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LOUNGING IN LUXURY

Whatever we name it, we live in the lounge and that makes it the most important room in the house. We at BRIGHT have been writing about lounges for quite some time, and have decided to put together 10 of our best, all designed by the award-winning UDesign team. All different, but all with a common thread of architectural and interior design excellence, and all a joy to live in. Here are our 10 top lounges.

WORDS VIVION O'KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF BRIGHT



1 - TROPICAL VILLA

The beauty and colour of this Caribbean island have been imported into the interior of this stunning home, located in the Cayman Islands. Splashes of colour and light from the sea and the lush tropical vegetation have been brought inside, making it a reflection of what's on the outside. The swing chair, facing the fabulous view of the sparkling blue sea, is of course the fun element of the design. We know which chair in this home will get used the most! >



2 - GARDEN VILLA

This lounge is in front of an interior garden, with a tree growing out from the huge rocks and bushes, bang in the centre of the house and open to the sky above. When it rains, you not only see and hear the rain, but experience it, but you don't get wet: the floor tiles slope imperceptibly towards the centre. You can experience and enjoy the weather, whatever it happens to be, without moving from your sofa. With a distinctive Japanese flavour to it, almost Zen-like, nature is the drawing board in this home. Trees, flowers, plants, rocks, sand and architectural elements, using nature as the vital ingredient, all designed with precision and attention to detail, all put together in many different ways with absolute respect for nature.

3 - VILLA SERENITY

Serenity by name, serenity by design. Inside or out? Hard to tell, because sitting in this lounge is as close as one can get to sitting in the natural surroundings of the villa itself. The walls of glass soar above the low seating area, drawing inside the carefully designed garden. Sparkling white is the predominant colour, accentuated by the simple black coffee table and the dark blue of the lights overhead, while the black window frames define the entire glassed area. In this villa, the concept of outdoor/indoor living is almost brought to an extreme, but it works in a beautiful and poetic way that invites us to be there.



