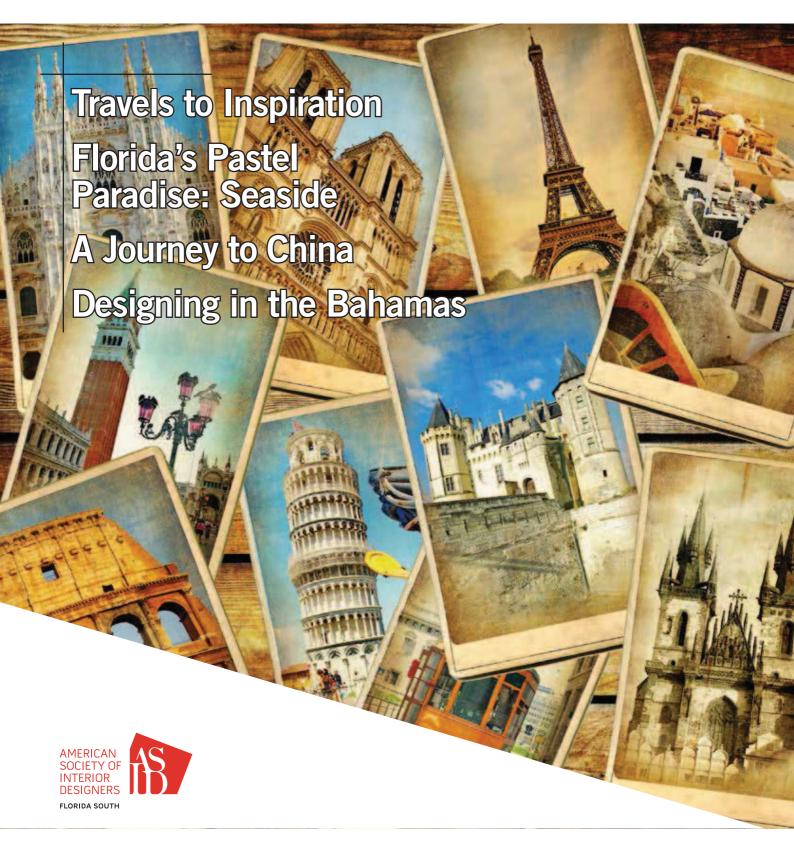
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OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
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SOUTH CHAPTER

**WINTER 2013** 

The Travel Issue



#### feature

## **Travels to Inspiration**



aining inspiration from our travels, be it for business or pleasure, seems like a pastime for much of the design trade. Many seem born to explore and have an excellent ability to analyze their surroundings The shear thrill of seeing and experiencing locations etches fond memories that can be summoned at a moment's notice. Professional Design Magazine interviewed several ASIDFSC members to hear about their most memorable travel experiences and to learn how these journeys have inspired them.

### What type of design inspiration(s) have you gained from your travels?

Cynthia Makris, Allied ASID – Cynthia Makris Design

My travels have allowed me to experience firsthand many different design directions which have grown harmoniously out of various cultures. It is always exciting to be in the middle of a culture and not viewing it from outside. Design is such an integral part of life and is deeply connected to societal values and is their physical expression. My travels definitely opened my eyes to the huge array of possibilities in design and schooled my own preferences and general style.

Wrenda Goodwyn, ASID Associate – Spectacular Spaces

Everywhere I have traveled, from Europe to South America to Thailand to New Zealand to the remote Galapagos and Easter Islands, has given me inspiration and new, creative ways to make my clients' homes beautiful. Several weeks ago I visited five homes in New Orleans that were amazing.

Peggy Oberlin, ASID, LEED AP – Peggy Oberlin Interiors, Inc.

I have enjoyed my travels through Europe and Mexico, and my travels have brought an eclectic, artistic element to my designs.

