calm in what is modern, and revealing the presence of something modern in what is past.

"My more modern clients have always been the ones who crave actual, traditional antiques, while the traditional clients are drawn to the most pared down modernist forms," explains O'Brien. "And each style makes the other look better. These things are interconnected, and always have been, in the history of design. I wanted to do a book that looked into this approach as a really modern way of living, from whatever vantage point you start at."

"I think people are searching for ways to live well in this current moment in time," he continues. "They want to learn how to refine their taste and make good decisions, good investments. That's the real pursuit I want to help with. And there is a path I thought I could talk about that could help empower them to do that. Taking readers through a specific set of projects, in a logical progression, from traditional to modern, was a way to move the discussion forward. I picked these seven projects because they could tell that particular story. I wanted to share real choices and real time spent in these homes that I've designed. I wanted something very personal and true."

And true to his word, modernism is in the mix, not the era. In one New York apartment, a striking 1986 Irving Penn photograph of a lipsticked mouth holds court in a foyer with 19th century Austrian and Swedish furniture. In another, a museum-quality collection of vintage Jean Prouvé furniture populates a casual, comfortable family loft. Pieces from the 1920s through the 1960s routinely pair with Georgian and neoclassical revival forms of the early 1800s. It's this continuum, O'Brien teaches, with the freedom to mix pieces both adventurously and knowledgeably that makes for an American Modern approach to design.

"What I really like to do for clients is create this kind of interior that is knowledgeable," says O'Brien. "It's about conveying an awareness and an education, and inviting people to learn about what interests them. Then you can build a design, which will suit someone uniquely. If this book can be part of that education for anyone, then I feel very fortunate. It is really about this set of ideas that I think are valuable, which happen to govern how I work."

AMERICAN MODERN
is now available at Asia Books, Kinokuniya and Amazon.com.





The Martha Stewart Bedroom

I love it when friends remark that their night in one of my beds was “the most comfortable they ever had.” A guest room can be simple or fancy, but it has to be cozy, convenient to a bathroom, and have a clock, a reading lamp, and, of course, a well-made bed.

- Martha Stewart

Bedrooms are private places, and how your own bedroom is set up is a personal matter. Some people, for example, like their rooms to be worlds unto themselves: full service “control centers” for modern living with a phone and fax system, a computer with Internet access, exercise equipment, and a complete entertainment system, all in place, plus a desk or worktable. My approach to the bedroom is more old-fashioned. I like to use it for reading, occasionally watching TV, and, of course, sleeping. I think of the bedroom as a nighttime place, set up with everything I need to get to sleep and keep me comfortable.

I’ve always been partial to four-poster beds. In winter, I like to place rugs alongside the bed so I can step out onto something soft and warm in the morning. On each side of the bed there must be a generous nightstand for a reading lamp, books, and a vase of fresh flowers, along with enough space to accommodate whatever else might come in handy, whether it’s a phone, an alarm clock, a carafe or bottle of water and a glass, a remote control, or pads and pencils. I have a drop-leaf table with a drawer as a bedside table in Skylands; it’s not a traditional choice, but it serves my purposes very well. I can raise the leaf to give myself more night table space, even pull up a chair if I want to take notes, and then lower the drop leaf in the morning. A set of pullout nesting tables next to the bed can be versatile alternative.

This somewhat minimalist approach (I don’t generally keep extraneous furniture or decorative items in the bedroom) would work well in a guest room as well, where

you want your visitors above all to be comfortable and have enough space for their belongings. A small vase of fresh flowers on the bedside table is a lovely touch when you have people come to stay.

Storage for clothing and space for dressing are important considerations in a bedroom, as I learned growing up in a big family and then learned again after moving to Turkey Hill, which has few and tiny closets, as is typical in old houses. With such limited space, I learned how to use every square inch. Any bedroom has space that’s underutilized, and that can be adapted for storage; under the bed, on the floor beneath the hanging clothes, on the closet door itself, in the space above a closet shelf. Organization and clever use of space is the key.



