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Side-by-side Mexican villas of George Clooney
and Cindy Crawford with husband Rande Gerber

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EXCL

1 | PERLA LICHÍ

Perla Lichi is an interior designer, furnishing and home décor designer as well as an author; with her fifth coffee table book to be published early 2014. Since founding her namesake firm, she has designed the interiors of hundreds of luxury homes, villas and palaces around the world. Her clientele include professionals, royalty and famous figures in the world of sports and entertainment.



9 | VICTOR LEGORRETA

Having worked in several architecture firms in the United States, Spain and Japan, Victor Legorreta joined his father's company in 1989. The award winning firm, Legorreta + Legorreta, renowned for highlighting Mexican roots while exploring new design paths and responding to the needs of today's society is currently helmed by the Mexican architect.

2 | SANDRA NUNNERLEY

Recognised as one of the most fashionable designers in New York, Sandra Nunnerley's works are grounded in a sophisticated understanding of architecture and periods, and special attention to the role of art. An accredited member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), her projects have included urban apartments, tropical getaways and the interior of a private plane.



8 | AMGAD KAMEL

Open to taking design risks, Sydney interior architect finds inspiration through his travel. Amgad Kamel, the founder and principal designer of AK Interiors believes that good design involves surrendering to your intuition and breaking the rules, without forgetting that function, scale and harmony form the basis of a timeless interior.



3 | MIRÓ RIVERA ARCHITECTS

Established by architects Juan Miró and Miguel Rivera, Miró Rivera Architects is an award-winning architecture practice that emerged as one of the leading new architectural voices in the United States. The duo's work has been recognised nationally and internationally with over 50 design awards including 28 American Institute of Architects design awards and the 2008 and 2006 AR Emerging Architecture Award in London.



7 | SHIRLEY GOUW

Graduated from famed Parsons School of Design in New York, Shirley Gouw has worked in several leading interior design firms in the United Kingdom, Spain and New York before finally settling down in her homeland and lead Elite Grahacipta as principal interior designer. Armed with an acute sense of style, Shirley has an affinity for mixing semi classic style with modern aesthetics.



4 | MATTHEW PATRICK SMYTH

Specialising in residential interior design, Matthew Patrick Smyth is acclaimed for his expert blending of European and American traditions and for combining the best in classic style with comfort. Consistently ranked as one of the top designers in America, Matthew, armed with over 25 years of experience has received numerous accolades, most recently the 2011 Stars of Design Award.



5 | STÉPHANIE COUTAS

Brought up in Asia and spent most of her childhood abroad in stylish locations sparked Stéphanie's passion for beautiful homes and interiors. Prior to founding her interior design agency 1001 Maisons, the designer began her professional life in fashion. Stéphanie is now recognised for subtly fusing her love for beautiful craftsmanship and romanticism to create neoclassical and contemporary interiors imbued with modern magic.

