



## Martyn Lawrence-Bullard

I always visit my clients in their homes before beginning a project—to understand the way they currently live, what they like about their décor and what they really want as their dream home,” says Los Angeles designer Martyn Lawrence-Bullard. “I instruct them to pull pictures from magazines, even if it’s just a door handle, and slowly we build up a jigsaw puzzle with their pieces. It’s my job to fit them all together and fill in the blanks with decorating magic.” As much as Lawrence-Bullard listens to his clients—who include luminaries like Sir Elton John, Cher and Christina Aguilera—he’s not one to mince words. “The one rule I’ve always stuck to is to be honest. There’s no point in creating a decorative scheme on or around something you don’t believe in,” he maintains. “To be a straight shooter is always the best policy. Then you know where you stand and can create something beautiful together.”

Martyn Lawrence-Bullard Design, 8101 Melrose Ave., Suite 205, Los Angeles, California 90046  
323-655-5080; [www.martynlawrencebullard.com](http://www.martynlawrencebullard.com)

## Michael Lee

To be Michael Lee’s client means being emotionally and intellectually engaged from a project’s inception. He asks clients to “bare their souls” and even assigns required reading—*A Pattern Language*, a 1977 book on environmental design. Only then, says the Malibu, California–based designer, are he and his clients able to “start the journey of decorative pillaging and architectural salvation.” In addition to his design practice, Lee keeps himself busy with a host of endeavors, including an upcoming exhibition of his photographs called “Shadows and Souls,” his own line of decorative salvage at a shop in Sag Harbor, New York, and the Elephant Rock Foundation, an organization he founded that gives grants to young musical artists. For years, he says, “I wondered if what I was doing made a difference. What I know to be true now is that art, architecture, music and poetry make the world a more beautiful place.”

Michael Lee Collection, 22516 Pacific Coast Highway, Malibu, California 90265  
310-456-0822; [www.mlcollection.com](http://www.mlcollection.com)



## Donna Livingston

At the start of each job, “I always find the key element that is the inspiration for the entire project,” says Donna Livingston. Whether it’s a client’s impressive 20th-century art collection, the discovery of a Chinese embroidered-silk screen or simply the decision to paint existing paneled walls a glossy black or strip and refinish her own walnut floors, after that, she notes, “everything comes into focus.” Right now 1940s French Moderne pieces are having a big impact on her thinking, in particular those by one of the style’s seminal practitioners, André Arbus. She has begun incorporating Arbus-style touches into the bronze elements on her new line of case goods, part of her custom furniture collection available through her Web site. “I continue to find so many details fascinating, and with design, there is always another corner to turn,” she says. “You can never step into the same river twice, as it is always moving.”

Donna Livingston Design, 8811 Alden Drive, Suite 2, Los Angeles, California 90048  
310-273-1855; [www.dlivingstondesign.com](http://www.dlivingstondesign.com)

To review the portfolios of all AD 100 members, visit [ArchitecturalDigest.com](http://ArchitecturalDigest.com)

*continued on page 114*