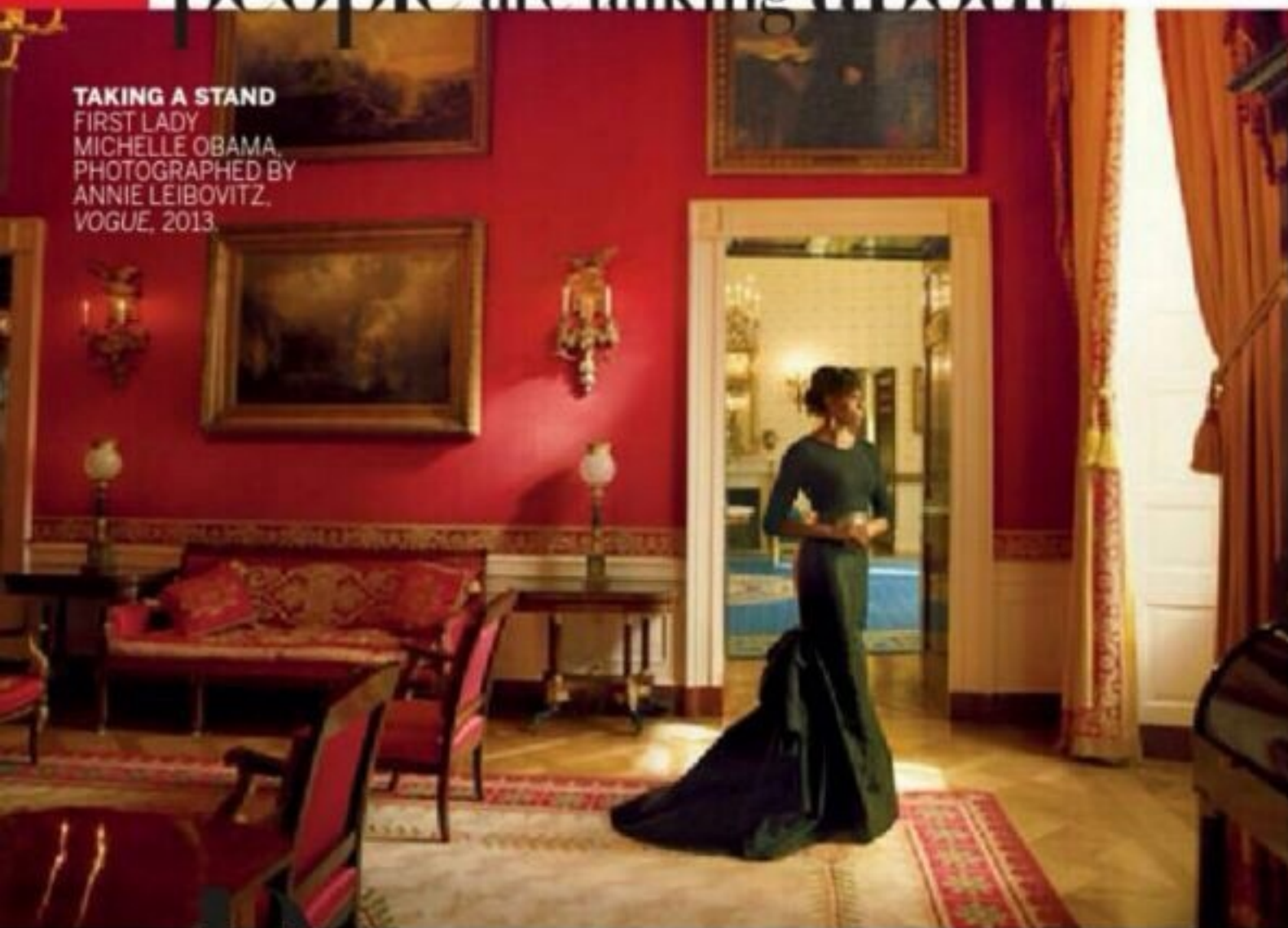




people are talking about

TAKING A STAND
FIRST LADY
MICHELLE OBAMA,
PHOTOGRAPHED BY
ANNIE LEIBOVITZ,
VOGUE, 2013.



books

The Incredible JOURNEY

A new biography brings First Lady Michelle Obama's inspiring story to life.

account—even the First Lady's senior thesis at Princeton asked what African-American alumnae were doing for their communities—a groundedness that resonated with voters, who saw themselves in her struggles (she became known as "The Closer" in the president's campaigns). Once in the White House, she would be embraced as a kind of national mentor-in-chief, an advocate for military families and improved child nutrition, a style icon, and a working mother whose story—one about hard work, hope, and keeping it real—had become America's.—MEGAN O'GRADY

