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Serenity with **Dazzle**

Lynne Scalo's elegant, subtly hued design nurtures harmony and peace, yet still provokes a "Wow!"

BY JOANNA PETTAS

Photographs by Phillip Ennis

LYNNE SCALO, INTERIOR DESIGNER, and her assistant, Nathalia Ferreira, were seated across from each other in a Paris café when, all of a sudden, Nathalia saw Lynne shiver. Tears filled her eyes, and Nathalia knew right away what was happening—Lynne had an idea. She picked up a napkin and started scribbling the sketch of a unique chandelier made with quartz crystal stones suspended from beaded strands of varying lengths. Soon the napkin sketch had been translated into a formal design, and then into a tangible work of art. The first of these chandeliers sold

within a week of its arrival at Lynne's showroom.

This is the way Lynne Scalo works—a moment of inspiration sparks a process of artistic creation that offers beauty a form and homeowners an opportunity to bring that beauty into their homes.

Despite its mystery, beauty is not—for Scalo—as ambiguous as the abstract word might suggest. "It is real," she says, "like a mathematical equation." Its effect is visceral—"the body responds to it."

Scalo's goal is to express the client's ideals of beauty, both visually and pragmatically. While she says clients can always recognize



OPPOSITE PAGE: Designer Lynne Scalo leans against a sofa she designed using one of her favorite shimmer-linen fabrics. THIS PAGE: Scalo's Westport showroom features artwork she represents, as well as chandeliers and furnishings she designs. The shagreen coffee table seen here was inspired by the work of renowned designer Jean-Michel Frank.



these ideals when they see them in form, it can be challenging for many to articulate what they want. But Scalo doesn't think in terms of challenge—rather, she focuses on moving forward through inspiration, deciphering each client's point of view in the process.

“The goal is not to just fill the space up with furniture but to express their ideas, their worldview, and their sensibilities through a combination of furniture, art, color, paint, and materials that is more than just function. It has to be inspiring,” she says. In this way, interior design is a collaborative art form for her. She works with clients to identify their values and interests—and even what colors flatter them, so that their home will flatter them as well.

The first encounter between Scalo and her clients often takes place in her retail studio, Lynne Scalo Design, in Westport. While the showroom is dominated by a mostly neutral color palette, its design arouses a reaction that is anything but. The room is a gallery of captivating objects that, like most great works of visual art, become even more entrancing as one spends more time looking at them. Several of the pieces—like the quartz crystal chandelier described above—are made with organic elements, which Scalo loves to incorporate into her designs. The tone is one of serenity, and yet almost everything in the room emits a shine, creating an effect of simplicity and elegance fused with dazzle and glitter—design that nurtures harmony and peace while provoking a “Wow!”

Scalo started her business in 2000, returning to her home state

of Connecticut after living and working in New York, Miami, and Los Angeles. Since then, she has been applying her sophisticated, worldly aesthetic to the somewhat staid traditionalism of the “classically Connecticut” style. The homeowners who seek her out are often familiar with her work and “have done their homework,” she says. But the bond that develops is based on more than simply word-of-mouth recommendations—an immediate connection often forms, many times as a result of mutual affection for a piece of furniture, a painting, a light fixture, or something else in the showroom. Out of this initial connection, a deeply personal relationship grows as Scalo works with homeowners to design the interior of what is perhaps the most important space in their lives.

For Scalo, working with her clients is more than just a job. “They get *me*,” she says. “That’s the difference in the way I work. It’s personal to me.” She spends long days and nights in clients’ homes as she immerses herself in all stages of the process, overseeing installations, helping with move-in, and so on.

Pervading all of this is a commitment to having the home reflect the homeowners’ points of view. “You can see the difference when a home is designed according to the designer’s point of view,” she says. Scalo travels regularly around the world to find the ideal pieces for the homes of her clients, especially those who may not have as much time to devote to the process. Recently, though, she had the rare opportunity to meet with two separate



OPPOSITE PAGE: An up-close look at one of the most popular pieces in Scalo's collection, an opulent buffet table with mother-of-pearl inlay. THIS PAGE: Scalo travels regularly to cities around the world, sourcing mirrors, artwork, and other decorative items that reflect her design aesthetic, often with specific clients in mind.





