

ARCHITECTS



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SUBU DESIGN ARCHITECTURE

Listening is the most important factor in architect May Sung's creative approach. As the founder and principal of SUBU Design Architecture, she seeks to bring out clients' personalities by telling their story through her award-winning designs. Such conscious reflection speaks to the warmth and character reflected in her and her team's work. "Every piece within our creations is uniquely individualized to the client, whether it's the bespoke detail or the playful character," she says. Not surprisingly, SUBU's list of repeat clients is long. What started in 2010 with a remodel of a 16-unit, mixed-use historic Brutalist building, led to custom residential projects throughout Southern California, an extensive renovation of a historic boutique hotel in downtown Palm Springs, and a recently completed luxury mountaintop retreat in Aspen. "I've been fortunate to have had clients that I have developed relationships with," she says. "I've just recently completed the third home for a client who I've collaborated with for 15 years." While Sung's Taiwanese heritage and West Coast upbringing inspired her reverence for the Asian aesthetics of craftsmanship, her education on the East Coast exposed her to early European modernists, such as Le Corbusier and Alvar Aalto. As a result, Sung captures the true essence of the yin and yang of great design.



Ask the Expert

What are some of the ways clients can work with trade professionals to ensure a painless design process?

Be open-minded and always, always, always trust your trade professionals. I find I do my best work when my clients give me freedom and a clear vision.

What type of project or location would you love to take on or work in ... that you haven't already?

A net-zero residence in Alaska.

What is the next move for your firm?

We're excited about the dynamic designs and decors we are creating for our current projects and look forward to expanding into our own line of SUBU furnishings and fixtures.



1. & 2. A view from the pool, left, and the entry view, right, of a Manhattan Beach residence.

1. & 2. Photography by Manolo Langis