

Paloma Contreras

The celebrated designer and tastemaker brings her uplifting style to a new lighting collection for **Visual Comfort**.

You started your blog, *La Dolce Vita*, in 2007. Why do you think it resonated? My style is rooted in a classic, timeless point of view, but it has modern touches. Whether you lean more contemporary or more traditional, there's something you might identify with in my work.

How did you focus the look of this lighting collection? It's something that came together organically. During my travels, pre-Covid, I would go to France twice a year, shopping for vintage and antique pieces for clients and for my store in Houston. The entire Orsay series is inspired by Giacometti fixtures I'd seen in Loulou, a restaurant in Paris. Those fixtures are chunkier, more organic and done in plaster, but I love those conical shades and wanted to reinterpret that. The collection leans a bit '70s, with a French modern feel.

Is travel a big inspiration? I have a visceral need to travel and shake up my surroundings! I was just in Palm Beach and the light, colour palette and architecture are so different there. All of those things creep into our psyches when we travel.

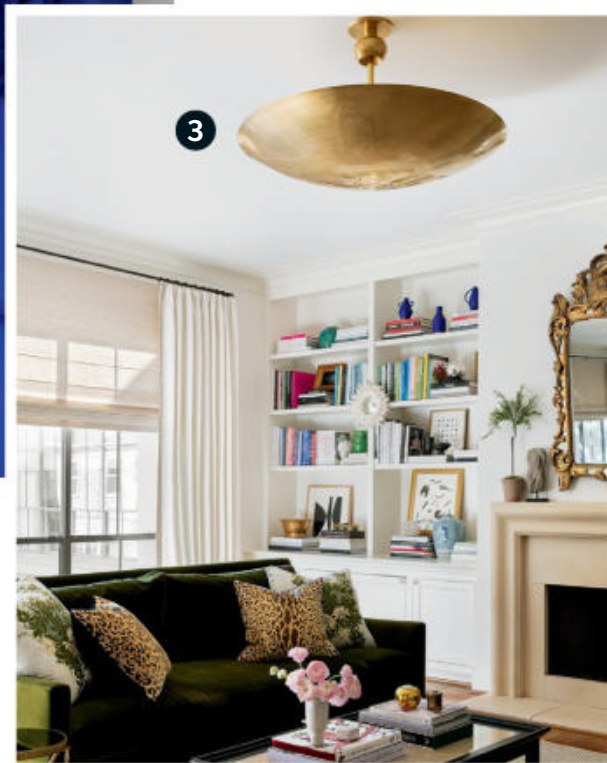


Designer Paloma Contreras in her Houston home.

We might pick up on a detail we hadn't considered otherwise.

Many of the chandeliers in your collection are uplights. What's your advice for using them in the home?

Uplighting is something you want in spaces where you entertain — a dining room or library — or in a bedroom, where you want even, beautiful light. It's generally not for a principal bathroom or places that need task lighting. Use it to create a soft glow and a welcoming mood.



1. Medium Maxime table lamp in Emerald Green Crackle, \$1,345. 2. Small Orsay Single sconce in Hand-Rubbed Antique Brass, \$745. 3. The Comtesse XL Uplight chandelier features a 40-inch-diameter spun-brass bowl. \$8,985. All at Cocoon Furnishings.



ABOVE: The updated Charleston stripe comes in Catkin, Fossil and Turkey Red.

FLOOR SHOW

To mark its 30th anniversary, **Roger Oates Design** has added new colourways to some of its original wool flatweave rugs and runners. The preppy Charleston stripe now comes in Fossil (far left) for a cool, contemporary look that's seriously cosy underfoot. Approx. \$300/linear yard. Y&Co.

Text by Rosemary Poole/Photography by Kerry Kirk (Q&A, Paloma's portrait)/Aimée Mazzenga (Q&A, sitting room)/courtesy of Visual Comfort (lights)/Roger Oates Design (Floor Show)