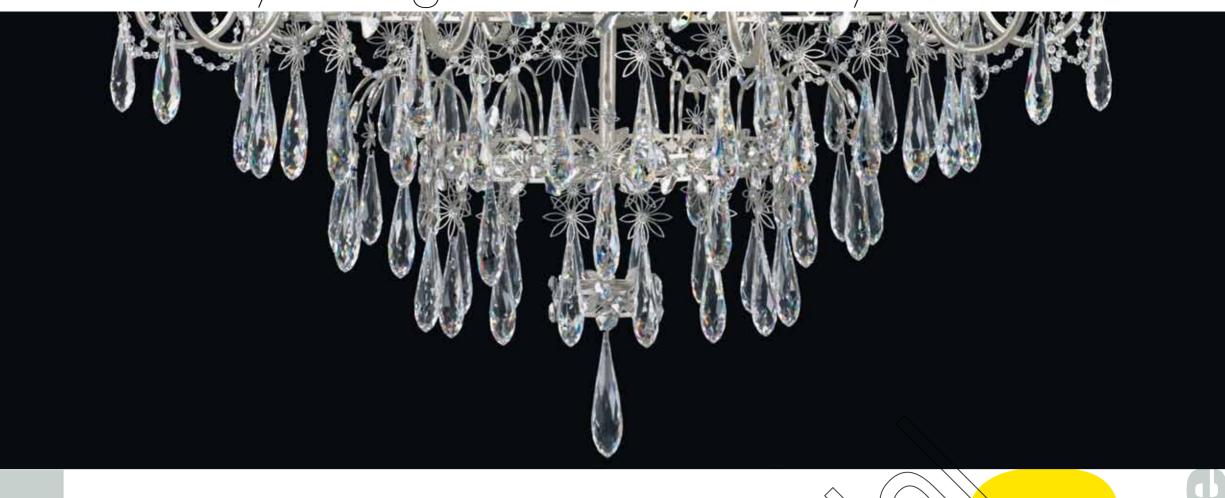
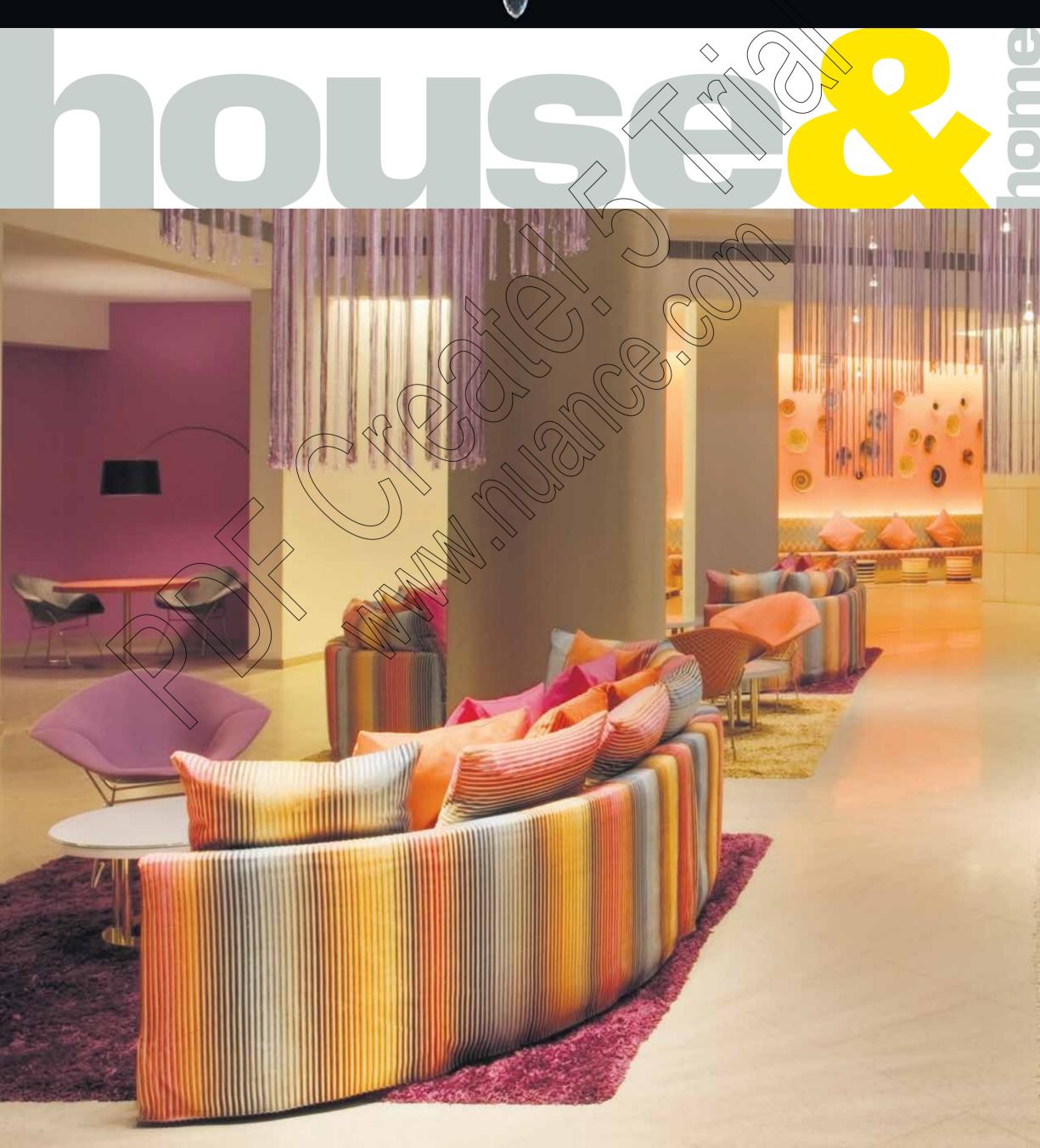
## How to buy the right chandelier for your room hh3





