



PORTRAIT: JONATHAN BECKERMAN, OPPOSITE: ARTHUR EVANS, TOP RIGHT: BOB HUNSICKER, 2008.

Mira Nakashima at home in New Hope amongst the fine wooden pieces she and her father have crafted over the years. *Opposite:* The work of ceramic artist Toshiko Takaezu, one of Nakashima's professed design inspirations, on display at the Tang Museum in 2002.

While some would argue that Mira Nakashima's love of design and form was a product of nature—she's the daughter of world-renowned architect and woodworker George Nakashima—she certainly did her fair share of nurturing. After pursuing a degree in architectural sciences from Harvard, she took her post-graduate studies to Tokyo and trained under celebrated Gaudi disciple Kenji Imai. It's only fitting, though, that she truly hit her stride when she returned to her family homestead in New Hope, Pennsylvania. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the compound is where Mira's father built the furniture that would come to define his aesthetic and her life. "Dad always worked at home, so I got to see what he was doing every day," she says. "I've never done anything else." That remains true, even 41 years later and nearly 22 years after his death, as she continues his tradition, building pieces for clients that are rooted in fine craftsmanship and respect for the trees and wood from which they came. *nakashimawoodworker.com; 215.862.2272*



Designed by Nakashima in 2003, the Concordia chair is constructed of English walnut and pays homage to her father with its signature butterfly joint.

HEARTS AND CRAFT

MIRA NAKASHIMA



Work approach:

I try to respect the wood itself, which has a form and a life of its own, then try to make something that's beautiful, as well as useful.

Design icons:

Harry Bertoia, Mario Salvadori, Masayuki Nagare and Toshiko Takaezu.

Current projects:

I just closed a show at Michael S. Smith's Duke & Duke Gallery in California. I'm also doing a series of presentations with Wendy Maruyama in San Diego and a show at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle.

Favorite decorating sources:

I love Design Within Reach stateside, but I'm also enamored of the offerings at Fukudaya in Takamatsu and Bingoya in Tokyo.

Tools of the trade:

A 16-foot measuring tape with both English and metric marks, chalk, a pencil and paper.

I'm reading...

Steve Jobs, by Walter Isaacson, and *Common Sense Spirituality*, by David Steindl-Rast.