

CHANINTR LIVING

Late Summer 2020





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In the upside down world we all live in today, many of us have had no choice but to go into hibernation mode with the hope that when we awake, it would all have been just a bad, bad dream.

Though the pandemic has left us scared and pessimistic at times, every cloud has a silver lining. As some of us have come to discover, the 'break' does not have to be all solemn and sad. Now that we have time to look outside our windows, we see much celebration from the birds and their brothers and sisters in the natural world, in a way reminding us that they too are stakeholders on this planet. This time has also given pause to the perpetual machine that we were all chained to, sometimes without realizing where it was taking us.

I used to often say to my wife that it would be good to take a few months off work and do nothing—or do all the other things in life. Well, I guess that wish partly did come true. Aside from the stress that comes with being a business owner in these trying times, I feel guilty to say that I am thankful that I get a chance to savor this moment of calm and silence in life. Over a lifetime, it will be a rare moment for us all to take that much-needed break we all craved.

In this issue, we share some of the things we—and the rest of the world—indulged in to make coping a little easier as we navigate the new normal.

Stay well and healthy!

Chanintr

Chanintr Sirisant

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MOSSIMO WITH FLAG, AMALFI, ITALY, 2007
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**louis
poulsen**

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60 DAYS OF CREATION

MMFORSBERG.COM

A few days after lockdown here in England, we moved into our new home in the English countryside. A lovely little cottage tucked away on a quiet lane, with endless green rolling hills as far as the eye could see. It felt like a refuge from the storm as we watched country after country close its borders and people were told to stay at home. *What now*, I asked my English gentleman as our work calendar cleared and lockdown became a reality.

Being an author and a photographer, the unknown is nothing new, and dealing with ups and downs in one's work is something one simply has to get used to, but this was something

on a grander scale. A pandemic with enormous consequences for people all over the world. All we could do was to begin unpacking the boxes from the move, and take one day at the time.

One of the first days in our new home I went for a walk in a nearby wood with a basket in hand wanting to bring home to the table the first signs of Spring around our new home. Branches with young green leaves, budding flowers, the flora and fauna in the bucolic countryside around where we live was just coming back to life, and all I could think of was that despite everything going on in the world, nature just kept going, bringing up an abundance of beauty in a time when it felt everything around us was falling apart. I decided to follow its lead.

With every photoshoot and work on hold, I created a project I named **#60daysofcreation** on Instagram where I wanted to push myself as a photographer and create a photograph every day for 60 days to keep my mind focused, and to connect with the beauty around me in a way that I oftentimes overlook, due to the business of our daily lives. I chose 60 days, simply because it takes time to create a change, and form new habits, and I wanted to learn new skills and to immerse myself in the process.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARTE MARIE FORSBERG

Every day I would wake up and begin creating a still-life of what I found around me in nature. Come rain, winds or delightful days of sun and warmth, my focus was on creating, growing as a photographer and to challenge myself. I immersed myself in nature, being with my little family, and kept my focus on emerging a better photographer and hopefully a better human being, after the 60 days come to an end.

During times of great uncertainty where we do not know what the future holds, I wanted to regain the smallest amount of control over my life and the direction I was going. I kept reminding myself that we are the ones creating the future we will ultimately live in. We may not be able to control a pandemic, but we can control how we respond to the challenges facing us in the wake of it, no matter how daunting it may feel.

We are the ones creating our future, and I take comfort and feel empowered in knowing that. It may not make facing uncertainty and challenges any easier, but if it can change our mindset and how we respond to it, it may just be able to change the world, one person at the time, and give us all hope in a time when we need it the most.

60 days came and went, but the lessons I learned will stay with me forever.

I rediscovered my love for creating with nature, for capturing what I see more freely, and for sharing my stories both in the form of photography, and the written word. The #60daysofcreation project helped me meet the future in a time of uncertainty, and it was ever so touching to see so many others around the world join in under the same hashtag and commit to change too! After all, we are all in this together.

As I write we may be emerging from lockdown and returning to a new normal, but as we do so, I hope we don't let fear rob us of our hopes and dreams for the future. What I learnt during my #60daysofcreation outside of challenging myself as a photographer, was to never give up, and to always fight for and believe in a better tomorrow.

A curated selection of Marie's #60daysofcreation project is now available as art prints for purchase on mmforsberg.com. Keep up with Marie on Instagram at [@marte_marie_forsberg](https://www.instagram.com/marte_marie_forsberg).

- Marte Marie Forsberg



BREAD ON THE RISE

Elbows deep in dough, Owen Cochrane and his enlisted children have been seizing the day whipping up bread. This uncertain time has taught everyone, including them, to cope and find pleasure in different ways.

While social isolating amidst a pandemic and its ensuing anxiety, many of us find ourselves in the kitchen—as quarantined bakers. Confined to our homes, the kitchen has become an oasis for creativity and calm.

As the pandemic stretches on, it seems the whole globe has ignited their ovens, with the hands-on habit contributing to a spotty supply of baking staples around the world. Flour and yeast have become precious commodities in Spain, France and Australia, where flour sales quadrupled since the initial weeks of lockdown. In the U.S. and UK, yeast shortages have been deemed “unprecedented” by suppliers. It’s this simple, often overlooked art that had, before the pandemic, seen a steady decline ever since mass production took over from local artisans.

We asked two long-time bread advocates and baking masters what they thought of the current baking pandemic, and potential reasons behind it.

Baking has long been a creative outlet for Bangkok-based home baker Beverly Chen, also known as [@meimeibakes](#) on Instagram, but in this new socially distant world, that need has only grown. Beverly has been opting for screen-less activities while stuck at home, and baking has been a welcome escape. “It’s very refreshing in this kind of environment to be able to work with my hands and not think about anything else... it’s the best form of therapy,” she said.

