

STARRY SPECTACLE

*Their panache in creating tasteful aesthetics
have made these individuals the rising stars in
luxury design.*

*by Olha Romanuik
Pictures courtesy of respective firms*





A balcony of Anguilla Park Residence

From lavish hotels to opulent residences that wow with craftsmanship and meticulous attention to the smallest details, purveyors of luxury design are buying into the bespoke and paying premiums to live and stay at spaces that provide an allure of decidedly transformative living experiences. Recognising the demand, five-star hotels and property developers are turning more and more to architects and interior designers to craft spaces where architecture, art and design are intertwined to create the highest standards of living, merging traditions, trends and innovation in contemporary design.

And, certainly, big names in luxury design are not born overnight. While the featured five creatives behind some of this year's most prestigious developments may not be household names yet, they are shaking up the luxury design scene with bold, sophisticated concepts that cut through the usual glitz and glitter and offer new perspectives on contemporary luxury.



▲ from left: Corner view of the city, studio area at One Hudson Yards, New York City



ANDRE KIKOSKI

Firm: Andre Kikoski Architect

Firm: New York, US

Andre Kikoski Architect is an award-winning, Manhattan-based architecture and design firm grounded by enduring architectural principles, driven by innovation and inspired to express craftsmanship through 21st century technology. Named one of *Interior Design's* PowerGrid 100 Architects changing the landscape of New York City, and *The Architect's Newspaper's* Top 50 Interior Architects pushing the envelope in the built environment, the firm works globally with The Guggenheim Museum, The Related Companies at Hudson Yards, The Kohler Companies, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Swarovski Crystal, among others. Current projects include 75 Kenmare with Lenny Kravitz, a residential co-living development in Long Island City, the contemporary renovation of a historic compound in Nanjing,

China, and mixed-use towers in the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. Kikoski was recently featured in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Financial Times*, *The Real Deal* and *Architectural Digest*. He has spoken across Asia, Europe, Latin America and the United States at the American Institute of Architects, the International Contemporary Furniture Fair, The Spectrum of Modernism Conference and World Architecture Day.

HIGHLIGHT PROJECT

The brief for One Hudson Yards:

Kikoski's interior work at One Hudson Yards holistically rethinks the experience of living in a luxurious and opulent building in New York City, where Kikoski and his team envisioned 180 apartments to propose a new vision of design and community. With this project, Kikoski showcases innovative, artisan-crafted materials and maximises the residents' emotional and physical well-being by creating spaces to beneficially-impact how they think and feel, incorporating acoustics, colour theory, neuroscience, and psychology in the design to promote community living. One Hudson Yards features amenities that provide comfort and conviviality, condensing the social landscape of an entire neighbourhood

inside a single new building that is a standard of success for the firm's client.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The core of Kikoski's sensibility is about artistry and craftsmanship. One Hudson Yards' Lobby features a 25-foot-long wall of bronze and a light sculpture with 400 pieces of mouth-blown, hand-crafted mica glass that spiral overhead. Kikoski and his team also emphasised these qualities in a dozen of works of process-driven art they curated for the interiors: in the Lobby, two works by artist Michel Francois (poured at the same foundry as the bronze) merge seamlessly into the architecture, as does a gold leaf coffee table by Yves Klein. The colours of these materials – cognac, chocolate, coffee, shimmering gold – inform the palette of natural woods, stones, and fabrics. The art, colours, geometries and materials of the Lobby all work together to create an emotional connection.

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We believe architecture can unify people, especially when design activates all your senses, engages your memory and creates emotional connection points. Our goal is simply to create a sense of joy in all who experience our work.



ANDRE FU

Firm: *AFSO*

Firm: *Hong Kong*

Internationally acclaimed interior designer Andre Fu founded AFSO in 2000, after graduating from Cambridge University. Since the company's inception, Fu has been building an extensive portfolio of projects across Asia and Europe that reflect his artistic perspective and timeless sensibility. Fu's first well-known project redefined the notions of hospitality with the design of the Upper House hotel in Hong Kong, with the project's success helping to establish a firm foundation to create forward-thinking interiors for other leading brands. Fu's quietly thoughtful style has garnered him multiple international accolades, having been named Designer of the Year for *Maison & Objet Asia* in 2016 and honoured in *Wallpaper's* list of Top 20 Interior Designers. His analytical approach, reflective of his cultural upbringing in both Asia and Europe, has enabled Fu to cement his name in the hospitality industry, with most recent projects including the Andaz hotel group's first hotel in Singapore, the Waldorf Astoria hotel in Bangkok and the new suites for The Berkeley Hotel in London.

