

MODERN LUXURY

# Interiors

CALIFORNIA

## LOUNGE ACT

THE LATEST  
LAUNCHES  
TO CREATE  
AN OUTDOOR  
SANCTUARY

+

THE GOLDEN  
STATE'S  
BRIGHTEST  
STARS SHARE  
THEIR STORIES

## FORCE OF NATURE

DESIGN'S TOP TALENTS TAKE IT OUTSIDE



# THE COMMITTEE

WE'RE PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THE TOP TASTEMAKERS WHO  
KEEP THE GOLDEN STATE LOOKING SO GOOD. THESE STYLE-  
SETTERS REPRESENT THE BEST IN THEIR INDUSTRY, AND WE ARE  
HONORED TO WELCOME THEM AS PART OF OUR  
*MODERN LUXURY INTERIORS CALIFORNIA COMMITTEE.*

BY LAURA ECKSTEIN JONES

PHOTO COURTESY OF LEXINGTON HOME BRANDS

**What sparked your interest in design?** I was fortunate to grow up in a very stylish household since my mom is in the interior design business. After a brief stint in law school, I knew I had a more creative calling. I opened my first design firm 25 years ago and have been loving it ever since.

**How would you describe your aesthetic?** I strive to design interiors that are glamorous but comfortable at the same time. I

love plenty of textures, colors and patterns layered—it's my signature look. Well, that and pops of animal print!

**What design trend you are loving at the moment?** I am just not a trend guy. I love timeless, classic interiors; many of my first projects I did 25 years ago look current today.

**What design trend are you so over?** I never did go for the overdone, ornate, cluttered look.

Too much "whimsy" makes me cringe.

**How do you weave your sense of style into everything you do?** My style is definitely all-American with a West Coast twist. From my wardrobe to my interiors to the parties I design, I favor classic elegance, and of course plenty of blue and white in the mix.

**Wallpaper or paint?** Oh, no question. Wallpaper, hands down.

**Antique or reproduction?** Originals, especially if I find something amazing at the Paris antique markets.

**What is the best bang for the buck when it comes to making a big impact?** Fabulous art! I happen to be in love with abstracts these days. Most often it's the first thing people see when they enter a room, so go with the best and most sophisticated art you can afford. [barclaybutera.com](http://barclaybutera.com)

BARCLAY BUTERA  
CEO, BARCLAY BUTERA INTERIORS





JONATHAN RACHMAN  
PRINCIPAL, JONATHAN RACHMAN DESIGN



**What first sparked your interest in design?** As a child growing up in Indonesia, I was exposed to so many arts, artisans, architecture, textiles and sculptures. In my youth, studying and living in Switzerland and Paris exposed me to a similar environment plus fashion in the classical Western setting. These visual memories sparked my interest.

**How would you describe your aesthetic?** Definitely timeless with

the best elements of East and West; classical, old-school, yet current and highly customized and tailored; hushed luxury.

**What design trend are you loving at the moment?** While I don't follow any trend (I find it contrived and limiting), I am absolutely in love with how de Gournay's bespoke custom handpainted wallpaper is adapting to more modern approaches: bold, unforgettable and always bespoke.

Their embroidered velvet cushions are also divinely scrumptious!

**What design trend are you so over?** The over-counter mount sink: unsavory, unhygienic and impractical

**How do you weave your sense of style into everything you do?** It's like everything in my life: having a principle, and I constantly insist on staying true to myself in what I do

and how I behave or dress or shop as well as design. I can only be me.

**What is a timeless design moment you think will never go out of style?** Anything Hubert de Givenchy created and designed, be it fashion or interiors.

**What is the best bang for the buck when it comes to making a big impact on a project?** A lavish decorative light fixture: It's like your Taffin brooch. [jonathanrachman.com](http://jonathanrachman.com)

PHOTO BY SUZANNA SCOTT PHOTOGRAPHY

**How would you describe your aesthetic?** In general, our aesthetic is clean and modern, with nods to tradition and an emphasis on warmth and tactile materials.

