

LIVING *Sims*

The Sims Magazine for more style

INTERVIEW:

LS Contest
Winner Lhonna

**Costa Rican
Jungle Paradise**

New China

FINDS...

Hot & New

Something Amazing

Grab that Style:
Around the World

CHALLENGE FEATURES:

Put the tip to use:
Outdoor Spaces

One bed, infinite
possibilities

Great Escapes



Blue Like
Nevermind

Lemon Jelly

Nursery Prints
...and much more

Editorial

The days are getting shorter and the nights a bit cooler. Students are back at school, and that long summer holiday is now a fading memory. But we're not ready to let you get all serious just yet. We want to keep you in that holiday frame-of-mind, and we've decided to take you on a trip around the world!

So pack your pretend suitcases, grab that pretend passport and come on a journey with us. You will be inspired by Chen Wei, a young Chinese girl, who inherited her grandmother's house and made it over. If escaping to a warm tropical climate is what gets you all hot and bothered, we've got that covered for you as well.

We have some amazing finds from around the world that will help to make your home a cultural showplace, and our designer tips are sure to inspire you to think outside the box. From interviews to challenge features to stories that will take you away from the harsh and cruel world, we are looking out for you, our precious readers.

We hope you enjoy this 24th issue of LivingSims Magazine. Each and every issue always comes straight from our hearts to yours.

We hope you enjoy the coming busy months and the magazine.



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NB all finds have a direct link to the website where you can download the object

2 Sims 2 related article
 3 Sims 3 related article

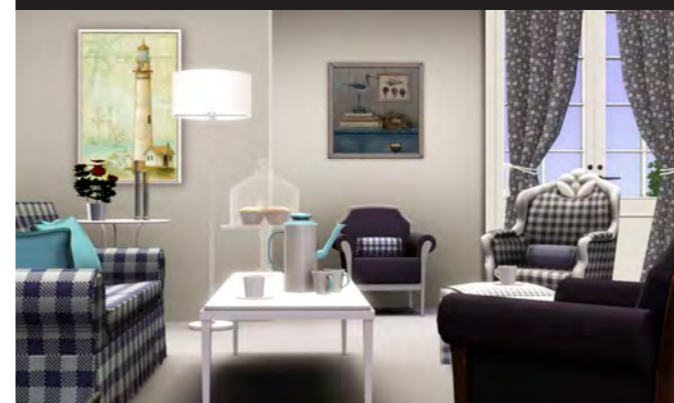
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Land of Woe
(August > Gothic
Furniture)

something
amazing

Photos by Deelightful



@ One More Sim



Exotic Elements



LilyOfTheValley @ TSR
*** pay item



B5 Studio



Camille's Blog



Around the Sims 3



Simcredible Designs

Alex Pilgrim
Sims 3 Blog



Luna Sims
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Awesims



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Buha Living Lamp
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Text by Velvet | Photos by KatCat

Sims 2 is better than ever and we have some hot new finds that are better yet! There's no need for you to surf through old links and S3 cluttered sites because the LS Staff has a selection of ultra goodie goods just for you. So let your finger do the clicking and keep S2 ticking!

Antique Clock
Nabila Ici @ MTS



Rocking Horse & Toys
AroundtheSims2



'Rough Draft' Desk
Pikkon @ BPS



Cluit Living
converted by Evanesco
@ GOS



House Numbers
iCad @ MTS



Eames Stool
Tokyo Cafe Laboratory



Reverso Key
Cassandre @ BPS



Bread Baskets
kativip @ GOS



Bed & Bath Set
Pikkon @ BPS





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Luna Sims
Furniture Import

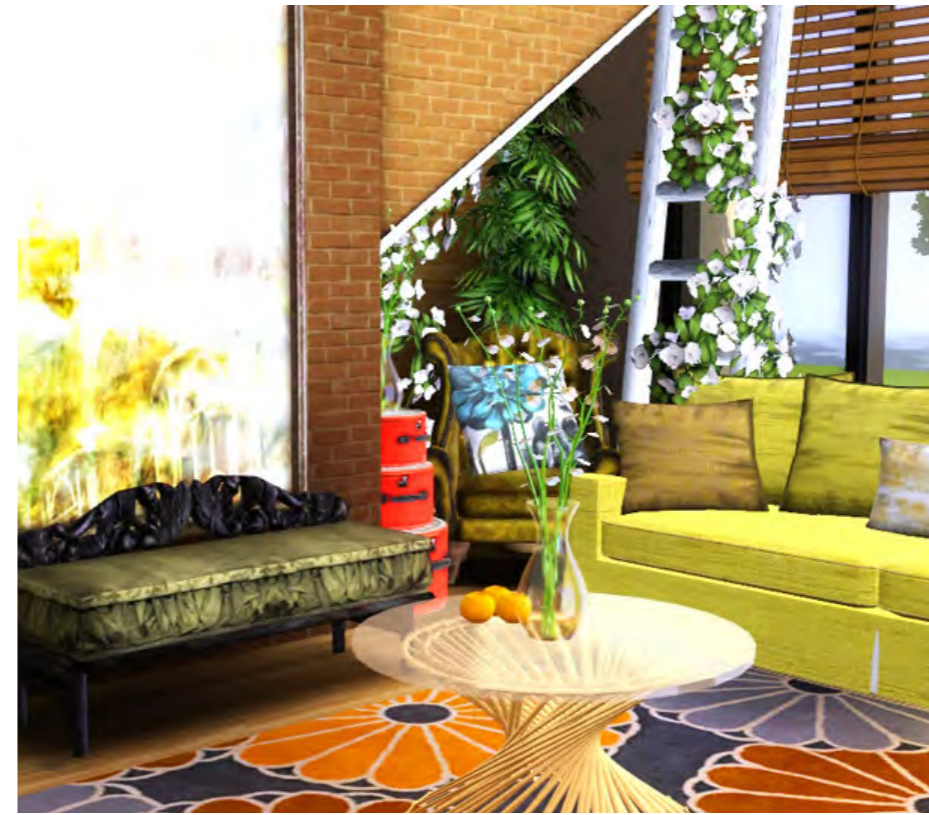
Designer Tips

Article by Ballarons, Eronoel & Velvet



Ballarose

Think outside the tile box; select tile patterns for areas other than the kitchen and bathroom. Apply some of the tile patterns to objects such as windows or door frames to give your room a unique look.



Butterfly

Use a mix and match style to get the look of the Mediterranean; the use of old and new together makes for a space filled with character.



Ankuuh

Adopt a Scandinavian Modern design by blending natural wood elements together. Be careful to maintain a balance between the different natural elements you decide to use.

Simsfvr

Use contrasting colors to break out of the same color blahs. Mix red terracotta tiles with green or blue touches to balance out warm and cool colors to make your kitchen pop.



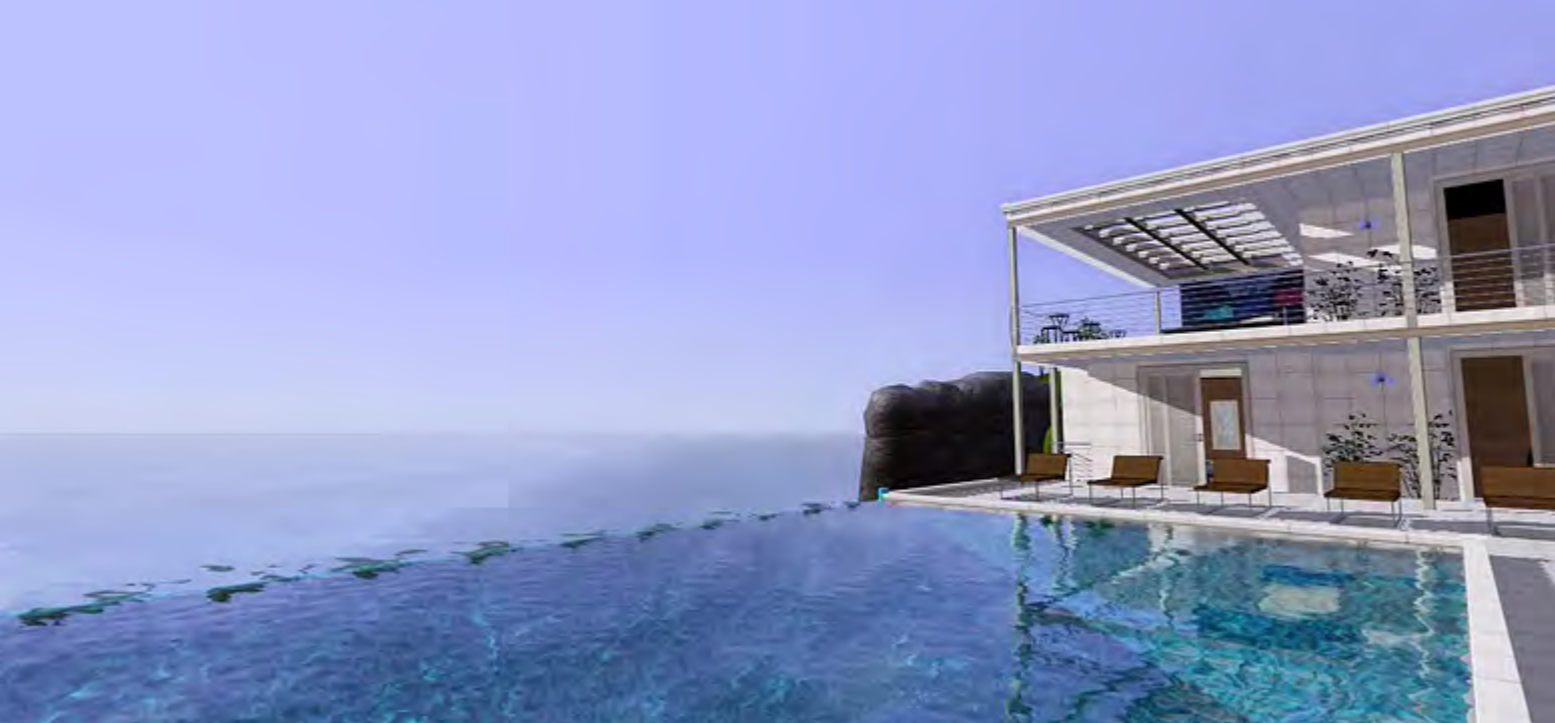
Zhanna

Decorate with the Caribbean Design Style by merging an eclectic mix of Africa and Europe. It's almost impossible to go wrong because of the multi-colored possibilities which use white walls, wood floors, and brilliant accessories of red coral and green plants to make a statement.

WickedEdge

Create an international eclectic feel by combining items from various cultures together. Rather than worrying about trying to stick to one style, eclectic lets you embrace the diversity of the world through your décor.





