

ASPEN MASTERS of DESIGN

JAMIE OLSEN ALI & RICHARD MULLEN

**They're known for ...**

The duo first met at the University of Texas, Austin where they were obtaining their Masters in Architecture. After running their own firms for several years with similar philosophies and paths that crossed repeatedly in Aspen and Dallas, they joined forces in 2016 and founded DEMESNE. Balking trends, their unique approach to design is evoked through problem solving and careful consideration of place. "We both come from a philosophy rooted in contextualism; how a building fits into its environment with respect to the site, climate, and other variables, but also creating beauty within that context," Jamie says. Richard approaches architecture from a place of logic. "We look at design as creative problem solving, providing very specific solutions for very specific problems."

They chose this field because ...

Growing up overseas, Richard was fascinated with how architecture differed from one country and culture to the next, but the desire to create came from an even deeper calling. "From my earliest memories I have always wanted to be in a creative field," he says. For Jamie, it was about the medium. "It's so much fun to see your creation come out of the ground and take life. It's a long-lasting piece of functional art interacting with the land. It's such a rewarding profession to be able to see your ideas come to life in 3D in a very large scale." Because they view the interior and exterior of a building being inextricably interlinked, their firm designs both the architecture and the interiors of their projects, for hospitality, residential and commercial clients.

Their aesthetic is...

Entirely dependent on the project. "You can't pinpoint what our style is because we're not applying styles per se, we're just creatively solving problems," Richard says.

Inspired by ...

Everything, everywhere. "I find inspiration in the most unusual and unexpected places," Richard says. "The way a particular plant flowers or the way the ocean leaves its patterns on the sand. You have no idea where inspiration comes from, it just sort of finds you and all of a sudden you have an epiphany, and it's off to the races."

MANAGING PARTNERS

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