

# M2WOMAN

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JAN/FEB 2015

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*"The more  
you trust your  
intuition, the  
more empowered  
you become"*

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SAFARI CHIC, CLUB TROPICANA, BEACH QUEEN



# A LEGACY IN STYLE

*A home is something sacred. Spaces that are entirely our own that are a visible, tangible translation of who we are – which is what is so exciting about the potential it has to manifest itself as a complete reflection of ourselves. Debbi Cavit, Managing Director of Cavit & Co, is no stranger to the living dynamism of interior design in all its elements, epitomising a philosophy she has long held of living with beauty and enduring style. Here she shares with M2woman her insights into her passion for design and what's hot for 2015.*



Henzon Ring Leader  
Dining Table & Bowmont  
Side Chair by Barbara Barry.



**What determined your passion for design? Tell us about the moment when you decided this is the way to go.** I have always had a deep appreciation of beautiful things. Whether this is a fabulous piece of glass, which has the perfect balance of colour, luminosity and proportion; a beautiful calm room; a restful garden or natural landscape. I have always been sensitive to my own physical environment and know how important it is to be in a space you feel comfortable in. I utilise this understanding in helping our clients create a beautiful space they feel at peace in. I have been fortunate in the last 25 years to have had the opportunity to help many people create beautiful homes.

**How would you describe Cavit&Co's "ethos" for its products and overall image?** We always aim to create timeless interiors for our clients. We start with a discussion to see how our clients want to live, what their hobbies are and how their family works within their home. We work closely with them to select finishes and items, which we think will best achieve their desired design. We then have the wonderful experience of watching our clients enjoy a well-considered outcome. We work with clients who have homes throughout New Zealand and from city residences to country homes and beach houses. It's wonderful to have such a diverse range of products available so that we can make specific selections to reflect their different interests, locations and lifestyles.

We also feel very privileged to be working with clients who understand the intrinsic value of creating a beautiful interior; who understand the value of good design and the joy it can bring to an individual or family to live in a well-designed and well-appointed home with a beautifully curated selection of pieces.

**How do you pick the store's collection?** We work with designers and manufacturers from around the world who create the finest pieces, using the best quality materials and manufacture to the highest standards. We always look for the "best of type" when we research and obtain new collections.

These ranges can be as broadly based as Baxter who go to exacting lengths to make contemporary furnishings from the best quality leather in Italy; to Lalique who produces some of the finest crystal in France; to Frette who unquestionably makes the finest Egyptian cotton bed linen in Italy; to Verellen who make the most comfortable sofas we have found available in the world; to mention just a few of our collections.

**Which major events do you attend to find the latest designs?** I attend MAISON&OBJET in Paris, the Milan Furniture Fair and Highpoint in the USA and occasionally Decorex in London to be sure I am in touch with the finest manufacturers from around the world.

**What is at the heart of your design philosophy?** Timeless design. Our interiors are uncluttered, easy to live in, and utilise the best in product design. We like to reflect our client's personal style rather than sticking rigidly to fashion, which comes and goes. This can be a simple contemporary interior with walnut timbers and bronze detailing, and fabulous textured fabrics with some simple smaller block colour accents. We can create a more feminine interior utilising the Henredon range from Barbara Barry as the main stay with Baker and McGuire, or the diversity of contemporary through to rustic, to traditional that Ralph Lauren Home provides in their extensive collection.

**What is your philosophy on design and life?** Have things in your home that bring you joy. Only buy what you love. Buy once and buy well. Buy the best quality you can afford. Only buy originals as you will always be disappointed with cheaper copies.

You should select your home furnishings the way you would build a good wardrobe by spending money on the major items, which will stand the test of time and then if there needs to be compromise, do this on the smaller, easily replaceable items.

Aim for a timeless interior that reflects your personal style. It is important for everyone to have a beautiful personal haven away from the crowds, pressure and rush of everyday life that reflects what their passions are, and have a home they will enjoy sharing with friends and family.

**What colours are going to be hot for 2015?** Blue is coming through very strongly this season whether it is my personal favourite, Prussian Blue through to Navy. Most of our suppliers have blues in their collection this season. Accents in the colours of semi-precious stones of amber, turquoise, jade, with the colour of ripe figs and the ever present neutrals.

**What types of materials are going to be hot for 2015?** Velvets, chenilles, textures. Stripes are strong this season. Many patterns are Indian inspired with paisleys plus batik deconstructed patterns. Florals are back but with huge scale.


**What are your top tips for creating the perfect interior?** Work through from room to room in a manner that makes the journey smooth. This is from the wall colours, which can vary tonally, but should not change dramatically in intensity. The colours should reflect the outlook where possible to bring the outdoors in and visually enlarge the rooms. Carry through the same detailing, even if in different finishes throughout the house. Create a cohesive whole and it will feel far more expansive and restful.

It is also always wise to get professional help. The cost of having a professional designer is easily offset by not making just one mistake on the colour you paint your walls, or the height you hang your curtains.

**Where do you draw your inspiration from?** From various periods in design, from nature, from the creators of stunning products. I just love a perfectly balanced and finished item whether it is a stunning Murano glass lamp, a beautiful cashmere throw or a fabulous sofa.

**What do you collect?** I personally love glass as art and have several pieces of Robert Kuo Peking glass at home, and I have a beautiful Verona Lalique crystal vase, which I adore. I also love bronze as a decorative feature and as an art form.

**Which materials/techniques do you love the most?** Uncluttered, refined, pure forms of exquisite quality. But never minimalist. We like to create warm and inviting homes whether the style is contemporary or traditional. It is all in the detail and being able to pare back. It can be the things you don't add to an interior that makes the interior stunning.

**What does the word "luxury" mean to you?** It is an interesting question – and everyone will have a different interpretation. Luxury to me can just be time away from the office to make jam on a hot, late summer day or time to merely sit and contemplate or time with my daughters, family and friends. However, I think most would interpret it to be in a physical form so luxury is that special piece, which makes you smile in appreciation every time you see it or use it. This can be anything from a beautiful piece of furniture, which you have long admired, to getting into bed and feeling fabulous Frette sheets wrap around you, to a fabulous out of the ordinary experience. 



Lalique, "Courlis" Vase.