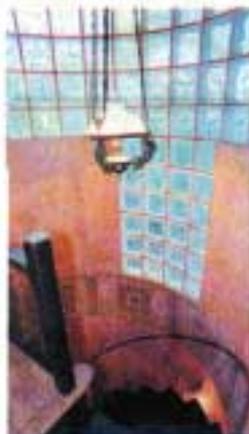


TRIANGULAR table with kilim pattern and terra-cotta lamp, designed like a flask, with a metal shade

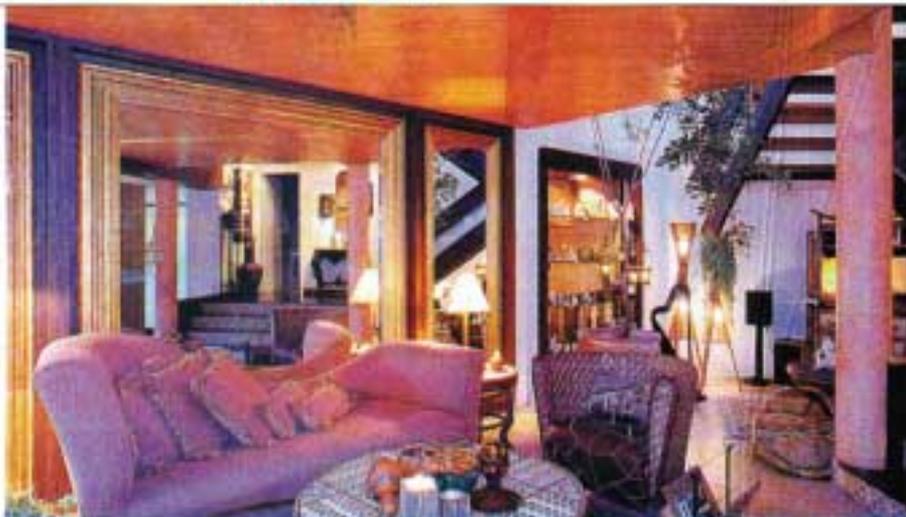


HILLTOP lights bring in more natural light. The curved walk is done by string framing and adorned with mosaic tiles. Original Dutch lamp from Indonnesia lights up the place.

In their residence, the Palao couple represents the sophistication and verve of Cebu furniture design



ENLIVENING authority, the designer makes different handles inspired by vegetables, namely the mushroom, carrot and pea pod.



LIVING ROOM. The screen is framed by a series of molding with gold leaf. The mirrors reflect other parts of the house. Palao designed the ultrapersepolitic sofa with matching cushions and silk-and-pepper fringes. The table carries the mosaic theme that prevails in the house. Beside it is an obscure wicker chair with etched ceramic tiles.

Cebu whimsy with first-world quality

(From page E2)

The house is a quality of curvy patterns—curves and lines, sophisticated, sophisticated done in wire, fiberglass, shells, stone that are rounded into personal objects.

Displays

There are displays of Dittler's passions, such as seed art, which she enjoys, an ostrich egg, rattles from Brazil and a magazine from Indonesia.

On her design philosophy, Dittler explains, "I play around with shapes. A lot of them are copied by nature. I mix metals, leather and wood, among them. That's the strength of my design."

The strength is reflected in her award-winning work—a chair with the head of a catfish and a new made from the body from the South Islands. A sofa that's shaped like a nest also got a design trophy.

Dittler created a sofa that's made according to the way she sits. She'd stretch and lay her head out on the hollow curve and get into one of the high curved backrests.

Dittler loves to entertain friends. During the great furniture fair in Cebu, the house was recognized as the favorite and guests can see the new collection in its milieu. This year the introduction featuring made from bamboo, rattan or teak, and concrete and painted together in forms resembling shapes.

Her sense of humor is shown in her kitchen for usually and kilim patterns that are repeated all over the house. She makes fiberglass side tables painted with geometric designs.

The kitchen is the best showroom for her
CBBQ/p. E2



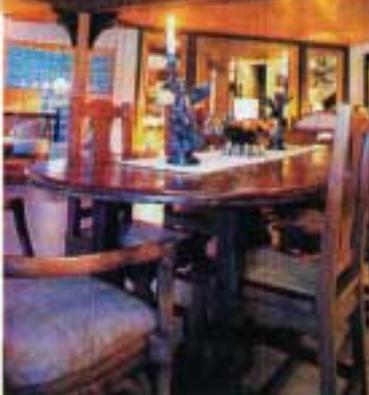
CUTWORK of "The Last Supper" complements the kitchen corner made of pine wood grain. The mosaic pattern is repeated in the counter-top.

