

MAY FAVORITE THINGS



Three South Florida Tastemakers, whose creative contributions have influenced South Florida style, share some of the tastes that have influenced them.

BY ELYSE RANART
FASHION DIRECTOR





RICK HOWARD

Rick Howard, president of Sklar Furnishings in Boca Raton, is passionate about design and creating new products. Since opening Kinetics Furniture in 1971, he has worked with architects and designers throughout North America and Europe to design and produce innovative furnishings. He created Sklar in 2002 to help customers make their dream home a reality. "We are more interested in our customers' vision of how they want to live than our idea of what they should like," he says. Howard's own vision includes surrounding himself with fine design, fine tastes and cutting-edge technology, as evidenced by some of his favorite things.



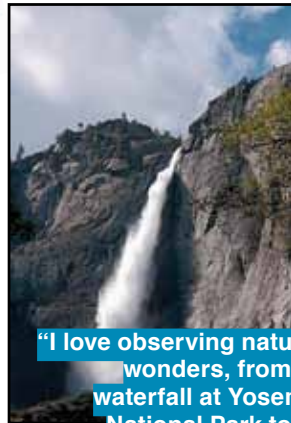
Sports cars, especially from Porsche



New technology, like the iPad



Fine champagne



"I love observing nature's wonders, from the waterfall at Yosemite National Park to the breathtaking view from a mountaintop on a sunny, fresh-powder day."



"Cooking! I love to imagine and create a sensational dish."



Bauhaus-influenced furniture, like the iconic Barcelona chair



"Scuba diving...to photograph all the wonderful biodiversity found in our magnificent reefs."



Contemporary architecture with its clean simple lines



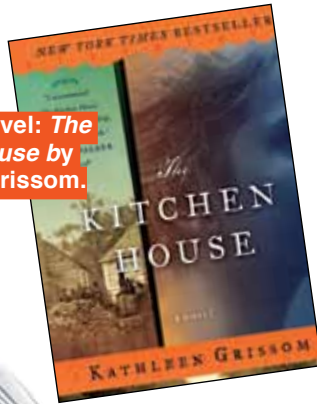
"I love the design process in all of its phases, from concept to creation."



ROBIN LEVINSON

Robin Levinson of Levinson Jewelers in Fort Lauderdale takes pride in customizing current trends to fit each individual's personal style. The chic and savvy entrepreneur has been helping customers create their own classic yet contemporary looks since 1983, when she and husband, Mark, opened Levinson Jewelers in a South Florida jewelry exchange. Today, they own one of the leading independent jewelry stores in the country, thanks to an eye for style and a dedication to customer service. It seems Robin Levinson brings that same love of design and care for others into her own life. "My favorite things are spending time with my family, the companionship of good friends and giving back to the South Florida community by working with local charities," she says. Here are a few other favorites:

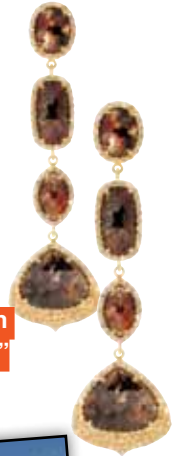
Favorite novel: *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom.



"I love writing notes with my David Oscarson pen."



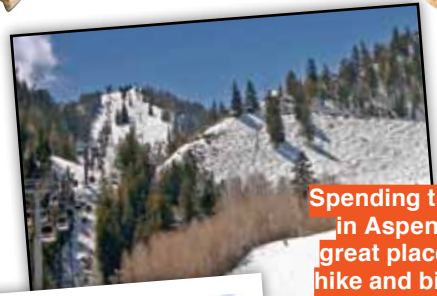
"One of my favorite things is a pair of hanging earrings with rough-cut diamonds."



"I enjoy watches for their intricacies...like my Backes & Strauss Piccadilly gold and diamond watch for evening."



Spending time in Aspen, "a great place to hike and bike."



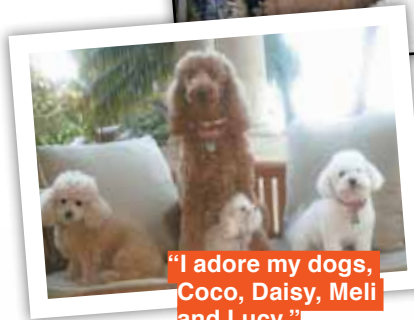
"Collecting perfume bottles."



"I love fine accessories, like this alligator and pave diamond belt I designed."



"I adore my dogs, Coco, Daisy, Meli and Lucy."



Diamonds with a great cut, like the classic step cut, "which shows a lot of depth, dimension and personality."





KATIE WRIGHT

Katie Wright, style advisor for Neiman Marcus Boca Raton, grew up in Eastern Europe (Transylvania, actually), watching old movies (*Gone With the Wind*, *My Fair Lady*), reading romance novels (*Pride and Prejudice*) and dreaming of the world of glamour and high fashion. “These films and stars inspired me to create an eclectic sense of style, get involved in the fashion industry and help my clients feel passionate about the new trends and looks,” she says. “This shared passion is why I came to Neiman Marcus.” Wright’s flair for style comes through clearly in her selection of treasures.



Classic movies, especially the black and whites

“I love a timeless, classic Giorgio Armani Tuxedo for a woman.”



A great fitting pair of jeans, like The Looker Grand Sophie style from Mother Denim



“I love designer shoes – and the higher the heel the better!”



Tinted Moisturizer from Le Metier



Stone Crabs – “They didn’t have these back in Transylvania!”



Traveling abroad



“I love making my clients happy! And of course, I love Neiman Marcus!”

Christian Louboutin Lady Peep-Toe Colorblock Slingback