As for the perfect bed, it should be wonderfully comfortable – and that means different things to different people. I prefer an extra firm mattress. Quality is not subjective, however, and you should always buy the best mattress – and other bedding – that you can

afford. It will last the longest and provide you with the most comfort for a good night’s sleep. The mattress should have a durable, natural-fiber mattress cover to protect it. Everything that goes on top of that – the fitter and top sheets, the coverlets, blankets, and duvets, as well as pillows with their covers and slips and shams – should be chosen according to how they feel and look, and again, in the best quality possible. Natural materials, such as cotton, linen, wool, and down and feathers, will wear beautifully and feel good, making for an excellent beginning and end to each day.

South Africa

Much has been written about South Africa during this past year as they played host to the World Cup in 2010. We had a chance to visit South Africa in July during the World Cup in order to attend the annual importer's meeting of Dedon and were immediately taken with its charm, the people and of course, the delicious wines. South Africa has a very interesting history and there are many websites and books on the history of this beautiful country, however, we were very fortunate to have found an amazing tour guide who was full of historical facts and figures of South Africa. More than just a tour guide, Roberta Fox is also an official interpreter for the government as well as being an actress.

We only had a couple of days to "explore" South Africa outside of the meetings, but with Roberta safely at our side, we were definitely in good hands. The first day we took the aerial cableway to the top of Table Mountain, the flat-topped mountain that serves as the backdrop for the city of Cape Town. The plateau is 1,086 meters above sea level and 3 km from side to side. The breathtaking views made it the perfect beginning to our trip as we now were centered and had our bearings.

We then walked the streets of this charming city with a mixture of different types of architecture all traceable back to the people that have settled in Cape Town and now call it home. In the evening, we dined at Africa Café, which was a nice indoctrination into African cuisine. The next day, we drove thirty minutes by car from Cape Town to the heart of the winelands country, Stellenbosch, where we spent the day at Webersburg Wine Estate. Webersburg sits in the most exquisite settings with vineyards and mountain ranges as far as the eye can see. The property dates back to 1786 and features Cape Dutch architecture with a main tasting room, manor house and Jonkershuis, servants quarters, that have been converted guest suites.

We were greeted at the main tasting room and as it was very early in the morning, started off the day with the most delicious coffee and pastries all served in front of a warm, crackling fireplace. Webersburg had just released their Sauvignon Blanc 2009 made by winemaker Matthew van Heerden who won the International Wine and Spirit Competition trophy for best Chardonnay in 2006 so we enjoyed the crisp white wine with a leisurely lunch on the terrace overlooking the pond with the Helderberg mountain range in the background.

We then toured the southern most point of the cape, not in all of Africa, as Cape Agulhas holds that distinction but Cape of Good Hope. It was very interesting to see nonetheless. About 1 km east of Cape of Good Hope, the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet. This in combination with the jagged rocks makes for treacherous waters that many sailors have not survived. In fact, this is exactly where Jan van Riebeeck and ninety sailors landed in 1652 under instructions by the Dutch East India Company to build a fort and develop a vegetable garden for the benefit of ships on the Eastern trade route as those that survived needed nourishment to continue their journey. Thus, the cape became a European settlement and South Africa's modern history began.

For more information on our tour guide, Roberta Fox, please contact info@chanintr.com

Webersburg Wine Estate

*Somerset West
South Africa
+27 21 881 3636
webersburg.co.za*

Africa Café

*Heritage Square
108 Shortmarket street
City Bowl, Cape Town
+27 21 422 0221
africacafe.co.za*

Table Mountain

tablemountain.net









CHANINTR LIVING SUGGESTS...

Molecular Gastronomy or Just Natural, Simple Food

When asked to define molecular gastronomy, Michael Han, owner and chef at FiftyThree restaurant in Singapore told us in no uncertain words that, “I am afraid I cannot as I myself have no idea what it really means. It was a term coined by a physicist at Oxford, Nicholas Kurti to refer to the usage and investigation of the role of science in cooking. I believe it does not refer to cooking itself nor does it describe any style of cuisine. I think sometimes the media defines what we do and tries to pigeon hole us.”