HONEY

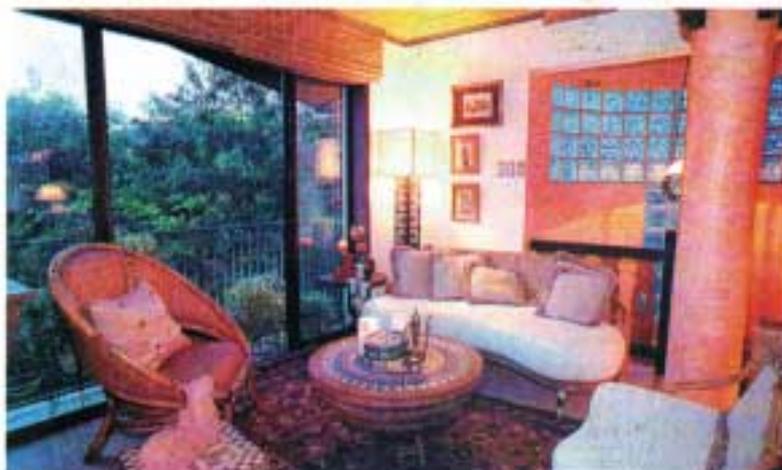
kitchen furnished with the mosaic (mushroom, carrot, pea pod) made of organic and recycled plastic shades." Try eating.

DINING

area combines an antique table, placed together without nails, and a modern Danish lamp.



CASUAL corner (left) furnished with a chair designed by Rasmus Castellanos. The kilim rug from Pakistan complements the pattern of the coffee table with mosaic top and apron, an outgrowth of rattan. The table looks like a bear. The legs are covered with silk split. The sofa has no arms so you can lie down. It's made of hemp, cotton spinn and natural legs.



Cebu whimsy with first-world quality

(From page 14)

music designs. They are whimsically accented with woods and bamboo shaped like vegetables. The doors I like plus walls. To make them interesting, they are painted in murals.

Division of space

The walls of mirrors in the living room break the room and create a great appearance. They expand the space. Because they reflect the light, they give the illusion of another window.

"I don't like mirrors that look straight at you. When you stand up, you see a reflection of a mirror," she says.

Another division is to hold a mirror shell that doubles as a shell for the collection of angels and a view of her bedroom.

While she's inside the room, Debbie can see what's happening in the living room. For privacy she puts the bedclothes down.

Because Debbie is a night person, she likes the lighting very. There is no direct lighting. Light comes from little cones.

When she visits relatives, she stays in the bathroom. She designed a basket that's shaped like a woman. The man is shaped like a woman's dress.

When she visits relatives, she stays in the bathroom. She designed a basket that's shaped like a woman. The man is shaped like a woman's dress.

"I wanted to show the baby in me, the moonchildren that I am. And, I'm lucky that my husband likes. You should see the statues you saw."

With husband like Gino, who works women's SUV?



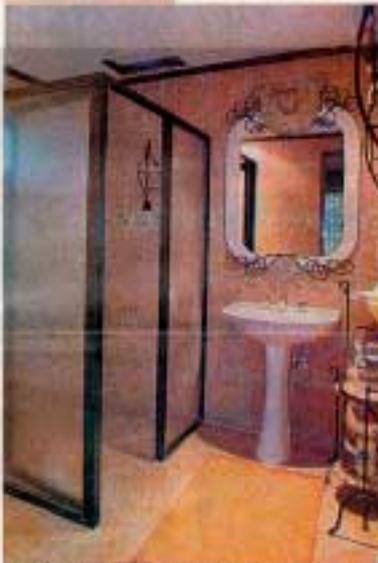
BEHIND CHAIR. "It's not anything I can make," says Debbie Pales. The basket came from her grandfather's house that was built in 1912.



CARABAO chair was a Katha award for its Filipino theme. Made from wrought iron and metal sheet and water buffalo hide.



BALCONY view



GUEST BATHROOM. The walls are lined with ceramic tiles and accented with Pales's trademark mosaic patterns. The bathroom interior is accentuated by an antique rug and embellished with wrought-iron curlicues.



ENTRANCE jaded table is dressed with a lampshade that looks like a peacock, an orchid egg, and birds of paradise that are all around the house.

