

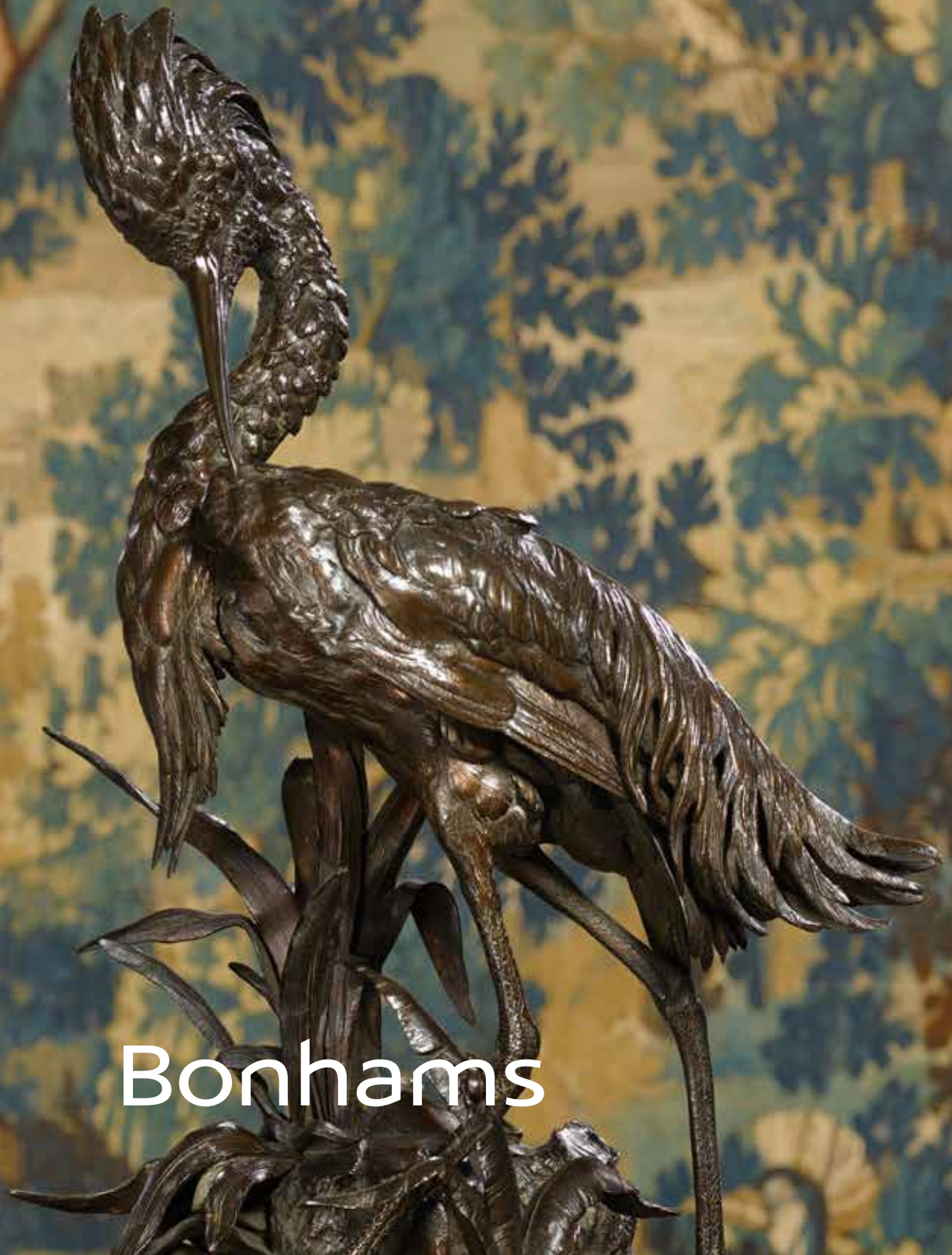
# THE ELEGANT HOME

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Monday March 26, 2018

Tuesday March 27, 2018

Los Angeles



# Bonhams



# BONHAMS TALKS TO CATHLEEN GOUVEIA

**Design Principal  
Cathleen Gouveia Design**



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## **1) How did you get started in interior design?**

My design career began in the New York advertising industry. My undergraduate degree was a B.A. Degree in Marketing and Advertising from the Pennsylvania State University. I worked on Madison Avenue for 10+ years as a Senior Account Executive/Supervisor at Saatchi & Saatchi / NYC, among other agencies. I attended the School of Visual Arts for post-baccalaureate studies in Film Production and Interior Design. My professors there secretly urged me to transfer to the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) where I graduated with Honors and an MFA in Interior Architecture and Design in 1998. While in residence, I studied Interior Architecture, Design, European Art and Architecture, Antiquities, Decorative Arts and Architecture; with additional studies abroad in London, Paris and Rome – and traveling extensively throughout Europe. After graduation, I relocated from NYC to San Francisco in 1999 where I collaborated with several of the finest interior design firms in San Francisco. (These studios designed Four Seasons and Ritz-Carlton hotels, large high-end residences, etc.). Cathleen Gouveia Design was established in 2003 in the seaside town of Sausalito, CA. ([www.gouveiadesign.com](http://www.gouveiadesign.com)) I became the President of ASID Northern CA in 2016/17 and work with clients throughout the Bay Area and beyond.