Checking in with Missoni: the Italian design legend unveils her 'proudest achievement', a stunning new hotel in Kuwait hh4

Clashing colours and a patchwork of styles are set to make the new Hotel Missoni Kuwait a talking point across the region. Penny McCormick talks to Rosita Missoni about what the designer calls her 'proudest achievement'

"The way I have done the hotel," says Rosita Missoni, "is the way I've done things at home: by mixing things up and using design pieces with comfort

This sense of a home-from-home extends to the hotel's Cucina restaurant, where her own hot chocolate recipe appears on the menu. It is one of many details personally overseen by the 79-year-old design legend and creative director of Missoni, who calls the newly opened hotel her proudest achievement.

"I love the fact that I wake up each morning and have something to do," she says. The "to do" list is, in fact, extensive (additional hotels in Oman, Brazil and Turkey are in the pipeline for 2012) but for now she is checking the finishing touches on the Kuwait

"The idea was for a resort hotel. Inspiration came from the local colour, the sea and sunshine. It was a good opportunity to do something different," she says. The property is in a relatively new area on Arabian Gulf Street and is juxtaposed with the fashionable but as yet empty Symphony Centre.

"It's different to our first hotel in Edinburgh, where the city's history inspired the design. I wanted the Edinburgh hotel to have a secure feel: black and white was a strong theme. This allowed us to be free with colour on the walls, tables and upholstery,' savs Rosita.

There's a world of difference between the golden mile in Edinburgh and Arabian Gulf Street in Kuwait. In the Kuwait property, the dominant shades are turquoise, frog greens and gold.

Rosita used her own experiences at resorts to mould the feel of the hotel. "One of my favourite hotel experiences is in Jamaica, where I've spent many family holidays with [my daughter] Angela and her children. It's a 40-bedroom hotel in a beautiful bay and Winston Churchill was a regular guest."

Statesmen and royalty have already visited Hotel Missoni Kuwait (notably during the country's recent 40th anniversary), and it's destined to be a talking point in a region where hotel chains use a vocabulary of architectural accents rather than colour to provide the wow factor. "Rezidor [Hotel Group] gave me carte blanche to do what I liked but I don't ask for the impossible or believe in doing something for the sake of it," she says.

