

GULFSHORE LIFE.

HOME

THE DIARY OF A MEANINGFUL + WELL-DESIGNED LIFE



SPRING 2021

CONRAD WILLIAMS GLASS

Uovo Handblown Glass Vessel

After completing rare internships with Benjamin Moore and Dale Chihuly, and honing his craft while living in the West, Conrad Williams returned to his native Naples, where he now runs his glassblowing studio. *Uovo* is a large, handblown glass vessel, mixed with cobalt oxide and finished with a sterling silver overlay. Its sheer size (20 inches high, 11 inches wide and 7 inches deep) makes a stunning impression when the piece is placed near an entryway. \$3,800; conradwilliamsglass.com





JEREMY JONES

Blue Bourbon Cart

Drinking and driving may be frowned upon, but rolling booze around in this ultra-cool bar cart (48.5 inches high, 16 inches wide and 49.75 inches long), designed and created by Naples-based Jeremy Jones, makes mobile libations a thing of beauty. Made of American walnut and solid steel, it features an antique brass metal cage and an ombré crystalline back panel fitted with a touchless motion LED dimmer, which can be placed in the front of the case (to illuminate items inside) or at the back (to cast a glow and silhouette your bar collection). \$18,000; jeremyjonesdesign.com

TOVARI DESIGNS

Moment in Time

Designed to capture the moment when a wave is in motion, crashing upon a shell and engulfing it, this ceramic mixed-media piece (21 inches by 15 inches by 10 inches) is made of resin, custom glazing and silver metallic. Artist Tracy Gurdian, of Tovari Designs, creates rips, tears and holes to represent the natural weathering of shells, while the black and white foam effect comes from a multifiring and glazing process. \$1,990; tovaridesigns.com, judithliegeoisdesigns.com



THE FINER THINGS
CREATIVE VISION



THROUGH HER PERSONAL APPROACH TO DESIGN, JUDITH LIEGEOS CREATES CUSTOMIZED SPACES WITH EVERYTHING FROM FURNITURE TO LIGHTING.

BY ALYSSA MORLACCI PHOTOGRAPHY BY ERIK KELLAR

Wawaw Judith's

CREATIVE VISION

Liegeois has an affinity for illuminations and classifies lighting as practical and artistic. Oftentimes in her work, the two sides meet, as was the case with the prototype of the GROWTH chandelier (top), which she designed with CP Lighting more than 20 years ago.

pen and paper drawing of what could be in the space to make it work,” she says.

Take the GROWTH chandelier, she created in collaboration with CP Lighting, for instance. A few years ago, Liegeois was working with a couple who had an issue with the lighting in their bedroom. The junction box (the wiring source) was off-centered, which meant most fixtures would be awkwardly placed. Liegeois mapped out a plan for the design of a chandelier that could remedy the issue and sent it to Christopher Poehlmann, owner of the designing and manufacturing studio CP Lighting. Following her sketch, Poehlmann produced the branch-like fixture that crawls across the ceiling, appearing to be centered over the bed and casting light across the room. “I can draw literally anything and Christopher creates it for me,” she says. “He’s brilliant.”

Lighting is a particular point of interest for Liegeois, and she breaks it down into two categories: there’s the practical lighting over dining room tables and kitchen islands, and then there’s lighting that serves as art. “Every light to me has to be artistic and creative,” she says. “As much as I like overhead lighting and chandeliers, I don’t like to overuse them in a room because I don’t want it to look like a lighting store.”

Not every piece Liegeois uses is custom. She also has an affinity for vintage and repurposed items. Around her showroom, one can find vintage lamps and pottery pieces that have been fashioned into light



CREATIVE VISION

Liegeois describes her style as organic and glamorous: "I always want to incorporate my clients and who they are into that mix. They come to me because we're different," she says.



CREATIVE VISION

The designer can often be found with a sketch pad in hand. "I use pen and paper to imagine what could be in the space to make it work," she says.



fixtures. The criteria for her design choices relies on originality—either because the piece is created new or by the way items, eras and styles are arranged and remixed in a space. “The showroom was born from my love of collecting and finding items,” she says. “I was sort of globe-trotting, like a magpie, the bird that’s always going into somebody else’s nest and saying, ‘Oh, I like that, I think I’ll take that.’”

Liegeois hesitates on the word eclectic when describing her style, finally opting against it. “I think an underlying aesthetic would be organic but glamorous. A little earthy but with beautiful silks, velvets and a little gold,” she says. “I always want to incorporate my clients and who they are into that mix. They come to me because we’re different. We certainly don’t fit the mold of what Naples typically goes after.”

Given that Naples has plenty of beach houses to design, when Liegeois approaches a coastal interior, she likes to offset any pale colors with wicker furniture and baskets, “giving it a little tension to give it some guts, I like to say. I don’t want anything that looks like it’s come off an assembly line.”

Not one to follow the trends, Liegeois designs for longevity, so that 20 years later, a client should only want to switch out some throw pillows. “If you really listen and look, the space will tell you what it needs,” the designer says. And when it does, you can be certain she will have her pen ready. ✂

CREATIVE VISION

Liegeois works out of her 12th Avenue South gallery and showroom. Her headquarters for the past 13 years, the 3,000-square-foot space is filled with original designs, work by independent artists and vintage and global finds.





CREATIVE VISION

The New Zealand-born interior designer is known for bringing a little something extra to projects, including sketching bespoke fixtures and furnishings to suit the specific space and her client's aesthetic.

Judith Liegeois is always sketching. There's a journal next to her bed in case inspiration strikes first thing in the morning. Even during our interview on a Monday afternoon, she's doodling in a notepad as we discuss her custom approach to design. "Being a designer isn't just going shopping; I mean, it's a little bit of that—finding the right pieces that will fit," she says. "But it's also designing the right pieces that will fit."

The New Zealand-born owner of Judith Liegeois Designs and 20-year trustee for the Naples Winter Wine Festival has been beautifying homes on the Gulf and beyond for more than 20 years. For the past 13 years, she has operated out of her studio and 3,000-square-foot gallery and showroom on 12th Avenue South in Naples.

Though she didn't have a formal education in interior design, the craft came naturally to her: "It's almost like it was waiting for me; it was something I used to do as a child." When she was 9 or 10 years old, she recalls drawing a side table that she envisioned to go next to her childhood bed.

Now with her own design firm, she uses the same strategy. "Rooms don't always present themselves perfectly for what you want to do, and you can't always buy the furniture that's going to fit into an awkward space, so it was a