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DESIGNED TO WORK

In a time when the home office has been elevated to new heights, three new designer showrooms exemplify the art of the creative work space.

By
Michael Korb

LISA KAHN DESIGNS

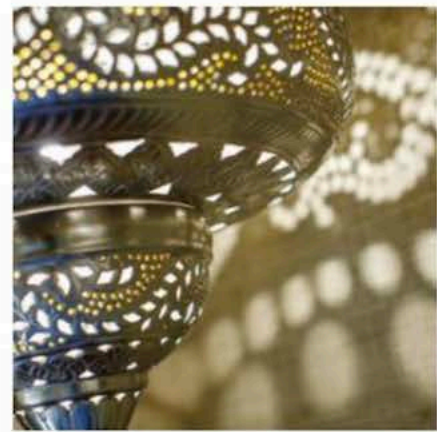
IN LAKE PARK, NAPLES

Serene. Peaceful. Tranquil. Those words sum up the approach of designer Lisa Kahn. Her knack for exuding calm and elegance through her designs has drawn raves from some of Naples' most envied homeowners. When she decided to buy the building that houses her new showroom at 1148 Goodlette-Frank Road, she was aware that to be in the business of designing sanctuaries for others, she had to create that for herself. "It's not just something we talk about—this is a practice," she says.

She created the showroom with all of the elements she understands promote harmony and healing, not only to the people

who visit, but also those who work there. You need only take one step inside to experience a sense of ease. A large moss-covered wall with crystals nods to nature and spirituality, symbolizing the mind-body-spirit connection. "You are embraced with a beautiful, soft, clean energy," Kahn says. And, she wove that idea into every decision, from the floorboards to the paint to the ceilings and wallpapers. "Beyond wanting to create a space that makes my clients walk in and say, 'Wow, I'd like this for my home or workplace,' I wanted it for me. I can't possibly deliver those kinds of goods unless I am coming out of it every single day."

Earlier in her career, when she was first coming into her own understanding of what a sanctuary should be, Kahn had a busi-



Lisa Kahn is in the business of designing beautiful, serene sanctuaries for her clients, so it only made sense that she create one for herself with her showroom and office. "It's not just something we talk about," she says. "This is a practice."





ness coach tell her to “live your brand.” With this space she is doing just that. Kahn created the moss feature wall herself, expending 30 hours and thousands of pieces of preserved greenery. She designed the upper left corner to represent spirituality, while the lower right represents the body. It’s a feast for the eyes.

Crystals find their way not only into that wall, but also to the chandeliers and accessories. Soothing music, some created by Kahn’s husband, Philip Allen (a composer and her marketing director), fills the space, while the

scent of essential oils gently waft through the air. A design library fills the center of the building, reminding visitors that this is, in fact, a place of business.

Her own office is bathed in a soft blue paint, appropriately called Meditative, and features a gallery nook displaying artwork from Paris and a settee from Anthropologie wrapped in a variety of distinct fabrics. Her live-edge desk was custom made from a slab of black walnut, recalling other uses of wood and greenery throughout. And the fact that she loves walking around barefoot in her office directed the choice of a plush wool rug in a watercolor design to add yet another tactile experience to the space. While she may not invite you to take off your shoes, the feeling you’ll be left with is pure relaxation. ■



Early in her career, Kahn was advised to “live your brand,” and that is exactly what she does with her showroom, which doubles as a sanctuary with crystals, greenery, soothing shades and objects that inspire her.



Brian Tietz (3)