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Above: Old Naples beach house living room designed by Koastal Design Group - Kira Krümm & Co.  
Opposite page: Designer Kira Krümm on the beach in Naples.

## INSPIRATION: *A Designer's Perspective*

By Kira Krümm  
Principal Interior Designer & Owner  
Koastal Design Group - Kira Krümm & Co.



Randall Perry Photography

AS AN ARTIST, I have spent my life admiring the natural beauty around us, gathering inspiration through sensory experiences within my environment. From sand, stone, and organic wood textures, to the ocean waves, and metallic quality of certain minerals, nature has always had the most impact on my creative expression. As any artist would agree, we must remain inspired in order to exist, and we must create in order to survive. It was only natural for me to seek a career in interior design allowing my passion for the beauty of our natural environment to thrive by creating designed environments in which we live.

AS AN INTERIOR DESIGNER, I have spent the past three decades traveling the world to gather inspiration, creating spaces that reflect the colors, patterns, and textures of our natural surroundings. As much as I love the subtropical environment of Southwest Florida, it has been critical for my growth as an artist to step out of my comfort zone and explore uncharted locales. It keeps me open minded, introduces new visuals, thus providing a plethora of new inspiration.



Mia Inger Photography

I have found a particular fascination in Eastern cultures and philosophy which has led to my professional travels throughout Asia in the past decade. I have had the privilege of working on various international design projects, including launching my product line, the Kira Krümm Koastal Kollektion, to the Chinese luxury design market in 2012.



Above: Master bedroom interior designed by Koastal Design Group - Kira Krümm & Co., featuring custom bedding in various textures.

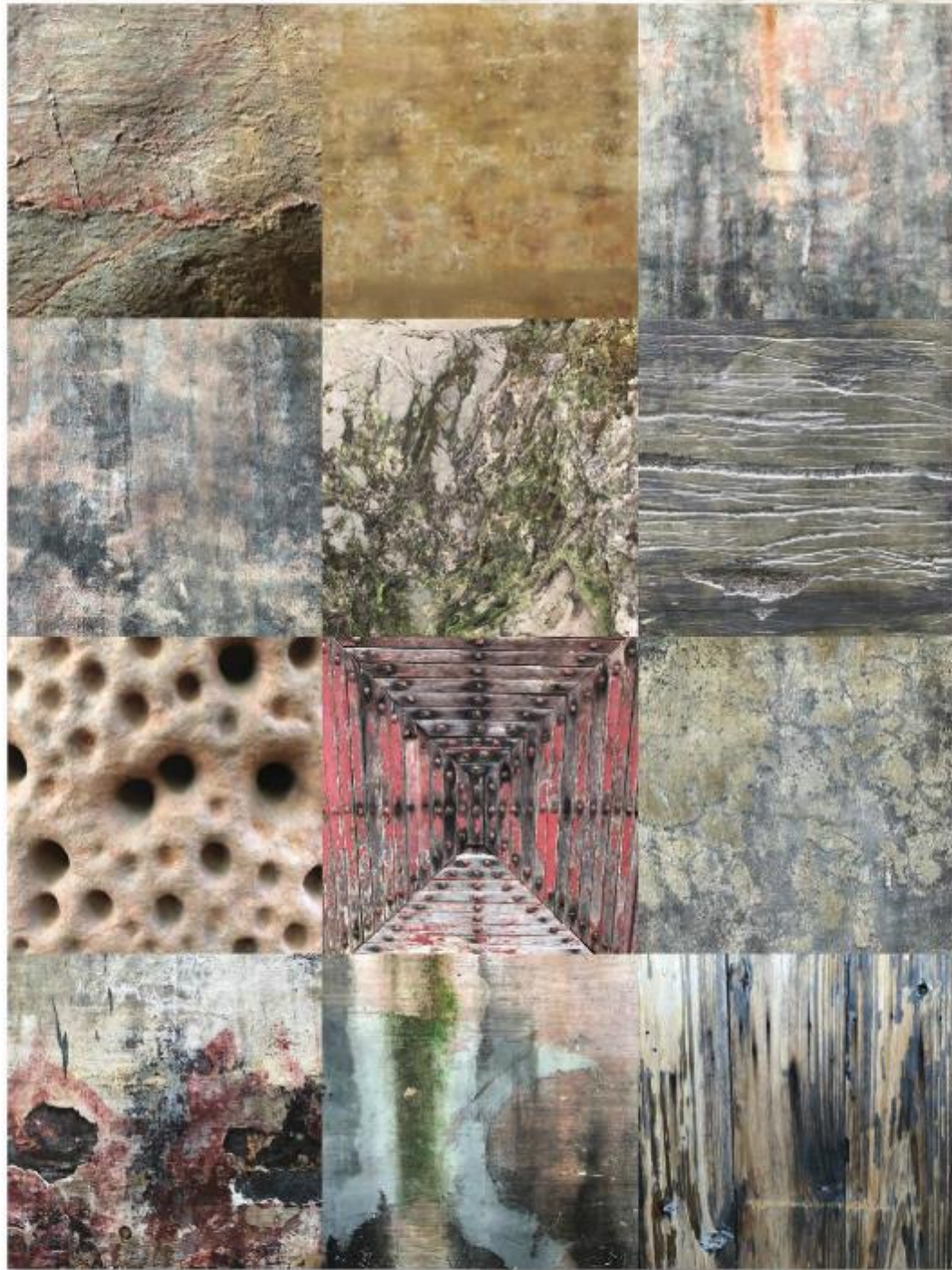
Opposite page: Among the driftwood with Koastal Kollektion pillows, Cape Romano, Fl.



It wasn't until last summer that I was given the opportunity to travel back to China, this time on a purely personal journey. One of my lifelong passions has been martial arts and I have been practicing Tai Chi, Shaolin-Do for many years. Last summer, the Grand Master of Shaolin-Do, Master Sin Thé, invited me on a two-week spiritual excursion to the remote Wuyi Mountains of China, the birth place of ancient Kung Fu. It was on this retreat that I was able to slow down from the fast-paced professional routine and focus fully on the experience in that environment. We had departed from bright city lights, loud automobiles, and even functioning wi-fi connections, to instead explore ancient Buddhist Temples, tea houses, and remote mountain terrain.

*Top: Elephant Trunk Mountain, Guilin, China.  
Bottom: Stone Buddha carving, Lingyin Temple, Hangzhou, China.  
Opposite page: Ancient Chinese characters carved into mountainside*





I began to observe the exquisite textures around us, from the man-made ancient stone walls distressed over time, and centuries old Buddhists carvings on a mountainside, to the layers of lush green tea farms stacked up a hillside, and neon light displays on stalactite covered cave walls.



It spoke to nature's interaction with man and the beauty in the most weathered objects. These physical entities reveal the textures of their experiences, as with man, encompassing the unique essence of it's being. Each texture was like a fingerprint, a wrinkle, reflecting the lifespan of the object. Encountering them is like encountering a work of art, a snapshot of history, or peering into the soul of the object.

I found these visuals so inspiring that I began collecting images of them to reference for inspiration in my design work and to share with others who have a love for beauty.