

SPARK: Lisa Kahn's eye-catching vision board



Jane Dagmi // Editor in Chief • February 10, 2020



Lisa created the wooden black tassel, which is covered with pages from a vintage book. She calls it her 'writer's block' and it makes her laugh when she's stuck on a writing project. Lisa painted the bee and fish.

While a spark of inspiration can come at any moment, many creatives collect visual stimuli — photographs, drawings swatches, scraps, odd bits — that trigger brilliant ideas. Whether it be a bunch of items pinned to a cork board, tucked into a ribbon board, taped in a scrapbook or rigged elsewhere, the editors at *Designers Today* want to know what lights you up. Here, Editor in Chief Jane Dagmi asks interior designer Lisa Kahn of Lisa Kahn Designs about what's on her vision board.

JD: Tell us about your vision board?

LK: I have a vision board because it is a place I capture things that inspire me and speak to my imagination. It's a mixture of everything: quotes, watercolors I've painted, phases of the moon, things my kids made when they were little, photographs, cards I've received, malas, sacred geometry diagrams — if it interests me, I pin it up. I also use it to remind me of what is important to me. It's a meaningful tool in my sanctuary lab at home and in my design studio.



Lisa Kahn

JD: How do you determine what goes up on it?

LK: It's anything that catches my eye and my imagination. It doesn't have to be on paper — I include beads, tassels, ornaments. I like my board to have some 3D elements.

JD: How often does it change?

LK: I add things to it all the time and a couple of times I year I give it a purge and take down things that don't seem as interesting to me anymore.

JD: Do you ever completely empty it?

LK: The only time I emptied it was when I moved. I have taken down sections of it to pin up specific things for a project I want to look at with a fresh perspective — seeing it up on the wall, as I work and do other things, lets me think about that project and roll it around in my mind. I think about it peripherally and many times out of that experience comes my most inspired ideas. Creativity in design can a fickle muse and I find that sometimes she appreciates not being stared directly in the eye.



JD: Are you persnickety when it comes to push pins and tacks?

LK: Not completely, but I do love a nice long pin with a mother of pearl tip on the end. I found a package at JoAnn Fabrics and liked them so much I went back and bought all the boxes they had in stock.

JD: Are you the kind of person who needs visual cues daily?

LK: Decidedly yes. It feeds part of my brain and part of my spirit.

Lisa Kahn's Vision board appeared in SPARK, a monthly column featuring glimpses of vision boards, pinboards, journals, inspiration walls, etc. devoted to your visual inspiration. We're looking for more interior designers, decorators, product designers and creatives to share theirs. To submit ideas for SPARK, go [here](#).



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