

# Glamilistic

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The interior is the work of award-winning designer Vanessa Deleon, who's signature "Glamilistic" style is a fusion of 1920s glamor and modern, streamlined minimalism. Influenced by the Art Deco movement and her Cuban heritage, her spaces combine her love for sculptural forms, high-end materials and expressive geometry with layered colors and textures.

"It's a little bit of uptown Fifth Avenue chic meets downtown boho. It's high-meets-low and French-meets-modern. It's that juxtaposition that I love," she said. "I think it's evolved for sure, but the fabric of who I am has remained the same."

Through drive, dedication and determination – the three D's that she lives by today – Deleon has grown into a design phenomenon. She's been the recipient of the Latina Trailblazer Award, the Gold Coast Leadership Award and the IFDA Rising Star of Interior Design Award, among others, and has received recognition from the Italian Trade Commission.

She's also a beloved television personality and Editor at Large at the American Society of Interior Designers, and her work has been featured in a number of design publications.

But before all of her success, she was just a kid from Bergen County. Born in Secaucus and living in several other towns in the county, Deleon lived a humble life with her family as they worked to make ends meet.

"Sometimes I don't even appreciate it, in a weird way, even though it's pretty remarkable. I grew up in a trailer and I come from very humble beginnings, so hard work is instilled in me," Deleon said. "Being self-made is something I'm super proud of."

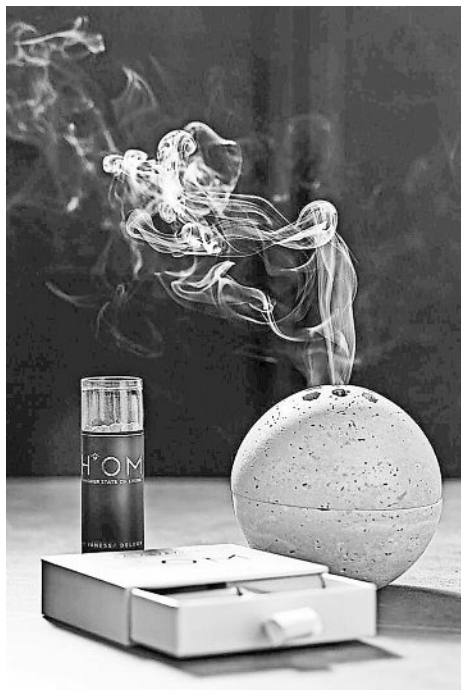
## How it all started

Deleon started her professional life in fashion, graduating from the Fashion Institute of Technology and securing a position at Ralph Lauren. But after quickly realizing the industry wasn't for her, calling it a real-life "Devil Wears Prada," she came home to work for her family's furniture business.

"I felt like I needed to do something different," she said. "And while I was working there, people started asking me



Vanessa Deleon has appeared on many television shows including "Good Morning America."



H'OM by Vanessa Deleon features home goods such as pillows, throw blankets, candles, crystals, linens and wallpaper.

to help design their spaces. So through selling furniture, I started doing design work."

As she took on more projects and her love for interior design grew, she enrolled in Berkeley College to learn the technical side of the industry. And while attending, she established her own design firm, known as Vanessa Deleon Associates, in 2000.



The interior of Capo's Steakhouse at The Shops at Riverside, designed by Vanessa Deleon. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY VANESSA DELEON

A few years later, she auditioned for season two of "The Apprentice" and the spin-off season of "The Apprentice: Martha Stewart." While she didn't make the cut for either show, she did go on to compete on season one of HGTV's "Design Star," where she gained recognition for coining her aesthetic as "Glamilistic."

"I won the very first challenge, and was eliminated by episode four," she said. "But that's when my TV and interior design career really took off."

After that, she's appeared on numerous other shows, such as Food Network's "Restaurant Impossible," HGTV's "Generation Renovation," Style Network's "Your Place is a Deal Breaker," Bravo's "Ice Loves Coco" and NBC's "American Dream Builders."

## Her current ventures

Deleon designs high-end residential, commercial and boutique hospitality spaces across New Jersey, New York and beyond. Recent projects include The Hidden Flask Lounge, a luxe speakeasy-style venue in South Bound Brook, New Jersey.

While passionate about all of her projects, she said her commercial ventures are really where her work can truly stand out.

"It's not really about a style; it's more about the feeling you get in the space," she said. "What I love about commercial spaces is that hundreds of people are frequenting these spaces, and it's al-

most like I'm Picasso and these spaces are my canvases. I'm just being super creative, and people are immersing themselves in my creativity."

She's also a regular contributor to NBC's "Open House," and is launching three collaborations with notable brands in 2026: a nearly 30-piece furniture set with Eichholtz, a lighting collection with Quorum and a new batch of tiles for the Vanessa DeLeon Collection at TileBar.

"We're launching three prominent collections with various companies, which is very exciting because that doesn't really happen all at the same time," she said. "So that's pretty thrilling."

And personally, Deleon is in the process of building her family's new North Jersey home. The project, which they are documenting on Instagram, began when she created the design over two years ago. Now, the property – a French-inspired home designed around the Feng Shui bagua map, which helps determine where different energy centers are in your home based on different aspects of your life – is finally coming together.

"It's amazing what I've accomplished in all these years, but it's also taken 20 something odd years to get to this place. It didn't happen overnight," she said. "So it's definitely a pinch me moment with all of these things. Even when I talk about it sometimes, I'm like 'Is this really my life?' But it's been such a long road to get here."

## ASK CAROLYN | CAROLYN HAX

# He wants one kid, she wants lots. Where do they go from here?

**Dear Carolyn:** My wife wants "a lot" of children, whereas I have always wanted only one. My reasons for this preference are financial, intellectual, emotional and philosophical (my wife has heard them). My wife has stated very strongly that she doesn't want to have an only child, and she also has very good reasons for that, which I can understand even if I don't agree with them. She has told me she does not want to have one child if we won't go on to have more, and in the meantime, we have zero.

