

CANADA'S

# styleat home

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& BETTER  
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**DREAM  
KITCHENS**  
for every

**style &  
BUDGET**

**YOU VOTED!**  
editor **ERIN  
MCLAUGHLIN'S  
KITCHEN  
REVEALED!**



**\$250**  
KITCHEN  
MAKEOVER

**WARM  
UP** WITH  
HOMEMADE  
**SOUP**

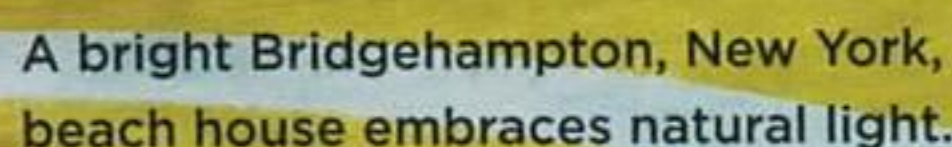
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PRODUCER SARA CATION

for the  
*love* of Lau



She is lauded as a trailblazer and designer to watch. Thanks to her graduate degree in fine and decorative arts from Sotheby's, Amy has a curator's eye that can bring together bespoke art, vintage furniture, statement light fixtures and textured wall treatments into cohesive, comfortable and, at the bottom line, functional interiors.

Amy referenced nature throughout this home surrounded by gardens, polo fields and a beach.

Whether you're commissioning an artist at a gallery or one from Etsy, think of timelessness instead of trends. Objects outlast us, so really consider what it is you're trying to create. It's important to work in collaboration with artisans - they need to have their own voice to make sure that their work is really a reflection of what





Amy had curtains with a bold wave-like pattern custom designed to give this apartment "movement."

they do best. Giving them a commission is also giving them the confidence that you believe in them. You want them to think out of the box but then really try and make something that shows they understand who you are.

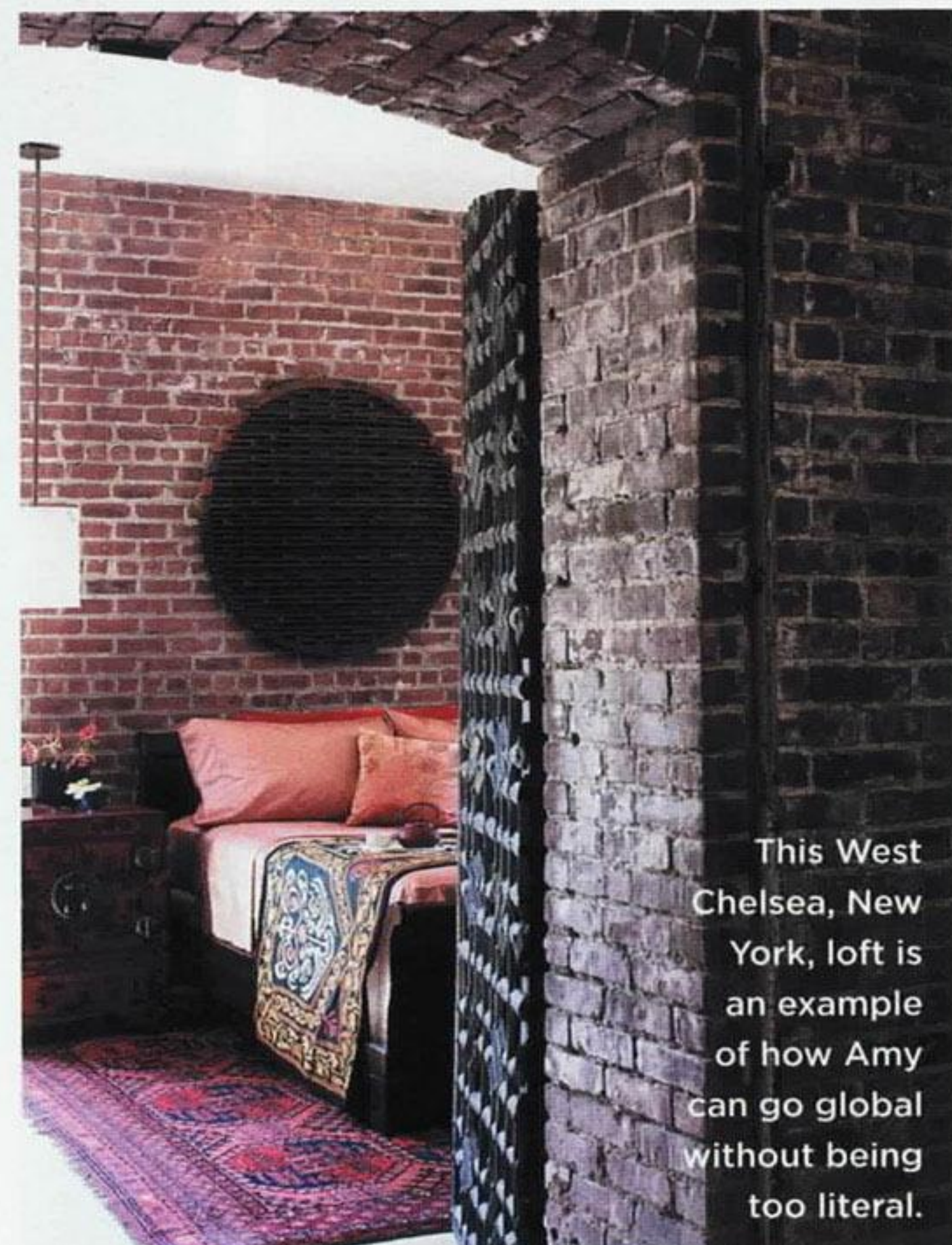
#### What's your advice for buying designer antiques?

