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#65

bespoke Guest Editor Yasmine Ghoniem Exceptional design

ISSUE SIX OF SIX COLLECTABLES

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One of a kind

WORDS YASMINE GHONIEM
PHOTOGRAPHY VARIOUS

YSG Studio's Director, Yasmine Ghoniem, deep dives into the inspirations behind her bespoke design creations.

“I am also a vintage stalker, hunting online and trawling markets, often adding signature touches like an incredible fabric to an armchair so each piece evolves to suit its new home perfectly.”









FEATURES OPENER

The Wes Anderson inspired interior of Plantasia packs a dopamine hit of colour.

OPENER

Filled with floating orbs, bespoke mosaic and a large Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran deity, Alemais is a place of wonder.

PREVIOUS

The magnificent patchwork blue granite detailing of the Dream Weaver kitchen.

OPPOSITE

Making the most of limited space in Dream Weaver, the bedhead fulfils the needs of bedside tables and leaves the room open to a cascade of lighting in shades of berry.

LEFT

A custom drinks trolley in Dream Weaver, shares the blue granite of the kitchen.

My design process always begins by imagining how I want a project to feel, with staging and storytelling narrating strong visual outcomes across them all. All YSG spaces possess an interconnected, sculpted appeal, with hybrid custom solutions enhancing this flow. Beyond joinery and innovative floor and wall treatments, this often incorporates entrance doors to set the scene, through to seating, bedding, lighting, and tables of all sizes. I am also a vintage stalker, hunting online and trawling markets, often adding signature touches like an incredible fabric to an armchair so each piece evolves to suit its new home perfectly.

Unconventional influences provide the undercurrent of harmony across my projects. The selections below explore just some of them, also demonstrating ways in which bespoke detailing helps me to immortalise an intended mood.

Perched within a penthouse overlooking Sydney's Rushcutters Bay, Dream Weaver befits the freedoms of its new empty nesters. It is futuristic, with an upbeat dose of Pedro Almodóvar's cinematic eccentricity. Given limited wall space to hang art or attach joinery, it delves into a Pantone party of deep piled, custom rugs and stone surfaces with planetary swirls to counterbalance its minimal, box-like frame shrouded in glass. Innovative lighting solutions also serve aesthetic purposes.





OPPOSITE

A selection of David Rockwell designed stacked lights for Leucos (dedece) creates an impact in Dream Weaver.

TOP LEFT

Plantasia is brought alive with a playful explosion of colour and texture.

BOTTOM LEFT

The Malteser like pulls of a custom walnut credenza flows along Plantasia's lounge room edge.

OVER

Colour and form create an artistic and playful mood in Dream Weaver.

As consummate entertainers, the couple requested conversational custom pieces. Setting the scene, I designed an automatic sliding door beside the lift. Its large amber porthole frames the entry vestibule where vintage Italian citrus-hued glass lighting totems sprout from the floor, setting a 007 vibe with its 'Golden Eye' glow.

I clad the kitchen island in hand-cut, mismatched, oversized Lapis Blue granite to convey a rippled water effect on its solid mass. A curved plinth floats upon drum legs beside it, with a plum-toned fulcrum supporting a 360-degree rotating 'platter' (for canapés or cheese). It spins into motion during gatherings. Perched nearby, a mobile drinks trolley with matching blue granite was designed to follow guests to the balcony. Its integrated lamp oversees perfect spirit pours at night.

With limited wall space in the primary suite, the bedhead became its cosy, textured anchor. Stained zebra veneers were layered with carpet upholstery and crowned with Calacatta Viola marble. A solar system of blown glass lighting in complementary berry shades cascade beside it. Initiating additional storage was tricky with so many glass surfaces, so I designed all the beds, incorporating streamlined drawers at their base.

Nestled amongst rolling hills sprinkled with citrus gardens on the New South Wales South Coast, Plantasia was designed for a family with young children. The couple wanted their all-white, mock-Colonial purchase to feel adorned and welcoming. Being a holiday home, I was encouraged to crank up its escapist sentiments, so I drenched it in nature with more than ten different flora and fauna wallpapers cladding walls and ceilings.







The entry vestibule instantly disarms city life stresses. A sunny, oversized timber door invites you into a world of fiction. Inside the parlour, Victorian elements including floral prints, a custom circular, velvet ottoman, plus ornately carved joinery add period drama spiked with a Wes Anderson-inspired dopamine hit of colour. The room holds you momentarily, encouraging your mind to transition. This 'suspended in time' theme literally extends along the central spine of the home from the entrance, down the hallway, and across the open kitchen/dining area's floor in the form of an infinite hourglass motif defined by dark cork. It is set within caramel-shaded cork that pours into the adjoining rooms.

