



JOLEE MAGAZINE  
180° FROM ORDINARY

# Jo Lee Magazine

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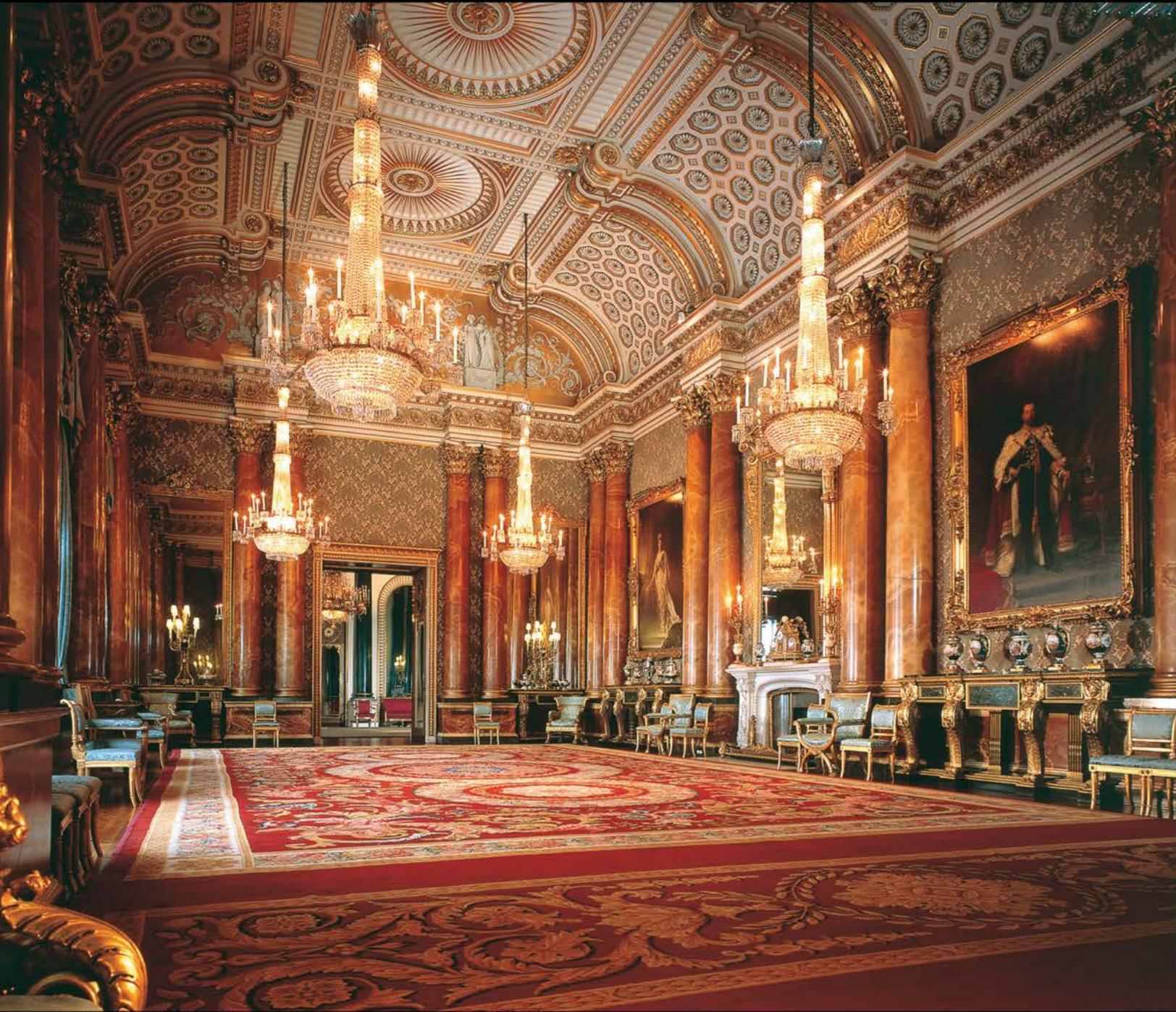


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## *Dining With Josephina Lee My Party For You And Me*

BY JO LEE FOR JO LEE MAGAZINE  
NEW YORK/SAN FRANCISCO/HONG KONG/LONDON/TOKYO/ROME/TORONTO

Hello dear friends!

Where do we begin? Shall we revel within the beauty of the old and the new and within the guests who will mirror our evening magnificently?

So, please won't you come with me, and we'll entice one another within sumptuous and delicious creations for "My Party For You And Me". What better way to grow in mind than to be surrounded in coziness that we never want to get up from.

It can rightly be said that when we set the table, we set the stage for a social performance,

bringing a happy combination of great style, quiet drama, and invention.

The "Prussian Blue" is our choice of crystal and china, and the entire room becomes supporting actors in the evening's drama, enhancing the beauty of flowers and vermeil Palm Tree candlesticks.

The title of our evening drama is unmistakably "Blue" ... and how it turns out is anyone's guess until the end of the third course.

To create an atmosphere that captures and titillates all our

senses is like the art of painting. We take the beauty of those around our table and see it reflected in the shimmering crystal and exotic bouquets.

And so – from my Italian home to yours – Saluti e buon appetito. You too can capture this in your very own inimitable way.

Remember, as John Keats wrote: "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

ON THE COVER:

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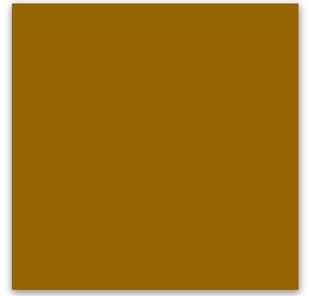
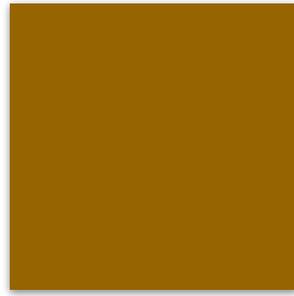
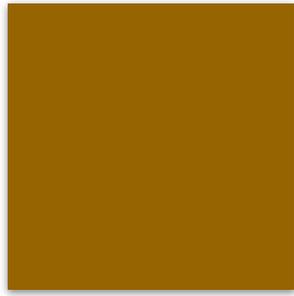
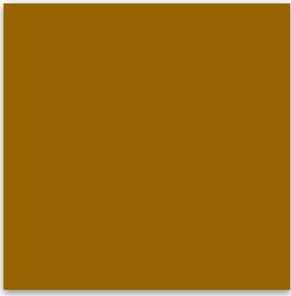
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2010 Laureate: Medicine, Joseph Teran, Los Angeles – United States

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2008 Laureate: Arts, David Wesongah, Nairobi – Kenya

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2006 Laureate: Technology, Anna Helen Dyson, New York – United States

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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### *Susan Berger*

#### THE GROUP OF 16

Susan Berger, after a successful career in finance, embraced journalism as JO LEE Magazine's Marketing Editor and writer of The Group Of 16. Previously, Susan held

financial positions with major institutions including TD Financial Group and Alliance Atlantis Communications.



### *Kerry Baker*

#### NOSTALGIA AND YOU

Kerry Baker's abiding passions have been film, music and travel. "Travel no longer appeals," he says, "and changes to popular music have reduced my former interest to

nostalgia. But my love for cinema and the joy it bestows remains as powerful as ever."



### *Alan Briskin*

#### SENSING THE UNSEEN

Alan Briskin is an author, artist, and pioneer in the field of organizational learning. His co-authored "The Power of Collective Wisdom" won the Nautilus Book Award in

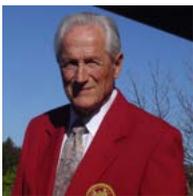
Leadership. His work is distinguished by a grasp of unseen forces underlying our actions.



### *Joan Chisholm*

#### THE POET'S CORNER

Joan Chisholm's drive is being an example of how to live a life of excellence. Her book "Spirit Love", Barnes & Noble & Amazon websites, is a transcendental and practical memoir about fulfilling your life's dreams and passions.



### *Stanley J. Dorst*

#### PROS & EX.CONS

Stanley J. Dorst is a retired officer of Chevron Land Development Co. and CEO of Grosvenor Development Co. He's been advisor to European governments and

private companies as Vice-President of The International Urban Development Association and advisor for The International Executive Service Corps on behalf of the United States State Department Agency for International Development.



### *Carla Dragnea*

#### EDITOR AT LARGE

Carla Dragnea is a Biologist whose interest in feature writing has encompassed 'the study of life'. In September, 2008, she was appointed Intellectual Advisor to the YES!

E-Help Campus which assists 44+ million young people worldwide with their problems. [campusatyes.com](http://campusatyes.com)



### *Rose A. Dyson*

#### FUTURE ON THE EDGE

Rose A. Dyson, EdD, media education consultant experienced in nursing psychiatry, psychology and the arts, is president of Canadians Concerned About

Violence in Entertainment. She was co-founder of the 1996 International Cultural Environment Movement, and serves on executive committees for Canadian Peace Research Association and World Federalists, Toronto Branch.



### *Kelechi Eleanya*

#### WHEN ANGELS CRY

Kelechi Eleanya is an economist and a committed development expert with the UNDP. He holds a degree in Renewable Natural Resources Management and a Master's in Forest Economics.

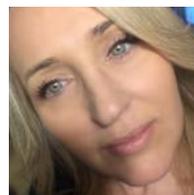


### *Al Emid*

#### THE GLAMOURS LIFE OF AN AUTHOR

Al Emid's career spans 50+ years in communicating ideas, concepts and information as a producer, broadcaster, and

as a journalist with bylines in various financial publications in several countries. In addition, Al has been a Business Studies Instructor at the community college level. In May 2019, we saw Al's latest eBook release on Volatility.



### *Victoria Franciosa*

#### MANSIONS & MILLIONAIRES VICTORIA

Franciosa's background in Art History has afforded her a unique approach to branding and advertising on the world stage. She is one of the founding members of

AmpedMediaStudios as well as founder and head designer of Bishop & Medusa.



*Lois M. Gordon*

YES, VIRGINIA! COME – EXPLORE WITH ME

Lois M. Gordon is a world traveler and resides in California's Silicon Valley. She has spent her life as wife and mother, chairing

several committees and indulging in her passion for reading and writing poetry.



*Farhad Nargol-O'Neill*

VARIED INFLUENCES

Farhad Nargol-O'Neill, self-taught in sculptural works in metal, has seen his work in private, public, diplomatic commissions, and exhibitions in many parts of the globe.

In 2014, Farhad began the five year design and carving, then casting, gilding and installation of the bas-reliefs (the complete Rosary story) for the Marian Doors now installed in the beautiful St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, in Toronto.



*Dr. Margaret R. O'Keeffe Umanzio*

THE POET'S CORNER

Dr. Margaret R. O'Keeffe Umanzio, Peggy, has been an advisor to CEOs and corporate executive teams. She was a cofounder of the

first fully-integrated alternative public school in the U.S., has lectured at Boston University as well as at Stanford, Berkeley and Tufts. She is currently writing a book titled Delivering on the Promise.



*H. Gail Regan*

THE MARVELOUS MAVERICK

Gail Regan is vice-chair of Cara Operations, retired. She chairs Energy Probe Research Foundation and is a member of the Canadian Association of Family Enterprise.

She has a PhD in Educational Theory and an M.B.A. in Finance. Her background in sociology and personal experience of business has given her an intellectual interest in the problem of evil.



*Julie Reikai Rickerd*

THE PRIVATE MUSEUMS

Julie Reikai Rickerd is a travel and arts journalist who specializes in discovering private museums around the globe, finding many on each of the seven continents she

has visited. Antarctica being unlike any of the others. The entire continent is a fascinating private museum with the cleanest air on the face of the earth.



*Vera Resnik*

THE POET'S CORNER

Born in Prague, Czechoslovakia, Vera Resnik lost most of her family in the Holocaust. Her volunteer work in the New Jersey court system – as a conflict resolution resource

and advocate for children's rights – led to a court appointment to the child review committee. Today, Vera's writings are widely read.



*Mark Raynes Roberts*

THE RICH & THE FAMOUS

Mark Raynes Roberts is Principal of Raynes Art + Design Ltd, an internationally recognized crystal art and design firm, providing interior design solutions for

luxury environments. Born and trained in England, his sculptures can be found in private and corporate art collections around the world.