Bschh

Embrace the high affluence of southern California by building your sims an infinity pool. Use the constrainFloorElevation cheat to create an infinity pool for your sims by bringing the sea and pool together. Tutorial can be found here.

Ninja Unicorn

Use exposed brick and stone to add textures to your room. Old crumbling brick and stone can give your home old world charm.

EvaVonAsch

Open walls that allow the breeze to waft through your rooms are perfect for those living in tropical environments. Having an open or semi-open wall means you are part of the view not just looking at it.





Zveki

Think of hallways as quick snap shots; they're like first impressions, they last a life time. Make open spaces appear insular and warm by marrying crisp white to warm tones of brown and 'covering' them with a daring black ceiling.

Tanpeaches

Use dark woods and warm colors to evoke the feeling of old world Spain. Rich fabrics, exposed brick and high end furniture capture the spirit of 1700's Spain.



Around the Sims 3



Where Real Life Meets the Sims!

Anke and Balla on Assignment:

Article by:Ballarose
Photographs by:Ankuuh

Glamming it up in New York.



Hi Ladies, I just got you one juicy assignment! You are heading to New York. The fashion house, House of Simore, has just opened up a branch there and LivingSims has been invited to the open house. Pack your best designer clothes because you will be rubbing elbows with some of the best designers in the world. Make me proud ladies. I'm counting on you to get the scoop. Your flight leaves tonight at 8:00.

Matthekat, Editor-in-Chief



After reading the e-mail out loud, Anke snapped the laptop shut, looked over at Balla and burst out laughing. Enjoying a rare Sunday off, and with no plans, the girls were having an at-home spa day and were as far removed from fashion-ista glamour girls as you could possibly get. Dressed in ratty old sweats, Anke's head was wrapped in a plastic grocery bag to process the hair straightener she had applied. Balla was sitting on the floor with her head tilted back on the couch to keep the avocado facial from dripping down her face.

"I'm not sure what's funnier; getting that e-mail right at this opportune moment or the fact that Mac thinks we can afford designer clothes on our salary." Anke adjusted the grocery bag on her head,

"Ugh...I hope we don't have to interview models...I hate models. All those skinny girls with their fat, pouty lips; I always want to shove a cheeseburger down their throats." Balla grabbed some Kleenex and began to wipe the avocado off her face, "We better get moving. We've got a flight to catch."





After an uneventful flight the girls checked into their hotel, dropped off their bags and headed over to House of Simore. They were greeted by Mishu, a fashion student interning at House of Simore.

"Follow me," she snipped. Balla and Anke exchanged glances and obeyed. Misha's heels clicked loudly on the glossy floors as she led them through a set of red double doors.

Inside the doors were racks of yummy clothing and reams of luxurious fabrics. "This is the heart of House of Simore. This is where Madame More creates all her unique designs. Very few people are allowed in here but I was given instructions." Misha's voice sounded somewhat perturbed, as though the girls were going to leave ugly off-the-rack cooties on the clothes and fabrics. The walls were a slate grey and the black floors were finished with a high gloss giving this industrial-like space a chic and elegant look. Pops of red were added with furnishings and décor, giving the space a splash of drama.

Anke headed over to a work table, picked up a sketch book and began to flip through the pages. Misha flew across the room and grabbed it out of her hands, "This is not yet ready for public consumption. Madame would have my head if she knew you saw this." Misha scurried off with the sketch book, clickety-clicking across the floor.

"Who knew skinny-little-mouse girl could move like that," Balla whispered in Anke's ear. Anke suppressed a giggle.

"Follow me," Misha hissed. "We are having a fashion shoot with Madam's fall line which I'm sure you will find very interesting."

The photographer and models had not yet arrived so there was plenty of time to take in the surroundings. The slate grey and high gloss continued in the photography studio. Furnishings were sparse here. There was a make-up station and a place where the models could discreetly change behind a screen.

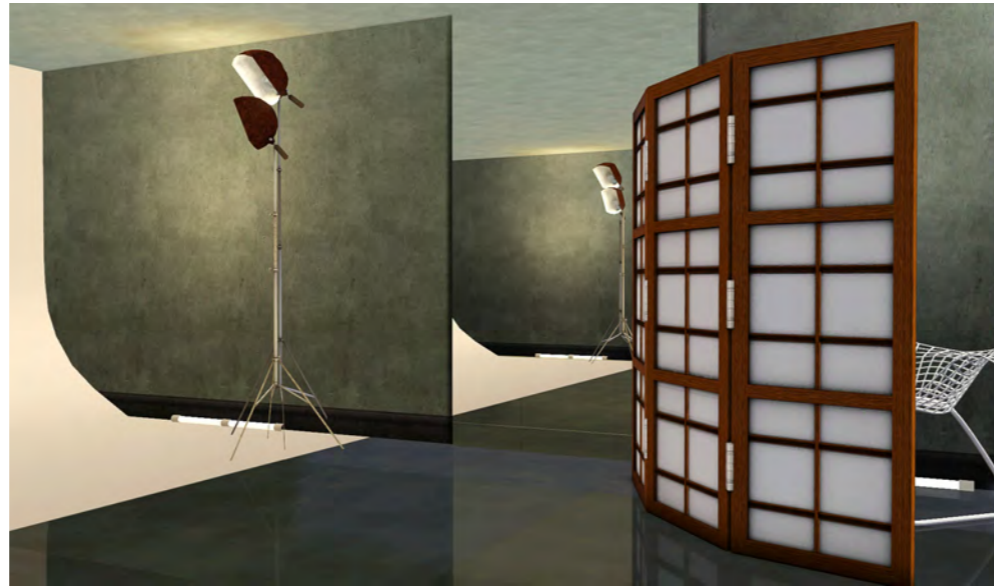
Misha explained that the room was kept minimalistic in order to eliminate any distractions so that the models would focus only on the photographer.

Just then there was the sound of more clickety-clicking as two pencil-thin models sashayed into the studio. The next two hours were spent watching the models twist and pout while crappy techno music blared in the background. They barely acknowledged Anke and Balla until the photographer invited the girls to be a part of the photo shoot. That's when everything started to go to hell in a hand basket. The girls quickly realized they were not cut out for twisting and pouting and did what they do best which is turn the whole thing into a puddle of silliness.

The official opening of the House of Simore that evening was a huge success. Anke and Balla received the star treatment and were given makeovers for the opening night and even managed to get some serious pout on for some photo shoots of the event. When the final guest left and only the models and staff remained Anke and Balla said their goodbyes.

As they were exiting the building a delivery truck pulled up. The sign on the side read "Chuckey's Cheeseburger Heaven."

"Balla, you didn't!" It was a statement rather than a question. Anke knew her friend Balla all too well and the expression on Balla's face said it all.



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Ask Bella

Article & Photographs Velvet & Protectron

Bella is our resident design expert. She answers questions from our readers about difficult spaces.

Questions for Bella are often about rooms where emotions are involved in the design process. With her in-depth answers she makes over the rooms from top to bottom.

If you are having a design or building dilemma then you have come to the right place. Fire away and look for your answer in upcoming issues of LivingSims.





Dear Bella,
My husband and I have been living the simple life for as long as we've been together. We're absolutely not rich and don't have money for extras. Our daughter Alison has slept in the same bedroom for over 15 years - since she was just a toddler (God, I'm getting old!). Her room is so out-dated, and it just breaks my heart to see her going up the stairs every day to her room to do her homework without a complaint. She is now 17, and my husband Richard just received an amazing raise. I would like to completely renovate Alison's room from top to bottom as a surprise while she is on vacation with her boyfriend, but I have no idea how!

Alison loves photography, as I'm sure you'll notice from the photos enclosed, and books are her absolute passion. A large bookcase is definitely a must here! She loves very comfortable furnishings and warm and dark colors and materials.

Could you please help me?

Helpful Mom



Before: The room was messy, cold and outdated. There was a desperate need of organization and storage space.

Dear Helpful Mom,

First let me congratulate you on your husband's raise! It was beneficial timing to say the least, and more money will afford you the leeway to decorate your daughter's outdated room in style. So let's get started!

I must say that I was left dumbfounded after having counted eight ceiling lamps of varying shapes, sizes and designs in the photos you sent. This is enough to drive your electric bill sky high and pull the ceiling down on top of your daughter's head! They have to go right away. One atmospheric light is more than enough for any room. You may, of course, add task lighting by way of bedside or desk top lamps, but to add more than that may be too much. Luminaries

can set the atmosphere of a room and provide the dual purpose of decorating a space, so be sure to choose wisely and keep your daughter's tastes in mind. There are a vast number of online companies that specialize in light fixtures for all walks of life, and of course you can never go wrong with the everyday swap-meet or consignment shop.

It is indeed evident that your daughter has a gift for photography and a love of books. Why not combine the two, and use her love for books as a way to create a theme for her room? It's easy enough to have a distinct space that's devoted to her photography and another that's devoted to her love for the literary world. You can even use the combined theme of her hobbies as a way



“Warm tones like red, brown and gold or yellow are very popular in today’s more attractive palettes,”



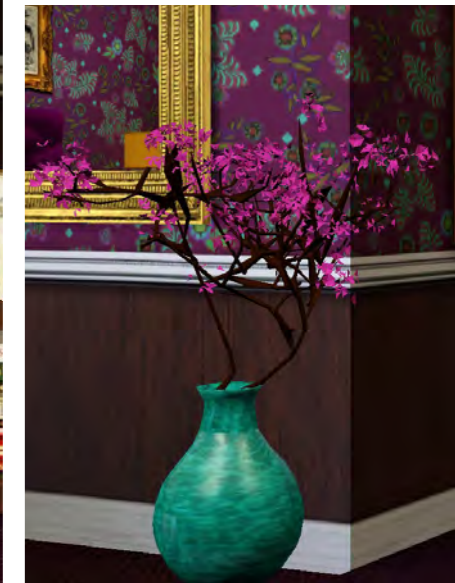
to choose décor pieces. You may, for instance, choose a favorite book she may have loved as a child or discovered as a young adult and use that as a starting point. Framed text is modern and far more stylish than a wall littered with string wires displaying varied snapshots. This is not to say that you should hide your daughter’s work. However, a more orderly presentation is preferable and will work to exhibit her art in a better light.

As for the color scheme, it would be irresponsible of me to suggest specific colors without having met your daughter; however, I can propose some colors that would best accomplish the desired “warmth” your daughter prefers. Warm tones like red, brown and gold or yellow are very popular in today’s more attractive palettes, and there are various ways for you to implement them or introduce them into a color palette using your daughter’s favorite color(s).

Comfort seating is also in order for this space. You have some lovely, tall windows that are not being put to good use. What’s better than lounging on a nice sofa on a beautiful day and reading a good book or simply enjoying the view your windows offer? I suggest a nice window bench or settee. It would make a great place to sit and relax, chat with friends or read a good book. Placing it beneath or near the windows would also give your daughter more room to maneuver.

