

F R E E S H | F A C C E S

LUXE RECOGNIZES THE DESIGNERS TO WATCH IN THE NEW YEAR, IDENTIFYING SOME OF THE BEST OF THE BEST ACROSS CITIES BRIMMING WITH EMERGING DESIGN TALENT.

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Blending classic silhouettes in neutral tones with accessories and art that bring us back to our cultural roots, this Alexander M. Reid-designed space redefines luxury with the innovative style that characterizes the up-and-coming batch of designers currently on our radar.

ALEXANDER M. REID ▶

New York | alexandermreid.com

WHY WE LOVE HIM: Alexander M. Reid thrives on the juxtaposition of vintage and contemporary design for homes that are both comfortable and stylish. Reid's fashion-forward aesthetic has endeared him to some of couture's biggest names: leading him to design spaces for Rebecca Minkoff, Coco Rocha and Jenni Kayne. Using different textures, materials and bold color, especially moody black, he transforms spaces with warmth and depth.

ON THE HORIZON: Reid's agenda is full for 2017: He's in the process of designing homes everywhere from Manhattan and the Hamptons to Los Angeles.

IN HIS WORDS: "I've never been too keen on following the trends in home design—or anywhere, really. I operate with the knowledge and have complete faith that good design will never go out of style."



▼ MEREDITH ELLIS

Austin | meredithellisdesign.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: Meredith Ellis' aesthetic is informed by the greats she worked for earlier in her career: Bunny Williams, Thomas Beeton and Michael S. Smith. James—her home décor showroom housed in a tiny Texas bungalow—has a cult following, further cementing her authority in ATX's rapidly growing design community.

ON THE HORIZON: Sister Parish Design, Elson & Company and Lisa Fine, among others, are joining the James showroom, and Ellis' vignette for AmericasMart Atlanta debuts in January.

IN HER WORDS: "I'm not afraid of tradition and the classical elements that have been around forever because I know how to incorporate them into today's lifestyle. My goal is to give my clients' homes a soul that becomes a part of them."



◀ MAX HUMPHREY

Portland | maxhumphrey.com

WHY WE LOVE HIM: Max Humphrey's designs are pure Americana with a whole lot of edge (think Rosie the Riveter meets punk rock). His non-linear background as a musician and film and television producer influences his crafty style and eye for the extraordinary.

ON THE HORIZON: Humphrey is currently designing his first restaurant, The Cutlery, and two retail spaces for City Home, a funky home goods store. His first line of custom fabrics will launch one by one in January and will be made in the states and sold exclusively on his website.

IN HIS WORDS: "I like every room to show signs of life. You can tell a project is mine because it will be slightly undone, with artwork everywhere, and there won't be any karate-chopped pillows."



▲ MAGGIE CRUZ

Miami | maggiecruzdesign.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: It's easy to spot a Maggie Cruz home when you walk in the door. Cruz raises the bar for Miami design with an unmistakable polish and burst of color. Incorporating bold art into her rooms, she brings to life the flair and exuberance of the city.

ON THE HORIZON: Though she's always designed bespoke pieces for clients, Cruz is launching her first collection of stand-alone pieces available for purchase this spring. Maggie Cruz Home Collection represents her ode to Miami, inspired by her Cuban heritage.

IN HER WORDS: "I'm drawn to the vibrancy and energy of Miami and to the texture and history of Cuba. My design style is grounded in tradition and balanced with modern sensibilities."



◀ CAITLIN MURRAY

Los Angeles | blacklacquerdesign.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: Though Caitlin Murray is meticulous and detail-oriented, her interiors are as effortlessly cool as they come. Innovative combinations in pattern, color and material make for joyful spaces that reflect the laid-back sophistication of their Southern California surroundings.

ON THE HORIZON: Murray is expanding into product design this year and is currently working on an e-commerce extension to her website in hopes of launching a furniture line in the future.

IN HER WORDS: "I lead with intuition and emotion, which makes every project unique. The creative process feels very fluid to me, and too much analyzing throws me off."



◀ **WESLEY MOON**

New York | wesleymoon.com

WHY WE LOVE HIM: Wesley Moon's bold aesthetic and unrestrained use of wild patterns and statement-making pieces attract the most fashionable clientele.

ON THE HORIZON: T. Camille Martin of TCM Studio and Aaron McIntire from Gunn Landscape Architecture are aiding Moon with the customization of a West Village triplex penthouse, created from two adjoining town houses.

IN HIS WORDS: "I don't like rooms that feel 'decorated.' I prefer a curated collection of beautiful furniture and objects that make it seem like the room has been evolving for years, and will continue to do so."

STEPHANIE HAUPTLI

Los Angeles | hauptlihaus.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: Stephanie Hauptli's European background informs her multidisciplinary design work, where she blends functionality with beauty in ethereal, contemporary spaces.