Winter whites dominate in Scalo's showroom, creating a subtle and serene atmosphere, while shimmer-linen sofas and crystal-adorned chandeliers add eye-catching shine. Many of Scalo's lighting fixtures contribute a warm, rustic look, while others (like the one here, right of center) offer a more modern appeal. Scalo frequently works with the white fabric used to create the sofa and chairs seen here at far left. It is amazingly stain-free, according to Scalo, and ideal for homeowners with pets or young children.



The showroom is a gallery of captivating objects that become even more entrancing the more you observe them.

clients in Paris—one from Southport who asked Scalo to design her apartment there, and one from Ridgefield with whom Scalo is working to design the interior of her home, a historical renovation. By joining Scalo in Paris, the client from Ridgefield was able to see artwork and furnishings she may not have otherwise had the chance to see, and now several pieces from that trip will be incorporated into the design of her home.

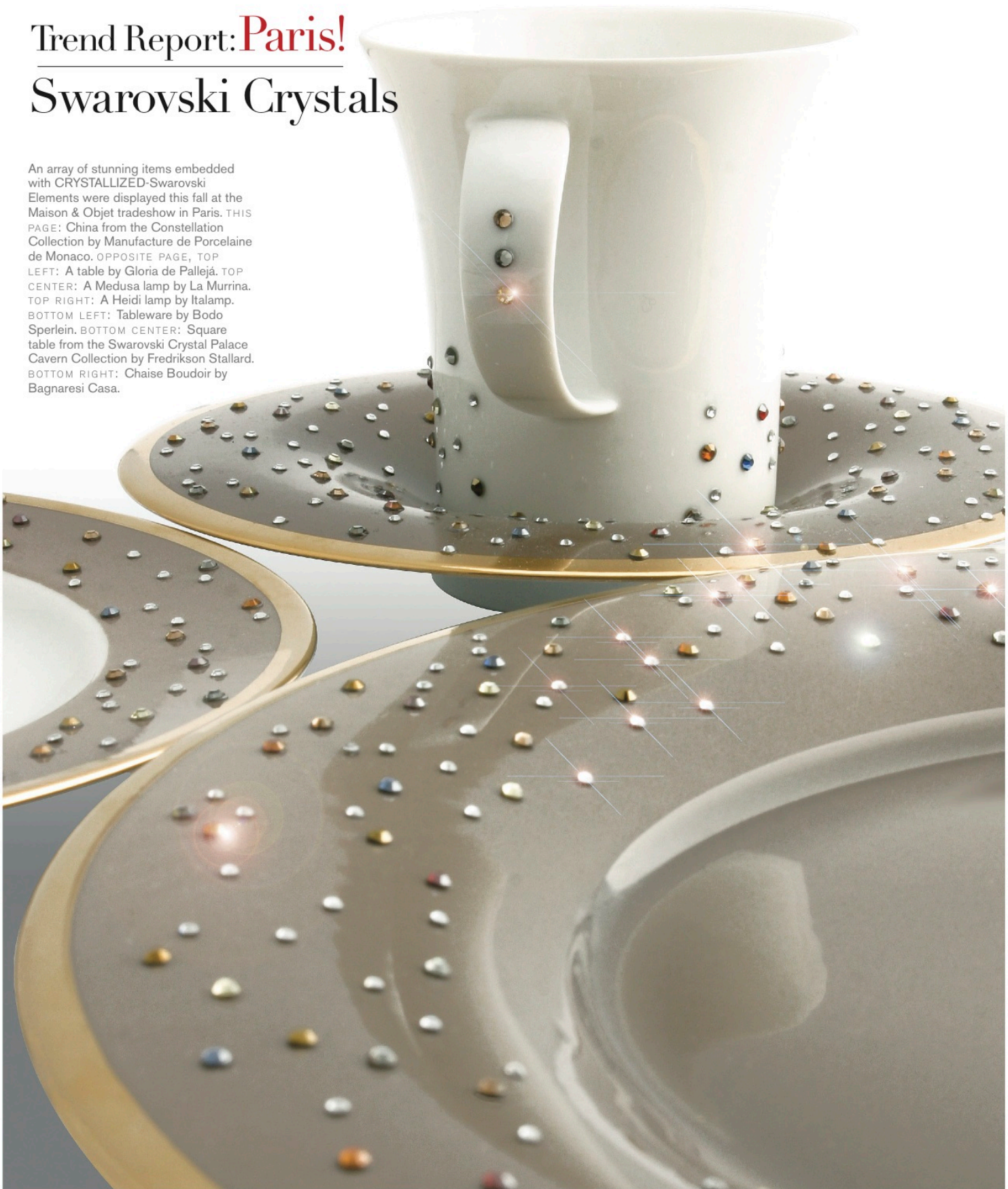
In part because of her profound commitment, Scalo can work with only a limited number of clients each year. The showroom offers opportunities for admirers to walk in, view, and—if they wish—purchase her custom-designed furniture and fixtures, the art she represents, and other pieces she sources from all over the world. “If it’s here, her seal of approval is on it,” Nathalia says; that clearly means a great deal to those who know her work. >>

