



Wednesday, April 16, 2014

THE STYLE FILES: WINDSOR SMITH

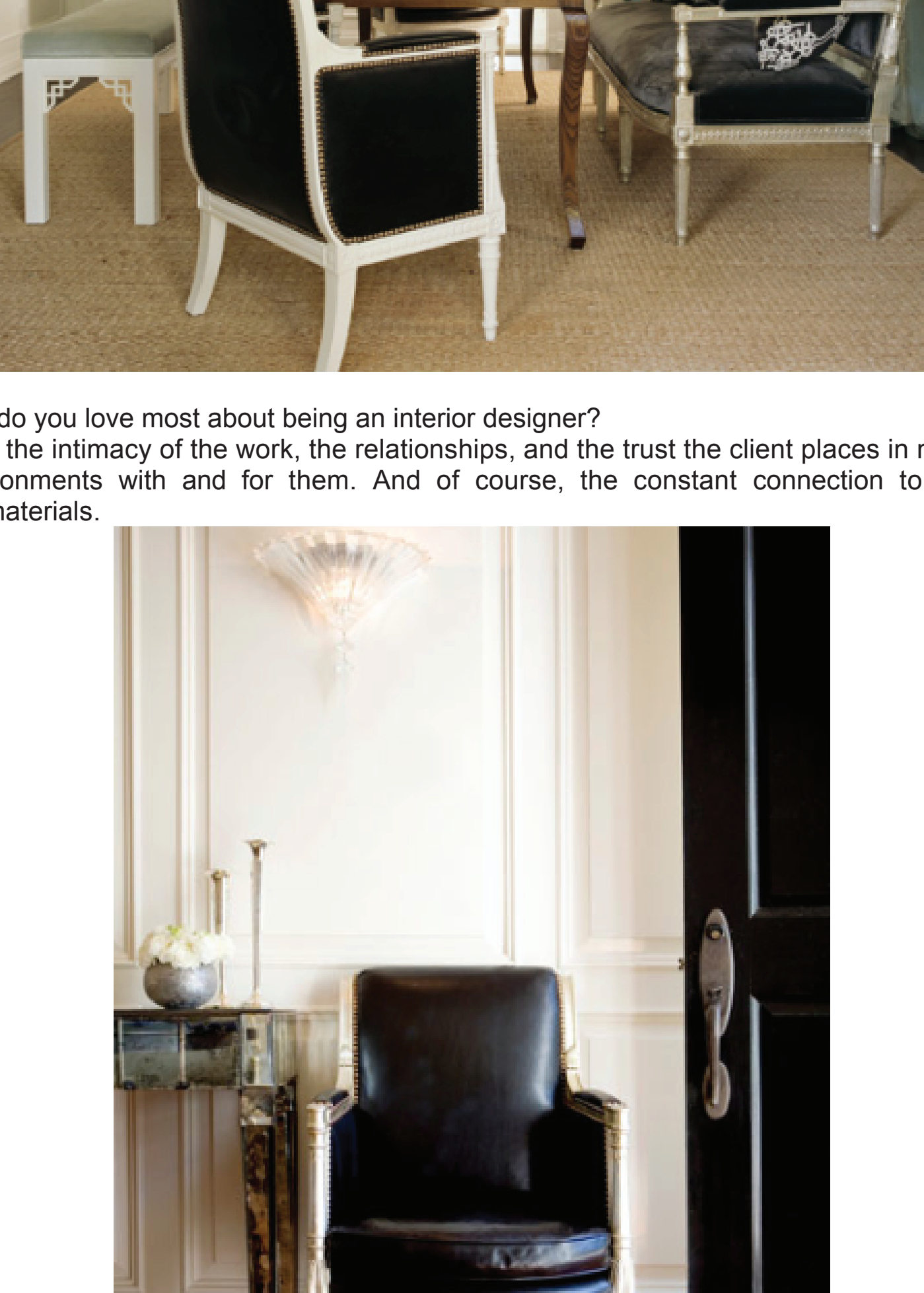
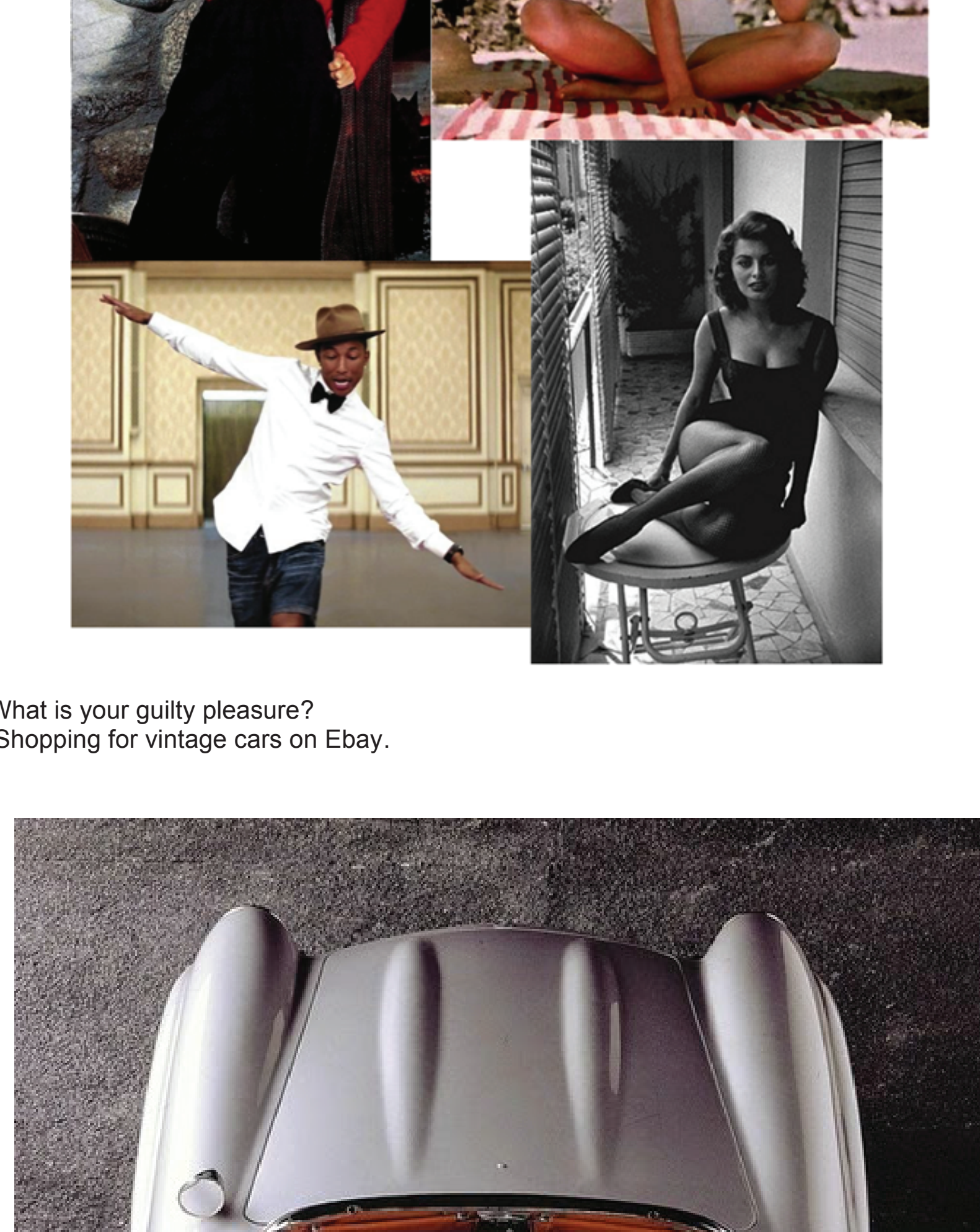
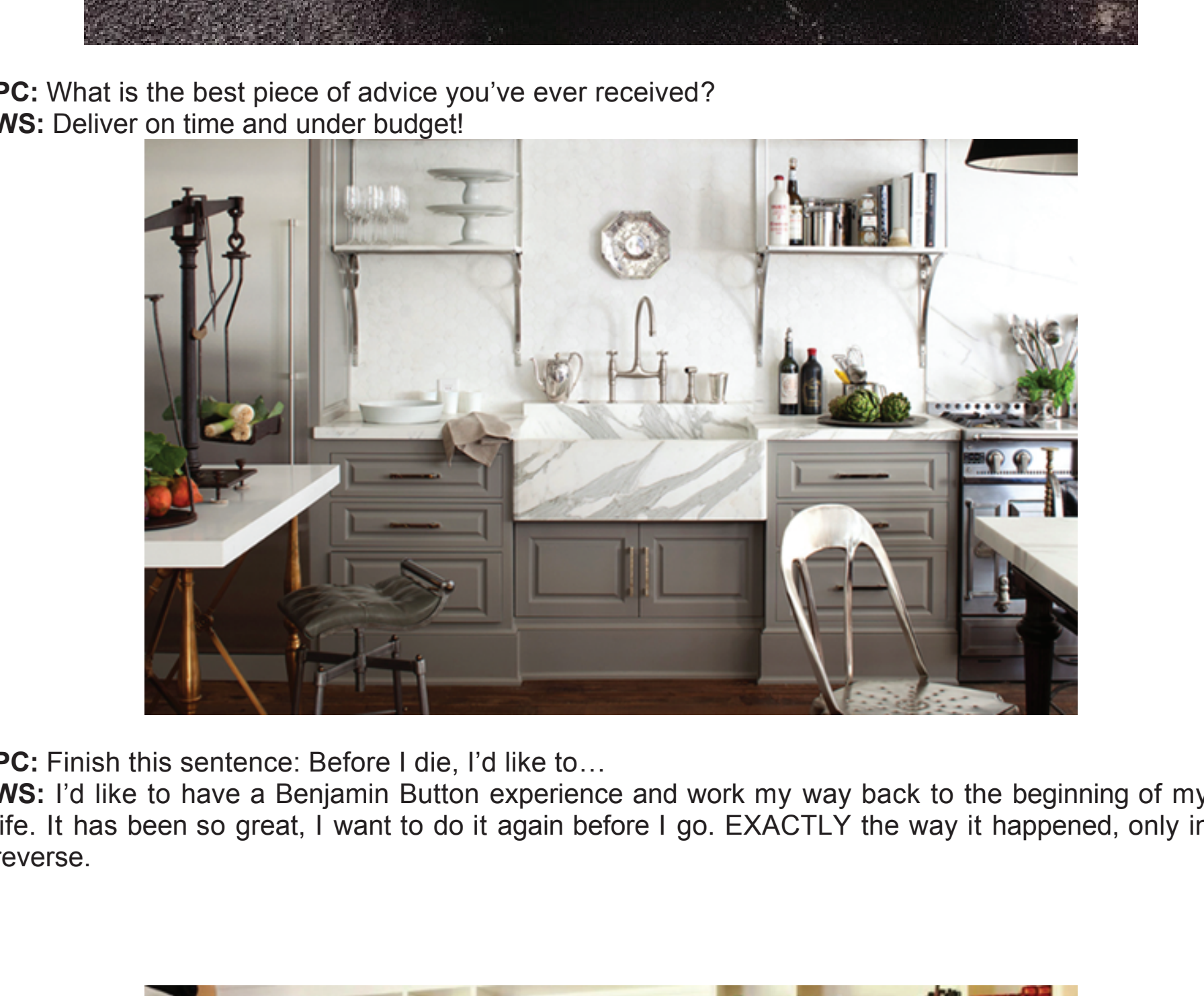
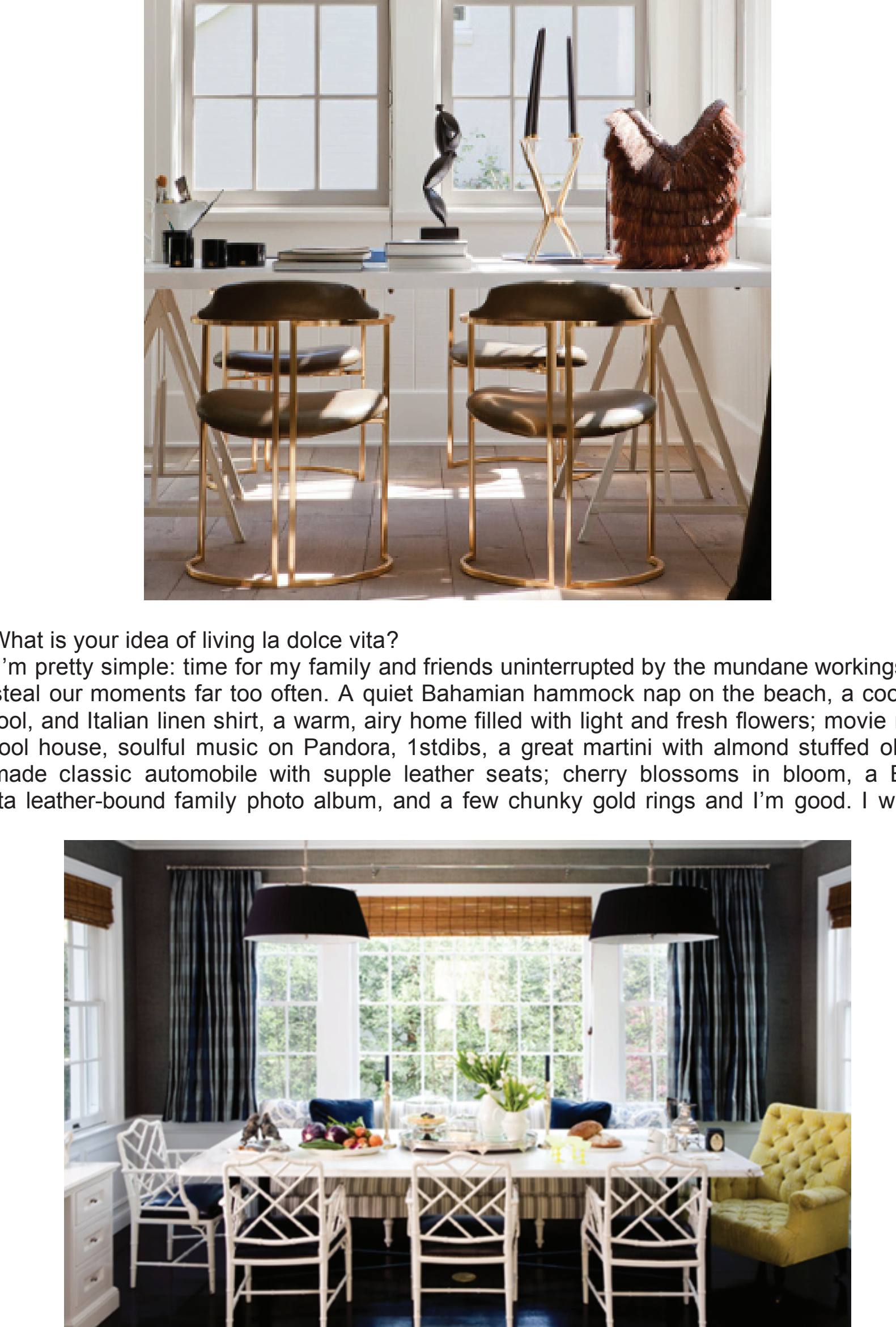
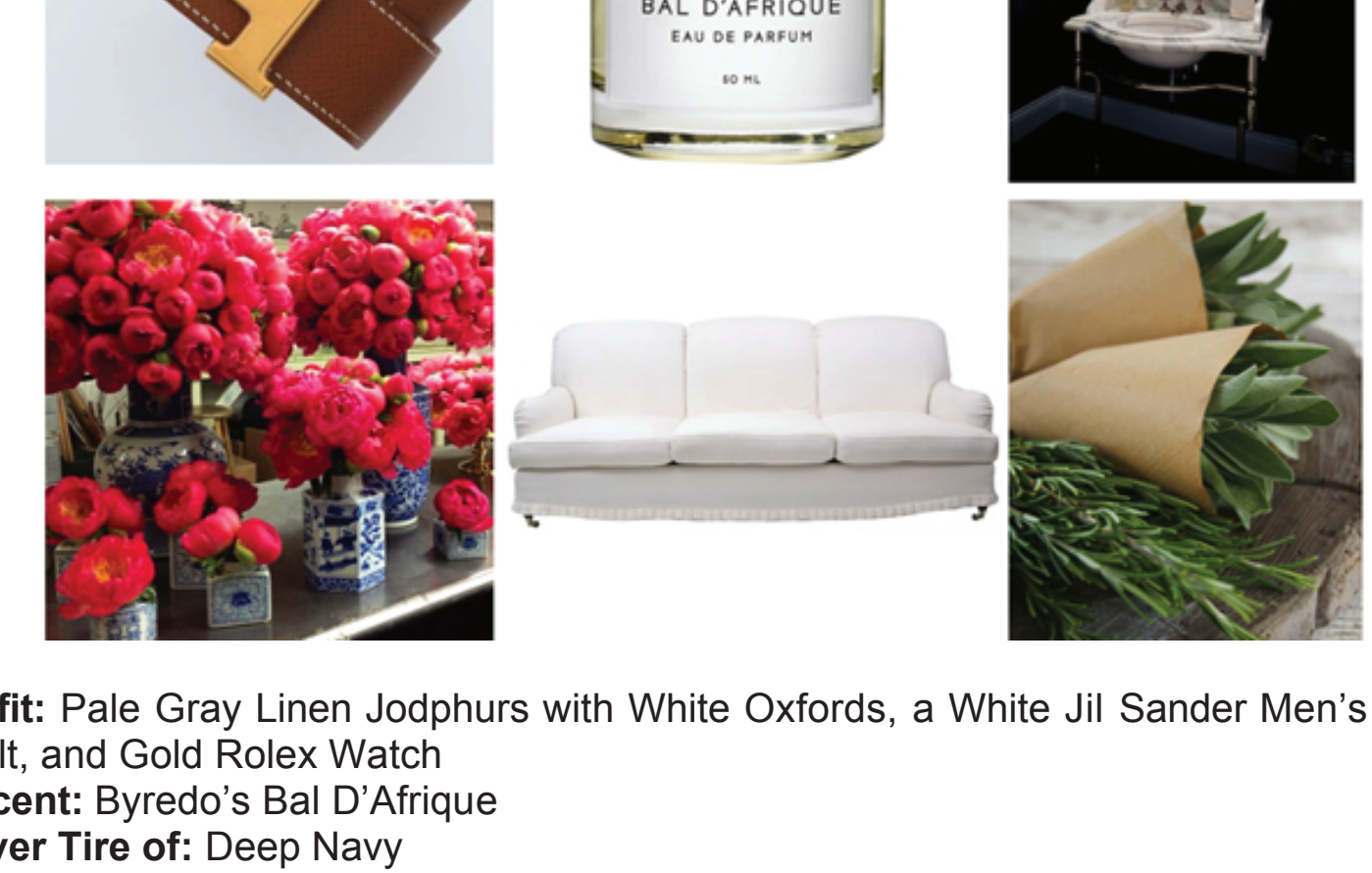
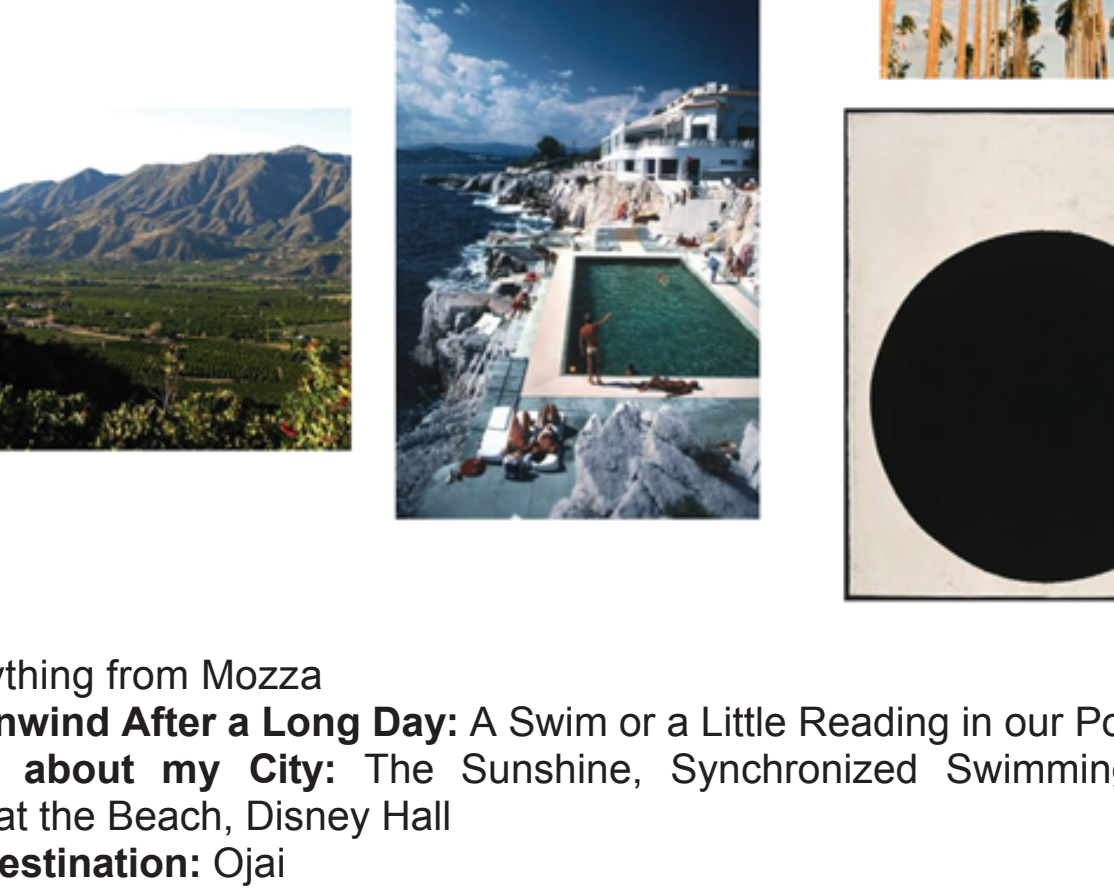
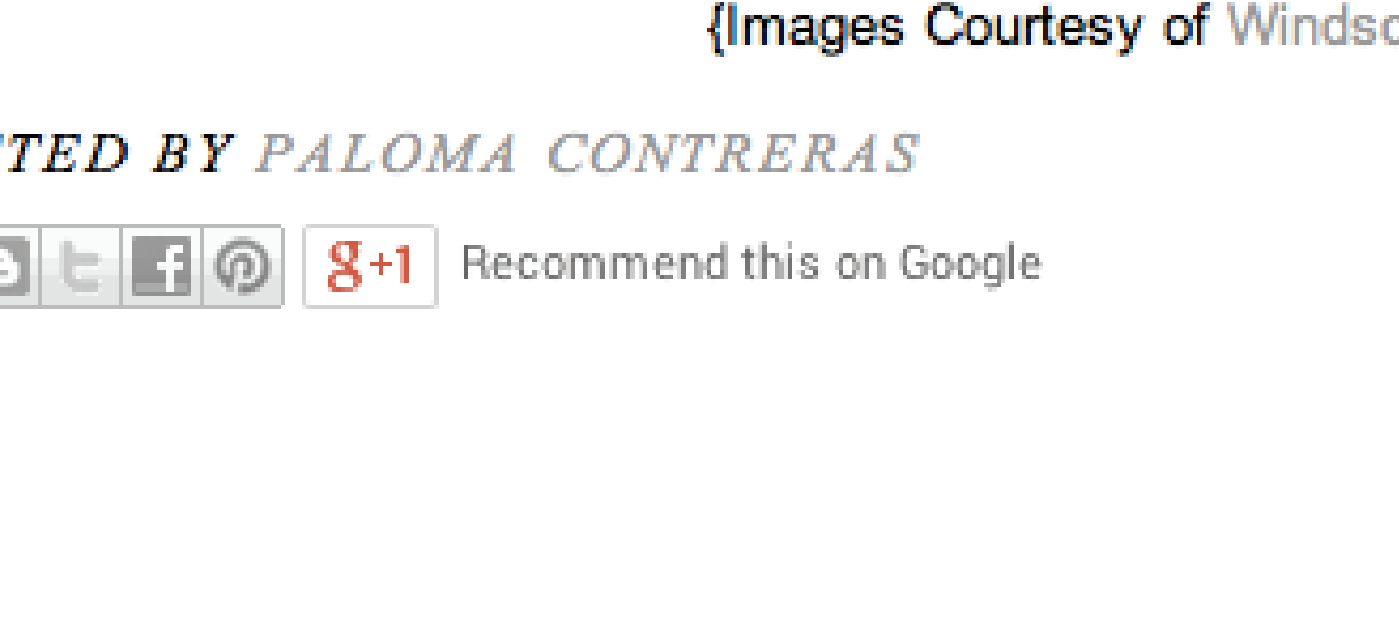


