

INSIDE: PAPER EYELASHES, PUNCHY SCARVES, AND PRETTY AWESOME MOTORCYCLES

DESIGN BUREAU

KARIM RASHID

The designer we know and love, or love to hate?

PAGE 192

— SURVIVORMAN

LES STROUD IS KICKING NATURE'S ASS. DIY STYLE

— THE MODERN FARMHOUSE

AT-HOME STYLE THAT'S BEEN STEPPED UP

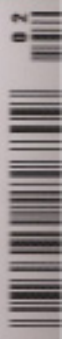
10 TIPS FROM A PRO

HOW TO MAKE IT AS AN ARCHITECT

SWISS GRAPHIC DESIGNERS
60 STATESIDE
DETEKTIV BUREAU



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Karim Rashid

Haters keep hatin'. Rashid keeps chugging along with his rose-colored view on life and design **Page 176**

An Inspiring Mind

After the tragic loss of her business partner, interior designer Kristine Paige Kamenstein learned how to put her work into perspective **Page 52**



The Survival Project

Steven Brahm's quirky photo essay ponders how modern man would fare if faced with a night in the wild **Page 188**



DESIGN DIALOGUE

Advice from an Interior Designer

AN INSPIRING MIND

KRISTINE PAIGE KAMENSTEIN HAS HAD A CAREER FILLED WITH HIGHS AND LOWS, INCLUDING THE DEVASTATING LOSS OF HER BUSINESS PARTNER. HERE, SHE SHARES WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO BE SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR WORK, AND WHAT IT'S REALLY ALL ABOUT.

Interior design is about pushing comfort zones and making something unique for each client. I try not to get too tied up into any one style of design. I want to be open-minded, listen, and infuse what's being said with what I think will work artistically and spatially.

Keep a good perspective on things. My business partner, Sasha Jackson Premoli, passed away from cancer in 2006. Not only did it impact me as a person, but it made me look at my career differently; to still take things seriously with my goals and aspirations, but not to get overwhelmed, and to take things lightly. I'm doing interior design, not brain surgery, so if there's a problem, almost anything can be fixed—it's not the end of the world.

There's a bigger world beyond the city in which you live. There isn't a ton of architectural history here in Los Angeles, but I love looking at old buildings and detailing



from periods of time that don't necessarily exist here. So I travel about six times per year within the United States, Europe, and South America, and I keep files of different places that have inspired me, whether it be a restaurant, boutique, or museum.

Never compromise yourself. I don't just mean artistically; you should never take a job when your instincts are telling you not to. Interior design has a unique procession; it's not like you sell something and the client goes away. In this job, you're always meeting with clients, dealing with them financially and with their family dynamic—so many different facets. You need to choose projects wisely.

INTERVIEW BY
LESLEY STANLEY
PORTRAIT BY
AARON FARLEY

Above: Kristine Paige Kamenstein

New designers need patience. Besides being organized, one of the most important characteristics new designers should have is patience. You have to understand that a project is one of the biggest undertakings a client is going through, whether they're renovating or building a house. It's stressful, and our job is to take away as much stress as possible and make sure they know they're in good hands.

Design takes time (and a little sweat). There are a lot of design shows on TV that spread false information; ones that say you can design in a day—you really can't. Anything of a high quality takes time, and isn't as glamorous as it looks. You can't be afraid to move things and get a little dirty to make sure a room looks perfect.

Find a way to unwind. I wish I could turn off the business side at six o' clock when I go home, but designs are constantly popping into my head. I never stop. But when I see the smiles of my four-year-old twins, it takes away all the problems of the day. They help me relax. ♡



Left to right: images by Christos Joannides and Peden Munk

At a Glance

Kristine Paige Kamenstein,
Jackson Paige Interiors



2000: Cofounds Jackson Paige Interiors, Inc. with business partner and friend, Sasha Jackson Premoli.

2002: Completes design of the Bel Air Estate project, a two-year renovation.

2003: Completes design of the Doheny Plaza, an 18-story condominium building in West Hollywood.

2005: Designs the main floor powder room and gallery of *Los Angeles Magazine's* "Green House."

2006: Cofounder Sasha Jackson Premoli passes away from cancer; a portion of business proceeds are now donated to cervical cancer research and prevention.

2007: Completes major remodels of residences in the Hollywood Hills, Brentwood, and Corona Del Mar, California, and New York City.

2010: Completes major remodels of Pacific Palisades and Holmby Hills residences.

2011: Begins work on two new construction projects in Pacific Palisades, along with renovations in Beverly Hills and Hancock Park, California.

2011: Participates in the Good Shepherd Shelter Remodeling Project in downtown Los Angeles, along with 29 other LA-based designers.