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SPRING 2016

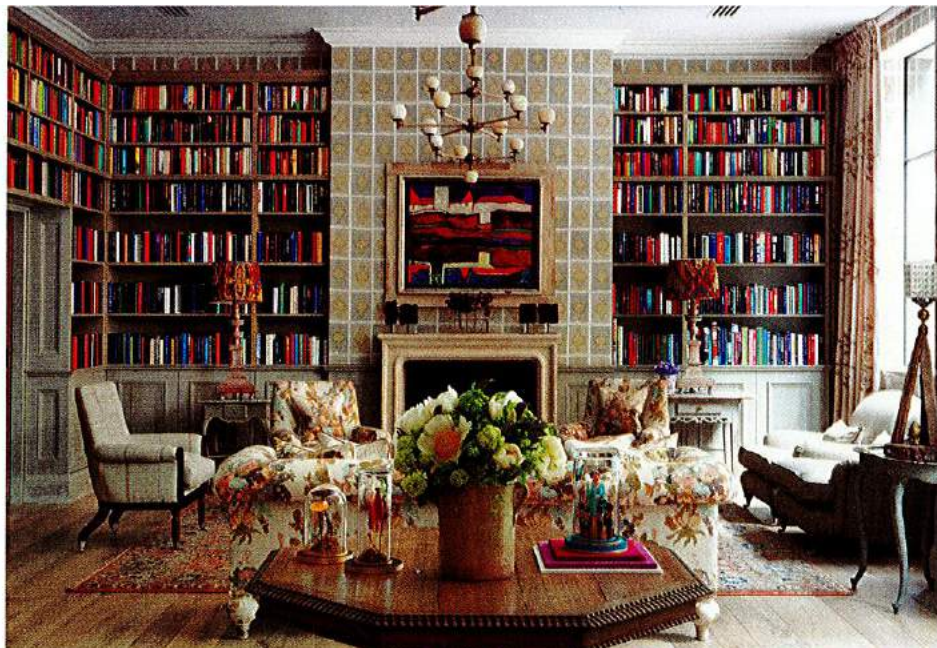
SPRING'S
GRAPHIC
FASHION

A LOOK AT
CALIFORNIA'S
MOST OPULENT
GARDEN

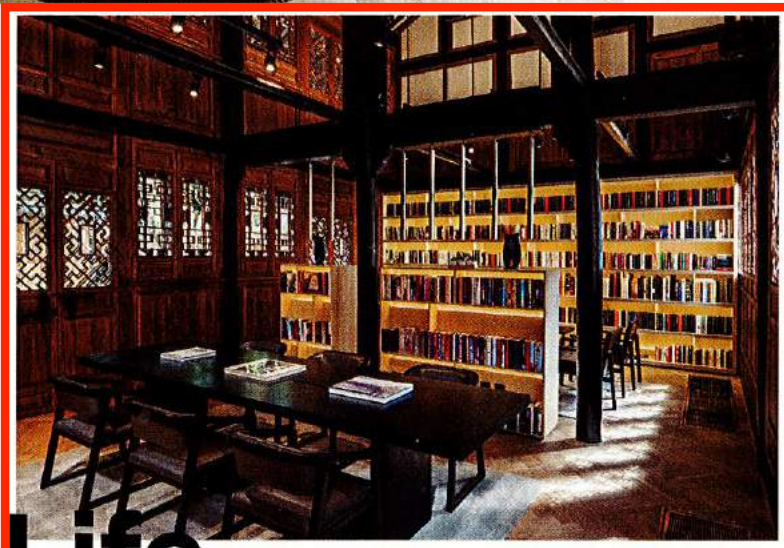
THE MURDER
MYSTERY THAT
SHOCKED
THE CAPITAL

IT'S A BIRD,
IT'S A PLANE,
IT'S

**HENRY
CAVILL**



One for the Books
Ultimate Library custom libraries at London's Ham Yard Hotel (above) and Temple House in Chengdu, China.



Shelf Life

Bespoke libraries for hotels and homes that let the books do the talking
Written by Alyssa Giacobbe

WHEN U.K. PUBLISHING SCION Philip Blackwell sold The Blackwell Group in 2006 he was in his late forties and not quite ready to retire—though no longer keen on office life in London, either. Suitably, his second act, Ultimate Library, curates libraries for hotels and private residences around the world, capitalizing on Blackwell's two greatest loves: books and travel. "A well chosen hotel book collection should add to the creation of a sense of place, leave you better informed," he says, "maybe even prevent you from getting out and about as much as you would like." Libraries for properties like Four Seasons, The Doyle Collection, and Aman resorts are designed to reflect the needs of the guests—where they come from, why they're visiting—and aim to combine the intellectual with the fanciful: *London Stories* and *How to Speak Money* in the library of London's new 67 Pall Mall, or early editions

of *Out of Africa* and cheeky almanac *The Book of Animal Ignorance* in tents at Kenya's Angama Mara. In private homes, Blackwell may design a dream collection based on client interests or library colors or he may be asked to follow guidelines as specific as "books on Italian Renaissance architecture more than seven inches high to fill 20 linear feet of shelving." That, he says, is a true story.

Blackwell is happy to report that design tastes have returned to the more opulent even as technology moves the world away from paper—and not just for the sake of his bottom line. "I have never got on with reading on a device; it sacrifices so much of the experience," he says. "Physical books are like candles. While electric lights meet our rational and industrial needs, only candles deliver the texture, subtlety and atmosphere that make a house a home. Let the counter-revolution to technology overload begin!" ■

THE BUCKET LIST

Five of Rio de Janeiro's most exclusive, life-altering offerings



1. GET A BODY SCRUB FROM THE CHICEST SPA

Hotel Fasano, Ipanema
On the roof of Rio's most stylish hotel, an aesthetician stimulates circulation with the Vichy Shower—a bespoke, scented body scrub finished with a hydrating massage.
fasano.com.br

2. EAT LOCAL IN A CLIFFSIDE TREE HOUSE

Aprazível, Santa Teresa
Perched atop a hill in Rio's cool-kid zip code, you'll enjoy local favorites cooked perfectly (shrimp *moqueca*), as well as surprises like grilled heart of palm carved table-side. aprazivel.com.br

3. ENJOY RIO FROM THE CLOUDS

Helisight, Lagoa
Spy all of 2016's Olympic sites, including Maracanã Stadium, plus iconic destinations like Sugar Loaf Mountain and the Fortress of Santa Cruz, from the comfort of a helicopter—all with a glass of champagne in hand. helisight.com.br

4. GO SHOPPING WITH A FAMOUS STYLIST

Leblon and Ipanema, Rio
Celebrated Brazilian fashion specialists accompany couture lovers on a guided tour of Rio's best destination boutiques, with stops at Lenny Niemeyer for swimsuits and Antonio Bernardo for contemporary jewelry like the Puzzle Ring. riolifetours.com

5. SIP A CAIPIRINHA WITH AN ICONIC VIEW

Belmond Copacabana Palace, Copacabana
The historic hotel—where a broken-hearted Ava Gardner once trashed her own room, and where Madonna and the Rolling Stones have enjoyed the sights—offers a classic afternoon caipirinha poolside. belmond.com
—MICKEY RAPKIN