Over the years, we have established several recurring series on La Dolce Vita. One of my all-time favorites, was "The Style Files" which ran from 2010-2011. It seems a lot of you enjoyed it as well as I get emails from readers from time to time asking that I bring it back. At the beginning of this year, I spent sometime coming up with concepts for new series to feature on the blog, but my mind kept going back to "The Style Files", so I am thrilled to announce that the series will be returning and appearing on LDV regularly. One of the most amazing things that my blog has afforded me is the opportunity to connect with likeminded individuals and with the people I admire within the design industry. Bringing this series back will allow me to share further insight into some of the most fascinating personalities in the design world with all of you.



{The House of Windsor}

I am so excited to kick off the return of the series with the one and only, Windsor Smith. Windsor is a "lifestyle architect" and the founder of her eponymous design firm in Los Angeles as well as the creator of Windsor Smith Home, Inc. which includes a line of fabrics with Kravet, furniture with Century Icons, and Windsor Smith Home Collection—a private label line of bespoke furniture and accessories. Windsor's work has garnered extensive media attention with features in *House & Garden*, *Veranda*, *House Beautiful*, *InStyle*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and Gwyneth Paltrow's *GOOP*. As many of you probably know, Gwyneth scooped up the gorgeous House of Windsor (a showhouse whose concept was created by Windsor and Veranda) in L.A.'s Brentwood neighborhood and has worked with Windsor on several other design projects, including the redesign of her Hamptons living room using Windsor's Room in a Box design solution. I love that Windsor's style is approachable yet rooted in tradition. Her rooms are vibrant, filled with color and interesting pieces and maintain an effortless elegance. Windsor's beautifully-curated spaces are an exercise in "livable luxury" with a touch of "grounded glamour". I recently had a conversation with Windsor to better understand her design philosophy, her inspiration, and what makes her tick. Her answers to my questions are sure to delight, inspire, and even surprise you. Enjoy!