Mayda Zayas-Bazan, ASID, LEED AP – AB Interiors

The inspirations I have gathered from my travels have been quite many and variegated. In Europe I was enchanted by the design, textures, and warm colors of the houses, the doors, the flowers, which I can always incorporate in my designs that are a bit more transitional/traditional, warmth is what the client desires; Alaska was cool and peaceful, bathed in white and blue gray from the glaciers. The Caribbean-ah! The attraction I have to the beach, its colors and textures, goes all the way back to my childhood. I can always incorporate all of it in any décor, as I find this color palate relaxing, but at the same time can be elegant and timeless.

Jenny Provost, ASID – K2 Design Group, Inc.

Traveling, especially when the travel is work related, doesn't just open the mind—it downright stretches it. My design tool box is much fuller from the amount of time I've spent abroad. Culturally inspired design styles from the



Middle East, Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean influence the work my firm puts out, and I believe it really shows. You can see it particularly in the distinctive colors and forms that provide the punch in our designs.

Tamara Tennant, ASID, IIDA – Tamara Tennant Interior Design

I have used traveling, especially in Europe, as inspiration for my traditional design. Details from architectural elements on and in buildings and furniture styles drive my designs. Also, attending the Maison & Objet show in Paris for years has been inspiring! (and a great tax deduction).

A. Christopher Turan, ASID – Design Space Associates, Inc.

I always get inspiration from the natural environment around me, such as the incredible colors of the ocean in the Exumas Bahamas—where hundreds of hues of turquoise and blue stretch the human eye's ability to differentiate colors. And the colors of the sunset, sand, and driftwood suffuse the landscape.

Denise Couture Cowell, ASID, CAPS, LEED AP ID&C – PK Studios, Inc.

I love to travel and find inspirations in so many ways. It seems the more we see, experience and take in, the more our minds are opened. Inspirations can come from anywhere. Be open and it will find you.

Leslie Cheek, FASID – Leslie Cheek Interiors, Inc.

One of my favorite quotes is from Saint Augustine. "The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page." I cannot imagine my professional or personal life stuck on page one! When we travel, inspiration is not only in the obvious visual delights, but in the joy that people find in their environments. The ways in which humans live, build, and enjoy their habitats (no matter how different from our own) is truly thrilling. I strive to design spaces that not only function, but also add joy and comfort to my clients' lives. That process each time is a journey in itself!

Angela Colley, ASID, CAPS – A C Styles Designs, LLC

Whenever I visit home, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, I realize how much I took for granted when I see the materials that were used in constructing the local buildings. Many of the raw materials were in my backyard, Nova Scotia. Many of the government and university buildings were constructed from stone quarried from local areas. Like the white grainy granite.

Gosia Fedele, ASID – Designed Spaces, LLC

Traveling is one of my absolute favorite activities. I am particularly drawn to big cities, with all their energy, cultural influences, successful coexistence of

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Dalhousie University - By Angela Colley

tradition and modernity, and their breathtaking blend of architectural and design styles. They are a source of endless inspiration, always ready to be discovered over and over again.

Large metropolitan areas are always associated with diversity, including their ever-changing and evolving skylines and the variation in styles of the interior spaces occupied by their residents. All have been influenced by not only a location and climate but also history, culture and personal needs and preferences.

#### Kira Krümm, ASID - Kira Krümm International Design

Exploring new destinations across the globe awakens the senses while also introducing unique cultural points of view and an array of interesting new creative perspectives from which I have gained inspiration. I have found particular fascination in Eastern philosophy which has led to my travels throughout Asia over the past decade, where I have developed many wonderful friendships and exciting opportunities.

*Cheryl Wilson, ASID – Designing Connections* 

I gain inspiration from everywhere I visit.

Voytek Faber, ASID – Equilibrium Interior Design Inc. You never really realize how much interior design is influenced by remote cultures, until you travel and experience the vibrant and unique characters of other corners of the world.

### How have you incorporated your inspirations from travel into your projects?

Cynthia Makris, Allied ASID – Cynthia Makris Design What has most influenced my projects is my long exposure to northern European design. Clean lines and lack of clutter are the basic elements of any project I approach. My preoccupation with feng shui has also taught me the value of space in which to breathe and to live. The trips I made to Japan only reinforced this tendency. Everything in a room in Japan has a purpose and space is left to give peace and calm to the mind and the spirit.