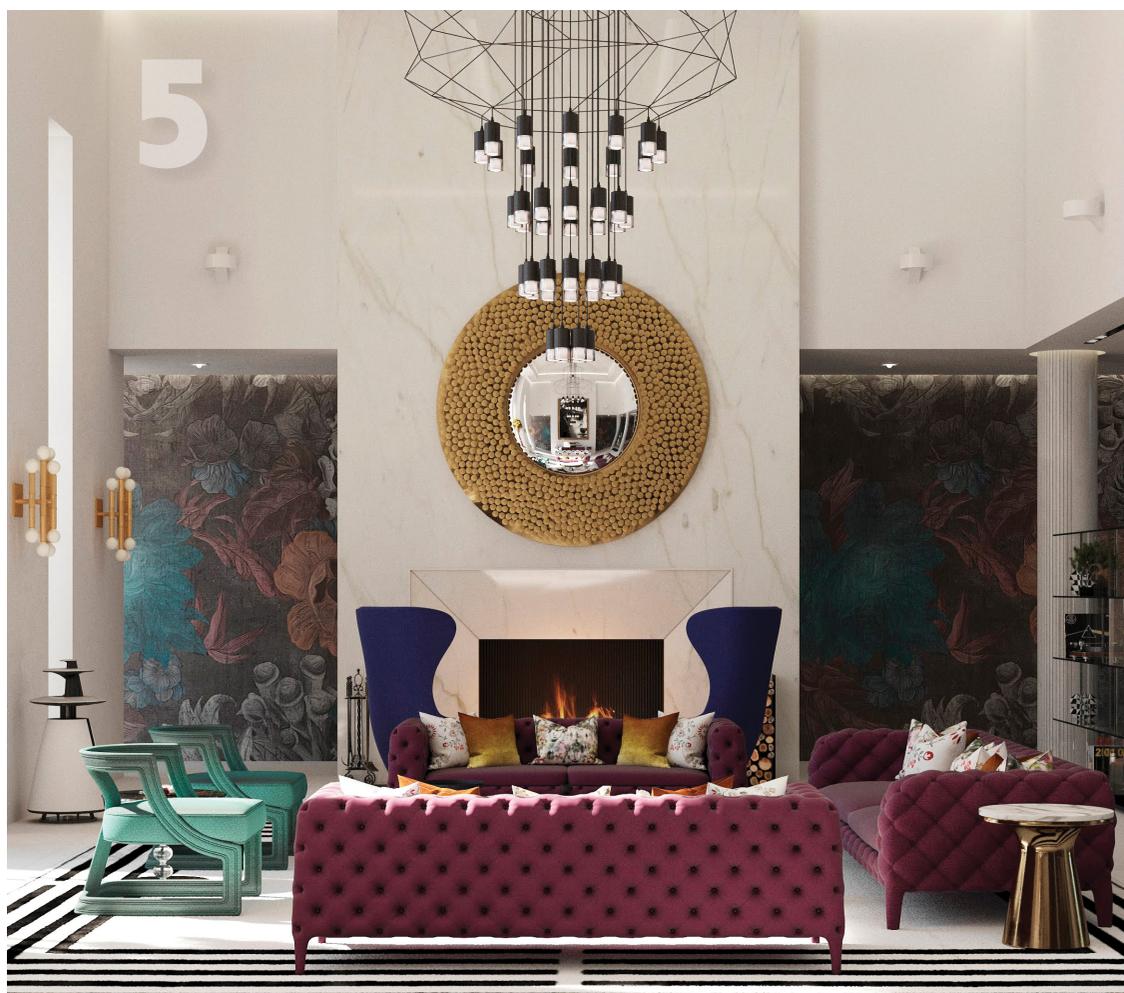


4 – MANHATTAN SUITE

This magnificent penthouse lounge is top notch for the top notch, a contemporary design in a faux-baroque/contemporary style that will seal any deal. The high glass walls are an invitation to linger longer over the sprawling city below, as good a view by night as by day. The architecture is classic big-city American (Lloyd Wright would have loved it), and the interior design is cool, sophisticated and beautiful. Nothing off the rack here: the furniture is designer and the fittings have been made to fit this space and no other. The Manhattan Suite lounge is the perfect combination of simplicity, modernity, elegance and tradition, all in one.

5 – VILLA ANDALUZ

The formal lounge area in Villa Andaluz is drawn on the floor by the black lines in the carpet, enclosing a space that is defined architecturally by the high minimalist fireplace. The main seating in the lounge is a long purple Arketipo sofa, traditional in design and contrasting with the contemporary coffee tables in front. This is all about contrast and colour against a white architectural structure, with access to the rest of the villa in all directions making the space central – although not actually the centre – to the entire floor plan. In a way, this is a lounge without walls, an island of peace and relaxation in a vast open ground-floor area that can only exist naturally in the context of an Andalusian villa.