Beverly is not alone. Across the world in the UK, Owen, an avid sourdough baker who goes by [@flour_salt_water](#) on Instagram is also using his close proximity to the kitchen for the better. It’s on his popular Instagram account that Owen shares his beautifully decorated loaves and uniquely practical sourdough recipes.

In the weeks since Owen and his family began sheltering in place in their Brighton home, where they’re juggling work, home-school, housekeeping, and parenting, he can dish out daily bread. “It’s now as much a part of my day-to-day life as getting dressed or hiding in the bathroom from my children.”

“I did anticipate this,” says Owen of the uptick in bread making, “Baking is such a basic, ancient and elemental part of humanity. In situations with lots of time on our hands, it makes perfect sense for people to revisit it.”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF @MEIMEIBAKES

Looking into the canon of history, there's been a parallel fluctuation between periods of instability and baking trends. Some of today's easy-to-make bread recipes hail back to the Great Depression, where households used whatever they could scavenge from their pantry to make bread. "It can be made out of practically nothing, it's slow, therapeutic, affords you an element of control and in the end, has the very practical facet of being a delicious source of food and even a lifeline. What's not to like?" says Owen.

Beverly believes that quarantine baking is as much about the process as it is about the final product. Much of what she bakes is parcelled out to friends and neighbors as she finds a sense of meaning in nurturing others. "With everything I make, I put so much of myself, my love, my energy into sharing my creations with others."

Finally, in the words of Owen, "You can occupy yourself with it as much as you want or need to, but also literally none of it matters either. It's just bread. If you forget about it, or it goes wrong, it doesn't matter. But more often than not you get an excellent sandwich out of it in the end. The same can't be said about meditation or yoga in that respect."

- Sarah Poff



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OWEN FROM @FLOUR,WATER,SALT

SULLIVAN STREET BAKERY'S NO KNEAD BREAD *Mark Bittman*

INGREDIENTS

- 3 ⅓ Cups/430 Grams All-Purpose or Bread Flour, plus more for dusting
- ¼ Teaspoon Instant Yeast
- 2 Teaspoons Kosher Salt
- Cornmeal or Wheat Bran, as needed

PREPARATION

- In a large bowl combine flour, yeast and salt. Add 1 ½ cups plus 2 tablespoons/390 milliliters water, and stir until blended; dough will be shaggy and sticky. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Let dough rest at least 12 hours, preferably about 18, at warm room temperature, about 21 degrees celsius.
- Dough is ready when its surface is dotted with bubbles. Lightly flour a work surface and place dough on it; sprinkle it with a little more flour and fold it over on itself once or twice. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and let rest about 15 minutes.
- Using just enough flour to keep dough from sticking to work surface or to your fingers, gently and quickly shape dough into a ball. Generously coat a cotton towel (not terry cloth) with flour, wheat bran or cornmeal; put dough seam side down on towel and dust with more flour, bran or cornmeal. Cover with another cotton towel and let rise for about 2 hours. When it is ready, dough will be more than double in size and will not readily spring back when poked with a finger.
- At least a half-hour before dough is ready, heat oven to 235 degrees. Put a 6- to 8-quart heavy covered pot (cast iron, enamel, Pyrex or ceramic) in oven as it heats. When dough is ready, carefully remove pot from oven. Slide your hand under towel and turn dough over into pot, seam side up; it may look like a mess, but that is O.K. Shake pan once or twice if dough is unevenly distributed; it will straighten out as it bakes. Cover with lid and bake 30 minutes, then remove lid and bake another 15 to 30 minutes, until loaf is beautifully browned. Cool on a rack.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WATERWORKS

THE PERFECT BATH

WATERWORKS.COM

As people spend more time at home, it becomes apparent how much value the smallest objects can have in increasing our happiness. Even something as minor as a new faucet, shower head, mirror or sconce can make the biggest difference. Nothing lifts the spirit like starting the day in the perfect bath.

Established in 1978 by Barbara Sallick and her husband, American luxury bath brand **Waterworks** is considered a pioneer in bath design. If you have ever taken a bath in a five-star hotel and found yourself enjoying your morning routine more than usual, chances are, it was because of Waterworks. For more than 40 years now, the brand has worked with renowned designers, including Thomas O'Brien, Gil Schafer and Tim Clarke, and European manufacturers to elevate the bath experience, transforming commonplace objects into works of art. Their wide offerings that range from fittings and fixtures to tiles and textiles allow clients to fully design their bath the way they want it without compromising even on the little things.



“What I think Waterworks has done more than anything else is bring the truest concept of luxury and design to a category that was very utilitarian, principally by showing people the level of quality you can have in that space,” CEO Peter Sallick said. “It’s about feeling that when you go in there, everything you touch and everything you see... you have a relationship with it.”

Those who know the importance of a perfect bath know that it is an expression of personal styles and priorities, and the luxurious focal point of sophisticated interiors. No other room in the house requires as much forethought and planning. Yet those who value the bath also know that this room can improve your quality of living, turning an otherwise mundane experience into a luxurious one.

There is no other room in the house that you visit as frequently or that gives you the same feeling of total privacy like the bath. When created thoughtfully, it can be the most indulgent of

spaces, transporting you to a carefree oasis that makes you feel like you’re miles away from home. It is a room that is created just for you: The place you visit first in the morning and before bed. A space for you to enjoy by yourself—be it a quick shower or a nice, long bubble bath. Everything in the bath is designed to give you the ultimate sense of relaxation, restoration and rejuvenation, which makes us wonder: *Why wait for a vacation to indulge yourself when you can have your very own sanctuary at home?*