THE STYLE FILES:
WINDSOR SMITH**Paloma Contreras:** How would you describe your style?**Windsor Smith:** Eclectic, optimistic and elegant.**PC:** Would you say that living in Los Angeles has influenced the way you decorate?**WS:** The relaxed approach to luxury is in the DNA of all that I do!**PC:** What does your home say about you?**WS:** That I am daring, coy, and expansive in my taste and style, but a devout traditionalist at heart!**PC:** What do you love most about being an interior designer?**WS:** I love the intimacy of the work, the relationships, and the trust the client places in me to create their environments with and for them. And of course, the constant connection to tactile and beautiful materials.**PC:** Where do you turn for inspiration?**WS:** Everywhere! I am walking velcro looking for inspiration. I found a vintage plate for a 500 dollar bill at a flea market and plated it in gold and had it made into a necklace. It was my P.Diddy moment! I totally embarrassed my kids by wearing it! Nothing is safe around me—I have no scruples when it comes to repurposing almost anything into an object of beauty, humor, and intrigue.**PC:** Who are your personal style icons?**WS:** Pharrell is my new style crush for his joyful, intuitive approach to music, art, and fashion. Slim Keith, Sophia Loren, Grace Kelly, and French and Italian women for their effortless sense of timeless style.**PC:** What is your guilty pleasure?**WS:** Shopping for vintage cars on Ebay.**PC:** What is the best piece of advice you've ever received?**WS:** Deliver on time and under budget!**PC:** Finish this sentence: Before I die, I'd like to...**WS:** I'd like to have a Benjamin Button experience and work my way back to the beginning of my life. It has been so great, I want to do it again before I go. EXACTLY the way it happened, only in reverse.**PC:** Who/what has been your greatest professional influence?**WS:** I'm not talking creative, but professional, I would say my own inner desire to do well by those who count on me. It makes me try harder and push the envelope from all sides creatively.**PC:** What is your idea of living la dolce vita?**WS:** I'm pretty simple: time for my family and friends uninterrupted by the mundane workings of life that steal our moments far too often. A quiet Bahamian hammock nap on the beach, a cool dip in the pool, and Italian linen shirt, a warm, airy home filled with light and fresh flowers; movie night in our pool house, soulful music on Pandora, 1st dibs, a great martini with almond stuffed olives, a well-made classic automobile with supple leather seats; cherry blossoms in bloom, a Bottega Veneta leather-bound family photo album, and a few chunky gold rings and I'm good. I will have lived.**PC:** What can we look forward to next from you?**WS:** My line with Century-- launching it is the perfect culmination of the pieces that I have found I want to use over and over for the feeling they bring to a room. More build projects that incorporate lifestyle and family into the design along with a larger presence in the digital space with WSRoominaBox.com. In 2015, my book with Rizzoli launches as well as my line of whimsical and gorgeous objects with Arteriors.**Favorite Meal:** Anything from Mozza**Favorite Way to Unwind After a Long Day:** A Swim or a Little Reading in our Pool Cabana**3 Things I Love about my City:** The Sunshine, Synchronized Swimming Lessons at the Annenberg Center at the Beach, Disney Hall**Go-To Weekend Destination:** Ojai**Favorite Hotel:** Hotel du Cap**Favorite Artist:** Richard Serra or Cy TwomblyXO,
Paloma

{Images Courtesy of Windsor Smith}

POSTED BY PALOMA CONTRERAS

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