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A SOUTHERN LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

\$3.95 FEBRUARY 2008



*Music
& Arts*
ISSUE

AWK

SPATIAL HARMONY

Renowned Designer Angela Grande Knows
How To Make The Elements of A
Room Work Together

Story: Krista Franks

Photos provided courtesy Angela Grande

From artistically hung curtains to area rugs that accent unique furniture pieces, Angela Grande has a deep understanding of how to make all the elements of a room work together to evoke a welcoming air of luxury, style and comfort. As the owner of Angela Grande Design Inc., established in 1986, Grande has achieved great success in the interior design business.

Grande has been featured in *Architectural Digest*, the *New York Times Designer Speaker Series* and recently in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*. She was a participant in the *Architectural Digest* Home Design Show in 2004 and 2006 and was one of the winners of Stanton Carpet's Designing with Carpets Contest featured in *Architectural Digest*.

Prior to establishing her own firm, Grande was involved with numerous projects in both the United States and abroad. She worked for several design firms on luxury hotels such as The Pierre and Westbury Hotels in New York City and the Royal Hayman in the Great Barrier Reef. Grande also worked as the design director for a European developer in Paris, who developed luxury properties. As a result of her wide range of experiences, Grande has greatly expanded her knowledge of resources and further developed her personal style.





When Grande first established her own firm, her focus was mainly on hotel interiors, but she has since expanded to include high-end residential homes and golf clubhouses. Designing for these two entities is really not all that different. "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," Grande said in the June 2006 issue of *Architectural Digest*. Clubhouses

often try to create a homey atmosphere in which members can relax, 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 settings. An emphasis on luxury and relaxation is important to both private homeowners and clubhouse members, and Grande has embraced this emphasis with great success.

Though Angela Grande Design, Inc. is located in New York City, Grande's clients are spread throughout the nation. Some of her notable work can be seen at the New York Athletic Club, Cape Fear Country Club in North Carolina and the Sebonack Golf Cottages in Southampton, N.Y. For the past several years Grande has also worked with Hart Howerton and Magnolia Art Gallery at Lake Oconee and Reynolds Plantation in Greensboro, Ga., designing the Creek Club, the Lake Club and The Inn on the Green at



Reynolds Landing.

About an hour from Atlanta, Augusta and Athens, Reynolds Plantation is located on Lake Oconee. Grande has been responsible for decorating the 23,000-square-foot interior of the two-level clubhouse, which serves as the center of social activity for Reynolds Landing. After architect Donald Beck completely renovated the Inn on the Green, Grande entered the scene with her creative expertise and transformed the space into something luxurious.

The main level of the clubhouse contains a lobby, a large meeting room, two smaller meeting rooms, seven guest rooms and a combined restaurant and bar.

The Lake Club with its vaulted, wooden ceilings and neatly designed interior, takes on the atmosphere of a lodge. It contains both world-class fitness facilities and space for relaxation. Grande also worked with Lynn Blair of Magnolia Art Gallery on the interior of the Creek Club, which is a members-only club

located off of the new, first ever members-only golf course, which opened for play June 1, 2007.

When designing a clubhouse, Grande says the style will vary depending upon the location and the architecture. In some places a French country style is appropriate, while in others a traditional English style is desirable.

Some of Grande's success, no doubt, 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, high-contrast, predominantly dark, strongly graphic carpet offsets armchairs upholstered with cream fabric accented by thin black lines running both horizontally and vertically. Together, these evoke a sense of finery and luxury. In another instance, black wicker



furniture with pale green cushions stands out from a stone grey tile floor creating an inviting air of soothing informality.


"In approaching each project, I try to do something unique," says Grande. As a high-end designer, she works hard to constantly achieve originality in her work. Grande's residential work

ranges from traditional to contemporary, depending on the desires of her clients. Before getting to the specifics of design, Grande collects information from her clients about not only their budget and timeframe but also about their perceptions of style and color, allergies, regional weather conditions and the degree of formality

they want in their home. With this information in mind, Grande compiles a presentation of images along with color and fabric swatches, a timeline and a budget outline. Grande wants her clients to see and touch everything before purchasing it, so that they will be pleased with every aspect of their home. "The most important thing a client should know is that the design process is a journey, not always smooth and clear-cut," said Grande in the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*. "The best way to make it successful is with frequent communication and feedback."

Angela Grande Design, Inc. is located at 500 East 85th Street, New York, NY. Please call 212.249.7690 or email Grande at agrandedesign@verizon.net. □

For more information about Magnolia Art Gallery, located at 1020 Parkside Commons, Suite 102, in Lake Oconee Village, Greensboro, Ga., please call 706.454.5050 or visit www.magnoliaartgallery.com.



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