



benjamin noriega-ortiz

Principal Designer

Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz is recognized as one of the most stylish and influential of today's interior designers. Throughout his projects, he captures an unusual sense of openness and light through the use of color, materials, architecture, and the unexpected integration of timeless fashion. His sensuous and sometimes ethereal work seamlessly marries architecture, interior design, and decoration.

Benjamin has a Master Degree in Architecture from the University of Puerto Rico and a Master's Degree in Architecture and Urban Design from Columbia University in NYC. He began his career in New York in 1983 at the world-renowned interior and product design studio of John F. Saladino, Inc., where he spent nine years, six as Head Interior Designer. Establishing his own firm in 1992, Benjamin has traveled throughout the world to produce projects for such clients as rock star Lenny Kravitz, best-selling Mexican author Laura Esquivel, celebrity portrait photographer Mark Seliger, media moguls Michael Fuchs and Russell Simmons, fashion stylist Patricia Field and entertainment mogul, Sean Combs.

Along with high-end residential interior design, Benjamin has committed himself to several commercial product collections. In addition, he founded ABYU Lighting in 2007 with his lifetime partner artist Steven Wine. The couture lighting manufacturer is dedicated to the creation of whimsical and creative fixtures. With much success, Benjamin has developed a reputation for his inventive commercial interior design, from stores and restaurants to elegantly whimsical hotels. The prestigious hospitality brand Morgans Hotel Group commissioned BNO to remodel the Mondrian Scottsdale and Mondrian Los Angeles. His latest creation, Mondrian SoHo, was unveiled to critical acclaim March 2011. The firm is presently working on the fourth hotel for the Mondrian brand in Nassau, Bahamas. Mondrian BahaMar is scheduled to open on 2014.

His work has been featured in dozens of books on design, in style and shelter magazines throughout the world, as well as on several television shows and series. His first book, *Emotional Rooms, The Sensual Interiors of Benjamin Noriega Ortiz*, published by Simon and Schuster's Atria division is currently available in stores and online. His firm celebrates 20 years in business this fall .