Perhaps no First Lady has been more powerfully symbolic than Michelle Obama, but in Peter Slevin's **Michelle Obama: A Life** (Knopf), she emerges as one of the most effective, hands-on women to fill the role since Eleanor Roosevelt. Slevin, a veteran *Washington Post* reporter who had access to the Obamas' inner circle (though not the Obamas themselves), recounts Michelle Robinson's journey from Chicago's working-class South Side to Pennsylvania Avenue. He lends both sociological and personal context to her decision to leave the blue-chip law firm where she met Barack Obama (on their first date they saw *Do*

the Right Thing) to work in public service, juggling jobs, her husband's budding political career, and parenthood along the way. A drive to give back is the through line in Slevin's thoughtful

documentary

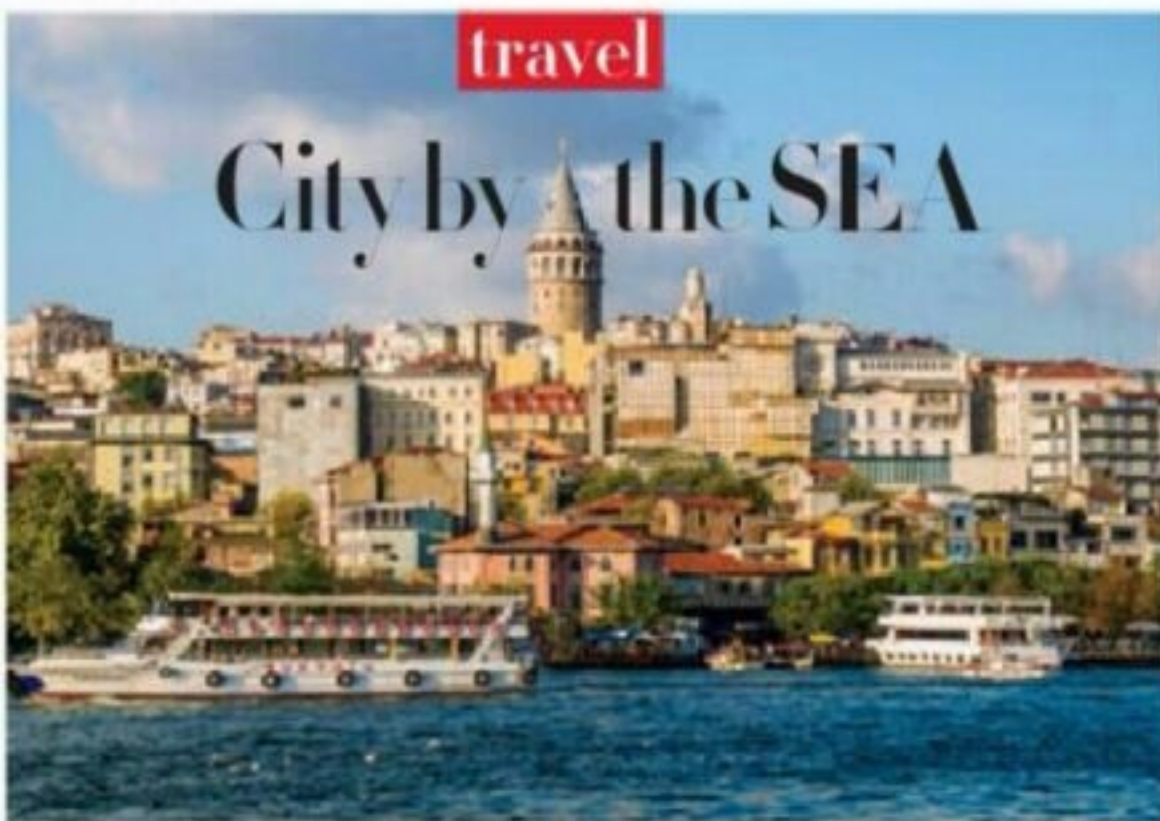
HOUSE call Within the first few minutes of **Dior and I**—a documentary that traces the eight high-octane weeks leading up to Raf Simons's blockbuster haute couture debut—the Belgian designer manages to scandalize the atelier staff. His offense? Requesting to be called "Raf" rather than "Monsieur." Eyebrows are further raised when he uses an abstract artwork by Sterling Ruby as inspiration for a satin evening dress. But by the time Simons instructs that an ivory peplumed jacket be hastily spray-painted black in the garden, even the staunchest seamstresses seem to be coming around. "I didn't see the documentary as a portrait of Raf," explains filmmaker Frédéric Tcheng, who coproduced 2008's *Valentino: The Last Emperor*. "It's an ensemble cast."—MARK GUIDUCCI

Lately, travelers to Istanbul are bypassing tourist-heavy Sultanahmet and crossing the

SET IN STONE

A VIEW OF ISTANBUL'S GALATA TOWER.

Golden Horn to the lively Beyoğlu district, where the former American Embassy, Palazzo Corpi, has become the latest outpost of **Soho House**. A four-year restoration returns the 1873 building's Point de Hongrie parquet floors and Bacchic frescoes to their original resplendence for the members-only club, whose amenities (including two pools and a spa) are available to guests of the sleek glass hotel next door. As for the decor, think rustic kilims, Venetian chandeliers, and mahogany leather Chesterfields. With its open loft layout and exposed brick walls, the **Public Hotel**, up the street from neighboring hipster enclave Cihangir, is a more Gen Y option. And nearby in Karaköy, a fishing port now dotted with galleries and cafés, is the just-opened **Banker Han**, with rooftop rooms overlooking the Bosphorus docks.—J.B. PATA >214



travel

City by the SEA