*Dr. James T. Rutka*

SYNAPTIC TRANSMISSION

Dr. James T. Rutka is the R.S. McLaughlin Chair, Department of Surgery, University of Toronto, Director of The Arthur and Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour Research Centre, and

pediatric neurosurgeon at The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada. He has served as President of AANS, AAeNS and World Academy of Neurological Surgery. He is Editor-in- Chief of the Journal of Neurosurgery.



*Kathleen Mailliard Solmssen*

PIZZAZZ

Renowned designer, writer, successful photographer, hilarious speaker, chef, mixologist Kathleen Mailliard Solmssen

resides in the magnificent outskirts of San Francisco. Her [pinterest.com/fashionandflair](https://www.pinterest.com/fashionandflair) and [fashionwithflair.blogspot.com](http://fashionwithflair.blogspot.com) is filled with life lessons and laughter, exquisitely mirrored in her column Pizzazz.



## *"Let's Celebrate The Old Bridge"*

BY H. GAIL REGAN  
TORONTO – CANADA

In February 2020 I was reading the daily news, including stories about the quarantine in China. Its rigor reminded me of how we controlled scarlet fever in my childhood. Then I began to obsess about our long-finished driveway project.

Ten years ago, when a bulldozer dug up the mutual driveway we share with three neighbors, it uncovered not just dirt but an antique bridge over a small depression filled with bright, greenish water. To my surprise, the contractor did not ask to expand the project by removing the bridge and filling in the water hole. He just bulldozed more dirt on top and paved everything over. There have been no collapses, so I guess I am glad we saved the money. But my obsession with the underground pond right in front of my house continues, so the incident must have a symbolic meaning as well.

At first I thought I was concerned with germs, with the bacteria that colored the water.

Would the several days of exposure to light and fresh air have killed them? Or are they still down there building their community as in a Dr. Seuss book?

Now I believe the obsession refers to my tendency to react and then move on. As humans we are not necessarily concerned with every detail. We do what we think needs to be done and then we celebrate. Paving the driveway was expensive; it looked nice and we stopped there, encouraging the children to scooter on it. There are no problems, yet.

I have thought for years that infectious disease is ignored as compared to life cycle diseases such as cancer and heart. I have spoken publicly on the topic and have contributed to a scholarship at the Pasteur Institute. So I did a little and then shifted focus.

Others did as well. Researchers working on SARS in 2003 destroyed a transgenic mouse

colony that would have been helpful for developing a vaccine for COVID-19. How much could a mouse colony have cost?

We have an old bridge, the idea that infectious disease is not particularly important. Then we behave as humans do, nurturing other opportunities. But this time a serious sinkhole has developed. Let us celebrate the basic science that is still here and will give us the tools to cope with this pandemic. I hope I am still with you when it happens.



## *China*

BY STANLEY J. DORST  
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

Is it a coincidence that the virus escaped from China? Why were they developing the virus? Was it really to be prepared to save the world from a plague, or was it to unleash a plague they had under control – and it escaped ahead of time?

Consider the actions of China over the last few decades.

While they appeared to be joining the community of nations by encouraging trade and opportunities for U.S. corporations operating in China, they have carefully set up the prerequisites for conquest:

Step 1. Removed capacity for the U.S. to arm for war by controlling strategic mineral resources and the ability to make steel in the quantities required.

Step 2. Transferred manufacturing technology ability to China from the U.S.

Step 3. Eliminated sea access to China by the U.S. Navy and built a submarine fleet.

Step 4. Infected the USA with a virus that prevents industrial buildup of armaments.

So, what can we expect?

Will China take control of world trade, cutting off national defense supplies?

What do you think?



## *The Poet's Corner*

### *Silence*

This house of quietude has speechless walls, retired shadows, idle toys on shelves, plants with spreading roots, dust ball companions following, floating. Cat whiskers twitching, cups of coffee, steam, aroma evaporating. Hypnotizing candle flames, all enveloped in the silent sound void. Time evading capture, escapes carrying remnants of the last embrace, wish, dream, yearning, memories.

Outdoors the drifting silence alights on wind-driven clouds, upon the rising sun, setting moon, graves, falling flower petals, growing grass, spiders spinning webs, ants marching, snakes shedding skin, butterflies' rhythmic wing flutters, rainbows arching while spreading color, a bedded fawn awaiting mom's return, floating leaves on a pond as moonlight shimmers, stars, birds sitting on nests, eagles soaring thermals, snowflakes, melting snow.

Look everywhere daily, nightly,  
see beautiful canyons of silence.

© Vera Resnik

### *The Hollow*

In the fairy-tale land where dreams are sold, the once ambitious are beggars in hell's waiting room. The monster lurks over the standing glass, breathing down on impatient trend setters. As they navigate, remaining unaware, the oil gets in their blood and dilutes the simple gifts. And how much they pay for the fuel!

Now that I blend in with the lost, I might be considered one of them myself. We look no different physically, but our unpublicized souls could not be more conflicting. Your magazines will not gossip about my "self", nor will your networks cover their electric static with my personal growth.

As I write, an observer, obviously of enough substance to see through this double-sided mirror, I realize that I must be enlightened to some extent. I'll never be hollow or unfulfilled. So long as the lost exist, I'll forever shelter their lonely smiles in the confines of my own.

© Gary Sweeney

### *Love Is The Only Way!*

Love Is The Only Way!

And here we are my love!  
Face to face at midlife;  
Seeing each other as we are.  
We finally grew up.

I, to accept you, my beloved;  
To love you because you exist;  
Sexual love is divine!

With you my world is in perfect balance.  
Even without your love for me,  
I shall still love you,  
Because I love your happiness more!

© Joan Chisholm

## SENSING THE UNSEEN

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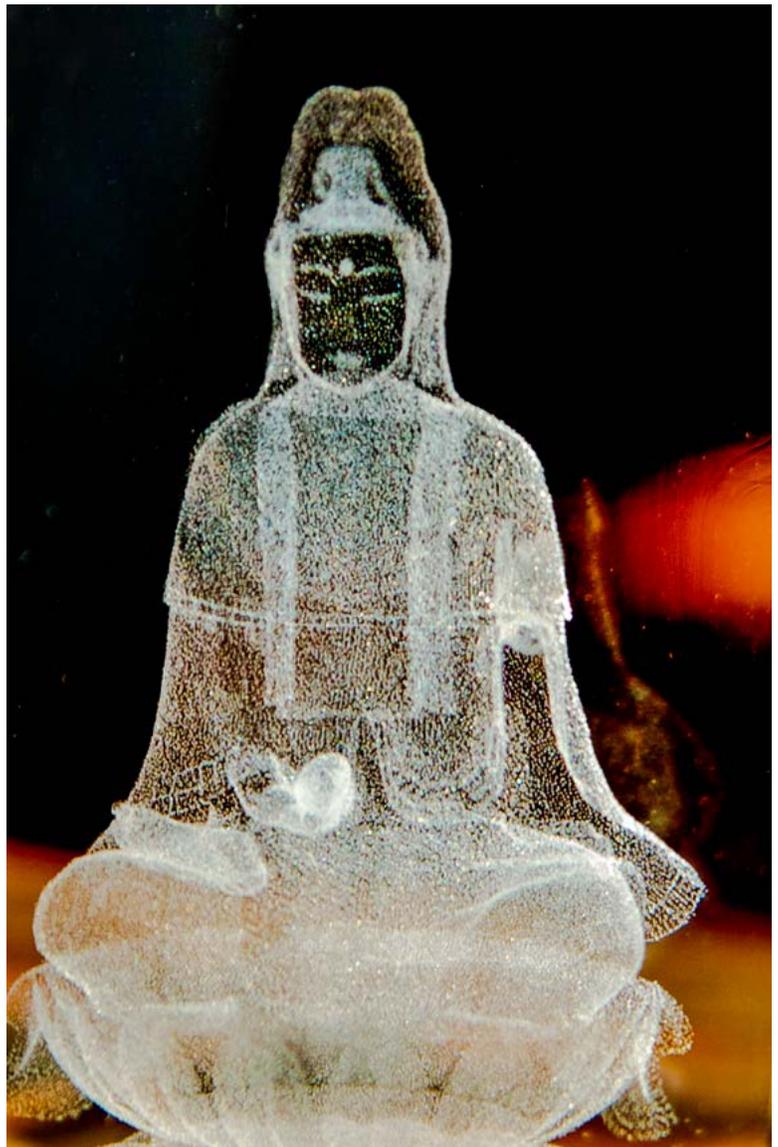
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### *The Image of Kwan Yin*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN BRISKIN  
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

As you breathe in, cherish yourself. As you breathe out, cherish all Beings. When we are able to recognize and forgive ignorant actions of the past, we gain strength to constructively solve the problems of the present. Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways.

Dalai Lama



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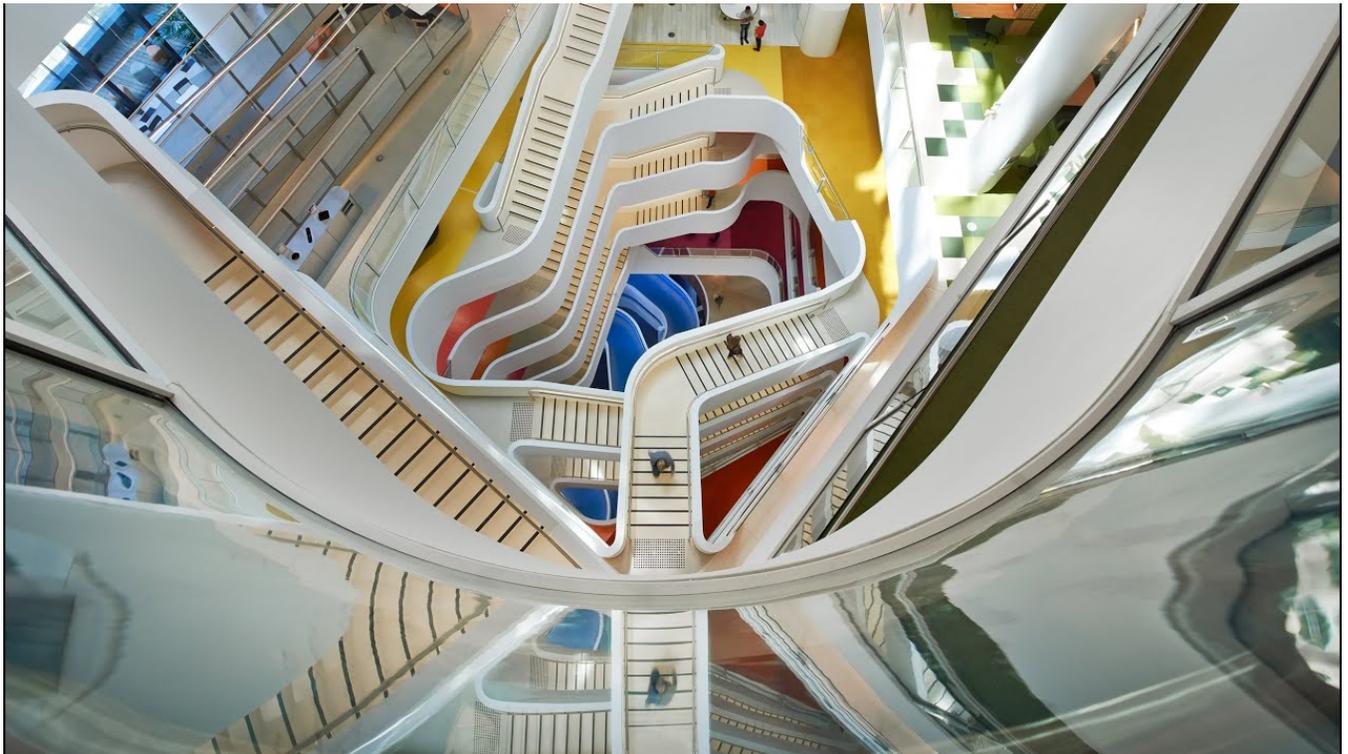
She who harkens to the cries of the world. Make for yourself a path of breadcrumbs that return you to your divine and peaceful nature.

Every time period needs some breadcrumb-makers.

Anonymous



Until the coronavirus pandemic shut down offices around the world, the trend in office design was geared to keeping people close to each other in order to foster collaboration. The virus has put a stop to that, with many companies now encouraging their employees to work remotely forever. Those returning to their offices will find major changes in the lobbies, elevators and office layouts. Onsite cafeterias and meeting rooms will likely disappear and plexiglass partitions will divide workstations. Our Group of 16 highlights a world gone by. Whether this new reality results in more or less productivity and personal happiness remains to be seen.



