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Architectural Digest

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN ♦ SACRAMENTO

Come to Your Senses

The richness of touch, light, sound, aroma, and even taste informs the fascinating design philosophy of Tami Teel

The feel of a llama rug under bare feet. The sound of rain through an open window as a fiery sunset peeks through distant clouds. Candles. Fresh-baked cookies. "I live my life by fulfilling the senses," explains Sacramento-area designer Tami Teel. "Take touch, for example. Rooms I design will have many layers of soft, velvety fabrics, accented by high-end leather. These things feel and smell authentic and ignite our feelings, our memories." This sensory-based ethos has proved uniquely powerful; today, Teel's firm, Tami Teel Designs, is one of the most sought-after design companies in northern California and beyond.

Teel's designs aren't just for residential spaces but commercial clients as well. A recent redesign for a Sacramento dentist's office saw the space filled with wood beams, brick, tile, and warm, comforting lighting. "It looks like a place you want to move into," she laughs.

If her organic design philosophy sounds familiar, that's because Teel's work has been seen by millions on more than 20 HGTV shows, including "House Crashers," "Yard Crashers," "Bath Crashers," and "Ultimate Crashers." "Pretty much all the 'Crashers,'" adds Teel. Though currently working on the pilot of a new Crashers reboot, she still has time for her beloved clients.

A recently completed project in the foothills of Lincoln, California, deftly incorporated the homeowners' world-class wine collection into the design. Through a glass wall with lit-up onyx flourishes, water falls into the pool as the sun goes down.

"Think of the place where you feel most inspired and relaxed. I want to translate that feeling into your own space," concludes Teel.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Designer Tami Teel kept the color palette of the home simple with black and white and the occasional pop of rich brown. The homeowner's world-class wine collection snug in its custom home. This moody bathroom is replete with deep mauve tones that accent the black tub. Tami Teel, owner of Tami Teel Designs. Taking center stage is the enormous, architecturally unique island.

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