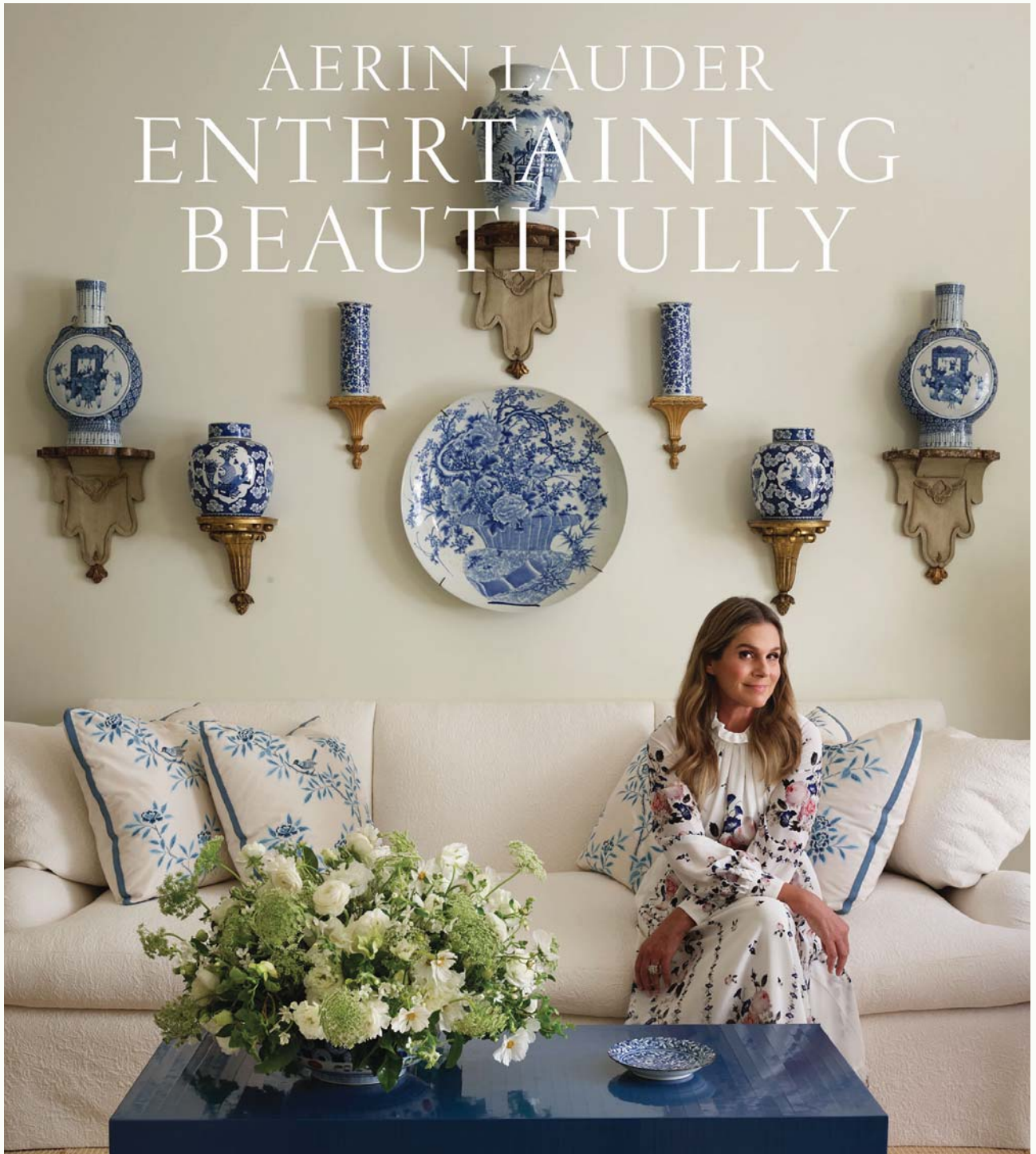
The first Waterworks showroom in Asia is now open on Soi Sukhumvit 55. For more information, please call 02 059 7750.

— Uracha Chaiyapinunt

IMMACULATE AERIN

AERIN.COM

AERIN LAUDER ENTERTAINING BEAUTIFULLY



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AERIN

Born into a family whose business revolves around beauty, Aerin Lauder was constantly surrounded by glamor growing up. Today, she is the creative director at her grandmother Estée Lauder's multinational cosmetics company and the founder of her own lifestyle brand **AERIN**. It comes as no surprise then that Lauder's name makes an appearance on some of the most coveted guest lists, and that the New York tastemaker is known for hosting the most fabulous celebrations with her personal style that combines luxury and ease.

This year, Lauder is launching her own book, *“Entertaining Beautifully”*, a cheat sheet on how to entertain and host with beauty and style. Through the chapters—which cover everything from gorgeous table settings to scrumptious menus—Lauder shares with her readers her take on more than 20 celebrations, including white winter parties and lobster-roll picnics. Categorized by season, she pens down her learned tips and tricks that will make entertaining feel like an easy breeze. Readers will also get a glimpse of Lauder's fabulous life as she recalls her grandmother's legendary soirées and the importance of enjoying yourself and the company you keep.

We chat with the famed hostess about her new book and what it means to entertain beautifully.



THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR MAKING TIME TO TALK TO US DURING YOUR QUARANTINE! LET'S START WITH HOW “ENTERTAINING BEAUTIFULLY” FIRST CAME TO BE.

At an early age, I learned that any occasion can be beautiful if you take the time. From milestone events to everyday moments, attention to detail has always been very important to me. I wanted to share my secrets, tips and ideas for entertaining at home. Whether it's a cup of tea for yourself or a more formal gathering of family and friends, every occasion can be special in its own way.

With this book, I hope that readers are able to approach entertaining with a new perspective. Every occasion doesn't have to be serious and over-the-top. A casual dinner in the kitchen can be just as tasteful and meaningful as a formal gathering.

WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY FROM YOUR BOOK?

I always say that as a hostess, it is most important to relax and enjoy yourself. Guests will follow your lead.

OUT OF ALL THE CELEBRATIONS YOU WROTE ABOUT, WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE?