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## *Australia*

### MEDIBANK

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
ROME / TORONTO

Providing health insurance throughout Australia, Medibank designed its Melbourne Head Office to reflect its emphasis on the wellbeing of its employees, defining health as physical, mental and social. The result was a 23-story building that encouraged physical movement throughout the day and was called “the healthiest building in the world”.

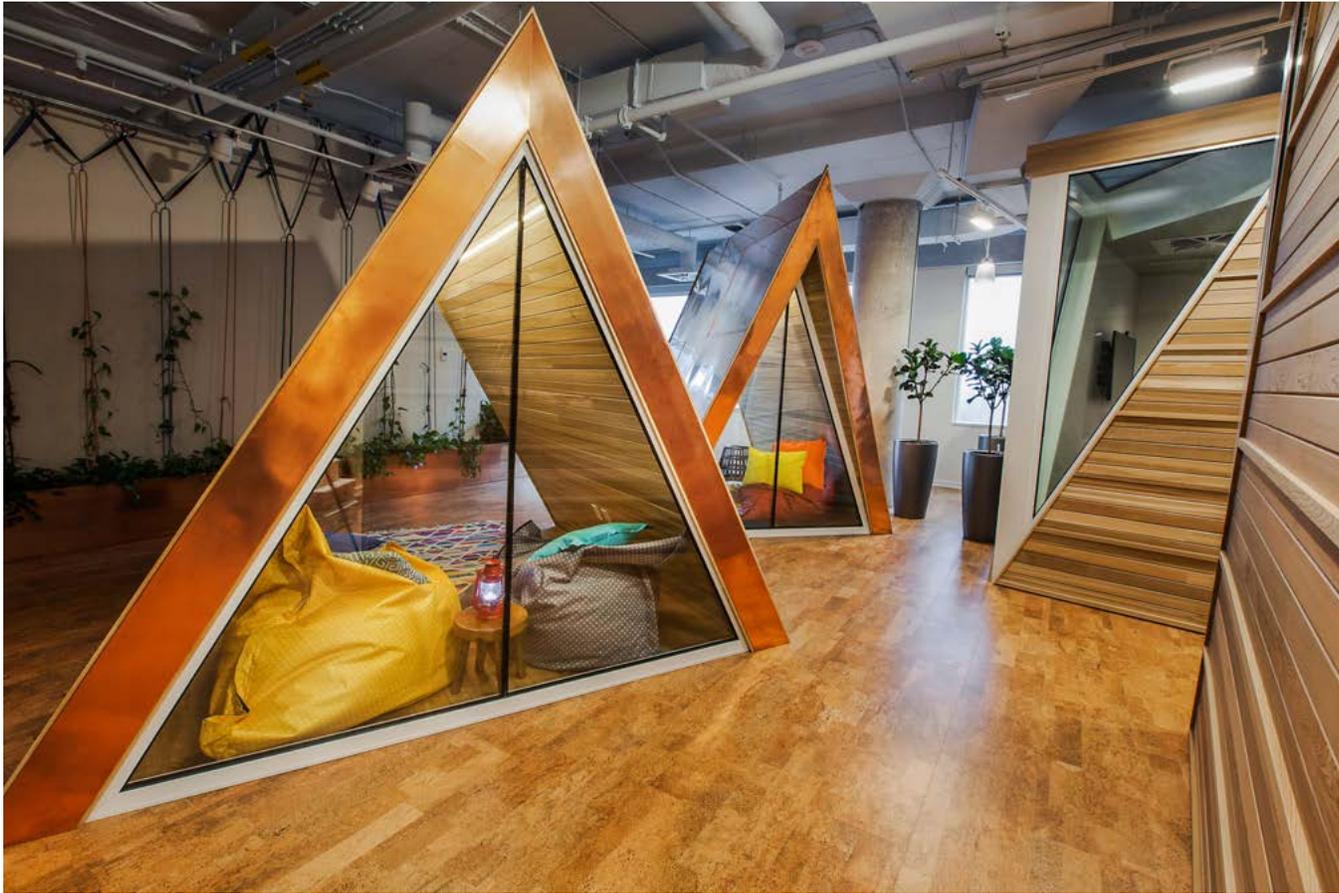
Employees were free to choose where and how they work. Outfitted with laptops and cellphones, they were able to select from more than 26 types of work settings, from indoor quiet spaces to collaborative hubs and balconies. There were no dedicated desks or offices, and everyone was free to move around the building, allowing employees to break down hierarchies and to take ownership of the way they work. People were encouraged to move between various settings during the day for different activities, emphasizing the belief that the more you move, the healthier the work experience.

The building is filled with color, from blues to yellows, and is fitted with mood lighting that changes in intensity depending on the time of day. It contained an edible garden growing herbs, fruit and vegetables as well as a sports court where employees played basketball, soccer or tennis. A demonstration kitchen was available to staff, students and other businesses, offering cooking classes and promoting healthy eating.

The low carbon building is filled with thousands of plants and two external walls are covered by native Australian greenery, providing relief from the surrounding concrete. A bike ramp to the building leads to internal bike storage, which resulted in a 60% increase in staff cycling to work.

EXCLUSIVE

EXCLUSIVITÉ | EXCLUSIVO | EXKLUSIVE | 專屬



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## Canada

SHOPIFY

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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With an ecommerce platform that lets the user create, grow and manage a business, Shopify enables sales in numerous places including the web, mobile, social media, online marketplaces and in-person locations. It is available in almost every country in the world, facilitating sales wherever your customers are located.

The goal in designing Shopify's corporate headquarters in Ottawa was to build a creative innovation hub focused on employee health and wellbeing. They aimed to redefine the normal workday by blurring the boundaries between business and play. Each floor had a different theme that explored parts of the city from back alleys to urban streetscapes and cabin retreats. There was a sauna-themed meeting room, a snowboard-themed executive space and a mountain floor containing cedar and copper tents. Believing that creativity is fuelled by accidental collisions where employees can share ideas, a staircase was designed that ran through all the floors, encouraging people to cross paths, with integrated seating alongside to pull off and have discussions. A gourmet kitchen provided free breakfast and lunch.

Shopify understood that an office should be designed for both introverts and extroverts, and so a variety of workspaces accommodated all working styles, from groups of unpartitioned workstations to enclosed boardrooms, from semiprivate nooks and alleys to comfortable armchair salons and climb-in upholstered pods with no doors – meant to symbolize the concept of never closing your mind to anything. With a go-kart track, a yoga room, an employee lounge with video games, foosball and ping pong, the emphasis was on encouraging relationships among the employees.

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## *China*

OGILVY & MATHER

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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Designed to inspire creativity, the Guangzhou office of advertising, marketing and public relations agency Ogilvy & Mather was called “A Carnival of Ideas”. While relocating from the business center of the city to a newly developed, edgier arts and culture district on the outskirts increased its employees’ travel time, the COO noted that they loved to come to work because the environment was so much fun.

The carnival theme ended up being adopted by the architects of the office to create a space full of unexpected, playful features, including merry-go-round horses, life-sized nutcrackers and other amusement park-themed features. The heart of the space was a bright red staircase which connected the marketing employees on the ground floor to the creative staff on higher floors. Its rows of red and yellow lightbulbs connoted a cinema marquee. Climbing the staircase was intended to send staff on a journey of exploration, with multiple observation points along the way through glass viewing panes and a suspended walkway running off the staircase that led to a loft from which you could watch the activities below. The upper floor, filled with natural light, was the main open-plan workspace.

The Guangzhou office of Ogilvy & Mather was the first interior design project to win China’s prestigious Most Successful Design Award. It clearly was successful in its goal of creating an environment that enabled people to move away from their established ways of thinking and towards new creativity.

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## *Denmark*

LEGO

BY SUSAN BERGER

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It's no surprise that a company whose goal is to inspire children would have created an office that was a place of creativity, innovation and fun. LEGO's global headquarters, located in Billund, was inspired by a painting in which a boy holds up a building made with LEGO bricks. A bright yellow rectangular structure on the roof of the office not only looks like one of its building bricks, but in fact contains giant LEGO blocks constructed into the walls.

The inside of the office was bright with color, with walls resembling LEGO bricks that were decorated with LEGO creations of characters such as Spongebob Squarepants and Winnie the Poo and mini figurines such as firefighters and police officers. A fun use of scale brought humor to the space, with elements like a huge grass wall and a giant LEGO man alongside bonsai gardens, asking the question "Who is big and who is small? Where does work stop and imagination start?".

The office felt like you were inside Legoland, with LEGO pieces everywhere providing areas for work and play, including an area where employees could create their own masterpieces. There was even a giant slide in the center of the office that offered an alternative to stairs. The center of the office was an open space dotted with meeting points, from laptop pit stops to sofas and private pods. Around the perimeter were small work areas surrounded by pockets of LEGO merchandise display cases meant to inspire creativity. Employees were encouraged to hang out in the play spaces both in and out of work hours in order to feel inspired by their surroundings.

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## *Egypt*

TREND MICRO

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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Considered part office and part cultural experience, cybersecurity company Trend Micro's office in Cairo was a showcase for ancient Egypt, surpassing some museums. Located in the American University in Cairo, it was both a working office and a training center for recent university graduates.

The office was designed to create a story linking the past to the future, opening up the opportunity for staff and visitors to experience the journey. An accredited Egyptologist worked alongside a cyber security professional to show modern day security as well as how methods to reach the same goals were achieved in ancient Egypt. Similarities included encryption, passwords, firewalls and mazes.

The pharaonic culture is reflected everywhere in the design, including the use of tiled doors like those in ancient temples. A cyber security museum is located in the basement which exhibits various methods of protecting knowledge in ancient Egypt as well as items such as wall claddings and accessories with carved writings on marble. Through the use of broken lines, glass and mirrors, sunlight has been enhanced and mathematically calculated reflections and angles provide visibility from everywhere within the office to create a sense of a larger space, losing any sense of boundaries, and a glass bridge provides an expansive view of the whole office. It also brings the landscape inside to allow people to feel close to nature, including allowing the water for the irrigation system to be heard. Fascinatingly, the office exhibits methods of real physical protection against thieves 5000 years ago alongside today's virtual protection from hackers and cyber threats.

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## *Ireland*

GRANT THORNTON

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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As the quote on the ceiling of accounting firm Grant Thornton's office in Belfast says, "A little nonsense now and then is relished by the wisest men". The quote, taken from the film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory", set the tone for the atmosphere of the office, which was designed to create a fun environment and encourage the staff to feel excited at work.

Inspiration for the design, which envisioned helping employees maintain a work-life balance, came from blockbuster movies that transport people away from the stresses of life.

The office was designed as an open space for people to work in along with unusual meeting rooms where they could feel transported to a different world. The themed meeting rooms, Harry Potter, Jurassic Park, Star Wars and Willy Wonka Emporium, hosted training sessions and large group meetings, and were intended to inspire creativity and productivity and to be attractive to new graduates.

Entering the Harry Potter room on the top floor, it was soon apparent that you entered the Common Room at Hogwarts, filled with large leather armchairs, potions in a glass cabinet and framed rules on the wall. Whether boarding the starship Millennium Falcon in the Star Wars room or having a seat in one of the pods or finding yourself in the jungle in the Jurassic Park room, the Grant Thornton office clearly showed that office space did not have to be boring.

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## *Israel*

### JOYTUNES

BY SUSAN BERGER

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With the goal of empowering people with the gift of music, JoyTunes developed a mobile app that teaches both adults and children to learn and play music, no matter who or where they are. The office, located in Tel Aviv, was designed to encourage connectivity and to encourage communication across all departments.

The heart of the office was a wooden stage located in the center of the space. Containing a grand piano and access to a variety of other instruments including electric guitars, electronic drums and woodwinds, employees were encouraged to have fun through jam sessions any time they wanted and during weekly happy hours. Being located directly under a skylight allowed natural light to enter the space and created a spotlight for the performers on stage. Located next to the kitchen and eating areas, entertainment was provided for anyone on break. In addition to serving as a musical practice stage, it also functioned as the setting for department and company meetings.

All other departments were located around the stage and were set in an open space setting, as were private meeting rooms, smaller hangouts and phone booths. In order to encourage a healthy environment for its employees, JoyTunes included natural elements in the office by installing a system of wiring to allow greenery to climb and grow.