Curvilinear themes continue to flow, linking spaces. Teasing 'soft' shapes from hard surfaces like timber and stone, a dark, melted-chocolate-like surface lines a custom walnut credenza along the lounge room's edge (dotted with Malteser-like pulls). In the powder room, deliciously thick, pastel Onyx slabs are used for open shelving, and a counter surface features bullnose edges to enhance the Fruit Tingle shades of the stone's scribbled pattern.

Located above street level in a Surry Hills warehouse, Alémais delves into imagined universes. Instead of building walls, the open space was gently divided with a mosaic mural, colourful joinery elements, and patterned banquette seating, plus timber-framed screens fitted with Tuareg mat inserts to create more porous divisions.

Design references to mythological kingdoms, aquatic worlds, and folklore were loosely inspired by our client's Lebanese heritage and fine arts background, plus her fascination with ancient cultures. Utilising the high, exposed timber ceiling, a constellation of custom fibreglass moon pendants ranging from dappled shades of lavender and champagne gold to deeper olive and aubergine orbit like lunar planets at alternating heights.





OPPOSITE
An hourglass motif has been incorporated into the cork flooring of Plantasia.

ABOVE
The bespoke and hand-painted dining table – complete with lazy Susan – of Alemais.

OVER
Bespoke upholstery and rugs transform Alemais into something extraordinary.

The footplate tapering into a triangular tip influenced furnishing designs, given I needed to utilise every inch. Within this bow-like nook, a trippy underwater scene floats the spirit of adventure. Upon the custom ocean-bed-shaded rug (one from my Real Majik collaboration with Tappeti), seaweed tip motifs animate the velvet banquette.

Creating an artwork out of a new partition near the entrance, I coated it with shimmering mosaics, including half-human, half-animal forms floating amongst fauna under a blazing sun. It frames an L-shaped banquette clad with a tribal fabric reminiscent of a Congolese cloth, marrying tangerine chenille with rugged linen. I punked one end of it with a large Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran deity that holds court upon a bubblegum-pink-stained timber plinth.

Other references to the divine and mystical are sprinkled in the kitchen. Egyptian Seba stars glow upon the joinery via custom bronze pulls, and a hand-painted ‘all-seeing’ eye blinks upon the splashback (realised by long-term collaborators I often commission to paint trompe-l’oeil effects on floors and ceilings). Another personifies the dining table. Set upon a glossy polyurethane ruffled pedestal, its embossed, elliptical surface was hand-painted in pastel tones to highlight natural woodgrain patterns. A raised Lazy Susan forms its pupil. I also repurposed several key vintage pieces, transforming a teapot-like cabinet facing the dining table into a drinks bar, plus vintage armchairs with decorative fabrics. As with all YSG projects, I wanted this space to transplant people back in time and propel them into the future but never feel of the moment.

ysg.studio



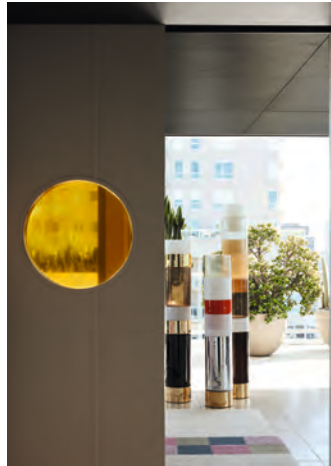


Alemais

INTERIOR DESIGN YSG STUDIO
GADIGAL COUNTRY / SYDNEY
PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART
STYLING YSG STUDIO
BUILDER CUZCO CONSTRUCTIONS

LOUNGE Moon Pendants, custom YSG by Anomalous. Golden Sun door handle, Etsy. Joinery in Kalamata, Laminex, fabricated by iSpace Solutions. Knox drawers, Cozoni. Juniper Medium Branch Bowl, Dinosaur Designs.

KITCHEN Table, custom design by YSG, made by Maiden, detailed by Creative Finish Sydney. Twill Counter Chair in Rust Red, Design By Them. Big Wood Fired Bowl, Sophie Vaidie, Studio Gardner. Sycamore Bar Cabinet, Michael Ryan Architects, 1st Dibbs. Screens, custom design by YSG with Tuareg Rugs, Little Known Makers, Maiden. Moon Pendants, custom YSG, Anomalous.



Dream Weaver

INTERIOR DESIGN YSG STUDIO
GADIGAL COUNTRY / DARLINGHURST,
SYDNEY
PHOTOGRAPHY PRUERUSCOE
STYLING FELICITY NG
BUILDER PROMENA PROJECTS

Sunset Onyx, Calacatta Viola, Lapis Blue granite, Isernia stone, American white ash, Tasmanian blackwood, Ganache and Aubergine-Stained veneer, coloured Venetian glass, Purple Iris Zellige.

