



# OPULENT LIVING

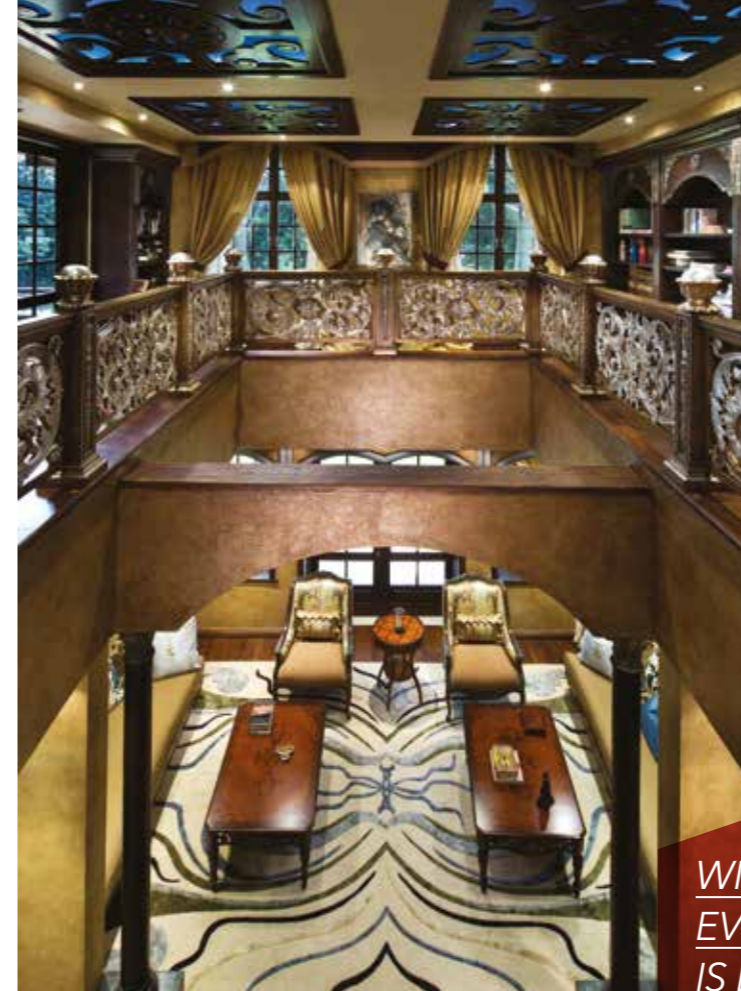
Gold leaf walls, a hand-carved staircase and majestic furniture are just some of the factors that turned this home into a palace.

TEXT EMMA MALLABURN IMAGES COURTESY OF PERLA LICHI



Armed with the philosophy, "you deserve beautiful rooms", Perla Lichi makes no apologies for what some would call garish, but what she sees as an opulent approach to home design. Specialising in art history, colour and space-planning coupled with a sharp eye for detail and architectural elements; the designer is able to create the kind of lavish, splendidly detailed interiors that many of her high-profile clients desire.

