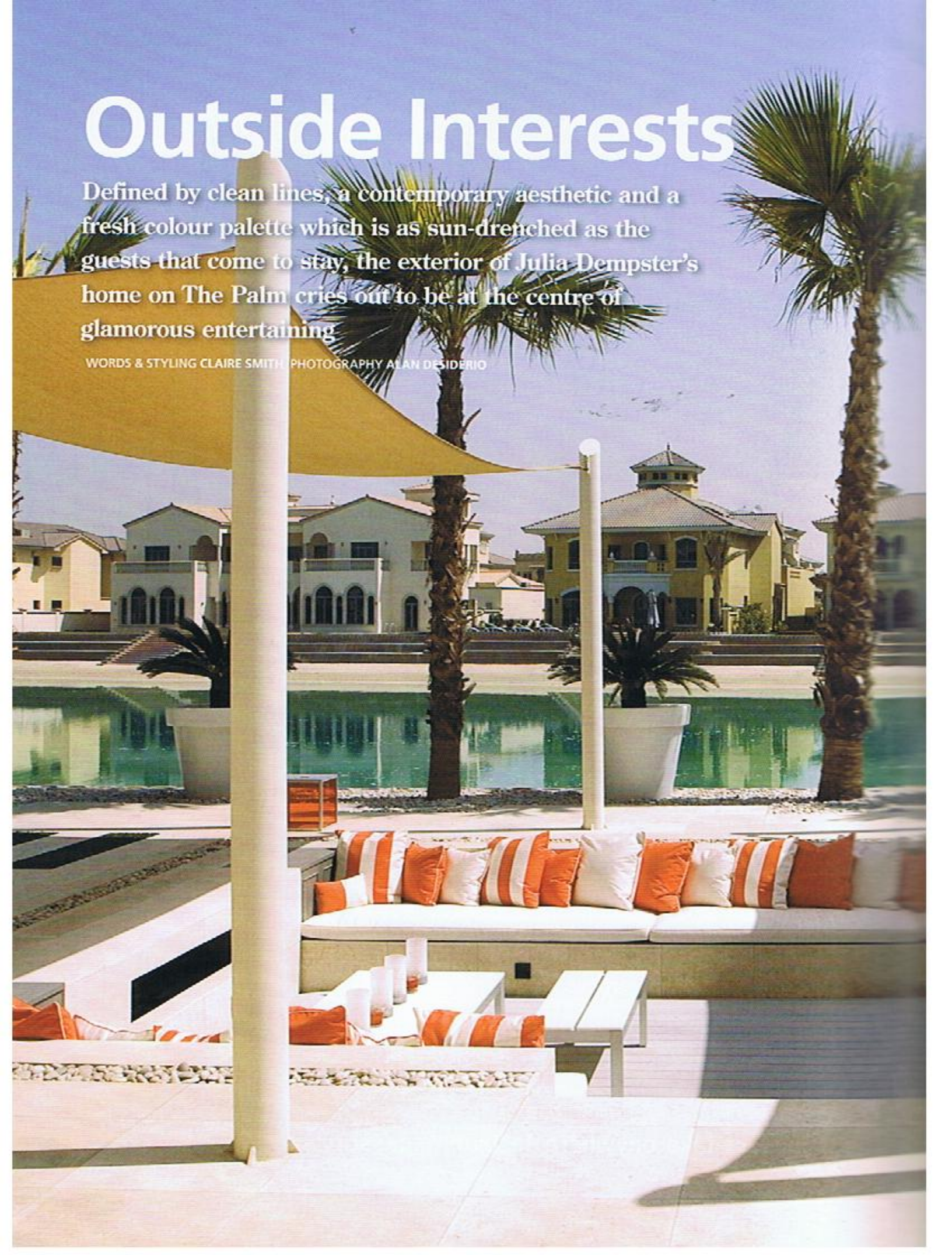


Outside Interests

Defined by clean lines, a contemporary aesthetic and a fresh colour palette which is as sun-drenched as the guests that come to stay, the exterior of Julia Dempster's home on The Palm cries out to be at the centre of glamorous entertaining

