

Amy Lau at Phoenix Art Museum in front of *The Last Scattering Surface* by Josiah McElheny, purchased with funds provided by Jan and Howard Hendler

DESERT INSPIRATION

Taking exception to Thomas Wolfe, “You can go home again,” Amy Lau, founder and principal of New York-based Amy Lau Design, told a welcoming sold-out crowd of 600 at Phoenix Art Museum’s Independent Woman Luncheon on Jan. 30. The internationally acclaimed designer, born and raised in Paradise Valley, was the keynote speaker for the event that annually has featured exclusive designers since its inception in 2011.

She credits her interest in art and design to two influences: nature and her family. Lau recalls riding through the desert on her horse and marveling at the colors and shapes she saw, whether in a Saguaro cactus or the dramatic pattern on a Gila monster’s back.

Her family’s home was her first gallery, she says. Her grandmother was a mineralogist and accomplished artist, and her parents, Patti and Fred Lau, filled their home with paintings, curated furnishings and her father’s collection of prehistoric jewelry.

This visually rich background led to a degree in art history at The University of Arizona, a Master of Arts degree in fine and decorative art from Sotheby’s Institute of Art and an honorary doctorate from New York School of Interior Design.

The sophisticated homes around the world for which she has designed interiors have been featured in numerous publications and garnered her many of the most coveted awards in the design world.