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THE DESIGN ISSUE

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LARA MICHELLE
LARAMICHELLE.COM
Photos by Chuan Ding

Timeless Experience and Elegance

High-end residential home specialist Lara Michelle has been beautifying spaces for more than 25 years. A graduate of New York School of Interior Design with a degree in fine arts, Lara has extensive design experience and years of hands-on involvement in all aspects of the design process, setting her apart from other designers. She describes her personality as "outgoing, relentless and persistent"—which translates into creating magnificent spaces for her clients quickly and efficiently, without sacrificing perfection.

Having trained under highly acclaimed design masters, Lara knows her way around a project site and is keenly attentive to organization and detail. She listens carefully to what her clients like

and don't like, and executes their wishes professionally and seamlessly, aided by her specially selected team. Lara Michelle Beautiful Interiors specializes in large-scale, luxurious and elegant renovations while providing a stress-free experience for its clients.

What is your idea of perfect happiness?
I'm happiest when I'm surrounded by family. I'm a big family person; I always want everyone together.

What is your greatest fear?
Getting sick.

If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, who or what would it be?
Taylor Swift: she just owns the world at this moment in time.

In interior design, which do you prefer—bold or subtle? Why?
It depends on the space and client. I prefer bold. I love working with pattern and color, creating eye candy.

What design trends do you want to put to rest forever?
Horribly yellow and insufficient incandescent light bulbs! These need to be banned forever and replaced with bright and long-lasting LED fixtures and bulbs—not just for ease of use, to help the environment, and to save money, but also to see well in our rooms!

Ultra-low coffee tables and sofas must go! They are so uncomfortable to sit and get up from (especially for us taller folks), and I can never understand who enjoys sitting almost on the floor!

Large, outdated-looking countertop overhangs from the '80s! I am averse to countertop overhangs that hang over the cabinets more than a quarter inch, and even prefer them to be flush with cabinets for a super-sleek, chic and modern look.

What design ideas do you want to encompass?
Taking more design risks. Not playing it so safe.

If you could team up with one iconic designer/architect with whom to create a room, who would that be, and why?
Victoria Hagan from the Designer Hall of Fame. I admire her work and her knack for blending color. She created inviting interiors with comfort.

What's your favorite place to shop locally? Abroad?
I've gathered so many amazing resources over the years, like the D&D Building in Manhattan. Abroad? I like to support local artists and galleries.

What is your secret pleasure?
Chocolate and coffee—caffeine!

What statement or quote do you want to be remembered by?
I once had a client mention my magic touch, so "Lara's Magic Touch."

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