

Spring 2024

asid ny mætro

DESIGN



L'Art de Vivre

WELLNESS THROUGH DESIGN

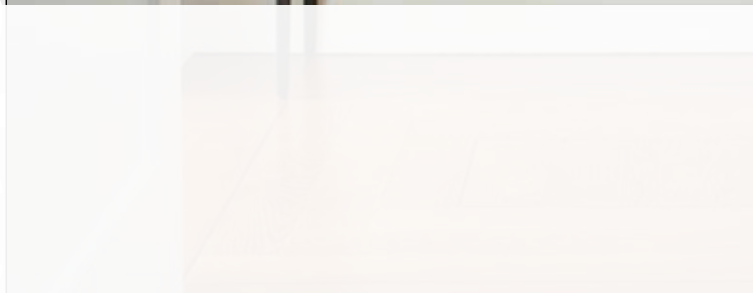


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ON THE COVER:

Unique artwork figures prominently throughout this Tudor home's expansive interiors, a thoughtful, collaborative effort between designer Elissa Grayer and the art collector client.

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: John Bessler

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Sustaining the Future with Laurence Carr



by heather sterling

A new year has found us again, and with another year comes inspired new resolutions and plans for bettering our future. When it comes to a better future in design, the conversation is still centered on one word: sustainability. (With good reason.) Buildings are responsible for around 40% of global energy consumption and 33% of greenhouse gas emissions, which proves the necessity of continued sustainability efforts in our built environments.

Thankfully, designers are taking leadership in this initiative, like one of our ASID NY Metro members, Laurence Carr, founder and CEO of Laurence Carr Inc. and Studio Laurence. As an international interior architect and product designer, Laurence specializes in interiors and home goods that intertwine sustainability and mindful luxury effortlessly.

Having lived on four continents, Laurence found that this immersion of cultures not only enhanced her artistic perspective but ignited a desire to protect our natural resources and beauty. Today, she serves as a United Nations Fashion and Lifestyle Network advisory board member, Sustainability Ambassador of Maison&Objet, a judge on

the committee for the Sustainable Path and the executive producer and host of *Chez Laurence*, an EarthXTV original docu-series.

With this global reach, Laurence aims to focus on the importance of circularity in built environments and work with manufacturers that embrace zero-waste processes and production methods — showing us why sustainability alone is not enough to mitigate climate change.

Can you speak on how and why circularity can have a far more potent impact than sustainability alone?

Circularity takes sustainability several steps further and has the potential for a far more potent impact than just sustainability alone. And yet, it remains somewhat of an unknown concept. My mission is to raise awareness about what circularity is, why it matters and how we can apply the concepts of a circular economy to the built environment.



Laurence Carr

Photographer: Kelly Marshall





Circularity in design is an approach to product and system design that aims to minimize waste and efficiently use resources. It is a departure from the traditional linear “take-make-dispose” model of production and consumption. Instead, the circular design focuses on creating products, services and systems with resource efficiency, durability and longevity, reparability, lifecycle assessment, reuse, upcycling, shared economy and biodiversity in mind.

Can you share how the circular economy promises to achieve several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals, including energy, economic growth, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and products, climate change, oceans and life on land?

Sure! The circular economy is a pivotal solution aligned with multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Emphasizing resource efficiency and waste reduction significantly contributes to sustainable energy initiatives by curbing unnecessary resource consumption and decreasing energy demand.

Economically, it fosters growth through innovative practices, job creation and optimized resource utilization.

Circularity minimizes waste, cultivating cleaner and more resilient cities in alignment with sustainable urban development goals.

Responsible production and consumption patterns, such as reusing and recycling, directly address the goal of sustainable consumption and production.

Prioritizing decreased resource extraction and emissions assists in lessening the effects of climate change and reducing carbon footprints, thereby contributing to achieving climate action objectives.

Circularity impacts ocean health and marine ecosystem preservation by preventing waste and pollution. Additionally, the circular economy's focus on conserving resources and reducing waste helps preserve habitats and biodiversity on land, thus supporting the goal of life on land.

How can someone best integrate circularity and mindful materials into one's home and lifestyle?

Creating a regenerative interior is a philosophy that extends beyond design into conscious consumerism and lifecycle thinking.

I recommend designing with longevity in mind. Choose timeless styles, heirloom pieces and



durable materials that age gracefully. Minimize consumption and waste by repurposing items or finding new uses for old pieces. And consider multifunctional pieces that adapt to changing needs, promoting a longer lifecycle for each item. When buying new, look for standard third-party certifications that verify sustainable manufacturing processes and support local artisans and manufacturers when possible.

Material consciousness is also key. Opt for healthy selections such as renewable, recycled or upcycled materials when possible, and choose natural fibers like organic cotton, hemp or bamboo for textiles whenever possible.

Choose products with minimal packaging or packaging that is recyclable or biodegradable, and reduce, reuse and recycle as much as possible to decrease the amount of waste your household generates.

Integrate energy-efficient appliances, lighting and smart tech to optimize energy use and reduce your home's environmental impact.

[Finally], I recommend incorporating nature into your home with indoor plants, natural light, and organic shapes to foster a connection to the outdoors, boost well-being and reduce stress while enhancing your space's aesthetic appeal. ✕



To explore Laurence's interiors and thoughtful approach to healthy living, visit her website: Laurence Carr Inc. (<https://laurenc carr.com>).

Her luxury home goods, found by visiting Studio Laurence (studiolaurence.com), showcase a timeless collection of vessels, every imaginative and organic-shaped piece made with zero waste.

To stay current on Laurence and her initiatives, follow her on Instagram @LaurenceCarrInc and @Studio_Laurence.