

WHERE FINE ART MEETS FURNITURE

ARTIST AND SCULPTOR ANDREA WENDEL'S FURNITURE DESIGNS ARE A STUDY IN CONTRASTS. OLD-WORLD YET MODERN, ARTISTIC YET FUNCTIONAL, COLLABORATIVE YET ONE-OF-A-KIND, HER CUSTOM FURNITURE TAKES CENTER STAGE AT HER NAMESAKE GALLERY, ANDI-LE ASPEN.

"My philosophy is to blend art and function, not settling for the ordinary in home décor," she says. "Surround yourself with pieces that have meaning, a story, an inspiration that brings a deeper joy to the owner."

An illustration major in college, Andi began her entrepreneurial journey with a business painting murals, fabrics and furniture. But it was a desire to weld that took her creative aspirations in a three-dimensional direction. Working in wood, steel, stone, glass and other materials, she created commissioned pieces for clients, which eventually led to her first line of accent furniture. Galleries in Aspen and Santa Fe soon took notice, and today, her pieces are included in prominent art collections across the country.

Looking at Andi's furniture, it's easy to see the influences from the world around her.

"My eye is always caught by the tones and textures of indigenous cultures ... the adornments of African ceremonies, the textiles, the hands of the artist," she says. "I love to take old-world inspirations and put a contemporary spin on them, and also see how a home's flooring and walls put these textures in a new light."

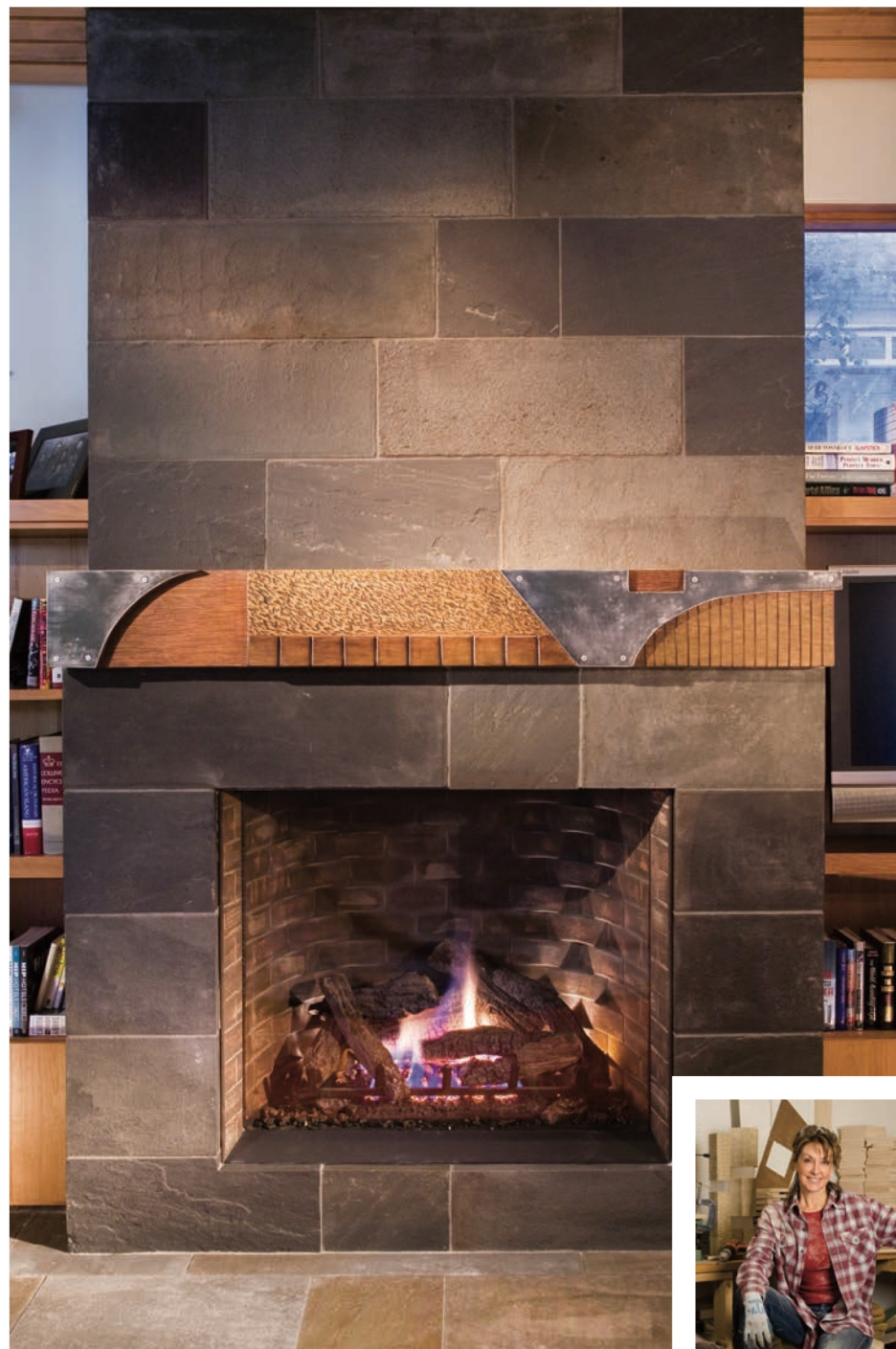
Collaborating with clients is a big part of Andi's creative process, inviting homeowners to become part of the final product. "I find the process of creating exciting, and it stretches what I do in ways that I would never have imagined," she says. "I have a lot of enthusiasm, and it's an honor to be part of someone's home and surroundings."



SURPRISING INSPIRATION ...

"I'm a magazine junkie. I love having access to Italian, French and African home décor publications online. As an artist, I'm not so much into trends; it's more about being inspired by something specific that takes me down a different design road."

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