

INDIA'S
BEST-SELLING
MODERN HOMES
MAGAZINE

Living etc

FOR FASHIONABLE AND STYLISH HOMES

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THE
MODERN
ETHNIC

Revival of
the Crafts

PLAN THE
PERFECT
Home
Office

MAKE YOUR SPACE SPECIAL
with stark individuality



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Bandit Queen products are all about elegance and refinement, seen even in the minutest detail; Valerie at her home in Marrakech; apart from furnishings and linens, the store also keeps accessories.



AT HOME WITH... Valerie Barkowski

Travelling around the world and absorbing the richness of diverse cultures is what fuels Valerie Barkowski's passion for design. Since graduating from fine arts institute, Sint Lucas in Gent, the Belgian designer has kept herself busy creating a design brand in Morocco, working as an art dealer in Moscow and setting up an international art foundation in Marrakech, among other things. Valerie currently works as a consultant to home linen and furnishing brands, exclusive hotels and high-end boutiques. In 2009, she created the brand, Bandit Queen, for entrepreneur Sunita Namjoshi. The Mumbai-based luxury home furnishings brand has already generated buzz for its original concept and fine products that include linens and accessories.

MY WORK

BANDIT QUEEN WAS CONCEPTUALISED after a meeting with Sunita Namjoshi, the owner of the brand.

IT IS INSPIRED BY the elegance and refinement of the past.

EXCELLENCY WAS THE CRITERION for choosing textiles (for Bandit Queen) from among the wide range of Indian fabrics.

I CAN'T NAME one favourite weave or texture. I find beauty and interest in different techniques, weaves and textures – from the finest silk or cotton to a very rough hemp.

BUT I AM PARTIAL to cotton and am most fascinated by the craft of hand embroidery.

I LIVE IN THE PRESENT so I am very close to the projects I am working on. Bandit Queen has certainly a big place in my heart.

'QUALITY' AND 'OUT OF TIME' are key words that are common to all my projects. I try to achieve projects and design products that travel through time and do not compromise on quality.

I REALISED I WANTED TO BE A DESIGNER very early in life when I started to play with colours and materials.

MY DREAM PROJECT would be to design a love hotel.

MY HOME

MY HOME STYLE is like that of a chameleon's. I love to move rooms and furniture.

MY PRIZED INTERIORS POSSESSION is my library. I collect books and art as a hobby.

MOST USEFUL PRESENT I'VE EVER BEEN GIVEN... a Tiffany present including a Swiss knife and a measuring tape.

TOP ON MY WISH LIST... to have a sea view from my roof terrace in Marrakech.

DECOR ADVICE I WOULD GIVE... Be yourself and live in and with what you like.

I RELAX BY turning off all communication with the world.

ON WEEKENDS I often work because I take weekends when I feel like, and this is not always on Saturdays and Sundays.

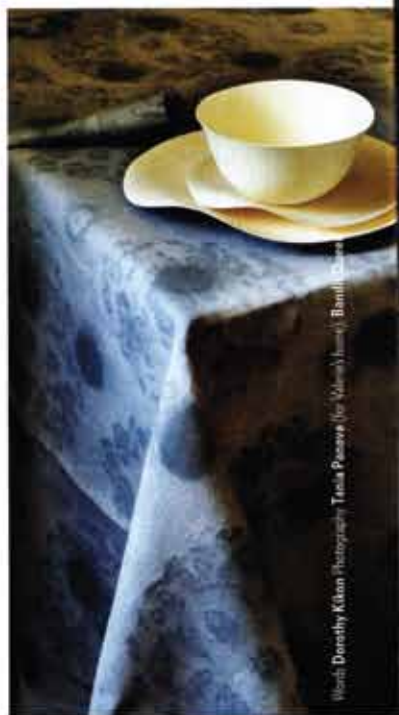
IF MY HOUSE WAS ON FIRE, I would save just my computer to be practical.

MY LIFE

MY STYLE ICON is Michael Jackson (JOKE!!!!), I have no such icon.

AT WORK, I am challenging, exigent, focused.

AT HOME, I am all over the place.



Word: Darshy Khan Photography: Tania Pasava (for Valerie's home), Bandit Queen