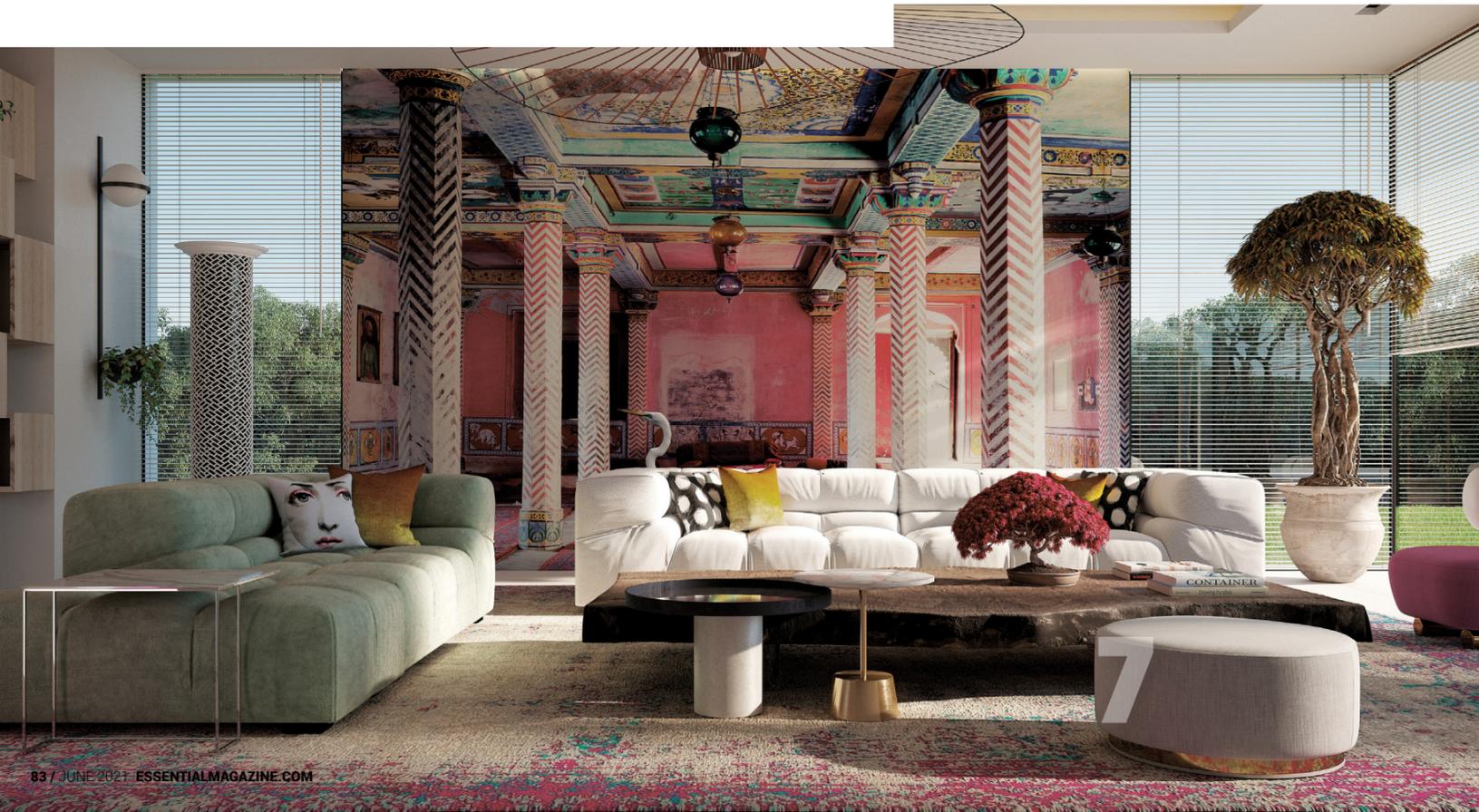
6 – MALLORCA VILLA

The design of this Mediterranean villa is based around a central atrium with a hanging oriental garden, and its beautiful lounge occupies most of the ground floor. Lounges, to be more exact, because a lounge being a place to relax in, there is more than one such space here. A large space with two separate main seating areas, linked visually by the Asian aesthetic of less being more, and the wonderful atrium full of Bonsai trees and hanging plants brings nature right into the home. The space is extremely functional as a large lounge where all family members and friends can gather together without feeling claustrophobic.



8 – VILLA NURAYA

The Villa Nuraya lounge could be described as an art gallery masquerading as a lounge, or vice versa, depending on one's point of view, quite apart from the fact that the space itself is an entity of exceptional beauty. But putting aside the art for a moment, we see a quite unusual crimson sofa on one side, reminiscent of a piece of soft seventies sculpture, in front of a long low slab that is a coffee table, flanked at each end by rounded ochre/yellow armchairs, all sitting in isolated glory beneath a very high ceiling and gardens on both sides, one interior and one exterior. The minimalist stairway is in itself another work of sculpture. The end wall is splattered with giant gold and silver coloured blobs in a seemingly haphazard way, but nothing in this lounge has been put there by chance, and certainly not the fluttering cloud of gold leaves that hangs from the ceiling, which is, of course, a very beautiful and creative chandelier.



7 – 105 MARBELLA HILLS

This vibrantly coloured and sophisticated villa, filled with many of the best artworks in the world, is for the owner who has seen it all and still likes to party. One who also likes to relax in a relatively traditional lounge that is in keeping with the eclectic architecture and interior design of the rest of the villa. Structurally simple, with natural light flooding in from tall windows all around, this is actually the family TV lounge. Guests can make use of the many other seating areas in the vast property, not least of which is a magnificent outdoor lounge area at the far side of the pool, complete with its own fireplace.



