

Michael Wolk

While attending Pratt Institute, Michael Wolk designed and built some of the furnishings for legendary musician John Lennon and his wife Yoko Ono's studio. Working for JOKO Recording Studio decided his future. In 1973, he graduated from Pratt with honors and the determination to design interiors and furniture for those with the same passion for art as his most famous clients. He spent the next two years designing and building furniture and furnishings for mostly Latin American clientele in Miami.

In 1975, Wolk realized that he needed fresh ideas and inspiration. He began to travel, first throughout the United States, going as far as San Francisco and Hawaii, and eventually around the world, to Fiji and New Zealand. As he traveled, he continued to design and work for clients, employing local artisans to build his current projects.

In 1976, Wolk returned to the United States, re-established his design company, and merged his firm with that of two other Pratt graduates. For the next eight years he was a principal in one of Florida's premier graphic, interior and industrial design firms. The firm continued to expand over the years, eventually employing 25 designers and support staff.

Eventually Wolk chose to re-open his own design firm, Michael Wolk Design Associates. As president and creative director, Wolk is involved with the creation of every design for every client. He and his staff of talented designers provide comprehensive design services for clients throughout Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as here in the United States.

From John Lennon to the Warner Brothers film *Batman Returns*, Wolk's client list includes names known worldwide. He has designed country clubs and resorts, restaurants and epicurean grocery stores, banks and law firms, residences and yachts. He has also designed licensed products for race car champion Emerson Fittipaldi and has won commissions for art in public places in Florida and Maryland.

The ABC television series *Grapevine* shot its pilot show at Wolk's home and incorporated his furniture designs in key scenes. (The show didn't last, but the coffee table still sells well!) Wolk's work has also appeared in newspapers, magazines and books, and he has authored a coffee table book titled *Designing for the Table*.

In addition to his work, he continues to teach and lecture about his passion: design.