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THE INSIDER

MATTHEW COATES

With people spending so much time in their houses over the past year, architects and designers are seeing a shift in requests from homeowners—ranging from upgraded outdoor living spaces and additions to designing a new house from scratch. “We are definitely hearing different priorities from our clients,” says Coates Design Architects principal Matthew Coates. “People’s living environments are being put to the test and that has caused a major functional shift.” Here, Coates shares his forecast for the coming year with *Luxe*. coatesdesign.com

Indoor-outdoor living is more popular now than ever. What are some new ways to connect with the outdoors? Some are purely psychological, such as oversize floor-to-ceiling windows, walls that extend into the landscape, and views framed at a distant focal point. Another approach is to intentionally blur the line between inside and outside by utilizing expansive door openings and large overhangs or covered outdoor areas that literally extend one’s living space beyond the walls of the home.

What is the next big trend? In the coming year or two, I believe we will witness a renewed love and exploration of color. I also think there will be a major emphasis on the use of antimicrobial building materials and coatings, such as those that contain silver or copper. As they say, necessity is the mother of invention.

Predictions for 2021? We are in a season of change. I think we will continue to see people wanting to improve their living environments, because this is something we can control. We can modify our house to take advantage of a stunning view, we can update the lackluster main bedroom or we can provide order to the kitchen that just doesn’t work. Renovations that expand our living space and connect us to the outdoors will be the primary type of architectural requests in the coming year. Let’s talk again in 12 months and see if I was right.

MEET THE MAKER

NATHIE KATZOFF

Nathie Katzoff has always had big dreams. As a child he started painting landscapes and portraits, eventually entering competitions. During his teenage years Katzoff wanted to go to the world, so he started building boats; this led to woodworking. “It was a great introduction to the craft because it’s so much curved and structural work that comes with it, so it’s a lot of out-of-the-box thinking,” he explains. With his feet planted on dry land, Katzoff has a thriving woodworking business, NK Woodworking, where he fashions custom pieces that come from a simple sketch or even his own imagination. One of his most recent projects is The Hive, a sculptural staircase that consists of curved, wood-shaped pieces of walnut with a 40-foot stainless-steel spiral. “A total of 11,000 man hours went into that project,” he says. “It’s probably the most unique wooden staircase ever made by us—definitely, in the world.” While wood is his primary medium, he also works in hand-forged steel and casted glass. “There’s this iterative design-and-creation process where the piece starts out in a specific form, and then when I’m experimenting with different proportions, something finally clicks and it becomes special,” says Katzoff. “Sometimes accidents turn into the most beautiful pieces.” nkwoodworking.com



MEET THE MAKER PHOTOS: PORTRAIT, QUINN ZERKEL; TABLE PHOTO, COURTESY NATHIE KATZOFF; THE HIVE PHOTO, MATTHEW GALLANT; THE INSIDER PHOTO, COURTESY COATES DESIGN ARCHITECTS.