

L&G BIO & INFO

SHORT BIO:

Ladies & Gentlemen Studio is a Seattle based design studio with a focus on creating a diverse set of products from small objects, home decor goods, jewelry, to furniture, lighting, and beyond. Founded by Dylan Davis & Jean Lee in 2010, Ladies & Gentlemen Studio's playful explorations in materiality blend their resourceful curiosity with the desire to find unexpected pairings of material and function. Their open, multidisciplinary approach to design yields an unexpected, ever-evolving set of ideas and experiments collected from their everyday discoveries, explorations, and surroundings.

LONG BIO:

Founded by Dylan Davis and Jean Lee in 2010, Ladies & Gentlemen Studio is an independent design studio known for their home furnishing and lighting designs.

Inspired by the built environment, the natural world, and everyday people who flourish therein, Dylan and Jean believe that form, function and beauty are most often one and the same.

Their work is simple in form and material and exquisitely finished to achieve an understated, refined purity. These elements are playfully composed in their products to reflect a careful balance between utility, aesthetics, and expression.

The Studio practices an open, multidisciplinary approach to design that yields an unexpected, ever-evolving set of ideas and experiments collected from their everyday discoveries, explorations and surroundings. Fed by schooling in industrial design and experience in concept development and hands-on manufacturing, L & G creates a diverse set of products from small objects and jewelry to furniture and lighting, custom work and beyond from their Seattle HQ with help from established domestic manufacturers.

L&G Studio was part of the 2013 Sight Unseen's top 25 up & coming designer list. Their work has been featured in national and international press including: Elle Decoration, Fast Company, Dwell, Monocle, New York Times, New York Magazine, Wallpaper, Surface, Vogue Australia, Interior Design Magazine, Wall Street Journal, Luxe Magazine, Bon Appetit, Martha Stewart, Anthology, and more.

Please see their full press list on their [press page](#).

QUICK FACTS ABOUT L&G

Founders: Jean Lee (32) / Dylan Davis (31)

Based in: Ballard neighborhood, Seattle, WA

Year started: 2010

Where we met: in college at University of Washington, we both studied in the same program (industrial design)

ABOUT JEAN:

Born in: Taipei, Taiwan (1982)

Grew up in: Eugene, OR

Education: University of Washington, BFA in Industrial Design, Japanese Linguistics

Work background: Designer at R.E.Load bags (designing softgoods), Co-Founder of R&L Goods (designing softgoods)

Fav designer/artists: Enzo Mari, Isamu Noguchi, Formafantasma

Fav quote: *"you can find out how to do something and then do it or you can do something and then find out what you did."* -Isamu Noguchi

ABOUT DYLAN:

Born in: Sarnia, Canada (1983)

Grew up in: Port Huron, MI

Education: University of Washington, BFA in Industrial Design

Work background: Henrybuilt (designer/engineer for modern kitchen systems)

Fav designer/artists: Dieter Rams, Charles & Ray Eames

Fav quote: *"Good design is making something intelligible and memorable. Great design is making something memorable and meaningful."* -Dieter Rams.

WHAT DOES L&G STUDIO LOOK LIKE:

Our studio/home is a duplex that was built in 1962 in Ballard Neighborhood of Seattle. It has mid-century lines, but is nothing architecturally significant. We've renovated just about every room in the house with the aim of something complementing and enhancing the architecture. Everything has a bit of a Japanese feel to it, lots of simple lines with basic warm materials. We have a lot of open shelves and this is where we display a rather eclectic mix of things from vintage objects, art works, family heirlooms, tools, to materials samples and prototypes. It's what we like to call it organized chaos with a bit reminiscent of the Eames' home.

HOW L&G STARTED:

Jean and I both studied Industrial Design at the University of Washington in Seattle and graduated in 2005. This is where we first met and where we got to get to know each other and working together before we even became romantically involved. We realize over time how well we worked together and how compatible we are, and the rest is history.

Following school, we both worked day-jobs designing and making products for other local Seattle companies (Jean for R&L Goods a producer of soft goods and Dylan for

Henrybuilt, a luxury kitchen manufacturer). While these jobs taught us a lot, we found ourselves with all these ideas that we wanted to make and so we first started dabbling with designing things for fun because of our friends (Jamie & Brian of Iacoli & McAllister) started a design collective in Seattle called JOIN Design in 2008. At that time there wasn't much of an independent design scene in Seattle. So we organized some local group shows as an excuse to create a design scene and to meet like-minded people. We weren't necessarily aware of this at that time, but I think that people started to identify small design collectives and independent design studios like ours as part of a resurgence of independent design in the states.

L&G's DESIGN PROCESS:

Short Answer: We're both very hands-on people, so the two most important process for us is to sketch (we both can't live without our notebooks) and to play with materials to make prototypes. We have to be able to work with tangible forms to see them from various angles and manipulate it in real time.

Long Answer: Our main interest is in the exploratory process of mixing materials and shapes in elemental, functional ways. A sizable chunk of our design process happens on and around the shelves that line every room in our home studio. Everything on our shelves, obviously usable or not, serves as our 3D inspiration board. We experiment in real-time composing these scrap pieces and basic shapes of materials and composing like building blocks to build products.

We surround ourselves with things that inspires us so we often look through old books, browse our collection of vintage findings, playing with material samples we have, or look at photos we take during our travels. Everyday we start with 30 minutes together as a studio (including our assistant) to do rapid ideation sketch exercises inspired by books and photos that inspire us. Any ideas are good ideas here and this gets us thinking everyday about new possibilities.

L&G'S INSPIRATIONS

Short Answer: We love the Japanese perfectionist/wabi sabi philosophy, the simple cleverness of the Scandinavian lifestyle, and the expressiveness of the Italian ways.

Long Answer: We have always been inspired by Scandinavian design: the understated simplicity and honesty of it. We actually live in an Scandinavian neighborhood in Seattle and see a lot of similarities between Seattleites and the Scandinavians in culture, the scenery, the lifestyle, and even similar in ways that people are more reserved and shy. I think that's why we feel such a strong connection.

We're also really drawn to design & craft culture in Japan. Jean has studied in Japan multiple times and also there's a big Japanese history in Seattle. This is another major reason we're drawn to the less is more philosophy and looking at material in its purist form while celebrating their innate characters.

While we don't necessarily subscribe to the "loudness" of the Memphis approach, we do appreciate their creativity and courage to completely up-end the status quo. It taught the design world that "function" isn't always obvious, formulaic, or serious. We believe that some level of playfulness is an important part of life and reminding us to not take things too seriously.

ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT L&G VIA PRESS INTERVIEWS & STUDIO TOURS:

[Design Milk](#) / [Sight Unseen](#) / [Architectural Digest](#) / [Mine Is Yours](#) / [Apartment Therapy](#) / [Warby Parker](#) / [Nordstrom](#) /