

VANITY FAIR

A REAL-LIFE
MURDER MYSTERY
BY JOHN GRISHAM

Yes, Suri, She's Our Baby!

WORLD EXCLUSIVE: A 22-PAGE TOM CRUISE-KATIE HOLMES FAMILY ALBUM

BY ANNIE LEIBOVITZ AND JANE SARKIN



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BOO COOL FRIENDS: Elton John, Elizabeth Hurley, Madonna, Rupert Everett.

SPRITUAL ESTABLISHMENT: The Versace brand now encompasses clothing, jewelry, skin care, housewares, furniture, jet interiors, and hotels (including the upcoming Palazzo Versace in Dubai).

EVIDENCE OF BURETT-LIKE BEHAVIOR: Works with Italy's minister of health to increase awareness about drug abuse; raises money to fight breast cancer.

YEAR AHEAD: ➔

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CHRIS BLACKWELL

Island Records, Palm Pictures

NEW ENTRY

STAGE OF GLOBAL CONQUEST: Since selling his music label, Island Records, to PolyGram for some \$280 million in 1999, Blackwell, 69, has put his energy into movies (Palm Pictures) and hotels (Island Outpost). His eclectic blend of resorts includes the Casa and Strawberry Hill, in Jamaica, and Pink Sands, in the Bahamas. Latest project: a \$93 million expansion of Goldeneye, the old Ian Fleming estate on Jamaica's northern coast.

CENTER OF GRAVITY: Jamaica, New York City, London.

BOO COOL FRIENDS: Tom Freston.

CLAIM TO FAME: Introduced the world to reggae music—and Bob Marley.

BATTLE SCARS: While a student, suffered public casting after getting caught selling booze and cigarettes at England's Harrow School.

KEY CAUSE: Blackwell established Island ACTS (Assisting Communities Toward Strength) to provide educational resources, health care, and social-welfare programs to Jamaica's underprivileged.

YEAR AHEAD: ➔

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RICHARD MEIER

Richard Meier & Partners

NEW ENTRY

STAGE OF SKYLINE TAKEOVER: Meier, 71, the white-haired wizard of classic modernist proportions behind the Getty Center, in Los Angeles, the recently opened Art Pavilion Museum, in Rome, and the Edythe and Eli Broad Art Center, at U.C.L.A., transformed New York's West Side when he built two all-glass apartment towers on Perry Street and one iron-rod doze on Charles Street. These 21st-century residential buildings have attracted A-list clientele from the Hollywood, fashion, and media worlds (and stirred up reactions ranging from awe to "Oops, there are leaks"). Meier is building residential properties in Miami, Philadelphia, and Italy.

CENTER OF GRAVITY: New York City, the Hamptons.

UTTER BORE: Artist Frank Stella. When he first went to New York, in the late 1950s, Meier, who had painting on his mind, set up quarters in Stella's studio.

TOWN TENANTS: Eli Broad owns a Meier-designed home. Vincent Gallo and Jean-Georges Vongerichten purchased apartments in Meier's buildings on Perry Street.

LEGEND HAS IT: His devotion to white is so absolute that he came close to choosing it instead of the standard black for the chromatic keys when asked to design a grand piano. Only when a piano consultant insisted that he needed "the shadows" did the architect go dichromatic.

EVIDENCE OF BURETT-LIKE BEHAVIOR: His Richard Meier Foundation has made numerous donations to local and national charities since its inception in 1997.

YEAR AHEAD: ➔

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MICKEY DREXLER

J. Crew

NEW ENTRY

STAGE OF GLOBAL CONQUEST: Drexler, 61, became a retailing legend during his 19-year run at the Gap, which he built into a ubiquitous powerhouse. Now at J. Crew (where he owns a 15 percent stake), he's turned around the company by improving quality (with shoes made at the same factory used by Gucci and Prada, and sweaters made by Loro Piana).