



TEXAS DESIGNER COMES HOME

AS INTERVIEWED BY MINDY PANTIEL, EDITOR OF METROPOLITAN HOME
SUBMITTED BY ZOE COMPTON



Twenty-six years ago a native Houstonian and single mother, Zoë Compton, was hired to renovate the Hotel Jerome in Aspen, Colorado. With a failing economy in Houston, she took the challenge that changed her career and life as a designer forever. With two National Trust awards for the hotel, she began her career working on the finest houses in the world. Working on four to six houses at a time was the best teaching tool a young designer could have. “I learned the proper sequences of how a job should be processed,” she stated in an interview by Mindy Pantiel, editor of Metropolitan Home, Denver, CO. The hotel “has lived well”, she said. “In all these years we only did one furniture and fabric upgrade.” Now, just this year the famous hotel has been sold for a reported \$26,000,000.

TEXAS RANCH AND FULL CIRCLE TO HOME AGAIN

When you drive into the massive stone and iron gates of Circle Bar Blue Ranch, you don’t expect to find an office that looks like it should be in Houston or New York City, but this designer has come full circle to home again. “My friends thought I was a little nuts, but I really have always lived in the country. Aspen, when I moved there, was a small little town with lots of horses and cattle. Everyone thought that no one would ever know I was back in Texas being out here, but there are so many beautiful houses that are all around me, and with Houston only 2 hours away, and Austin and San Antonio only one hour, when people find out I’m here, hopefully I will be as busy as I want to be. My work definitely reflects the big city

or the country, and so much of the time I combine the two.”

Compton’s summers were spent in Mason, Texas, where her mother’s family ranch was located. She also lived in Houston before moving to Aspen, so Gonzales, Texas seemed to be the place in-between to call home. Her children are split between Houston and San Antonio, and she wanted a place convenient to work and to be close enough to the big cities; yet she wanted to be able to look out of the window and see her horses and their babies.

MANY DIFFERENT STYLES OF DESIGN-MIXING IT UP

Compton credits her diverse design style to the many sophisticated clients from all over the world who have so many