

Meet Michelina Mottolese, a Sunny Isles Based Global Design Expert

We introduce you to the Mastermind behind MMID Interior Design Firm, who is beautifying the world, one residential project at a time.

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GROWING-UP GLOBAL

Born in Italy and raised in Caracas, Venezuela for 12 years, Michelina Mottolese moved to New York City to pursue her undergraduate education at Parsons School of Design in NYC. Looking back, she recalls, “the creative spark was always there and whilst growing up, I never found myself other than where I belonged.” During her youth “I was always creating and imagining and when I reminisce about my doll house, there was always a decorator and that was me, and I was constantly playing and creating fictional spaces.” Little did she know that her doll-house dreams would become her day-to-day reality.

She was raised with a predominant Italian influence but was physically living in Latin America throughout most of her youth, “it was like living two cultures and realities at once - and that forever shaped me.”

The force behind her creativity is no doubt sparked by a global upbringing and moving to multiple metropolitan cities throughout her life.

Fast forward to 2024 this brilliant woman with an eye like none, takes a unique approach, always adding an element of a specific geographic place and culture to each of her projects.



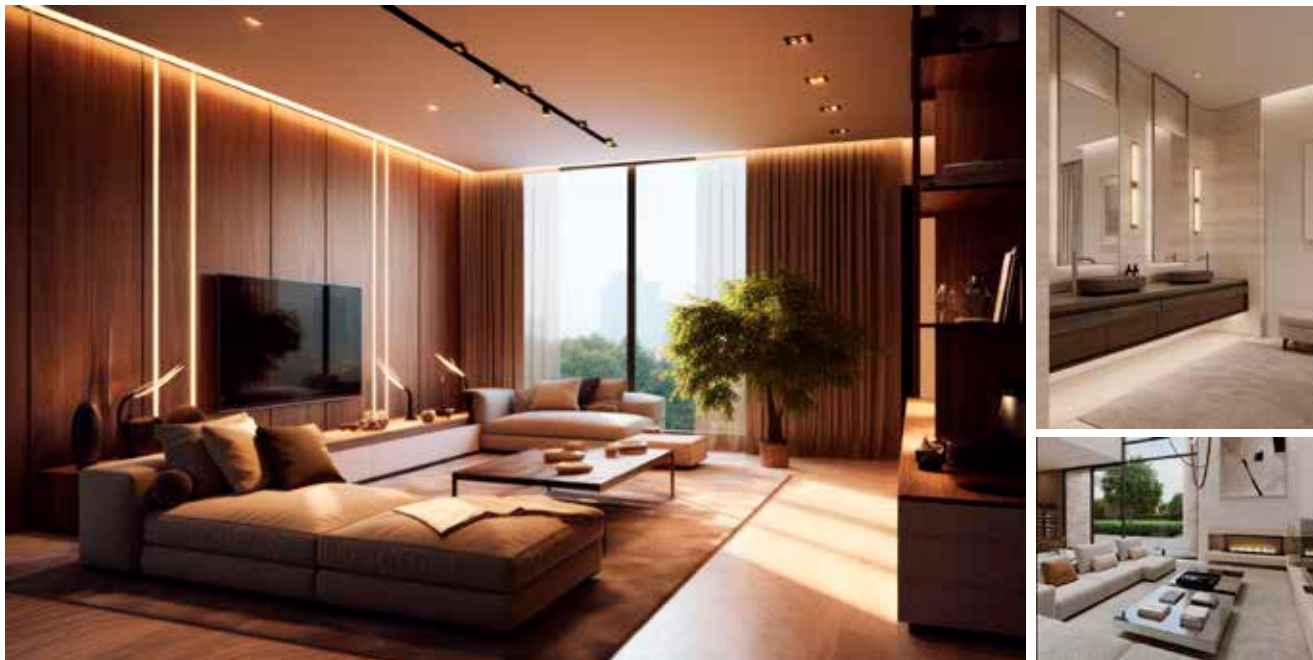
She shares, “yes, I create more work for myself because I have to research a different place for each project that I design. However, since I love learning about other cultures and their design I don’t mind.” This part of the process actually enhances and inspires her, and is what makes her a stand out designer in this ever-evolving crowded space.

