

Facing page: Jill and David Gilmour at Segana Leqa, their home on a private island in Fiji; Jill Gilmour collaborated on the interior design with Kiki Dennis, and the architecture is by Tony Chi. This page: The house, inspired by classic Chinese forms and African tribal structures, overlooks the Koro Sea. See Resources.



TREASURE ISLAND

JILL AND DAVID GILMOUR CREATE THEIR ULTIMATE PRIVATE
RETREAT IN FIJI, CELEBRATING BOTH SEA AND SKY

TEXT BY MITCHELL OWENS PHOTOGRAPHY BY SIMON UPTON
PRODUCED BY ANITA SARSIDI



NO MAN IS AN ISLAND, the saying goes, but David Gilmour is all that and so much more. The Canada-born entrepreneur has made his mark on everything from housewares (he brought Dansk to North America) to beverages (he founded Fiji Water) to the Internet (Gilmour's latest venture is Zinio, a digital-media firm aiming to revolutionize the way magazines and newspapers are consumed). But get him started on the subject of his life's delight and one is treated to a paean to Wakaya, the 2,200-acre private island in Fiji where he and his wife, Jill, spend four months every year. "It is the most perfect thing," David declares of his South Seas paradise. "Most men I know want to own a saloon or an island. I chose the island."

The centerpiece of the couple's getaway is their Wakaya Club & Spa, an eco-paradise where the food is grown organically, the dinner table is laden with native fallow deer and wild pigs, and boldface folk can avoid the glare of paparazzi flashbulbs. Only 14 couples are allowed at a time, among them Prince Felipe of Spain and his wife, Letizia, who spent their honeymoon here, and Nicole Kidman and Keith Urban. The Gilmours are also prime benefactors of their part-time community, having built a village for the Fijian workers, with a charming church and a school considered the finest in the archipelago. The most recent addition to the array of structures is a new home for the Gilmours. Called *Sega na Lega* (Fijian for No Worries), it is a one-bedroom pavilion where



An alabaster light fixture is installed above a walnut table designed by David's nephew Anthony Bennett in the great hall; the chairs are 19th-century Chinese, and the antique rug is from Tibet. Facing page, from top: The great hall features a sofa by Christian Liaigre for Holly Hunt, a Chinese floor lamp from Charles Jacobsen, an antique Buddha fragment, and a petrified-wood side table by Hudson Furniture; an antique Chinese kang bed serves as a cocktail table, and the walls are clad in indigenous yew wood. The armchairs are by Minotti from DDC, and the Tibetan rug is by Michaelian & Kohlberg. See Resources.



modern architecture, native stone and wood, and Asian antiques meld into something close to magic.

"We tried to use as many of the local materials as possible," explains Jill, who conceived the 10,000-square-foot house and neighboring guest villa with Manhattan-based designer Tony Chi, a celebrated perfectionist best known for sensationally chic restaurants, such as Spoon by Alain Ducasse in Hong Kong. Composed of three wings crowned with shimmering zinc roofs inspired by classical Chinese architecture and African tribal structures, the house, which took four years to build, juxtaposes walls of gathered stone—rough, tumbled smooth, and lichen encrusted—with crystalline planes of glass that frame jaw-dropping views of the Koro Sea on one side and gardens on the other. Even the reddish-brown wood used throughout the house is indigenous, a tropical hardwood called *vesi*. The front doors are made of it, too; their sculptural patchwork of blocks intended by Jill to recall the Dansk cutting boards her husband championed back in the 1950s. The ebony-stained bamboo floors remain unmarred by shoe scuffs—the Gilmours have adopted the Fijian habit of padding around barefoot—and are scattered with antique carpets from many countries.