This is going to sound dramatic, but I feel like I'm being held hostage because I won't agree to some unspecified number of children I don't want. I want to be a parent very badly, as does she, and I feel very sad that there doesn't seem to be a way to compromise and that zero kids is apparently the only other available option. She would obviously be the person to give birth, and I don't have any cards to play that are stronger than that.

Where do we go from here? I am 37, and she is 33. I'd also like for us to expand our family while our parents are relatively youthful. We don't have forever. – *Very Sad*

**Very Sad:** There is no "compromise." The longer you deny it, the longer you drag out this painful stage of your life.

Here are your options: no children, concede, divorce. That's it.

Those are her options, too. That's how this works. Waiting around for the other to concede is not a valid option.

You are both hostages, to your own and each other's hard lines. What would you do if your "one" child turned out to be multiples? What would she do if she had secondary infertility after a first? You're both deeper into your "very good reasons" than life itself can be.

If you won't concede, then it's time to ask yourself which you want more: your wife, or fatherhood of your one child.

Yes, you're already married, so you technically chose your wife already as your life partner – but for the sake of argument, I don't count staying because you said you would as a path to mutual happiness. Presumably you entered your marriage thinking the family-planning problem was secondary. It isn't. So be honest with yourself about the new terms and make a new decision.

This is rough stuff, and I'm not putting it gently. But I don't have to worry

about tomorrow, whew, because I'm not your spouse. That is the favor I can do for you. For both of you. I can be blunt.

Because much rougher than my edges is the outcome you get when you keep your conversations and hopes going as if you can somehow get everything you want – if you just ask the right person for it the right way or – truth – wear down your wife's resolve. No doubt she's holding out for the same with you, whether she admits it to herself or not.

Prolong this under the cover of compromise, and one or both of you will be unhappy with what you get, big feelings will be un- or under-resolved, and your marriage will harbor rip currents of grief and resentment.

Wife, no kids; wife, 2-plus kids; divorce. Pick one.

You need your wife's buy-in for peace with the first, and of course your bodies get a say in the second – but you get the idea. Pick and then commit to it, whole heart. That's the way.

Email Hax at [tellme@washpost.com](mailto:tellme@washpost.com).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Singer **Carl Douglas** turns 84. Singer-musician **Donovan**, 80. Author **Caroline B. Cooney**, 79. Fashion designer **Miuccia Prada**, 77. Sportscaster **Chris Berman**, 71. Actor **Victoria Rowell**, 67. Singer **Bono** (U2), 66. Playwright **Suzan-Lori Parks**, 63. Model **Linda Evangelista**, 61. Rapper **Young MC**, 59. Actor-comedian **Kenan Thompson**, 48. Actor **Michael Gandolini**, 27. Actor **Lane Webber**, 26.

– USA TODAY Network



Thompson

## TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is May 10. On this date in:

**1773:** Britain's Parliament passed the Tea Act in an effort to save the East India Company from its financial woes. Later that year, fallout from the measure led American colonists in Boston to organize the Boston Tea Party.

**1775:** During the Revolutionary War, Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold led the Green Mountain Boys in the capture of Fort Ticonderoga from the British. Canons and more were taken from the fort to Boston to bolster the colonists there.

**1865:** Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union troops near Irwinville, Georgia. Davis had planned to escape to Texas and build a new Confederacy, but he was caught despite wearing a disguise: his wife's cloak.

**1869:** The United States was connected from coast to coast by the first transcontinental railroad. The ceremonial Golden Spike was driven during a ceremony on Promontory Summit in Utah Territory to mark the joining of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railways.

**1872:** Victoria Woodhull was nominated by the Equal Rights Party, which she had helped establish, as a candidate for president. She is considered the first woman to run for president in the United States, though women had not yet been allowed to vote. The suffragist aimed to change that. The party nominated Frederick Douglass for vice president, but he did not acknowledge the nomination.

**1924:** J. Edgar Hoover began his 48-year tenure leading the FBI when he was appointed acting director of the

Bureau of Investigation, which was later renamed. He was promoted to director later in the year.

**1940:** Winston Churchill became prime minister of the United Kingdom after the resignation of Neville Chamberlain.

**1962:** Marvel Comics published its first issue of "The Incredible Hulk."

**1975:** Sony released its Betamax video cassette recorder in Japan.

**1994:** South Africa inaugurated its first Black president, Nelson Mandela; the anti-apartheid activist had been imprisoned 27 years until his release in 1990.

**1994:** Serial killer John Wayne Gacy, convicted of 33 counts of murder, was executed by lethal injection.

**1996:** Eight climbers died on Mount Everest when they were caught in a blizzard while descending from the summit.

**2002:** Former FBI agent Robert Hansen, who had admitted to spying for the Soviet Union and Russia, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

**2005:** A grenade was thrown but failed to detonate during a speech by U.S. President George W. Bush in Tbilisi in the Eastern European nation of Georgia. Vladimir Arutinian, a Georgia citizen, was convicted of trying to assassinate Bush and Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili. Arutinian was sentenced to life in prison.

**2021:** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration expanded emergency use authorization for Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine to allow people ages 12-15 to be inoculated.

– USA TODAY Network

## Kubok 16 By Davide Coppo Difficulty: HARD

	29	29	40	38
40			15	
32		16		
25	9		2	
39				8

Solution to last Sunday's puzzle

7	2	11	6
12	9	13	8
10	14	5	4
16	3	15	1

Enter the missing numbers from 1 to 16 without repetitions so that the sum of the four numbers in each row and column is the same as the corresponding circled number.