



Designing From the Inside Out



S. Lee Wright, principle designer and founder of S. Lee Wright Ltd., is always looking at the big picture. One of few holistic designers in New York, she constantly thinks of the space in terms of both aesthetics and function. An interior architecture major, Wright also minored in psychology, a seemingly important discipline she uses to understand her clients' design wishes. Afterwards, she

began to study Feng Shui to further recognize the connection between people and environment. As a result, Wright has become a truly unique and holistic designer, ready to design from the inside out.

While many designers sit and speak with their clients prior to the design process, Wright takes it a step further. To get a more well-rounded view of her clients and their aspirations for the space, she has them create a "magic box." The focus of this kit, which challenges the client to think about how they see their life now as well as in the future and questions why they want to renovate, helps Wright realize what's important to them. "I want to understand what makes them tick," she said. Clients fill the box with things they love, which Wright in turn incorporates into the design. "I once had a client who loved shiny pennies, so we used copper as an accent in his kitchen...it's all about listening," she said.

Wright feels that the kitchen is the heart of the home, acting as the center for nourishment and nurturing. She enjoys any opportunity to make this space central and meaningful for her clients. To do so, Wright, like other leading interior designers, turn to renowned Manhattan retailer Michael C. Fina. A family owned and operated specialty shop for over 70 years, Michael C. Fina specializes in tabletop fashion, fine jewelry, and fine stationary and invitations. Wright values Michael C. Fina's hands-on approach to tableware design selection, and says her clients benefit from the opportunity to "set your table" at the store.

A proponent of the viewpoint that the details make the space, Wright remarked, "little things add up to big things." While tabletop furnishing, art pieces, and personal touches realized from the magic box process are all incorporated into what the details mean to her, she also relates details to her service. "It is so important to remember to return calls, communicate constantly, and even send something small like congratulations flowers at the end of a project," said Wright. Like Michael C. Fina, she prides herself on the concierge-level service she provides and her long-term relationships with clients and vendors alike. With a resume filled with experience, wonderful referrals, and a holistic viewpoint, it is no wonder she is an enchanting facet in the design realm, transforming spaces one magic box at a time.

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