Your desire to give your daughter the gift of a newly styled room is wonderful and very helpful. Just remember to give her favorite colors and her hobbies center stage and provide her with plenty of built-in shelving (which is far better than an old-timey, standalone bookshelf) for her books, and you can’t fail. You may even get the award for best mother of the year!

Best Wishes, *Pella*





Every kitchen has its own past/

/serene

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Ask Handy Andy

Article by: LemonJelly
Photographs by: Deelightful

Dear Andy,

Our dear folk in Barnacle Bay have been using the same old gym for over 50 years! As a token of our gratitude for their overwhelming support in our latest campaign, we would like to renovate that old gym and give them something new and modern - something worthy! The thing is that we don't know where to start as it has a lot of work that needs to be done... We would appreciate your help.

Sincerely,
The Town Mayor

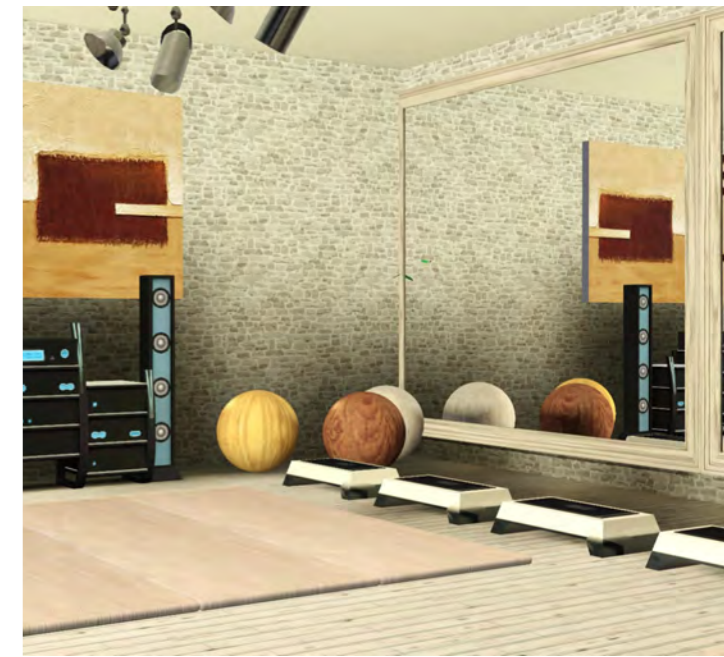


Dear Town Mayor,

I have recently visited your gym and I must agree that it would be an excellent idea to renovate it. The gym already has lots of great features that you could emphasize. For example, what Sim wouldn't enjoy that view whilst on a treadmill? I think there is a lot you could do without breaking your budget. Removing that stripy wallpaper to expose the original stone work and lighten it up by painting some of the walls cream. Additionally you could move around some of the partitioning walls to maximize your space and create a yoga and aerobics room which is very popular at the moment. Don't forget to add a space for relaxing in-between workouts which is both

comfy and functional. Lastly, I would recommend removing the tiles and carpets, I'm sure there is a fantastic wooden floor underneath there.

Good luck,
Andy



Hi Andy,

You've got to help me! My husband and I moved into a new house last year. The house is from the 70's and we planned to renovate it right away. However my husband fell off a ladder and broke his leg and we had to postpone our plans. Over the winter we noticed that all the windows need changing. They are so draughty that I can't have candles lit near them and it is totally ruining our romantic evenings. To make matters worse, the façade of the house is a total mess due to the ten renovation projects that previous owners have started. I am at my wit's end here. Please help me plan the big renovation project!

Frustrated Wife



Dear Frustrated Wife,

I am very interested in the shape of your home, it's very original. However, I agree that those windows have got to go. I recommend removing the exterior siding that has been stuck to your home and see what you find underneath; you might be pleasantly surprised. I think adding some large, white windows would not only brighten up the exterior but also allow lots of light to filter into your home. After all of that is complete you must light some candles and enjoy your romantic evenings together.

Hope that helps,

Andy





Tip:

My wife Tessa loves to collect things. Any time we visit anywhere new she always heads straight to the nearest consignment store to bag herself a bargain. The downside of this is there is nowhere in our home for her to display her treasures. After a lot of head scratching I came up with the idea of shelving under the stairs. The perfect use of space and I am no longer tripping over music boxes!



An advertisement for Simply Natural cake and muffin mix. It features a woman in a red dress and a child in a plaid shirt standing by a large wooden louvered door. In the foreground, there are several red apples, a carton of milk, a wooden bowl, and a box of Simply Natural cake and muffin mix. The text "Simply Natural" is written in a large, elegant script, with "Simply" and "Natural" stacked. Below it, in a smaller font, is "| CAKE AND MUFFIN MIX | FROM OUR FAMILY TO yours." The word "yours" is in a red, cursive font.

Small enough for city life,
big enough for life's adventures



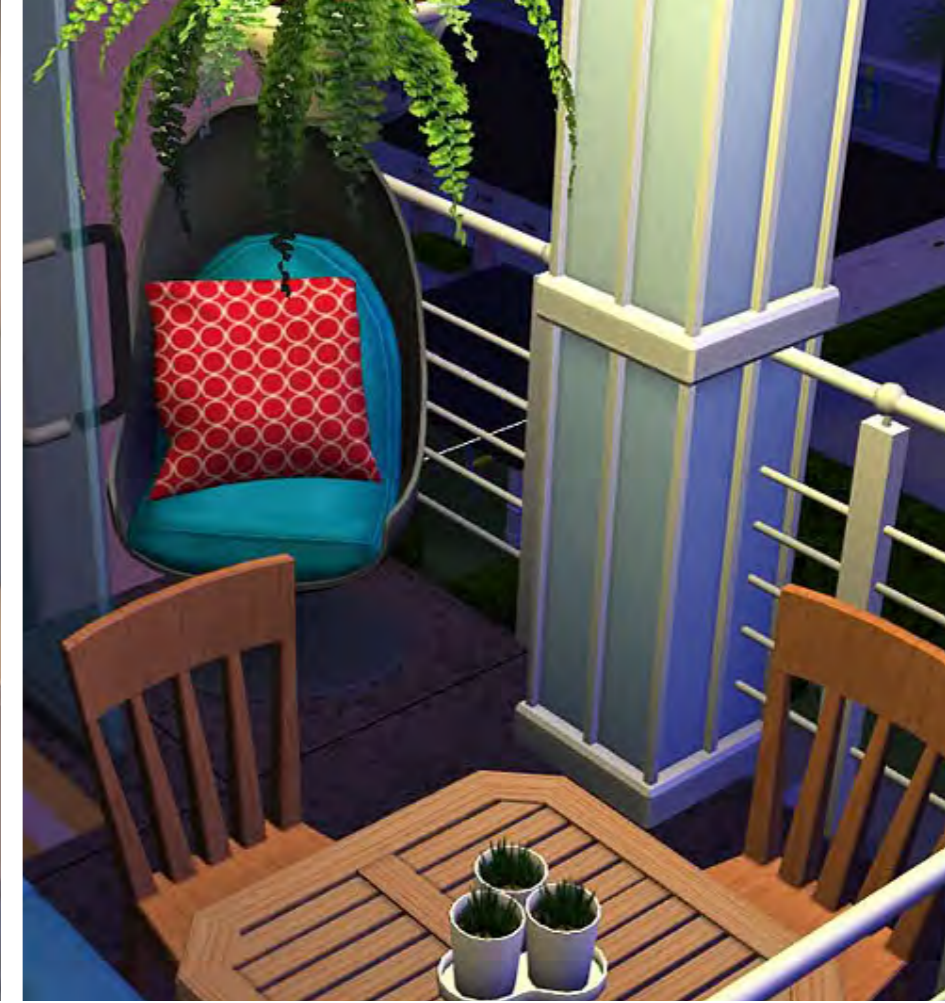
THE KENSPa

taking you places

Putting the Tip to Use:
**Making the
OUTDOORS
Work for You**

Last month LivingSims members were invited to “put the tip to use” in regards to outside places. Whether it was a porch on a high rise in Bridgeport or a patio in Sunset Valley, the results for the challenge were beautiful, creative, and fun. Here are some highlights to inspire your own outdoor space.

Article by: Eronoel
Photographs by: admiralapple, Lylim, Meghanmason,
Protectron, Saprophyte, Scarletkabby



Tip 1

Add seating

By just adding some seating options, your porch becomes the perfect place to entertain and relax. Try adding different types of furniture like seats, swings and lounge chairs. While you shouldn't feel beholden to one type of seating, just be sure that whatever you use outside can stand the elements or is properly protected.

Scarletkabby shows that even the smallest porches have possibilities. With a large sofa and extra seating, Scarletkabby makes a small city porch the perfect place for hanging out with friends.



Tip 2

Bring the inside out

Engage your imagination. Include things that might not normally be in an outdoor living space like curtains, paintings, books and other accessories that are thought to be “indoor.” There is no reason why you can’t enjoy some of your favorite pastimes in the fresh air.

Protectron’s porch is a perfect example of what you can do with your porch if you just let your imagination run wild. With musical instruments, books and globes, the balcony provides a great view and fresh air for those Sims who want to bring the inside out.



Tip 3

Decorate for all times of day

Make your porch or patio a place to enjoy twenty-four hours a day. Place lights with night in mind. Use candles and lights to make your outdoor living space a place to relax any time of day.

With a roaring fire pit and large floor lights, Lylim6 makes this patio a fun place to be, both night and day. Not only does the fire pit provide light, it will also help keep the chill away in those colder months.



Tip 4

Use plants as decoration

Add some organic green to your space with plants in pots, ivy climbing up walls and hanging plants. An assortment of plants can also help blend your patio into your larger garden.

Meghanmason's patio is a great example of how plants can add to the theme of a place. In this case, Meghanmason has used palms and bamboo to create a tropical feel. Not only does the patio feel lush and vibrant, it transports you to the tropics.





Tip 5

Make it shady

Add pergolas, umbrellas, shades and lattice work to keep your outdoor living space shady in the hot summer. Not only can pergolas and umbrellas add style, they help keep your space comfortable during the day.

Saprophyte creates a summer refuge by making her outside haven under a large pergola with curtains. The shade makes this space the perfect place to hang out during the summer months when you want to stay outside but not get too hot.

Tip 6

Think about food and drinks

On larger outdoor living spaces add an outdoor kitchen, a barbeque, or a bar and tables to make an outdoor dining area. Porches, patios and balconies are great places to entertain, just make sure you have enough seating, a bar or a grill.

Admiralapple's penthouse porch is ready for parties with a long bar with seats. The porch provides the perfect place for your Sims to sip cocktails on warm summer nights.





bb *Studio*

Where a picture is worth more
than a thousand words

Halliwell Manor: A Charming Encounter

The rumors were rampant. It was haunted. It was evil. It was possessed. It was built on an ancient burial ground. Witches lived there, and they dined on small children and pets. So why, in the name of all things sacred and good, was I told that I had to go and interview the occupants of Halliwell Manor? I decided that I best be well informed before I embarked on this task, and what my research told me was very interesting....and very eerie.

