

DESIGN + DECOR

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

2019 TOP 25 DESIGN FIRMS



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LISA KAHN

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Ultimately, design is all about humans. It's about discovering the needs of each and every client and creating a space that is perfect for them. One thing every human has in common, though, is our seemingly innate connection to nature.

For designer Lisa Kahn, this connection is what informs every design she creates. "Biophilic design is about linking human beings back to nature and the outdoor world through the design of the spaces we inhabit," she says. "That might sound incongruous, but when you consider that we are basically hardwired to need connection with nature and, conversely, that we spend 90% of our time indoors, biophilic design is critical to the overall wellness of the people who use the spaces we design. I use it as a foundation for every project."

In each of her projects, Lisa uses unique materials throughout the design to give them that one-with-nature feel. "In one project," she recalls, "I used a mosaic floor tile in ming green marble that is styled to mimic water waves. When you step onto this bathroom floor, it appears as though you are stepping into a stream. The effect is cool, refreshing and utterly magical. My client actually gasped with delight when he saw it for the first time."

In another project, Lisa created a fireplace that merged beautifully with the waterfront view below. "In this combination entry/living room," she says, "the fireplace wall is made of an enormous slab of Sea Pearl quartzite, which is almost the exact color of the bay water outside the sliding doors. It appears as if the water is washing out right down the wall. That stone is surrounded by natural walnut shelving, which ties into the walnut flooring and also borders the stone like a tree reaching up to the ceiling."

Lisa's attention to each and every detail of a home's design and her goal to tie it all back in with nature is inspired by the clients themselves. "I think that people come to Naples because they enjoy our natural environment," she says. "They come for the beach, the water, the weather, the sunshine and the vegetation. Many clients come here to decompress and escape busy lives elsewhere, and we have this shining opportunity to create spaces where they can relax and refresh themselves and get back to what makes everyone feel good: Mother Nature."