Wrenda Goodwyn, ASID Associate – Spectacular Spaces

I have incorporated colors, furnishings, accents, and new ideas for creating a feeling and sense of place.



Bavaria Germany - By Denise Couture Cowell



Peggy Oberlin, ASID, LEED AP – Peggy Oberlin Interiors, Inc.

I always love a chair or chest with a French or Italian line to it, and I like to use Provencal pottery and other accessories from Europe in my spaces.

Mayda Zayas-Bazan, ASID, LEED AP – AB Interiors

Sometimes I incorporate these inspirations in the combination of materials I use, such as tiles, fabrics, or art, or in the design of the space, whether it is open and relaxed with minimal furniture or warm and cozy with comfy furniture and different textures throughout.

Jenny Provost, ASID – K2 Design Group, Inc.

We designed an island compound for a member of the royal family in Abu Dhabi. Screening to provide shade drives innovatian there, and since shading is a necessity in the extremely hot UAE environment the architects there make it the standout item on buildings. I brought that understanding back to the US and to our projects in other regions. Exterior or interior, screening in which we incorporate unusual shapes and forms provides protection, textural backgrounds, and privacy.

Tamara Tennant, ASID, IIDA – Tamara Tennant Interior Design

Years ago the French used traditional frames with casual finishes and fabrics, which I loved using in my work. The architectural details that I see I always love incorporating into custom cabinetry designs and custom furniture.

A. Christopher Turan, ASID – Design Space Associates, Inc.

I incorporated the natural colors of the Exumas Bahamas into the design of a duplex guest house. One side was all water colors and the other side represented the colors found in the sunsets: coppers, oranges, and purples. Denise Couture Cowell, ASID, CAPS, LEED AP ID&C - PK Studios, Inc.

Of course, it's inherently a part of you, so you can't help but use those experiences in the design process.

Leslie Cheek, FASID – Leslie Cheek Interiors, Inc.

My travel inspired my love of original art, unusual color combinations, and much more, which I incorporate into every project. I have always included art or furnishings, purchased while traveling, in my designs for almost four decades. My clients appreciate having unique pieces, and I have been fortunate to guide some of my clients on their own journeys to becoming collectors of beautiful objects.



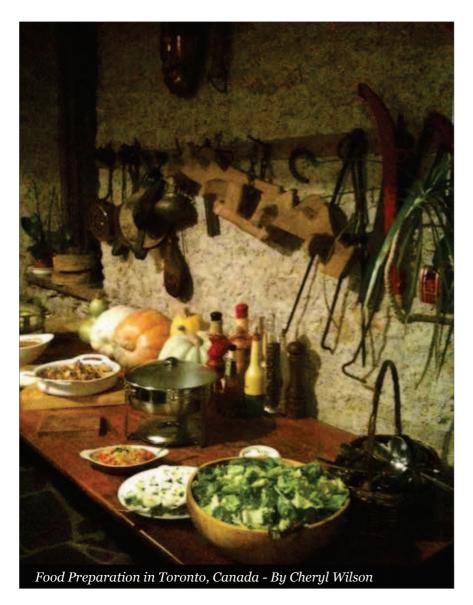
Gosia Fedele, ASID - Designed Spaces, LLC

Many times, at the beginning of a project, we tend to focus on definite stylistic directions, but we often end up with very eclectic interiors. An eclectic interior is one that derives its ideas and style from a diverse range of sources. I have studied many styles and visited many places, and as a result, I enjoy the challenge of creating eclectic spaces. I have this bank of images and experiences, a well from which I am constantly drawing inspiration.

Every interior is a harmonious dialogue among all its parts. A lot of thought goes behind every detail in order to achieve the perfect mixture; sometimes it is a mixture of styles, sometimes it is a mixture of old and new, and many times it is a mixture of materials, shapes, colors, and textures. Eclectic interiors are by far the most complex and exciting.

