

ROCK ROBINS

How would you define your style?

I would like to brand my design style as transitional. I like mixing classical elements with modern ones and vice versa.

What prompted you to be an interior designer?

I have always been fascinated with interior design. Growing up, my parents exposed me to the nature of our family business, La Europa Ceramica. Through traveling and attending international furniture fairs, building expos and the likes, I was inspired to pursue a career related to the field.

What is your favorite project?

Currently, my favorite project is Refinery Salcedo. It is a restaurant/cafe/bar that just recently opened and I believe my team did a really great job with it. When we challenge ourselves to do something that is outside our comfort zones, we also learn new things on how to solve design issues.

How important is it to have a good working relationship with your clients?

It is extremely important. Just like a love team, the chemistry between client and designer may make or break a great design. A successful project is a marriage between the wants and needs of the client and the aesthetic of the designer.

What is the single most important lesson you learned at work?

Always keep your cool and try to be more patient. Interior design is fun, so let it be fun when you do it. While as professional designers, we are aware of the many benefits of good design and we are expected to communicate these benefits to the clients, you have to find ways on how not to be affected by the issues that arise from work.

How do you combine beauty and function?

I feel this is something that really depends on the client's preferences and requirements. Some will find function to be more important than form. But if I have free rein over the design, I would always go for form, then function. In this way, I can be more creative and adventurous when designing a space.

What do you consider great design?

Great design for me is something that transforms an ordinary space into something beautiful and functional. I always believe that the design is successful when you feel something when you enter a space. Whether it's supposed to calm you down, make you happy, or edgy—whatever the original intention of the space is, and you felt it the moment you stepped in, that's great design.

What is the future of interior design?

The future of the industry is really bright. Interior design used to be a luxury but now it has become a necessity. No retail, commercial, or residential space would be successful without the help of a professional interior designer. ■

