

The

LIST
2021

101 TOP DESIGNERS SHAPING OUR WORLD!

Welcome to the **11th A-List**, our annual look at the most exciting names in residential interiors, architecture, and landscape. This year's roster includes a new crop of 20 standouts; we also debut our **Titans** honor roll, which celebrates two dozen exceptionally influential talents. The list is by no means exhaustive—but who wants that after the year we've just had? We like to think of it, instead, as a **breath of fresh air**.

BY THE EDITORS OF ELLE DECOR

CLASS OF 2021

This year, we're introducing 20 exciting talents to our A-List. These global firms in decor, architecture, and landscape caught our attention for their dynamic approach to design and, in many cases, for their proactive commitment to community engagement.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Native plants line a path in a **Dune Hai** landscape in Pope Valley, California. The bar at the chic restaurant Mon Square in Paris, which was designed by **Florence Lopez**. A dramatic dining room by **Delia Kenza** in a Harlem townhouse.

ALFREDO PAREDES STUDIO
NEW YORK CITY
 @alfredoparedesstudio
 alfredoparedesstudio.com
 Paredes launched his studio in 2019 after more than three decades at Ralph Lauren Home. He's since applied his bohemian-industrial aesthetic to endeavors like a beachfront restaurant in South Florida and furniture for EJ Victor.

DELIA KENZA INTERIORS
NEW YORK CITY
 @deliakenza
 deliakenzainteriors.com
 Trained as a lawyer, this New York City native is sought after for her swank brown-stone redos, like the Harlem townhouse recently featured on ElleDecor.com. Lately, she is also branching out: New projects range from a community-focused event space in the Bronx to a restaurant in Austin, Texas.

DUNE HAI
OAKLAND, CALIF.
 @dune_hai
 dunehai.com
 Anoohey Rahim founded Dune Hai to reframe the conversation around landscape architecture: whom it benefits, how, when, and why. Her California projects include the expansive Pope Valley estate featured in our April 2021 issue and an Oakland preschool's garden.

ELLIOTT BARNES
PARIS
 @elliottbarnesarchitect
 ebinteriors.com
 The Los Angeles native emerged from the tutelage of Arthur Erickson and Andrée Putman to found his own Parisian firm. The expat's design projects include hotels, country homes, and a forthcoming lighting collection. And with his renovation of Ruinart's Champagne cellars in Reims, France, he is poised to pop off.

FABRIZIO CASIRAGHI
PARIS
 @fabriziocasiraghi
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 Trained under Dominique Perrault and Dimorestudio, Casiraghi has a sophisticated approach that draws on his Milanese upbringing. (For a case study in his style, turn to the emerald-toned Parisian loft on page 100.) Coming soon: hotels in St.-Tropez and London. ▷



"Mark is an unabashed devotee of interior design. His enthusiasm for decor is infectious. Just last week I handed him a hammer and a picture hook, and he hung some art for me in my house. That was sweet."

—NANCY MEYERS ON MARK D. SIKES (P. 84)



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Alfredo Paredes's living room, in Manhattan's East Village. A bathroom by Studio Cooke John, with Studio Riga. A New York loft by Ghislaine Viñas.



"Nicole is an all-around creative inspirer. She uses the world at large, finding beauty in natural settings from across the globe. Every one of her spaces feels like a tapestry."

—QUESTLOVE + GRACE HARRY ON NICOLE FULLER (P. 86)



firm is leveraging the latest technologies, including an in-house 3D printer and VR rendering, to innovate with materiality while maintaining a touch of refined whimsy.

JEAN LIU DESIGN
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A self-described art-obsessive, designer Liu deftly melds an analytical sensibility with a studied finesse. She also has a social conscience: Early on in the pandemic, she was able to enlist Kravet and Schumacher to donate fabric for thousands of masks for first responders. Her roles include CEO of Woodard Furniture and creative director and founder of Stori Modern, two luxury outdoor furniture brands, and she is hard at work on the renovation of Sassetta, the beloved restaurant at the Joule hotel in Dallas.

JULIANA LIMA VASCONCELLOS
RIO DE JANEIRO
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The best Brazilian designers specialize in dramatic interiors; Vasconcellos is no exception. See: her own family apartment in Rio de Janeiro, featured in our April 2021 issue, which frames a singularly stunning view with contemporary art and furniture of her own creation. This year, following residential projects in Miami and northern Italy, she'll be introducing a new furniture line for the Invisible Collection. ▷

FLORENCE LOPEZ
PARIS

florencelopez.com
With a client list including Delphine Arnault, Gérard Depardieu, Daft Punk's Thomas Bangalter, and Charlotte Gainsbourg, this anti-quarian and interior designer never fails to impress the right people—including us: Her eye-catching Paris restaurant, Mon Square, was in our November 2020 issue.