**What design trend are you loving at the moment?** Zellige tile as the new subway tile. It's been popular for several years now, but it's so subtle and beautiful in any space that I don't think I'll tire of it for some time.

**What design trend are you so over?** I think I've seen enough mudcloth pillows for a while.

**How do you weave your sense of style into everything you do?** It has to be comfortable if I'm going to wear it. Our interiors are similar in that we want every space to be used and enjoyed. We never aim to create a room so precious that no one sits in it.

**What is your favorite color palette to use in projects currently?** I'm historically a blue-green person, but I've been loving warmer hues the last couple of years: ochre, terra-cotta, dusty rose, apricot, cream tones.

**What is a timeless design moment you think will never go out of style?** Joseph Dirand's Paris apartment—it has inspired so many of our own projects and thousands of designers around the world. He is a master of

blending minimalism with classicism in perfect harmony.

**What is the best bang for the buck when it comes to making a big impact on a project?** Investing in at least one key piece per room with major design chops (often a vintage lounge chair, table or light fixture) that serves as the focal point of a room, while balancing the budget in other areas, goes a long way. [laurennelsondesign.com](http://laurennelsondesign.com)



LAUREN NELSON  
OWNER & PRINCIPAL, LAUREN NELSON DESIGN

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAUREN NELSON DESIGN





**What first sparked your interest in design?** As I child, I enjoyed playing with Lego sets and had a curiosity about design and interior spaces.

**How would you describe your aesthetic?** Sophisticated, bold and tactile, with refined details and playful surprises

**What design trend are you loving at the moment?** I try not to follow trends, but I do love mohair and faux fur.

**What design trend are you so over?** Patterns that are not beautiful, and complicated by postmodern inspiration

**How do you weave your sense of style into everything you do?** I love clothing (possibly have a shopping addiction!) and love beautifully made, simple pieces with very nice details.

**Wallpaper or paint?** Tough one! 49% wallpaper, 51% paint.

**Antique or reproduction?** Antique

**What is your favorite color palette to use in projects currently?** Army greens, soft natural whites, rich woods

**What is a timeless design moment you think will never go out of style?** Midcentury and '60s

**What is the best bang for the buck when it comes to making a big impact on a project?** Painting a room with strong, richly saturated jewel tones

**What do you wish more of your clients understood?** The importance of hiring highly skilled craftsmen [juleswilsondesign.com](http://juleswilsondesign.com)

JULES WILSON  
PRINCIPAL,  
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DESIGN STUDIO

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MARTYN  
LAWRENCE  
BULLARD

FOUNDER,  
MARTYN  
LAWRENCE  
BULLARD  
DESIGN



**What first sparked your interest in design?** My mother told me I drew houses on a chalkboard when I was 4 and rearranged the furniture in my sister's dollhouse constantly. I guess the decorating gene was just in me from the beginning.

**How would you describe your aesthetic?** Purely eclectic. I love all beautiful things, no matter what age or provenance, style or value. It's all about a feeling and an emotion.

**What design trend are you loving at the moment?** Color is back along with bold pattern. It's almost like fashion—think Gucci and its old-lady prints being mixed together into a new, fun, fabulous chic that's fresh and full of life. That's exactly what's going on in the interior world and I love it!

**What design trend are you so over?** I'm not a minimalist; I like interiors that scream comfort, that

capture the owner's soul and give a window into their soul. I hate when people follow a trend because they think it's the way to be or to think. Be an individual; don't follow trends, make them your own. Mold them to you and what makes you feel good. Always remember modern luxury is comfort.

**What is a timeless design moment you think will never go out of style?** The black-and-white

floor, in all materials

**What is the best bang for the buck when it comes to making a big impact on a project?** The best design dollar ever spent is on a dimmer switch. Lighting is everything, and the simple luxury of a dimmer changes the atmosphere and vibe of a space, instantly making it, and you, always look better. [martynlawrencebullard.com](http://martynlawrencebullard.com)

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