

MY FAVOURITE ROOM

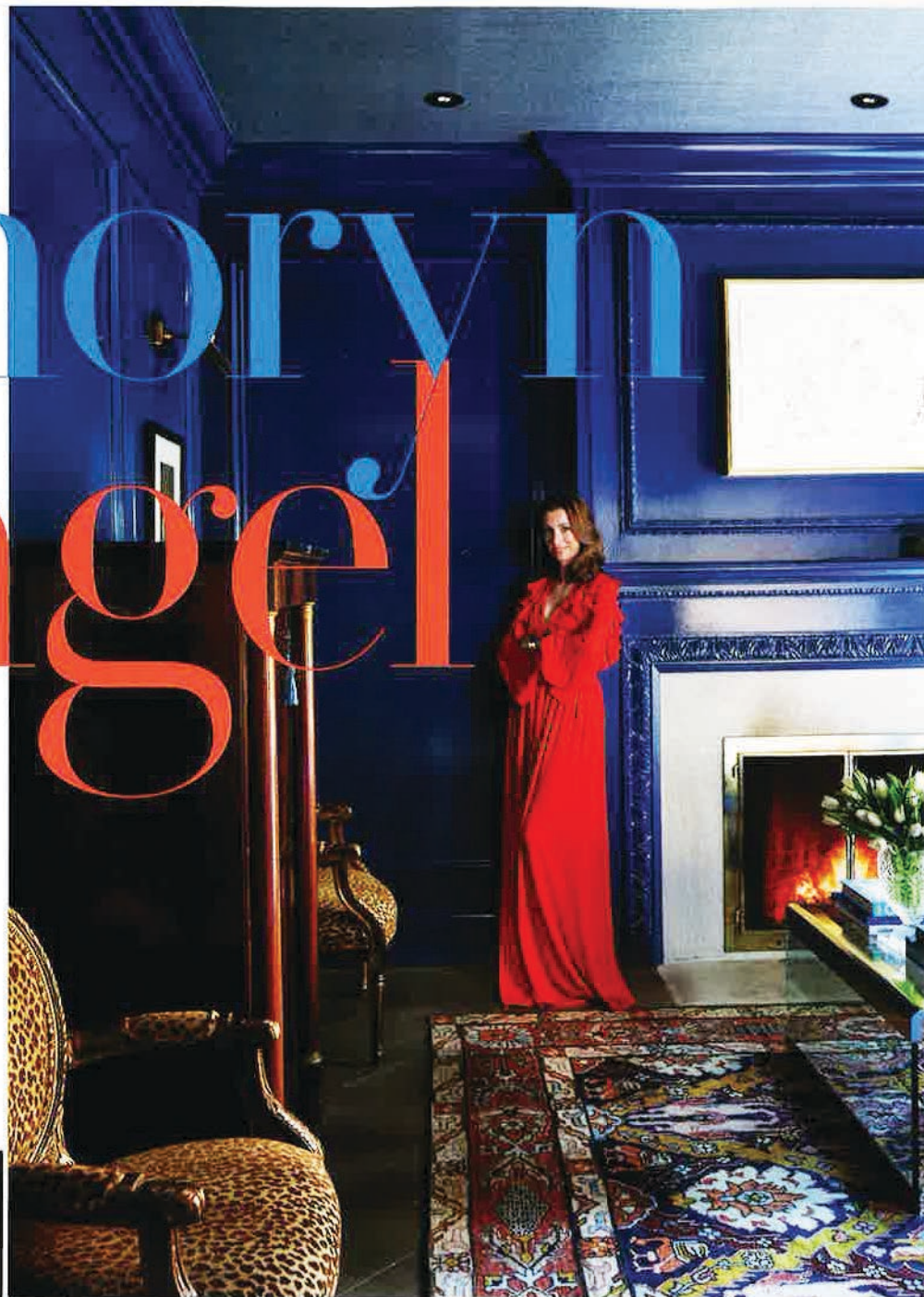
Amoryn Engel

The society columnist on far-flung escapes, perfect parties and her deep blue den.

