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(英) 马丁・沃勒 编著

安德鲁·马丁国际室内设计年度大奖2009/2010获奖作品

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I'll have them fly to India for gold, ransack the ocean for orient pearl'. So wrote Christopher Marlowe in 1592 and thus it has been for interior designers ever since. Scouring the globe for treasures is an integral element of the decorator's metier. Goods for the home have inexorably driven forward the development of trade and the history of humanity. The lust for luxury made silk the most coveted product in the ancient world. The Roman Emperor Elagabalus (who was top dog for just four years 218-222 AD) is not just remembered for shocking his contemporaries with his fondness for young boys and surprising them with white make up and removal of all his body hair, he also turbo powered the fashion for silk. He pioneered the blend of silk and linen, still a super sophisticated look 2000 years later. Seneca the Stoic philosopher may have despised extravagance but it didn't stop him owning 500 ivory tables.

The Silk Route has played a pivotal role throughout time. Buddhism was transported along with the merchants and centuries later designers still pillage its iconography. These images containing the essential contradiction of austerity and compassion have become a cliche in the home. The pre eminence of Muslim traders either side of the start of the 2nd Millennium equally allowed Islam to be brought to the world. Today we still cherish the fables of Sinbad and the remarkable tales of Ibn Battuta, who travelled 74,000 miles in the 13th century. Around the time the Vikings were marauding, a Persian sea captain called Ibn Shahryar wrote of 'a ship laden with a million dinars of musk, as well as silks and porcelain of equal value, and quite as much again in jewellery and stones, not counting a whole heap of marvellous objects of Chinese workmanship'. Plus ça change.

Today the world is littered with emporia of every kind. However there is none that quite resonates with interior designers like the castle near Antwerp of Axel Vervoordt, this year's Designer of the Year. For as long as I can remember it has been a kind of Camelot for collectors, somewhere to go on a quest for the Holy Grail. His 50 room home is the proverbial cornucopia of art, antiques and pre requisites for both his own schemes and the design world's cognoscenti. Axel's own philosophy is deceptively simple; 'make them feel at home and love their house'.

Martin Waller

AXEL VERVO







Designer: Axel Vervoordt.

Company: Axel Vervoordt NV, Belgium. Profile: Family run firm with a team of almost a hundred specialist art historians, architects, designers, restorers and supporting staff. Active in the international world of art and antiques they cater to an elite global clientele including royalty, museums and established collectors.

Axel and May Vervoordt are a Zen-like couple for whom peace is priority and interior decorating their destiny. Good friends are musicians and designers. Axel dresses mostly in Dries van Noten, favourite fragrance Terre d'Hermes. A hard working team they like nothing better than Sunday afternoon on the sofa by the fireplace. Unafraid of growing old, Axel's happiest in the garden or in his jeep in the country, May with her grandchildren. She believes that life is evolution. Favourite shopping, artistic areas of Paris, favourite architects Palladio and Le Corbusier. Most memorable meal Japan (3 guests, 8 cooks.)

