

LIVING ROOM:

Angelo Surmelis



angelo:HOME



FEATURED LINES:

1., 5., 7. & 10.
The Mezzanine Shoppe, B864

2. & 8.
KALCO Lighting, A208

3.
Leftbank Art, A229 & A254

4. & 6.
Ivystone, C676, C684 & C696

9.
Alder & Tweed Furniture, B158

11.
Dynamic Rugs, A432

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angelohome.com

Angelo Surmelis, award winning designer featured on over fifty television shows, host for networks HGTV and TLC, author and owner of angelo:HOME, based in Los Angeles, CA

Why is diversity in design an issue that the industry needs to embrace?

It's simple--our world is diverse, and we want to mirror that. There's more richness, texture, and creativity in the mix when we embrace beyond what we already know. I don't want to live in a place where everything and everyone is the same.



FEATURED LINES:

1. [The Mezzanine Shoppe, B864](#): angelo:HOME Melina Loveseat in white for TMS
2. [KALCO Lighting, A208](#): Sussex 18" Pendant
3. [LEFTBANK Art, A229 & A254](#): The Day Break Art Print
4. [IVYSTONE, C676, C684 & C696](#): Woodland Tall Vases (white) Set of 3 by NAPA HOME & GARDEN
5. [The Mezzanine Shoppe, B864](#): angelo:HOME Jaslene Console Cabinet for TMS
6. [IVYSTONE, C676, C684 & C696](#): Dutch Tulip Arrangement in 15" Vase by NAPA HOME & GARDEN
7. [The Mezzanine Shoppe, B864](#): angelo:HOME Bodhi Coffee Table for TMS
8. [KALCO Lighting, A208](#): Lorne 1 Light ADA Wall Sconce
9. [Alder & Tweed Furniture, B158](#): Bryson & Eleanor Accent Pillows
10. [The Mezzanine Shoppe, B864](#): angelo:HOME Twila Accent Chair in Plum for TMS
11. [Dynamic Rugs, A432](#): ALEA accent rug #1801 9'x12'7" by Angelo Surmelis Designer Collection

How do you incorporate your own background, history and heritage into your own design work? I was born in Germany to Greek parents that left their home country for work. When we went back to Greece I grew up around so much nature, that it informed my early perception of beauty, color, texture, and the simplicity of design. When we moved the United States (Chicago) it was such a stark contrast. I immediately fell in love with my new adopted country, and the wealth of design in Chicago architecture lit a fire in me. I started out as an architect major mostly because of my love of Chicago's architectural landscape, before I moved into fine art and design. I try to use all those elements, the natural simplicity, architectural details, and the freedom of fine art when I design.

How would you describe your overall design philosophy? Instinctual Mix. I love to design rooms for my clients that have absolutely nothing to do with me and feel like they are an extension of their layered personality. The best design compliment I can get is if my client entertains after we've finished their home, and they hear someone say, "You have such great style." Instead of "Who designed your home?"



What was your favorite part about designing this room? Finding ways to make it feel glamorous without being stuffy.

What were your inspirations in the room design? I grew up idolizing old Hollywood black and white films. We were very working class, and our home life was quite simple. Seeing the way some people lived in those films made me think that they were living in a dream. I wanted to create a more attainable, lived in, real life version of that Hollywood glamour.

What would your suggestions or actionable ideas be for exhibitors, designers, retailers, etc.? Go outside your comfort zone and network of resources & people you know. Celebrate others and give designers, makers, retailers that aren't always given the spotlight the opportunity to shine--remember that no one is your competition, they are another reflection of creativity. It takes all of us working together to take something from beautiful to extraordinary. I've never been disappointed when someone else with incredible talent takes center stage.

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