

FAMILY ROOM: Mikel Welch



MIKEL WELCH



FEATURED LINES:

1. & 11.
Yosemite Home Décor, B370

3. & 7.
UMA Home Decor, C420 & C444

6. & 8.
Loloi Rugs, A224-04, B425,
B462, B471, B480 & B482

2.
Area West, A100 & A106

4., 5. & 10.
Visual Comfort & Co., A109

9.
Noir Trading, Inc., C399

*HP IMC Only: 12. AsianLoft; 13. Celadon Art; 14. KRAVET Inc.; 15. Bernhardt Furniture Company

FAMILY ROOM:

Mikel Welch



Mikel Welch
Mikelwelch.com

Mikel Welch, celebrity host & designer on Quibi's Murder House Flip, product designer and Founder of Mikel Welch Design

What were your inspirations in the room design? I wanted to tell a story of a family who loves to travel and has an affinity for collecting unique hand-carved pieces while on vacation. Back at home, they love to showcase their finds in a sophisticated yet casual manor. My favorite part of the room is the comfortable and relaxed feeling that you instantly take in.



FEATURED LINES:

1. [Yosemite Home Décor, B370](#): Mikel Welch Exposure Collection - PILL SIDE TABLE - Product Code:240063
2. [Area West, A100 & A106](#): BURTON JAMES - JC149 – EL MATADOR CHAIR
3. [UMA Home Décor, C420 & C444](#): Home Décor
4. [Visual Comfort & Co., A109](#): E. F. Chapman Cabinet Maker 30" Bronze Picture Light Wall Light
5. [Visual Comfort & Co., A109](#): Thomas O'Brien Erika 24 Light 29" Aged Iron Chandelier Ceiling Light
6. [Loloi Rugs, A224-04, B425, B462, B471, B480 & B482](#): Pillows - Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines: P1175 MH Black / Natural; P1052 MH Grey; P1178 MH Beige
7. [UMA Home Décor, C420 & C444](#): Home Décor
8. [Loloi Rugs, A224-04, B425, B462, B471, B480 & B482](#): Rosemarie Collection ROE-01 CJ Sage / Blush
9. [Noir Trading, Inc., C399](#): Joel Coffee Table, Distressed Grey
10. [Visual Comfort & Co., A109](#): Thomas O'Brien Parish 65" Gilded Iron Decorative Floor Lamp Portable Light
11. [Yosemite Home Décor, B370](#): Mikel Welch Exposure Collection - RILEY CABINET - Product Code:210121
- 12.-15. [IMC High Point Market](#)

What would your suggestions or actionable ideas be for exhibitors, designers, retailers, etc.? I think brands should delve a bit deeper when exploring talent to consider working with in the design world. There are tons of talented designers of color who can add great value to the design community. I would also urge brands to continue to have conversations amongst themselves and look at their corporate structure. Brand should ask themselves...How many people of color do we have on our management team? This is a serious problem that I run into rather frequently in High Point/Vegas Market. A majority of the ground crew, greeters, janitors and security officers are people of color, but it's rare to see a significant amount of brown people in corporate leadership roles while at market. The same goes for showrooms/exhibitors. It's typical to see a few minority attendants scanning badges as you enter the showrooms, but it's rare to find brown members of management on the salesroom floors. It's time for brands to examine this and ask why?



LAS VEGAS
MARKET

How would you describe your overall design philosophy? I believe design should tell a story. Every home is a novel waiting to be written, and designers are the authors of these books. I have a primitive modern design aesthetic, and tend to gravitate towards rustic and imperfect objects that tell a story. I am drawn to African objects such as oversized wood watering vessels, intricately carved seating and tables, as well as beads. I try to incorporate a piece of my African heritage into my designs when possible. I never try to force or push an African element into my designs. If it works great...if not, I won't do it. I pride myself on trying to find that balance when designing, so I am not pre-judged before people even meet me.

Why is diversity in design an issue that the industry needs to embrace? Diversity within the design industry is a subject that has been a bit taboo, but is time to be exposed. As someone who works in TV and the high-end design world, I frequently find myself in rooms where I am one of few who look like me. I have been very fortunate to break some molds in the design world, and hope that this same olive branch will be extended to other designers of color. Often, designers of color are lumped into a "sub-category." I've always prided myself on being a "great designer" who happens to be Black. But, more often than not, I'm framed or listed as a "great Black designer." I think I speak for the majority of designers of color, when I say that we want to be appreciated for our talent and not just for our color of our skin.

MIKEL WELCH