For a moment, we were lost in his response and then remembered that Michael, a 32-year-old Singapore native, is a new breed of chef. He started cooking in his late twenties after he “foolishly went to law school” before realizing that he preferred to slave in front of a hot stove while apprenticing at three of the world’s most famous restaurants. Yes, the first, third and fifth placed restaurants in the world in 2010. Noma in Denmark, Fat Duck in the U.K. and Mugaritz in Spain. Michael calls out his time at Noma as an “invaluable and memorable” experience that have shaped and influenced his cooking.

So what is Michael Han’s style of cooking?

On FiftyThree’s website it states that the chef and his team aim to offer a personal rendition of cuisine inspired by their natural environment and its diversity. Michael further explains, “We believe that we have to protect our natural resources, as they will not last forever; for example, we will not use cod unless it has been sustainably fished. We try to do our bit for the environment and as much as possible recycle and ensure we have suppliers that have a low carbon footprint. It is difficult especially in Singapore to achieve this but perhaps in the coming years, it will change. We use as much local produce as we can and I hope we will be able to increasingly use more produce locally and from the region.”

But Michael doesn’t see a big locavore movement happening in Singapore like you find in the U.K. and the States, “Our lack of space, agriculture and locally grown produce makes it hard to achieve this. Much of what we consume in Singapore is unfortunately imported. However, we are looking into growing our own herbs, flowers and produce next to the restaurant and we now have a lady that grows much of the flowers we use. She is amazing and can grow pretty much everything especially plants that do not usually grow in our tropical climate.”

Besides the unique cuisine, there is a minimalist calm in the interior design of his restaurant. FiftyThree restaurant is located in a pre-war shophouse in a historic district in Singapore, as Michael wanted a place with some history and character. Michael states, “It was important that we did not stray from the original look and feel of a



original fittings, floor boards and ceiling. I wanted something simple and natural with clean lines and this was influenced by my preference for Danish and Japanese design.”

When we asked Michael to name his favorite restaurants, he was quick to answer that there are so many restaurants in the world that he has yet to discover but he hopes to visit. His current favorites are Noma in Copenhagen, a little seafood place called Rafa's in Roses, Spain and a simple, casual joint in Singapore called Sin Huat Restaurant headed by a guy called Danny whose food is always a pleasure to eat.

We feel that there are two camps of people in this world, those that appreciate unique gastronomical experiences and those that want food that they know and are comfortable with and Michael agrees, “Some people will always be more conservative in their approach to food. It is also sometimes about a lack of understanding and no one would be happy to eat food that they cannot understand, much less appreciate. People may label my food, but I just want to create simple, natural food that people enjoy.”

FiftyThree offers a three course set lunch or a five course tasting menu for lunch and a single tasting menu that changes often, and reflects the seasons for dinner.

FiftyThree

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Singapore 179940
+65 6334 5535
fiftythree.com.sg

Michael Han's favorite restaurants, for now...

Noma

Strandgade 93
1401 København
Denmark
+45 3296 3297
noma.dk

Rafa's

C/ Sant Sebastià, 56
17480 Roses, España
+34 972 254 003

Sin Huat Restaurant

659/661 Geylang Road
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AROUND TOWN...

The Science of Sleep

Joining Chanintr Living at the Nai Lert Swissotel to officially launch Sleep to Live in July, were Mr. Lee Hinshaw, President of Sleep to Live International and Dr. Robert Oexman, Vice President of Strategic Development and Research at the Sleep to Live Institute. Dr. Oexman gave a very interesting and informative presentation to the press and invited guests about the Institute's research on sleep and how the environment can affect it.

Khun Yuthachai Charanachitta, Khun Piyawan Charanachitta, Khun Joy Sopitpongstorn and Khun Torchok Balankura were in attendance and were happy to talk about their love of Sleep to Live mattresses and how they are getting a much better night's sleep because of the new mattress.

Sleep to Live is available at all Central Department Stores and the Sleep to Live store at Siam Paragon, 3rd floor.

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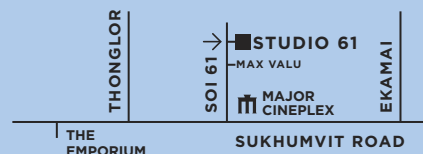
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