

# VANITY FAIR

TAKE A BOW!

# HOLLYWOOD

24<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL

12  
EXTRAORDINARY  
STARS!

ONE VERY  
MOMENTOUS  
YEAR

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£4.99  
International £5.40



STARRING  
Oprah  
WINFREY

Nicole  
KIDMAN

Reese  
WITHERSPOON

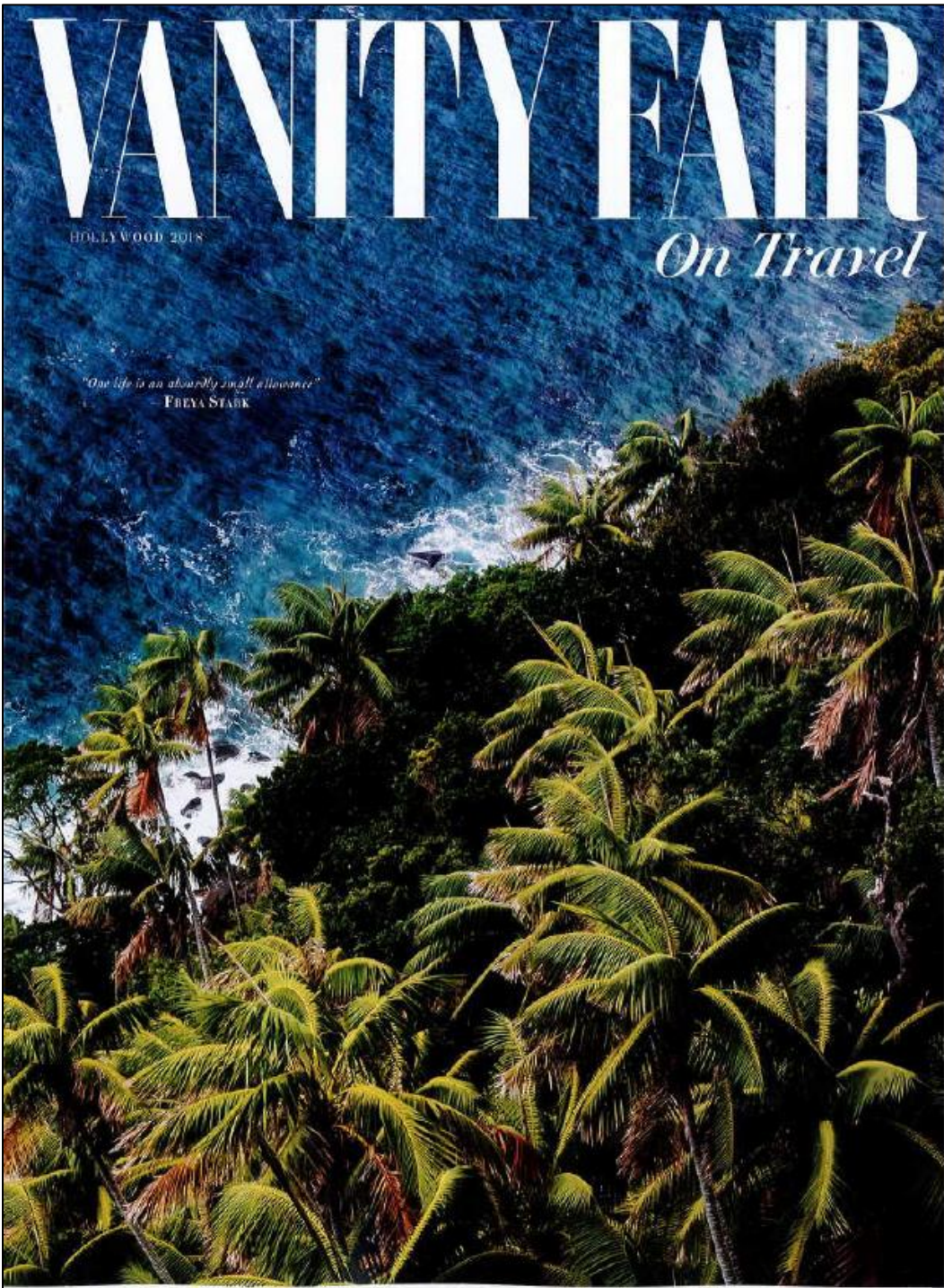
Tom  
HANKS

# VANITY FAIR

HOLLYWOOD 2018

*On Travel*

*"One life is an absurdly small allowance"*  
— FREYA STARR

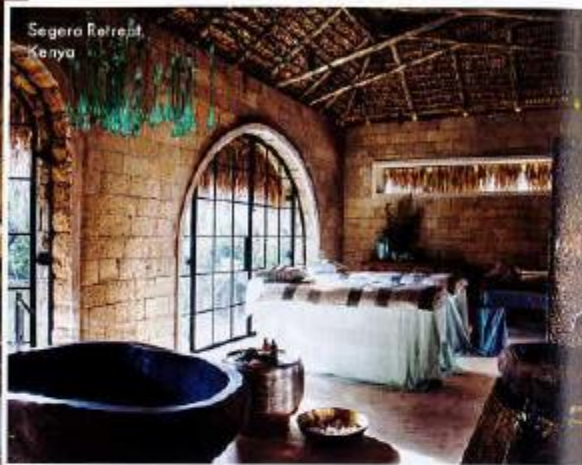


# The SPIRIT of the RAW

Meet the designers who have made Africa and Latin America their calling cards



Arijju, Kenya



Segera Retreat, Kenya

## Maira KOUTSOUDAKIS

“I guess, if you are surrounded by nature all the time, it does affect you,” Maira Koutsoudakis says, when I comment on her African cornbraids and leopard-print top. “What I hope is that you can feel the rawness of nature in my interiors, not just see it in me.”

