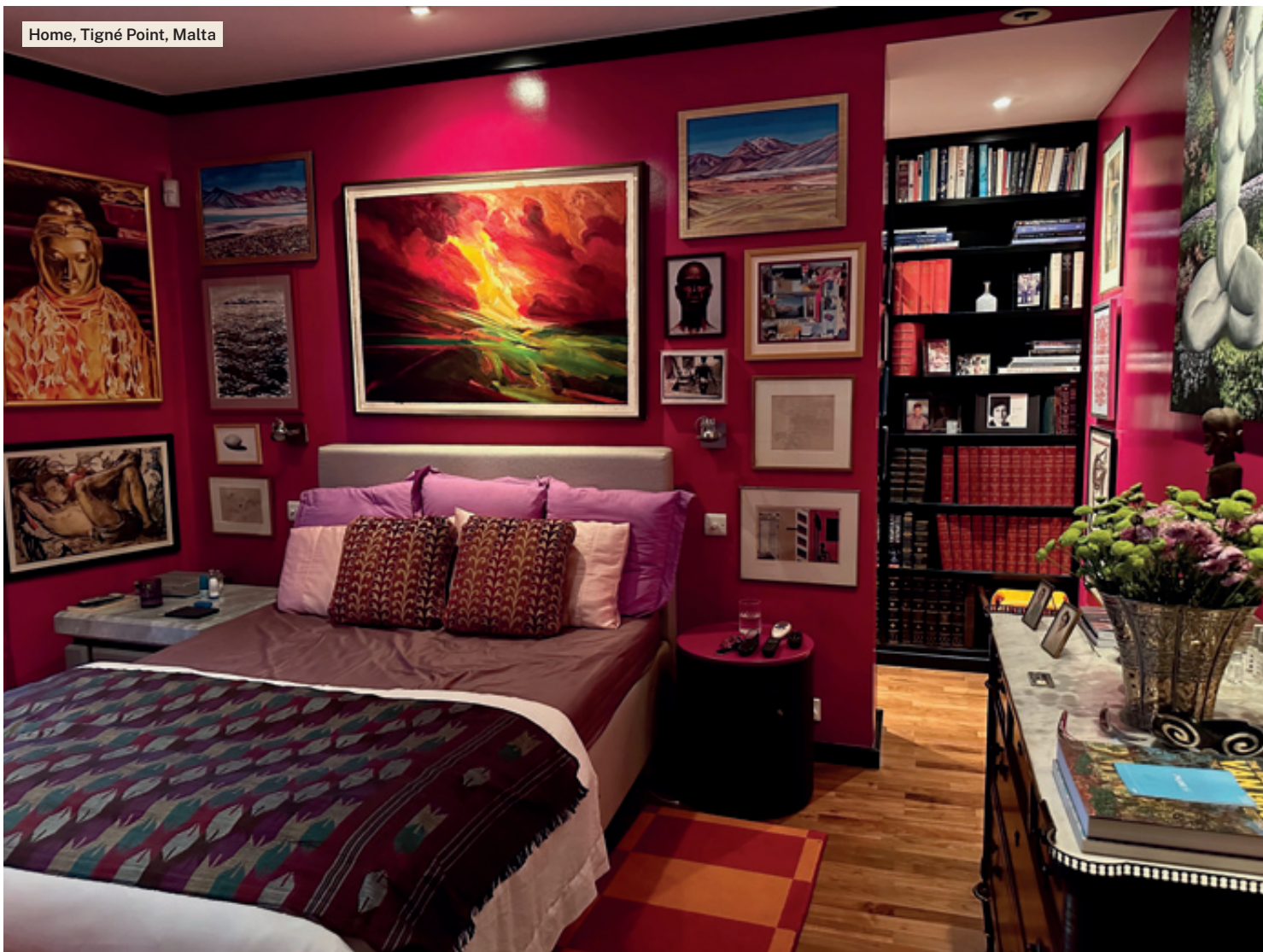


Home, Tigné Point, Malta



INTERIOR DESIGNER SLEEPOVERS

EN ROUTE AROUND THE WORLD

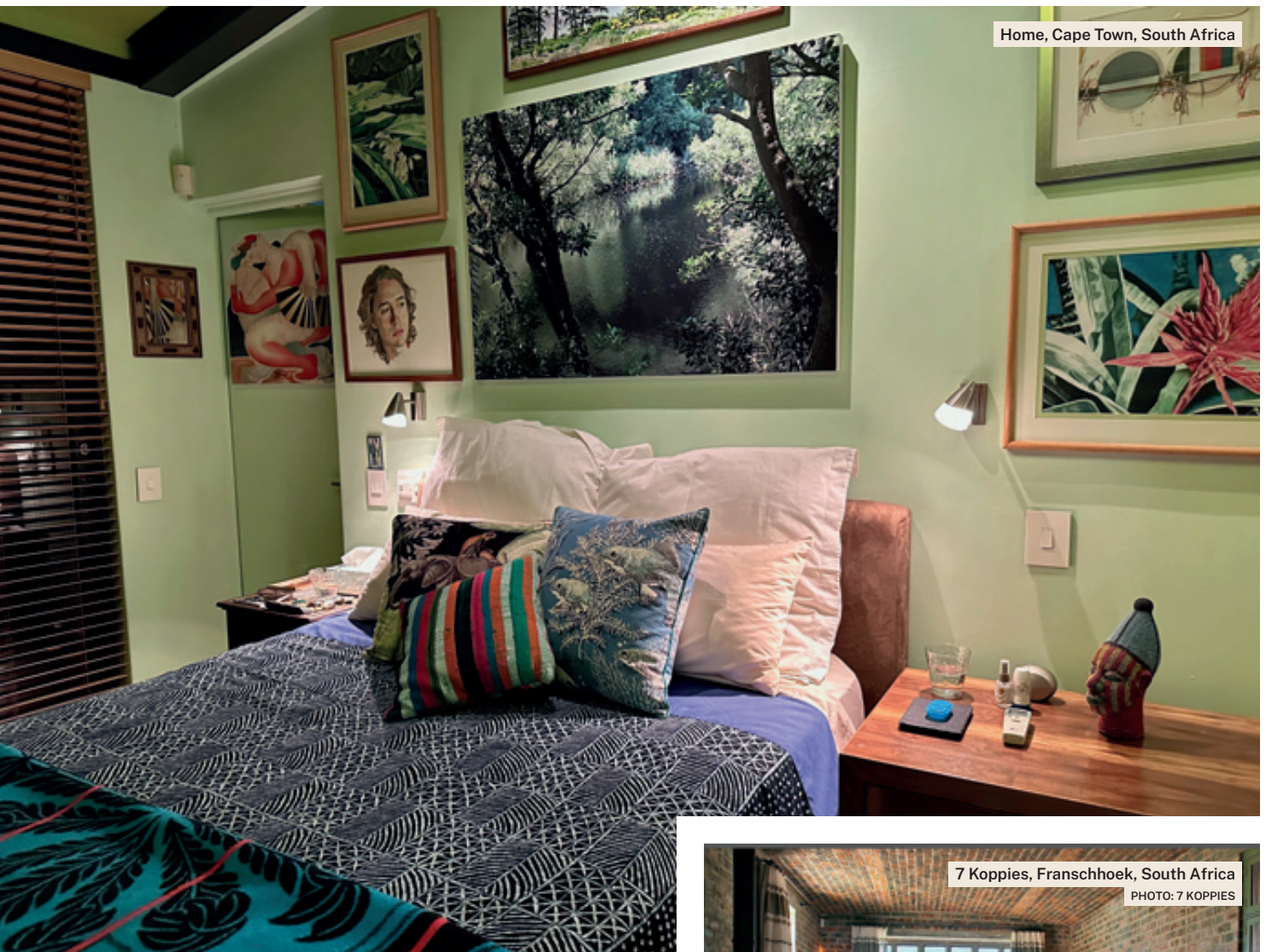
WORDS AND PHOTOGRAPHY **DEREK FROST**



During the period end November 2024 to mid-June 2025, my husband Jeremy and I circumnavigated the globe. A record of our adventures and observations is set down in sixty-eight illustrated posts bearing the title 'Round the World in 200 Days'.⁽¹⁾

During our trip, we slept in thirty-one different beds. Three were in bedrooms in homes we call our own, fifteen in hotels, one in a house we rented and the remainder, excepting a night or two on planes, in the houses of friends.

Seventeen of these bedrooms were designed by 'named' professional interior designers — five bedrooms in their own homes, the remaining twelve in hotels.