#### Kira Krümm, ASID - Kira Krümm International Design

There is a special synergy that I have found in China, which has had a profound influence on my creative perspective. I find that my design



work relates closely to Eastern philosophy with duality and balance being the foundation for my core aesthetic.

Cheryl Wilson, ASID – Designing Connections

I have used everything from a floating vanity in a hotel room in Key West to doors in Paris to tile patterns in Spain in my designs. I also pay attention to how people use spaces—lounging areas, parks, common areas. I note where people tend to connect and enjoy the scenery or each other. Function is always a main consideration—watching what attracts attention and enjoyment.

Voytek Faber, ASID – Equilibrium Interior Design Inc.

My inspiration often includes unique details, shapes, and color combinations. I draw from my travel experiences and combine various elements for an unusual result. From a travel photograph, we created a delicate stencil that was layered over dining room walls giving them incredible depth and pattern.

### What's your most memorable design related trip?

Cynthia Makris, Allied ASID – Cynthia Makris Design

My most memorable design related trips were to Japan, Egypt, and India. The exotic sights and sounds of Asia and the ancient world of Egypt give the imagination wings. It is so simple to feel as though one were living in the Edo period in Japan, in a maharaja's palace in India, or in the Egypt of the pharaohs when one travels to these lands.

Wrenda Goodwyn, ASID Associate
– Spectacular Spaces

Italy—the colors, lights, natural surroundings, and the use of space offer something that can be incorporated into almost any home.





Peggy Oberlin, ASID, LEED AP – Peggy Oberlin Interiors, Inc.

Attending the Milan International Design Show was my most memorable design trip.

Mayda Zayas-Bazan, ASID, LEED AP – AB Interiors

A cruise from Italy to the Greek Islands and Istanbul on which I was able to compare the beauty of the architecture in each of these countries, from the ancient buildings in Istanbul with warm earth tones to the houses on the canals in Venice, where even the mold on the walls imbue the houses with a particular charm to the white house's in Satorini and Mikonos against the deepest blue ocean I have ever seen.

Jenny Provost, ASID - K2 Design Group, Inc.

I am currently working on a project in Jerusalem, Israel. Traveling to Israel should be on everyone's bucket list. I'll be taking my fifteenth trip there in January. Inside the walls of the Old City, one can stroll through the Jewish, Christian, Armenian, and Muslim quarters. There are distinct cultural shifts as you walk though each section with mind-blowing historical sights. I travel very frequently and nothing compares to the impact of Jerusalem. And the hummus is really good!

Tamara Tennant, ASID, IIDA – Tamara Tennant Interior Design

Absolutely Paris! And then Rome!

A. Christopher Turan, ASID – Design Space Associates, Inc.

My first trip to visit the jobsite on Norman's Cay in the Bahamas left lasting inspiration. Flying in a prop plane (aka a tin can with wings) from Fort Lauderdale to Andros to clear customs and then onward to Normans Cay. When we landed the pilot turned to me and said, "Well, we aren't in Kansas anymore," and he was right. It was a surreal first-time experience.

Denise Couture Cowell, ASID, CAPS, LEED AP ID&C – PK Studios. Inc.

There have been so many, but if I had to choose, I'd have to say my first trip through Italy had a huge impact on me. After studying so many of the buildings, artwork, etc. in college it was amazing to experience them first hand.

Leslie Cheek, FASID – Leslie Cheek Interiors, Inc.

Everyone who knows me would guess that my most memorable design related trip would be an Italian one! I do truly love Italy and all the ways that it inspires me, however, I think my first childhood trip to Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, is my most influential. I have visited it many times since, but it always strikes me as the perfect example of a home that expresses the essence of its owner. As a Virginian and a lover of all things Italian, I appreciate what a remarkable achievement by a remarkable man in a remarkable time, this



home was and still is. Mr. Jefferson longed for Monticello no matter where he traveled. What more could we as designers aspire to create than a home for which our clients long?

