

# TIMIELESS

A LUXURY LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE ABOUT ART, DESIGN, TRAVEL AND MUCH MORE





## MICHELLE CASTAGNA

### OWNER OF MUSE DESIGN STUDIO

MICHELLE IS A DISTINCTIVE DESIGNER WITH OVER 20 YEARS OF INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE. SHE IS FOCUSED ON INNOVATIVE THINKING AND STRIVES TO CREATE INTERIORS THAT TELL THE UNIQUE STORY ABOUT WHO HER CLIENTS ARE AND WHO THEY WANT TO BE. SHE FEELS THAT WHEN A ROOM IS DESIGNED WELL, ONE CAN EXPERIENCE LIFE IN A MORE POSITIVE AND BALANCED WAY. SHE NOT ONLY CREATES AESTHETIC BEAUTY, BUT ALSO A SERIES OF EMOTIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR THE END USER THAT LEAVES THEM FEELING A TRUE SENSE OF HOME.

### What are some of your biggest inspirations?

Wow, Inspiration comes from so many places, both visual and emotional. The beauty of that amazing and unexpected moment when something strikes you and speaks to your soul is that you never know what direction it will lead you until it happens. I draw inspiration for my projects from many different places-nature, textures, patterns, but I find that when I allow the uniqueness of each client to become my true inspiration, it leads us to the best end result.

### How do you describe your work style as?

Most of my local projects are second homes and clients want to embrace what Florida has to offer. They want warmth, comfort, and the sense of being on a vacation. My overall aesthetic tends to be a collected layering of clean lines and soothing colors mixed with interesting

textures and finishes. I often have the fortunate opportunity of designing the interior architectural elements and those impact my work just as much, if not more, than the decorative elements themselves.

### What is your philosophy on design and life?

Personally, I am trying to live my own life only with what resonates with me. I try to delve deep into what my clients truly desire and create a space that represents what feels pure and authentic to them. When I do, my job is easy and the talent we possess as designers pours out. We then design instinctually and naturally. I always say, enhance the space and enhance the humans that inhabit it. It makes me smile knowing that I possess the ability to emotionally and visually impact the way someone experiences their daily life.





**What is one of your client's favorite pieces that you designed?**

Tough one, but as of recent, I would have to say a stunning and massive display case separating a foyer from a living room on a project I am wrapping up. The client is a collector of antiquities so he wanted the residence to feel like a home but also a museum. The surround of the display is clad in gorgeous marble and the interior has massive thick adjustable suspended acrylic shelves. Each display cavity is surrounded by soft light to create a glow around the featured artifacts and the pieces displayed within the cabinet..well those are truly priceless.

**How would your clients say they feel about what you've done for them?**

Interestingly enough, most answer with an impactful description of a feeling VS aesthetics. One client beautifully said " Our home allows us to truly be ourselves, whatever we are doing or however we are independently or collectively feeling. Our decor definitely impacts our overall mood and sensory awareness. It seems as though our ability to appreciate beauty in other parts of our respective or joint lives are awakened when in our home. Our senses have been elevated by the aesthetics of our present surroundings to an extent which we had not predicted, but are now able to acknowledge and be thankful for." Wow, just wow!

**What are you working on at the moment?**

I am working on a variety of exciting design projects at the moment. I have also taken a board position with IFDA Florida as VP of community relations. This gives me the ability to organize events that positively impact our community. Additionally, I have been speaking around the US hoping to empower designers-remind them of the value they bring to the table. We have the ability to provide wellness and health benefits through our creative gift. I will always love designing, but I also love giving back and am blessed that I have these opportunities.

**What colors, materials and patterns are you into right now?**

I have been obsessing over that deep, yummy, and saturated emerald green tone for a while now. I have a client who loves green so I finally get to use it! I am also loving these massive oversized modern florals that are popping up everywhere. I am not big on what is trending per se, but these items make me do a happy dance when I see them.

In general I am liking something bold and impactful mixed into the serenity and neutrality of what most clients have been craving.

