

METRO Society

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**ANDY
SORIANO**
Corporate
heart



Nene Tuason-Quimson
hosts an intimate dinner with
Mike & Gloria Arroyo

World-class Filipino series:
Rafe Totengco and Kenneth Cobonpue

Men of Style: Nene Araneta, Ed Calma, Daniel Romualdez, Anton Roxas and Donnie Tantoco

Plus:
Menchu Katigbak,
Anthony Garcia, Noel
Oñate, Joey Yupangco,
Miguel Zubiri, Mario
Batali, Fernando Botero,
Juvenal Sanso, Lisa
Cojuangco-Cruz and
Angelique Villaraza



Kenneth Cobonpue, Interior Crafts of the Islands, Inc.

Kenneth Cobonpue and his Yin & Yang design series have received celebrity acclaim. He and his body of work have graced the pages of Newsweek, Time magazine, International Herald Tribune, The LA Times, ELLE Décor (7 editions), Maison Francaise, Brigitte, Surface, Wallpaper, Interior Design, Architectural Digest, Maison Cote Sud, INTERNI, Eigenhuis, Metropolis, The World of Interiors, The Washington Post, Miami Herald, Chicago Tribune and countless other international publications. He has been re-

warded and recognized by a number of organizations and bodies, both for his craft and his personal accomplishments. The awards that are most gratifying, however, are those he has won in competition.

His mother, Betty Cobonpue, founded Interior Crafts of the Islands, Inc., designing and manufacturing furniture that was mostly Mediterranean and ethnic, using new techniques in working with rattan. Kenneth was expected to join the company and, as is typical of heirs to the family business, he started with a degree in business administration with a major in marketing. Midway through his course, he managed to convince his mother that he would be better off with a degree in Industrial Design—and way better off indeed since because he graduated summa cum laude from the Pratt Institute in New York.

He is currently designer and general manager of Interior Crafts, juggling artistic and practical concerns. Kenneth's approach to design is both technical and visual, resulting in products that are works of art and engineering marvels. His furniture is the result of a synergy of design, function and form, using natural materials to create contemporary pieces that are sleek and hi-tech. He is constantly developing his craft, becoming more profound in his execution of concepts. He not only creates a 3-dimensional object that claims its own space, he transcends the physical and focuses on a fourth dimension.

Sitting in one of his chairs is a sensory experience. It begins with what you see, an image of an unusual form that pleases the eye and arouses curiosity. It goes on to touch, then rounds off into a feeling, a state, a mood—sexy and intimate for 'Suzy Wong', gleeful for 'Chiquita' and dreamy for 'Voyage'. It is this sophistication that attracts the ultra chic—the 'Croissant' and 'Pigalle' for Brad Pitt's L.A. home, the 'Croissant' for The Sky Bar in Toronto and a full-scale floor-to-ceiling 'Pigalle' for the new Nobu restaurant under construction on 57th Street in Manhattan. Kenneth and his creations are simply—we just can't get enough of that phrase—world-class. MS



1 The Voyage bed made of coconut leaf cores or *buri*, hand-woven in a steel frame
2 The croissant sofa made of coconut leaf cores or *buri* tied together individually with *abaca* rope
3 The Suzy Wong divan made of wood and woven *lampakanai*, *abaca* and rattan
4 The Chiquita stool made of metal and wooden peg
5 The La Luna chair and footstool made of ratan splits
6 The tilt armchair made of dark Philippine mahogany designed in collaboration with Luisa Robinson
7 A free-form sculpture