As told to WENDY JACOB

Photography by

VIRGINIA MACDONALD



i could cry I love this room so much. I've spent so many wonderful hours by the fire with my husband, Kevin, and our two boys, Harrison and William; there's something so cosy and magical about it. This is the tiniest room in the house, but it's where everybody ends up after a dinner or party.

People drape themselves on the sofas and chairs, and on the floor — this room is so warm and inviting, it's just a magnet... a little jewel box.

My style is eclectic, whimsical and not too serious. I like a little bit of playfulness. I love colour and I wanted to invite that into our living space. The custom lacquered blue walls harken back to a trip I took to Morocco with girlfriends. My designer and

ABOVE: "I saw the Picasso [above the mantel] at a gallery in Palm Beach and immediately fell in love with it: it's so playful, I love the pops of colour and thought it would be perfect for this room. I do cherish my art — each piece has a special meaning and represents a moment in time with great memories."

Produced by Meg Crossley

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An azure hue mimics the room's custom shade, **Mosaic (CC-874)**, Benjamin Moore.

TOP RIGHT: "The bar is an antique. It folds down to reveal the mirrored interior — it's quite pretty when you're serving oysters from it. Growing up, the rug was in our living room and it was my mother's first Persian. I put all her stuff in storage after she passed away, but I remembered it and thought it would suit this room. I told him, 'I don't know how it'll work in an all-blue room.' He had the fringe taken off, got it cleaned and this incredible colour came to life. Everyone who walks in is just blown away by the carpet."

BOTTOM RIGHT: "The Clarence House grasscloth wallpaper on the ceiling was J's idea. He likes to layer tone on tone, and he wanted a lot of texture. The armchairs he designed have a brass bottom and they swivel; they're super comfortable."

friend, J Gibson, and I wanted something deeper and moodier than that Majorelle blue, and it took several attempts to get it right. J designed the sofa and chairs to create a tone-on-tone look for the room.

My mother was a society writer and tagging along with her for so many years was the ultimate mentorship. I love writing about charity and people who are doing amazing things to make this country a better place to live. It's an honour to be able to put the spotlight on philanthropy and volunteerism. I learn something new every day.

What makes a good party is the unexpected — something original that you haven't seen before. I don't want to see the same centerpiece from one gala repeated over and over again. I tend to like a really jammed party where elbow room is in short supply. When I have one of my big parties, I try to include everyone I know and care about. People make the party.

A pop art piece encased in Lucite is an irreverent touch on top of an antique bar



Amoryn loves the whimsy of playful pom-pom trim



Amoryn's Essentials, at Home and Abroad



Grab Bag: I never leave the house without a phone, a small wallet, a house key and lip gloss. I have a little Gucci purse wallet that says "love"; I put it in whatever clutch I'm going to walk out of the house with.



Signature Shoes: When I go out, I usually wear my Charlotte Olympias. They're whimsical and comfortable.



Favourite Hotels: The Chiltern Firehouse in London (shown) and The Mark Hotel in New York.

**"I LOVE ENTERTAINING
HERE. MY FAVOURITE NIGHTS
ARE SPENT AT HOME."**



Nightstand Staple: A William Yeoward crystal carafe and glass keeps water handy.



Trusty Sidekick: Charlie, my bichon-poodle mix, loves curling up on this custom sofa almost as much as I do.



Fashion Fixation: I've collected 20 pairs of silk pajamas on my world travels. Some of my favourites are from India and feature colourful designs — elephants, monkeys, leopard print — anything goes! The Gucci "pajama" sets are my go-to as well, especially for entertaining at home. I throw them on with some marabou pumps.

Global Inspiration: The Oberoi Rajvilas hotel in Jaipur is one of my favourites for decor, ever.



Produced by Kai Ether/photography courtesy of Chiltern Firehouse (Favourite Hotels)/Hopson Grace (Nightstand Staple)/Oberoi Hotels & Resorts (Global Inspiration)