It's hard to pick a favorite, but my wedding will always stand out in my mind. It was my first experience really hosting my own event and having the opportunity to pay such close attention to each and every detail. Although my mother did guide many of my decisions along the way, it ended up being the most beautiful evening. To this day, I wouldn't change anything about it.

Also my family has always loved celebrating birthdays together. No matter the age or the family member, we celebrate with sweets, decorations, presents and most importantly cake for breakfast.

YOUR GRANDMOTHER ESTÉE LAUDER IS KNOWN FOR THROWING LEGENDARY SOIRÉES BACK IN HER DAY. WHAT MADE HER PARTIES SO MEMORABLE?

I will always remember Estée's extreme attention to detail and her elaborate entertaining style. She was the most amazing hostess and each of her events was completely glamorous. She used to create special menus and place cards and even leave a little gift at each place setting. One of my favorite memories though, has to be the guests that she would invite. Estée was always welcoming the most special people into her home. I have definitely inherited Estée's love of entertaining, but I do so with a modern twist, which is often a bit more easygoing and laid back.

WHEN IT COMES TO HOSTING PARTIES, WHAT ARE YOU MOST KNOWN FOR?

I like to entertain with a sense of easy elegance, which is something that guests always remember. It's important to me that guests feel comfortable and are able to enjoy. Entertaining is all about simple joys – great company, interesting conversation and delicious food.

DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT NIGHT.

A night at home with family and close friends.

IT'S NOT AERIN'S PARTY WITHOUT...

Fresh flowers and delicious food.

– Raveewan Bencharit



DON WITH FAN ON LADDER, STOCKBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS, 1997

ATTENTION: ART COLLECTORS, STOCK BROKERS, DAYDREAMERS AND THOSE WHO ALREADY HAVE IT ALL.

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RODNEY SMITH

RODNEYSMITH.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LUCKY CHOW



LUCKY US

LUCKYCHOW.ORG
 @LUCKYCHOWTV

With all of the hipster Asian restaurants that have opened across the globe, Asian comfort food is now taking its turn in the spotlight. Decidedly non-hipster, these traditional Asian chefs and simple, humble home-cooks, are changing the perception of Asian cuisine right here at home and abroad.

American Public Television debuted the fourth season of **Lucky Chow**, a broadcast series hosted by culinary nomad Danielle Chang and co-host, William Li. *Lucky Chow* returned in May 2020, with each of its six episodes exploring Asian-American culture and heritage through the lens of food.

Season 4 of *Lucky Chow* is an informative, light-hearted, unpredictable, and deeply personal conversation on the central role of food in Asian-American lives. Hosts, Danielle Chang and William Li, help narrate genuinely American stories of courage, success, innovation, and assimilation, while also reflecting on their own unique Asian-American heritage. From Michelin-starred chefs and fifth-generation farmers to creators, healers, and inventors who are breaking new boundaries, this new season will spotlight some of the brightest lights in the Asian-American community.

“Thailand, and specifically Bangkok, has always been an inspiration to me as well as my home away from home in Asia. I love the vibrancy of the city and the food scene,” said co-host William Li. “One of the highlights of the season was meeting Chef Su Mei Yu in episode 2 and understanding the Thai practice of eating for your ‘home element’ or sign. *Lucky Chow* is all about celebrating Asian culture and heritage through the lens of food. In particular, we honor the idea of home, comfort, and the joy that a meal brings to families.”

Danielle Chang is the founder of LUCKYRICE, a lifestyle brand that shines a spotlight on Asian culture through food and drink including an annual series of Asian food Feasts throughout the U.S. as well as curated experiences abroad, now in its eleventh year. Danielle was CEO of fashion company Vivienne Tam, and the Managing Director of Assouline, a French creative advertising agency.

Born in Manhattan, William Li was raised in Chinatown by a single mother, an immigrant who instilled in him the importance of hard work and hustle, and a lifelong appreciation for the art form that is food. From an early age, Li was drawn to the power of beauty and the potential of storytelling, and in his career, has worked with brands that embody both.

During his 15-year tenure with Condé Nast Publications, he was the publisher of *Men’s Vogue* and Condé Nast Portfolio and Associate Publisher role at *The New Yorker*, *House & Garden*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*. Most recently, William was the Global Brand President of Ralph Lauren Home and now acts as Contributing Editor for *Elle Decor* and *Town & Country*, and as President of LUCKYRICE.

– Brent D. Smith



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FOCUS FEATURES

EMMA 2.0

FOCUSFEATURES.COM

During the 'Work From Home' period, we have been able to binge watch our favorite TV shows and catch up with old classics that we had missed. And since going to the movie theater is no longer an option in the wake of social distancing, we are happy to stay in and stream in the comfort of our home. One recent weekend, we settled on **Emma** (Focus Features), a romantic comedy set in Regency-era England, and were immediately transported to the enchanting English countryside we have always loved. This latest adaptation of Jane Austen's novel is a directorial film debut by American photographer Autumn de Wilde who has previously made a name for herself shooting magazine covers, portraits and music videos.

Starring Anya Taylor-Joy in the lead role, the film centers around Emma Woodhouse, a misguided young socialite who enjoys playing matchmaker and finding love for her friends. With her animated acting and facial expression, Taylor-Joy captures the essence of Emma's character and makes this film delightful and fun to watch. Another character who stole the show is the beloved British veteran actor Bill Nighy who played Mr. Woodhouse, Emma's eccentric dad. Together, Taylor-Joy and Nighy made a perfect witty dry-humor father-daughter duo. The rest of the cast was just as wonderful and captivating, transporting the audience back in time with their beautiful period costumes and accessories.