LOUNGE Floor Lamps, stacking Cromo Lucido' and stacking Dorato Lucido, Leucos, dedece. Armchair and footstool, Maker&Son in patchwork vintage linen, Studio ALM. Grande Soflice Sofa, Edra, Space Furniture. Cipria side chair in pink, Edra, Space Furniture. Coffee table, custom by YSG in Sunset Onyx, Euro Marble. Danskina Horizon rug, Kvadrat. Custom Tibetan wool and Artsilk rug in patchwork, Tappeti. Point and Line 03' throw by Rrres Rugs, Koskela.

KITCHEN Kitchen Island, custom designed by YSG in 'Blue Granite', Nefiko, fabricated by Mediterranean Marble. Mulberry-stained Oak and hammered powder coat in Mocha. Kitchen joinery, custom designed by YSG in black stained oak veneer. Dita Stool, burnished copper and natural sheepskin, Grazia & Co. Men sole shelving system, VBO. Resin Rock Jug in shell pink, resin Branch Vase in moody blue, Dinosaur Designs. William Versace Ancestor Amber sculpture, 2020, by William Versace, Curatorial+ Co. Ra cake stand by Ann Demeulemeester, Spence & Lyda. Maple and brass board, DEA Store.

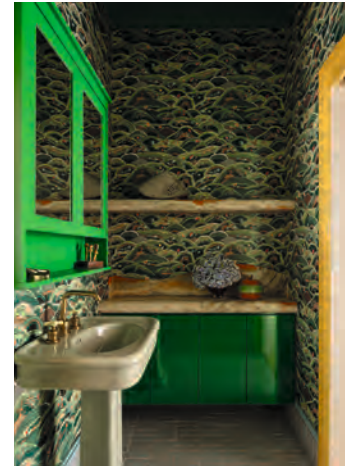


Plantasia

INTERIOR DESIGN YSG STUDIO
YUIN COUNTRY / SOUTH COAST NSW
PHOTOGRAPHY ANSON SMART
STYLING FELICITY NG
BUILDER PROMENA PROJECTS

POWDER ROOM Wallpaper, Rolling Hills, 5012631, Green, by Schumacher, Orient House. Vanity Mirror, Hemnes mirror cabinet with two doors in custom colour, IKEA. Onyx Stone, Euro Marble. SMD3 sculpture by Tanika Jellis, Studio Gardner. 60's pink glass vase, Japan, Rudi Rocket. Mushroom Salt Spoon from Opus Lab, DEA Store. Rockwell three hole high spout basin mixer, The Water Monopoly, The English Tapware Company. Rockwell basin in Willow Green on pedestal, The Water Monopoly, The English Tapware Company. Bejmat Blue Moon Handmade tiles, Di Lorenzo Tiles.

ENTRY Wallpaper, Figs & Strawberries in Powder Blue & Ochre, Milton & King. Terracotta Pox Pot with Golden Balls, 2022, by Glenn Barkley, Sullivan+Strumpf. Abby Check Tan Washed Linen cotton in tan/natural, Tessuti. Cherub in Cloud Porcelain wall light, Huey Light Shop. Bikini wall light in reen, Servomuto. 1970's German Waechtersbach vase by Renee Neue, Rudi Rocket. Ovid Door Pull in stone & antique brass, Vbrokkr. Putrellino Low Tables by Dimoremilano, Moebel. Natural coloured ork flooring in Tannin & dark coloured cork flooring in Suberin, The Flooring Co. Ottoman, custom design by YSG in Cruze Rust, Warwick Fabrics.



DINING ROOM Urn-Shaped XL vase in Caramel Speckle by Kelly Brown, DEA Store. Armchair PPI30 Circle Chair by PP Möbler, Cult Design. Vintage Wiggle Chair, Curated Spaces. Valois Ply Seat in French Walnut and Dining Chair No.31 Fureau in Dark Oak, Thonet. Large Studio Pottery Bowl/Platter in Beige, Rudi Rocket. Vintage sourced by YSG. Art Wall: Hollywood Regency Ceramic Lettuce Ware Serving Platter after Dodie Thayer, 1st Dibbs. Flying Bears, 2023, by Hikari Masuda, DEA Store. Sunday Sun 18, 2023 by Louise Kyriakou. Bernardaud Banality Series Oval Platter by Jeff Koons. Beaded House Coaster. 19th Century Victorian Wedgwood Majolica Lobster Plate. Floor, natural coloured cork flooring in Tannin & dark coloured cork flooring in Suberin, The Flooring Co.