Article by: Ballarose

Originally built in 1898, it is said that the house sits at the center of five life elements (earth, fire, wood, water and metal) makes it a spiritual nexus. The Halliwell family has owned the house for four generations. Today, the house is occupied by the Halliwell sisters Piper, Phoebe and Paige. My research also told me there was a fourth sister, Prue, who had died although the circumstances surrounding her death were vague.

On my way to the interview, I had visions of a crumbling house surrounded by gnarly dead trees and rotting gardens. Imagine my surprise when I pulled up to a lovely Victorian, reminiscent of the dollhouse I owned as a child. Still, I was not going to be lulled into a false sense of security and let my guard down. Nope...this girl was not going to end up a toad or something equally nasty. I took a deep breath and headed up the front walk of the house.





Before I even had a chance to knock, the door swung open, and I was greeted by a slight young woman, her hair cropped in a neat little pixie cut.

"Let's settle in the sitting room for a bit. My sisters will be down in a few minutes."

I was surprised by the formality of the sitting room, and Phoebe explained that they had tried as much as possible to stay true to the history of the home.

"People are always surprised when they come here," she said. "Piper, my sister, owns one of the hottest clubs around, P3, so they expect us to have this modern, sleeked out home. But that's just not us; we are very much intertwined with our heritage."

The sitting room was lovely and soothing. Creams and a soft sage green made it cool and refreshing. The faded wallpaper only added character to the room. A couch layered with pillows invited you to sink back and relax. An antique writing desk made of warm cherry wood contrasted nicely with the cream and fit perfectly with the rest of the décor. "It's been in this house for four generations,"

Phoebe said proudly. "I often sit at it and visualize my ancestors doing the same."

The sound of footsteps interrupted this moment of nostalgia as two gorgeous young women entered the room. Phoebe introduced her sisters, Piper and Paige. I made a comment about their names all starting with the letter 'P', and Piper explained that it is a Halliwell tradition which is also why her club is called P3. I made a mental note to touch base with Piper later about possibly doing an article on P3.

"Come," said Paige, "Let's begin the grand tour."

To the left of the living room was an entryway in to a solarium. The décor of cream and sage continued here. Oversized plants, wicker furniture pieces and a wrought iron dining table connected you to the outdoors and made you feel as though you were sitting in the garden.

We continued on upstairs where each of the girls had their own bedrooms. By now I was getting a pretty good sense of the girls' personalities, so I was curious to see how this would translate into their own private living spaces.



Piper was the serious one, and her room reflected this. The pillows on the bed were lined up in military precision. Family photographs graced the walls. Piper explained that she took on the responsibility of keeping the family history alive and that the photographs of her ancestors remind and motivate her daily to keep up with this important task.

Paige's bedroom oozed femininity and romance and was the essence of Paige. It was all about lace, floral and scented candles. She explained that she only recently found her half-sisters, and she only agreed to move in if she could have a space that was just for her. "I am still working on developing my connection with this house," she told me.

Phoebe's room was next, and when I entered I had to suppress a gasp. Up until now there was no indication that any of the rumors surrounding this house and its inhabitants were true. Yet there, right before my eyes, lay a plethora of evidence that perhaps there may be some

truth to them. The room was an exercise in confusion. On the one hand, it was a room that was obviously occupied by a fashion conscious and trendy young woman; on the other-hand, odd touches of the bizarre clearly showed another side of her.

"I have come to embrace and even cherish who and what I am," she told me. The sisters exchanged the briefest of glances. And there it finally was - the elephant in the room had been outed.

We finished our tour of the house in the kitchen, which was surprisingly small compared to the grandiosity of the rest of the house. Bottles containing strange lumpy things sat out on the counter, and the pungent odor almost made me gag. My eyes rested on an old fashioned broom up against the wall, and I must have had a strange expression because the girls burst out laughing and assured me that it was not a mode of transportation.



As I was getting ready to leave, the girls told me there was one more thing they wanted to show me. They led me through a side door, and I found myself in a lovely English styled garden. Three statues loomed protectively over the garden.

"This is Prue's Memorial Garden," Piper said in a hushed voice. "When we need her strength this is where we come."

I told them that I knew of Prue's death but did not want to bring it up for fear of stirring up sad memories; yet here in the garden I did not feel sadness. Suddenly, a soft breeze stirred, and the girls smiled in unison. Words were not necessary.

I said my goodbyes; and, as I was leaving, Phoebe pulled me aside. "We will not be bothered if you want to refer to us as witches," she said. "For too long this community has been afraid of something they don't know anything about. We want to be part of this community so we're hoping this article will open the doors to that."



RESTAURANT DU VIEUX-PORT



Enjoy a deluxe breakfast
at the Champ-les-Sims
riverbanks...



Diabolical Details

We're all obsessed by the bigger image: getting the entire room in one shot, every part and every corner must be photographed and included in your oh so limited 10 pictures maximum post. It made me realize that we needed a challenge that focused on the small things, the closer looks, the close-ups and the details because that's where the Devil is. Getting closer to objects in real life can be even more interesting than desperately trying to catch the entire world in your camera's lens as that's where the beauty is in my opinion. This challenge forced its participants to take a step forward and take a closer look. This article will be about the beautiful and ugly aspects of getting closer in the world of the Sims.



Article by: *Protectron*

Photographs by: *ATS Sandy, Iylim6, Moxxa, Naitomea_Sims and Ninja Unicorn*



Step 1: Liberation

Probably the most important part of getting closer in the world of the Sims, is entering the liberating mode of the 'free camera'. By pressing 'Tab' on the left-hand of your keyboard, you will enter this state which will instantly give you a new form of freedom. When taking pictures, take some time to choose the right angle. It is better to have 30 pictures with one perfect shot in it than 5 with one mediocre one. Get low until it is as if you stare the objects directly in the face but try not to make a picture that looks down on the object. It looks bad when taking pictures of rooms but also when taking them of objects. A very interesting perspective is to look (a little) up to them, the so called 'frog-perspective'. Mess around with your camera, maybe you find an even more attractive perspective.



Step 2: Selection

When you take close-ups of objects in the real world, your camera view can get blurry. This is not the case in the Sims but there is another problem. Objects in the Sims often look great from a large distance, basically because that's all you need when playing the Sims. Though when getting closer and closer, you instantly notice that objects tend to get blurry, have sharp edges, the texts on them are unreadable, etc. When choosing your objects, try to be careful of their quality. A lot of beautiful and detailed stuff is out there but there's also some of less favourable quality. Of course, objects in the Sims are not even nearly the same as in real life so it can never be fully avoided but try to be careful. Another way of enhancing the objects is a beautiful program called Photoshop (similar software can also be used) which will make you able to bend reality into a far more perfect and beautiful state. Use this to your advantage.



Step 3: Placement

Placing objects is critical when taking photos in general but even more so when taking close-ups. Everything will be more visible and also bigger. First, when placing objects, try to not let them bleed through each other noticeably so hide it cleverly or avoid it. Secondly, pay attention to the position of your objects. Don't place small objects behind bigger ones if you want them to be visible and also try to arrange them in a realistic way. Small objects can be placed on small objects with the smart use of OMSPs. Another important thing when taking close-ups that involve any form of reflection both in mirrors and in shiny objects (such as wine glasses), is to pay attention to its reflection and see what's on the other side of the room. Is it in the same style? It's like opening a new dimension within your photo when using reflective objects. Make good use of it.



Step 4: CASTing

They are available in hundreds of colours, shapes, styles, types and layers both unalterable and alterable. I am of course talking about patterns; a godsend from EA Headquarters when the Sims 3 was released. When choosing patterns it is the same as with objects: pay attention to the quality from up close. It is also very important to make sure they fit seamlessly around an object so make sure they're mapped right and recolor nicely.



Step 5: Lighting

Oh so important is the use of light and hidden in the buydebug menu you will find the 'Area Lights' (i.e. Ceiling Area Light 1x1). These square light beams will allow you to control light and its whimsical side-effects. When placing light, it is very important to prevent the glare-effect you sometimes get when placing lights too close to objects. Though sometimes unavoidable, it can often be easily solved. A great way to do so is to change the light-colour to 'flame'. This warm glow will bathe your objects in a comfortable sun-like light and decrease glares. Another way of preventing over-lighted objects is by simply tuning down the amount of light by ctrl+shift clicking on the light fixtures. Play around with light but pay attention to the source, the amount, the shades and the colour.



Step 6: Realism

As mentioned earlier, you are able (and allowed in my challenge) to enhance the reality with Photo-editing software. This is a great way to make your pictures more realistic and extremely beautiful and it can also be used to change the focus or brush away imperfections. A great use of the Blur-tool is used in moxxa's pictures. She used it perfectly to give the idea of actually taking a photo with a camera. Go crazy with Photo editing software but always keep realism in mind. Diamonds are beautiful but don't have 3000 lens-flares if the sun lays it's radiant beams on it.



Step 7: Creativity

The possibilities are endless when it comes to choosing the place of your clutter-ridden and detailed location. Be creative! It can be literally anywhere in the world, anywhere in a house with or without function, broken or brand new, inside or outside, on the roof or in the basement.

Have fun when making detailed and realistic close-up shots in or around your sim's house. It can really be a challenge but you will surely create some eye candy!



One Bed ∞ Possibilities

Article by: LemonJelly

Photographs by: Moxxa, ATS Sandy, Sigmund and Lady_Christine

The challenge this month revolved around one bed with infinite possibilities. Beds are not only a place to sleep or relax - they can also be an important focal point in your bedroom. Whether you have

a sentimental attachment to your bed or simply cannot afford to replace it, we can show you ways of incorporating your bed into any décor.

One Bed infinite Possibilities • 78



Moxxa

eclectic

For an eclectic bedroom, don't forget that you can add cushions and a great throw. Adding a vintage chest at the end with all your favourite treasures gives the illusion of being an extension of the bed. Moxxa has chosen some thoughtful clutter to surround the bed and draw your eye creating the illusion that the bed really belongs here in this exact space.





ATS Sandy

African

For the African theme, Sandy has used animal prints around the bed, on pillows and even a rug. Staining the bedframe a dark wood tone brings this sleeping area right into the theme and makes the whole space work together. The additions of the leather chest and wooden mask are great details that become part of the focal point of the room.



Sigmund

Modern Scandinavian

What makes the bed work in Sigmund's Modern Scandinavian space is how it has been painted to match the rest of the furniture. The black against the white walls is very effective for this style. The duvet cover also picks up colours from the surrounding furniture and ties the whole room together.