Home, Cape Town, South Africa

I am one of those professional interior designers — in my case, retired.

I trained under David Hicks and Mary Fox Linton and headed the latter's design studio for a number of years in the early '80s. Between 1983 and 1995, I ran my own business, Derek Frost Associates (see my design archive).⁽²⁾

Since then, I've enthusiastically advanced my varied interests — many artistic, others differently focused — including, in 2021, the publication of my memoir and accompanying picture book — 'Living and Loving in the age of Aids'.⁽³⁾

No matter my changing roles: 'Once a designer, always a passionate observer of design.'

'Living in good design will always remain one of my greatest pleasures.'

Our 2024/2025 trip around the world started in two bedrooms of my own design and both in homes we call our own. The first in Sliema, Malta and the second in Cape Town, South Africa.



7 Koppies, Franschhoek, South Africa

PHOTO: 7 KOPPIES

Then, in the order in which we slept in them, we found rest in other beds and bedrooms. Below, I have made mention of only those bedrooms which were designed by 'named' professional designers.

Annually, we spend an extended period of the southern summer based in South Africa. During our recent visit, we again stayed at one of our favourite Franschhoek hotels, 7 Koppies,⁽⁴⁾ sleeping in our favoured room the 'Valley Suite'. Its design in entirety — new buildings, all interior spaces, and gardens — is the work of James Jayasundera⁽⁵⁾ and Marc-Ludolf von Schmarzow.⁽⁶⁾



Koko House, Franschhoek, South Africa

Later during our visit, we slept in one of several guest rooms in the exquisite Franschhoek home of friends and designers Rasshied Din and Tim Hatley.⁽⁷⁾ Rasshied, also retired, enjoyed an exceptionally distinguished design career primarily focusing on retail and public space work. For more on Koko House, including rental information, visit their website.⁽⁸⁾

Leaving South Africa, we flew to Turkey and, eschewing the centre of the city, chose to stay further up the Bosphorus where the 19th-century Ottoman elite once built their often extraordinary waterside summer homes called Yali or Sahilhanes.

The hotel we stayed in, Six Senses Kocataş Mansions,⁽⁹⁾ occupies two adjacent Yali. The interior design of the hotel including all the bedrooms is the work of Zeynep Fadilloğlu.⁽¹⁰⁾

Our next stop was Sri Lanka where, following a tour of the Central Highlands, we stayed at Living Heritage Koslanda,⁽¹¹⁾ the visionary project of the late Manik Sandrasagra, his wife Lucy and the architect and interior designer Channa Daswatte,⁽¹²⁾ also Chair of the Geoffrey Bawa Trust.⁽¹³⁾ My husband Jeremy's comment: 'high score on the spiritual resonance index'.



Six Senses Kocataş Mansions, Istanbul, Turkey



Living Heritage Koslanda, Sri Lanka



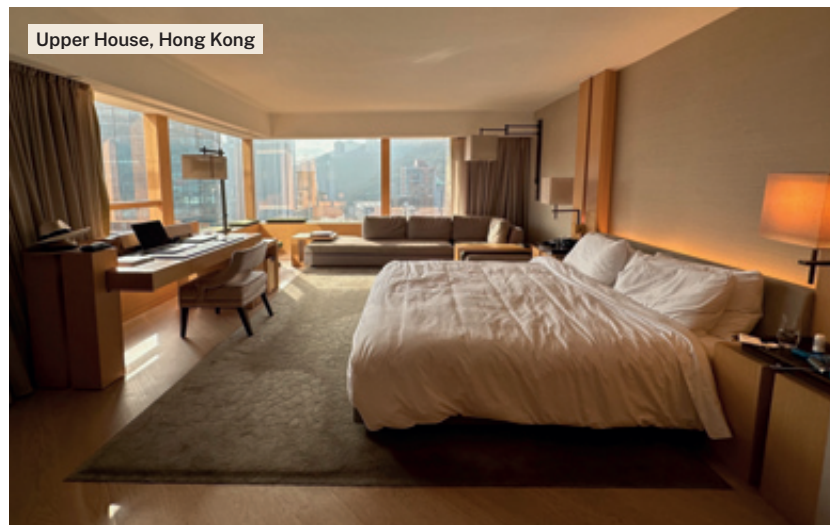
Khanda Kanda, Galle, Sri Lanka



Khanda Kanda, Galle, Sri Lanka



Four Seasons, Singapore



Upper House, Hong Kong

Friend George Cooper was, for many years, a successful UK-based interior designer until deciding to make his home in Sri Lanka near Galle, where he has created spectacular Kahanda Kanda⁽¹⁴⁾ and where we have stayed on several occasions. This visit, we were in The Peacock Suite and then, midway through our stay, moved to Dubu — a beautifully re-purposed antique wooden Javanese Joglo.