GHISLAINE VIÑAS
NEW YORK CITY

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ghislainevinas.com
The Dutch-born, South Africa-raised designer has an unparalleled eye for contrast

and a penchant for bold strokes. Her residential projects tell a client's story in unexpected ways (in Los Angeles, she created a rug using blueprints of the owner's house). Now, she's turning her attention to a most introspective project: her own home in Pennsylvania.

HENDRICKS CHURCHILL
NEW YORK CITY/
SHARON, CONN.
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Known for their holistic approach to authentic New England houses—both historic renovations and new builds in Nantucket and Rhode Island—and a country cottage for Instagram's Eva Chen,

architect Rafe Churchill and designer Heide Hendricks, the married cofounders, blend tradition and artful ease. Case in point: their renovation of a Connecticut family home featured in our March 2021 issue.

IKE KLIGERMAN BARKLEY

NEW YORK CITY/
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From a modern lake house in South Carolina to a tasting room in Napa Valley, partners John Ike and Thomas Kligerman bring a contemporary sensibility to historical styles like the Arts and Crafts movement and Colonial Revival. Today, their

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: MIGUEL FLORES-VIÑANA; ANNIE SCHLECHTER; GARRETT ROWLAND; PORTRAIT: GETTY IMAGES



"I'd always loved and admired Peter's fabrics and designs from afar, but assumed he'd be a fancy-pants, snooty type. When I met him, however, he was so real and down to earth that I felt as if I'd known him all my life—and wished I had."

—JULIA LOUIS-DREYFUS
ON PETER DUNHAM (P. 86)



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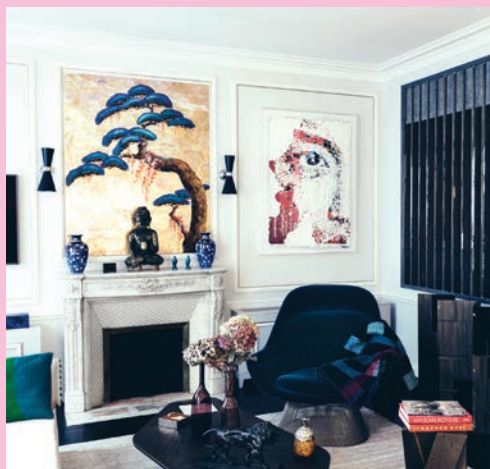
Matt Blacke is a pseudonym of sorts (get it?) for the West Coast designer Cliff Fong. As creative director of L.A.'s Galerie Half, he sources collectible design and fine art for clients like Ellen DeGeneres and Ryan Murphy. And while his residential work generates press (his Hancock Park project was on our March 2021 cover), an upcoming endeavor—the Fantom Flower, an L.A. restaurant with a marijuana lounge—has a different kind of buzz.

MICHAEL K. CHEN
ARCHITECTURE
NEW YORK CITY
@mkcarchitecture
mkca.com

The architect has spent the past 10 years cultivating a studious sensibility that still radiates warmth and character. In addition to a Manhattan residence featured on our January/February 2021 cover, Chen is slated to break ground on his first health-care and civic projects in Brooklyn. Coming this fall: a debut collection of furniture with New York-based design studio TRNK. ▶



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: A stair hall in a Dallas home renovated by **Jean Liu**. The March 2021 cover of ELLE DECOR featured this Los Angeles residence designed by **Cliff Fong**. A Marin County, California, landscape by **Terremoto**. The living area of a Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, apartment by **Elliott Barnes**. Textural interest in a Paris dining room by **Rafael de Cárdenas**.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: LISA PETROLE; WILLIAM ABRANOWICZ; CAITLIN ATKINSON; JULIEN DRACH; MARK COCKSEGE; PORTRAIT: JONNY VALIANT

NICKEY KEHOE

LOS ANGELES

@nickeykehoe
nickeykehoe.com

Founders Todd Nickey and Amy Kehoe's thoughtfully curated L.A. design shop put them on the map, but it's their recent work as the go-to firm for West Coast foodies—among them chefs Nancy Silverton and Suzanne Goin—along with their traditional-with-a-twist lines of furniture and lighting, that prove they're really cooking with gas.

PINE HOUSE EDIBLE GARDENS

OAKLAND, CALIF.