Be sure you're using a reputable dealer. If you're buying on 1stdibs, the dealer has already gone through a vetting process so, in a way, you get guaranteed authenticity. Beyond that, look for books that show an artist's oeuvre. If you're looking for something by George Nelson, for example, go back to the Herman Miller catalogue to compare and contrast with what you

find. Also consider a piece's provenance – how many times was it reupholstered, and was it done correctly? Did upholsterers follow the original lines for welting and button details? Does it still look like the original?

#### Tell us about your new book, *Expressive Modern*.

It was fantastic because I collaborated with Linda O'Keeffe, the former creative director of *Metropolitan Home* magazine. She has a divine eye and she really gets it. It was her idea – which I love, love, love – to have my inspiration boards at the beginning of each chapter. It was nice just to sit down and see how my work has unfolded over the years.



This West Chelsea, New York, loft is an example of how Amy can go global without being too literal.



Warm wood provides a backdrop for a chandelier that references falling leaves.



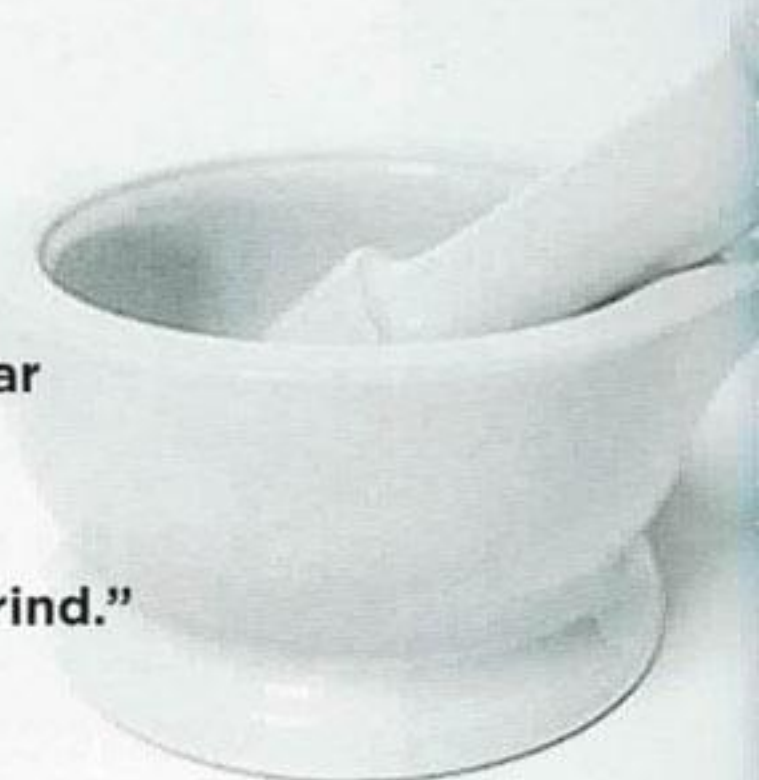
#### piece of architecture

"One of my favourites is Antonio Gaudí's Casa Batlló – it's to die for! My life kind of transformed when I saw that one."

## Amy's A-list

#### kitchen favourite

"I recently bought some Carrara marble kitchen gear in Italy, so I'm interested in unique salts and exotic peppers that I can hand-grind."



Amy Lau for Maya Romanoff Anniversary Collection Crystal WALLPAPER, through designers, Têlio, telio.com.

#### first big design purchase

“My first upholstered chair – a Heywood-Wakefield piece. I bought it at a flea market. I don't think I even reupholstered it.”

#### next home project

"I just moved, and in one room, I'm dying to do the ceiling and the backs of my bookshelves in a wallpaper I designed. It's soft, so the wallpaper will just lend the ceiling more depth, giving it the look of a specialized finish."

#### must-have accessory

"In the kitchen, a good soap pump! I can't stand to see houses that don't use a soap pump or a paper towel holder! I really like Simplehuman's accessories – the purity in the way in which they do things is beautiful."