Lady_Christine

French country

For a French Country or Victorian look, add some posts to the ends of your bed, cover them with some light fabric and you have an instant update on your old bed. Lady_Christine also matched colours from the bedding with the new fabric; and, in doing so, created the illusion that the bed has always looked this way.

3 Colors

Article & photographs by: LivingSims Staff

#82272E



#DFB43E



#EDECDF



Ballarose

1. Be brave and add a splash of drama to your home. The walls in this dining room were painted a deep red. A mango yellow was used as the accent color to brighten up the room and keep it from looking like a bordello.
2. The windows and trim were painted a cream color which added a modern flair to the room.





Ankuuh

1. When you decorate in 3 colors and can't make it look cohesive, choose a neutral color to combine them all together.
2. When you find decorating in primary colors hard and you can't get it right, try using patterns. They break a room and give it just that little bit extra.





Deelightful

1. By adding a deep red color to your walls, you can instantly bring a feeling of warmth and sophistication to your room.
2. Balance things out by using cream furniture and a few yellow accents to avoid the room getting too dark.





Esjai

1. Light colors can make a room feel bright and airy. This can be enhanced by using a dark color as an accent.
2. Use a pattern that has three or four channels and recolor using two colors. It can make a pattern look completely different.





EvaVonAsh

1. When using bold colors, accent with natural woods and stone to really make those colors pop.
2. Use stages in spaces you wouldn't normally put them. It can really add to a small space.





felikaish22

1. When it comes to color, most people think of painting the walls. But using color in accessories can be just as effective. It leaves an impression without being too bold.
2. Think of neutrals as peacemakers. They help other colors get along. In this sunroom, the white breaks up the gold and the red and stops them from being overpowering.





KatCat

1. Give dark walls some character by using a pattern and shading all colorable areas with the same color. This gives them a faux-finish or stenciled look.
2. When you have a 3-color decorating palette, use the brighter colors as decorative accents to draw the eye.





Kitkat

1. When planning a kitchen space, take a risk and splash a dramatic color on the walls.
2. The intensity of the wall color can be toned down with lighter shades on the cabinets and counters.





LemonJelly

1. To make your nursery seem more cosy, try using a plush carpet instead of a wooden floor.
2. Don't be afraid to use a bold pattern on your wall. It can really pack a punch.





Macthekat

1. Hot orange and red are very strong colours. When working with strong colours a white backdrop can balance space so they do not become too overwhelming. Natural materials also offset strong colours nicely.
2. You can get a very tropical effect in your room by using strong colours along with white walls, dark woods and green plants.
3. Do not be afraid to combine modern furniture with traditional furniture pieces; just make sure to have either mostly modern pieces or mostly traditional ones. Having one dominating the other will keep the room from being a mess and let the traditional pieces be a feature.





Rubika

1. Think of cream walls as a blank canvas ready for your creative touch. By adding fabrics and décor in rich reds and oranges, you can make the room come to life.
2. Don't forget those extra little touches like artwork and floral arrangements. These can really give your space that interior decorator magic.





Sebausten

1. To break the monotony of a stone wall, try using tiles. The yellow colour on them brightens this otherwise dark corners.
2. A Red and cream checkered pattern immediately adds a great country look, especially for curtains. Why not also use it on dinnerware?





Velvet

1. When using a select choice of colors, try varying them by using brighter tints or darker shades of the same hue. This helps to break the monotony and also helps your eyes to make a smooth transition from one space to another.
2. Symmetry is a good thing but learning how to bring balance to a space outside the box of twos and threes is even better. You can achieve balance by using color, shapes and implementing a theme of objects like plants, plates, baskets and so much more!



The Bella Goth Collection



contrasting **ELEMENTS**

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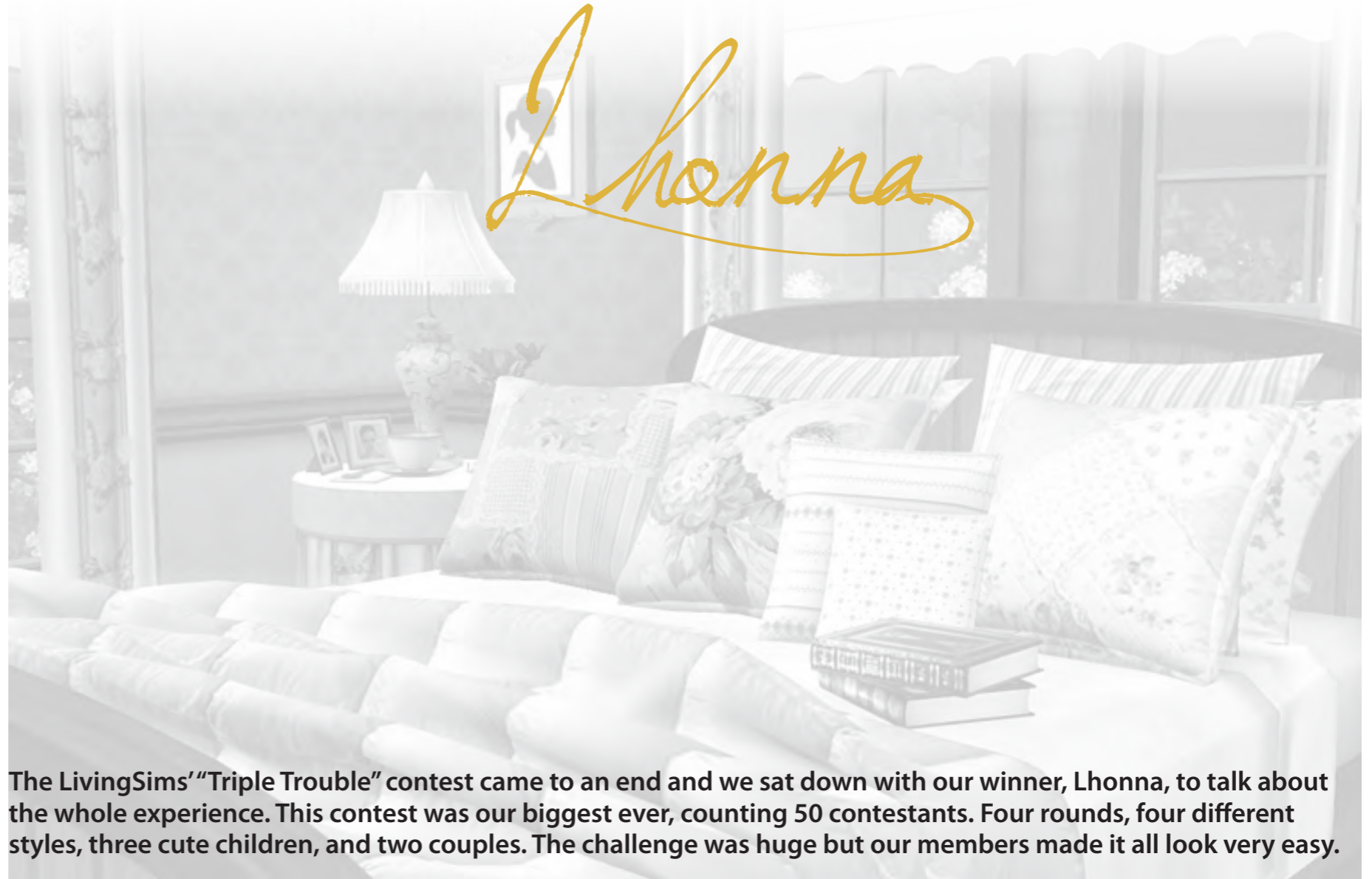


Q&A

with our latest contest winner

Article by: Moxxa | Photographs by: Lhonna

Lhonna



The LivingSims' "Triple Trouble" contest came to an end and we sat down with our winner, Lhonna, to talk about the whole experience. This contest was our biggest ever, counting 50 contestants. Four rounds, four different styles, three cute children, and two couples. The challenge was huge but our members made it all look very easy.



[round 1 - bedroom]

The grandparent's bedroom in English Country style was the ice-breaker. Beautiful dark wood combined with soft wallpaper made this room look very inviting. The curtains, wall art and strategically placed clutter were the things that we fell in love with. You could just smell the homemade cookies and tea.

Each and every entry from Lhonna was gorgeous - from the decorating, to the atmosphere, to the quality of the pictures which were so crisp and clean. She made it look so easy we wanted to know what the hardest part was for her.

The hardest part was to respond to the style that was established for each round. Before Triple Trouble, while playing Sims, I just followed my instinct and I was never building houses or decorating them in any concrete style. That is

why it was really a new experience for me, to capture the style and still follow the instinct.

Many of us got inspired by your pictures. Where did you find your inspiration?

I got my inspiration from pictures I found on the web. When the round rules were announced, I spent a few hours searching for example shots of each style. In general, I can be inspired by anything: the color of fresh grass or the sounds



[round 2 – living room]

Lhonna's entry for the Coastal living space made it look so easy. Colors were perfectly picked; strong blues and browns looked so yummy. All the pillows, the way the furniture was set and the sea-oriented clutter made this room a perfect place to spend quality family time.



of music. It is a very rare thing that I get inspiration from interior design magazines because I do not read them so often. In my life, I am more focused on web design trends which are connected with my job rather than interior design.

Next, we asked our champion to give our readers a couple of useful tips.

My first tip is to use CAS (Create-A-Style) as often as possible. A lot of objects and textures in the game seem to be dull on first view but sometimes it is just a matter of color or material; when you change one or both you can get something new and really cool. In my opinion, CAS is one of the greatest tools in Sims 3. With CAS you can customize almost everything in the Sims world and have furniture in any color you want it to have. I think I would not have stopped playing The Sims 2 if there were CAS.

My second tip is to use OSMPs (One More Slot Package). If you want to decorate a room to look realistic you should place extra clutter beyond the basic slots that are available on furniture and also place clutter on some things that do not have slots at all, for example, on top of a fridge or on a stove.

Tip number three is to always pay attention to the quality of the pictures you are taking. Even the best decorated space can look poor if pictures are taken with bad perspective or poor light. When I am taking my pictures, most often I add an extra wall or ceiling light from the buydebug catalogue, I also change its intensity or sometimes the color for better effects. On the LivingSims forum and in LivingSims Magazine you will find more tips about taking great photos in the game.



[round 3 - nursery]

Only one word came to our minds while looking at the Shabby Chic nursery – classy. The choice of furniture, wallpaper and rugs reflect the style so brilliantly but it's the little details that made this room so gorgeous- classy and beautiful.



What was the reason for entering this contest? Win? Experience? Challenge?

When I saw the contest rules I thought why not? I love building and decorating in the Sims and this contest was a great opportunity to try it myself.

What have you learned from Triple Trouble?

Before the contest, I played the game with just some store stuff. During the contest I tried to do something different and learned that there

is a whole world of beautiful custom content for the game.

Last question, but the most obvious one: would you enter a contest again?