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# Japan

PASONA GROUP

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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Recognizing the massive decline in farming in Japan over the past few decades due to a lack of arable land along with an ageing population, recruitment firm Pasona developed its nine-story downtown Tokyo office building as an urban farm where employees grew and harvested their own food at work, assisted by agricultural specialists. The 200 types of plants, fruits and vegetables, grown using both hydroponic and soil-based farming, were served in the on-site cafeterias.

The employee lobby entrance, lined with citrus plants such as limes and kumquats, contained a broccoli field and a rice paddy which was harvested several times a year, and hosted lunch hour concerts. In the conference rooms, trellises held tomatoes, and apples and blueberries grew in the grass-covered rooftop garden. On a floor of open meeting spaces, herb seeds were grown inside benches, with bean sprouts cultivated below them. Lemon and passion fruit trees divided meeting spaces, and lettuce was grown inside seminar rooms. The exterior of the building is covered with 100 varieties of roses and balconies filled with flowers and orange trees.

In order to allow for maximum ceiling heights, ducts and pipes were re-routed to the perimeter of the building, and a climate-control system was used to monitor humidity, temperature and air flow in the building. Studies show that the majority of people in urbanized societies spend over 80% of their time indoors. Plants improve the air quality we breathe, which has been shown to increase productivity at work as well as improve employees' health and reduce absenteeism and staff turnover. Educational workshops for Pasona employees and outside community members were provided to teach farming practices, and the company hopes to cultivate the next generation of farmers through these seminars and internship programs.

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# Malaysia

MINDVALLE

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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Voted one of “Inc.” magazine’s 10 most beautiful offices in the world, personal growth education platform Mindvalley’s Kuala Lumpur’s office was inspired by Barcelona’s Sagrada Familia and a jungle gym. Called “The Temple of Light”, the space is filled with glass structures covered with a film which gives it colorful, kaleidoscopic properties as the sun moves through the sky.

Believing that superheroes are symbols of empowerment, a life-size statue of Mindvalley’s Wonder Woman mascot stands in the lobby. A set of honeycomb shelves, symbolizing the unity of a hive and being busy as a bee, is filled with superhero figurines.

The center of the space was the Hall of Awesomeness, an auditorium with beanbag seating for 150 people. Around it the office was divided into designed spaces for specific activities. Meeting rooms were located in one zone, with desks in another, and an area with astroturf on the floor allowed people to sit on the “grass”. A tree house, accessed by climbing up a ladder, served as a meeting area. The Jedi room was inspired by the Jedi Council in Star Wars. Believing in the creative and health benefits of napping, sleep pods were provided in an area called “Pillow Heaven” because each one was filled with differently sized pillows. Walking through the office it was noticeable that there were no visible drawers, resulting in a very open space. Drawers were actually hidden behind walls, which were also used as giant whiteboards for writing. The office was clearly reflective of Mindvalley’s goal of inspiring people through empowering every area of the human mind, body and spirit.

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## *Netherlands*

### RED BULL

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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Energy drink Red Bull's office was designed to reflect its involvement in sponsoring the arts and extreme sports. Following the corporate motto "Red Bull gives you wings", the space is comprised of unusual angles that challenge the mind and eyes to part with convention.

The office was built in an old shipbuilding factory in the Noord district of Amsterdam, which has undergone redevelopment to attract artists and media companies. While the exterior of the warehouse remained unchanged, the interior was redesigned to reflect the brand image of Red Bull. It was planned based on the opposing nature of the human brain's two hemispheres – reason and intuition, good and evil, arts and industry, light and dark. This was reflected in black and white spaces and play and business sections. One zone consisted of meeting areas, a DJ booth and a recording studio. Next to it was an open playground with video screens and a bar. The canteen was called The Dive, and a neon-filled resting space was named The Crash Room. The washroom contained mosaic walls illustrating religious figures DJing and performing karaoke, and true to its motto, the urinal had wings. Offices and workstations were decorated with artwork and brand images of Red Bull cans.

The size of ten football fields, the office included studios, workshops, offices, student housing, festival venues and restaurants. Nicknamed "angel versus beast", it was comprised of public and private spaces, with the beast represented by geometric black metal and plywood structures topped with rest areas, symbolizing skateboard ramps and mountain cliffs to emphasize the brand's wild side.

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## *Scotland*

ITISON

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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When the CEO declared that he wanted to create a space that was as “inspiring as it is fun”, he did not imagine that the Itison office in Merchant City would ultimately be considered the coolest workplace in Scotland.

Following along the lines of its business, which sends daily emails with offers and tickets for dining, entertainment and special experiences, each area of the office was modelled on the businesses they work with, such as a hotel style reception and a yoga and pilates studio complete with lunchtime classes.

The office, located in a former church, contained a giant hot air balloon, a fully stocked complimentary bar and beer fridge, a reading room for relaxation and a usable fireman’s pole. A fairy-lit giant tree twinkled every time a new member joined the company. Instead of eating at their desks, employees could go to the expansive cafe, where there were free soft drinks, a large fruit bowl and a cereal bar. On Friday afternoons staff headed to the café for prosecco, and the company offered duvet days and a half day off on birthdays. A large dome ceiling changed color depending on the day’s performance. With dedicated spaces created for collaboration, including a 10-foot pink glass cube in the center of the office, even meetings were fun.

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## *Spain*

SELGASCANO

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
ROME / TORONTO

Set in a forest outside Madrid, the office of architectural firm SelgasCano offered its employees a peaceful environment in which to dream and work, all the while surrounded by nature.

Built in the shape of an aerodynamic tube, the building is half submerged into the earth, providing an eye-level view of the surrounding forest and its wildlife. One long, curved wall of the tube is made of transparent acrylic, flooding the office with light and eliminating the need for artificial light during the day. Employee desks lined the window, so staff could gaze at the falling leaves, raindrops, sunlight and the ever changing activity in the forest. The acrylic wall extends part way into the ceiling so that employees were able to look directly up to the sky and the tops of the trees. The opposite wall is made of materials that, along with the trees, protect the office from direct sunlight and the resultant heat of the scorching Madrid summers. A hinged opening at one end of the office allows for ever-changing degrees of natural ventilation, keeping the office cool and resulting in very little need for air conditioning.

In this magical environment, every day is different.

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## *Sweden*

BAHNHOF

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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Buried 30 meters below central Stockholm, internet security provider Bahnhof is often called the safest office in the world. Protected by a 16-inch thick steel door and located under 100 feet of granite below the Vita Berg Park, the office was built in a nuclear bunker from the Cold War. In fact, it retains its wartime code name, Pionen White Mountains.

Although the office is carved out of the rock, it is a cutting-edge modern workplace. The facility, comprised of server halls and offices, was deliberately designed to feel like a science fiction movie and is often compared to something from a James Bond film. Bahnhof, which used to host Wikileaks, has its own air and water supply along with fountains and waterfalls and a gigantic saltwater fish tank, highlighted by multi-colored lights. Special lighting simulates daylight and was used to grow fruit and vegetables. Two German diesel submarine engines provide standby power for the office and a submarine sound-horn is located nearby in the event of a system malfunction.

Overlooking the server area is a circular, glass-walled conference room with an image of the moon on the floor. The architects who designed the office stated that they wanted to project humans trying to acclimate themselves to this world, with “strong contrasts between rooms where the rock dominates and where the human being is a stranger against rooms where the human being took over totally”.

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## *Switzerland*

GOOGLE

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
ROME / TORONTO

Known as “Zooglers”, the employees at Google’s Zurich office were consulted during the design process to ensure the space met all their needs while fostering innovation, creativity and collaboration.

In addition to the formal meeting rooms that were scattered throughout the office, informal areas offered fun alternatives such as igloo cabins with penguins and original ski gondolas. Individual pods provided privacy for employees to speak to colleagues elsewhere in the world or just to have some quiet time. With research showing that relaxation stimulates original thought, areas were designed around sport and leisure, such as a lounge with an aquarium, a games room with billiards, table tennis, pinball and video games, a library and a massage spa. A staffed gym offered yoga, pilates and fitness classes and there was a concert room, a wine cellar, a cinema and a Lego room. A jungle lounge contained 100 different plants and a comfy furry egg to sit in. Scattered throughout the spaces were micro kitchens offering drinks and snacks all day long, and the cafeteria served free breakfast, lunch and dinner. “Tech talks” were offered on subjects including current affairs, entertainment, the arts, science and engineering.

In order to encourage speedy circulation of Zooglers throughout the seven floors of the office and to inspire them to work with different teams, employees could slide down fire poles and spiral slides. At 5 PM every day, Heidi-themed music signalled that it was time for the Zooglers to gather in the Hürlimann Bar (named after the former brewery located on the site) to drink beer and relax with other employees.

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## *United Kingdom*

### YOUTUBE

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
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The 20,000 square foot London YouTube office was designed to provide YouTubers, also known as vloggers, a chance to create video content for uploading to the site, which is watched more than a billion hours every day. Creators had free access to state of the art equipment and technology for two days a month, including three soundproof studios, stages, editing suites and a green room, however they had to have 10,000 subscribers to use the office.

Outside the studios, a selection of guitars was available for creators to use, as was an array of high-end camera and lighting equipment and virtual reality technology that could be used for any production setup. The company believed that the space was an investment in YouTube content creators by giving them the resources they needed to grow their audiences without the financial obligation of renting studios or finding space to create.

Users had access to a café serving coffee, fresh juice and snacks which contained a train carriage including tray tables and overhead bag compartments. Workshops were provided to help vloggers increase their audiences, and creators held sessions to educate visitors on subjects ranging from good business practices to how to use the latest equipment. An event space accommodated 150 people, and high-profile artists often hosted music performances, launch parties and fan meets. Outside the office on the street and by the entrance indoors, large video displays were updated each morning, showing clips of YouTube creators throughout the day.

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## *United States*

### INVENTIONLAND

BY SUSAN BERGER

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO /  
ROME / TORONTO

An idea incubator located in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Inventionland is a 60,000 square foot creative environment where new products were crafted, engineered and packaged. Graphic designers, artists, photographers, fabricators and many others with ideas or seeking inspiration worked inside 16 themed sets whose sights and sounds were designed to promote imagination and innovation.

Sets included a cupcake kitchen, a functional racetrack to encourage transportation innovation, a pet shack, a pirate ship with sharks and pirates, a treehouse, a cottage from a children's fairy tale, a giant shoe, a huge robot head, caves, and a castle with turrets and a drawbridge. Spa treatments and beauty products were worked on in the Health and Beauty boutique. Goods for the home were tested in the bedroom, living room or dining room of Home Sweet Home. Creators of children's products gained inspiration from the Nursery Nook. The log Creativity Cabin, constructed from wood to evoke packages which are made of paper, encourage the imagination of packaging specialists. A red carpet led to a state-of-the-art audio, video and animation studio containing private dressing rooms, a sound room, edit suites, a green screen and a screening room. Available onsite facilities included metalworking woodworking, molding, laser cutting, prototyping and many more.

In addition to inspiring creativity and product innovation, Inventionland aimed to provide education. 15,000 students, designers, business professionals, inventors and educators visited the office annually, and it was open to the public. It is not hard to see why this unusual office was consistently placed on the "Best Places to Work" lists around the world.



## *Managing The Internet: Is It Possible*

BY DR. ROSE A. DYSON  
TORONTO – CANADA

Earlier this year humanity received a wake-up call with the arrival of COVID-19. All over the world people found their lives turned upside down. Enforced physical distancing transformed lifestyles. Less familiar faces of health experts, front-line workers, the sick, the grieving and politicians at all governing levels responded to the unfolding health and economic crisis. They filled the airwaves daily with updates and prognostications. Although conspiracy theories continued to thrive, heroic efforts on the part of mainstream media kept us all informed. First invented by the US Military, the internet was suddenly serving the purpose for which it was originally envisioned.

Less topical but equally urgent is the looming climate crisis. Environmental watchdogs warn us that floods, droughts and, forest fires have not abated because of the coronavirus. It

became apparent, according to National Geographic and other sources, that stay-at-home lockdowns had given Mother Earth a badly needed chance to regenerate. Because the entire world was forced into quarantine, pollution levels dropped. Wild animals and birds reappeared in normally overpopulated areas. With transport down, blue skies became visible. China, responsible for 30% of the world's carbon emissions, saw a drop to 25%. Air pollution in Barcelona and Madrid was down 50%. Venice canals were fresh and clear once again. Crime went down and there was cautious optimism that wars might cease.