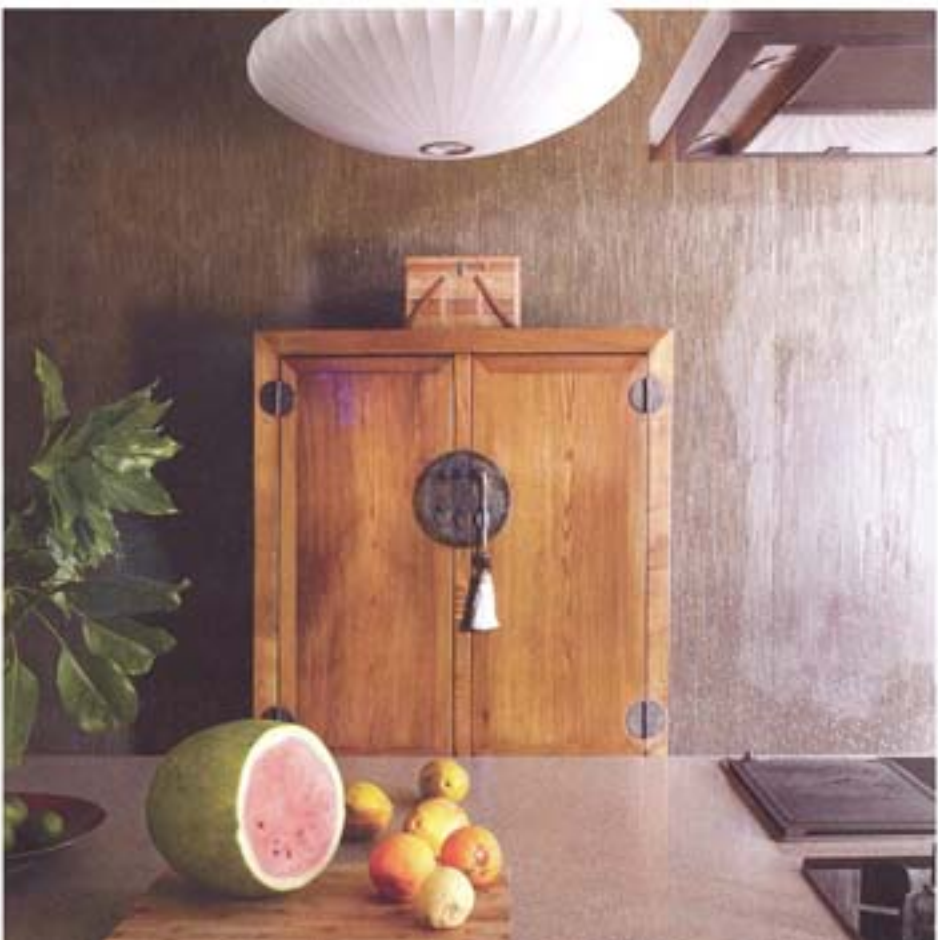
The Chinese table and stools in the library are antique, and the rug is by Michaelian & Kohlberg. Facing page, clockwise from top: A collection of 19th-century Fijian war clubs hangs next to vesi-wood shelving in the library; the sectional is by Minotti from DDC, the cocktail table is an antique Chinese kang bed, and the rug is by Beauvais Carpets. The foyer features a collection of Burmese lacquered vessels; the walls are sheathed in local stone, and the bamboo flooring is by Teragren. Tibetan Buddha hands are displayed in the great hall. See Resources.



THE ATMOSPHERE AT
SEGA NA LEQA IS A BEWITCHING
SYNTHESIS OF WESTERN COMFORT AND EASTERN
MYSTERY. "WE WANTED THE INFLUENCE OF
ASIA, COMBINED WITH THE BEST
OF CONTEMPORARY SPACE," SAYS
DAVID GILMOUR

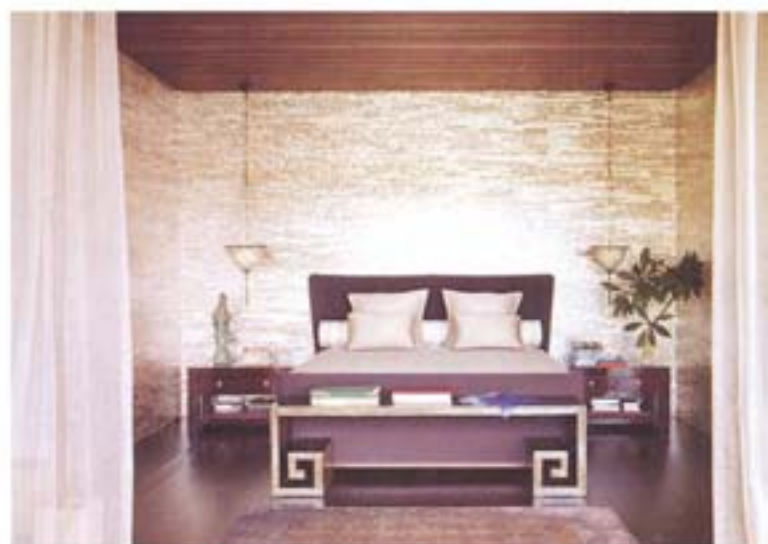


The infinity-edge lap pool is tiled with mosaics by Bisazza, the chaise longues are by Dedon from Janus et Cie, and the carved-marble garden stools are antique. See Resources.





