

MODERN LUXURY

Interiors

TEXAS

PLUS

INDUSTRY
PROS ON
THE MOVE &
A CREATIVE
DIRECTOR'S
MODERN
MANSE

50

PEOPLE & PLACES SHAPING
THE DESIGN SCENE IN TEXAS

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BY THE PUBLISHERS OF HOUSTON AND MODERN LUXURY DALLAS

diverse portfolio. And no matter the coast—a farmhouse in Columbus, Texas; a sorority house in Fayetteville; an oceanfront stunner in Florida; a beachtown manse on Galveston Island—his projects always reference the character of its surroundings.

MOST GIRL BOSS ENERGY LAUREN ROTTET

(Houston, rottetstudio.com)

Rottet Studio has a knack for taking on projects that make people notice, and its namesake founder, Lauren Rottet, is at the helm. Though Rottet Studio has offices in Texas, NYC, L.A. and an affiliate in Shanghai, the design-world doyenne calls Houston home. 2019 saw the completion of Conrad hotel in D.C., Central Park Tower's sales center, a new collection of lighting for Visual Comfort and a pair of sofa lines for Haworth Collection. This year, she'll add to her Visual Comfort collab and put her spin on the original Playboy Club in Lake Geneva, Wis.; Hotel Charleston Santa Teresa in Colombia; and more.

ONE TO WATCH ADAM COOK

(Houston, shopcalledshop.com)

In June, after a decade of working in the high-end furniture industry (Roche Bobois, Internum, Knoll), Cook opened his own contemporary lighting and furniture showroom, Shop, at Decorative Center Houston. The brands that fill the 2,500-square-foot space—Walter K, Bocci, CC-Tapis—reflect Cook's own personal design style: clean, minimal and artisan-conscious.

MOST IN-THE-KNOW DESIGNER MARIE FLANIGAN

(Houston, mariefanigan.com)

If you aren't familiar with Flanigan's work, you should be. Her chic, liveable spaces frequently grace our collective Instagram scroll—a

platform on which she has over 200,000 followers. With projects from D.C. to L.A., a client list that includes hockey pro T.J. Oshie and Whitney Port, a new lighting collection on the horizon and a book coming out in the fall, this design darling is just getting started.

MOST SOUGHT-AFTER HOSPITALITY DESIGNER AARON RAMBO

(Houston, @aaronrambocreative)

As founding creative director of interiors shop FOUND, Rambo spent a decade honing his unique perspective. Now, as a solo designer, he has his hands in projects across the globe, many in the hospitality category, from Houston's own Benji Levit's many restaurants (The Classic, Local Foods, Benji's) to five-room Hotel Amparo in San Miguel, Mexico.

ONE DESTINED FOR WORLD DOMINATION CONTOUR INTERIOR DESIGN

(Houston, contourinteriordesign.com)

Contour Interior Design has orchestrated some of the most notable interiors in Houston (51 fifteen at Saks, the Marlowe high-rise). Its projects take cues from the aesthetic of its fearless leader, Nina Magon: effortlessly on-trend and unapologetically glamorous. In 2020, with a newly hired global brand director, Warren Knight, the design team sets its sights on expansion—and we are lucky enough to have a front row seat.

GO-TO LANDSCAPE DESIGNERS LANSON B. JONES & CO.

(Houston, lansonbjones.com)

For the last 25 years, this full-service, design-build landscape architecture firm has set the standard for Houston's gardens and landscapes, with projects like the Julia Ideson Library and the Huntington high-rise. Led by

Jones himself, the team includes a range of architects, designers and professionals who think outside the box and can execute a landscape to live in harmony with the built environment—not fight it. The company also touts an events arm, LBJ Floral Events, which brings garden-centric florals to special events and weddings in Houston and beyond.

MOST DESIGN-SAVVY BUILDER DAVID JAMES CUSTOM BUILDER

(Houston, davidjamescustombuilder.com)

DJ Palmore of David James Custom Builder has his creative hands on some of Houston's most well-designed homes. His specialty is high-end residential—no spec homes here!—and his client roster features former Texans player Kevin Walter and Texans assistant strength and conditioning coach Brian Cushing. As of Jan. 1, he has projects in such exclusive Houston 'hoods as Memorial, Tanglewood, Afton Oaks and West U.

ONE WORTH CELEBRATING CREATIVE TOUCH INTERIORS

(Houston, mycreativetouch.com)

Creative Touch Interiors' Peggy Hull is toasting 30 years in business this year—a milestone the firm is celebrating with a new logo and website. A third-generation Houstonian, Hull cares deeply about preservation—a quality present in her traditionally inclined portfolio—and sits on the board of Preservation Houston and Boulevard Oaks Civic Association.

BEST TO LOOK UP TO VERONICA SOLOMON

(Houston, veronicasolomon.com)

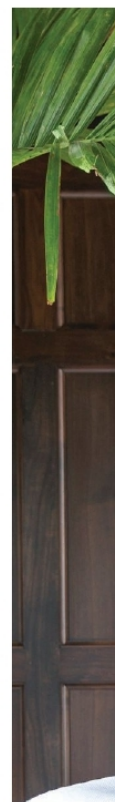
A look at the portfolio of Veronica Solomon, founder and principal of Katy-based Casa Vilora Interiors, and one thing is obvious: The girl loves color. Her riotously hued

interiors boast graphic patterns (see: a tiger-print sofa), bold decor moves and wall-to-wall maximalism. Bigger than her style is her altruistic spirit. She's been mentoring young designers for the better part of the last five years, starting a Facebook group entitled What They Don't Teach You in Design School to help newer designers navigate the business side of interior design.

BEST FOR MAKING THE SALE BENJAMIN JOHNSTON

(Houston, benjamin-johnston.com)

Though this dapper designer's upscale residential projects are varied (Warwick Towers, units in The Plaza Residences and Ritz-Carlton Montreal), his secret sauce is making a home sell. With collaborators like Al Ross Luxury Homes and Thompson Custom Homes, Johnston is Houston's go-to for putting the finishing touches on custom homes. In the case of a single-family residence in Memorial Park (featured in *Modern Luxury Interiors Texas* summer issue), a killer art program and an expert mix of furniture pieces had the property sold instantly—and much of the pieces with it.



OUTDOOR PHOTOS COURTESY OF LANSON B. JONES & CO.

THE PEOPLE