



INTERVIEW WITH AMY LAU

people would ask me if I could do their places, so I decided to open it up in 2001". Since the first day, Amy Lau design studio has been famously recognized for creating unique high-end interiors known for their warmth, expressiveness and impeccable attention to detail, a reputation that stands until today.

"Amy Lau as a professional is very spirited, creative, honorable about the materials and the pieces that are being used. Let's say she knows her, knows her history, the history of design and interior design lively and never takes no as an answer. Persistent, persistent." (Amy Lau)

Her high-end aesthetic embraces both art and design, where each personalized space is enlivened with dynamic mixes of vintage and contemporary pieces and site-specific commissions. The inspirations can be different in any project but it all starts the same way. "I start to build things up almost like a puzzle. So I have a little piece here and a little piece there, and as I get to know them more and more,

I create this environment for them but on a high level".

According to the designer, the secret to creating a truly different and unique design is to have a passionate client who wants to create history and has a secret passion for art. "They give me the inspirations for things, but I'm able to translate it to high-level interiors."

The client and designer relationship becomes so special that the project ends up channeling all of their likes and needs, but with a design that is a little outside the box. "You want to

challenge them, you want to encourage that to push the button a little bit further. Not too much, but just enough to see if they'll take this kind of risk in creating this and certain pieces", explained Amy. That is the true secret for the ultimate artful living experience.

Amy's portfolio of luxurious residential interiors includes an array of artistic and sophisticated homes throughout the world, so when it comes to choosing the one that marked her professional path there is a lot to think about. "There are a lot that in my mind that is memorable, but this is the first apartment that I've been able to design for myself, which it's not done (laughs) and which every single piece was all torn apart."

Located near the iconic Carnegie hall, Amy's apartment is the most special project that she has done so far. The apartment was built in 1908/ 1910, so the New York-based designer searched for inspiration at different styles around the world of that time, such as the steel style as well as the secessionist style. From the flooring,

Embracing art and design as one, Amy Lau became recognized by her signature artful living style that evokes finesse and transmits pure magic. "I would say Amy Lau as a professional is very spirited, creative, honorable about the materials and the pieces that are being used", told the designer. Considered to be one of the most renowned designers worldwide, the New York based designer revealed to the CovetED Magazine some exclusive details (and secrets) about her professional career as an interior designer.

Her passion for design, art and craftsmanship is something that it alhas been always present in her life from a young age. What is for many people is a longlasting quest for a professional purpose and passion, for the designer this process was something natural. "I've always loved anything that had to do with objects and pieces, I loved the stories that they tell, the history, and the craftsmanship". Right after graduating from college, Amy worked for a distinguished import-export store called "Antigua de Mexico" where she had the chance to connect with several master artisans in developing beautiful pieces, but also to create the interior design for retail set to exhibit the products. It was a chapter that tough her a lot of skills not only in terms of artistry and craftsmanship but interior design as well.

However it was when she was working as a gallery design director for Lynne Weinberg, that Amy saw the opportunity to go on her own and create her own design practice in 2001. At that time she already several curatorial work for different international shows, and people started to search for her advice after they saw her work. "I had so much inquiry about what I was working on, and

"I WOULD SAY AMY LAU AS A PROFESSIONAL IS VERY SPIRITED, CREATIVE, HONORABLE ABOUT THE MATERIALS AND THE PIECES THAT ARE BEING USED"



which is in the Chevron and with the inlay made with walnut wood, to the lighting that's from all of the secessionist lightings with a lot of glass, every single thing was carefully tough until de last detail.

The firm's work has been featured several top design publications such as Architectural Digest, Elle Décor, House Beautiful and has earned many of the most prized awards in design, including the House Beautiful Next-Wave Award, Architectural Digest/AD 100 Award, ELLE Decor A-List and the Luxe Interiors + Design Gold List.. However from all of these special moments, there was one more special than the rest. "What really marked my career was when I received my honorary doctorate from the New York School of Interior Design. I was really taken that educational institution recognized my work, and honored it, and I thought that was extremely special. So for me, that was one of the top highlights", revealed the designer.

Besides her timeless interiors and bespoke product creation, Amy Lau has also published a monograph in 2011 called "Expressive Modern: The Interiors of Amy Lau". A book that highlighted bits of history that influences her work, through quotes of different artists or designers. Many aspirational designers ask themselves how can they create such a successful studio as Amy Lau Design, and the designer told CovetED her secret. "Mentorship is everything. I've had one, two, three major mentors in my life that have helped me get to the place where I am now, and it's there's nothing like it". Now the apprentice became the mentor, and she revealed that one of the most challenging aspects that she had to face is that fact that young people no longer seek for a long learning process like the old days. Now, most of the young professionals want to work in a place for a year or a year and a half and then jump for another place seeking a new experience, which turns the mentoring process a little bit more difficult.

"It's very hard on interior designers because we give so much to these employees to train them the right way and it takes so much time, and just when they're finished being trained, they're ready to jump to the next. It's mentorships where you can exchange ideas, talk them over with someone that knows much more than you do. It does take time and you're going to have to put in the hours, and you are going to have to work very hard because this is not an easy job. It's a very challenging one, but it is a beautiful one." (Amy Lau)

Currently Amy is working in several projects across the United States, including in New York and Connecticut as well. As for the next steps, the designer revealed that there is a new book coming soon, as well as a new space, almost like an atelier/gallery, where people can actually see some of her work as well as do creative brainstorming sessions. For every environment, for every client, Amy's highest mission and greatest achievement will always be to create livable, meaningful homes filled with harmony, artistic integrity, beauty and inspiration.

