

BOSTON COMMON



Kate Walsh
PRIVATE PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

**FALL
FASHION**
GLAMOUR ON
THE GREENWAY

It's in the Bag

Whether it's a purse or a penthouse, Meichi Peng can design it with finesse. *By Erin Gates*

ANY DESIGNER CAN PULL together a pretty room, but what really defines a space as thoughtfully composed versus glossily beautified is the attention to detail of the designer at the helm. Few can trump Meichi Peng at this. Whether working on an 18,000-square-foot single-family home in Chestnut Hill or modern hotel residences in downtown Boston, as she is currently, Peng assesses not only the surface of the space, but also its inner workings. "We address room function and client lifestyle and needs as the foundation of any well-designed home," she says, describing her approach as "architecturally eclectic with a modern sensibility suited to each client's personal style."

Peng discovered her passion for design as a young girl in Taiwan learning to use her mother's sewing machine. Having fallen in love with Boston's aesthetics and architecture from afar, she picked up her belongings and moved to the Bay State at the age of 18 to study interior design at Wentworth Institute of Technology. During her college years, Peng began sewing custom handbags to carry her design tools. That hobby blossomed while she was working as an associate principal of ADD Inc.—all of her downtime went to designing new handbags. When she opened her own design studio in the South End in 2007, she incorporated her second passion by offering her custom handcrafted leather bag line, Peng Bags, for sale. Her studio space is a trove of eclectic inspirations—client binders, handbags and a captivating mix of midcentury furniture, accessories and art from France and Italy mingle with references to Peng's heritage such as exquisite rare jewelry from the Ming and Qing Dynasties and antiques from China.

Whether it's a bag, a brooch or a room, Peng avoids anything too trendy and focuses instead on the quality of materials and construction. "We want our spaces to have lasting power and still look great 10 years from now," she says. While quality is of utmost importance to her, stuffiness is not—a return to relaxed living is something she is excited to see coming back in style. "There is nothing better than feeling at ease in a flawlessly designed, constructed and well-appointed home." An award-winning designer who appreciates the inclination to put your feet up on a (gorgeous) coffee table? Now that is something to appreciate. And with all she has accomplished, we hope those are occasionally her feet up on the coffee table.



MEICHI'S MUST-HAVES

Carini Lang Aquarium rug. "I love the free-form design, color and precision hand-woven quality of Carini Lang. Steven King, Boston Design Center; stevenkinginc.com

Hand-blown glass lighting from **Lindsey Adelman**. "I love these branchlike chandeliers for their organic shapes and hand-blown aesthetic." lindseyadelman.com

Brigitta armless dining chair by **Promemoria**. "This dining chair's upholstery extends down the leg, lending it an alluring elegance." Showroom, 240 Stuart St.; promemoria.com

Mollie Goldstrom prints. "I discovered Mollie's work while shopping at Gurari Collections and fell in love with her aesthetic and her commentary on industry and its effect on the environment." 460 Harrison Ave.; gurari.com

Grid coffee table from **Hudson Furniture**. "I love this table for its combination of wood and bronze. The design lends itself to lots of storage for books, magazines and objects." hudsonfurnitureinc.com



Flexform Feel Good sofa. "I love Flexform not only for its comfortable and beautiful designs, but also because it is very well made, using the best materials, in a small family-run shop near Lake Como." Showroom, 240 Stuart St.; flexform.it



Athens silver cream marble from **Ann Sacks**. "The natural tones and veining are just beautiful in this stone. Perfect for bathroom floors or tub and shower surrounds." Ann Sacks, Boston Design Center; annsacks.com