This would be out of sync with the Missoni heritage. The fashion empire grew out of a ready-to-wear collection inspired by the desire to create clothes that people would collect and conserve for years rather than simply purchase as objects to wear. The look was first christened "put together" and endorsed by the legendary Diana Vreeland after the Autumn/Winter 1970 collection took

the catwalks by storm. While fashion has turned full circle and is embracing the folksy once more, Missoni Home, which was that no home is complete without a dress or the classic twinset is to the I can't resist things with patterns." launched in 1983, manages to dress touch of Missoni, be it a towel to off- wardrobe: the zigzag prints instantly In fact, each of her homes (she has walls, sofas, beds and bathrooms with set a plain bathroom, some striped transform anyone into a citizen of seven in all) houses a different collecthe same festival of colour and creabedlinen for the boudoir or a playful the world. If you're in any doubt, the tion. "My home by the sea has a cacti tivity, balancing fantasy, realism and polka dot pouffe for the study. At the uber stylist Rachel Zoe endorses the garden and a collection of seashells research. Likewise, the rooms of the recent Maison et Objet exhibition in brand, as does the former governor and paintings. In London, I'm a huge quests feel hotel - 169 in all, including 63 suites

Paris, Missoni's new collection, feaof California. "Having a Missoni in fan of Alfies Antique Market and go

comfortable rather - boldly mix design with technology. turing huge, brightly coloured anem- the closet means being ready for any there often, while in Paris, I've got a Bang & Olufsen televisions and Magic one flowers, tapped in to the mood of one flowers, tapped in the flowers of the mood of one flowers Mirrors in the bathrooms are two of happy chic and on-trend florals. the lifestyle elements the hotel is keen Above all else, Missoni Home has card wherever you go."

design enthusiasts already know: to the home what the Dorothea wrap laces, pearls, beads and huge rings. you'll find a number of modern

has said. "A Missoni is the best calling I've sourced in flea markets. My home been achieved

to promote, as is the Six Senses Spa. always appealed to feelings rather Rosita's personal style combines This is not to say that she doesn't A short stay reinforces what many than status symbols. Its furniture is character and comfort. "I love neck-appreciate high design. In the hotel

there overlooks the landmark."

The aim to make

and 1940s, and the northern design-flowers and block colours that allow ers such as Gio Ponti. I love attending the eye and mind to digest the assault and it may be hard to believe but I precious local nature". The overriding have plain walls so I can hang up lots aim to make guests feel comfortable of art. When I'm at home I like to stay and welcome rather than intimidated home and spend time in the orchard has been achieved. or in our vegetable plot."

done the flooring in our main home gardens. They reflect, she says, "the smiling.

While Rosita admits to making

classics and the same appreciation In Hotel Missoni Kuwait, the pat- mistakes in her career, she adds, of other designers so graciously acterns and colours are given room to "I'm very sure of what I like at any knowledged by Rosita. "I grew up with breathe. There are spaces in the jux-particular moment, such as my the fantastic architecture of the 1930s taposition of stripes, zigzags, spots, husband, Tai. When I first saw him, I knew he was the one. When I don't like something people either design fairs and keep adding to my on the senses. Rosita is especially know from my silence or my eyes." own interior design. I've recently reproud of the hotel's cacti and palm Fortunately for Kuwait, her eyes are

> For more information visit www.rezidor.com @ View more photos at www.thenational.ae/lifestyle/house-home