## Want to achieve Amy's signature style?

Here are 15 Lauisms from her new book, *Expressive Modern: The Interiors of Amy Lau* (The Monacelli Press), to live and decorate by!

### AMY'S BIG 15

#### 1. INTERESTING SHAPES AND FORMS

An aficionado of fine and decorative arts, Amy doesn't limit artwork to merely canvas on the walls. Art can be found in sculptural elements like the base of this reading lamp.

#### 2. BOLD COLOUR

Amy's interiors never shy away from colour, but never feel too loud. "A room's colours should work with adjacent rooms, hallways and neighbouring spaces," says Amy.

**3. UNIQUE ART** "Art provides the hierarchy of colour and pattern in a room: A motif or graphic element from a painting can be blown out of scale to inspire pillows, rug design, even a mural."

#### 4. UNCLUTTERED SURFACES

"A love of order often naturally leads to design with straight lines and a simple palette."

#### 5. WARM WOOD

"Nature is a friend and teacher who continues to inform my interior design work every day."

#### 6. MID-CENTURY MODERN FURNITURE

Amy is drawn to the style's clean, low lines, as shown in this room's T. H. Robsjohn-Gibbings chair and Paul McCobb dresser.

#### 7. RESTORED AND REFURBISHED CLASSIC PIECES

Amy added "abstract upholstery" to update this classic Mid-Century Modern find.

#### 8. CURVES AND EDGES

"Soft-angled, curvy furniture offsets rectilinear elements to give a room extra dimension."

#### 9. PATTERN PLAY

"Colour and pattern instantly alter our perception of a room's size, shape and personality."

#### 10. EDITED COLLECTIONS

"Displaying any collection, large or small, calls for editing and restraint."

**11. ART GLASS** Amy is drawn to the appeal of art glass – it introduces colour that can be amplified by natural light.

#### 12. TEXTURED WALL TREATMENTS

Amy often includes bespoke artwork like this ceramic pinched-petal wall sculpture.

#### 13. NATURAL LIGHT

"Calculating the amount of natural light that seeps into a room is important because light is the vehicle for emotion."

#### 14. STATEMENT LIGHTING

Breathtaking light fixtures often take centre stage in Amy's rooms.

#### 15. COLOUR BLOCKING

The clean white slate of the floor, walls, ceiling, dining table and three of the chairs manipulates our spatial perception (read: bigger!), while blocks of red (in the flowers), black (on the chairs) and colourful geometric art guide our eyes through the room.