COVID-19 gave us a chance to reflect on the multitude of problems we face. Scientists have consistently pointed to connections between the growing frequency of pandemics such as the Swine Flu, SARS,

Ebola, the Coronavirus and our unsustainable social, cultural and economic model predicated on endless, consumer-driven growth. Overpopulation, deforestation, and agricultural encroachment into the habitat of wildlife have increased the risk of transmittable diseases. The question is, will we transition to a way of life more consistent with long term survival? Earlier this year, Guy Dauncey presented Canadian Members of Parliament with a Climate Emergency transition program for the country. He drew upon accumulated modeling and research from experts around the world. His proposals were consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. As a practical utopian he is at the forefront of those cautioning us against the temptation to go back to business as usual. Just how resistant to old habits we will become remains to be seen.



YES, VIRGINIA!

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As we venture out into our world, your travel can consist of a day visit to the closest towns or a journey that will place your feet clear on the other side of the world. It is all about discovery and about everywhere you walk. So, COME – EXPLORE WITH ME.

## *Egypt*

BY LOIS M. GORDON  
SILICON VALLEY – CALIFORNIA

The history of Egypt is the longest, continuous history as a unified state of any country in the world. The Nile valley forms a natural geographic and economic unit, bounded to the east and west by deserts, to the north by the sea and to the south by the Cataracts of the Nile.

It is one of the richest and most ancient civilizations in the world. It was the pharaoh Menes who united the two kingdoms of Upper and Lower Egypt and it became known as the Ancient Empire.

Following many pharaohs, Alexander the Great arrived in 332 BC and founded Alexandria as a gateway to his motherland, Greece.

Cairo, Egypt, the Triumphant City, is one of the world's largest cities. It is full of life and that life moves 24 hours a day, noisy

cars honking, merchants selling their wares, and children playing. It is powerful, modern and ancient with much culture, including magnificent art galleries and music halls. The number of preserved monuments in the Luxor area is unparalleled anywhere in the world. What most people think of as Luxor is three different areas: Luxor, Karnak and Thebes.

Egypt's location, right on the Nile River, is peaceful and beautiful, with palm trees, wonderful cafes and bazaars not only for shopping but for experiencing the culture.

The temples in Karnak, the sculptured walls – all of the architecture – is so powerful and awe-inspiring.

Egypt is more than the pyramids, the sphinx and the Nile. It is the long history of a

progressive and brilliant people that leaves you breathless while experiencing it and remembering it.

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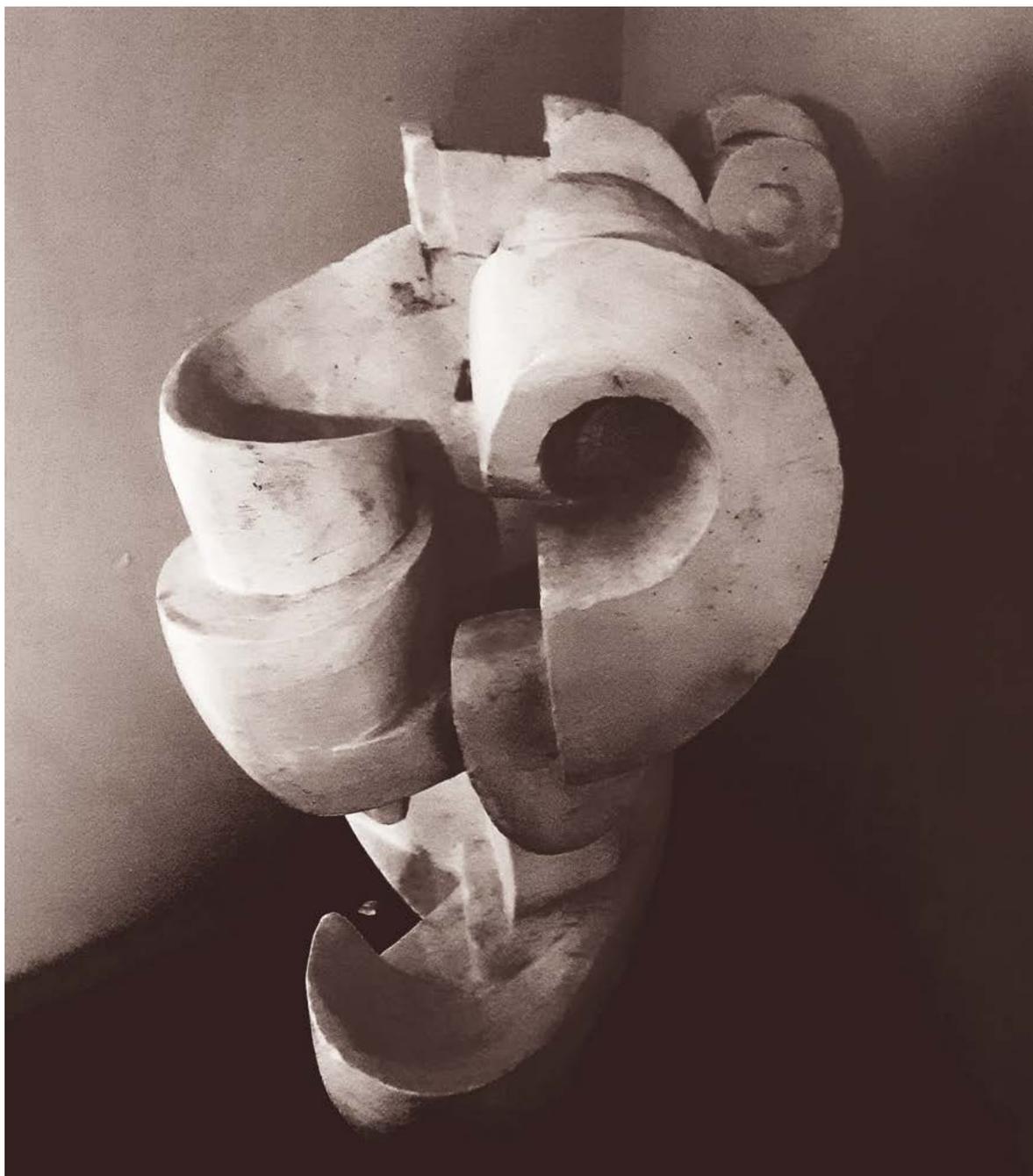
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## *Ships of Fools*

SCULPTURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY FARHAD NARGOL-O'NEILL  
IRELAND / TORONTO

2007. Plaster. 1.75 x 2" 9"



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I carved this sculpture, a stylized and pompous ship, in reductive fashion from a block of plaster in 2007, after watching the Hollywood classic: "Ship of Fools". I envision an enlarged version of this sculpture as a future public work of art. Provenance: collection of the artist.

Email: [farhadnargoloneill@gmail.com](mailto:farhadnargoloneill@gmail.com)

Link to the dedicated webpage: <http://www.farhadsculpture.com/sculptures/ShipofFools.html>





## *Ball And Chain*

BY KATHLEEN MAILLIARD SOLMSEN  
SAN FRANCISCO – CALIFORNIA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER SOLMSEN

When I think of “luxury” I imagine the top of the line.... of any line. The most luxurious automobile, accoutrements of fine living, cashmere and skincare galore, just to name a few of “the best” that many people yearn for and set high goals to attain.

As the world continues to twirl and change, so do our concepts of everything. For some, a chateau in southern France might be a mighty goal, while another dreamer could have a log cabin in Montana at the top of his wish list. Everything has a price. We all know people who take immeasurable pride in having the best of everything.... but I sometimes wonder what price they are paying for this outrageous pride.

My friends, who live life like spinning tops, never seem to have the time for long lunches, cocktail hours or vacations.

Trust me, I love a quick rendezvous (in a private jet) for a bit of four-star dining; sign me up whenever.... wherever. Getting the keys to the castle from a pal who simply doesn't have the time to enjoy his dream come true. Meeting at the club for a gratis afternoon of massage, manicure and lunch always works for me. Limo drivers are incredibly punctual, so I do my best to keep an eye on the clock when “VIP” pals give me a lift.

Thank goodness that with age comes wisdom. I'll admit, in my lifetime, I have chased many, many a rainbow, never finding a pot of gold. We've all experienced our share of frustrations and losses, but take a look back.... you won't turn into salt.

At the end of the day, was it worth all of that 24/7 stress and pain? So, thank goodness age

really does come with wisdom. It took a few swift “karmic kicks” before I realized how fleeting “big deals” can be, as hoped-for, long-lasting happiness fades... in an instant.

Today, I have a fresh definition of true luxury. Today, that would be outstanding good health, lots of precious time.... for anything and everything... and, last but by no mean least, true, true treasured friends.

Once, I overflowed with adrenaline in the fast lanes of life. Today, I cannot afford those adrenaline-infused lanes without sacrificing my delicious freedom and insatiable joie de vivre... and that's Pizzazz!!!



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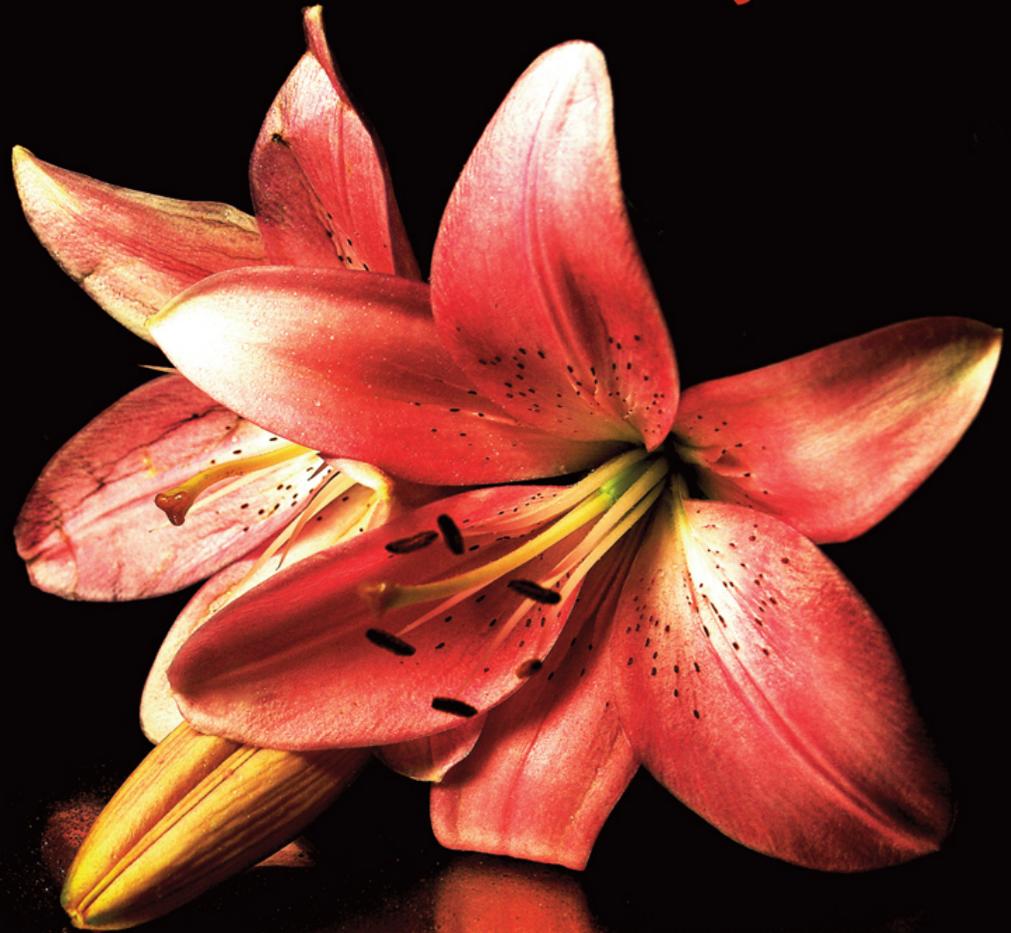
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## *Nashville, Tennessee*

BY JULIE REKAI RICKERD  
TORONTO – CANADA

Past and present merge seamlessly in the museums of Nashville, Tennessee. It is impossible to visit just one private museum in the city since that Music City is filled with them, some in public/private partnerships, all of them unique.

“The Gallery of Iconic Guitars” displays some of the rarest and most “iconic” guitars and stringed instruments known, including Steven Kern Shaw’s collection of his grandfather Jerome Kern’s guitars, whose many popular compositions include such classics as “Ole Man River” and “Smoke Gets in Your Eyes”. These instruments can be borrowed and played by scholars and professional musicians.