The real highlight of this film for us was the setting and locations. De Wilde assigned her production and set designers to find a grand estate that portrays a 'dollhouse' to fit Emma's character in the movie. She also requested that the house has never been featured in any films before. "The problem is most houses might be Georgian or earlier on the exterior, but then of course they've been done over in Victorian times or changed a



lot later on, so it was quite a maze to find the right property,” Production Designer Kave Quinn tells *Architectural Digest*. In addition, those stately homes maintained by the English Heritage organization or the National Trust were impossible because of their strict guidelines.

After scouting throughout the country, the team was able to convince Viscount and Lady Gage, the current owners of Firl Place, a magnificent Georgian manor with rolling hills in Sussex, to let them use it as the main backdrop for Emma’s fictional home, Hartfield. For set production, the crew rearranged the heirloom furniture, added more Regency-style pieces, painted all rooms in a bright palette, and installed rich wallpapers and colorful drapery. Textiles had to be sourced throughout Europe to create the look and feel that de Wilde was going for. “In Emma’s bedroom, for example, I wanted it to feel like an Italian ice cream. You’ve got corals and oranges and then it is a gradient of those colors, right down to a pinkish ivory color,” says Set Decorator Stella Fox to AD. “You’ve got one color in a lot of different gradients within the same room which

provided a real elegance I think.” The result is rewarding and impeccable. Every scene is aesthetically gorgeous and memorable.

Over the course of 2 hours, I truly enjoyed the film. I fell in love with Emma’s charming character, and de Wilde’s fresh and authentic interpretation of Jane Austen’s novel. The cinematography somewhat reminded me of Wes Anderson’s movies, which share similarities in art direction, setting, costumes and even parts of the acting.

With the stress of the pandemic today, I can only imagine that life was less complicated and much easier back then. So for now, I will keep daydreaming of visiting Hartfield and having tea with the Woodhouses in their drawing room.

Emma (2020) now available on Apple TV and Amazon Prime.

THE PROFESSOR'S PLAN

NETFLIX.COM

“IN THIS WORLD, EVERYTHING IS GOVERNED BY BALANCE. THERE’S WHAT YOU STAND TO GAIN AND WHAT YOU STAND TO LOSE. AND WHEN YOU THINK YOU’VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE, YOU BECOME OVERCONFIDENT.”

— THE PROFESSOR

In times like these, what could be more needed than an escape? A few hours a day where you’re free from video calls (and the inevitable technical difficulties that come with it), depressing headlines and crisis management. An escape from the realities of not being able to go out, to travel or to get together with friends. Interested? In that case, how about an escape to the Mint of Spain? Free of pandemics and full of thrill, we chose to live in **Money Heist**’s alternative universe at the height of COVID-19 and enjoyed every minute of it.

During social isolation, you would think that we would pick something lighter to watch at the end of the day, but what we ended up getting hooked on was *Money Heist*, a Netflix-acquired show that is the number one international series on the streaming service. Created by Alex Pina, *Money Heist* was actually a flop when it debuted on Spanish television in May of 2017. However, by the end of the same year, Netflix purchased the international rights, re-sliced and diced the episodes and added other audio languages before making it available worldwide in early 2019. At the same time, the streaming giant began funding Part 2 and another 16 episodes. The rest is history.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NETFLIX

I suppose it wasn't so difficult to figure out the addiction factor of this particular piece. It is pure and simple entertainment—a thrilling storyline topped with a beautiful and crazy cast set in Spain. We like our films like our food: uncomplicated, true to its origins, easy to understand and full of flavor. With *Money Heist*, we found ourselves in bed by 8.30 every night for a week, pajamas on, remote in hand, ready to finish two (sometimes three) episodes—hearts throbbing till the last minute—before heading to bed.

Without spoiling it for those who have not seen it, *Money Heist* is the ultimate in extremities of plots, characters and themes. A good looking professor 'nerd' leads the heist of the Mint of Spain, bringing along a group of unusually good hearted misfits under a 'do no harm' mantra. After recruiting them to a beautiful estate, the professor spends a good part of a year training and educating them. Each of the robbers is not allowed to reveal their true identity, and instead are given cities as names—Tokyo, Berlin, Nairobi, Rio and so on. They are also not allowed to fall in love with one another (you can guess the outcome of that rule). When the time comes, they finally take hold of the Mint and

along with it, 67 hostages who themselves are another bunch of characters you will learn to love, hate and care for. Each of the robbers pulls you in to connect with them emotionally, one by one, until you have found the one that you identify with most. And that is the hook. Each one has his or her own struggles and devils to manage, and as the viewer, you are simply going along for each of their rides.

The impact the series has had is much farther reaching than us Netflix binge-watchers. It has touched the hearts of rebels and those resisting corrupted political forces worldwide, post-financial crisis. The irony and charm of the whole story is that the group is not really taking over the Mint of Spain to rob what is already there, but merely to 'borrow' the presses to print some money for themselves—just like the 1% did when they crashed the market in 2008 and needed to fund a way out. The series has inspired real movements to wear the same Dali masks and red jumpsuits as the actors and most certainly made the anti-fascist Italian song "Bella Ciao" a worldwide hit during the summer of 2019.

