

Tailored & Timeless

*Amir Khamneipur on interior design and work on
The Bristol Palm Beach*

Words by Briana Dodson

The Bristol, Trump Plaza, The Classic, Blake 63... these are just a few of the projects designed and fully imagined by Amir Khamneipur, founder and principal of Amir K. Design, a design firm in working commercial, residential and architectural spaces. While studying design in Paris, Barcelona, and at the prestigious Rhode Island School of Design, Amir discovered his passion and extraordinary eye for detail in the beautiful surroundings around him. His knack for putting his own impeccable spin on tailored spaces has allowed him to do just that on his latest project, The Bristol Palm Beach. And for the first time, he's getting to do things completely his way – one-hundred-percent Amir.



Miami Living: What inspired your love for design?

AK: My passion for design started very early in my life. I spent a large part of my youth in Paris and London following my parents through antique stores and galleries. I remember waking up early on Friday mornings to go with my parents to the Marché aux Puces de Saint-Ouen in Paris (antiques and objects flea market). Spending the entire day running through labyrinths of antique and vintage furniture stores filled my mind with enough ideas to keep me inspired to this day. I eventually attended The Rhode Island School of Design for University and learned to infuse my passion for objects and design into forms and structures. Since then everything I see that I love extends into my work.

ML: How did you get your start in the field?

AK: When I graduated design school, I moved to NYC. I worked for some amazing designers that really inspired me. I ended up being Creative Director for Lorin Marsh, one of the most amazing luxury furnishings showrooms in the U.S., Lorraine Schacht was one of the owners, and she truly took me under her wing and showed me the world of design. I would spend 6 weeks at a time in Europe



with the owners. They allowed me to design glass in Murano, bronze work in Paris, woodwork in Rome and Florence. The practical knowledge I gathered on these trips was remarkable and I will always be grateful for them.

ML: How would you describe your design style?

AK: Tailored. Tailored means design that is precise, beautifully crafted, slightly masculine and timeless. Looking back through all my work, I see that the 1940s were a big influence. I always try to keep the silhouettes simple in my projects, but then make sure to line all shapes with exquisite materials.

ML: What influences inspire your work the most?

AK: The first designer I worked for taught me something really wonderful. He opened up a book where he would take an antique fireplace from an image and then blow it up proportionally to design a facade of a house. I took that design theory and used it to work for me later in my career. Furniture and objects inspire my work the most. Trips to Europe are always incredibly inspiring. The level of perfection, balance, and quality in European architecture is unbelievable.

ML: What are some of the challenges you face on a daily basis in this field?

AK: Understanding lighting and the way it effects an environment is one of the biggest challenges in design. If I don't detail every aspect of lighting in my interiors, I won't be confident in the outcome of the entire space... Lighting options are endless and crucial. Fine-tuning the balance between them all is imperative in order to capture the mood one is going for.

ML: Describe your process in designing your most current project, The Bristol Palm Beach.

AK: The Bristol is a dream project because it caters to a very refined and

knowledgeable clientele. I assumed most of the buyers would be people who have multiple homes and have a very refined taste. I was correct... I chose to keep the design very tailored and timeless, yet infusing a multitude of luxurious details throughout. To an educated eye, these quiet details are obvious.

ML: How do you think the interior captures the surrounding environment?

AK: Above all the interiors reflect a quiet and peaceful mood. I wanted The Bristol interiors to come across as balanced, calm and peaceful. The interiors are designed to be lenses that help focus the true beauty of the view. I tried to make sure that every room had great views of Palm Beach and the water surrounding it. You even have a window in the sauna.

ML: What's your favorite part about this project?

AK: Working with the development team --the group behind The Bristol is truly first class.

ML: How is it different than some of your other designs, including The Plaza, Trump Park Avenue, etc.?

AK: Even though The Bristol is a Palm Beach development, catering to a Palm Beach clientele, the language and persona of the interiors has been a hundred-percent Amir Khamneipur. This is the first time I have designed based fully on my taste and my personal preferences... The sales have gone through the roof... I am really happy that what I imagined and designed is resonating so strongly with the buyers.

ML: How did facing the intracoastal influence the design of the space?

AK: I worked very closely with EDSA, the landscape company that is designing the pool deck and all exterior amenities. They are brilliant. We worked closely together to continue the linear and polished interiors through to the exteriors. That refined look weaves through all aspects of the vegetation, stonework and exterior accents. We made sure to capture the feeling of being elevated and on the water.

ML: How do you approach each project differently?

AK: Design is like set design to me. With each project I study the audience and then design accordingly. Every room becomes another scene. It is up to the designer to bring good taste and elegant design to any audience, no matter what their preferences or tastes may be.

ML: What's a misconception about your job that a lot of people wouldn't know?

AK: I feel that interior design is looked at as being a profession where one just chooses beautiful objects and places them in a room. Interior Design is more about problem solving and management. As a designer, you have to work with a very large team with multiple demands and needs. Being able to design and deliver a product that successfully adheres to the entire team is difficult. Achieving this challenge is success.

ML: What technique/style have you been wanted to explore, but haven't yet?

AK: I have only explored a truly color- and pattern-filled project once in my career... I would love to work a project that allows me to explore the richness of colors and beauty of pattern. The ultimate would be to design a Riad in Marrakesh where old world artisans and contemporary interior designers create magical interiors.

ML: What other projects are in your future?

AK: Along with residential and a few other commercial projects I am currently working on now, I have my eye on a hotel project. Being able to infuse my design sense into a hotel where the audience is so vast is a big goal of mine. **ML**

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