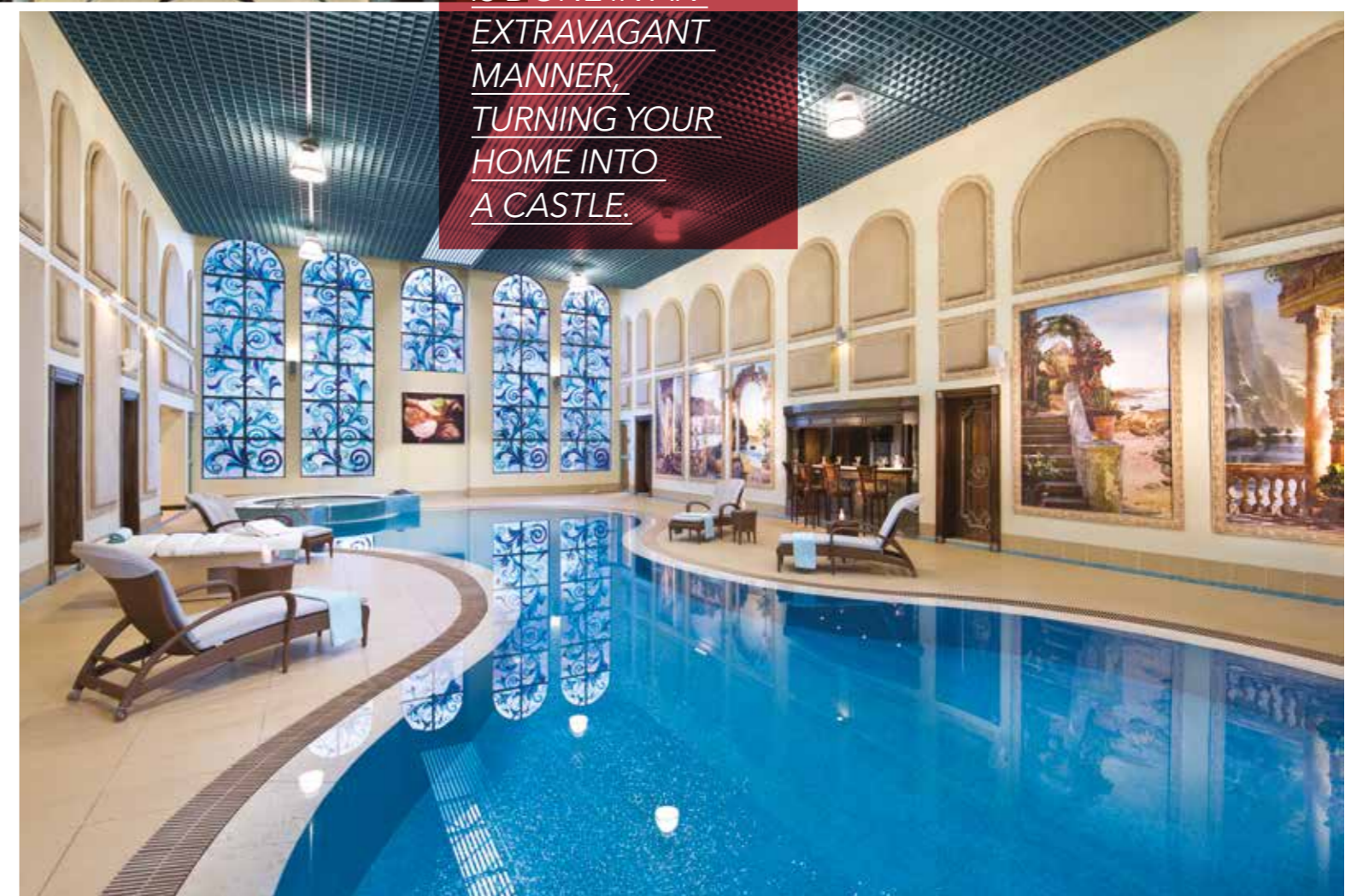
Such is this magnificent "palace" sited in Kenya - an extraordinary edifice for a family to call home and entertains plenty of important guests. Originally from Kenya, the couple wanted a living space that complemented their prestigious lifestyle, and Perla Lichi was able to deliver just that. The extravagant home features plenty of impressive ornaments and design styles that, when put together, becomes a dwelling space fit for kings and queens.



*WITH PERLA LICHI,  
EVERYTHING  
IS DONE IN AN  
EXTRAVAGANT  
MANNER,  
TURNING YOUR  
HOME INTO  
A CASTLE.*

Because entertaining companies that are both clients and friends is a common occurrence, the owners of this palace of a home have included a Chinese pavilion for the husband, a prominent figure, to use for that very purpose. The room reveals a conference table that is actually a Hibachi table, used when engaging with guests whilst not one, but two Hibachi chefs prepare delectable meals for the entrepreneurs during meetings. While the Chinese pavilion is a place that is mostly occupied by the husband, the lady of the house has an outdoor Chinese teahouse to call her own private sanctuary.

The Chinese pavilion is not the only part of this home that has been made suitable for entertaining guests, as there is also a formal lounge that's been garlanded with a table that seats up to 24 people comfortably and at the same time enables guests to easily converse with each other. A more private casual lounge was also created for family members to get together. Even a room dedicated to the most important meal of the day (breakfast) has been completely decked out with a state-of-the-art home entertainment system.



Each bedroom in the house has been designed with its own distinct style to acclimatise each person's individual taste. The tones used for the upholstery and beddings are varied throughout each room. From velvety purple to a dash of sea-green, the use of contrasting colours does not disrupt the entire design concept for this Kenyan palace. The boutique in the master bedroom is where custom built-ins have been installed to store and exhibit accessories and collectibles that belong to the lady of the house.

It is apparent that reading is an important activity exercised within this family as the library spans across two levels and is connected by a stunning hand-carved spiral stairway. With state-of-the-art equipment, this reading room is able to hold over 10,000 books. For another way to wind-down, the family and guests are able to relax in the indoor pool room where a bar is available to concoct some of their favourite refreshments, and what's a pool without some lounge chairs to go with? At each end of this indoor pool area are blue stained-glass windows that balance well with the murals of Italian scenes on the walls.

*THE OPULENT DÉCOR OOZES  
EXTRAVAGANT LIVING WITH A  
HINT OF ROMANTICISM.*



Every piece of furniture in this home oozes with such majestic character due to the elaborate hand-carvings found on the backs of dining chairs and even on the legs of a table. The floral motifs and delicate tones that are used on the upholstery resemble that of a French era and like everything else in this house that's over-the-top, the curtains are just as dramatic. According to the designer, the inspiration for each carpet comes from the fabric on the decorative pillows and artwork used in each room. The carpets, dubbed as pieces of art, are what helps tie every single room together and gives it the extra majestic touch it needs. In a household that uses 30 chandeliers throughout the home and adorns a richly detailed décor, nothing seems more fitting for the luxurious lifestyle that this family leads. ❖

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