



Arlene Warda

ARLENE WARDA AIA
ARCHITECTURE + INTERIOR DESIGN

To successfully design spaces that satisfy the discerning tastes of the upper echelon of society, one must understand and embrace how they live, work, travel, relax and want to feel in their spaces. Arlene Warda is familiar with a broad scope of cultures, ideas and ideals, having been born to an American mother and Middle Eastern father, grown up in Beirut, Lebanon; Brussels, Belgium; Sydney, Australia; Tehran, Iran, and traveled extensively—including more than 25 trips to Australia. She is a connoisseur of fine hotels, restaurants and, of course, the architecture that makes such places unique and wonderful.

Arlene's innate creativity has been evident since kindergarten, when she discovered the universal language of drawing, which allowed her to communicate with her classmates, whatever their nationality. Several decades later, she still enjoys relaying her ideas with sketches but also holds a degree in architecture from the University of Illinois and has broadened her horizons through a variety of undertakings.

Experiences like seeing the half-built Sydney Opera House from the harbor with her uncle, taking in delectable scents of Belgian waffles and chocolate, strolling down Beirut's Al Hamra Street—a hotspot of architectural innovation that was developed in the '60s—and relaxing on flower-infused lanais on the islands of Hawaii have had a lasting impact on her, both personally and professionally. Arlene evokes such fond memories and luxurious ambiances for her astute, well-traveled clientele using the palette of an architect. She evolved her private residence, a vintage 1920s' condominium, into a clean, contemporary space



ABOVE:
Wood elements and geometrical details abound on the Laedke residence's exterior.
Photograph by James Balodimas Photography

FACING PAGE:
A defining feature of the home, the trellis roof helps create the home's rectilinear theme, which is repeated in the post and on the balcony rail.
Photograph by Arlene Warda, AIA



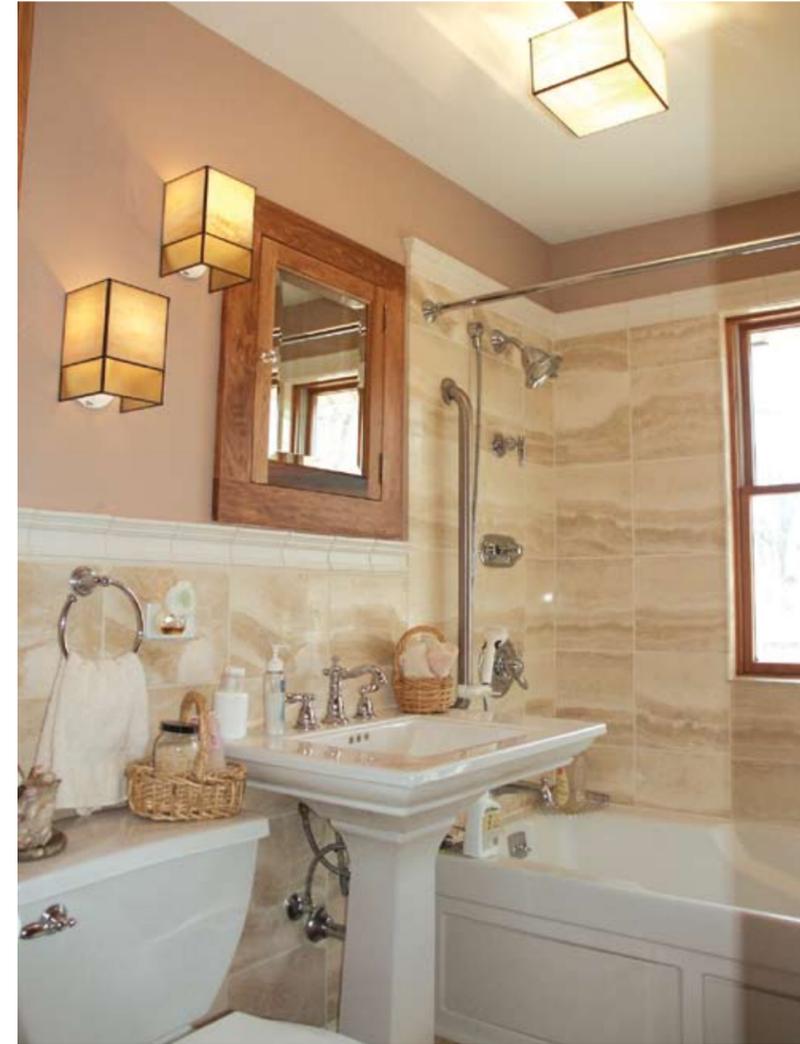
that echoes her international interests and eclectic lifestyle. Original pine floors were replaced with slate to remind her of Europe's earthen materials; colors of water and sand were chosen as a calming backdrop around which life's events could unfold.

In response to a Chicago couple's trip to Bali and love of the Balinese culture, she designed a subtly exotic master bath suite with shoji screens, diffused light, a two-person soaking tub, soothing colors and rich textures. Natural light plays a vital role in all of Arlene's designs, and she has devised a number of ways—including moveable translucent doors, strategically positioned windows and skylights—to allow the great outdoors to transcend windows and walls.

In addition to the unique needs and tastes of her clients, Arlene draws inspiration from her days as an international correspondent of the Italian architecture magazine *Chiesa Oggi*, an opportunity afforded her by her childhood hero, renowned New York architect Norman Jaffe. Having the great fortune to meet and get to know Norman and his work, Arlene was quite honored when he recommended her for the position eight years later. Arlene describes him as a master and poet of wood who did not merely design but rather sculpted houses. Like her idol, Arlene has amassed a loyal following of residents who rave of their eternal gratefulness for her ability to make the experience of remodeling or designing a residence one of the happiest times of their lives.

TOP LEFT:
The unique sink basin and tiled-tub surround add visual interest to the Coghlan residence's master bath.
Photograph by Leader Builders, Corp.

BOTTOM LEFT:
The large picture window affords an exquisite view of the wooded yard.
Photograph by Leader Builders, Corp.



ARLENE WARD AIA, ARCHITECTURE + INTERIOR DESIGN
ARLENE WARD, AIA
725 West Erie Street
Oak Park, IL 60302
708.445.8239
f: 708.445.8292
www.awarda.com



ABOVE LEFT:
Custom art-glass light and wall sconces illuminate the family bath with warmth.
Photograph by Leader Builders, Corp.

ABOVE RIGHT:
Slate floors, sleek cabinetry and a smooth granite island create warm elegance in the Simmons residence's kitchen.
Photograph by Leader Builders, Corp.