@pinehouseediblegardens
pinehouseediblegardens.com

As owner of Pine House Edible Gardens, Leslie Bennett has cultivated a community-driven practice that, first and foremost, respects our relationship to the environment. A signature project: her restorative Black Sanctuary Gardens. Next, she'll tackle the vegetable garden at the historic Filoli estate in Woodside, California.

RAFAEL DE CÁRDENAS

NEW YORK CITY

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rafaeldecardenas.com

De Cárdenas is no stranger to scale and scope: The architect and designer's projects include interiors for St. Petersburg's Au Pont Rouge department store and a 134-foot-long yacht. And while the big hits keep coming (like a 7,000-square-foot residence on Seattle's Lake Washington), in his multifaceted world, change is really the only constant.

RETROUVIUS

LONDON

@retrouvius
retrouvius.com

Founders Adam Hills and Maria Speake take a regenerative approach to reclamation, salvaging everything from museum cabinets to a con-course's worth of limestone flooring from a demolished Heathrow airport terminal. Hills runs their cult salvage shop in London's Kensal Green enclave, while Speake oversees a design studio (with fashionable clients like Bella Freud) that's gearing up to convert a medieval coaching inn into a 38-bedroom boutique hotel.

STUDIO COOKE JOHN

NEW YORK CITY

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cookejohn.com

Jamaican-born architect Nina Cooke John's two-decade-old practice focuses on clean lines and muted tones, but lately has welcomed pops of color and well-placed antiques into the fold. A notable project was the 2021 Obsidian concept house, co-designed with Leyden Lewis and the BAD Guild.

TERREMOTO

LOS ANGELES/
SAN FRANCISCO

@terremoto_landscape
terremoto.la

The 17-person landscape design and architecture studio Terremoto creates site-specific horticultural installations. Their commitment to ecological stewardship has garnered them praise and high-profile commissions in equal measures. Upcoming projects include landscapes for the Craig Ellwood estate in Malibu and for an L.A. house by the late architect A. Quincy Jones.

UNIONWORKS

NEW YORK CITY

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Poonam Khanna, the firm's founder, may have cut her teeth while working for Graydon and Anna Scott Carter's architect, Basil Walter, but her soulful and modernist interior design sensibility is all her own. Residential projects aren't her only domain (though she excels at them: see her recent Hamptons project on page 126). She is currently working on the renovations of a two-Michelin-star restaurant in Washington, D.C., and a boutique hotel in Telluride, Colorado. ▷



“Virginia is a dream to work with—polite, respectful, and she doesn’t force her choices on her clients.”

—LAUREN SANTO DOMINGO
ON VIRGINIA TUPKER
(P. 86)



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

A dining room in the home of **Retrouvius's** owners, Adam Hills and Maria Speake. The pool area of a home by **Ike Kligerman Barkley**. A Manhattan apartment by **Michael K. Chen** on the January/February 2021 cover of **ELLE DECOR**.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: THEO TENNANT; WILLIAM WALDRON; MAX BURKHALTER; PORTRAIT: GETTY IMAGES

RETURN TALENTS

These interiors, architecture, and landscape firms—some of which have been on the A-List from the beginning—consistently wow us, keep us guessing, and show the kinds of intelligence and excellence that drive the design industry forward.

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The living room of **Juliana Lima Vasconcellos's** pied-à-terre in Rio de Janeiro.



"His unique talent, taste, passion, and creativity helped bring my vision to life."

—RALPH LAUREN ON ALFREDO PAREDES (P. 74)



Nickey Kehoe's barroom at chef Nancy Silverton's new restaurant, the Barish, at the Hollywood Roosevelt in Los Angeles.



Leslie Bennett of **Pine House Edible Gardens** created this outdoor space beside her home in Oakland, California.

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"Mr. Ken Fulk—this guy does not miss details. He's not like the rest."

—PHARRELL WILLIAMS
ON KEN FULK

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“Working with Eric is so joyful. He has a patience that waits for inspiration. Truth and beauty follow.”

—SARAH JESSICA PARKER ON ERIC HUGHES (P. 82)

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A bedroom in a Greek Revival home in Farmington, Connecticut, renovated by Hendricks Churchill.

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TITANS

This issue marks the premiere of our Titans list: a toast to 24 icons in residential interiors and architecture whose consistency and vision continue to shape our world and the spaces that define it. Raise a glass, won't you?



CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: Sheila Bridges's Hudson Valley home as featured on the September 2020 cover of ELLE DECOR. A Palm Beach dining room by Bunny Williams. A bathroom in Pierre Yovanovitch's 17th-century chateau in Provence.



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FRANCESCO LAGNESE; JEAN-FRANÇOIS JAUSSAUD; FRANK FRANCES