The dining area features a table with a fruit-barrel base, Chinese-elm chairs, a Fortuny light fixture, and a wall of local stone. Facing page, clockwise from top: A mahogany dining table and Dedon armchairs from Janus et Cie in the beach pavilion; the boat model overhead was made by an island artisan. The kitchen's Korean cabinet is antique. The cooktops and hood are by Miele, the light fixtures are by George Nelson, and the island of veal wood is topped with DuPont Corian. The beach pavilion. See Resources.



"The house is an amalgamation of our tastes and our history," says Jill, a native of Auckland, New Zealand, who has conjured more than a dozen residences during the couple's 34 years together. "I worked in fashion, which is all about texture and scale, so I'm very aware of my environment," she adds. "I even move furniture in hotel rooms."

The atmosphere at Segana Leqa is a bewitching synthesis of Western comfort and Eastern mystery. "We wanted the influence of Asia, combined with the best of contemporary space," David explains. A table displaying orange-red Burmese lacquerware greets visitors in the foyer. Anchoring the large living room, which Tony Chi dubbed "the great hall" ("It sounds very lofty, but that's what we've ended up calling it," Jill says with a laugh), are choice pieces from the couple's collection, notably a carved-wood head of Buddha with a seraphic smile on its lips crafted in Burma centuries ago. Of a pair of graceful hand fragments standing nearby, Jill says, "Those are Thai, lopped off some gorgeous Buddha,

probably. And the table they sit on is a kang bed from China." A pair of charming miniature horses mounted on wheels was made for an Indian maharaja and found by one of David's sisters. And ancient-Egyptian artifacts line the shelves of the library-office the Gilmours share, including an arresting pair of eyes rimmed with copper.

"I just walked around staring at everything," says Paramount Pictures CEO turned cancer activist Sherry Lansing. She and her husband, Oscar-winning director William Friedkin, were among Segana Leqa's first guests. "Looking through those windows at the ocean makes you feel you are floating. David and Jill's place is one of the most beautiful houses I've ever seen. It's paradise on earth."

Words like that bring a grin to David's face. "You sort of give up after a while, thinking you'll never find the perfect combination," he explains. "But Segana Leqa is totally satisfying. I wouldn't change a thing. This is the ultimate home." Maybe four months a year isn't going to be nearly enough. ■

A chaise longue from DDC and an antique marble stool in the bedroom. Facing page, clockwise from left: The walls of David's bathroom are sheathed in Bisazza mosaics, and the Inle tub features Kohler fittings. In Jill's bathroom, a niche displays an antique alabaster Buddha, the walls and tub are tiled with Bisazza mosaics, and the fittings are by Kohler. Maya Romanoff's mother-of-pearl wall covering creates a shimmering background in the master bedroom; the bed is by Ted Boerner, the scroll table is 19th century, and the curtains are of a translucent fabric by Pollack. See Resources.



Items pictured but not listed are from private collections.