ON THE HORIZON: Hauptli is working on an NYC loft, an L.A. yoga studio and a restoration project with her husband, architect Andrew Obermeyer.

IN HER WORDS: "My interiors feature a strong contrast: This could be as simple as an icy gray fabric paired with an otherwise warm palette."

COLIN GRIFFITH ▶

Denver | griffithid.com

WHY WE LOVE HIM: Colin Griffith's designs have the ease and coziness of classic Colorado design, without being over-designed. They feel lived-in and nostalgic, as if they've been family homes for decades. His trick is a curated use of comfortable, classic elements remastered in luxurious materials.

ON THE HORIZON: Griffith will be traveling to Europe, South America and Asia for design inspiration this year with the hope of building his network of craftsmen and specialists.

IN HIS WORDS: "I love seeing and hearing my clients talk about their projects with an increased awareness of space, function and how they want to live within the home."



◀ **LAURA KEHOE**

Scottsdale | laurakehoedesign.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: Laura Kehoe pulls inspiration from everywhere: blasting music in her studio while leafing through books and looking at images from her travels. Her style is true to both her California roots and to her firm's home base in Arizona; she works with the environment, uses natural materials, color and light, and adds a touch of bohemian ease.

ON THE HORIZON: Kehoe is excited about a large project built in the foothills of Ahwatukee, which will feature traditional elements and French country touches. Because it's not a typical design for a home on a mountainside in Arizona, Kehoe is focusing on making sure the home seamlessly blends in with its environment.

IN HER WORDS: "Our aesthetic is both elegant and very livable, and our approach is one of soft-handed guidance where we collaborate and listen to our clients."

◀ **KATIE STOREY**

San Francisco | storeydesign.co

WHY WE LOVE HER: Focusing on an individualized approach, Katie Storey aims to create spaces that serve as extensions of her clients' personalities. From renovating classic Victorian town houses to designing modern homes, Storey adapts to her clients' styles to make them feel at home.

ON THE HORIZON: Storey is launching her first line of signature textiles and home goods to complement her crisp, refined design style.

IN HER WORDS: "We aren't designing for Spring 2017. We're designing for your life, because we know spaces that function better feel better."

STUDIO GILD ▶

Chicago | studiogild.com

WHY WE LOVE THEM: Melissa Benham, Jennie Bishop and Kristen Ekeland bring New York edge to Chicago, thoughtfully curating homes with a touch of whimsy.

ON THE HORIZON: A golf clubhouse and a lakeside estate in Canada are in the works for Studio Gild.

IN THEIR WORDS: "Our firm is a partnership in the truest sense. We collaborate constantly, drawing on our collective experience to deliver the best possible results."



JESSE DESANTI

San Clemente, CA | jettecreative.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: Jesse DeSanti uses simple materials in homes that are sustainable, airy and delicate.

ON THE HORIZON: DeSanti is helping to restore and revamp a 45-year-old restaurant in a small beach town, celebrating its history and seaside surroundings.

IN HER WORDS: "My style is warm, inviting and livable. Each home has its own identity, but each represents my refined, eclectic style that pulls together modern, midcentury, Spanish, bohemian and traditional influences."



◀ MICHELLE MORGAN HARRISON

New Canaan, CT | morganharrisonhome.com

WHY WE LOVE HER: Whether it's a masculine library or a feminine parlor room, Michelle Morgan Harrison uses her background in fashion to infuse her designs with sophistication.

ON THE HORIZON: Harrison is collaborating with James Schettino Architects on a large build project that will feature her ultra-modern design.

IN HER WORDS: "Each project varies in style from modern, to transitional and traditional, but my overall style is clean, with streamlined silhouettes and pops of color."



BRANT MCFARLAIN ▶

Dallas | rbrantdesign.com

WHY WE LOVE HIM: If the Dallas homes he designs are any indication, Brant McFarlain likes to think bold. His background as a fine-arts scholar informs his projects, which often rely on edgy statement pieces and luxurious materials to craft polished interiors.

ON THE HORIZON: McFarlain is shifting his focus to an upcoming commercial venture, bringing a fresh, luxury approach to this new space.

IN HIS WORDS: "When I design a space, I consider everything from architecture to furnishings to create a harmonious aesthetic."

I also blend different styles and cultural influences to add interesting layers and depth to a space—so it doesn't have just one look."



▲ AMY MUNGER AND ELIZABETH MUNGER STIVER

Houston | mungerinteriors.com

WHY WE LOVE THEM: The Munger sisters update classic pieces with fresh, current materials and use their expertise in art consulting to create homes that balance luxury with livability.

ON THE HORIZON: They are working on a project with Michael G. Imber, Architects and a Flemish-inspired home with Miller Dahlstrand De Jean Architects.

IN THEIR WORDS: "We feel that art can make or break a room, and would rather a client buy one great piece of art than several uninspired pieces."