HER FIRST PROJECT

Her first line of employment was at Melanie Kahane around 1982, right after she graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Parsons School of Design in NYC and with no hands-on work

experience. She started at the front desk inputting all the contracts and purchase orders. “Looking back, it was a pivotal moment as I was able to learn the business and operational side of interior design before becoming a designer.” Considering Melanie to be a great inspiration, “I remember seeing rooms in pink and orange. It was so distinctive and I recall speaking to myself, saying ‘her work had guts’ as she had the ability to visualize a finish a room before it ever existed.”

This experience was invaluable as “I was able to learn other ins-and-outs, amongst various business practices



that designers implemented.” Upon the completion of Melanie’s first major project, she realized that her choices as a designer affected my clients lives way after a project was finished, as any choices impacted the environment where people work, rest or play. That is when she realized that design would become my profession, rather than a hobby. With an affinity to solve problems much like an engineer, she loves the process of researching and “making the most of the resources I have available during a project.”

Throughout the journey, the more Miss Mottolese learned, the more she was eager to continue learning and improving through the years “as I truly

enjoy interior design because it allows me to pay close attention to detail and it also allows me to build creative, beautiful things that have functional end results.”

THE SOUTH FLORIDA GIRL - GONE GLOBAL.

Having moved to Sunny Isles in the Spring of 1995, her Interior design operation has expanded globally. Not only does she have a reputable hyperlocal presence having completed several projects in The Estates at Acqualina, she is also boasting commercial and residential projects from Ukraine to Turkey, Qatar and Italy, her operational teams are

located between Modena, Italy and locally in her hometown of Sunny Isles Beach. In the near future she aspires to expand her footprint into Golden Beach. “I don’t see why that’s not a possibility as I even executed a notable Sheikh’s property in The Pearl Island - Doha, Qatar.”

With a personal style to kill, she feels “the way we dress can shape how others perceive our personality as a dressing sense is an external expression of our inner self, allowing us to visually communicate our identity, mood, and values.” As having good taste in fashion is subjective, “it generally refers to having a keen eye for choosing clothing and accessories



that are stylish, well-coordinated, and appropriate for different occasions.” And “it often involves understanding color combinations, proportions, and the ability to express one’s individuality through clothing.”

Feeling that good taste in fashion can also involve an awareness of current trends and an understanding of how to adapt them to one’s personal style, “ultimately, it’s about expressing oneself confidently and authentically through clothing choices.” And lastly, when it comes to her look, “I like to be casual and down to earth as I love comfort and easy to care for clothes. Considering I am organized and practical I prefer to fill my wardrobe with versatile investment pieces.”

However, her aesthetic when it comes to interiors are largely about the evocation of feeling for her worldly clients as aesthetics. From balance to color, movement, pattern, scale, shape, and visual weight, “as a designer, I use aesthetics to complement the designs’ usability, and so enhance functionality with attractive layouts.” As expected, her taste in furniture is

also showstopping. “Italian furniture design has always emphasized the use of fine quality materials and beautiful craftsmanship,” she shares. And” Italian furniture has a unique and impressive history of its own, is appreciated and sold worldwide and the quality is the best in the world.” Synonymous with pleasant lines and high-quality, she often finds herself loyal to Poltrona Frau, Molteni, Maison Valentina, Martini, Fendi Casa, Luxxu & Opera Contemporary.

IN THE NOW & LOOKING FORWARD

With quite a few projects in the works, including two residential apartments that she is remodeling and turnkey interior design service at Prive Island Residences in Williams Island, she is subsequently working on a residential Single-Family home in Port St. Lucie, FL & a residential Single-Family home in Hutchinson Island in Jensen Beach, FL.

With dreams that include “working for a person that I love who has very good taste, I feel that my dreams become reality when I am blessed with

a client that really, really bonds with us.” Thus far, “I have had outstanding luck and crossed paths with very open-minded individuals that possess a willingness to do something crazy - yet crazy beautiful.” at MMID, “we really like working for informed people who appreciate experiencing new countries, and working in new destinations, because I believe that’s what really makes us grow from our comfort level locally.”

INSPIRATIONS

The mother art is architecture,” said Frank Lloyd Wright. “Without an architecture of our own we have no soul of our own civilization.” While he is no longer with us, today’s working architects seem to be taking his words to heart, including the late Dame Zaha Hadid, Renzo Piano, Santiago Calatrava, I.M. Pei and Jean Nouvel.

For more information, please visit:

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