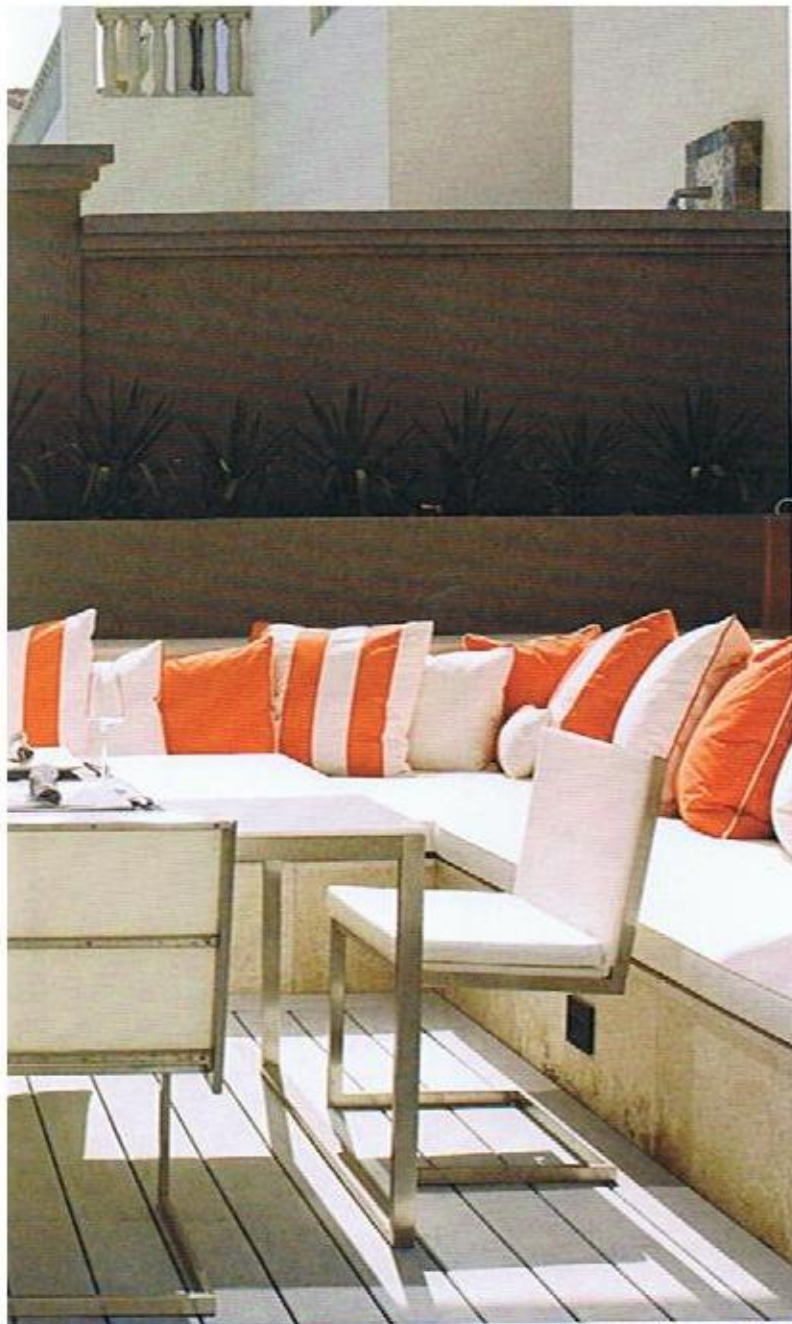
WORDS & STYLING CLAIRE SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY ALAN DESIDERIO





Clockwise from above: Grey runners and napkins prove the perfect accessories to complement the orange and white cushions in the sunken area. The Gandia Blasco table seats up to eight and is a great space for a casual lunch or more formal dinner by candlelight. The four-poster sun bed is also by Gandia Blasco. The stripes for the orange and white cushions were handmade by Arredo Casa Mia in Dubai. Bands of Astroturf were laid to perfectly enhance the clean design of the space.





before we went ahead and planted them, which was great." However, there was a conflict of style, Julia recalls, "I like things to be quite minimalist and I explained I wanted to have architectural-style planting however, their designs were very much English country style which, if I'm honest, isn't really me." Julia continues, "In the end, I ended up doing the designs myself because I was able to visualise what I wanted." So, the sunken seating area was fitted, "with a built in gas fire." Julia adds with enthusiasm, the distressed wooden flooring was laid along with stone flooring. The decision was also made to inlay bands of Astroturf, as Terraverde advised that real grass would be hard to maintain. This was a bit of a departure for Julia; "I was quite concerned that it might look horrific, but it has thankfully turned out well," she confides.

With the structural work done with, it came to accessorising the area, and this is where Julia has struck appealing alchemy of luxury and relaxation by bringing the comfort of the inside, out. Julia explains, "The orange theme originated from the lanterns which were from Gandia Blasco and the stripes were an extension from the black and white stripe design that everyone loves in the sitting room." A four poster bed also from Gandia Blasco sits centre stage, while the vast Viking barbeque is ready to be fired up, in the sunken area a generous scattering of some 50 or more, orange and white cushions upholstered by Arredo Casa Mia lie in wait for guests to sprawl on. Vast orange and white Fatboy beanbags from Desert River are ready to be thrown in the pool and a gargantuan grey and orange reading lamp from Flos presides over the covered seating area, nearest the indoor sitting room.

However, it is at night time that this external oasis is at its most alluring. This is when the 4 ft long white, outdoor wine cooler and white urns holding baby palms are



STOCKISTS

- * Fatboy Beanbags, www.desertriver.com or www.justkidding-uae.com
- * Flos Lighting; www.flos.com, Gandia Blasco, www.gandiablasco.com
- * Terraverde Landscape Gardeners; www.terraverde.ae
- * Upholsterer Arredo Casa Mia (04) 3477474
- * Viking Barbeque; www.vikingrange.com
- * Vicky Moane, Feng Shui Master, www.fengshuiresearchcentre-uae.com

This page: Julia Dempster has blended inside and outside by painting the walls of this quiet chill-out area the same colour as the walls of the interior sitting room. The oversized anglepoise lamp is from Flos.

illuminated, the orange lanterns twinkle with candle light and Julia's friends all sit around the fire and smoke under the canopy. "The sunken area particularly came into its own when we had an 'Orange and White Party' here last year." Julia explains. "All the drinks were orange and white, as was the food which was made by Radisson Media City." She contentedly sums up, "Really what I like most about this home is that every area has a different feel. So, if I have friends over on a Friday we'll tend to sit and eat next to the barbeque, but in the evening we'll get up for the sunken seating area, we'll light the candles and get the view over the sea."