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ANGELA GRANDE

Angela Grandé is a major force in the world of interior design. She has worked her magic on countless projects, including those at distinguished locations such as the New York Athletic Club, Cape Fear Country Club in North Carolina and the Sebonack Golf Cottages in Southampton, N.Y. Her style is seamless, providing soft touches and well thought out details that incorporate a sense of elegance and warmth. Her creations are quite simply timeless.

Prior to establishing her own company in 1986, Grandé was involved with numerous projects in both the United States and abroad. She worked with luxury hotels such as The Pierre and Westbury Hotels in New York City and the Royal Hayman in the Great Barrier Reef. Grandé also worked as the design director for a European developer in Paris who created luxury properties. These experiences have greatly expanded her knowledge of resources and further developed her personal style.

When Grandé started her own firm her focus was mainly on hotel interiors; it has since expanded to include high-end residential and golf clubhouses. Designing for these two kinds of entities is not all that different, actually.

"Clubhouses have long been designed to feel like an extension of the home. Now the trend is to integrate the golf world into residential interiors," Grandé said in the June 2006 issue of Architectural Digest.

Clubhouses often try to create a homey atmosphere for members to feel comfortable in, and now homeowners want to translate the large, luxurious feel of clubhouse sitting rooms into their own homes. Oversized leather chairs surrounding large fireplaces are now common in both places. An emphasis on luxury and relaxation is important to both private homeowners and clubhouse members, and Grandé has embraced this emphasis with great success.

Grandé Design, Inc. is located in New York City, but her clients are spread throughout the nation. For the past several years, Grande has also worked with Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Ga., designing the Lake Club, The Inn on the Green at Reynolds Landing and the Creek Club.

About an hour's drive from Atlanta, Augusta and Athens, Reynolds Plantation is located at Lake Oconee. Grandé has been responsible for decorating the 23,000-square-foot interior of the two-level clubhouse, which serves as the social center for Reynolds Landing. After architect Donald Beck completely renovated the Inn on the Green, Grande entered the scene with her creative expertise and made the space into something luxurious. The Lake Club, with its wooden vaulted ceilings, looks like a lodge filled with workout equipment. Grande also worked on the interior of the Creek Club, which is a members' only club located off of the new golf course at Reynolds Landing.

Some of Grandé's success, most certainly, can be attributed to her warm personality and her dedication to professionalism. She is known for her sensitivity to her clients' individual tastes and wishes. As a result, her work is versatile, encompassing a wide range of styles, all of which contain an air of dignity while maintaining a feeling of approachableness and comfort. In one instance, dark, strongly graphic carpet and lighter colored armchairs work together to evoke a sense of finery and luxury, while in another instance black wicker furniture with soft green cushions stands out from a stone grey tile floor with an inviting and soothing air of informality. From artistically hung curtains to exceptional lighting and perfectly chosen area rugs, Grandé's deep understanding of how to make all the elements of a room work together to evoke a welcoming air of luxury and comfort is flawless. No detail is left unfinished.

Grandé was a participant in the Architectural Digest Home Design Show in March 2006.

