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## Turn Your Cabinetry into a Work of Art with Nest Studio

FREDERIC PARTNERSHIP

Creative director and founder Jessica Davis's dedication to art and function permeates their extraordinary collections.

> WRITTEN BY Melinda Page **DECEMBER 12, 2023**

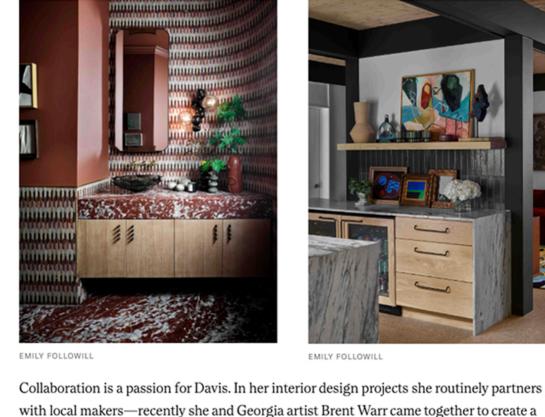
t's become a design-world cliché to describe cabinet hardware as "jewelry for a room," but Jessica Davis, founder and creative director of luxury brand Nest Studio, has a different take. "I don't think of hardware as just a finishing touch. For me, it's an integral element, something you might design an entire room around," she says. Chosen for Elle Decor's A-List in 2022 and 2023, Davis-a noted interior designer-was inspired to start Nest Studio in 2012 after noticing a distinct lack of modern-yet-decorative hardware in the market. "Everything out there was so simple-literally brass bar pulls and circular or egg-shaped knobs. It felt like it was an afterthought," explains Davis, who routinely creates forward-thinking custom pieces for her interiors clients (including, most recently, a set of



custom burl wood nightstands with floating marble drinks trays). So she stepped into the void to create hardware with a vision—pieces built for designers and design lovers alike.

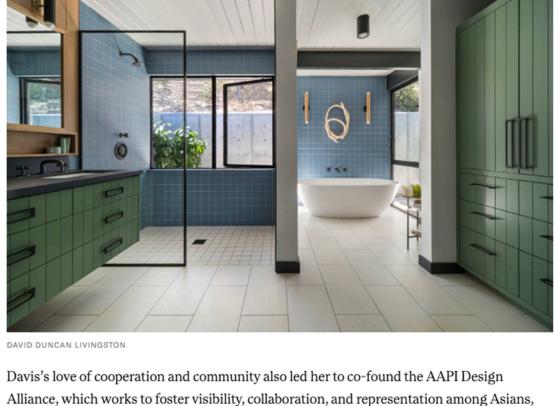


From a business standpoint, Nest Studio's approach is counter-intuitive. "Instead of thinking about how we can come up with the most economical designs to manufacture, we're thinking about how we can realize Jess Davis's vision from a sketch," says Nest Studio COO Jessica Burne. Almost to a fault: some of Davis's early designs were so out-of-the-box they proved difficult to copy and manufacture. Davis has since learned to work backwards, but the goal of the boutique firm is still, always, to create singular work that directly expresses her vision and that of the artists and artisans with whom she collaborates. And Davis is equally focused on creating pieces that serve designers. "I'm always thinking about how the design of a given piece of hardware would fit in the context of a space I might design."

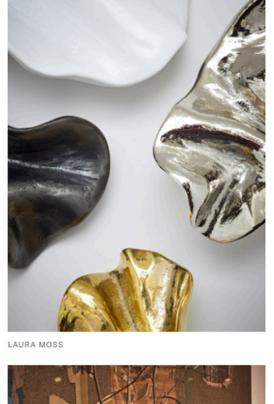




custom plaster chandelier—so it's a natural for her to do the same at Nest Studio. Her process is quite romantic. She's doesn't so much seek out collaborators as she stumbles upon their work, falls in love with it, and gets to thinking about what sorts of magic they might make together. Nest Studio's Glaze collection, featuring individually handmade ribbed knobs and backplates is rooted in a chance encounter with New York ceramic artist Jonathan Castro at a trade show. Davis was immediately taken with the shapes, colored glazes and textures of Castro's vessels. "Ceramic knobs are not new at all but I thought he could bring a really fresh take to it," says Davis. She was already imagining how to incorporate rattan and wicker into hardware when she chanced upon Hilo, Hawaii-based fiber artisan Iliahi Anthony's work on Instagram and was immediately drawn to her mix of metal and lauhala leaf, which has a long history as an artisanal material. "I grativate towards artists and artisans who are doing something unique, tactile, and organic," says Davis. "My own designs tend to be very hard-lined and architectural and I love working with people who bring a totally different element to the table."



Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders in the home and design industries. "We tend to be very underrepresented in residential design," says Davis. "AAPIDA has allowed me to connect with all sorts of Asian artisans I hadn't met before," including lighting designer Rosie Li, whose fixtures Davis used in a recent Kips Bay showhouse.





ATELIER DAVIS