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RADAR / CHAT ROOM

JUNGLE LOVE

LUXE PARTNERED WITH LIAIGRE AND DESIGNER SASHA BIKOFF FOR THIS YEAR'S DINING BY DESIGN, AN ANNUAL EVENT FOR DIFFA (DESIGN INDUSTRIES FOUNDATION FIGHTING AIDS) SHOWCASING AN ARRAY OF DINING SPACES BY TOP TALENTS. HERE, BIKOFF SHARES HER INSPIRATION FOR A MYTHICAL RAINFOREST.

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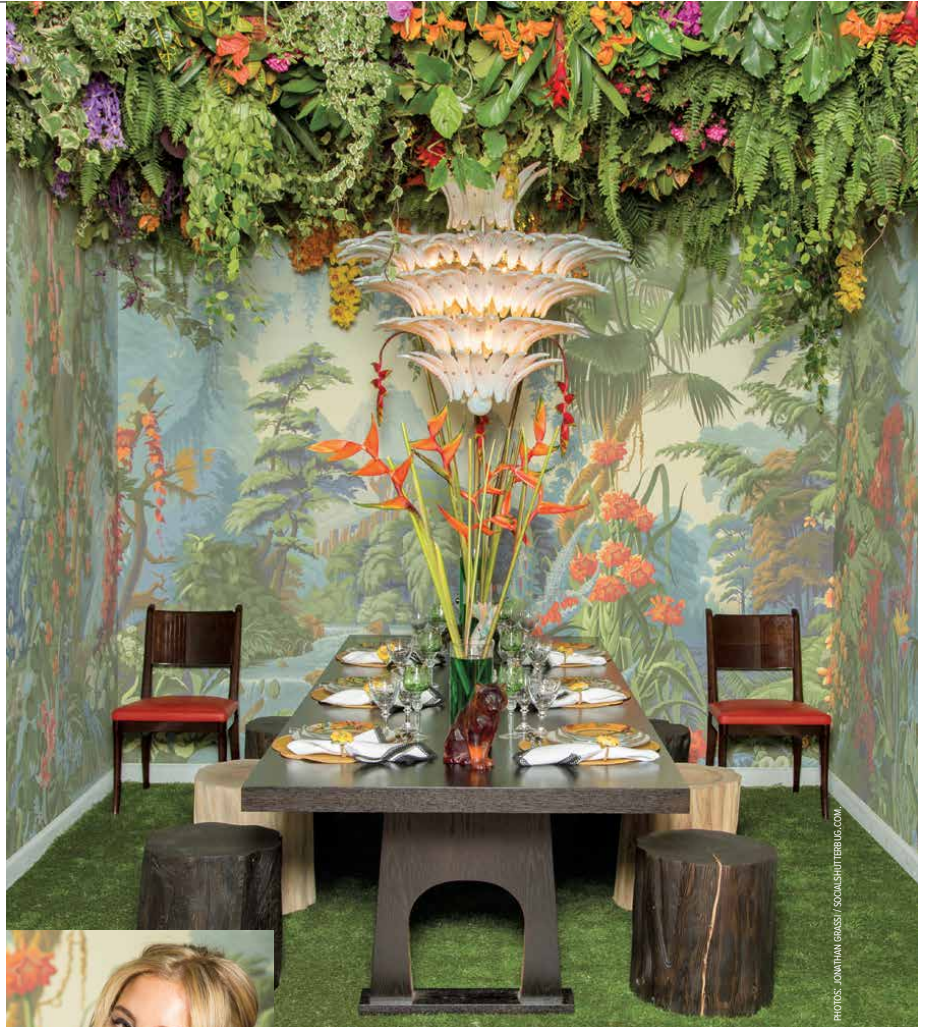
The forest through the trees: What was the intention behind your theme? Nature is always a focal point in my designs and is what inspires me most in the world. I wanted to encapsulate that in the space and almost overwhelm the viewer with a more theatrical scene.

Your playfulness and passion clearly comes through, yet there's also a strong sense of restraint. My sense of balance comes from my background in painting and art history and how artists use colors, forms and objects to achieve balance. I'm not a minimalist by any means and truly do believe that "more is more," however, there's an art to this "restrained maximalism." When you have such dynamism with the walls, you need to have something equally as dynamic on the ceiling to draw the eyes up. It's all about moving seamlessly without interruptions.

There's a surprising contrast between the artful de Gournay wallpaper and the industrial floorcovering. This connects with the playfulness of what is real and what is fake. I tried to create moments of both real and imaginative design.

What drew you to the Liaigre seating? I wanted the space to be like a set design and felt that formal chairs were too "normal." I noticed all of these tree stumps around the Liaigre showroom, and they worked perfectly with the grass rug and wallpaper. Then, I found two red chairs with this extremely luxe glossy-wood finish as a chic decorative accent.

And how about the crown? Tell us more about the foliated ceiling and flower-shaped chandelier. The live floral ceiling mimics the wallpaper's tropical, trompe l'oeil theme but in a three-dimensional way, with the chandelier creating a little pop. It was all about repeating common themes.



Designer Sasha Bikoff (above) selected Liaigre chairs and stools to accentuate the Liaigre dining table for her Dining by Design space (top). The floral ceiling and grass flooring provided by Brooklyn's dig, a leaf chandelier from Venfield, and Scully & Scully dinnerware (right) all echo the lush pattern of the de Gournay wallpaper.