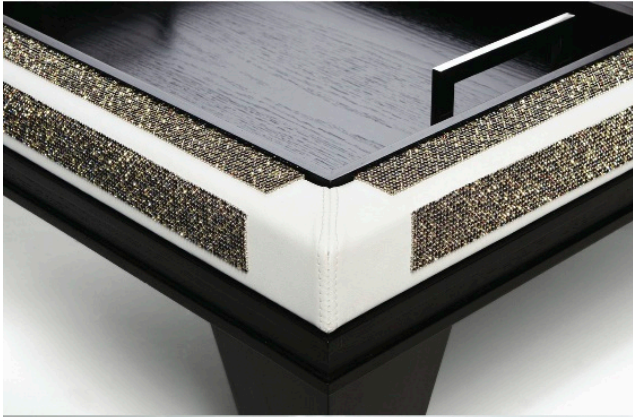


Trend Report: **Paris!**

Swarovski Crystals

An array of stunning items embedded with CRYSTALLIZED-Swarovski Elements were displayed this fall at the Maison & Objet tradeshow in Paris. THIS PAGE: China from the Constellation Collection by Manufacture de Porcelaine de Monaco. OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP LEFT: A table by Gloria de Pallejá. TOP CENTER: A Medusa lamp by La Murrina. TOP RIGHT: A Heidi lamp by Italamp. BOTTOM LEFT: Tableware by Bodo Sperlein. BOTTOM CENTER: Square table from the Swarovski Crystal Palace Cavern Collection by Fredrikson Stallard. BOTTOM RIGHT: Chaise Boudoir by Bagnaresi Casa.





On her recent trip to Paris, interior designer Lynne Scalo attended the world-renowned Maison & Objet (House and Object) tradeshow, which showcases trends in interior design, decoration, and home fashion.

The city is a great source of inspiration for Scalo. “The architecture—it’s grand, but at the same time relaxed,” she says. “I am inspired by the color palette of the city, its textures, its smell, its people—their sense of style, fashion, their presentation of food, their love of art.”

At the show, Scalo was drawn to one of the trends highlighted in particular—the use of Swarovski crystals in everything from dishes to chairs to linens and pillows—“utilitarian objects you wouldn’t normally associate with them,” she says. To her, this addition of a bit of sparkle indicates a trend toward luxe in objects of everyday use.

It also, quite simply, underscores the popularity of shine. “It’s more than a trend for me,” she says. “I do that in my work too. I use metallic and sparkle. Everything has bits of shine. People just like shiny things.”

For an example, she points to one of the signature pieces in her showroom—a walnut buffet piece inlaid with mother-of-pearl. >>



Trend Report: **Paris!**

Luxe Fabrics

The Maison & Objet show also called attention to a trend in luxury fabrics—the reintroduction of classic French patterns in larger-scale repeats. The fabrics seen here demonstrate the richness of these vibrantly colored and patterned materials.

Another notable trend brought into the spotlight at the recent Maison & Objet tradeshow in Paris was the comeback of “old school,” luxury patterned fabrics.

Scalo says she was drawn to their opulence, their colors, their textures, and their handmade quality. “It is the reintroducing of old-school patterns in larger-scale repeats, but this was so finely done that I just responded to it,” she says. “The fabrics were so opulent and beautiful and yet historical. It was as if I could see these fabrics being thrown at Marie Antoinette’s feet. They were so luxurious.” *TME*

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Lynne Scalo is an interior designer in Westport, Connecticut. Her retail studio, Lynne Scalo Design, features her own line of bespoke furniture as well as a collection of fine art, upholstery, lighting, and rugs. 203.222.4991; info@lynnescalos.com; www.lynnescalos.com