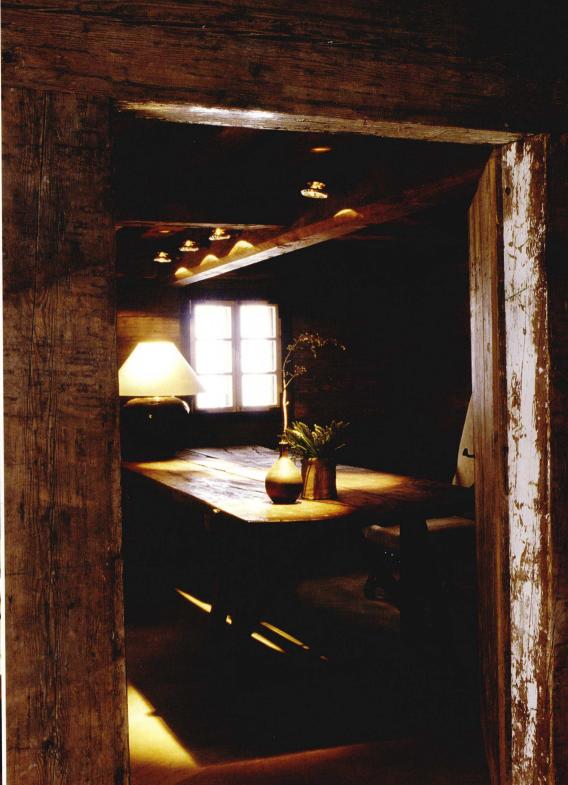






















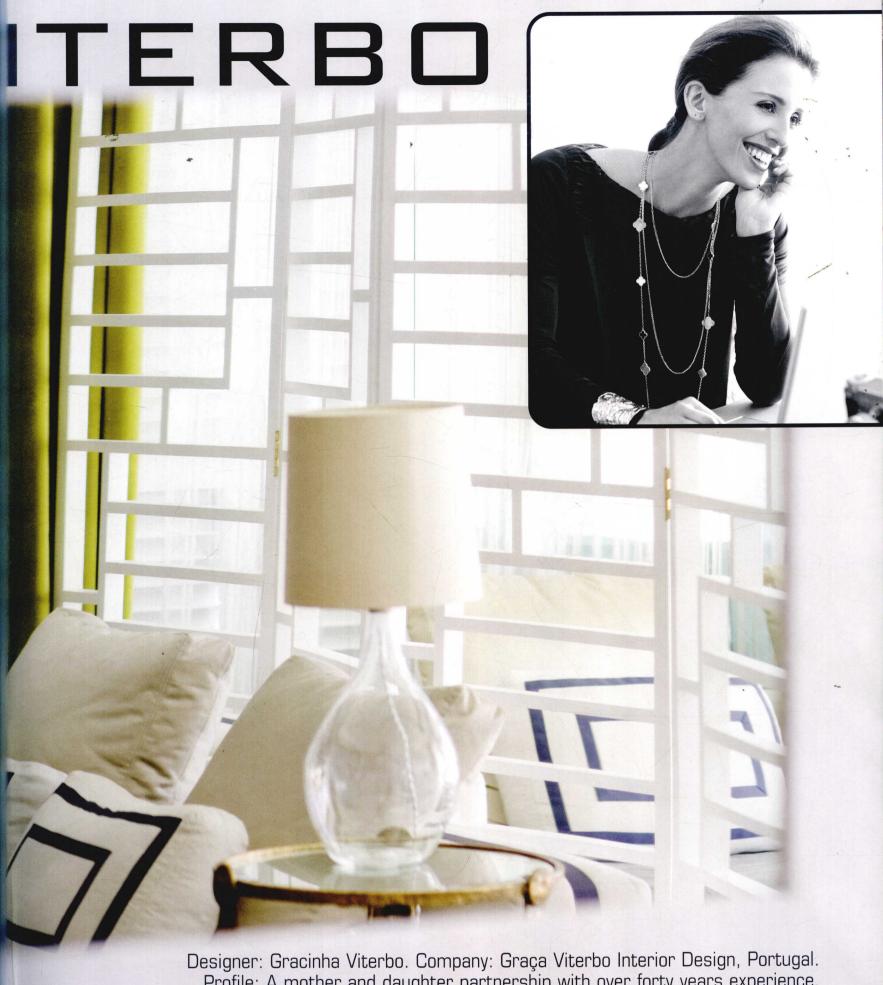






GRACINHAV





Designer: Gracinha Viterbo. Company: Graça Viterbo Interior Design, Portugal. Profile: A mother and daughter partnership with over forty years experience. Viterbo is one of Portugal's leading Interior Design firms with international offices taking them to Europe, Africa and Asia. Work includes private and commercial projects with numerous luxury and boutique hotels. Recent work includes an exclusive hotel in Lugano, Switzerland and Hotel Grande Real Villa Italia Hotel & Spa, Cascais, Portugal. They are currently working on various private homes, a chain of business hotels throughout Angola and a boutique hotel in the Algarve.

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A greener world would be Gracinha's first priority if she were Prime Minister for the day. Her favourite architect Frank Gehry, best car Mercedes 300 SL, most overrated book 'The Da Vinci Code'. At heart she's a citizen of the world, living in both Lisbon where she's inspired by the history and craftsmanship and London for its energy and mix of cultures. As a child Gracinha's ambition was to go around the world in 80 days. Now she'd visit the moon.



