

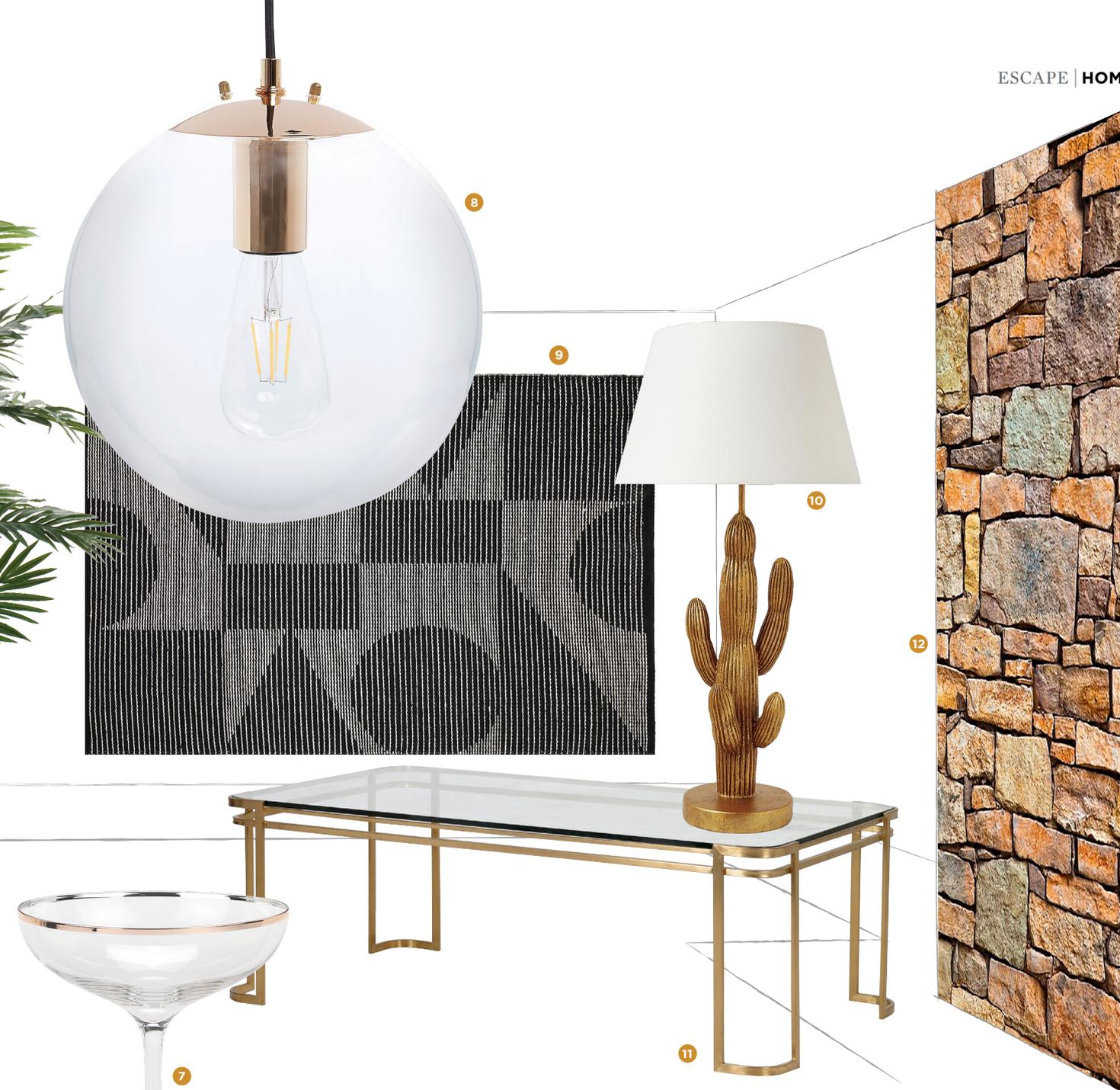


PALM SPRINGS

ARMCHAIR TOURIST

THIS MONTH ON OUR VIRTUAL DESIGN ODYSSEY, WE HEAD TO THE CALIFORNIAN DESERT FOR A SPOT OF HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR IN A MODERNIST SETTING

Words: CLARE GOGERTY



It was the spread of air-conditioning combined with an influx of architects from Europe in the 1930s that made Palm Springs possible. The once inhospitable desert landscape became the destination of choice for Hollywood stars looking for sophisticated boltholes close to the film studios. Architects including Richard Neutra and John Lautner, inspired by Le Corbusier, created sleek, single-storey dwellings with shady verandahs set around sparkling pools. These Modernist villas were the ideal setting for the likes of Frank

Sinatra, Lauren Bacall and Liberace to pose languorously on daybeds in their leisurewear, or to hold glamorous parties poolside.

We may not be able to emulate Palm Springs' year-round sun and clarity of light, but it is possible to copy its Desert Modern style and laid-back elegance. Paint walls a crisp white or cover with stone-effect wallpaper to show off orange accessories. A sprinkling of gold introduced via a mirror or table lamp adds a dash of Hollywood luxe. All you need to complete the picture is a couple of A-listers fresh from the film lot. **S**

- 1 Lene Bjerre Feline mirror, £635, sweetpeaandwillow.co.uk 2 Weimar chaise-longue, £1,480, pib-home.co.uk
 3 Miro neutral cushion, £12, habitat.co.uk 4 Hexagonal wine rack, £15, sainsburys.co.uk 5 Blooming artificial paradise palm tree, £200, harvey-norman.co.uk 6 Orange Ezekiel plant pot, £15 for two, habitat.co.uk 7 Palm House champagne saucer, £4, sainsburys.co.uk 8 Luxe glass sphere by George, £30, asda.com 9 Ritual Repeat rug by Patternity, £75, johnlewis.com 10 Cactus light, £39.99, homesense.com 11 Hollywood Champagne Gold glass coffee table, £607, alexanderandpearl.co.uk 12 Stone background ready-pasted paper, £23 sq m, wallstickers.next.co.uk