

**EXPERTEASE**  
**ROBERT SONNEMAN**  
**A WAY OF LIGHT**

MICHELE KEITH

A pioneer in contemporary lighting for more than 50 years, Robert Sonneman continues to create illumination that pushes the boundaries of design and technological innovation.



**LOCATION:** Larchmont, NY. **STUDIO:** 8,000 square feet. **MEDIUM/SERVICES:** Lighting that integrates art with technology, made of such modern materials as chrome, stainless steel and glass, for commercial and residential use. **LATEST PROJECT:** A reimagining of Sonneman's iconic lights from the 1960s and 1970s for the RH Fall 2016 collection done in solid brass. Having moved on to approaching product with high-tech methods, revisiting the fabrication style required brought the designer back to the era of hand-forged, one-at-a-time processes. **WORK LOAD:** The Sonneman team releases an average of 100 new products in 30 collections annually. Favorites this year are Suspenders, Inside Out, Grapes and Stix. **BUSINESS MANTRA:** Good design is a state of mind, as well as a state of being. Achieved by the power of the vision, it demands attention without limits, the passion to do it well and the character to accept no less than your best. **HONORS:** Sonneman's work has been exhibited at NYC's MoMA and Cooper-Hewitt Museum, Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, and Philadelphia Museum of Art. **EXTRA CURRICULAR:** Active in design education, Sonneman lectures frequently and serves on the advisory boards of Pratt School of Architecture, Parsons School of Design and ArtCenter College of Design (CA).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONNEMAN - A WAY OF LIGHT



**What are the trends we should look for in 2017?**

I generally avoid trends as guides to inspiration. I don't try to be different for its own sake. I try to bring a new or interesting approach to the design objective.

**What comes first for you, technology or aesthetics?**

I normally think in terms of a hierarchy of form, construction, application and utility, but the process is so integrated that ... it evolves into a synchronous process from conceptualization through development ... producing a constant push-pull between achieving the aesthetic vision and realizing the functional purpose.

**What is one of your key design objectives?**

Keep the idea simple and straightforward, and execute it as minimally as possible.

**What would be your ultimate lighting project?**

Scale is our next frontier. It would be challenging to imagine a broad lighting application for a big architectural project. It would push us to investigate, innovate and discover new insights.

**Q & A**

**Antibes Collection**  
**Key to the group's visual distinction is the diamond-shaped, nailhead motif**



**LAUNCH**  
**JONATHAN ADLER**  
**INTRODUCES**  
**THE ANTIBES COLLECTION**

The name conjures visions of jet-setting socialites lazing upon chaises longues on the French Riviera.

But it was actually the more prosaic idea of a "soft corner," a more biomorphic shape than is usually seen in cabinets and casegoods, that inspired Jonathan Adler's 10-piece Antibes Collection.

Likening the design to a musical score, Adler, who first attracted fame with his hand-made ceramics in 1993, and has since expanded into home furnishings sold worldwide among other ventures, says, "... you need a melody, which in this case is the organic form, and then you need the harmony," or contrasting elements. The pieces, all of which can easily be imagined in a range of stylistic environments, are fashioned of rubberwood in a honeyed oak finish, sanded and oiled to reveal its natural beauty, blackened steel for bases and legs, and neutral-toned linen.

Key to the group's visual distinction is the diamond-shaped, nailhead motif featured on all the pieces excepting the mirror and cocktail table. Adding a hint of both the ancient tribal and contemporary naivete, it's the perfect counterpoint to the soft shapes and warm wood tones, "strong and simple," as Adler says.

Beyond good looks and excellent craftsmanship, the self-proclaimed "tortured designer" demands that his work function perfectly. I think when something is well designed it doesn't look 'designed,'" he says. "It just looks like it's supposed to be that way." Antibes is symbolic of his high standards. MICHELE KEITH



**VOTED**  
**MOST UNIQUE**  
**LOBBY**  
**CONCEPT**  
 BY  
**ASPIRE DESIGN AND HOME**



**THE NEW LOBBYIST**  
**THE RITZ-CARLTON RESIDENCES**  
**MIAMI BEACH**

Created to feel like a family-style village rather than one huge, monolithic development, The Ritz-Carlton Residences, Miami Beach is celebrating Italian architect Piero Lissoni's first full-scale architectural project in the U.S. The property consists of 111 condominium residences and a limited collection of 15 Lissoni-designed, stand-alone villa residences. Every space throughout the expansive seven-acre property has been thought through to perfection, whether indoors or outdoors.

Owners will have full access to the residences' distinctive selection of world-class, hotel-style and life-enriching amenities and concierge services managed through the Ritz-Carlton, including custom Boffi kitchens and baths, gardens, pools, entertainment spaces and 36 private boat dockages. Additional services include a captained VanDutch 40-day yacht, the world's first residential art studio, a private cinema-style screening room, an indoor-outdoor spa, a state-of-the-art fitness center, a half-acre rooftop pool deck with private cabanas and a gourmet restaurant, pet grooming facilities, indoor and outdoor yoga studios, a meditation garden, carwash facilities, and a waterfront bar and social room. [theresidencesmiamibeach.com](http://theresidencesmiamibeach.com)