It was really fun, so yes. Of course, if I have enough free time.



[round 4 – kitchen and dining]

This was a beautiful kitchen and dining area in Tuscany Country style. The atmosphere of the pictures was just stunning. Every little detail was just breathtaking. It's as if you walked through the front door and ended up in real life Tuscany. Bottles of wine, jars full of homemade jam, the cheese on the table waiting to be eaten – all of these added to the whole Tuscany feel. That is what a Tuscany kitchen looks like in our minds.



American Tale

Including Varnish, Paint and
Kitchen Archeology

article and photographs by Eronel



After living in Germany for two years I didn't know what to expect when I stepped off the airplane and back into my homeland, the United States of America. When my parents saw me, right after I passed customs, they hopped up and down and squeezed me as tight as they could, trying to make up for two years without their daughter.

Leaving Germany had been a lot of work, renting and leaving apartments is a very different process than in the United States. In the US the owner is responsible for the cleaning any necessary renovations, but in Berlin, our friends informed us, we were responsible for making our 100 year old apartment habitable for the future tenants. We whipped out the cleaning supplies and spent a week cleaning every nook and cranny and crossed our fingers that the owner wouldn't make us paint.

In the end our German apartment stayed paint-less, but our American house didn't share the same fate. After two years with a rough renter, our home, a tiny 1942 prairie style building, needed armfuls of tender loving care.

Since buying the house four years ago, we always had a list of projects that we wanted to get done but never had the opportunity to complete. This summer was the perfect time to start working on some of our long overdue projects since the house didn't have any furniture in it.

First, we needed new flooring. The carpets were stained and almost threadbare. I peeked under a corner of one slightly torn piece and below it was beautiful, untouched oak. My husband and I spent our first day pulling up old carpet and revealing the amazing beauty of 1940s oak flooring, which had never actually been used.





My husband rented a sander from our local home repair shop and started working on priming the wood floors for varnish. He worked on the main parts of the floor and I took my mouse sander into the corners to make sure all the wood matched. After we finished sanding, the floor was ready for varnish.

Staining the floors would take three days to soak and dry, and we didn't have that much time. We wanted to be able to finish the floor and move our furniture in later that week. Lucky for us, there was a quick drying clear varnish

that made the natural wood colors pop and it dried within a few hours.

While my husband was working on the floors, I poked my head into the master and guest bedroom. Both the rooms were painted with dark colors, which made the small rooms look tiny. The master bedroom had a great blue, but it was too dark so I chose a lighter color hue. After changing to a lighter hue, the bedroom felt relaxing and calm.



The guest room was brown, which was boring and bland. I picked out a bright sunny yellow to make the room, which doesn't get much sun, more sunny feeling. Because the brown was so dark, I had to do a base coat and then two coats of the yellow afterwards. Still, once the last coat of yellow was on the walls, the brightened space beamed. The once depressing space transformed into a cheerful oasis, with just three layers of paint.

My house has some original 1940s kitchen cabinets, and I decided to remove the previous owner's contact paper and put in some of my own. Peeling away one layer of contact paper with pink roses, I found another layer with blue flowers, and then hints of another with rose plaid. As I peeled off the last layers of contact paper, I noticed that the cabinet had also been previously painted at least two times, first with white, and then, the very under coat, was a bright fire engine red.

“I strained to imagine my kitchen cabinets painted red. Whoever did that, certainty had bold taste.”

I wasn't sure what to do with my cabinets, now that I had finished my kitchen archeology. I strained to imagine my kitchen cabinets painted red. Whoever did that, certainty had bold taste. After some discussion with my husband, we decided that painting the cabinets white would be the best solution. And so, I spent two days trying to re-cover that red, and then lined the cabinets with some plastic liner.

Five days later, after we got to our little white house with the gray roof, we had renovated its insides and were dead tired. My husband and I hobbled around grabbing some drinks and sitting on the stoop. I snuggled against him, in my paint stained clothing, and instead of cheering about what we had just finished, we started shaping new ideas about things to paint, places to tile and what color carpet to put in our basement. I knew right then that we hadn't finished our renovations, we had just started!



Curación Jardines: Paradise Found Article & photos by Ballarose

Somewhere deep in the jungles of the Osa Peninsula in Costa Rica you will find the ultra-exclusive and ultra-private Curación Jardines (Healing Gardens) Retreat. As a travel writer for the magazine, I was lucky enough to score one of the special invitations available to the press to review this self-proclaimed paradise. After a 5 ½ hour plane ride to San Jose, Costa Rica's capital city, I was then whisked away on the company's private helicopter for the 45-minute trip to Curación Jardines. As I sank into the deep cushioned and soft leather seats, my guide for the day, Maria Cortez, handed me a delicious cocktail of fresh mango and champagne. After going through some safety features, which included assuring me that the professional pilot was trained in mountain rescue heli, we ascended to the skies for our 45-minute flight to the Osa Peninsula.

With no roads in or out, Curación Jardines is only accessible by helicopter, and its location is a highly guarded secret. Maria explained how Curación Jardines came to fruition. A Canadian couple, both of them accomplished family therapists, found their relationship had come to a dead end. They decided they would embark on an adventure to try to re-ignite the passion. During their travels, they found themselves at a small boutique hotel in the Osa Peninsula and immediately fell in love with the area... and with one another again. If this place could heal their relationship, they thought; why not combine their expertise as therapists with the healing powers of the Osa jungle? They purchased 300 acres of jungle land, and thus their journey began.

Designed to respect all the elements of the environment, Curación Jardines was built from tropical woods and from trees and foliage that had already fallen to the jungle floor. To ensure that the experience is totally focused on the guests, Curación Jardines only accommodates one couple at a time with a minimum one week stay.

Maria led me into the main area of the jungle cabin, and I was struck by how open and spacious it was. To my right, there was a sitting area where glass walls make you feel one with the jungle. Seating was strategically placed and morning mist from the jungle swirled, creating a mystical aura. Beautiful tropical artwork graced the walls. To the left of the entrance way, there was an alcove, and inside was a small bar.



Maria explained that all the tile work was hand painted by local artisans and all of the liqueurs were from fruits grown in the surrounding jungle. Tucked around the corner was another intimate seating area, and there was a table laden with the most succulent fruits and delicious-looking baked goods imaginable. Maria told me that all of the food is prepared by a world class chef from Switzerland. Fresh fruits are picked daily and refreshed throughout the day.

The open concept floor plan continued upstairs. The bed was suspended from the ceiling and swayed gently in the morning breeze. A luxurious bathroom, complete with jungle plants, soft lighting and a bathtub that could comfortably hold two, finished off this perfect romantic space. Just off the bedroom, there was a glassed in dining area where meals were served. Maria explained that the staff was trained to slip in and out unseen to ensure that the couple's experience was one of total privacy.

We finished our tour with a walk around the grounds. The jungle was alive with sights and sounds that accosted my senses. Monkeys chattered in the trees, and Scarlett Macaws circled high above the jungle canopy calling out to their mates. Tiny hummingbirds whizzed past me, and butterflies the size of my hand fluttered among the plants. All of this felt so surreal, as though I was in some magical fantasy. I commented on how blue and clear the water was, and Maria explained that the water comes from a spring high up in the mountains.

In the distance, I could hear the whir of the helicopter, and I knew my time in paradise had come to an end. Reluctantly, I said my good-byes and thanked Maria for her time. Taking as deep a breath as possible, I inhaled the heady fragrances and tucked the memory away in a special spot. Maybe someday, when I become part of a couple, I can experience Curación Jardines the way it is meant to be experienced.



The Beauty is in its
Simplicity



Stolen®

5th avenue Studios - Veronville, Bridgeport

Island Luxury: A Balinese Resort

Article by: Eronoel
Photographs by: Catvonpaxton

When I stepped off the tiny plane that brought me to Bali, the thick, hot air embraced me. I felt slightly overwhelmed; but as my lungs got used to the humidity, the realization that I was really “there” finally started to hit me.

I had entered a local radio sweepstakes a few months before and, to my surprise, won an all-expenses-paid trip to the swanky Kunta Beach Resort in Bali. The resort was famous for both its ecologically and culturally traditional architecture and had won quite a few awards for service, food and style. As I traveled in the resort-provided car, I peered out at the lush vegetation which seemed to hang heavily from the surrounding Banyan trees.

When I finally got to the resort, I immediately saw what all the fuss was about. It mirrored its natural surroundings with dark woods and open rooms, but it also had a refined feel to it with expensive fabrics and unique artwork. Yan, the concierge, greeted me and guided me through the resort. He told me a bit about the history of Kunta Beach Resort as we headed to my beachfront room. The resort had been the brain child of the famous Ida Tebasaya, a Balinese filmmaker who wanted to make a five-star resort that felt like “home.”

When we got to my room, Yan reminded me of the twenty-four hour kitchen which served a mix of traditional Balinese fare as well as other



Asian and international dishes. I stepped into my room, an open-air space that led out to a patio with my own personal swimming pool and spa. Beyond the swimming pool, the surf softly lapped on the white sand beach. I was in my own personal paradise.

The whole resort consisted of only a half dozen suites, each designed in a unique manner. My room was called the Mount Agung room since I could see the peak of the mountain from my back windows. A book on the desk described how the hotel was built in an ecological manner with locally harvested wood and supported the local craftsmen and women by incorporating native Balinese woodcarvings and woven linens into the decor.

The rooms were built with open access to the ocean to take advantage of the sea breezes and used traditional thatching on the roof. Rather than closing off the rooms with solid dividers, the walls were made of slatted wood that could be opened and closed to control the temperature. There was also an array of coconut, bamboo and acacia trees surrounding the room for both beauty and privacy.

The resort featured a spa located on the facilities which embraced a natural, organic and sustainable philosophy. The resort's body scrubs sounded like something out of the room service menu: warm coconut body scrub, magnificent mangosteen lather, and bright orange balm.



A variety of delightful massages on the beach were also offered. I knew I was going to have to sign up for one of those in the coming days!

Eventually, as my initial wonder began to wear off, I suddenly realized that I was exhausted from my long plane flight. My four-poster bed with its fine silk linens engulfed me in feathery softness, and I slowly drifted off to sleep knowing that no dream could compare to this reality.