- Chanintr Sirisant



Seryasse
Hinged wardrobe

Maddox
Bed

Lennox
Armchair

Sign
Side table

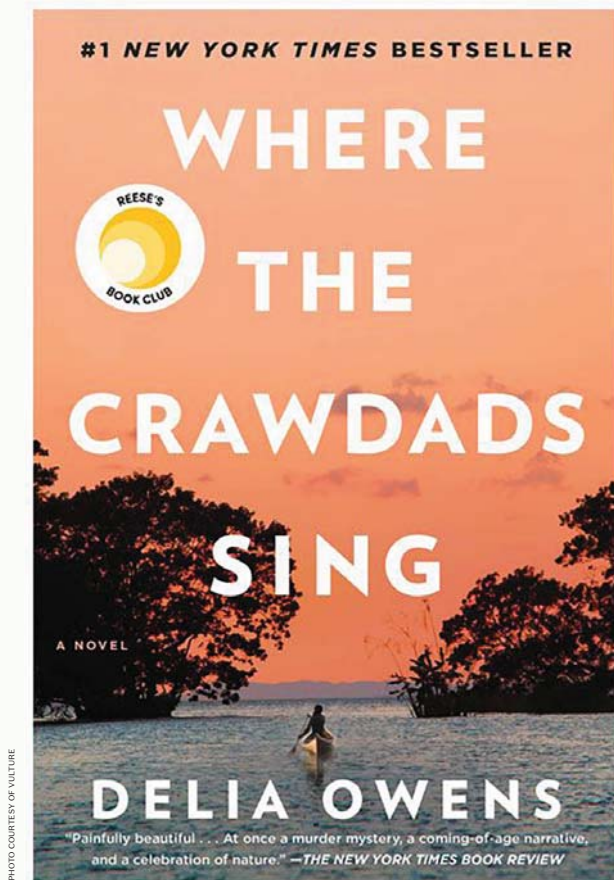
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BOOK REVIEW:

THE MARSH GIRL



“THIS BOOK HAS DEFIED THE NEW LAWS OF GRAVITY. IT’S MANAGED TO HOLD ITS POSITION IN A MUCH MORE CONSISTENT WAY THAN JUST ABOUT ANYTHING.”

— PETER HILDICK SMITH
PRESIDENT OF ANALYTICS COMPANY CODEX GROUP

In 384 pages, Owens traces the tumultuous life of Kya, an abandoned girl who is forced to care for herself in the marsh of North Carolina. While most people consider the marsh wasteland, a place where criminals and runaway slaves hide, Kya finds solace in the wildlife and peaceful waters. It is there, in almost complete isolation, that she learns to become self-reliant. It is also there that she meets her first—and second—love, learns of heartbreak, and grows into the intelligent woman that she becomes, defying all odds and expectations that the townspeople had for her.

What truly makes “Crawdads” a special book is the endless journey of emotions Owens takes readers through. The story is at once a murder mystery, a coming-of-age narrative, a romance novel and a celebration of nature. Painfully beautiful, Owens recalls Kya’s life through the unique lens of a wildlife biologist, paying close attention to human behaviors and psychology, and paralleling it with the ecosystem of North Carolina’s marsh and swamp. And while most readers will never have stepped foot in North Carolina or suffer the psychological damage of being utterly alone, they still will find parts of Kya’s life that they can understand and hold on to. The sympathy one feels for Owens’s heroine is moving and deep. Readers will not be able to help fall in love with this broken character and root for her through every page and chapter of the book.

“Where the Crawdads Sing” is being adapted into a film by Oscar-nominated *Beasts of the Southern Wild* scribe Lucy Alibar with 3000 Pictures/Hello Sunshine (Reese Witherspoon’s production company).

When retired wildlife biologist Delia Owens was finally ready to publish her debut novel—a body of work that took her 10 years to craft—no one expected the book to become an international hit. In fact, Owens’s publisher Putnam had only decided to print 28,000 copies of the book. That was the summer of 2018. Now two years later, “**Where the Crawdads Sing**” still remains a staying power on the *New York Times* bestseller list after 93 weeks (as of early July). A coming-of-age, genre-breaking story, “Crawdads” is perhaps the success it is because of its relatability that makes all readers stop and *feel* again in an age where everything seems to zap by.

— Uracha Chaiyapinunt



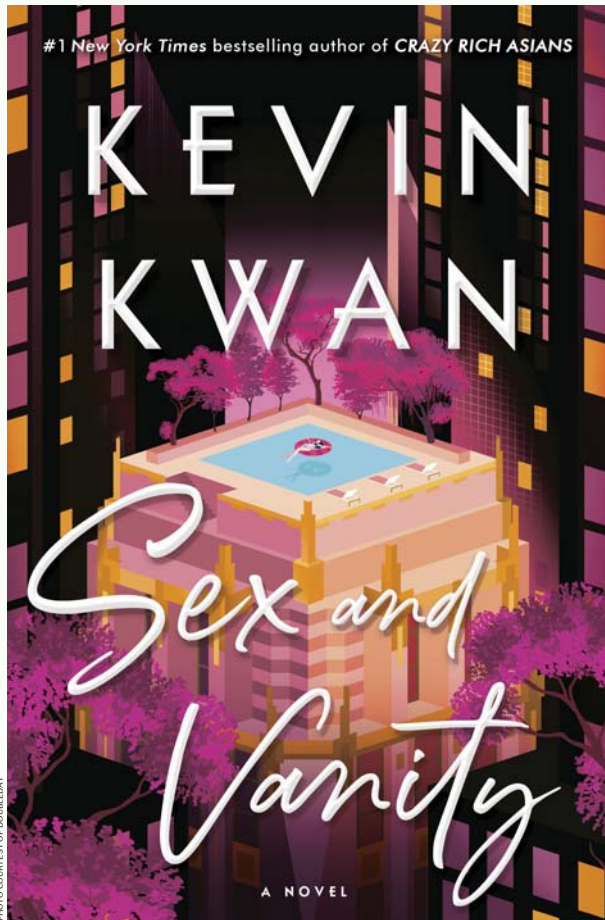
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SEX & VANITY



An old-fashioned romance, “**Sex and Vanity**” spares no reserve with the old-money names—Churchill, Barclays, Styvesant Fish—only in this latest Kevin Kwan novel, one was prefixed by an extra foreign syllable. Lucie Tang Churchill, our young hapa millennial, was in a perfect Capri villa crush with a Berkeley-educated Zao boy with a surfer accent, to the disapproval of her cousin who thought her “other gene” gravitated the natural selection. Things got more complicated several years after when Lucie was engaged, only to find a resurfaced Zao and mom to test her future.