HIGHLIGHT PROJECT

The brief for The Berkeley Suites:

After the launch of the Opus Suite at The Berkeley in 2014, Fu returned to the classic Knightsbridge hotel to create two lavish new suites, inspired by his admiration for the free-standing glasshouses by Rogers & Partners. Fu's design of the suites epitomises the golden era of modernism and exemplifies the designer's signature language of related luxury and contemporary classicism with an emphasis on subtle English



▲ from top: *Grand Pavilion Suite, Crescent Pavilion at The Berkeley, Hotel, London*

sensibilities. The 3,200 square-foot Crescent Pavilion suggests the experience of a private residence surrounded by a garden, while the Grand Pavilion Suite offers the ultimate urban escape influenced by traditional English touches grounded in the expression of relaxed modernity.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

The suites are imbued throughout with Fu's personal design touches: the bespoke hexagonal rock glass, chandeliers, stained oak partitions with interlocking brushed brass brackets, hand-tufted carpets all evoke the subtle lushness of nature within the Crescent Pavilion. The Grand Pavilion continues to work with the notion of an urban escape by incorporating gloss-

lacquered warm grey English panelling upholstered with emerald green silk to frame the dramatic views of an open fire pit that contrasts with stone plinths in an extensive lounge. Fu played with sculptural qualities, textures and colours throughout the two suites to create sanctuaries of tranquillity and comfort and weave an experiential visual narrative that crafts a sensorial journey through the interior spaces.



The spirit of my design philosophy is about provoking new ways of thinking about what luxury means.



Dining area of Mornington Terrace



▲ From left: Living room with a modern touch and view, kitchen area, Mornington Terrace, London



LUKE AND ESTELLE CHANDRESINGHE

Firm: Undercover Architecture
Firm: London, UK and Provence, France

Leading a London-based practice of architects and designers, Luke and Estelle Chandresinghe established Undercover Architecture in 2012. Among many of early accomplishments, Undercover’s director Luke Chandresinghe had spent two years in Japan, fully immersing himself in the design world working alongside Koh Kitayama at his practice in Tokyo, while Estelle worked in textile design and lived in New York for a number of years promoting cutting-edge fashion designers such as Marithé + François Girbaud, and Comme des Garçons. Luke is actively involved in the architecture, design process and management of the projects at Undercover, while Estelle leads the art direction, composing and invigorating ideas giving projects inspiration, ambition, playfulness

and adding a richness and layering to spaces that make Undercover's projects unique.

HIGHLIGHT PROJECT

The brief for Mornington Terrace:

For Mornington Terrace, Luke and Estelle Chandresinghe sympathetically restored a 19th century listed period house to its former glory, highlighting and expressing all its period charm whilst transforming the house into a fully functional home suitable for a modern family life. The house’s many experimental pieces of joinery, fixtures, lighting, sanitary ware, glazing and furniture were exclusively designed and built by Undercover Architecture and partnering artisans, sculptors, and makers. For the home’s interiors, Luke and Estelle Chandresinghe used bold colour throughout to bring a bit of brightness into the house during the rainy London days, and brought in the welcoming warmth via shades of grey, which softened the indoor light.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Luke and Estelle Chandresinghe used the location of the house and its close proximity to the railway lines as the main inspiration, embracing the 19th century Victorian age and British Industrial expansion in train travel, and

architectural qualities associated with the era. As the use of steel in architecture was prevalent during those times, the intricate detailing of stations such as Kings Cross, Paddington, and structures like Crystal Palace were studied by the duo to inspire and articulate the design process. Mixing old and new, such as the Louise XIV tables from France and modern paintings from Kenya, the team set an eclectic art direction and interior design theme for the house, juxtaposing antique pieces and distinctly contemporary interventions within the same space.



We are committed to excellence, innovation, attention to detail and strategic thinking. Our projects are a result of the caring, creative and dedicated nature of our team and of our bespoke comprehensive knowledge offered to our clients.



▲ From left: Angullia Park Residence stunning living area with a view, dining area



ROBERT CHENG

Firm: Brewin Design Office (BDO)

Firm: Singapore and Hong Kong

Robert Cheng is an architect, interior designer, and the founder of Brewin Design Office (BDO). Cheng spent his formative professional years at Tsao & Mckown Architects in New York City as an apprentice to architect Calvin Tsao, and later joined Atelier Jean Nouvel in Paris, before founding Brewin Design Office in Singapore in 2011. With broad experience in various scales, programmes and typologies, Cheng continually approaches his portfolio of luxury residential interior design and construction from a craft-oriented position. Taking his understanding of the tectonics in construction and specificities of materials directly into his process, Cheng developed a design principle for architecture closely related to “the making of things”, ensuring the basis for conceptual design discourse and procedure in

his work. BDO’s work was shortlisted for the President’s Design Award in Singapore in 2016.

