

# 20 Inspiring Female Designers to Know

By Ryan Waddoups

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East End Avenue Residence. Photography by Thomas Loof.

An Arizona upbringing—surrounded by red-clay canyons, attending Pueblo dances, and collecting rocks with her mineralogist grandmother—helped shape [Amy Lau's](#) vision as an interior designer today. "As a child, we would walk the landscape, on the hunt for perfect stones," Lau says of her grandmother. "And growing up, my parents acquired paintings from the Taos Society of Artists and material culture from the Southwest. Art was a staple in our home, and gallery ventures with my dad were often."



Attaining a bachelor's in art history from the University of Arizona and a master's in American fine and decorative art and design from Sotheby's Institute of Art, then working at Aero and Lin-Weinberg Gallery have been factors in her success, too. Now principal of [Amy Lau Design](#) in New York, she conceives interiors across the country, from TriBeCa to Texas, furnishings for [Kyle Bunting](#), [S. Harris](#), and [Maya Romanoff](#), rooms for the [Kips Bay Decorator Show House](#), and installations for Bergdorf Goodman and Baccarat.