Going from the small and particular to the large and opulent, we next found lodgings at the Four Seasons Hotel in Singapore.⁽¹⁵⁾ Comfortable in every regard, excellently run, and with interiors by Hirsch Bedner & Associates (HBA).⁽¹⁶⁾

In Hong Kong, we stayed at Upper House.⁽¹⁷⁾ Our beautifully designed, contemporary, minimally styled room on the 46th floor of the building enjoyed spectacular harbour views. One of Asia's most highly regarded designers, André Fu⁽¹⁸⁾ is responsible for all aspects of the hotel's interior design. If you're there, don't miss out on a yoga session in their monumental light-filled Shala.

Having flown the long direct flight across the International Date Line from Asia to San Francisco, and with jet lag beckoning, we were happy to find ourselves 'at rest' and enjoying the comforts and quiet beauty of the Marin County guest bedroom and home of our friends Paul Wiseman and Richard Snyder. Paul is regarded by many as one of the world's most talented interior designers.⁽¹⁹⁾



Marin County, California



In Los Angeles, being admirers of Martin Brudnizki's work⁽²⁰⁾ and having had the recent pleasure of meeting him, we elected to stay at the Pendry West Hollywood.⁽²¹⁾ Martin and his design team recently waved their brilliant design wand over its internal spaces. We loved our stay, the only disappointment being our failure to crash the 'hot' Hollywood party held on the hotel's stunning roof top during our visit.

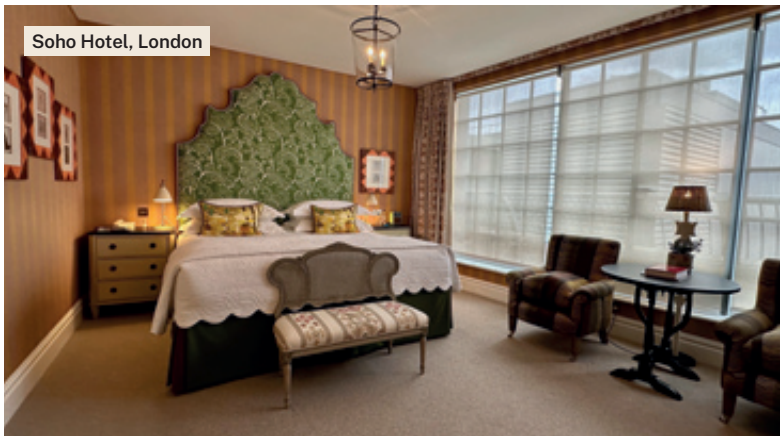
We have known designer Kit Kemp⁽²²⁾ for many years as both friend and country neighbour, and it's been the greatest pleasure to watch her and husband Tim's Firmdale Hotel empire grow during those years.

In New York, we stayed at their third and most recently opened, Tribeca located, Warren Street Hotel.⁽²³⁾ Our comings and goings during our stay allowed us the pleasure of enjoying two of the hotel's rooms. Kit's approach to design is entirely unique and welcoming.

Returning to London we headed to what is now our adopted London home, and to another series of Kit Kemp interiors — this time at the Soho Hotel.⁽²⁴⁾

Then, finally, we were truly 'at home' in a bed we call our own, in a bedroom which has been ours for longer than any other. Here, we gaze out over the sea, as we do from all the other bedrooms we are lucky





Soho Hotel, London



Home, Hampshire, England

enough to call our own; here, in a southerly direction, with a view over the Solent towards the Isle of Wight.

Now near the end of our two-hundred-day circumnavigation of the planet, we return to London and to another sunny, eclectic, and colourful room at Soho Hotel.

Our trip ends in Malta where it started, now back again to the same bed that we left two hundred days ago, now again 'at home' and in a bedroom of my own design. 📍



Soho Hotel, London
PHOTO: FIRMDALE HOTELS

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