6 | LEE LEDBETTER

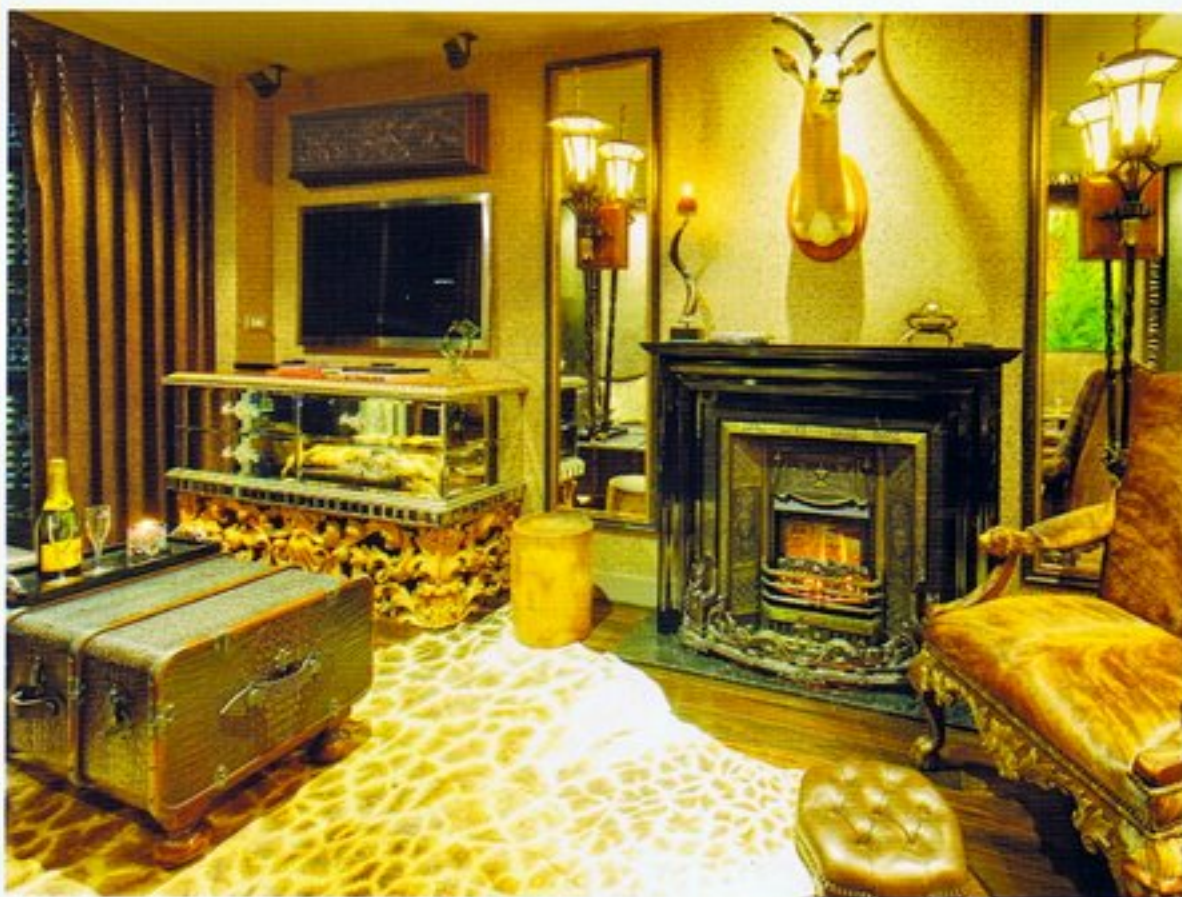
Graduated from Princeton University with a Masters in Architecture, Lee Ledbetter founded Lee Ledbetter & Associates in 1996 and has since garnered countless American Institute of Architects Awards for his impressive work. The Ivy League alumnus is best known for integrating architecture and interior design as well as painting and sculptures into his designs.