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006

Home

Cebu

whimsy with first-world quality

CORNER composed of a metal mirror-man candleholder, water music, wooden bowl, and an angel

BY MARGE C. ENRIQUEZ

WITHOUT ANY fanfare, furniture design in Cebu has won acclaim internationally. It is original, exciting, upscale, and admired for its excellent craftsmanship and clean shapes and its innovative use of indigenous materials.

But because designer-manufacturers cater to the export market, everything is always done to a high because of stiff competition. Take a peek at Cebuano homes and you'll be surprised at the sophistication of local design.

Step into the residence of Debbie and Gino Pales of Design Ventures. Their trademark is mosaic work and whimsical furniture. It's the best showroom for their business. The house has got Debbie's personality written all over it.

The Pales' eight-level house is built on the slope of Maria Luisa subdivision. Like any Filipino home, it's a mix of old and new. There are pieces from Debbie's grandfather's home that was built in 1902 such as bakajang, trunk and banyan trunks.

The main look is safari-oriental prints, local woods, black ebonony in the floor, tribal prints, African waxed bookshelves and African buffalo leather for upholstery.

CEBU p. 14

Cebu whimsy with first-world quality

by Marge C. Enriquez

Without any fanfare, furniture design in Cebu has won acclaim internationally. It is original, exciting, upscale, and admired for its excellent craftsmanship and clean shapes and its innovative use of indigenous materials.

But because designer-manufacturers cater to the export market, everything is always done in a hush because of stiff competition. Take a peek at Cebuano homes and you'll be surprised at the sophistication of local design. Step into the residence of Debbie and Gus Palao of Design Ventures. Their trademark is mosaic work and whimsical furnishing. It's the best showroom for their business. The house has got Debbie's personality written all over it. The Palaos' split-level house is built on the slope of Maria Luisa subdivision. Like any Filipino home, it's a mix of old and new. There are pieces from Debbie's grandfather's home that was built in 1902 such as *balayong*, teak and baroque brackets. The main look is safari-animal prints, local woods, black mahogany in the foyer, tribal prints, African warrior knickknacks and African buffalo leather for upholstery.

The house is a motley of earthy textures— ceramic and stone, upholstery studs, upholstery done in wire, fiberglass, shells, abaca that are translated into practical objects.

Displays

There are displays of Debbie's passions, such as sand art, which she enjoys, an ostrich egg, candles from Seville and a menagerie from Morocco.

On her design philosophy, Debbie explains, "I play around with shapes. A lot of them are inspired by nature. I mix media, leather and metal, *arurog*. That's the strength of my design."

The strength is reflected in her award-winning work—a chair with the head of a carabao and a seat made from its hide won in the Katha Awards. A sofa that's shaped like a snail also got a design trophy.

Debbie created a sofa that's made according to the way she sits. She'd slouch and let her head rest on the hollow curve and put one arm on the high curved backrest.

Debbie loves to entertain friends. During the great furniture fair in Cebu, the house was rearranged so that buyers and guests can see the new collection in its milieu. This year she introduced furnishing made from bamboo rounds or strips cut crosswise and padded together to form interesting shapes.

Her sense of humor is shown in her fondness for mosaic and kilim patterns that are repeated all over the house. She makes fiberglass side tables painted with geometric designs.

The kitchen is the best showroom for her mosaic designs. They are whimsically accented with mosaics and handles shaped like vegetables.



She doesn't like plain walls. To make them interesting, they are painted in marble.

Illusion of space

The walls of mirrors in the living room frame the room and create a grand appearance. They expand the space. Because they reflect the light, they give the illusion of another window.

"I don't like mirrors that look straight at you. When you stand up, you see a reflection of a corner," she says.

Another device is to build a mirror shelf that doubles as a shelf for her collection of angels and a view of her bedroom. While she's inside the room, Debbie can see what's happening in the living room. For privacy she pulls the blinds down. Because Debbie is a night person, she likes the lighting cozy. There is no direct lighting. Light comes from little coves.

When she wants silence, she finds respite in the bathroom. She designed a hamper that's shaped like a woman. The seat is shaped like a squatting *derriere* that's made of metal. The rack is curved like her torso,

"I wanted to show the *kalog* in me, the nonconformist that I am. And, I'm lucky that my husband says, 'Go ahead and do whatever you want.'" With husbands like Gus, who needs women's lib?