## **2) How would you describe your style or design aesthetic?**

My design style mirrors the rich personal history of each design client. No two projects are alike. What distinguishes my work is attention to detail, a sense of elegance (neither masculine nor feminine), and a tendency toward minimalism. I believe that interiors should be clean, comfortable and classic. The visceral story related to the client's history infuses the design with the occasional unexpected. I believe that spaces should appear collected and curated over time; with many furnishings that are custom, bespoke, and one-of-a-kind. I rely upon the history of the building, the client, and surrounding areas to curate the appropriate furnishings, art, and antiques for each space. The spaces that I design unveil after repeated visits; with impeccable finishes, art and antiques. I enjoy modulating modern art with antiques to bring soul and a sense of history to a place.

## **3) What inspires you?**

I am most inspired by the stories that my clients tell me about their lives as I embark on the journey of designing their residences. I also find vast inspiration through my travel experiences and living abroad in England, while visiting France, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, and Austria; Bermuda, Mexico and Bora Bora. I am obsessed with items that are handmade, with refined or rough textures and finishes. History is the ingredient that weaves the spaces and pieces I design together. Exotic hardwoods, stone and metal inspire me from a design standpoint, especially when used in innovative ways.

## **4) How do you integrate traditional pieces into contemporary design?**

Antiques, artifacts and traditional items are incorporated into my design work by deciding which pieces will be the focal point and which will be flanking or accompanying. Antiques add texture and character to an otherwise flat design scheme that can feel too cold, modern, or even alienating. Antiques and traditional pieces can, if carefully curated, add a sense of history, and character to a space. They provide a counter point or voice against the architecture and the soft scape of the project; a soul otherwise lacking in modern design spaces.

## **5) Any emerging design trends that are noteworthy?**

There is marked resurgence towards Modern Design versus more traditional or transitional design styles. Gold has made a come back, as metallic finishes are used against more natural wood finishes. 'Statement' lighting fixtures and chandeliers are big right now, as are punctuation pieces that are trending towards the organic. Textural hand carved antiques with a rich time worn patinas add character and richness against modern pieces. Stone, metal and wood are working in harmony and patterns are more graphic or restrained but used sparingly. Art seems to be trending modern or decidedly classical with gilded frames. Open plan kitchens and living room spaces are being designed with larger expanses of stone and quartz surfaces – with



Lot 696 – “These Flemish School portraits would look fabulous with modern furniture, and I would be sure to incorporate candelabra, or other candlelight into a space where these are featured. The floors could be dark and hand hewn or high gloss white finish. This might pair well with the Flemish Verdure Mythological tapestry fragment (lot 618) featured in this auction.”



Lot 318 – “This small work of art would provide a wonderful addition to a Ladies Sitting Room, Music Room, or Powder Room. It invites use of vintage instruments in the same space such as the Empire Gilt Bronze Lyre Form Mantle Clock featured in this auction.”



Lot 500 – “These table lamps are exquisite, rare works of art produced by Edward F. Caldwell who is coveted for his collectible commissions for the prominent : Vanderbilt, Frick, Carnegie and Morgan residences of New York. They should reside on stately side tables or a console that are also of high quality.”

waterfall drops which is the latest trend. The smooth kitchen surfaces seem to be driving accompanying pieces and use of antiquities and artifacts that are more eclectic, soulful or textured.

### 6) What would your dream project be?

My dream is to specialize in coastal respites including modern or traditional residences or homes on stilts on the coasts of Los Angeles, Nantucket, East Hampton U.S.; and residences or villas on the coast of France or Italy. These residences are modern or traditional with period antiques. I enjoy infusing the spaces I design with the elements: earth, wind, and fire; and finishes: stone and metal; and I always try to build in a few design elements that have never been seen before.

I have a true passion for vintage Chris Craft boats and would also love to design a fresh lake oasis or boutique inn accessible only by boat for celebrities such as: Meryl Streep, Jennifer Lawrence, Cate Blanchett, George Clooney, Robert Downey Jr., Matthew McConaughey, or Will Smith.

At some point in my life, I hope to work with a renowned architect to design a folded house with sliding planes and a rotation of fine art and antiques. This house would reside within the dunes and turn inside out with distinctive modern fireplaces and staircases that can be reconfigured.

*Cathleen Gouveia Design is an award-winning firm based in Belvedere-Tiburon, California delivering high-end residential Interior design to the San Francisco Bay Area, Lake Tahoe, the Napa and Sonoma Wine Region, the Hamptons, Nantucket and beyond. Her work has been featured on Home and Garden Television (HGTV), California Living@ Television, in The San Francisco Chronicle, at the Traditional Home Napa Showhouse (2012 and 2014), the San Francisco Decorator Showcase House (2011), the Elle Décor Home Tour (2011) and the Marin Designers Showcase House (2004, 2005, 2007, 2010).*

*The San Francisco Chronicle named Cathleen a, “San Francisco Stylemaker”. Ms. Gouveia was the recipient of The 2011 ASID Cal North Design Excellence Award for, “Best Sustainable Residential Interior Design Project”; The 2015 Design Excellence Award for, “Best Showhouse Design” (1st Place); and, “The Best Residential Project Under 3,000SF” (2nd Place). and several other periodicals. Cathleen was the 2016/17 President of ASID California North, and an Associate Member of the IIDA.*