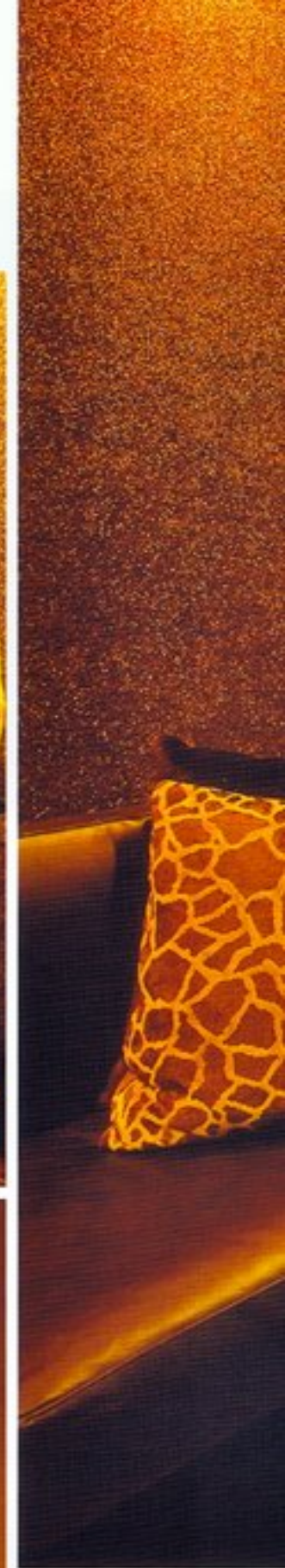
INTO THE WILD

Inspired by the African plains, this ostentatious home is certainly not for the faint of heart.

TEXT VANITHA PAVAPATHI IMAGES COURTESY OF ANDREW LECKY







THE BLACK CROC MOTIF CAESARSTONE WALL WAS THE STARTING POINT FOR THE KITCHEN DESIGN AS AMGAD FELT THAT IT HAS A VAST POTENTIAL FOR ITS APPLICATION.



Imagine what you watch on Animal Planet or Nat Geo Wild invades your home. Images of lions, zebras, giraffes and impalas flash into mind. Well, imagination certainly came to life in one of Australia's most refined and elegant residential addresses. Surely, this exotic retreat for an extremely well-travelled businessman and self-proclaimed vagabond in a suit is not for everyone. While some may find it obnoxious, others might appreciate the homeowner's devotion for the wildlife. Nevertheless, it possesses a certain wow factor that would leave anyone walking through the door flabbergasted.

Stripping the small, one-bedroom apartment bare to meet the demands of the extremely imaginative and adventurous homeowner, interior designer Amgad Kamel of AK Interiors began his journey of interpreting the vastness of the African Kalahari. Keeping in mind to incorporate all the client's requests to create something different from the general conventional trend, Amgad had to utilise every inch of space wisely without making it look like an eclectic interior shop. But it was not exactly a walk in the park for Amgad despite designing over hundreds of residential and commercial projects.



BEHIND THE BRASS-
CARVED BEDROOM DOOR
REMINISCENT OF THE ANCIENT
EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS
REVEALS A LUXURIOUS
HAVEN WITH THE BRIGHTLY
COLOURED PEACOCK AS A
FINISHING TOUCH.

Inspired by the elements his client had already sourced like the authentic giraffe skin hide floor rug, impala and lioness mounts (both accredited the CITES and AQIS permits) in the living room, the rest of the design was akin to putting the right pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together. With most of the décor sourced from 14 different countries, the apartment boasts eclectic styles with different features and textures.

A variety of finishes were applied on the walls: from textured wallpaper to fabric panels, special handmade bark sheets made in Namibia and the croc motif caesarstone kitchen wall. To create a safari appeal like that of the Serengeti plains, shades of brown are extensively used along with dark furniture. Amgad even designed the mantelpiece in the living room to accommodate the German electric fireplace that stands next to the Berge chair upholstered in dyed cowhide.

The African theme continues to flow through the master bedroom with the black croc-patterned wallpaper, zebra skin bedhead and alpaca fur throw on the bed taking centre stage. While there are already a lot to take in, the brightly coloured peacock that perched atop the dresser, somehow adds a touch of refinement and elegance to the space. Perhaps it's due to the art of taxidermy that pays homage to Mother Nature and her wonderful creations.

Taking the animal motifs beyond the expected, the bathroom features tiger-print ceramic tiles and a cobra skin basin that sits atop dark wooden cabinetry with horned handles handmade in India. The black antler

showerhead sourced from the Milan fair is truly the icing on the cake, reflecting Amgad's creative intelligence and his openness towards taking design risks.

Believing that good design involves surrendering to one's intuition and breaking the rules, this African inspired project epitomises exactly that. As challenging as it was professionally satisfying for Amgad, it's awe-inspiring to know that it's something he's never done before throughout his career but still managed to execute this one-of-a-kind design in Australia, if not the world. ❖

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