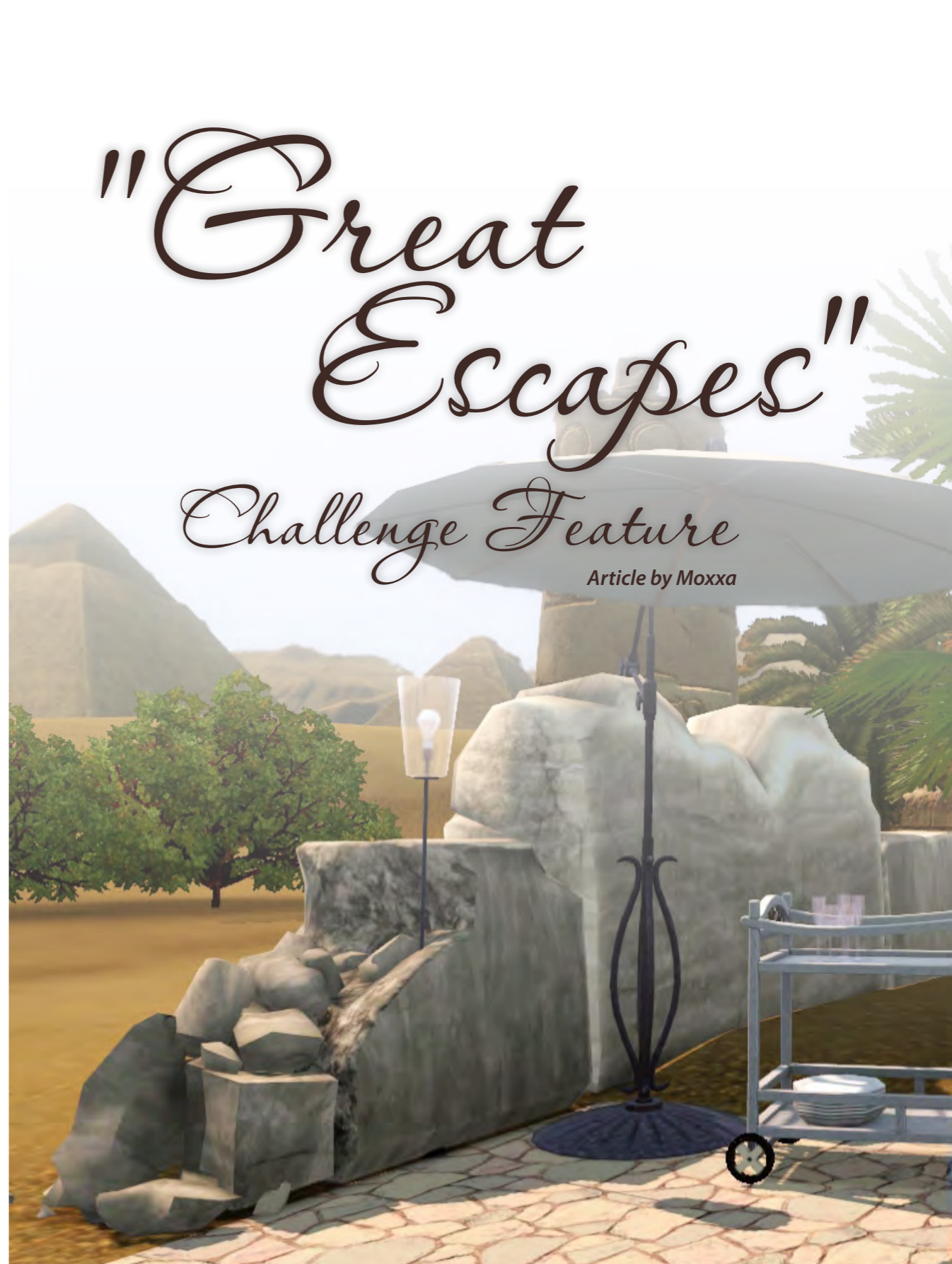
Johanssen |

Original Blinds

"Great Escapes"

Challenge Feature

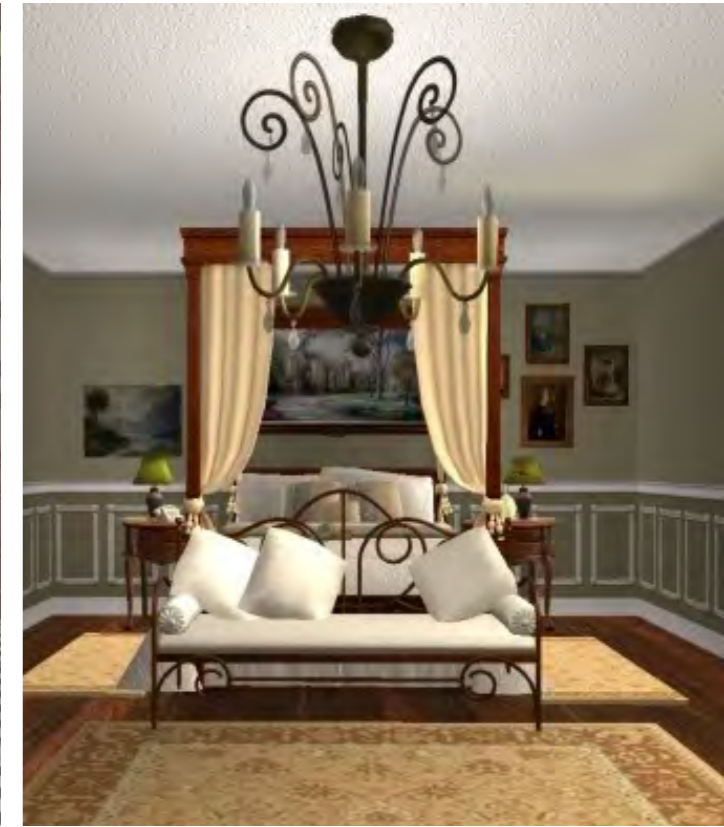
Article by Moxxa



Summer is over, and many of us are coming back from our vacations. Where did you find your own little piece of paradise on Earth? We will take you on a tour around the world with entries from the “Great escapes” challenge. Who knows, maybe you will decide to visit some of these places on your next vacation!

TS2 Naitomea - Llŷr Castle Shooting Lodge & Hotel -Wales

The beautiful land of Wales isn't the obvious choice for vacation. But it is just as exotic as any other place. The natural setting around the hotel looks untouched, as if you are the first one to step on that ground. This place is ideal for people who enjoy a little adventure and exploring as well as some quiet and peaceful time indoors. Once you enter the hotel, you might get the feeling the time has stopped, but that is the general idea of the owners. The rustic, traditional atmosphere in the hotel will make sure that you come back again...and again...and again.



Lylim -Thai Inspired

Nothing screams exotic like this Thai-inspired hotel. If you enjoy spending time in nature, this is the perfect place for you. What could be more soothing than going to sleep with the sounds of the birds and waking up with the sounds of the waves from the ocean? This hotel is perfectly blended with nature, and we guarantee you will forget about the rush hours, crowded cities and everything else from real life. In this Thai resort, nothing else exists – only you and the great outdoors.



EvaVonAsch - Resort Villa Suite and Resort Spa

Welcome to the relaxing bit of heaven on your journey. If your main goal is to give yourself the royal treatment, you are in the right place. Take a massage, chill in the spa, or simply have a wonderful and peaceful time in your suite. Leave your troubles at the check-in desk. The view and the atmosphere of the hotel will take care of everything else. All you need to do is sit back and enjoy.



Deelightful - Beachside Hotel

The Beachside Hotel is heavenly. Although the rooms are quite spacious and comfy, we think you will want to spend all of your time outside. In addition to the great view and beach surroundings, this hotel offers you a lot more than you could ask for. Relax with one of the many cocktails our baristas can prepare for you; have a fun afternoon with your friends by the pool; or feel the beach sand on your toes while taking a romantic walk in the sunset. The choices are there for your enjoyment. You just have to pick one.



Macthekat - Egyptian Base Camp

Have a sensational time in exotic Egypt. Have you ever wondered what life was like during the Pharaoh era? You can think about that while drinking a cocktail by the pool and looking at the actual pyramids. Hospitality, fun and pure satisfaction – that is our motto. Homemade food, oriental drinks and breathtaking scenery... you will never want to leave.



Bscch - The Simtz-Carlton at Champs Les Sims

People say it's the most romantic place on Earth. We agree. Take your significant other on a vacation they will never forget. Romantic strolls, fine French cuisine, high fashion – these are just some things you can enjoy on your stay here at the Simtz-Carlton. But we all know where the magic happens - on your balcony where you will find the most stunning view. We recommend an intimate dinner with a violin playing in the background...magical doesn't even begin to describe it. Oh, is that a ring we see in the champagne glass?



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NEW CHINA

Article by: moxxa

Photographs by: Catvonpaxton



One of the biggest countries in the world has a lot more to offer than its size like history, tradition, pride and uniqueness but their biggest treasure is the people and their stories.

For many of us, China is an enigma. We always think of it as a distant and exotic country but you'd be surprised to learn how some Chinese people are closer to our "western" mentality than we could ever imagine.

First, some facts. China is one of the oldest civilizations in the world with nearly 4,000 years of continuous history. The Chinese people gave the modern world so many things like the compass, mathematics, astronomy, music theory... And the list goes on and on. As the years passed by, they stood out as a traditional and rather closed society. Was it their politics, their leaders or something else? We don't know but times are changing and the Chinese are finally opening up and letting other cultures into their lives.

China is the country with the largest population in the world, counting over one billion people. As we were drinking coffee in the Passby Bar in Beijing, we met Chen Wei, a 26-year old design student. The conversation was long, educational and fun. Chen (her name



means "dawn") confirmed our theory. China is full of old traditional people and buildings. But on the other hand, it is also full of modern people - the new generation of Chinese that can be described as Western. The interior of these young people's houses might not look as old fashioned and traditional as we tend to think while looking at the exteriors.

The architecture of China is as old as their civilisation. Chen Wei lives in one of the oldest houses in Xuanwu District. Her grandmother passed away a year ago and left her the house. When she moved in, Chen felt like she'd entered a 19th century book. Everything was decorated in strictly old fashioned Chinese design - patterned walls covered in wallpapers, quality wood furniture with decorative carvings and fancy handles, oriental styled rugs and paper lanterns. The house was covered with typical Chinese motifs: animals and mystical creatures - monkeys, dragons and tigers as well as beautiful flowers, birds and fish.

Kitchen shelves were filled with handmade blue and white pottery.

Chen decided she wanted to decorate her house in a young and buzzing style but with Asian details all around. The exterior was left intact. The interior, however, got a big makeover. All the wallpapers were replaced as was almost all of the original furniture. There were only a few statement pieces left like the dining table and the old stove.

Even though the furniture in the house doesn't reflect any Chinese influence, the walls are a different story. One of the things Chen couldn't replace were the paper lanterns - they give her home quite a soft, warming glow and a very relaxing atmosphere (especially in the bedroom). She carefully picked the wall art and the final result was great; a combination of posters, modern paintings, traditional Chinese items and the wall stencil she made herself.



Colors were also important. In the description of the Chinese interior style, primary colors are red and black and everything is based on them. Other colors used in this style are blue, yellow, green and gold. Chen's finished house might look a bit grungy with the materials she used but combining them with modern furniture and colorful details here and there makes the house look very inviting and cosy. Just the way she wanted.