HIGHLIGHT PROJECT

The brief for Angullia Park Residence Singapore:

Located at TwentyOne Angullia Park, the high-rise residential development by China Sonangol Land is situated in one of the busiest and most prominent commercial crossroads in Singapore Orchard Boulevard and Scotts Road. The building boasts 70 per cent curtain wall coverage, a feature that is unfamiliar and new as a typology for the residential market in Singapore. Brewin Design Office worked on a private residence in the complex – a 3,348-square-foot, four-bedroom duplex with a double-height ceiling on the fourth floor – to create a timeless design, incorporated with mindful details to elevate the quality of living and the understated elegance of the building. Inspired by the landscape of beautiful large Angsana tree canopies that line Orchard Boulevard and Scotts Road, Brewin Design Office used an interior palette comprised of a variety of green tones to complement the three-sided view of the canopies and Verde Alpi marble as the primary material for a range of custom-designed furniture pieces.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Taking advantage of the impressive double height of the residence, Brewin Design Office installed full mirror panels to form a four-sided “light box” alongside the full-length windows. BDO incorporated 60 Bocci lights to line the ceiling in a gridded layout, creating an infinite reflection of lights in the mirrors and on the windows at night. To diffuse the light source, BDO installed a Lindsey Adelman chandelier made of ceramic petals in the dining room of the residence.

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Since the beginning, the relationship between architecture, interiors, furniture and product design has been a driving force for our studio. Regardless of scale or typology we have stayed true to our DNA, applying rigorous research and methodology to produce bespoke spaces through exploring processes, function and fabrication in super-luxury residential, hospitality and corporate projects and will continue developing this approach and way of working, to translate the aesthetics of our residential work to different and larger typologies.



MAXIMILIAN JENCQUEL

Firm: *Studio Jencquel*

Firm: *Bali, Indonesia*

Born in Venezuela and having studied in the USA and France, Maximilian Jencquel moved to Indonesia and established Studio Jencquel in Bali in 2011.

Having worked for designers Andrée Putman and Christian Liaigre before starting his own studio, Maximilian Jencquel combines his tireless pursuit of craftsmanship and love for story-driven, meaningful design with his passion for tropical vernacular architecture. Jencquel's current residential and hospitality projects around Bali showcase the designer's deeply personal approach and connection to every step of the creation process. By utilising adaptive, sustainable design approaches, Jencquel and his team seek to bring the cultural aspects and meaningful nuances and create emotional connections with materials and physical structures.

HIGHLIGHT PROJECT

The brief for Umah Hati:

Studio Jencquel's Umah Hati embodies Jencquel's principles of making the most of each project's setting and



▲ Clockwise from top: Dining area, Umah Hati's open pool area over-looking the nature, living area, bedroom with a view

context by envisioning a private villa that blends seamlessly with the surrounding environment. The resulting design of the villa yields a timeless blend of Balinese vernacular and modernity, bridging the East and the West. Jencquel designed the L-shaped villa's spaces to be as open to nature as possible, anchoring the dwelling around a lap pool that points towards the lush Ayung River gorge. Using high-quality, local materials and sophisticated craftsmanship, Umah Hati blurs the boundary between the outdoors and the indoors, emanating tranquility from the heart of the house to its surroundings.

KEY PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

As part of the overall design strategy, Jencquel employed carefully chosen local materials to create a villa that did not look out of place within its natural context. A key feature of the project was its roof design that used reclaimed Indonesian ironwood as part of its

structure and Japanese joining techniques to bind the main roof ridge. Jencquel and his team used woven rattan from Sulawesi to line the roof's interior and finished the roof's cover with ironwood shingles, while keeping the overall proportions modest to create an intimate feel for the villa. The designer used Indonesian teak and soft volcanic Paras stone found in a Ubud river for distinctive wall cladding; and repurposed a century-old teak log for a vanity in the master bathroom. Outside, Jencquel kept on with the local material usage, crafting the garden walls out of rough lava stone.



By drawing on the principles of slow design and utilising adaptive, sustainable design approaches, we seek a richness of meaning and unique emotional connection with material and physical structures. Simply said: we design homes and we tell stories.