



TOM STRINGER

As Tom Stringer explains in his first book, *An Adventurous Life: Global Interiors* by Tom Stringer, he was destined to be a designer from childhood due to his family's pair of cottages on Mullett Lake. They were the gathering place, the anchor of experiences, the keeper of memories and photos, and where so much life happened. That,

along with his love for travel, has informed his approach to design. He founded his firm, Tom Stringer Design Partners, over 20 years ago, and has been telling stories with his clients, creating spaces that are elegant but relaxed, inspiring and deeply personal ever since. Well known and beloved in Chicago, his name has meaning internationally as

well. "I often travel with my clients to see the world together and translate their interests and passion into their home design," says Stringer. His collaborations, such as with chef Grant Achatz on Alinea, Next and The Aviary, have resulted in many accolades, and he also has a product line available through TexStyle. Fifteen years ago, he made a decision with his

husband to dedicate at least three months of every year to traveling and exploring different parts of the world. "That decision not only transformed my life in general but had a huge impact on my work as a designer as well," says Stringer. "These explorations enrich and renew my creativity and open my eyes to the multitude of aesthetic possibilities." tomstringer.com

HOME LIBRARY

TOP SHELF

Two designer tomes are being released this fall, and both deserve a spot on your coffee table. —AM

HIGHER GROUND

“Great design is not really about decorating,” says **Victoria Hagan**—not the words you would expect to hear from a designer who lists former Vice President of the United States Joe Biden, comedian Conan O’Brien and director Judd Apatow as clients. Hagan’s process is more about family, trust, tradition and creativity, and in her second book, due this fall: *Dream Spaces* (\$55, Rizzoli), she outlines how these qualities influence how she creates a space. A gorgeous compilation of second homes, the book showcases the designer’s reign as the “queen of restrained elegance,” which many Chicagoans are already familiar with through the projects on which she has collaborated with architect Robert A.M Stern here. With Hagan’s insights into each space, plus full-page images, it is a calmingly tactile and welcome source of inspiration.



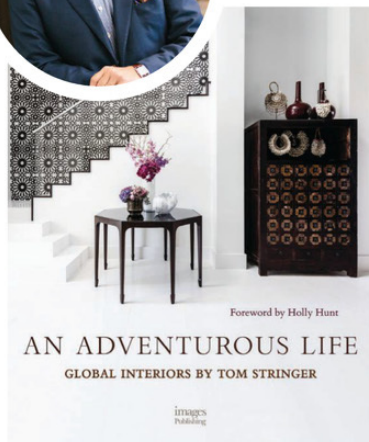
Victoria Hagan’s second book features exquisite second homes.



Tom Stringer’s design memoir includes lush photos he took around the world.

TREASURES FROM YOUR TRAVELS

Chicago-based designer **Tom Stringer**—highly lauded both here and nationwide—called upon his own inspiration and process for his first book, *An Adventurous Life: Global Interiors by Tom Stringer* (\$60, Images Publishing). More of a personal memoir than a traditional design book (although there are tons of gorgeous images and spaces by which to be inspired), it details how Stringer’s upbringing and “informed adventure trips” feed his creativity. To him, creating a space for a client is telling a story—ideally one that is rich with mementoes collected along the way. Many of the homes featured have never been published before, including Stringer’s own recently renovated home (this chapter alone makes the book worth it). As Holly Hunt aptly describes in the foreword, *An Adventurous Life* is “a touch of amazing” that feels like traveling vicariously with Stringer on his journey. And it’s a trip worth taking.



Foreword by Holly Hunt

AN ADVENTUROUS LIFE
GLOBAL INTERIORS BY TOM STRINGER

images
Publishing

The new Armazem showroom on Superior Street will be the exclusive distributor of Adielle Porte doors.

RETAIL DETAIL

NEW HORIZONS

“I love these glass doors because they show a bit of everything. You see two rooms. They divide and open to a new space,” says Jonatas Fante of a new space by Italian company Adielle Porte (ADL). It’s an apt metaphor for him: He is in the midst of opening his own showroom and creating a new lifestyle destination known as **Armazem**. With an official launch in early 2018 (and a soft opening in December), Fante and his team will not be affiliated with Florense kitchens as they previously were, but they will still be the city’s sole distributor of high-end Brazilian cabinetry, as well as the city’s best source for Foscarini lighting. Under Armazem, their offering will include a much larger and carefully selected roster of furniture, architectural doors, lighting and outdoor furniture. It will be an ever-evolving space with brands such as Bontempi Divani, Oscar Ono, Cisco Brothers and more. Fante chose the old Latin word “Armazem” because it references a corner store where you can get everything you need—fitting, since Armazem is a natural expansion for a showroom team that has always straddled the line between retail and interior design firm. “Everyone knows you can work with me, or Karin [Wowk] or anyone here on a kitchen design,” says Fante. “I want to show how we are so much more than that.” 212 W. Superior St., armazem.design —AM