

MARIA YEE®



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Custom, hospitality, omosa house



About

Maria Yee, Inc. is a California contemporary furniture design studio established in 1988 in Scotts Valley, California with a focus on wellness, material, and craft.

Born in the Southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, Maria Yee grew up dreaming of studying physics and the home and furniture she would have. Little did she know she would become an eco-design pioneer and established her namesake furniture company in Scotts Valley, California in 1988.





Her design journey began in the early 1980s in Beijing. Maria studied classical Chinese joinery with a master craftsman who restored furniture for the Forbidden City. Throughout the exploration of antique furniture, she was amazed by the creativity and the craftsmanship of solid hardwood joinery. The three-dimensional interlocking techniques would enable architecture with wooden structures lasting for thousands of years.

Through her visits to museums and treasured collections Maria fell in love with the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) elegant and timeless furniture art forms. She was proud of what the old masters had achieved.

After moving to California in 1988, Maria decided to introduce antique reproduction furniture from a small Beijing workshop to the US.

However, Maria soon found herself confronted with issue after issue as the seasons changed. Some furniture began to warp, crack and split, especially in New York, Colorado and Alaska.

Trained as a mechanical engineer Maria knew submerged wood would expand and contract if then dried. She was sure weather had something to do with it and proceeded to gather as much data as possible.

Maria plunged herself into the history of joinery furniture making in China. She analyzed the raw material, design and production technique. Finally, an unmistakable theme revealed itself: Solid hardwood furniture was custom made close to the home!

With characteristic Maria Yee energy and enthusiasm, she spent the next 10 years redefining and reengineering the joinery techniques. The result is her proprietary system aptly named BreathingJoinery™ which capably stands up to the driest deserts and the wettest rainforests.



An early table with a wood beam jutting from the side after warping. Maria would spend the next ten years reengineering joinery techniques to completely eliminate such issues



Simultaneously Maria started to modernize the Ming designs to complement the California contemporary lifestyles. Her comfortable, ergonomic furniture became sought after items not just in San Francisco, but throughout the US and Canada.

Today, her work is featured in the Forbidden City, and her expertise is sought after by museums focusing on traditional furniture. Though she began with traditional work from the Ming dynasty, she has since expanded into contemporary furniture, working with brands including Muji, Room & Board, and Crate & Barrel.

Design Philosophy



“I wanted to create a California contemporary lifestyle that focuses on wellness living, natural materials and hand craftsmanship. In the modern world, people are facing more complicated challenges and working under high speed and pressure. Through our designs, I wanted to help people create homes that are simple, modern but warm, connected to nature, uniquely fit for individual comfort, with a style that mixes with cultures from around the world.”



Maria Yee believes in holistic design, and the idea that every step in the process is vital.

All elements matter – from responsibly managing forests, fostering new growth to ecologically produced luxurious leathers to meticulously hand forged metal pulls. The brand works hard to sustainably source quality materials and to apply insistently honed techniques to breathe new life into classical craftsmanship.

Our furniture is crafted from sustainably harvested solid hardwood (no veneers or engineered wood!) and the highest quality European leather and fabrics.









Production



A photograph of a modern dining area featuring a dark wood table and matching chairs. On the table are several ceramic items, including a bowl and a vase. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Maria Yee owns and operates its own factories totaling 35 acres and one million square feet of production space.

Everything is made under one roof to better control the whole process - from design to quality standards.

Our factories operate using energy efficient hydronic heating and skylights, each measuring more than 420 feet in length, which eliminate the need for electrical lighting during the day. At night, energy efficient light bulbs are used.

Maria's commitments to the environment and society propelled her pioneering efforts to certify our production facilities with the FSC® Chain of Custody in 2008, ISO 9001 in 2008, ISO 14001 in 2010, and SA8000® in 2018.



Hunan



Guangzhou

Offerings





We span from one-off custom pieces to
production at scale for hospitality or contract
projects



Contract work for a project in Dalian, China



Inspired by the casual and modern California lifestyle, omosa house is a contemporary furniture brand from the Maria Yee Design Studio. We're a team of designers and creatives bringing to life designs that we'd love to have ourselves. Our passion and purpose is to marry the beauty of warm natural hardwoods and sustainable product innovation with functionality, modern clean lines, and impeccable details.

Our core values are built on tackling the environmental and the social challenges that we face today. All of our handcrafted pieces embrace eco-design innovation using sustainable materials, refined engineering, green manufacturing and best-in-class craftsmanship as we combine an authentic blend of solid hardwood furniture with high quality proprietary natural oil finishes for healthy and sustainable living. We believe the best products are the ones that will age well and stand the test of time.









www.mariayee.com

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Thank you