*Enveloped by twenty-one countries and three continents, with forty-six thousand kilometers of coastline, the Mediterranean is mild-tempered—neither exceptionally agitated nor boisterous. Seven months of the year the climate is warm, with water temperatures reaching 30°C in summer. It’s pleasant here, and the winter is mild too.*

*For me, the Mediterranean is not just a place, it is a way of life.*

*The Mediterranean invites you to open a window, look, and listen—to the change of seasons, to the motion of the sun that knows how to blaze fiercely and set softly, to the music of the cicadas, to the silent*

*murmur of the wind, to the play of shadows, the changing light and hues. Life on the Mediterranean is harmonious, holistic, and organic, one that activates all the senses—the taste of a sweet tomato ripened in the sun, the smell of the briny sea, the sweet and spicy aromas of olive groves, vines, and fig trees.*

*For me, this is Cap Ferrat, Paros, and Tel Aviv. It is three houses on one sea, conversing with its relaxed rhythm, local colors, and, most importantly, the course of the sun. Of course, a house in Paros cannot be like a house in the south of France or on the coast of Israel. Each must draw from different sources of inspiration and traditions, yet they also share many common dimensions. All three enjoy a similar climate and characteristically Mediterranean vegetation. All three blur the lines between outside and inside and find affinities between light and shadow, local art, inspirations, site-specific collections, and lemon trees. The silent murmur of the wind. The pace is slower, attuned to nature’s heartbeat.*

*Home is a spiritual space, the place where you feel you belong. Itt sets boundaries and on the other hand, it provides an intimate and heart-opening space. Home is a place where you can simply feel comfortable. It provides a sense of security and intimacy, a shelter from the hardships of everyday life. We close the door, and we are in a personal and familiar space.*

**What makes that relaxed and intimate feeling?**

*I believe that there is no single method. The personal touch will always make a difference—the pattern of personality, the placement of furniture and art,*

*the choice of colors, the connection to nature and the changing light and shadows of the sun. Our emotional experiences are rooted there.*

**But what is the secret, the magic, that produces that often-elusive feeling of calm and pleasure?**

*I believe that there are hidden threads that interact and create harmony.*

*For example, I place a sculpture that my son made in kindergarten alongside a work by a well-known artist, and among them I place candlesticks that were inherited from my grandmother. The transparent*

*fibers connecting the pieces are hidden from view, but they are there.*

*Those hidden threads can connect a large red circle motif on an Alexander Calder tapestry with the vivid color captured in a work of art by Israeli painter Sigalit Landau, and the same red is suddenly revealed in the upholstery of a 1950’s armchair by the Italian-Brazilian architect and modernist Lina Bo Bardi (1914–1992). Then too, it can be a shape that accompanies the eye implicitly. In my living room in Israel, there is a low Moscou bronze table composed of three linked amorphous surfaces. It sits below randomly placed ceiling lights, and nearby is a painting by Rafi Lavi, also filled with amorphous spots, echoing the same motif.*

*The dialogue finds its expression between the spaces, between the objects, between the works of art and even in the motif, in the formal affinity of the circle motif.*

*I discovered many circles in my*

*childhood drawings, and this created a deep dialogue rooted in the past. The repetitiveness, which need not be deciphered, creates a pleasing harmony. After all, there is no more complete and infinite shape*

*than a circle, uniting elements as in a circle of support.*

*The dialogue between objects is not obvious. There are subtle connections that are slowly revealed (or not), eventually adding peace and harmony. In music, harmony is built on sounds of different pitches that appear at different intervals. This is exactly how my approach to design works: an encounter between elements from different worlds that creates a unified sublimity. The elements contrast – high and low, traditional and modern, colorful and monochromatic, glossy and matte. It is the Chinese theory of Yin and Yang, that two opposites form the whole.*

*Connections are created in the imagination. While I am working on the design of a house, my mind wanders between the spaces, or between the drawings and plans. This is how my perception of space takes shape, and certainty is created – this chair will be placed here and that painting must move there.*

*I move the objects fearlessly until they find their perfect place.*

*When people ask what is important in design, I always say: Joie de vivre, a French term that translates to “joy of living” in English. It reflects an effervescent enjoyment of life, an exuberant and enthusiastic approach to living. The phrase is often used to express a positive and*

*optimistic outlook, celebrating the pleasures and beauty of existence.*

*People who embody “joie de vivre” are often characterized by their zest for life, their ability to find joy in small moments, and their overall enthusiasm for living fully. It goes beyond mere happiness and*

*suggests a deep appreciation for the experiences and pleasures life has to offer.*

*The concept is not limited to French culture but has been embraced and understood in various cultures around the world. It’s a sentiment that encourages individuals to savor the richness of life and*

*appreciate the present moment.*