If there are rules on “how to read a classic today,” they should apply here—a clash in money and class, East and West, culture and manners, the social media traps and mishaps, all these made good modern comedy. Yet, the “today” part must be read deeper into layers of the thoughts of the older Tangs and Zaos. Each one of them seems to have a hidden past to be explored, and we are not yet told how. “Sex and Vanity” is a tribute to “A Room With a View”, and to Kwan’s Italy, and he is said to explore his two other favorite cities for this new trilogy, London and New York, so we may uncover more of their lives later on, though it is only our guess.

In his best-selling “Crazy Rich Asians”, Kwan dealt us with a Chinese American woman coming to terms with her unkind Asian past. In “Sex and Vanity”, we are thrown into what could be the ultimate colonial-era fantasy—an Asian union with the uber-rich white upper-crust old money. There is nothing wrong there, and Kwan paints it with the smart details layering the canvas. The today’s biracial millennials would have to take this fantasy forward, to make it their own, because their privileged world remains, seemingly unaffected, while the rest of us watch the world’s future unfolds.

“*Sex and Vanity*”: A Novel is available at HARDCOVER: The Art Book Shop at Open House Central Embassy.

– Shane Suvikapakornkul





PHOTOS COURTESY OF CABANA MAGAZINE

DESIGN DARLING

CABANAMAGAZINE.COM
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It seems that every 30 or 40 years, there is a new magazine that captures the zeitgeist of an era. First there was *FLAIR* magazine, published in 1950 by Ms. Fleur Cowles—who conceived of the magazine, edited it, and, perhaps most impressive, persuaded her husband to publish it... with the likes of Jean Cocteau, Tennessee Williams, Simone de Beauvoir, Eleanor Roosevelt, the Duchess of Windsor, Lucien Freud, and Salvador Dalí, all contributing. Although there were just twelve issues of *FLAIR*, the magazine caused a sensation and is still admired for its coverage of fashion, décor, travel, art, and literature.

Fast forward 40 years to 1991, and *Visionaire*, the limited-edition art and design magazine by Stephen Gan, Cecilia Dean and James Kaliardos was introduced at Rizzoli bookstore for \$10. With the support of luminaries such as Bruce Weber, Tom Ford, and Karl Lagerfeld, the magazine continued for 25 years and some issues are now collector's items, fetching \$6,000 a copy for the Louis Vuitton embossed cover collaboration.

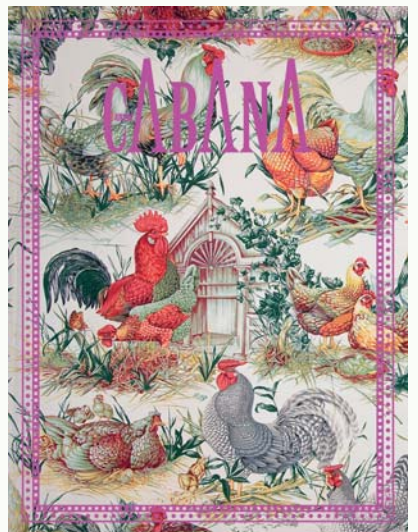
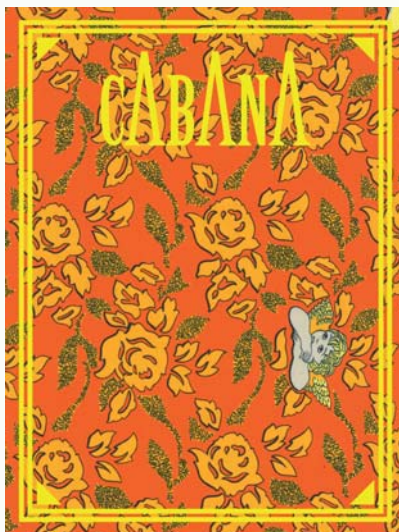
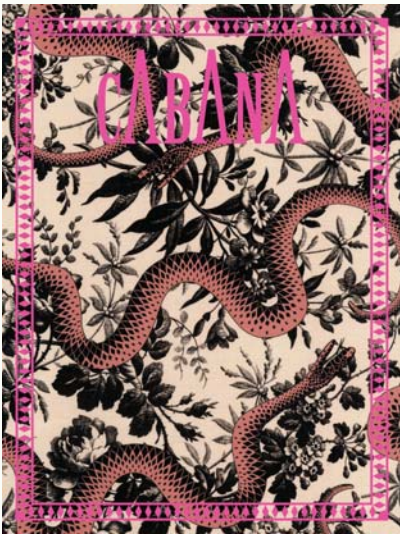
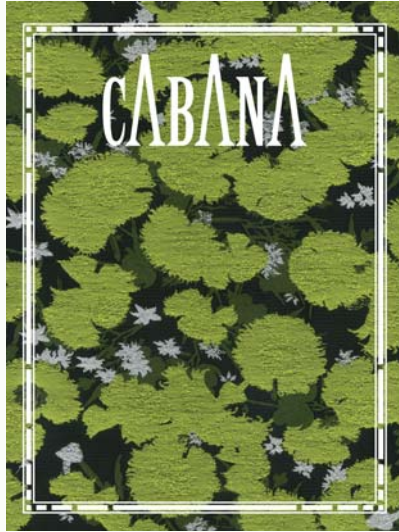
And most recently, a relatively new publication reigns supreme. In 2014, **Cabana Magazine** was introduced by Martina Mondadori Sartogo. The biannual design-crowd darling *Cabana* is the gloriously opulent magazine that the Milan-born and raised

Mondadori Sartogo gives a whole new meaning to the idea of a design publication. Its covers are made from designer fabric or wallpaper, and interior pages use different kinds of paper—from high-gloss to thick matte to transparent onion skin—depending on the subject at hand. As someone recently described it to Mondadori Sartogo, *Cabana* is the haute couture of publishing, an art object in itself. “If you are going to do print, you might as well do it beautifully,” states Mondadori Sartogo.

