



View of Granada from
the bell tower of
La Iglesia de La Merced.

MGA

FINDING INSPIRATION ON THE ROAD

The designers behind fashion labels Wolk Morais and Ruffian take a creative pilgrimage to Nicaragua. **BY BRIAN WOLK & CLAUDE MORAIS**

PEOPLE REGULARLY ASK US where our inspiration comes from. Often it's found in a piece of artwork, an old film or a girlfriend's sense of style, but more frequently it strikes when we're someplace unfamiliar. When our dear friend restaurateur Jean-Marc Houmard and his longtime collaborator Yvan Cussigh invited us

to Tribal Hotel, their new seven-room boutique property in Granada, we felt the urge to investigate in search of a muse for our next collection.

After landing in Managua, Nicaragua's capital, we headed southeast one hour to Granada, the nation's cultural center. Arriving at night was a magical experience. Like Puck

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TRAVEL RE- INVENTED



7:05 am
Post-workout
breakfast in
the room.

8:00 am
Cab it to a meeting.
Take a conference
call on the way.



7:40 pm
Kick back, relax
with beers and
the game.



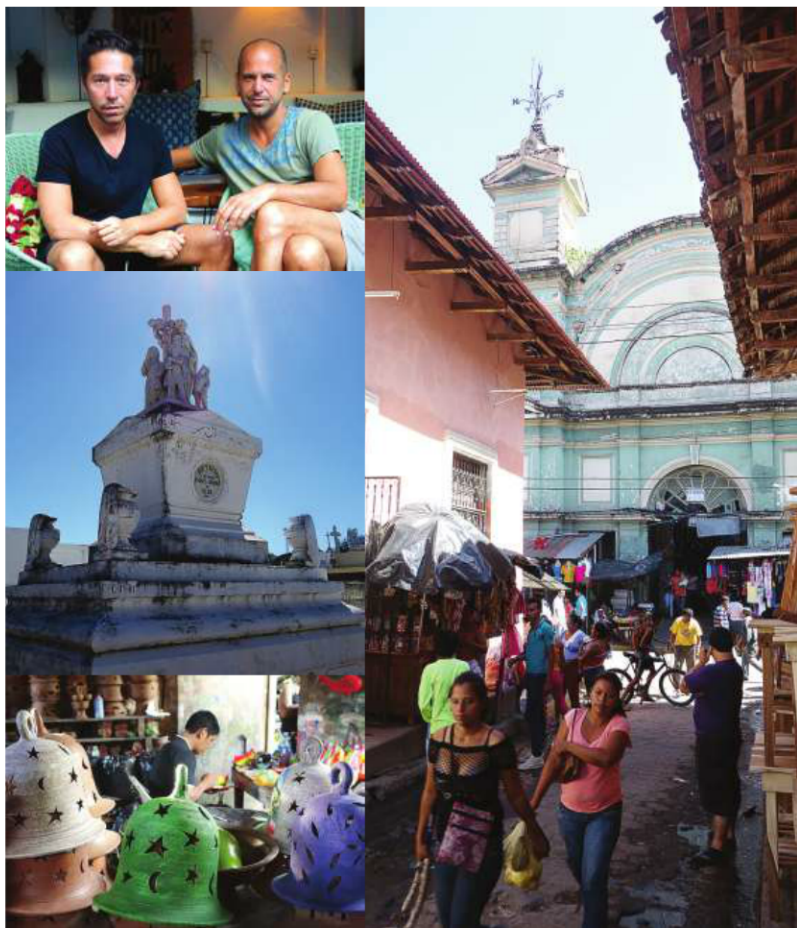
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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Authors Brian Wolk and Claude Morais; The central market; An artisan makes pottery in Granada; El Cementerio de Granada.

tilled foyer filled with indigenous Nicaraguan smoked pottery, modern Central American art and exquisite artist-designed furniture and knew our pilgrimage would be fruitful.

A labyrinth of sights, sounds and smells, Granada is a city that maintains a unique, unspoiled identity. The clip-clop of horses and oxen provided an idyllic score for our strolls through the colorful central market. Our ascent up the spiral staircase

in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, we were transported to another universe, one that was luxurious yet unpretentious. Through the villa's wrought iron gates, we spied a black-and-white

to the bell tower of La Iglesia de La Merced revealed panoramic views extending from the shores of Lake Nicaragua to the mountains cloistering the city to the north.

We also enjoyed studio visits with local artists and craftspeople. We meandered through pastel-painted colonial streetscapes to the outskirts of town to discover El Cementerio de Granada, thought to be Central America's oldest and most extravagant burial ground. Promenading through the meticulously manicured paths of these ethereal memorials truly connected us to the spirit and distinctly decorative nature of the city and its people.

As our journey ended, we reflected on what we had discovered: a land of enchantment, warmth, nature, beauty and endless inspiration. ▀

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