

WEAR *ah* WHERE

THE WOW WOMAN: KELLY WEARSTLER

♥ 0 POSTED BY KARMAN TSE - APRIL 22, 2014 @ 14:08 - PEOPLE, THE WOW WOMAN

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Kelly Wearstler



Even the most incredible and powerful women have someone they look up to, a role model they are inspired by and wanted to be when they grew up. In celebration of International Women's Day and the upcoming Mother's Day, we reached out to some of our own personal heroines to find out who — and what — makes them tick. They will be featured in our "The WoW Woman" series throughout March and April. We hope you'll be inspired by them, and find the wisdom and courage in their words you need to pursue your dream, to live the life you want. #GirlPower

WHO: Kelly Wearstler, The Great Multi-tasker

WHAT: Interior designer / Furniture designer / Jewellery and fashion designer / Mother of two

WHY SHE WOWS US: From waiting tables to designing tables (*and* the luxurious homes and hotels that showcase them), Kelly Wearstler has come a long way.

Some of you may already know who she is (you buy her jewellery on [Shopbop](#), don't you?); some of you might have read about or heard of her. After all, she's a celebrity in her own right. The California-based designer has been featured on television (the *CBS Morning Show*) and in international magazines and newspapers including *Vogue*, *InStyle*, *The New York Times*, *Women's Wear Daily* and *The New Yorker* which dubbed her the "presiding grande dame of West Coast interior design". Her creations can often be seen on popular blogs like [The Coveteur](#) (you *must* see her to-die-for wardrobe here!) and [Apartment Therapy](#). Oh, and Wearstler was also a two-time judge on the TV series, *Top Design*.

Even if you haven't heard of Kelly Wearstler until now, we think you might be familiar with at least three of her fans: Gwen Stefani, Cameron Diaz and Oprah. (*Oprah!*)

And then there are the famous collaborators, namely Bergdorf Goodman (she's the mastermind behind the interior decor of the BG restaurant and boutique in New York), The Rug Company, Paperless Post and Thierry Lasry.



A KW signature: "Love colour. Take Risks. Stay Curious."



Kelly Wearstler: "I am a great multi-tasker."

WE ASK ...

Who is the woman you most look up to as a role model and inspiration in life?

Kelly Wearstler: My mother. She taught me to rely on myself and follow my passion. She took me to museums and antique shows, educating my eye from a young age.

What is the key to your success — in your career and in life?

KW: Dedication, focus, adaptability. I am a great multi-tasker. I waited tables for years before starting my own business. In any arena, success requires risk, change and a lot of perseverance. When I design interiors, I enjoy every part of the process. It takes patience and time to land on just the right combination of elements. It's about curating things that have meaning, experimenting with different ingredients until you find the perfect alchemy. Life can be like that. Finding the right balance is tough.

What is your advice for someone who is pursuing or wants to pursue her dream?

KW: Stay focused. Have clear goals. Surround yourself with people who support you but also challenge you. As an artist especially, or in any field that's creative — finding the right person to push you can be everything. And be a good listener!

What, to you, has been the biggest challenge in doing what you do, and achieving the success you have as a woman? How do you overcome that on a daily basis?

KW: Achieving balance is always tough. I am a mother and wife first. I truly love what I do for a living and I want to instill that passion and work ethic in my boys. At times, everything feels like a juggling act. My studio houses many different disciplines under one roof — from furniture to jewellery to interior design. The common thread is passion and love. It fuels everything. Doing what you love every day and putting the people you love first is a recipe for gratitude and fulfilment.

[Photos: Courtesy of Kelly Wearstler]