Individual museums pay tribute to the greats of country music: Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard and George Jones, who are also honored in Nashville’s sensational “Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum” that features spectacular gallery displays and

revolving exhibitions of artifacts that belonged to such Country artists as Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson. “The Musicians Hall of Fame and Museum” is a more intimate venue to honor musicians who performed on some of the greatest country recordings of all time. It also houses a tribute to country music’s cultural history and the Grammy Awards. An added pleasure is touring the museum with an active, contemporary musician who has one of his instruments on display.

An amazing experience is visiting the historic, 63-year-old RCA Studio B, Nashville’s oldest recording studio that recorded major hits like Roy Orbison’s “Only the Lonely”, the Everly Brothers’ “Dream”, Dolly Parton’s “Jolene”, and 250 Elvis Presley hits. It is pure nostalgia to be allowed to sit and play on Elvis’s original piano in the museum section of the still working studio.

Homage must also be paid to the 128-year-old Ryman

Auditorium, an active museum referred to as the “Mother Church of Country Music”, a national Historic Landmark famous for its remarkable acoustics and for being the first host of the Grand Ole Opry radio program. The auditorium’s hallway walls are covered in original posters that promote its extraordinary cast of fearlier performers: Charlie Chaplin, Pavlova, Mae West, Louis Armstrong, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Blake Shelton, and Bruce Springsteen.

These museums are the keepers and recorders of Music City’s history as Nashville continues to be the world’s epicenter of ever-evolving, contemporary country music.

Further information can be found at:  
[www.visitmusiccity.com](http://www.visitmusiccity.com)



## THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS

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LES RICHES ET LES CÉLÈBRES | LOS RICOS Y FAMOSOS | DIE REICHEN UND BERÜHMTEN | 多元與著名

Opposite: Coat Of Arms On The Balustrade Of The Pont Alexandre III. Regarded the most ornate and beautiful bridge in Paris, the Pont Alexandre III, was begun in 1896, with the first stone being laid by the Russian emperor Nicholas II. The deck arch bridge spans the Seine connecting the Grand and Petit Palais to the Hôtel des Invalides and Eiffel Tower.

## *Paris* *Concerto Of Art And Opera In The City Of Lights*

PHOTOGRAPHY AND TEXT BY MARK RAYNES ROBERTS  
LONDON / TORONTO

Traveling may not be on anyone's agenda right now, but one of the great joys is remembering the special moments of a trip often enhanced by traveling at off-peak times.

I highly recommend visiting Paris during the winter months, as it will enchant you just the same with quieter parks and neighborhoods to explore. The smaller museums and art galleries provide more time to delve into the artist's oeuvre, while a night at the opera and a French bistro dinner become the perfect end to a day.



Grand Palais des Champs-Élysées: The famous glass canopy at the Grand Palais was built in 1897 in the style of Beaux-Arts architecture, as a monument dedicated to the glory of French art. Created to showcase great artistic events in the city, many of the Paris fashion houses continue to showcase their latest collections there each season.



Palais Garnier Exterior South Facade: Built between 1861 and 1875 at the behest of Emperor Napoleon III for the Paris Opera, the stunning 1,979-seat opera house soon became known as the Palais Garnier, in recognition of architect Charles Garnier's extravagant architecture.



Palais Garnier, Interior Foyer And Grand Staircase: The Baroque foyer and grand staircase of the Paris Opera House are breathtakingly beautiful combining carved Italian marble, gold leaf and velvet. Inspired by Victor Louis's grand staircase at the Théâtre de Bordeaux, the staircase pedestals were created by Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse.



**Medici Fountain in Jardin du Luxembourg: A favorite place for visitors to the Left Bank of Paris, is the famous Jardin du Luxembourg, and the Medici Fountain and reflecting pool built in 1630 by Marie de' Medici, the widow of King Henry IV of France.**



**Art Installations and Boule In The Palais-Royal:** The 1639, Palais-Royal is a former royal palace located opposite the Louvre. In 1830, the larger inner courtyard of the palace, the Cour d'Honneur, was enclosed to the north by one of the most famous of Paris's covered arcades. Today, the public play boule among the art installations and rose gardens.



Male Statue at the Eiffel Tower and Jardin du Trocadéro The Trocadéro is located across from the Seine from the Eiffel Tower, and was originally the name of the 1878 palace which was demolished in 1937 to make way for the Palais de Chaillot.



*In this time of transformation, how can we come together to tap into collective wisdom and avoid collective folly?*

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Opposite: I can't help but think "Once it has been created a first time, it gives way to an enhanced reiteration.", but of course, not to take away from the creative vision, nor the painstaking execution of attaching the massive structure to the hillside, looming above a very rocky seaside below. Zinc tiles were applied to the roof by hand, piece by piece, on metal framework. Angulating interior gypsum plaster ceilings mimic the rolling seafoam waves.

## *Casa Del Acantilado* *A Surreal Paradise With A View From Above*

BY VICTORIA FRANCIOSA  
ROME / TORONTO

Casa Del Acantilado, which translates directly to Cliff House, was brought into reality in 2015. The holiday home is a modern oasis situated in southern Spain, overlooking the Mediterranean Sea.

After climbing the curved column of stairs along the cliff side, you are greeted by a glass front door that takes you into a double-tiered first floor. You are immediately submerged into an oasis of white encapsulation of fixed furnishings, from the rows of seating, a playful sight reminding one of white coral reefs lined up in a juxtaposition of unmovable fiberglass and soft pliable cushions, to the vaulted rolling ceilings.

Your eyes are drawn through the wall of windows that give an unobstructed view of the sea coast's dreamy blue waters, but first you are treated to the

enveloping circumflexed exterior walls that surround the deck, boasting a cantilevered eternity pool.

The second floor, which includes three bedrooms, also boasts an impressive view that includes the exterior rolling ceiling of the first floor, combined with the rolling ceilings of the second floor... giving one a view like none other. The eyes are once again drawn through the unobstructed view of the sea. Each bedroom has its own glass balcony.

I am instantly reminded of echoes of the great architecture found in Barcelona, such as Casa Mila, that was built in very early 1900s. Upon first sight, Casa Del Acantilado reminded me instantly of that famous structure, specifically the rooftop with its rolling sight-

line and divots. It also feels like a theoretical nod to Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater in terms of the landscape blending along with the playful and relaxed vibes within the architecture.

Local artisans were brought in to hand-lay the bespoke zinc roof tiles as well as the on-site bespoke fiberglass seating in the auditorium-style entertainment space that blends seamlessly into the outdoor deck.

The fluid, inconsistent curvature of the double-layered cement exterior walls of this home mimics the constantly shifting sea below. It is no slight chance, but rather at the request of the homeowners who commissioned the now famous architects Pablo Gil and Jaime Bartolome of GilBartolome Architects.



From the profile, the house is barely noticeable, somewhat blending into the landscape. It's hard to believe that there is an enormous home sunk into this hillside.





The striking design of Casa Del Acantilado, which is sunk into the landscape reminds one of a sleeping dragon





Contemporary design which speaks of fluid architecture. The curvaceous structure is seamless, reading to the eye like a priceless Picasso in its beauty. Rolling waves, or a dragon peering out are thoughts that are conjured up when viewing the house from this angle. What a treat this architecture is.





Reinforced solid exterior walls of twice layered cement is burrowed into the surrounding landscape of a 42 degree angle, as though seemingly growing right out of the rough terrain. It seems to be daring the very elements surrounding, but nothing could be further from the truth.





**The engineering of the foundation included two massive anchors that are secured into the face of the cliff, with additional steel rods that are driven almost 50 feet into the ground... Casa Del Acatilado was literally built from the top down.**





Socializing was certainly a part of the consideration when designing this theatre living space. There is enough space to accommodate up to 70 guests.





THE NEXT 100 YEARS – ONE CHILD’S JOURNEY – HOW HE/SHE WILL LIVE, LOVE AND NEVER REALLY DIE

## *Covid-19 And Child Survival An Eye On The Future*

BY KELECHI ELEANYA  
THE NIGER DELTA – NIGERIA

Suddenly, the world landed in a chaotic situation that stalled every form of activity across the globe. Businesses closed, travel (local and international) halted, schools shut down, and parents compulsorily become teachers for their wards. The list was endless as COVID-19 swept through the globe.

This certainly is not a time to blame anyone, however, we need to continually work towards a creative solution on all fronts for the safety, peace and prosperity of everyone in these troubled moments.

With fears gripping the whole world from the pandemic, there are multiple dimensions we need to address for the wellbeing of people everywhere. Children are more in need than anyone. Being out of school, their cycle of learning, cognition

and emotional development is impacted negatively to varying degrees. According to UNICEF, the effects of the pandemic are not limited to health but extend to many dimensions of children's lives: their education, safety and poverty.

As mentioned, the impacts on the child are numerous. With their parents losing their livelihoods due to business closures, so many children are exposed to further poverty and hunger in a world already overburdened by child poverty. How do you imagine 1.5 billion children around the world experience a total halt in their academic work? Higher institutions of learning are also closed.

In light of these new developments, the world needs to refocus on the invaluable

losses we may have if children's health and care are left behind, especially in these times of huge economic hardship.

We must not only focus on the number of deaths that have occurred; we need also to strengthen our approaches for childcare in the world of today. Shield the children and their families and make a better world for all – keeping hope alive is saving more lives, even with challenges.

Let's invest more in building additional child support systems in these trying times.

Save the Child, Save the World  
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## *Only Some Of The Smoke Has Cleared*

BY AL EMID  
TORONTO – CANADA

Al Emid has worked in communicating ideas and concepts since beginning his career at an educational television network in 1967. He is the co-author and author of several financial books, most recently “The Emid Report on Volatility 2021”, which is now available on all major book sites.

### Chapter 21

#### Only Some of the Smoke Has Cleared

##### There May Still be Work to Do

Some of the smoke has cleared from the coronavirus crisis and some of us have returned to normal living – though in many cases the new normal remains influenced by the social changes we made during the crisis. Certainly, the crisis and the stock market panic that came with it wrought changes in our investment portfolios and even our attitudes towards wealth accumulation.

As the smoke continues clearing it might be useful to consider one or more of several strategies that will strengthen your wealth position.

Start with a divorce.

Separate the panic that some feel during a time of crisis from the brass tacks of your wealth preservation. If you accept my suggestion that the

crisis burned a hole in our attitudes to wealth as well as other areas of our lives, take care not to let emotions influence investment decisions. A professional advisor can provide a buffer here.

Examine your risk tolerance.

With the 2008 crash many investors found that they did not have the risk tolerance that they believed they had. The same shift has happened during the virus crisis. Many stocks recovered their valuations after heart-pounding plunges. Determine whether your risk tolerance is as high as you believed earlier.

Reassess your asset allocation. Rebalance as necessary.

The market was tough and bloody, but we continue to believe that equities provide the best returns. It might be appropriate to reduce your consumer discretionary stocks – that is – shares in companies whose products consumers may buy with disposable income but are not crucial to day-to-day living. By comparison, stocks in the consumer staples category are in companies providing the necessities of life such as pharmaceuticals and groceries.

After looking at these and other questions, check how much rebalancing has become necessary, ideally with a licensed financial advisor.

