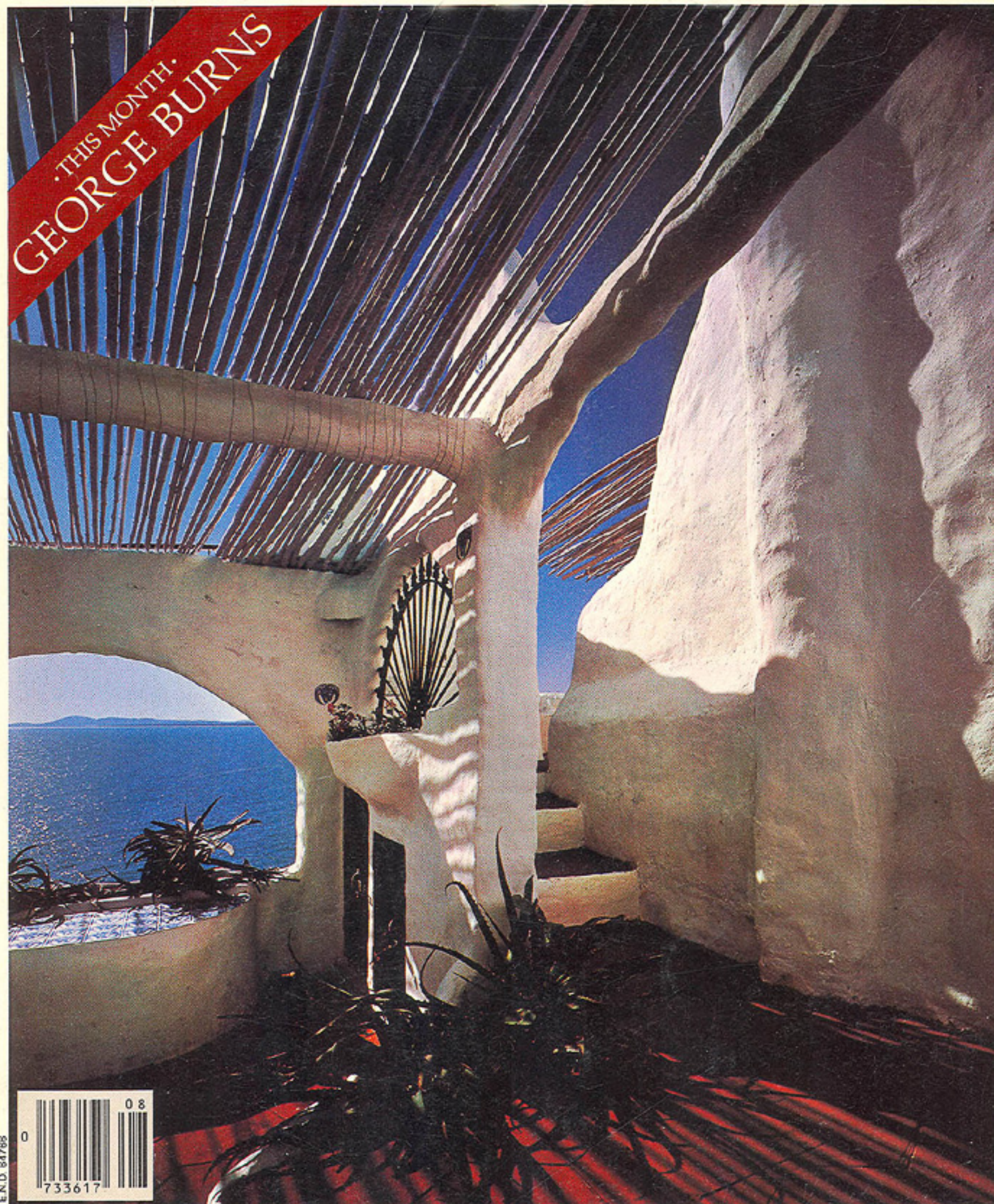


ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE OF FINE INTERIOR DESIGN

AUGUST 1982 \$4.00



END 64765



Old World Charm

The Manhattan Apartment of Princess Yasmin Aga Khan

INTERIOR DESIGN BY SAMUEL BOTERO
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JAIME ARDILES-ARCE





TO MANY INTERIOR DESIGNERS, infusing a home with life and the spirit of its residents is a never-ending process. The home evolves as times, tastes and interests change. An excellent example is the Manhattan apartment of Princess Yasmin Aga Khan, daughter of actress Rita Hayworth and the late Prince Ali Khan. "My home is in a constant state of flux," the princess explains. "I am always adding new objects and moving things around."