WHAT'S HOT! PEOPLE

PAGES 44-46: Oscar de la Renta (for information: 888-782-6357; oscarde.larenta.com).
PAGE 44: **Trellis chair**, in chalk white, #60-3562, \$2,115, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture (for information: 828-328-1851; centuryfurniture.com). **Little Thatch wool rug**, in red, 8'x8', \$3,840, by Oscar de la Renta for Elson & Co. (for information: elsoncompany.com). **Madeline linen-silk**, in canary/grey, #2010100-411; and **Flora linen-polyester**, in red/neutral, #2010110-916; both by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa (for showrooms: 800-453-3563; leejofa.com). **Shell ottoman**, \$2,340, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture, upholstered in **Kubla Khan linen**, in blue/green, #2010119-313, by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa. **Maple bookshelf**, in jet, #609-777, \$10,785, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture. **King bed**, #60-888-160, \$8,764, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture, upholstered in **Moon Vine linen blend**, in aqua, #2010124-13, by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa. **Tufted skirted sofa**, \$6,054, by Oscar de la Renta, upholstered in **#90150L75 polyester**, both from Century Furniture. **Camille silk blend**, in noir, #2010106-8, by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa. **Primavera-veneer dining table**, #609-303, \$14,985, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture.
PAGE 46: **Luxembourg linen blend**, in teal/plum, #2010102-53; and **Arcadia cotton**, in green, #2010122-3; both by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa (for showrooms: 800-453-3563; leejofa.com). **Moroccan-inspired cocktail table**, #60W-620, \$2,985, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture (for information: 828-328-1851; centuryfurniture.com). **Dotted Pleat silk**, in wedge/wood, #2010107-5; and **Chevron Ribbon linen blend**, in grey/noir, #2010101-116; both by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa. **Harbour Island wool rug**, in blue, 8'x8', \$3,840 by Oscar de la Renta for Elson & Co. (for information: elsoncompany.com). **Pagoda dining chair**, #609-592, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture, upholstered in **Abyssinia viscose blend**, in sage/blue, #2010105-519, by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa. **Termez Crewel linen-acrylic**, in multi, #2010127-519, by Oscar de la Renta, to the trade from Lee Jofa. **Cocktail table**, #907-611, \$5,985, by Oscar de la Renta for Century Furniture. **Antigua wool rug**, in navy/ivory, 6'x8', \$3,840, by Oscar de la Renta for Elson & Co.

TREND ALERT

PAGE 36: **Glazed linen**, in powder blue, #LFY24207F, \$108/yd., by Ralph Lauren Home (for information: 888-475-7874; ralphlaurenhome.com). **Colors porcelain dinner plate**, #LG1, \$40; **salad/dessert plate**, #LG2, \$34; **soup/cereal bowl**, #LG6, \$40; **tea saucer**, #LG5, \$26; and **teacup**, #LG4, \$36; all in mint green, by Anna Weatherley from DeVine Corp. (for information: 732-751-0500; devinecorp.net). **Gold-and-semiprecious-stone bangle**, in candy, \$3,500, by Ippolita (for information: 212-868-3808; ippolita.com). **Amazonia wool-blend rug**, in canopy green, #MSR9212C, 5'6"x8'8", \$1,590, by Martha Stewart Rugs for Safavieh (for information: 866-422-9070; marthastewart.com/shpc). **Lacquered-wood boxes**, in duck egg blue/beige, #L-31PSCBG, \$75; and #L-21PSCBG, \$95; both by Pacific Connections (for information: 415-285-2873; pacificconnectionsusa.com). **Geneva cotton-linen**, in sugared almond, #2854-67, by Villa Roma, to the trade from Romo (for showrooms: 800-338-2783; romo.com). **Anderson linen-upholstered wing chair**, in china blue, #17730050, \$1,850, by Williams-Sonoma Home (for information: 888-922-4108; wshome.com). **Modern Light latex paint**, in rose quartz, #ML27; sea grass, #ML15; ginger, #ML04; violet fields, #ML22; and oh, #ML24; all \$30/gal., by Ralph Lauren Paint (for information: ralphlaurenpaint.com). **#24782-40 cotton-polyester**, to the trade from Kravet (for showrooms: 800-645-9068; kravet.com). **Heirloom linen**, in mango, by Isaac Mizrahi, to the trade from S. Harris (for showrooms: 800-999-5000; sharris.com). **Traditional Moroccan leather pouf**, in pink, #TP2, \$200, from Imports from Marrakesh Ltd. (for information: 212-675-9700; importfrommarrakesh.com). **Saffiano leather bag**, #BL0646, \$1,495, by Prada, available at Joseph (for information: 901-767-1600; josephstores.com). **Sleeveless organza dress with ruffles**, \$4,950, from spring 2010, by Valentino (for information: netaporter.com). **Maroquin cotton-viscose**, in lilac, #4300-22, by Manuel Canovas, to the trade from Cowtan & Tout (for showrooms: 212-647-6900; cowtan.com).

