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Whats Trending in Design, Brunch With The Tastemakers

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From left: Lani Kahn Drody, Hillary L. Scurtis, Carola Pimentel, Sofia Joelsson & Sharron Lannan

On Thursday May 16th Lowell International Realty hosted a brunch and panel discussion at Coral Reef Yacht Club to recap the latest in interior design trends. The event was headlined by four prominent interior designers who presented their findings on emerging trends, gave advice on timeless design and answered decor questions from attendees.

The four designers on the panel were:

Sofia Joelsson

SoJo Design, LLC

Sharron Lannan

Lannan Designs, LLC

Carola Pimentel

Assure Interiors

Hillary Littlejohn Scurtis

HLS Interior Design



Clients and friends of Lowell International Realty arrived at Coral Reef Yacht Club and were greeted with champagne and mimosas before the program began. Guests were then seated and breakfast was served. Lani Kahn Drody, President of Lowell International Realty, began the program by welcoming guests and thanking the very talented designers for making themselves available for what promised to be a very informative panel discussion. Ms. Kahn Drody also took the time to thank everyone that helped put the event together including the team at Lowell International Realty (Blaire Sonville, Steve Gunn, Carrie Foote, Monica Marty, Suyain George, JJ Snow Hansen & Larry Kahn), Neiman Marcus, and Jo Malone (for generously donating fabulous bags full of treats for guests to take home).

When the program started, the designers' vast knowledge was on display as each provided unique perspectives on emerging trends in home decor. The panelists spoke about the latest trends including laquers and bronze toned metals that are warmer than chrome – the previous trend. The designers all agreed on the importance of embracing imperfections in materials like natural woods. The designers were also excited about the move towards mixing and matching old with new. Hillary Scurtis gave great example of this from personal experience when she located a treasured antique collecting dust in a client's garage. She brought it inside and based an entire room's design around this fabulous antique and incorporated modern accents.



Trending colors like gray, lavender and white are timeless and can be used liberally when designing. When asked about creating sustainable value in a home for resale purposes. Sharron Lannan gave great advice on design fundamentals. Sharron advised everyone to make sure their home's design was grounded with high-quality elements that are timeless or neutral. The panel of designers agreed that items like cabinetry, doors, knobs and fixtures are a part of the foundation of home decor. After securing a foundation, add personality and allow for trends with art, accessories, fabrics and textures.

After years of work, the designers also shared their sources of inspiration. Sofia Joelsson advised guests to take time to travel and live

in the moment. Traveling and experiencing different spaces will broaden your horizons and give you excellent ideas to bring back home. Sofia also advised guests to be mindful of the atmosphere when they are sitting in a place like the South of France. Carola Pimentel suggested that if you can key in on the things that feel right, then you will have a better understanding of how to approach design in your own home. For instance, when you are at a great dinner party or restaurant that feels warm and good, look around at the tablecloth, patters, décor and hone in on what is making you feel good. Bring the elements of that desired environment back to your home.

Lowell International Realty would like to extend our thanks to the four designers who headlined this event, our friends who attended the brunch, our gracious hosts at the Coral Reef Yacht Club, Jo Malone and Neiman Marcus. We cant wait to host our next event, and we hope you can join us.