**Latest design object obsession...**

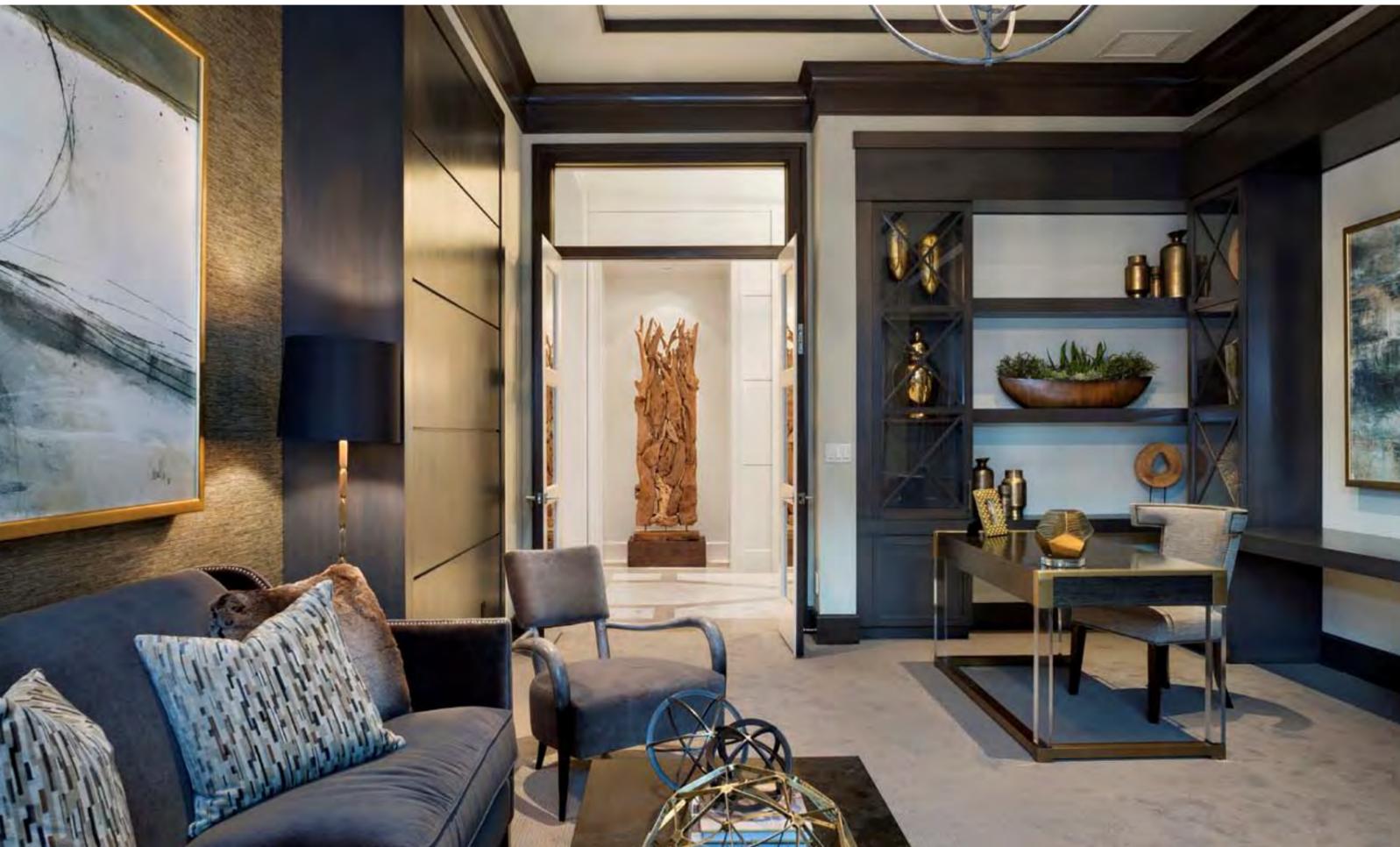
I recently stumbled upon these unique stools and cushions by Knots Studio ([www.knots-studio.com](http://www.knots-studio.com)) that I absolutely adore. The knot itself provides a nautical flair making them a perfect addition to any Florida interior. They could be used in a casual beach house or placed in the most upscale and sophisticated interior. I just found them and immediately had to order a few for a project and cannot wait to get them!

**A secret source you're willing to share...**

There are so many so it is hard to say. I recently used a product that although they are a booming company and are right here in our back yard, they were somehow off my radar. The company is called Kinon. Kinon® is a proprietary crafted art sheet for luxury surfaces. It is created as a composite with MDF or alone to be used as a surface material like veneer, laminate or tile. It is a spectacular product. To any local designers, I highly recommend you go check out their facility.

**What's next on the horizon...**

The beauty is that I do not know the exact answer. I know I work hard and will continue to be successful because I love what I do. I fully believe in continuing my personal growth and to stay true to myself and remain authentic. If I do me, then all the right things will follow. I know I possess the drive and talent needed to thrive. I love to learn, experience new things, and push myself outside my comfort zone. I am a planner by nature but instead right now, I am seeing where the path leads me and I am very excited for the future of Muse Design Studio.



**Muse Design Studio**  
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