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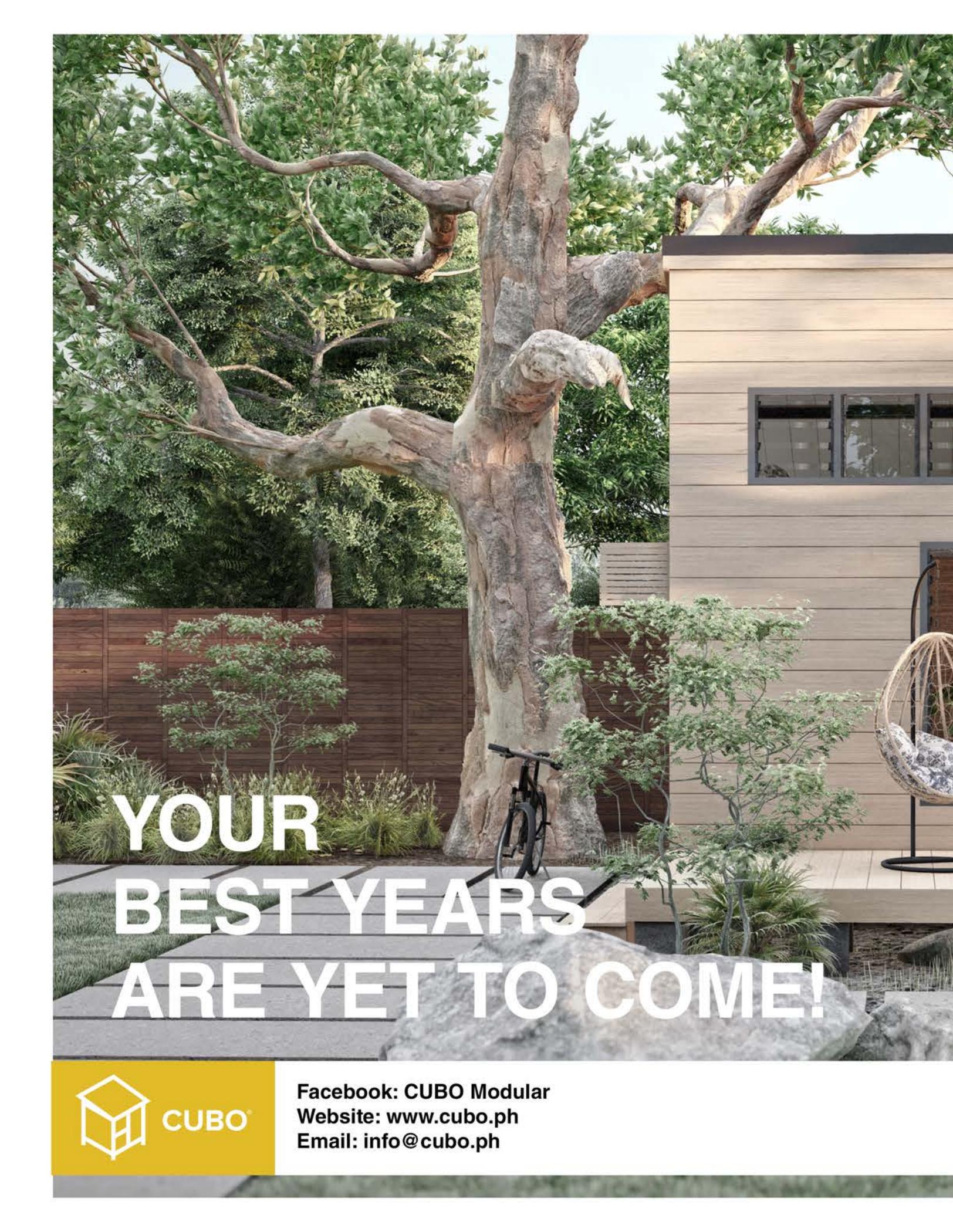
  
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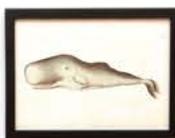
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## *Things I Learned During The Covid-19 Pandemic*

BY CARLA DRAGNEA  
BUCHAREST – ROMANIA

At the time I am writing this article, we are entering week eight of the stay-at-home order due to the COVID-19 pandemic. That's two months since life as we knew it changed overnight! Working from home, school activities moving online, non-essential businesses closing, financial hardship due to job loss, essential workers risking their lives every day, wearing masks and gloves while shopping, people losing loved ones due to the virus – this was the new reality. Despite this new norm, however, COVID-19 also made us slow down, return to a more basic life and enjoy the little things.

I was lucky enough to be in isolation with my entire family, a rare occurrence since our son started university two years ago. This allowed us to spend precious time together. We cooked, baked, posted our creations on Instagram, watched

movies, listened to music, danced, took daily walks, celebrated Earth hour (a much-loved family tradition when we turn off all lights in the house and play hide-and-seek) and so much more – and enjoyed every minute of it.

Equally important, we had conversations about how the world was reacting to the pandemic and how the human race rose to the challenge. Here is what we learned!

We learned that we were closer to each other than ever. Through social media we saw people singing and playing instruments on their balconies to lift the spirit of others and let them know they were not alone. We saw people clapping and honking their car horns to acknowledge the efforts of the frontline workers. We saw celebrities donating their time, money and talent in an effort to

help the ones impacted financially. We saw selfless acts, solidarity, generosity and pure love in every corner of the world.

We were reminded that we are super-social creatures, to the point that the famous pandemic “social distancing” tagline had to be changed to “physical.” That's because we need human interaction to survive. Luckily, technology came to the rescue and allowed us to reach out and stay connected through video chats. We personally called our parents every day, our siblings weekly and created a chat group to interact with our friends.

Lastly, we learned how unbelievable strong and adaptable we really are. Stay healthy and safe – sunny days are ahead!



## *Sands Of Time*

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

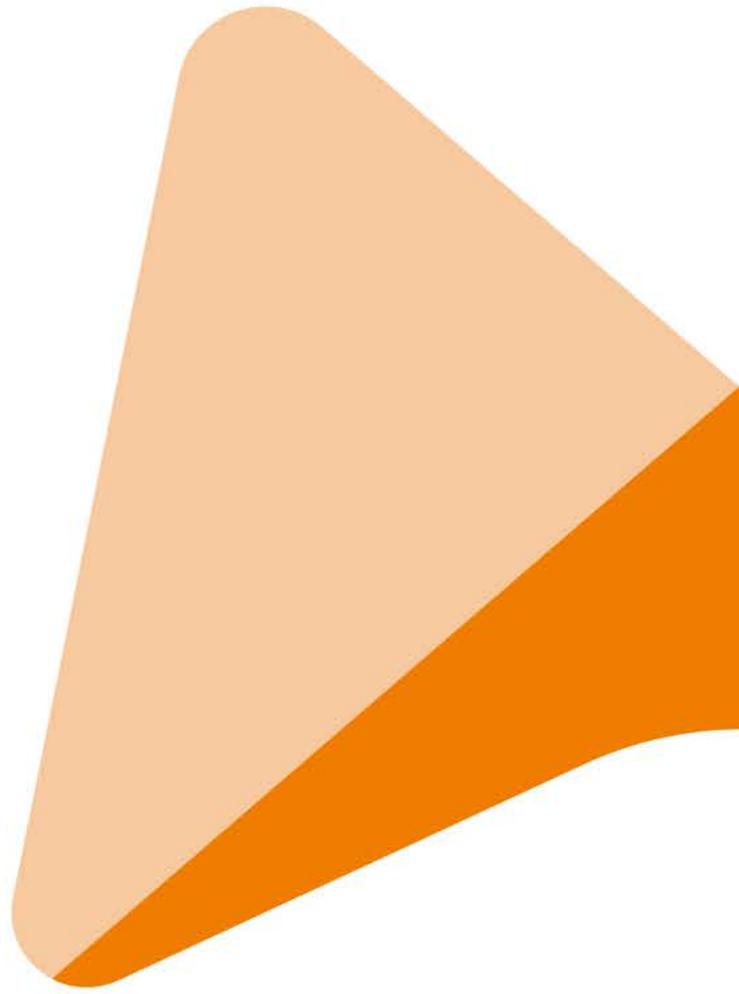
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK RAYNES ROBERTS

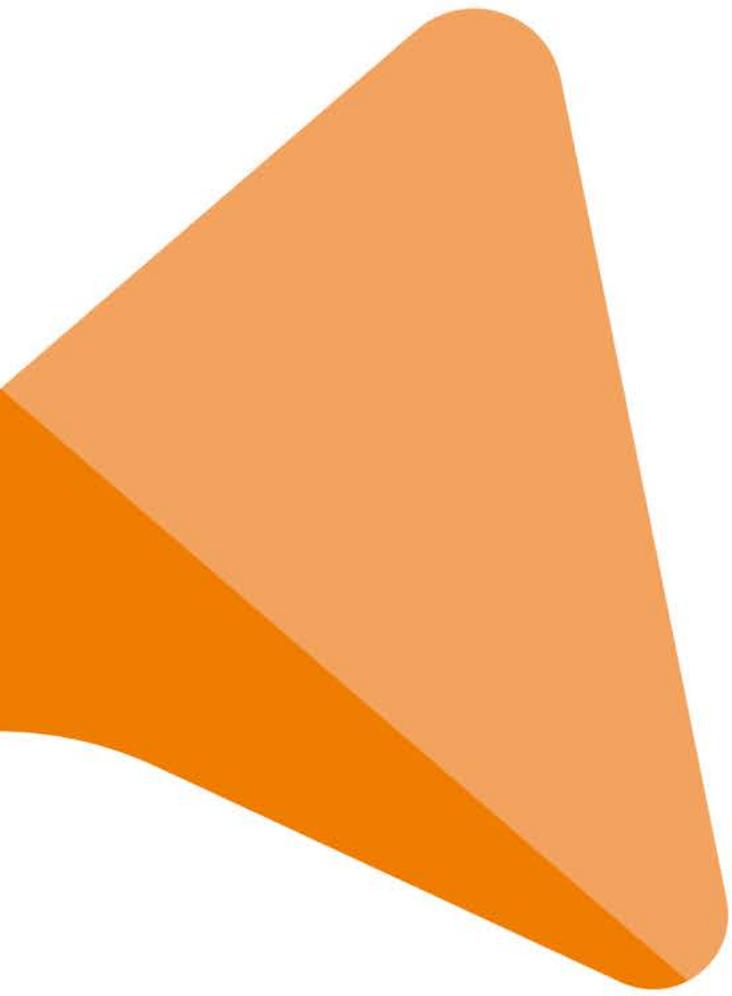
LONDON / TORONTO

I observed him carefully as he  
walked to the door. I knew that  
time was running out but  
suppressed the urge to check my  
watch. I took a deep breath and  
started counting in reverse  
under my breath. "Ten, nine,  
eight, seven..." Opening my  
eyes, I quickly got up,  
scrambled through my bedside  
table, turned on the voice  
recorder and started speaking...

Ramya Vasudevan



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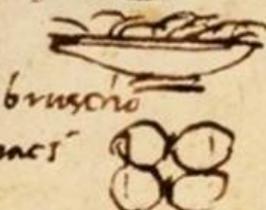
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to rtole



sei pani  
dua minestre di fino duo  
una aringa  
u bochal di tondo



Sto Michelagnolo  
A. Buonafantini

Faint handwritten notes and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.

## *When A Scrawled Note Is Precious*

BY KERRY BAKER  
BRISBANE – AUSTRALIA

Michelangelo was often called Il Divino, “the Divine One”, based on his staggering artistic ability to inspire awe. Sculptor, artist, poet and architect, this Titan of the Arts is remembered for his genius in creating the Pietà, the David, The Last Supper, the Sistine Chapel, work on St. Peter’s Basilica and so very much more. He, along with Da Vinci and Raphael, were the triumvirate of jewels in the crown of Florence during the High Renaissance. But testament to his artistic prowess can also be found in much more mundane and disposable items.

In Italy in 1500, the literacy rate was 15%, noticeably higher than the 11% that was representative across Western Europe at the time. This may be indicative of the fact that it was usually confined to nobles, clergy, officials and some merchant classes. Italy possessed large numbers of these categories. For the servant class and especially women, illiteracy was a fact of existence. Thus, when Michelangelo required his servants to go to the market for provisions, a standard shopping list as we know it would be useless. Consequently, he would illustrate his list, drawing pictures of bread, fish, wine etc. This is an example of one such picture drawn on the back of an envelope. That it has survived for so long is truly remarkable. Only 600 of Michelangelo’s sketches remain as in 1518 he burned many of his early drawings and 48 years later ordered many of his papers to be torched in anticipation of his demise.

Michelangelo – master of both the exceptional and the basic.



