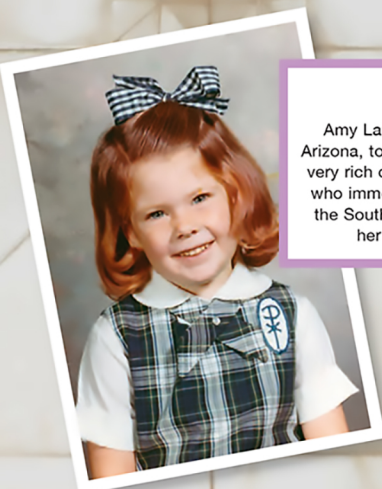


DESIGNER TIMELINE:

Amy Lau

A brief history of a brilliant career

PRODUCED BY KELLY VELOCCI



1968

Amy Lau is born in Paradise Valley, Arizona, to art-collector parents. "I had a very rich childhood," says the designer, who immersed herself in the culture of the Southwest and often painted with her grandmother, an artist.



1985

Spends the summer before her junior year of high school studying abroad in France. "I wanted to go to Paris, but my parents said no," recalls Lau, "so I lived with a host family in a small fishing village near Cannes. That experience made me want to explore the world more."



1994-95

Studies at Sotheby's Institute of Art, where she receives a master's degree in fine and decorative art and design. "I chose Sotheby's because I wanted to learn about the field from an international perspective, with interior design being my end goal."

1989-91

Lau attends the University of Arizona, where she earns a degree in art history and also works as the creative director of a home-furnishings store with locations in Tucson and Guadalajara. Traveling throughout Mexico to source and commission artisanal goods gave her "an insider's perspective on arts and crafts," she recalls. "To be able to do this at such a young age was like hitting the jackpot."



1996-2001

Serves as the director of Aero, designer Thomas O'Brien's shop in SoHo, for two years, and then becomes design director of the now-shuttered Lin/Weinberg Gallery, a dealer in mid-20th-century furnishings. After informally helping clients of Lin/Weinberg Gallery decorate their houses, she launches Amy Lau Design in 2001. "I had no idea what I was doing, and it was nerve-racking to have clients counting on me, but I knew I could figure it out."



2005

Co-founds Design.05, an art and decor fair in Miami, which evolves into Design Miami. "At the time, there weren't any contemporary design shows," says Lau. "I wanted to provide dealers with a setting to display their work in a unique way, and the event retains a high level of talent to this day."

2011

Releases *Expressive Modern: The Interiors of Amy Lau* (Monacelli Press).



2012

Receives an honorary doctorate from the New York School of Interior Design, along with Martha Stewart and John Saladino. "I couldn't believe I was being recognized among such talented people."

2014

Visits Japan, where she tours the studios of artists and craftspeople in Tokyo and Kyoto (below, with Dedar's Caterina Fabrizio at a tea ceremony). "Exposing yourself to other cultures makes you more productive, receptive, and adaptable," says the avid traveler, who has also explored such countries as Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates.



Backdrop: Lau's Snowflake wall covering for Maya Romanoff.

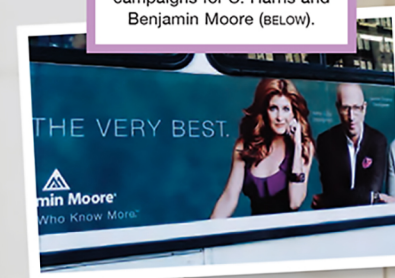
2007

Participates in her first Kips Bay Decorator Show House, for which she designs a tropical-themed living room with poured-resin floors and embroidery on the walls. "The concept of using resin was a little crazy for an event with so much tile and wood," says Lau. "It shook things up."



2009-2010

Appears in advertising campaigns for S. Harris and Benjamin Moore (below).



2017

With Kyle Bunting, launches a new collection of rugs, one of which appears on the cover of NYC&G's sister magazine HC&G. Lau has also collaborated on home-furnishing lines with Heath Ceramics, Doris Leslie Blau, and Maya Romanoff.

2018

Future plans include "designing more studio lines, especially furniture, and I'd love to work on a bespoke hotel."

