

ANDI-LE FURNITURE BUSINESS PROFILE

Do you have any special training for installations that is valuable and important to clients?

As an illustration major, my ideas go on paper first. I've been working in wood and metal for 20+ years as a sculptor, creating "totemic-type" pieces. All the while I was also creating functional art. My family background of interior design and fine home building made the furniture line a natural fit for me.

What exciting new changes and developments are occurring in your field?

The current trend in the furniture industry has moved away from mass production and cookie-cutter models. Today's consumer wants to put their own personal stamp on their purchases. Andi-Le allows clients to feel comfortable and get involved with the process of designing. I love to collaborate; it expands what I do to another level.

What is especially exciting right now? Is it the product launch?

The launch of Andi-Le Furniture has been in the works for a few years. The concept helps the client to create their own pieces from strong components, and a huge selection of textures, colors and add-ons. This makes the purchase personal and fun, too. I work with the designers and clients, and then put on my work clothes and get in the studio and create.

Do you have favorite materials and design motifs?

I love working with different materials: carved wood, steel, glass, stone and leather (to name a few). Juxtaposing the textures increase energy. The Andi-Le Furniture line is the perfect fit for Mountain Contemporary, but it can cross over to urban contemporary, depending on the clients selections.

How do you draw inspiration from the arts?

A lot of the inspiration for my work comes from indigenous cultures. The simplicity and strong design grabs my attention. Art in general affects my mood and gets my creativity flowing.

What do you enjoy most about your business?

I enjoy the process of creation and I have the greatest satisfaction when I see the piece in its environment.

Do you have a favorite sport or recreation? What do you enjoy about it?

Horses are my passion. I competed in Cutting for seven-eight years and loved every minute of it. Now I trail ride often with lunch, wine and friends. Riding alone inspires everything I do. It clears my head, helps me focus and always reminds me of how lucky I am.



Andrea Lewin Wendel is the president and creative force behind Andi-Le Furniture in Woody Creek, Colorado, maker of innovative custom furniture pieces in an artful contemporary style. Andi-Le is unique in how the consumer can get involved and have fun in the process of personalizing furnishings.

See Andi-Le Furniture's advertisement on page 80 of this issue of *Western Home Journal*.