

{FOUNDING FEMMES}

Jennifer Bunsa & Stephanie Denault

The multifaceted entrepreneurs are shifting the design current in Miami with their office concept, WorklRoom.

When interior designer Jennifer Bunsa walked into The Apartment in Copenhagen, she was struck by its brilliance. A design gallery made to feel like a private home where you can shop everything from the art on the walls to the furniture, lighting and textiles carefully placed throughout, she felt inspired and tucked the concept away.

Now, five years later, she and fellow interior designer Stephanie Denault have proudly launched WorklRoom, a shoppable office concept that pairs a designer workspace with an artfully curated showroom filled with handcrafted furniture, lighting and accessories.

"It grew out of a need," Bunsa said. "If I wanted a client to see something, we'd have to go to New York. This space is a reaction against the notion that Miami has to be white lacquer and chrome, which feels very cold. All of things we sell would feel at home in a modern environment but add a lot of warmth and texture and color."

TALES BEHIND THE DETAILS

Everything in WorklRoom, its founders say, has a story behind it. The Marthe Armitage wall coverings, for example, are handcrafted by 89-year-old Marthe, who is still coming out with new designs from her studio in Great Britain.

"People are going back to realizing the value of vintage pieces and the beauty of handmade, high-quality things," Denault said. "Clients spending a lot of money on a table want to be able to feel it and see it and understand the story behind it."



As Miami changes with the influx of architects, Denault said, their space harkens back to handmade artisan sensibility. "Miami design is very modern and sleek, but the culture down here is very diverse with people from many different cultures that usually have more color and vibrancy," she said. "Our space talks about mixing a piece of furniture from Denmark and a Moroccan rug and a vintage African stool and artwork from a Brazilian artist in Brooklyn. Our space is bringing together diversity."

The two also host a roundtable series for local designers and artisans. Most recently, they sat around their round Fritz Hansen PK54 table and discussed the lost art of weaving.

AMBITIONS TO CREATE

Bunsa and Denault have wanted to join forces since studying architecture together at the University of Florida. Initially, their careers took them in different directions, with Denault pursuing interior design in Miami and Bunsa earning her

master's degree in architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design and launching her own design studio in New York City. Now, Bunsa Studio Interiors operates out of the WorklRoom space.

The two quickly homed in on the Moore Building, a vintage piece of architecture in the modern setting of the Design District. "We carry new production and vintage pieces and show them in the space together," Denault said. "It was perfect!"

It's also centrally located to Bunsa, who lives in The Roads with her husband and 4-year-old son, and Denault, who lives on Miami Beach with her husband and three school-aged children.

Their future looks as bright and colorful as the art they're bringing to Miami. Among their goals is to design their own furniture and fabricate the pieces locally. "We work well together because we are both real with each other," Bunsa said. "We know each other's strengths, and we give each other space to do what we're both good at."

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