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The Water Issue

Pool House Portfolio | Water in the Garden | Fashionable Baths



Laura Kirar *by Gail Ben-Dor*

A DESIGNER OF ELEGANT INTERIORS AND FURNITURE LAYERS AND MIXES FOR A SOPHISTICATED LOOK



Serena Stone | On a recent visit, designer Laura Kirar looked just like a 19th-century aristocrat with a Queen Anne-style table and custom designed game table. **The Designer** | Kirar (942) 210-1411 opened her own NYC-based design firm, The Design, seven years ago. **Well-Rounded** | Her pattern expertise becomes evident. Kirar says she's on the way for her new outdoor furniture line (942) 210-1411 for **At-Home On the Bath**. Her bathroom collection for Kallista (942) 210-1411 is meant to evoke an American neoclassical for a transitional aesthetic. See *Reviews*



What is your design philosophy? Artistry should touch one's life every day through interaction with beautifully crafted and useful objects. I also believe that the success of a project grows from the use of superior materials, thoughtful design and the creative partnership between me and my team and our clients. **Who has had a profound impact on your work?** Ten years ago I visited Vienna, Austria. There I saw the work of the Wiener Werkstätte and the public designer Joseph Hoffmann. The trip and Hoffmann's work changed the way I design. **How so?** I thought of myself as more of a minimalist, but my personal style has become more sophisticated. The more I've learned about history and the decorative arts, the more my taste has become layered. Subsequently, my interiors have that feeling—they're not one-dimensional anymore. **What's a signature element in your design?** I mix unexpectedly related pieces from various historical periods and unusual color palettes. I also design a custom home scene for each client when our project is complete. **You've created pieces for Kallista, Baker and McGuire. What's your process?** I'm an intuitive creative, so I need to surround myself with articles of inspiration like books, music, postcards and decorative objects. I sketch many concepts and edit and revise them until the concept is ready for technical engineering. Each design unfolds the way so you can imagine what a large project it was to create my 100-piece collection for Baker. **What are your favorite materials?** I love materials with integrity that can stand up to use and the test of time. For example, cast-iron metal, painted bronze, oiled wood and juicy lacquered finishes. Typically, I mix unusual textures and finishes: raw wood with lacquer or sand cast metal with honed marble. It's all sculptural for me now. **Name a dream client.** Alitalia, the Italian airline. The experience of traveling to Italy is so disconnected from how you feel when you actually get off the plane. I'd love to completely re-brand them with new graphics, uniforms, menus and plate and airport interiors. If we're talking about people, then Gwen Stefani. She's such a strong, incredibly creative woman, and she's got great style. See *Reviews*.



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