

Home



Shelling point



Ivy Ong-Wood

EVER WALKED INTO a hotel room and liked the decor so much you want to cart it all home? I'll bet you have. So, the good news is that if you have coveted the furnishings of rooms in luxury hotels, you can now get them or better in Lane Crawford.

Earlier this week, the company which supplies many five-star hotels, SV International Design, launched SV Casa, a luxury home accessories brand exclusive to Lane Crawford. SV International was founded in 1999 by Hong Kong-based designer Susanna Valerio, who had been the senior buyer for Joyce for five years and senior consultant for Lane Crawford Home of 14 years.

Niccolo Santi, the company's managing director, said: "Most travelers in this part of the world would have used our products as we

have collaborated on over 100 luxury hotel projects.

Besides producing accessories, we are also consultants for some leading hotels, and retailers.

"Over the years, we have had many requests from hotel guests wanting to buy our products. They wanted things that were luxurious for their homes."

This inspired Valerio to sell her products. "She is very quick," Santi said. "She sketches something in five minutes on a piece of paper."



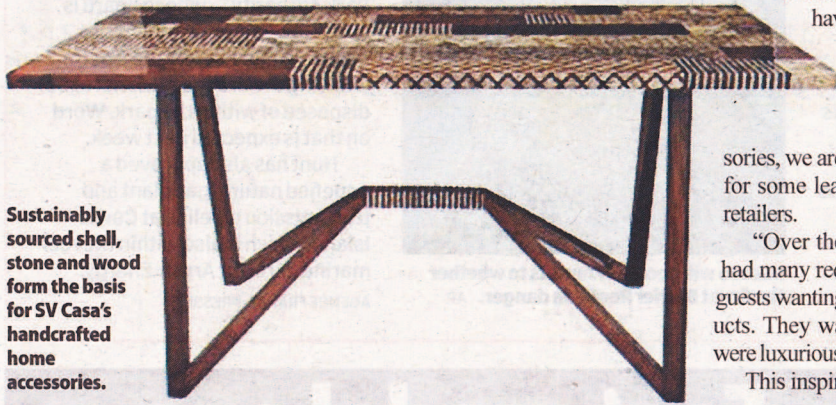
Though Valerio started designing in January, it took the team of more than 100 craftsmen months to craft and finish the products because she was very exacting in her standards. Each piece is handcrafted by artisans in Southeast Asia using materials obtained locally from sustainable sources.

The first collection of about 300 pieces, inspired by *One Thousand and One Nights*, is very bold and passionate. Green, red, black and white are the dominant colors and the main materials are shells, stone and wood.

Taking pride of place in the collection is Duban The Table (HK\$46,000) made from indigenous hardwood and inlaid with shells. There are only two six-seater tables on display but Santi said custom requests can be made.

"The response has been wonderful and besides Hong Kong we are launching in Korea, Singapore, Japan and Paris," he said.

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Sustainably sourced shell, stone and wood form the basis for SV Casa's handcrafted home accessories.