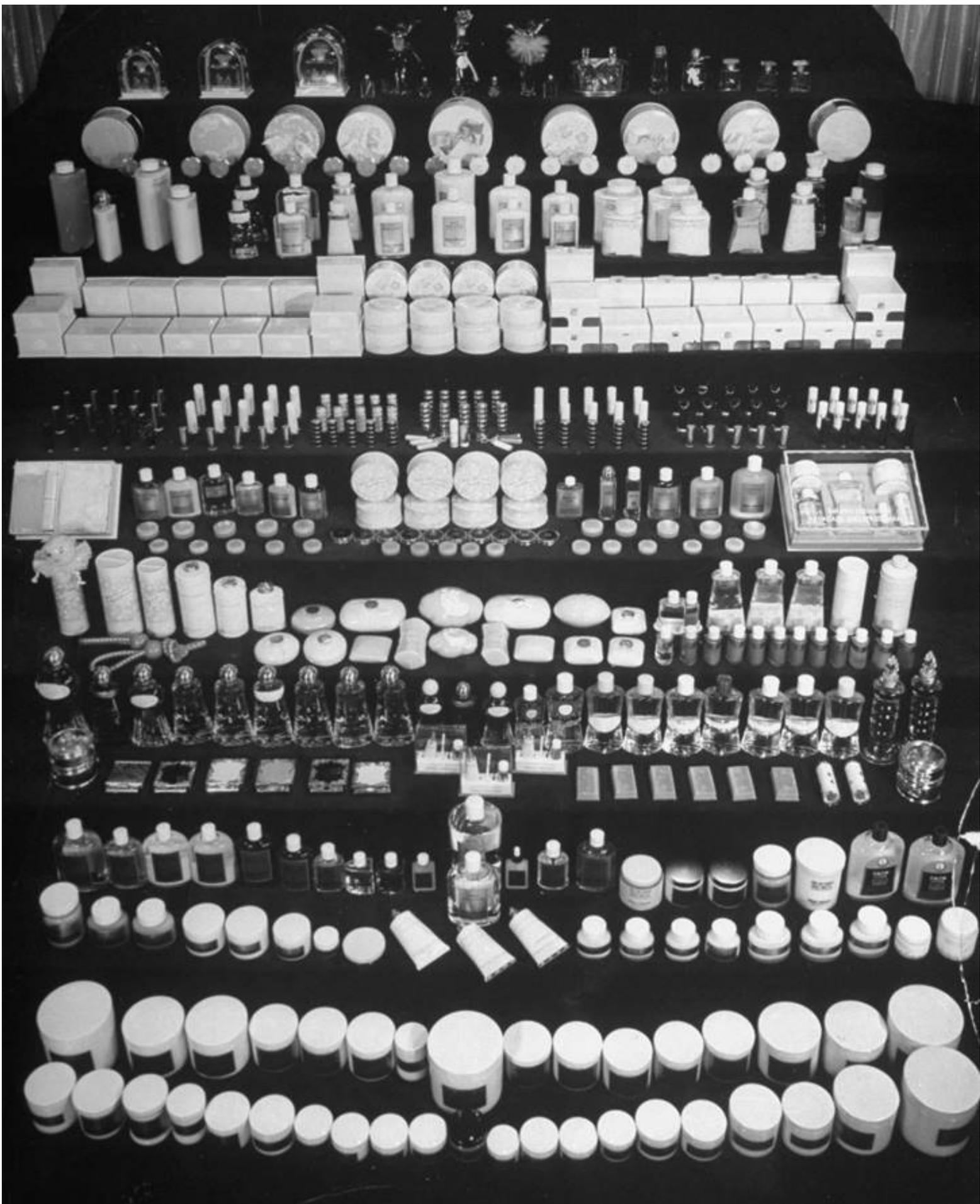
## *The Glory Days Of Train Travel*

BY KERRY BAKER  
BRISBANE – AUSTRALIA

In the late 19th century, rail travel in the U.S. was being revolutionised by the effects of the great train journeys such as the Orient Express, the Royal Scotsman and the Maharaja's Express. How one reached one's destination was becoming as important as when, and this concept of luxurious comfort reached its apogee with the Pullman Rail journeys.

Victorian-era tastes ran to the baroque, and this influence was seen in the beautifully carved walnut panelling, bevelled French mirrors, gleaming brass fittings, Brussels carpets, brocade, tassels and fringe. Dining cars were another Pullman innovation. Prior to this, trains stopped briefly at stations to allow passengers a hurried meal. Dining cars eliminated this inconvenience. Pullman's first rail diner, The Delmonico (named after a famed New York City restaurant) featured an eight-foot square kitchen, two cooks and four waiters. As many as 48 passengers could eat at one time and they were able to choose from more than 80 dishes. The genteel elegance of the train's seating was equally in force here with fine china, silverware and crystal.

Another Pullman speciality was the parlour car. There, for an extra fee, travellers could relax in impeccably upholstered armchairs that swivelled to permit easy viewing of the passing scenery through the extra-wide windows. But perhaps the ultimate in Pullman rail extravagance was the very exclusive "private car". For those who could afford it and who preferred to not rub shoulders with the general travellers, this offered total privacy in lavish ease. Equipped with several "bedrooms", a central parlour/dining room and kitchen, the ceilings were painted by Italian artists, the lamps and fittings were gold-plated, and the service standards were second to none.



## *Antipodean Beginnings*

BY KERRY BAKER  
BRISBANE – AUSTRALIA

In 1896, cosmetics giant Helena Rubenstein, at age 24, emigrated from Poland to Australia with little money and less English. This enterprising achiever, while waitressing at a fashionable tearoom in Melbourne, found an affluent admirer who was prepared to back her dreams of marketing beauty creams. Her debut product was a face cream titled “Crème Valaze”. It cost her around ten pence to manufacture and sold for six shillings a jar. It proved hugely popular and she was soon able to open a salon. Sydney was the next metropolis to fall under the Rubenstein spell and another store was launched there. In 1908, with her sister Ceska at the helm of the Melbourne shop, the profits from her Australian businesses were sufficient to open an establishment in London, the Salon de Beauté Valaze.

She also married in London that year and in 1912 she and husband Edward Titus moved to Paris where she again opened a signature beauty store. The advent of World War One saw them move to New York City where, in 1915, she opened a cosmetics salon that was to lead to a veritable chain throughout the United States.

But she did not have it all her own way in the expansion of the beauty dream. Elizabeth Arden was also a canny businesswoman who knew the value of luxurious packaging, celebrity endorsements, and the introduction of a form of pseudoscience with cosmetics. The women remained rivals for most of their working lives.

By the mid-1930s Rubenstein’s empire was formidable and her connections impressive. When she set up her famous spa on Fifth Avenue, Joan Miró assisted with the decoration. Salvador Dalí, as well as doing her portrait, also designed a powder compact. From humble beginnings selling face creams, by 1937 the full line of Rubenstein beauty products used lanolin suffused with lavender, water lilies and pine bark.



## *Photography And Art*

BY KERRY BAKER  
BRISBANE – AUSTRALIA

Arthur Fellig, aka Weegee, was a gifted photojournalist noted for his black and white street photography in New York City. The stark photographs of street people and crime scenes were perfect fodder for the tabloids and photographic agencies, and before long Weegee was being published in the New York Post, Daily News, New York Journal American, Herald Tribune, Sun and numerous others.

His first book of photographs, “Naked City”, inspired the 1948 film and its successor television series of 1958, both titled “The Naked City”. So understandably Hollywood came calling. From the late 1940s to the mid-1960s he worked in the film industry, collaborating with such directors as Jack Donohoe and Stanley Kubrick. In 1945, Alfred Hitchcock, a great admirer of Salvador Dali, was working on “Spellbound”. When it came to devising the dream sequence for the film, Hitchcock imported Dali. Although he was concerned about the expense, Hitchcock persuaded him and work began. The extraordinary and elaborate scene ran for twenty minutes when shot but ended up as a mere two in the film. Despite this, and as an affirmation of the talent of those involved, “Spellbound” was the only Best Picture Oscar nominee that year to also be nominated for Best Special Effects.

Although possessed of utterly disparate personality types, a loose friendship formed between Weegee and Dali, and around 1950, Weegee took a series of surrealist/absurdist photographs of Dali, some of which carried an almost funhouse aspect such as this distorted shot.

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## *The Claude I. Taylor, O.C. Tribute Award*

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

Claude I. Taylor, O.C., the renowned Air Canada Icon had a dream of acknowledging people who embraced a need. He had a deep appreciation and a considerable admiration for his recipients and their philanthropic works that spanned the essence of his dream.

With profound pride, in this, our World Luxury Issue 2019, it

is JO LEE Magazine's Distinct privilege to announce Claude Taylor's Honored Recipients. Jason Chipman Howlett, Dr. Margaret R. O'Keeffe Umanzio and John Wildman.

Claude Taylor's belief in goodness was all encompassing. To say he was a "White Knight", as he was referred to by international colleagues,

humbled him. But he was a "White Knight" and in their own right, so too are Jason Chipman Howlett, Dr. Margaret R. O'Keeffe Umanzio and John Wildman!

"Foresight requires a curiosity as deep as it is boundless... The will to dream bigger and beyond."

Claude I. Taylor, O.C.



# *The Claude J. Taylor, O.C. Tribute Award The Honorable Judith M. Bahemuka, PhD*

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I stand for common humanity, a shared vision of a protected mother earth which is our heritage.

I believe that we must fight poverty to the bitter end.

I believe every person is gifted with special talents. Opportunities must be given for each one to excel.

We see why Claude so admired her!

Judith Mbula Bahemuka, a sociologist educated in Kenya and internationally, has worked at the University of Nairobi for over 40 years as a lecturer and administrator.

Judith has been a member of the UNESCO Executive Board, and the UNESCO/UNITWIN Chair holder at the University of Nairobi since 1998.

She founded the International Learning Centre with support

from The Andrew Mellon Foundation, appointed by the Kenya Government as the Kenya Ambassador to the United Nations, appointed Kenya High Commissioner to Canada, Ambassador to Cuba eventually returning to academia at the University of Nairobi.

Her research interests are in rural development with a special focus on women, youth and marginalized communities. Her current work is on Construction of Knowledge Societies for Wealth Creation with particular interest on governance, leadership, and poverty reduction. Judith has a special passion for youth and has mentored and worked with youth groups for many years. Currently she serves as the Chancellor of The University of Eldoret in Kenya.



## *The Claude J. Taylor, O.C. Tribute Award Ray Scotty Morris*

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Ray Scotty Morris is an internationally renowned photojournalist and successful San Francisco society photographer. He has won 30 photo awards in just 10 years – local, state and national, including best news picture of the year. Scotty has received a Certificate of Commendation from the U.S. Senate along with the distinct honor of being written into the 107th U.S. Congressional Record.

To name but a few could be next to impossible. Royalty,

major stars, every US President from Harry Truman to Barack Obama. You name it. Among Claude's most revered of Scotty's photography were those of Sophia Loren and The RMS Queen Mary 2 arriving in San Francisco under the Golden Gate Bridge.



## *The Claude J. Taylor, O.C. Tribute Award Bette Laderoute Sampson*

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

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Bette Laderoute Sampson's early life in Canada's Ottawa Valley and her continuing education in a major downtown Toronto hospital, and a first-rate university provided her with common sense, an income, and a first-class education while she pursued employment in a field she loved: words and how to use them.

Bette's career in wordsmithing began at a daily newspaper in Toronto as a book reviewer and the literary editor's right hand. From there she joined two friends to establish "That's Showbusiness", a trade paper for Canadian entertainment news. Eventually Bette became its editor and publisher but, like

similar publications, it failed to attract enough advertising to keep it afloat. However, that experience and a useful Rolodex helped her find work writing, editing, marketing, or public relations with such organizations as TVOntario, Rogers Cable TV, Maclean's, University of Calgary, enRoute Magazine, and CTV at the 1988 Calgary Winter Olympic Games.

And it was back in 1988 that Claude discovered Bette and was not about to let her escape before bringing her into Jo Lee's charity and subsequently on to JO LEE Magazine as Special Assignment Chief – a total of 32 grand voluntary years!

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## *The Claude J. Taylor, O.C. Tribute Award Scroll of Honor*

BY JO LEE MAGAZINE

NEW YORK / SAN FRANCISCO / HONG KONG / LONDON / TOKYO / ROME / TORONTO

2020

Bette Laderoute Sampson — Special Assignment Chief JO LEE Magazine

The Honorable Judith M. Bahemuka — Chancellor The University of Eldoret, Kenya

Ray Scotty Morris — Internationally Renowned Photojournalist

2019

Jason Chipman Howlett — Entrepreneur

Dr. Margaret R. O’Keeffe Umanzio — Corporate CEO Advisor

John Wildman — Heinz USA Divisional CEO, Retired

2018

John Black — COO JO LEE Magazine

Lois M. Gordon — Entrepreneur

David Smith, O.C. — Humanitarian

2017

Ann Graham Calderisi — Philanthropist

Thomas A. McKee — International Law

Nino A. Mascioli — Humanitarian

2016

Stanley J. Dorst — Global Land Development Chairman

H. Gail Regan — Vice Chair CARA

Thomas J. Smyth — Chairman/CEO Heinz Canada, Retired

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that every heart speaks.



Friends have  
all things in common.

Family is the link to our past  
and a bridge to our future.





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