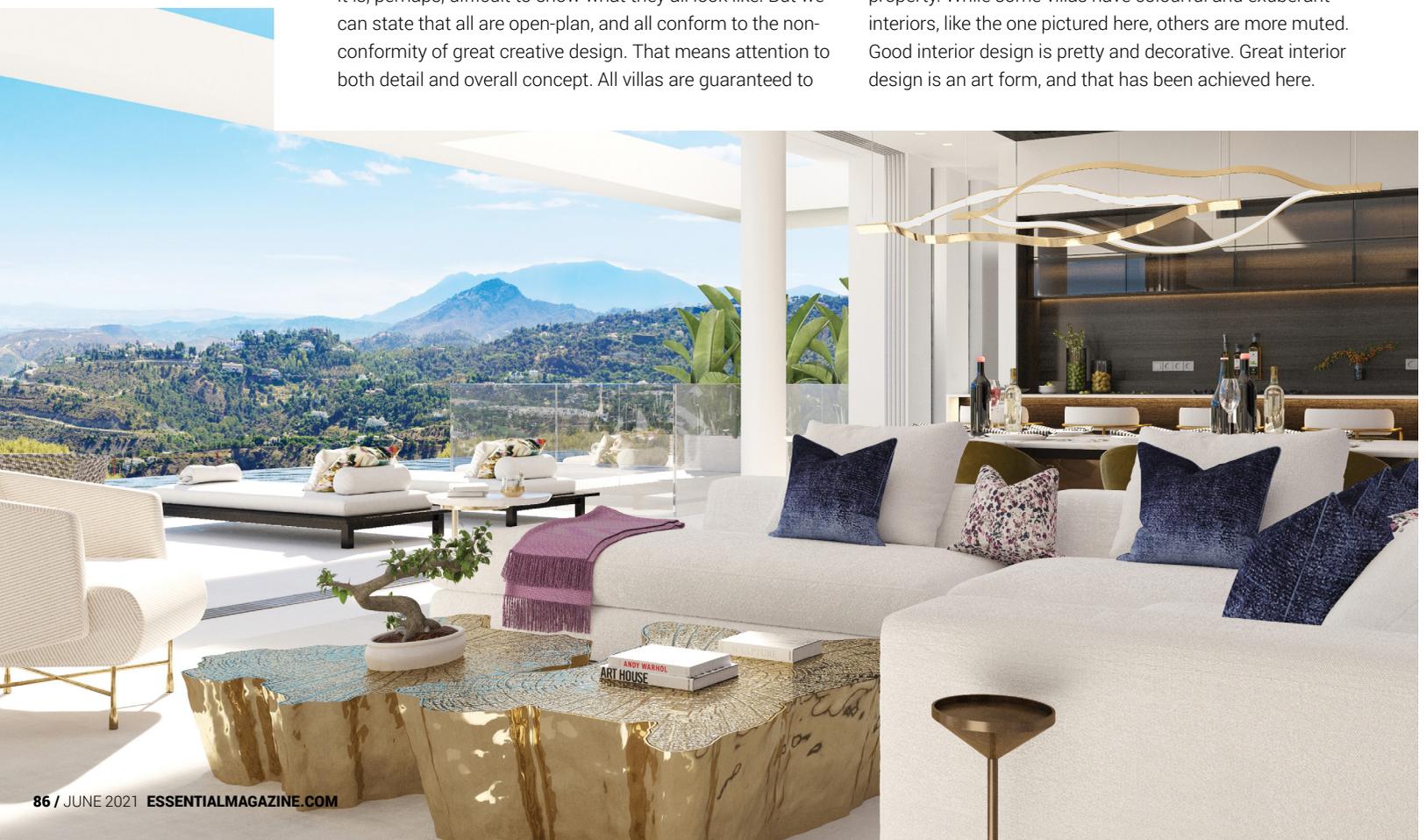


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9 – VISTA LAGO RESIDENCES

All 18 of the villas at Vista Lago have been designed and built individually, and in most cases, to specific clients' tastes, so it is, perhaps, difficult to show what they all look like. But we can state that all are open-plan, and all conform to the non-conformity of great creative design. That means attention to both detail and overall concept. All villas are guaranteed to

have uninterrupted views of the Mediterranean below, and beyond, and these views can be enjoyed from the lounge as much as from its extension onto the front terrace in each property. While some villas have colourful and exuberant interiors, like the one pictured here, others are more muted. Good interior design is pretty and decorative. Great interior design is an art form, and that has been achieved here.





10 – VILLA ALCUUCUZ

The view from across the pool looking into the formal lounge in Villa Alcuuz takes the breath away. The beauty of the furniture and its layout is accentuated by the extremely high ceiling, extending up two floors, and the lighting becomes an imposing design element in itself, even in broad daylight when the natural light creates mottled patterns on the tall mural in the centre of the room. To say that this is all about the view from inside out would be wrong: the views are certainly important, but just as beautiful is the view from the outside in. The tall symmetry here is majestic, making this a space that explains perfectly why the villa has won important international design awards. Unfortunately for some, Villa Alcuuz has recently been sold.

All architecture and interior design in this feature is by UDesign, developed by BRIGHT.

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