

# **m****u****s****e**



**Gregory Mellor's  
award-winning style**

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**Cellars-Hohenort's  
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**Behind-the-scenes:  
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# GREGORY MELLOR

Muse chats to international award-winning interior designer from Cape Town, Gregory Mellor.

Words Thuvashnie Govender

**gregory** is the recipient of one of the most prestigious awards an interior designer can win, The Andrew Martin International Interior Designer of the Year Award in 2023. Allow Muse to introduce you to the incredibly skilled and talented Gregory Mellor.

## History

I studied interior design at Design Time in Cape Town. For a time, I was based in Sydney, Australia, where I honed my skills working with Thomas Hamel. After five years, I left to launch my own business. A few years later, I returned to South Africa.

I have over two decades of experience designing curated spaces celebrating individuality and lifestyle. Since our inception, we've worked on projects from luxurious game lodges in East Africa to classic holiday homes in the Pacific.

## Award-winning Experience

It was a wonderful and unexpected surprise, and it was heart-warming to receive support from the industry in general.

## The Design Process

We are somewhat fluid, as every client and project is different, but there is a definite structure to the flow of what we do and how we do it. It is ever-evolving, but having a process with procedural milestones along the way is critically important.

## Favourite Textures & Elements

We love incorporating woven elements with slick ones, antiques with contemporary, printed fabrics with woven textiles, and smooth polished finishes with hand carved. Like most things, it is about the combination and contrast and how to get the mix in balance.

## Favourite Collaborators

There are so many, it is difficult to name favourites. We love Victorian Bathrooms for sanware; we work closely with WOMAG on different stones and finishes; there are incredible architects with whom we collaborate. Veelvlak Ceramics for tiles... the list goes on and on.

## For the Clients

We try not to have a signature look when we design a space. My personal design identity is irrelevant to our projects, as we create for our clients. Our collective experience and effort make a project a success or not – and perhaps that is an element of our design identity as a company.

## Future Goals

I'd like to use this award and platform to embark on more collaborations, both locally and internationally, to



showcase the richness of African design perspectives. I see it as an opportunity to inspire and mentor emerging designers, fostering a sense of pride and ambition within the African design community.

## Advice

To upcoming and emerging designers, learn about décor – fabrics, trims, curtain details and upholstery details. There is a significant focus on design and not enough on décor. For some reason, décor became a bad word in the industry, which I cannot understand.

## Budgets

We work with our clients to form a budget based on the brief and requirements. There are only realistic budgets and realistic expectations.

## Favourite Colour Hues

Today, it is red and blue, but it could change next week. 🍷

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