

benjamin noriega-ortiz

Principal Designer

Named by House Beautiful magazine as one of “America’s Most Brilliant Decorators,” Benjamin is recognized as one of the most stylish and influential of today’s interior designers. The aesthetic range of his work travels from traditional to modern. In all of his projects, he captures an unusual sense of openness and light through the use of color, materials, architecture, and the unexpected integration of fashion in a rather timeless style. His sensuous, glamorous, and ethereal work marries architecture, interior design, and decoration, so seamlessly, it produces dramatic interiors that are reductive and seductive. Benjamin believes that “interiors should be elevated into living works of art, environments in which the intrinsic human desire for comfort and beauty are naturally aligned.”

Completing his first master's degree in Architecture at the University of Puerto Rico in 1982, he moved to New York and earned a second master's degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University. He started his career at the world-renowned interior and product design studio of John F. Saladino, Inc., where he spent six of the nine years as head interior designer. Establishing his own firm in 1992, Benjamin has produced projects for such clients as rock star, Lenny Kravitz (four residences), best-selling Mexican author, Laura Esquivel, celebrity portrait photographer, Mark Seliger, media mogul, Michael Fuchs, and entertainment and media genius, Sean “Diddy” Combs.

Additionally to residential clients, Benjamin has designed Cartier’s SoHo concept boutique to introduce the “Delice de Cartier” collection, the Battery Garden Restaurant in New York, and Pikayo restaurant in Puerto Rico’s Museum of Art. In recent years, he has started to focus on hotels. Morgans Hotel Group commissioned Benjamin with the remodeling of Mondrian Scottsdale, which opened in February 2007 to great reviews. With such success, he was asked to remodel the Mondrian Los Angeles, scheduled to be finished in Fall 2008, and Mondrian SoHo, scheduled to open in 2009.

Benjamin’s interior design projects have open doors to all aspects of design. Not only does he have the rare opportunity to design architecture from the ground up but he also gets to be involved with custom furniture, lighting, and accessories design. Throughout the years, he has highly developed his product design skills and has been collaborating with many companies as a featured designer.

He created Elements Fabric Collection exclusively for Tapestry, a division of Hunter Douglas, which won him the WCMA Product Innovations Award for Best New Style Concept. Benjamin has also been working with the Kohler Company for over ten years. He has been assigned to design two total bathroom environments, featured in several lectures, and, recently, created a series of bathroom environments for Kohler's new retail locations. His other licensed products include a collection for Nessen Lighting and the Chroma Rug Collection in conjunction with Furnished Quarters. During the 2006 High Point Furniture Market, Benjamin was proud to introduce the Metropolitan Home Collection by Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz. This is the first furniture and accessories line for the magazine.

His work has been featured in over a dozen books on design as well as in style and shelter magazines throughout the world. On television, he has made many appearances for HGTV, Style, Fine Living Network, and E!, as well as on a 12 part documentary about interior designers by the BBC for the TLC Network, Material World. His first book, Emotional Rooms, The Sensual Interiors of Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz, was published by Simon and Schuster’s Atria Books division is available in stores now.