Over the past 20 years, the South African interior designer has created coveted homes and award-winning hotels, becoming known for executing complex projects in tough environments. Her first big commission was North Island in the Seychelles—the resort where the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge honeymooned; everything had to be delivered without

a jetty on the island “because we didn’t want to bring any rats ashore”. The Odzala Discovery Camps in the Republic of Congo, run by the billionaire philanthropist Sabine Plattner, were built “in rainy season, so we had 40-foot trucks stuck in black cotton-soil mud. Being a

designer sometimes means mud or snakes or jungle. I just suck it up and smile.”

The locations may vary wildly, but the interiors are consistently and distinctly Koutsoudakis. “It’s important to me to bring the culture of the place into the fabric of the buildings, as well as the owners’ personality,” she says.

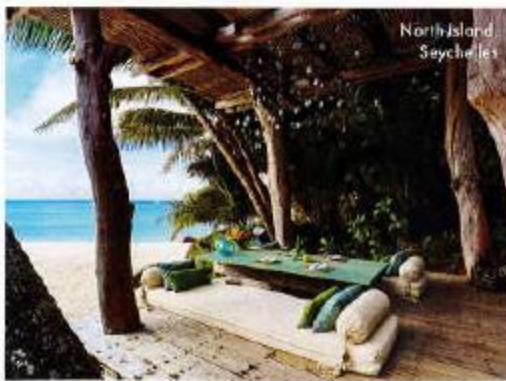
Jochen Zeitz, the former Puma CEO, hired Koutsoudakis to work on Segera Retreat lodge in Kenya, and his cottage on the estate which features framed collections of Hemingway letters

alongside contemporary art by Wangechi Mutu and Nandipho Mntambo. At another private home, Arijju, also in Laikipia, there are sleek Norwegian chairs beloved of its Nigerian-Scandinavian owners beside sun-blached Zanzibari doors. At the canvas camp Serra Cafema in Namibia, there are old brass telescopes and Himba-carved inlays for the wooden floors.

“For me, great design is about mixing the raw with the refined and the pioneering. I like the tension of opposing elements that live in an unquiet alliance.”

This year, she’ll be busy working on private homes from London to Lagos, and converting a 1750 Cape Dutch homestead in Stellenbosch. Before that she’s off on holiday to the Venetian castle she owns on the Greek island of Serifos, which she has painted in blues and whites, and adorned with rustic furniture. “It’s my happy place,” she says. “I’m going to eat calamari and lamb on the spit, drink rosé and sleep.”

—LISA GRAINGER



North Island, Seychelles

## Paulina MORÁN

“The wonderful thing about Mexicans is that we are like cockroaches,”

Paulina Morán tells me, humorously referring to their innate ability, in her opinion, to adapt to any situation—and the fact that it takes “a lot to squash them”, a sure sideswipe at President Trump.

The celebrated interior designer—known for her whimsical, eclectic style, that might incorporate the vibrancy of traditional Mexican prints with the swirls



of her favourite designer Emilio Pucci—is currently revelling in the success of the hotel, Chablé (pictured), in an exquisitely restored 19th-century hacienda and sisal factory, set in 750 acres of jungle on the Yucatán peninsula. Morán describes the property as “how a Mayan emperor would live today”.

Set among tropical gardens, it has a grand colonial feel with high arches and original floor tiles—“very old designs brought to the peninsula by French settlers”—that she had restored and re-coloured, but not replaced. Morán worked with a local women’s collective, Hilando México, which also hand-embroidered the cushions using silks, linens and wools provided by Morán. Yet it’s not all traditional, with contemporary art on the walls, a strikingly



modern spa and the world’s largest private tequila collection behind the bar.

Morán is now using her design magic to help roll out the Chablé brand with a second property, Chablé Maroma, also on the Yucatán Peninsula and scheduled to open in December 2018. “The

design will be very tropical, with all of the colours of the Caribbean sea,” she says. There are also plans to turn the former home of drug lord Pablo Escobar into a boutique hotel in Tulum.

Inspired aesthetically as a girl by a father who loved bossa nova and a mother who was fascinated by the history of art, Morán—“a real child of the 1960s”—initially went into fashion, apprenticing in Italy for Ermenegildo Zegna and then Sergio Bougeat, Giorgio Armani’s mentor. She returned home, shifted into interiors and had a fortuitous start—working alongside Philippe Starck when he was designing a restaurant in Mexico City.

Morán has gone on to design private homes and superyacht interiors, but she loves hotels the most. Her next job is just that, and located within the walled city of Cartagena, Colombia. She says she plans to preserve the colonial façade of the building and make a feature of the rooftop—to overlook a city, which she calls “one of the most beautiful in the world.”

—CHARLOTTE PEARSON MCHVEN

