

THE TOP A-LIST ARCHITECTS BUILDING OUR FUTURE

# ELLE DECOR

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

FIERCE  
AND  
FABULOUS!

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN OF DESIGN

Filipa de Abreu  
in Portugal

# EDITOR'S LETTER



## Women of the World

**W**ELCOME TO A NEW DECADE OF DESIGN! AS WE BEGIN 2020 and reflect on the last 10 years, it's easy to see that the 2010s were a time of huge disruption and change in our industry (and every industry). Yet they were also a period when design became more integral than ever before. As Milton Glaser, the esteemed 90-year-old legend (he designed both the I ♥ NY logo and one of my favorite restaurants in New York, Trattoria Dell'Arte), recently told me in his office: "There isn't anything that is not designed. Picking your lunch is an act of design. Design is having an objective and moving toward it—to change the existing condition into a preferred one."

I've taken that idea to heart in my nearly three years at the helm of ELLE DECOR. Together with my ace colleagues, we've tried to push the design dialogue into new realms and frontiers. In the past year, we celebrated our 30th anniversary by looking forward, not back. We've recently had some fun by turning couture rugs into cake and making skyscrapers out of Legos. We've raised money for our favorite charities with our monthly back page feature, Not for Sale. We've begun to report regularly on the crucial topic of universal design—the theory that all design should be accessible to everyone. In this month's A-List Architecture report, we highlight architects who are trying to solve some of today's biggest problems (page 39).

And what do the 2020s have in store? We're kicking them off with an issue dedicated to international women of design. Last June, our A-List issue for the first time featured a majority of women designers, a proportion reflective of the industry itself. It made sense, then, to focus our annual global issue by celebrating the fierce and fabulous female designers we keep discovering all over the world—we count at least 75 in this issue (many of them are pictured here). Among them, there's the globe-trotting, taste-making glamazon on our cover, Filipa de Abreu; the legendary designer Linda Pinto, at home in Paris; and up-and-coming female furniture designers from across the world. And as for that tiger mural in de Abreu's dining room? It was the brainchild of another designing woman we love: India-based Marie-Anne Oudejans. I think it's the perfect symbol: This is going to be a wild decade for design!

*Whitney*

**Whitney Robinson**, Editor in Chief  
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# A League of Their Own

THESE **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN** DESIGNERS AND ARTISANS ARE JUST A FEW AMONG THE MANY WHO ARE CREATING THE WORLD'S MOST ERA-DEFINING FURNITURE AND DECORATIVE OBJECTS.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY KATE MCGREGOR

**TURKEY**

Merve Kahraman



"I'm very nostalgic, which is perhaps why I was inspired by the Cassini-Huygens probe mission to Saturn when designing this lamp. I love working with natural and sustainable materials. Their defects are so beautiful."

Cassini lamp, \$3,500. [mervekahraman.com](http://mervekahraman.com)



**BRAZIL**

Carol Gay

"You can always find new ways to work with glass, which nowadays is my material of choice."

Onda amplifier, \$600. [carolgay.com.br](http://carolgay.com.br)

**NIGERIA**

Tosin Oshinowo



"I look to celebrate my Yoruban heritage in all my work, and I am constantly looking for ways to update classical aesthetics to make them modern."

Àdúnní chair, \$1,390. [ile-ila.com](http://ile-ila.com)



**DENMARK**

Hilda Hellström

"The opposing ideas of control and chance are at the core of my work. With every choice I make, I also bow to the will of the materials and to that of gravity."

The Inside plinth and vase, \$11,153. [hildahellstrom.se](http://hildahellstrom.se)





**NIGERIA**

**Lani Adeoye**

"My inspiration comes from my heritage. I research cultural objects and the traditional craft techniques of Nigeria."

Talking stools, \$850 each. [studio-lani.com](http://studio-lani.com)



**ISRAEL**

**Ayala Serfaty**

"I enjoy infusing inanimate objects and materials with a sense of soul, one that reflects poetry, history, or the human body, which inspired this series of works."

Soma: Wisteria, \$75,000. [maisongerard.com](http://maisongerard.com)



**LATVIA**

**Ieva Kalēja**

"This piece is a combination of the richest and poorest materials: gold and corroding steel. It is designed to provide a feeling of well-being and will add balance and harmony to any space."

Queen lamp, \$1,544. [mammalampa.com](http://mammalampa.com)



**JAPAN**

**Akiko Hirai**

"I make up a narrative before designing new pieces. They do not have clear story lines, but they have emotional content. My work is produced in a half-deliberate and half-intuitive way."

Day & Night, \$8,500. [akikohiraiceramics.com](http://akikohiraiceramics.com)



It's a wall cabinet!



**LEBANON**

**Nada Debs**

"I like to experiment with new techniques and to combine natural materials like wood and stone with ones that are man-made."

Jawz Fauna cabinet, \$6,500. [nadadebs.com](http://nadadebs.com)



**ENGLAND**

**Mimi Shodeinde**

"I look for my muse everywhere—in music, fashion, art, architecture, nature, you name it."

Dip lounge, \$2,265. [miminat.com](http://miminat.com)

