



## The International Issue

We're the first to admit that we can be a parochial bunch. Our offices are in New York, and the city tends to have an outsize presence in these pages. So for this issue, we decided to try something different: no stories on New York designers. And why stop there: no Americans at all! Instead, we looked to other parts of the world, focusing on places that traditionally don't get enough attention in design magazines, including ours. You'll notice that a few stories have a toe or two, or even a foot, in the American sphere. (Hey, it's a global world, and we're not perfect.) And we make no claims that this is a comprehensive report on how graphic design is being practiced everywhere—that would be impossible. Think of this issue instead as a collection of postcards from interesting places, from the manic print shops of Cairo to the colorful back roads of czarist Russia.

*The business cards of Mohamed Ali Street could be advertisements for Cairo itself, a city where tiny shops squatting in abandoned department stores sell SpongeBob backpacks with upside-down Nike swooshes.* "COLLAGE TOWN," page 50

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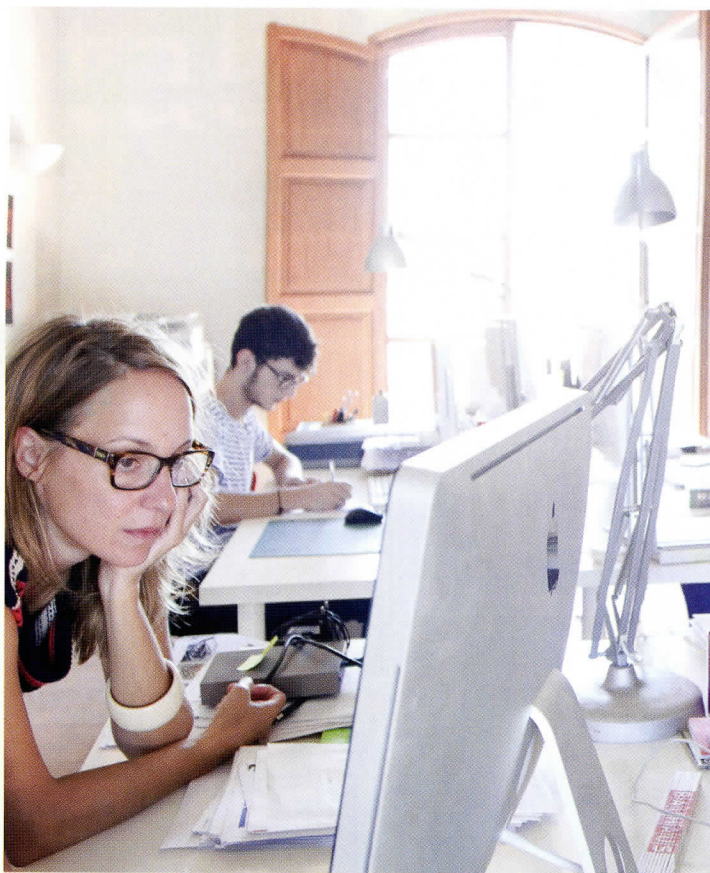
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