Gosia Fedele, ASID - Designed Spaces, LLC

All of my travels are memorable, especially those to the big cities. I always take an absurd amount of pictures because I find everything captivating. I am particularly fond of Northern and Central California, probably because of its vastness and diversity, with its breathtaking costal areas, fertile inland valleys, and majestic mountains. I love the famous Victorian architecture of San Francisco, the imposing Hearst Castle, representing a blend of architectural styles that its owner admired in his travels around Europe, and the magic of the amazingly charming cottages of Caramel by the Sea.

I also admire Boston for its historical heritage. As one of America's oldest continuously occupied cities, Boston is made up of buildings constructed over more than three centuries, providing a cross reference for numerous styles. I also have to mention a beautiful and widely recognizable Chicago skyline featuring many promi-

nent buildings in a variety of styles by many important architects. Since most buildings within the downtown area were destroyed by the Great Chicago Fire in 1871, Chicago buildings are noted for their originality rather than their antiquity.

Kira Krümm, ASID - Kira Krümm International Design My most memorable design-related trip was to Bali over a decade ago. Bali was not only more unique, beautiful, and exotic than I had ever imagined, but I was most profoundly impacted by the vast talent of the Indonesian people. The artists and artisans were extremely skilled in stone carving, wood carving, painting, textiles, and goldsmithing. The memories of that trip are etched in my mind forever, and I plan to return to Indonesia soon to gain inspiration for my textile designs.

Cheryl Wilson, ASID - Designing Connections

My most memborable design trip was Paris, 1995. A twenty credit CEU with professor/designer Manuel Leon Ponce called "Understanding French Furniture and Design." And so much more—architecture, religion, politics, fabulous food, and outrageous stories



that make history come alive. And I will always remember the special tours of Chateau de Versailles and the Louvue at night.

Voytek Faber, ASID – Equilibrium Interior Design Inc.

From organic shapes glimpsed while hiking through a red forest to architectural masterpieces experienced in Dubai to colorful silks felt in India, every trip offers a unique set of experiences and inspirations. You never know when you will draw on these inspirations in your design, but rest assured, having a library of great images always inspires me whenever I reminiscent on trips already taken.

## Is there a particular source or location you would recommend to other designers?

Cynthia Makris, Allied ASID – Cynthia Makris Design

Singapore is a designers' paradise because there are antiques as well as replicas of traditional Asian furniture manufactured for export. The shopping is phenomenal. The exotic aesthetic is easily accessible in a very well-organized, safe, and clean country. People call it the Switzerland of Asia.

Peggy Oberlin, ASID, LEED AP – Peggy Oberlin Interiors, Inc.

Florence, Italy is a life changer.

Mayda Zayas-Bazan, ASID, LEED AP – AB Interiors

Italy, from Milan to Capri.

Tamara Tennant, ASID, IIDA – Tamara Tennant Interior Design

Paris, Rome, Pompeii, New York City, Stockholm, Florence, and Venice.

Denise Couture Cowell, ASID, CAPS, LEED AP ID&C – PK Studios, Inc

Wherever you are, go to where the locals go. Try to immerse your-

self in their surroundings, eat their foods, and really get to know the area and culture.

Leslie Cheek, FASID - Leslie Cheek Interiors, Inc.

I recommend visiting galleries, artists' studios, artisans, and shops that promote local sources wherever you travel. Most of the fun lies in discovering these places for yourself and getting to know the locales along the way!

Angela Colley, ASID, CAPS – A C Styles Designs, LLC

Because I tend to be very analytical, I would recommend designers explore and embrace all their surroundings. They might be surprised on what they might discover as source.