We left Chen with our inspiration reaching the maximum. So many brilliant interior ideas found in an old traditional Chinese house. Who would have thought? We will always have the (inspirational) pictures from her house and many of us will copy at least one detail in our own homes. I know I will.



Window Treatments – Wall Coverings – Home Furnishings – Fabrics

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Grab that Style:

Around the World

Article by Eronoel and Photography by Catvonpaxton

Have you ever wanted to travel the world without leaving your living room? With these items from around the world you can evoke the quiet zen of Asia, the adventurous spirit of the Americas, the gilded masterpieces of Europe and the wild experiences of Africa, right in your own home. Whether you are highlighting a few items from your last world adventure or just want a little diversity in your décor, there are a world of items waiting for you.



AstraSims



Cashcraft- TSR



Eight/Three's Atelier



XM Sims



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Ritsuka- GoS



Ritsuka- GoS

Simply Styling



ProwlerTylo- TSR

The World Review Series selects the pick of the “Create-A-World” crop in the Sims 3 community. Awesims released her second world, Queenstown, on April 22nd 2011, and it is a popular custom neighbourhood at LivingSims. Peachy kindly offered to show me around, so I grabbed my coat and joined her for a day of exploring this vast suburban neighbourhood.

WORLD REVIEW

Exploring Queenstown with Peachy



Article by: LemonJelly
Photographs by: Sixtyten

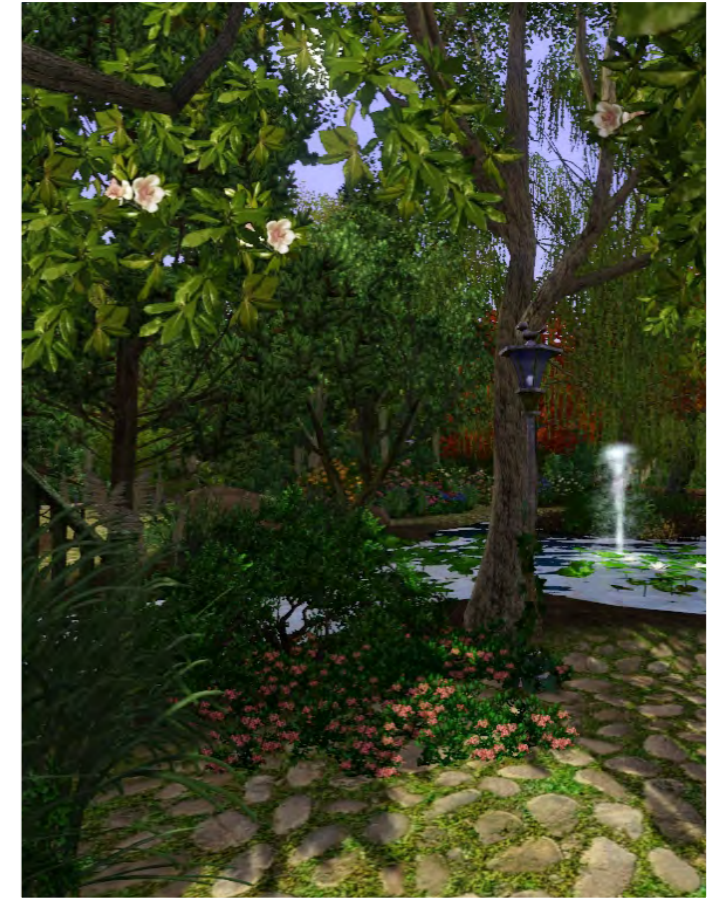
As we started our tour Peachy explained “The sculpting and painting are amazing. Beautiful shots abound no matter where you look.”

This was clear to me as we explored her favourite place in Queenstown, the Botanic Gardens. The garden features a large variety of plants and some picnic benches overlooking the ocean. I could sit here all day, but we have a tour to do. Peachy linked her arm in mine, and we strolled down the hill towards the centre of the neighbourhood.

Peachy tells me that the realism and attention to detail is what makes Queenstown so special and different from your usual EA or other custom worlds. “Even blank lots for building are perched on scenic vistas, surrounded by trees and landscaping, or grouped around community spaces to make mini neighbourhoods.”

As we arrive downtown, the first thing I noticed is that it is well laid out, and the various lots are grouped together closely like a real city. Peachy nods in agreement and adds “But they’re not clustered randomly like Late Night worlds tend to be.”

As we stroll along the pavement, I notice how easy this world is to navigate - very helpful for the girl who can’t read a map. It’s a medium world which is small enough to not get lost but large enough to feature some beautiful, unique homes and all the community lots you could ask for.





We reach the Academy, and I am immediately drawn to the abundance of butterflies here. Peachy chooses this moment to tell me the one thing she doesn't like about this world, although she does soften the blow by describing it as a love-hate problem.

"There are an incredible amount of spawners in Queenstown, making it very easy to make money as a collector or just as some side cash. Almost too easy - the very expensive rocks, butterflies, seeds, and bugs are abundant, so it can remove the challenge of working for your money."

I take this opportunity to ask if she has come across any other problems in this world. She pauses, thinks for a moment before nodding and explaining, "So far the only issue is that a traffic jam tends to form in front of the school. Multiple cars and people arrive at the same time. This isn't a routing issue as everyone is able to enter, but rather more of an aesthetic issue."

At sunset, we end our tour at a bench on the promenade, and it is clear from the day we spent together that Peachy will never tire of this world. As she explains, "Even after visiting a lot five times, I still find something new and interesting."

Peachy is so grateful for Awesims attention to detail and skill in building and landscaping that she cannot wait to see what she comes up with next. And neither can I.

Peachy



Created by Sixtyten
Rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Required: EP's up to Late Night, plus some
EA Store content.

Download
For More Information



FFFFFFFF
Design group

Pleasantview, 170 Main Street call: 46/45-64-248

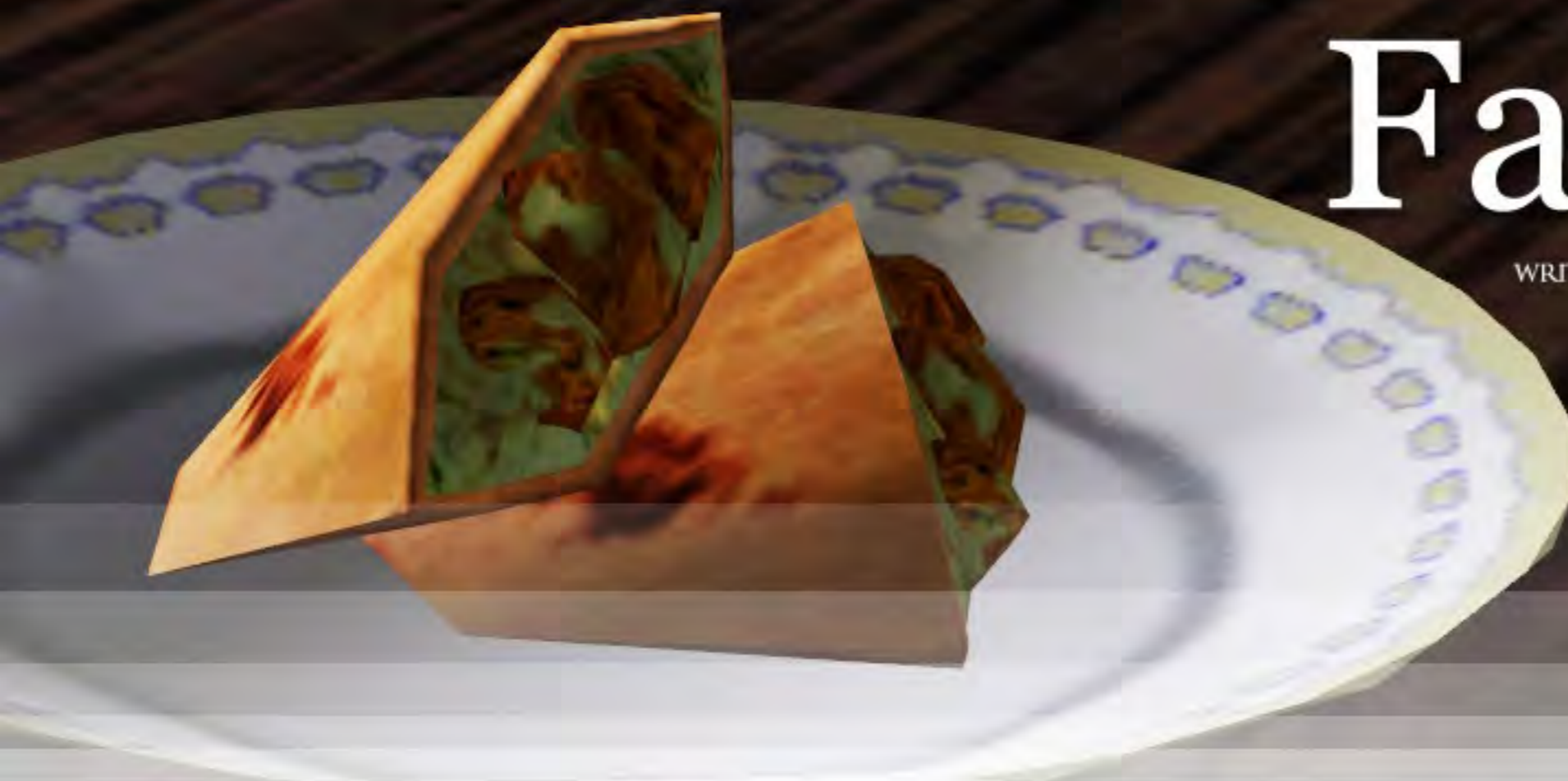
Good design is forever

GOURMET RECIPE:

Falafel

WRITTEN BY FELIKAISH22 | PHOTOS BY ANKUUH

In keeping with the issue theme of "Around the World", here's an easy-to-make recipe from the Middle East that you won't want to miss.



Ingredients:

(Makes 25 falafel balls)

- 2 cups of dried chickpeas, soaked in water for 12 hours
- Crumbs from 2 slices of white bread
- 5 cloves of garlic
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/3 cup chopped parsley
- 1/2 cup chopped coriander
- 1/2 small onion
- 1 teaspoon cumin spice
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Salt, pepper
- Oil for deep frying

Directions:

1. Wash the soaked chickpeas, and put them in a food processor with the garlic, onion and spices. Grind until you get a rough moist texture. Add a little water if needed.
2. Move the mixture into a large bowl, add the rest of the ingredients and put aside, covered, for 30-60 minutes.
3. Warm the oil – it should be hot, not boiling.
4. Add the baking soda to the mixture, and knead a little.

5. Wet your hands, and shape mixture into little balls (smaller than apricots).

6. Fry until you get a deep brown shade. Serve hot.



It may be time to get back to real life,
but you'll always have the memories.

