



— perla lichi —
DESIGN

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written by judy goppert · photography provided by perla lichi design



exploring. Along her path, many wonderful designers have inspired her. But most of all, she muses, “I have to say my constant inspiration comes from Leonardo da Vinci. I feel like a kindred spirit to him because we were both born on the same day, April 15. A few years apart, mind you!”

Perla is celebrating 30 years as a designer this year, a phenomenal achievement! In those years, she has walked into many different types of homes and offices. She has a process she calls upon at the beginning of each new job. “First we walk through to get a feeling for the space and take measurements. As designers, we tend to look at the space and are able to see it ‘naked’ in our minds, without the décor and colors that are there at the moment. We take into consideration the practical space restraints and problems as well as the positive aspects, and we just know what works and what doesn’t.”

This skill comes from years of experience, and also from keeping up with all the new products that come out year after year. She discussed that the direction and ideas for the space are usually inspired by each individual client and tempered by her special, practical hands-on experience. “I get to know my clients’ likes and dislikes through conversation and spending time with them and also through astrology and numerology. Both of these studies offer great insight into people’s psyches, how people really are and what their décor preferences will be,” she smiled.

Perla’s client list extends to the moon and back, metaphorically! She has worked with quite a few professional sports figures in and around South Florida, including Scotty Pippen, Jerome McDougal and Keyon Dooling. Her firm also worked with Sidney Ponson on two of his homes. She has many clients from royal families in Dubai and throughout the UAE, and she recently designed a home in The Palm in Dubai. She commented, “That is the artificially created area that resembles a palm tree. Dubai is a very exciting place to be with all the progressive architecture.”

She has published five books, three in the “Beautiful Rooms” series and two so far in the “Palaces” series, titled *You Deserve Beautiful Rooms*, *More Beautiful Rooms*, *You Too Deserve Beautiful Rooms*, *Palaces* and *Palaces of the World*. Her work has been widely celebrated in magazines, newspapers, television, radio and personal appearances around the world. The Perla Lichi brand is expanding through her design work and the development of proprietary lines including fabrics, custom throws, furniture and more.

Perla shares with *HERLIFE* Magazine that in quiet moments, waiting at airports and on airplanes, one of her favorite pastimes is knitting. “This is a gratifying way for me to spend the time. I have been knitting since my teen years and so I can also use this time to reflect and think about whatever are the issues I am dealing with at the moment,” she noted.

Perla’s life is an example of strong dedication and natural talent. What advice does she give for other women desiring to strike out on their own in this genre, or anything else? She emphasized, “This has been said many times before, but it is true. If you are lucky and find something that you love to do, then go after it 100 percent. You won’t mind the long hours that it takes to be successful. And loving what you do will also give you confidence to take chances, because the ability to take calculated risks is also part of finding success in design or any business.” **HLM**

Perla Lichi’s name spans oceans, into the worlds of all genres, from well-known figures in the world of sports and entertainment to royalty. All seek her unmatched eye for detail and imaginative personality. This renowned interior designer is a true master in the world of art history, color and space planning, and she creates interiors that have been referred to as having “The Perla Lichi Look.”

How did this adventurous spirit get from the beaches of Hollywood, Florida, to the halls of palaces in Dubai? She explained, “I was born in Mexico City and moved to Hollywood, Florida, with my family when I was in my early teen years. My family was in the jewelry business and they had a well-known jewelry store in Plantation for many, many years. My first love, however, was fashion design. But as I was about to graduate from high school, I entered an interior design contest at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and won first prize, which was a full tuition scholarship. I fell in love with interior design from the get-go and the rest, as they say, is history! Interior design is not just my passion, it’s my life.”

Her inspiration has been born of years of observing, learning and