Mondadori Sartogo has print in her DNA. Her great-grandfather founded the Mondadori publishing company, today the biggest in Italy, in 1907. Although Mondadori Sartogo's father sold the company in the 1980s, Martini now serves on the board.

Cabana hosts an extraordinary mix of topics, objects, visual essays, even email exchanges between Mondadori Sartogo and her design-world friends. *Cabana* aims to inspire a new generation of globe-trotters, taking readers on a journey via print, digital media, designer collaborations, and bespoke travel experiences.

– Brent D. Smith



THE GUIDE OF WHAT AND WHERE TO BUY



Panthella Portable Lamp

Louis Poulsen

Available in Louis Poulsen's classic opal acrylic, the Panthella portable lamp comes in a travel size that makes enjoying both the design and quality of its light easier. It is the smallest edition of Verner Panton's popular Panthella table lamp from 1971 at 23 centimeters tall. Panton intended to create a light in which both the base and the shade served as a reflector and use the organic shapes that he is known for. The Panthella portable lamp is charged via USB.

Baht 51,000



Plaited Buffet

THE RAY BOOTH COLLECTION

Hickory Chair

The square plaited front of this gracious cabinet is sure to be the perfect anchor and server in any room. Accommodation for drawers and cabinet storage provide a diversity of function.

Baht 203,280



Kings' Hall Tumblers

Saint-Louis

French crystal brand Saint-Louis has crafted tableware for royalties dating back many centuries ago. The latest Kings' Hall collection from the brand is therefore a reunion of two prestigious French institutions: Saint-Louis Crystal and Château de Versailles. The four Kings' Hall tumblers tell the tales of four Kings who made Versailles their own castle with their unique style and way of life.

Baht 18,000 / set

LT40 System

DESIGN BY DAVID LÓPEZ QUINCOCES

Lema

The LT40 System from Italian brand LEMA is a modular family of cabinets and wall elements: shelves, sideboards, cabinets and panelling characterized by the fundamental specificity of being highly customizable. Creativity is given by the infinite possibilities of arranging different families of elements based on your needs and taste.





Carina Shagreen Small Round Tray

Aerin

This circular tray is a stylish addition to entertaining, with an embossed shagreen finish and two rectangular integrated handles made of brass. Perfect for serving dishes and drinks or organizing a home bar.

Baht 17,000

André Fu: Crossing Cultures with Design

Hong Kong-based interior architect and designer André Fu first rose to fame with The Upper House hotel project 10 years ago. Since then, he has become one of the most sought-after creatives, attracting big-name clients like Louis Vuitton and the Waldorf Hotels. This monograph takes a look at some of his most recent projects from all over the world, giving readers a spectacular insight into the mind of today's leading designer.

Available at Hardcover:
The Art Book Shop at Open House,
Central Embassy



Folk Ladder Shelving Unit

DESIGN BY NORM ARCHITECTS

Design within Reach

A timeless shelving unit that you could easily move around. With the Folk and ladder, you could add elements and expand as your needs and spaces change throughout your lifetime. The shelving unit is a reflection of renowned quality, a celebration of minimalism and functionality.

Available at Chanintr Work



Mo Bridge Small Desk

DESIGN BY SHINSAKU MIYAMOTO

Ritzwell

The MO Bridge collection is characterized by elegance and sophistication, with its soft lines and combinations of quality materials. Ancient craftsmanship merges with minimal shapes to generate the contemporary essence of these pieces. The desk combines pure volumes in solid walnut or oak with a fine decorative surface in smooth leather.

Baht 29,500

Atlas Sofa Lounge

THE BAKER ORIGINALS
COLLECTION

Baker

The Atlas Sofa Lounge incorporates sleek, modern design elements for a sophisticated silhouette. With a stunning silhouette from all sides, this design floats superbly.

Baht 321,000



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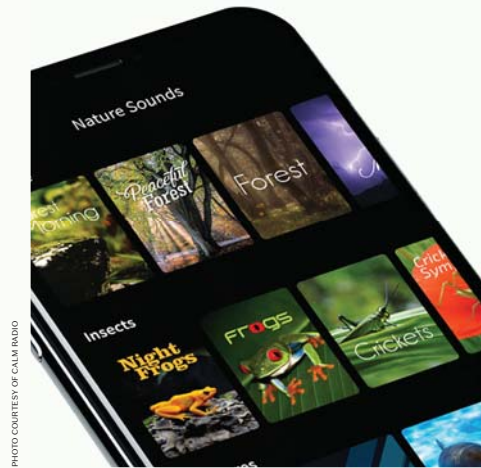
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KEEPING CALM

CALMRADIO.COM

In this day and age where technology takes up so much of our time, it's important to balance it out with options that promote calmness and creativity. As if being in front of the screen from 9 to 5 is not enough, most of us turn to online platforms such as social media and Netflix for entertainment as well after work. **Calm Radio** was created to introduce relaxation and focus to users' everyday life. Take a break from your screen and enjoy Calm Radio's holistic experience through music and nature's sounds.

Founded in 2009 by classically-trained musician and multi-award-winning composer Eric Harry, Calm Radio was initially a hobby, a place for Eric to host his own solo piano and meditation music. With Pandora as the only real competitor at the time, Calm Radio quickly became an online source of relaxation, instrumental, and classical music.

Available via the App Store, Calm Radio offers wellness stories, health tips, and general interest people stories, in addition to music that helps you sleep, work and study. In just over a decade, the app now attracts more than 1 million users per month with nearly 6 million monthly listening hours.

With the commitment to ensure that listeners can stream wherever and however they want, the app is now compatible with Apple, Android, Alexa, Windows, Sonos, Roku, Android Auto, and Apple CarPlay. Now available in more than 375 channels, Calm Radio is considered the only digital music streaming service that promotes sleep, relaxation, and meditation music for all.

- Pawita Chindakawee

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