Gosia Fedele, ASID – Designed Spaces, LLC

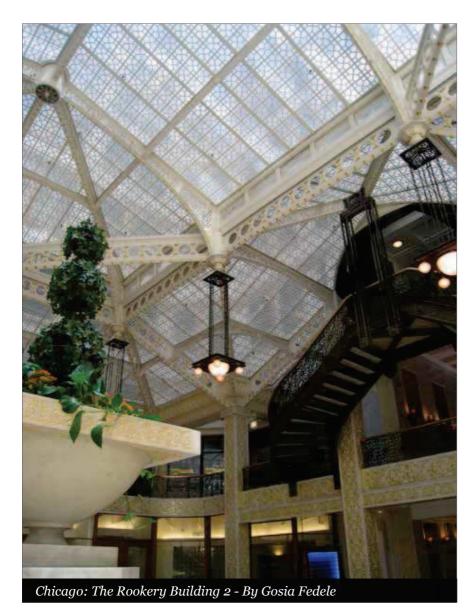
I love talking to people about my favorite destinations and future adventures and hear their stories. Sometimes you find people that share your passion for certain places and sometimes you learn about places that you



want to visit because someone else finds it irresistible. I would recommend any travel depending on one's time and resources: to a nearby city or across the ocean. Find out what inspires you, what draws your attention, and travel there for pleasure and for your personal and professional growth as a designer.

#### Kira Krümm, ASID - Kira Krümm International Design

I believe that life influences art and our experiences mold us. My experiences traveling have always led me to places where land meets sea. From the Mediterranean, to the Caribbean, to the South Pacific, I have been drawn to coastal destinations around the world, to explore and find inspiration. So if I could recommend a particular source or location, I would say anywhere on the globe that brings you that special sense of happiness and harmony.



Cheryl Wilson, ASID – Designing Connections

I think every experience is beneficial. Skiing in Colorado, flying over Key West (for the colors of the water and sky), driving under Spanish moss-laden trees in South Carolina—all can be inspiring.

Voytek Faber, ASID – Equilibrium Interior Design Inc.

While planning trips to locations you want to visit is important to never forget to step off the beaten path--it's on the path less traveled that you find the jewels of the region. And never look at things the way they actually are—a bridge can become an archway for your next design project or a flower arrangement can become an inspiration of colorful accessories combinations.

# Where is the one place you have not been, but would like to visit and why? (Either for work or pleasure)

Cynthia Makris, Allied ASID – Cynthia Makris Design

I would like to visit the Taj Mahal purely for pleasure. Also, I would like to visit Kyoto on my next visit to Japan. The delicate beauty of both of these destinations represents the pinnacle of cultures dedicated to artistry, refinement, and style.

Wrenda Goodwyn, ASID Associate
- Spectacular Spaces
India: for work and pleasure!

Peggy Oberlin, ASID, LEED AP – Peggy Oberlin Interiors, Inc.

Indonesia. I love the simple and rustic designs, and I think it is a great compliment to our Floridian life style.

Mayda Zayas-Bazan, ASID, LEED AP – AB Interiors

Russia, as I have always been curious of their way of living, their architecture, their people. It is on my bucket list.



Jenny Provost, ASID - K2 Design Group, Inc.

I've not yet been to the Far East. We've been published in Beijing and Shanghai, but I'd like to get my feet on the ground there. If I only had the time. . .

Tamara Tennant, ASID, IIDA – Tamara Tennant Interior Design

Definitely China and Thailand. I love all beautiful things Oriental!

A. Christopher Turan, ASID – Design Space Associates, Inc. I would love to explore Queensland and the Gold Coast of Australia, especially as I have made many friends in the yachting industry from the area, and I would love to experience this part of the world for myself.

Denise Couture Cowell, ASID, CAPS, LEED AP ID&C – PK Studios, Inc.

I'm very lucky to have already traveled through much of Europe and North and South America. Someday, I'd like to say that I've been to every continent.

Leslie Cheek, FASID – Leslie Cheek Interiors, Inc.

I would like to visit Machu Picchu. I think that it is fascinating and mysterious on many levels from its engineering to its metaphysical appeal.

Angela Colley, ASID, CAPS – A C Styles Designs, LLC I definitely would like to visit the UK and Europe. I want to see the samples of construction from the old world—especially those dated and constructed around the same time as those in Nova Scotia.

Gosia Fedele, ASID - Designed Spaces, LLC

I find any opportunity to travel exciting, but I would love spend a significant amount of time in the southern part of Europe—from Portugal to Spain to Italy to Greece. The reasons are, of course, countless. It would be fascinating to visit and experience so many culturally significant structures that I have studied and appreciated for years.

