

THE WORLD OF

B. DAVID LEVINE

By Claudio Martinez

If a gene exists that predicts genius in all aspects of design, genome mapping scientists would surely find it in designer extraordinaire B. David Levine.

Childlike wonder, enthusiasm and charm combined with a masterful grasp of world design and its historical evolution make conversation with David an extraordinary experience.

David has always viewed the world through a designer's lens. "I used to embarrass my mother by pointing out that her friends' furniture was arranged all wrong," he explains, laughing. Often-times, upon subsequent visits to the person's house, he would see that the furniture had been rearranged as per his suggestions.

In his late teens, David left his native Pittsburgh and came to California, intent on making his passion a career by crafting dream homes for others. By the time he was in his early twenties he was designing record breaking spec homes and custom luxury homes.

Born into an artistic family David initially studied fine arts. He immersed himself in learning the various design aspects of the world's cultures. Never content to just familiarize himself with the aesthetic value, he had to know the practical and structural relevance of specific techniques and styles, what materials were used and why, their cultural significance and what stories they told.

When my wife Terrell and I first visited David's shop and saw videos of his work we realized that about the only thing he wasn't responsible for designing was the grain and texture in the wood that was used. "My career began in the fine arts. It transitioned into interior design and then grew to encompass architectural design, furniture design, textile (industrial) design and hardscape design as well." Ever the consummate detail specialist, David often designs the moldings, glasswork, doors and ironwork in his projects.

David's multi-dimensional talent and ability to work in all styles and periods is what sets him apart from other designers. He works very closely with his clients to ensure that he stays in

alignment with their visions and desires as much as possible throughout the design, adaptation and building process.

Leaving a legacy for the future generations is of paramount importance to David. "Many of the old arts are dying out", he laments. "One of my missions is to help preserve them by educating people about their history and remarkable craftsmanship. It's getting more difficult to find quality items that aren't mass produced." Standing in his Studio City boutique, he adds, "I created this place to be a showroom for art I import from all around the world, a place from where I can work with artisans to preserve their craft. My clients know they can find uniquely beautiful items here like the magnificent San Gines Spanish Talavera ceramics of which I am currently the only U.S. importer."

David recently returned from Italy where he was able to connect with several sources of ancient style master craft. From iron and glass workers to leathersmiths and makers of fine Majolica ceramics, many are artists who follow traditions and use techniques that have been handed down through many generations of their families. David welcomes his clients to accompany him on trips abroad.

David's eyes sparkle as he envisions clients sharing his experiences abroad. "Imagine," he grins, "shopping in Italy and making your own pottery in an ancient factory."

In addition to creating fabric and furniture lines, some of which will be produced in-house, some produced as limited pieces and some to be licensed; he has a fun and enlightening weekly design show, World Design with David Levine, in development. "The world must know the diversity and brilliance of the old world craftsmanship that's out there." With David's help it will. His generous heart and talent have no limits.



www.bdavidlevine.com

info@bdavidlevine.com