Ten years ago Princess Yasmin moved to New York and met, through a friend, the young interior designer Samuel Botero. They immediately understood each other's tastes and have been collaborating on her residences ever since. "In a way, we've grown up together," says Mr. Botero. "I helped Yasmin with her first apartment, and over the years our outlooks have broadened. She never says 'Just go ahead and do it,' but takes an active part in every phase of a project.

An evolving collection of art and antiques dignifies the old-world setting of Princess Yasmin Aga Khan's New York City apartment designed by Samuel Botero. PRECEDING PAGES: In the Living Room, careful placement enhances favorite objects, including an English chair and a Japanese lacquered chest-on-stand, both 17th century, from Florian Papp. Matelassé cotton sofa upholstery is from Abraham Zumbach. The lounge chairs are covered in embossed velvet, and the ottoman in cotton, from Manuel Canovas; Old World Weavers fabrics cover pillows. The piano is a Steinway. Through the doorway, an entrance hall wall covered in grasscloth on silver paper from Gracie sets off a Persian mirror from Marvin Alexander. OPPOSITE: Artworks in the Living Room range from a Tang ceramic horse to watercolors by Pavel Tchelitchev, part of a collection of Ballet Russe costume designs. The 18th-century *lacca contrafatta* commode was made in Venice. ABOVE LEFT: Costume sketches by Mikhail Larionov, Alexandre Benois, Léon Bakst and Erté form a Living Room grouping. ABOVE RIGHT: Among ballet costume designs displayed in the Entrance Hall are three by artist Natalia Gontcharova and one by Larionov.

We've had great fun and many amusing adventures along the way."

In this apartment, collections of Ballet Russe costume sketches, Oriental rugs, family photographs and heirlooms, arranged casually and with a great deal of flair, create the unmistakable signature of Princess Yasmin Khan. The influence of old-world tradition is evident throughout. "I have a genuine appreciation for art and antiques and I enjoy collecting things with a past or family history. They become part of me and create the only atmosphere in which I feel truly at home," she says.

In planning the design, a balance had to be struck between the princess's traditional preferences and her flexible, modern way of life. "Yasmin likes to entertain small groups, from college friends to heads of state," the designer says. "She needed areas appropriate for different occasions, as well as space to accommodate



an ever-growing number of objects."

A former guest room adjoining the living room provided one solution. The designer transformed it into a library—more intimate than the rather formal living room—giving it access to the living room through French doors. Mr. Botero achieved visual continuity by outlining the bookcases and the entrances of both rooms with Neo-Classical pilasters and moldings suggested by the architectural details of the 1930s building. "It was not meant as a Postmodern gesture," the designer explains. "It was an effort to define the entrances and to relate the library, in scale and context, to the traditional scheme of the apartment. I wanted the rooms and the objects in them to look as though everything had always been there."

Samuel Botero determined the layout of each room, organizing the larger pieces first and placing them to their best advantage, before choosing

ABOVE RIGHT: Mr. Botero transformed a guest room adjoining the living room into a Library for informal entertaining. Added here and in the living room, Neo-Classical detailing relates the two rooms visually and emphasizes their proportions. The sofa is covered in linen velvet from Gretchen Bellinger, the armchair in Brunswick & Fils fabric, and the Louis XV-style fauteuil from Auffray & Co., in woven cotton from Schumacher. Manuel Canovas cotton was used for draperies and the ottoman. ABOVE LEFT: Photographs in the Library show the princess's mother, Rita Hayworth (center); her father, Prince Ali Khan (right); and her grandparents, the Aga Khan III, Imam, and the Begum, with young Prince Ali Khan. The painting is by Dufy. OPPOSITE: In the Dining Room, fabric wallcovering complements one of two Kirman tapestries given to the princess by her father. A mounted Chinese vase from Marvin Alexander adorns the table. The chandelier is from Nesle. FOLLOWING PAGES: Fulfilling the princess's desire for a garden look in the Master Bedroom, the designer chose a Clarence House floral chintz. The Frederick Carl Frieseke painting depicts a reclining woman.

colors and fabrics. "Giving each room a definite structure makes it easier to change the art and accessories as new additions are made," he points out.

Bolder about using color here than she was in her former apartment, Princess Yasmin says, "Besides a dominant neutral shade, we've used pastels to highlight the art objects and create a warm, lived-in atmosphere. In the dining room, for example, we chose a pale soft-textured cotton to enhance a pair of Kirman tapestries that belonged to my father."

Princess Yasmin told Mr. Botero she had long desired a bedroom with the look, serenity and whimsy of a garden. "With this in mind, I covered the walls and upholstered the furniture in floral chintz," the designer explains. The result: another expression of a modern princess's aesthetic, in a residence where respect for the past enriches the present with meaning. □

—Carol Vogel