Kira Krümm, ASID - Kira Krümm International Design I have made countless trips to China on business, but I have never found the time to explore Asia. I have always dreamed of visiting Japan. The culture, architecture, and aesthetics have always fascinated me, and I have always admired their exquisite textiles.

Cheryl Wilson, ASID – Designing Connections
Bali is on the top of my list. I would like to experience the calm, gracious lifestyle—tropical but authentic.

Voytek Faber, ASID – Equilibrium Interior Design Inc. While there are many places I've already seen, every subsequent trip to that same region offers new finds. It's always on the second and third trip that I experience things differently, maybe because I become less of a tourist and more of a "local." The one place, I think, that is greatly underestimated by designers, is the amazing microscopic world surrounding us. Luckily, we don't have to go far to see it, we just need to stop running and start looking around.



## member profile

# An Interview with Award Winning Interior Designer Kira Krümm, ASID

Photography is courtesy of Kira Krümm International Design

Kira Krümm - By Kira Krümm International Design

#### Kira, you recently opened a satellite office in China, which I imagine is both extremely exciting and challenging. What has been the greatest surprise you have encountered with your global expansion?

By far, the most meaningful aspect of my experience abroad has been the incredible people I have met along the way. In foreign lands, establishing and maintaining new relationships among like-minded people is critical. I feel very fortunate to have a wonderful international network, especially in China where the warmth and enthusiasm I have received continues to inspire me. Planting roots there was a natural next step, and we look forward to expanding further in 2013.

## You are a very talented and accomplished Interior Designer, but you are also known for your product design. How is your collection received abroad?

I have had the privilege of working on various design-related projects abroad, particularly throughout China where my current focus is on my inter-

national product line, The Kira Krümm Kollection, which showcases soft décor such as luxury linens and bedding for the high-end residential market. Most recently, I have been preparing to launch my luxury bedding line in showrooms across China in 2013 while also balancing various interior design projects in China and southwest Florida.

# As part of your business expansion you hired employees that are fluent in some different Chinese dialects. Do many of the Chinese industry partners you encounter speak English? How big a barrier is the difference in languages when working overseas?

Yes, we welcomed two multi-lingual members to our international design team this year; a Design Assistant who speaks Taiwanese, Mandarin, and English and joins our Florida headquarters, and our International Design Coordinator is Mexican-American and will supervise our Studio in Shanghai where she is currently a resident. Overcoming language barriers has been a challenge in China, but we have established a great sup-



port network there to help us with logistics. Luckily, the majority of our business affiliates and clients speak English; however, cultural differences have presented challenges, especially when communicating electronically with a twelve hour time delay.

## You are mother to a beautiful little boy named Marco. Has Marco made his excursions to China as well?

Thank you so much! Yes, Marco has just turned two and is learning to speak Spanish, English, and Chinese. He has joined my husband Juan and me on most of our travels throughout Asia, South America, and the States, and he is an absolute sweetheart. Traveling abroad has had a profound effect on the person I have become, so I really look forward to seeing how international experiences will shape him as well.

# Clearly you recognize that it is a global economy and seek that energizing connectivity between other countries and cultures. How has this had a positive effect on your design business? And on you personally?

"Energizing connectivity" describes the experience perfectly. The global economy holds a vast landscape of diverse perspectives, and I truly feel that art and design provides a channel for overcoming cultural barriers. In very recent years, China has begun vastly expanding its horizons, embracing international influences for the first time in its history. Young, upper-class professionals are fueling China's luxury market and the design community is thriving. I have had the pleasure of meeting and collaborating with some of China's most influential designers, as a result.

### What new surprises can we look forward to from Kira Krümm International Design?

This has been a great year for my team, and our creative momentum is soaring full throttle into 2013. We look forward to unveiling fresh new designs from our current residential projects, and there will be many surprises to come from my signature Kollection, both stateside and abroad.