SHORTLIST

PAGE 60: **Nate Berkus of Nate Berkus Assoc.** (for information: nateberkus.com). **Joshua Tree image**, similar to **Karma Tree print**, \$2,100, by The Studio at Fernando Bengochea (for information: fernandobengochea.com), available at *Vivre* (for information: vivre.com). **Knit-silk ties**, \$155 ea., by Charvet, available at Bergdorf Goodman (for information: 800-558-1855; bergdorfgoodman.com). **Cotton towels**, in wheat, #402822, \$30/4-pc. set, by Nate Berkus for HSN (for information: hsn.com). **Vintage Levi's from What Goes Around Comes Around** (for information: 212-343-1225; whatgoesaroundnyc.com). **Stationery** from Benneton (for information: 011-33-1-43-87-57-39; bennetongreveur.com). **Furniture** from 1stdibs.com (for information: 1stdibs.com).

ART SHOW

PAGE 62: Caetano de Almeida is represented by Eleven Rivington (for information: 212-982-1930; elevenrivington.com).

RSVP

PAGE 66: **Fragrance and luxury home products** by Jo Malone (for information: 866-305-4706; jomalone.com).

APPRAISAL

PAGES 68-70: **Superleggera chair**, #699, \$1,025, by Gio Ponti for Cassina (for information: 800-770-3568; cassinausa.com).

THE TOP 10 SCREENS

PAGES 78-80: **Alex Papachristidis of Alex Papachristidis Interiors** (for information: 212-588-1777; alexpapachristidis.com). **Milly de Cabrol of Milly de Cabrol Ltd.** (for information: 212-717-9317; e-mail milly8dd@yahoo.com).
PAGE 80: **1 Moucharabieh screen**, #5388875, \$8,000, by Jean-Marie Massaud for Poltrona Frau (for information: 212-777-7592; poltronafrau.it). **2 Hudson Signature screen**, \$19,800, by Hudson Furniture Inc. (for information: 212-645-7800; hudsonfurnitureinc.com). **3 Nolan 3-panel screen**, #08 5101-324-8, \$4,380 c.o.m., to the trade from Owners Select Furniture (for showrooms: 800-510-4801; ownersselect.com). **4 Coromandel 4-panel screen**, #6487, \$1,241, by The Platt Collections (for information: 626-444-6149; theplattcollections.com). **5 Wooden 3-panel glass screen**, #1166442, \$795, by Matter from ABC Carpet & Home (for information: 212-473-3000; abchome.com). **6 Rene screen**, #2128-RMT-000, \$3,895, to the trade from Julian Chichester (for showrooms: 866-360-7370; julianchichester.com). **7 4-panel room screen**, \$2,295, by Jardins du Jour (for information: 877-748-6808; jardinsdujour.com), also available at Anika (for information: anika.com). **8 Antique Red Wood Mandala room screen**, #3267, \$1,249, by Arteriors Home (for information: 877-488-8868; arteriorshome.com). **9 VW 4-panel Woven Hemp screen**, #303DOMREP1266, \$5,625, by VW Home by Vicente Wolf (for information: 212-244-3008; vicentewolf.com; e-mail infohome@vicentewolfhome.com). **10 Mid-century Metallics screen**, #5-2285, \$4,920, to the trade from Gracie Inc. (for information: 212-924-6816; graciestudio.com).

DANIEL'S DISH

PAGES 84-86: **Daniel Boulud** of restaurant Daniel (for information: danielnyc.com).
PAGE 84: **Chandigarh porcelain dessert/salad plate**, in raspberry, #HP74229, \$80, by Robert Daviland & C. Parlon from Motahadeh (for information: 800-242-3050; motahadeh.com). **Elipse gold-plate flatware**, \$60/5-pc. place setting, by Calvin Klein Home (for information: 212-292-9000; calvinklein.com).
PAGE 86: **12" Oval Au Gratin pan**, discontinued as shown, available in stainless steel, #1512SS, \$190, by All-Clad Metalcrafters (for information: all-clad.com). **Corolla linen napkin**, in pink, \$17, by Libeco Home (for information: libecohomestores.com).

ELLE DECO INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AWARDS

PAGE 88: **1 Faraway bath collection** by Ludovica + Roberto Palomba for Zucchetti.Kos (for information: 800-655-2534; zuchettidesign.com; kositalia.com). **2 Col-letto bed** by Nuda Jelenc for Lago (for information: lago.it). **3 Epils polyester**, to the trade from Creation Baumann (for showrooms: 212-606-0106; creationbaumann.com). **4 Medoc wood flooring** by Michele De Lucchi and Philippe Nigro for Listone Giordano (for information: listonegiordano.com).

