

INTERIOR DESIGN YEARBOOK 2023



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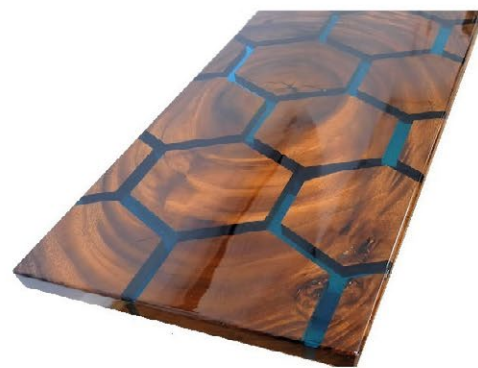
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INTRODUCTION



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Introduction
by Laura Hammett

In the wake of a pandemic, it feels like we're constantly reminded that we're still recovering from this shared experience, still adjusting to our new lives. But though they'll never be quite the same, our lives have started to thrive again. This past year was the first year that Christmas, Diwali, Eid, Easter, Bhar mitzvahs and Birthdays were celebrated without restrictions since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. The home has become a social hub again rather than a place of isolation and recluse. I love hosting more than anything, so for me this has been the year of coming back together. My family and I recently made the move out of London to the countryside, with one of the main reasons being so we could have more space for people to come and stay. Most of our family and so many of our closest friends live abroad, so this last year has been focused on reconnecting with them, with a full house most weekends and traveling as much as possible to visit people. To have a bursting home full of life and to be welcomed back into our loved one's homes and arms again has been one of the biggest joys of the last year. With how challenging and heart-breaking the world has been recently, I think we're all realising the need for our homes to be our sanctuaries. With the home becoming fundamental to our post-pandemic lives, people have also realised the need for new ways of living. Since the 'work from home revolution' forced our spaces to become multi-functional, there's been more demand for practicality and privacy after years of living under each other's toes. Separate rooms for entertaining, living and working have become much more appealing to clients, which is a stimulating new challenge to tackle as a designer, but also a very interesting cultural change. We now need to find the harmony between having enough private personal space, but also seamlessly weaving in common spaces that are warm and inviting- so that a home never feels disconnected or too compartmentalised. This is one of the things I love about being a designer, in a way, we are the architects of future ways of living. Along with the added importance of the home, comes the added emphasis on how a space makes our clients feel- so the role of the designer is paramount now. I've always said that psychology plays a big part in the design process and creating a home for people is such a personal process, so we really have to get to know them- a process I love. That's where my joy as an interior designer comes from, having the privilege to create something that's often a lifelong dream for someone. And how lucky we are in this industry to have a job that's so very rewarding.