

# DESIGNER TIMELINE: Jamie Drake

## A brief history of a brilliant career

PRODUCED BY KELLY VELOCCI

### 1957

Jamie Drake is born in Woodbridge, Connecticut, to parents who love interior design and encourage him to pursue the arts. "I wanted black patent-leather walls in my bedroom," he recalls. "My mother begged me to choose a different color, and when it finally went up, I said, 'Yes, that's exactly how I envisioned it!'"

Drake's affinity for color is evident in these vibrant sketches of his from childhood.



### 1997

Madonna hires him to design her Los Angeles home, and he receives his first overseas job, a flat in London.

### 1995

Participates in his first two showhouses, which open a week apart. "It was wildly ambitious, but it came off well."

### 1973

While still in high school, he begins working as an assistant at a commercial design firm in New Haven. "I already knew that I wanted to be a decorator, but I felt like I was getting a jump-start just by being there."

### 1975

Moves to New York, where he attends Parsons School of Design and lands a summer internship with renowned decorator Angelo Donghia (near). "It was a wonderful, valuable experience. I remember the luxurious quality of his work and how well he carried out his vision."

### 1978

Only three days after graduating from Parsons, he launches Drake Design Associates, with two residential commissions on Fifth Avenue as his first projects. "I didn't feel nervous, but I should have been bolder and more adamant about my design choices early on. You have to speak up and insist on expressing yourself."

### 1986

Secures his largest project to date, the renovation of an Upper East Side townhouse, which is featured on a popular house tour three years later.

### 2000

Becomes a board member of Alpha Workshops. He has been a board chair since 2008.

### 2002

Makes his debut at the Kips Bay Decorator Show House, where he designs a bold sitting area with tangerine tufted-silk walls (acov), and begins refurbishing Grace Mansion (LRT) at the request of longtime client and newly elected New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg. "On the first anniversary of September 11, everyone who worked on the residence stood on the front porch and held hands in a moment of silence. It was such an honor to work on that project during a time when New York's resilience was being tested."

### 2010

Receives the Innovator award at the CTC&G IDAs.

### 2011

Moves into a light-filled apartment in the much-ballyhooed 200 11th Avenue, designed by architect Annabelle Selldorf and featuring 16-foot ceilings and private garages for every unit. "I love the volume of the space and the treetop views across the Hudson River."

### 2015

Receives an honorary doctorate from the New York School of Interior Design.

### 2004

Unveils his first product collection, a line of rugs for Roubini. He goes on to enjoy collaborations with such companies as THG (acov), Schumacher, Edward Fennell & Lewis Mittman, and Stark.

### 2005

Publishes Jamie Drake's New American Glamour (Bulfinch Press).

Jamie Drake's



New American  
GLAMOUR

Principal photography by William Wadden

### 2016

Joins forces with Celeb Anderson, a former intern, to create Drake/Anderson. "After 38 years in business, I began wanting a partner. I came up with a list of people, and Celeb was at the top. I'm very proud and excited about what's to come."