5 Air table by Carlo Colombo for Poliform (for information: 888-POLIFORM; poliformusa.com). **6 Mesa kitchen system** by Alfredo Haberl for Schifini (for information: schifini.it). **7 Bell lighting collection** by Fly Design for Aco Light (for information: 203-730-0452; www.acolight.it). **8 Confluences sofa** by Philippe Nigro for Ligne Roset (for information: 800-BY-ROSET; ligne-roset-usa.com). **9 Tonale collection** by David Chipperfield for Alessi (for information: alessi.com). **10 Clouds fabric tiles** by Ronan and Erwan Bouroulec for Kvadrat (for information: kvadratclouds.com). **11 Spinning lights** by Benjamin Hubert (for information: benjaminhubert.co.uk) for &Tradition (for information: andtradition.com). **12 Ronan and Erwan Bouroulec** (for information: bouroulec.com).

TREASURE ISLAND

PAGES 94-25: **The Wakaya Club & Spa** (for information: 011-679-344-6128; wakaya.com). **Interior design** by Jill Gilmour in collaboration with Kiki Dennis of Kiki Dennis Interiors Inc. (for information: 718-308-3334; kikedennis.com). **Architecture concept design** by Tony Chi of Tonychi and Assoc. (for information: 212-868-8888; tonychi.com).
PAGE 97: **Augustin sofa**, #AGS0-S, by Christian Liaigre, to the trade from Holy Hunt (for showrooms: 800-320-3145; holyhunt.com). **Antique Chinese-elm floor lamp**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. (for information: 310-815-9250; charlesjacobsen.com). **Petrified-wood side table** by Hudson Furniture Inc. (for information: 212-645-7800; hudsonfurnitureinc.com). **Antique Chinese kang bed**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. **Portofino armchairs** by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti, available at DDC (for information: 212-685-0800; ddcnyc.com). **Custom-made Tibetan wool-and-silk rug**, to the trade from Michaelian & Kohberg (for showrooms: 212-431-9009; michaelian.com).
PAGE 98: In library, **Hamilton sectional** by Rodolfo Dordoni for Minotti, available at DDC (for information: 212-685-0800; ddcnyc.com). **Antique Chinese kang bed**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. (for information: 310-815-9250; charlesjacobsen.com). **Custom-made natural-fiber rug**, to the trade from Beauvais Carpets (for showrooms: 212-688-2266; beauvaiscarpets.com). In foyer, **custom-made table with Chinese fruit-barrel base**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. **Craftman II bamboo long-plank flooring**, in espresso, by Teragen (for information: 800-929-6333; teragen.com).
PAGE 99: **Antique Chinese painting table**, and **antique elm stools**, all to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. (for information: 310-815-9250; charlesjacobsen.com). **Tiger wool rug**, in camel/orange, #C181B, to the trade from Michaelian & Kohberg (for showrooms: 212-431-9009; michaelian.com).
PAGES 100-21: Pool tiled with **Paolina glass-mosaic tile** by Bisazza (for information: 800-BISAZZA; bisazza.com). **Marrakesh chaise longue**, in Brazil, with cushions of **Dedon Stripe acrylic**, in almond/ivory; all by Dedon from Janus et Cie (for information: 800-24-JANUS; janusetcie.com). **Chinese carved-marble stools** from Phoenix Antiques (for information: 212-759-1153; e-mail p.antiques@yahoo.com). **Antique brass planters**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. (for information: 310-815-9250; charlesjacobsen.com).
PAGE 102: In beach pavilion, **Marrakesh armchairs**, in red and orange, by Dedon from Janus et Cie (for information: 800-24-JANUS; janusetcie.com). In kitchen, **cooktops**; and **Island Deco stainless-steel hood**, #DA 4241, by Mele (for information: 800-643-7231; mele.com). Island topped with **DuPont Corian** (for information: 800-4-ODRAN; countertops.dupont.com).
PAGE 103: **Custom-made table with Chinese fruit-barrel base**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc. (for information: 310-815-9250; charlesjacobsen.com). **Chinese-elm chairs**, to the trade from Charles Jacobsen Inc., with seat cushions of **Cobra linen**, in olive, #71062, to the trade from Creations Métaphores (for showrooms: 914-699-7800).

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