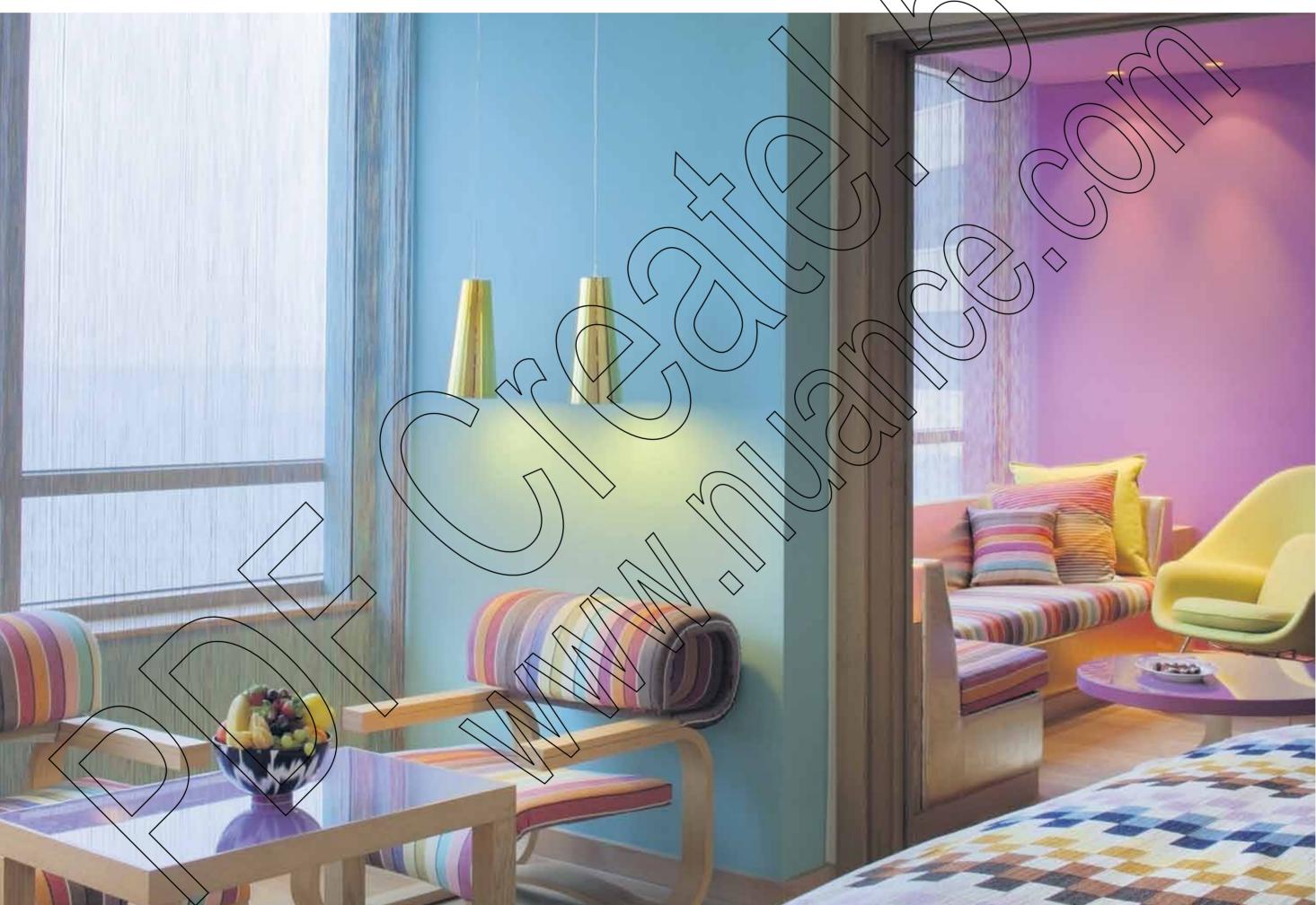








From top, happy, on-trend florals stand out in the hotel's events entrance; the Cucina restaurant, where Rosita's hot chocolate recipe is featured, contributes to an overall ing, homey feel; warm colours and details create character and comfort in one of the hotel suites; a striped bathroom towel provides a signature Missoni accent.



Colour takes centre stage in one of the hotel's suites. In a region where hotel chains typically use architectural elements to provide the wow factor, Hotel Missoni Kuwait is bound to turn heads. On the cover, the hotel lobby exudes Missoni style. Photos Courtesy Missoni Hotel