

Q&A with Dara Huang: Architect, Designer and Entrepreneur

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Catherine Milner interviews Dara Huang, architect, interior designer and founder of Design Haus Liberty, and Dara Maison.

How important is telling a story through objects when creating an interior?

For me, creating an interior is crafting a story. Each piece, whether it's a subtle design narrative or a sweeping journey through space and time, contributes to the overall tale of the home. It's about curating an environment that not only looks beautiful but also feels deeply personal and evocative.

Is the idea of home changing?

Absolutely. Home is no longer just a showcase; it's a sanctuary meant to support our lifestyles and foster connections. I believe in creating spaces that seamlessly blend form and function, where every corner invites warmth and joy. It's about making sure that beauty enhances everyday life without compromising on comfort or usability.

Are new kinds of rooms being created in the home – what are they and what do they need to look good?

I've noticed a rising trend towards multi-functional spaces in modern homes. These spaces need to be versatile yet aesthetically pleasing. The key is in selecting furniture and decor that seamlessly adapt to different needs while maintaining a cohesive and inviting atmosphere.

You have a keen interest in nature and like plants in an interior. How have you noticed other people responding to our new 'Green times' in the kinds of look they want? Is there a changing aesthetic?

Adding elements of nature, such as plants, has become increasingly popular. People are drawn to the vitality and serenity that greenery brings into a space. What's exciting is the diversity of plants available—each offering unique shades, textures, and heights that can be tailored to enhance any design aesthetic. It's about creating environments that feel alive and connected to the natural world, enriching the overall ambiance of the home.

How popular is antique art and furniture in the homes you are furnishing, and are there any particular trends you have noticed?

Antique art and furniture continue to hold a special allure, honoring the craftsmanship and history behind each piece. I often integrate these timeless treasures with modern elements to create intriguing juxtapositions that add depth and character to interiors. It's about celebrating the past while embracing contemporary design sensibilities, resulting in spaces that feel both rooted in tradition and refreshingly current.

What has been the most popular item of art or design you have sold at Dara Maison?

One of our standout pieces has been the sage green sofa—it's been incredibly well-received by our clients. People are captivated by its rich texture, inviting dimensions, and the way its color effortlessly complements various interior styles. It's gratifying to see how a single piece of furniture can transform a room, adding personality and charm.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

The most thrilling aspect of my work is the creative journey itself. Every project presents a new canvas to express ideas and turn visions into reality. I live for the opportunity to collaborate with clients and artisans, harnessing their expertise to craft spaces that not only meet practical needs but also inspire and uplift. It's about creating homes that resonate on a deeply personal level, where beauty and functionality converge seamlessly.

Below: Dara Huang



