



## MEDIA KIT



# ABOUT US

By synthesizing functionality and elegance, DADO breathes vibrance and utility in to each and every location it's designers take on. A vision for cruise ship and hospitality design brought the four founders of Studio DADO together; their personal adventures set them apart. Established in November 2016, this Miami-based boutique design studio brings decades of passion and experience to your unique space.

Studio DADO has ranked #58 out of 200 hospitality design firms in Interior Design's 2018 Hospitality Giants.

## OUR VALUES

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To awaken the senses through hospitality design that infuses celebration with functionality. The firm's uncomplicated, yet collaborative boutique-like design approach translates into flexibility, adaptability and agility, which are not commonly offered by traditional firms. The most important part of our process is implementation. We are obsessive about details and the end result. From complete contract documents, to site visits and post design surveys. Studio DADO remains engaged well after the guests have come and gone.

## OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

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*From Left to Right:  
Greg Walton,  
Yohandel Ruiz,  
Javier Calle,  
Jorge L. Mesa*



# PORTFOLIO

With 60+ combined years of hospitality design experience between the four founding partners, the Studio DADO design team of fourteen is responsible for transforming some of the most impressive spaces on board cruise ships.

The firm's uncomplicated, yet collaborative boutique-like approach translates into flexibility, adaptability and agility, which are not commonly offered by traditional design firms. Initial projects as a new company included the redesign of Norwegian Bliss' seafood restaurant, Ocean Blue, as well as Teppanyaki, their Japanese hibachi restaurant, and the chocolatier for Norwegian's dessert nirvana, Coco's.

## OCEAN BLUE



Inspired by the Pacific Northwest, Ocean Blue seafood restaurant aboard Norwegian Bliss invokes sentiments of freshness, of adventure, and of authenticity.

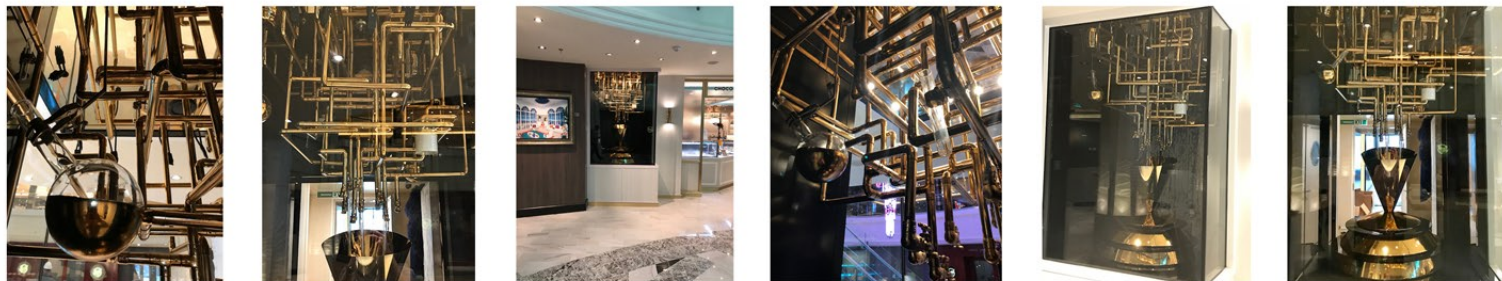
## TEPPANYAKI



Flying shrimp. Onion volcanoes. Twirling knives. An authentic Japanese hibachi restaurant onboard Norwegian Bliss.

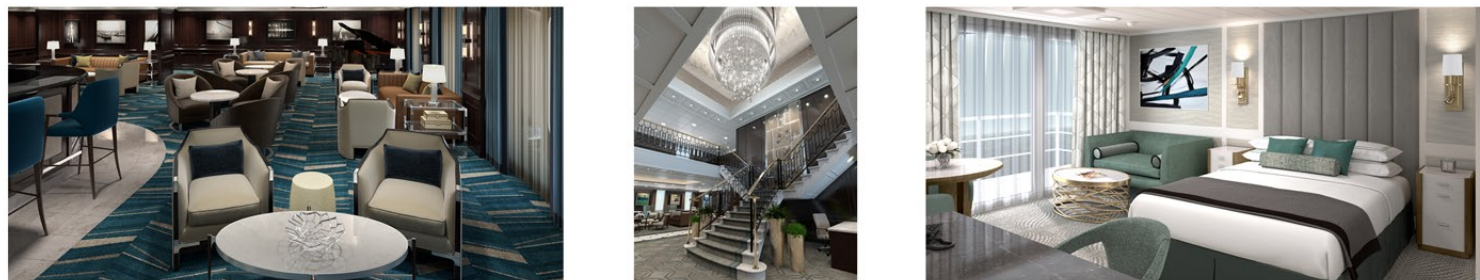
# PORTFOLIO

## COCO'S CHOCOLATIER



The Chocolatier display at Cocos onboard Norwegian Bliss serves as the focal point of the space.

## OCEANIA INSIGNIA



First of four ships from the reimagination of Oceania Cruises' Regatta Class Ships, dubbed as OceaniaNEXT, a \$100 million investment.

## CLIENTS



## GREG WALTON

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Studio DADO Founding Partner. FIU Mentor. Dad to Enzo the Italian Greyhound. Greg Walton defines success as living with passion and purpose - and his passion and purpose happen to intersect at cruise ship interior design. A celebration of his professional and personal accomplishments, Greg established Studio DADO as a home base and gateway through which he could combine his love for travel, art, and creation.

Greg has always had an eye for beauty and an appreciation for functionality. His knack for purposeful design made his transition into hospitality and cruise ships a seamless one, stemming from work in 1989 on the original Crown Princess to more recent projects like the Seven Seas Explorer for Regent Seven Seas Cruises, otherwise known as “most luxurious cruise ship ever built.”

The son of a US Navy Officer and President Cruise Lines document coordinator, Greg credits his bloodline with his instinctive affinity for cruise design and the high seas. Through journeying everywhere from The Himalayas in Tibet to Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Greg has been able to harness a delicate and thorough cultural literacy that is clearly marked in his work. To date, Greg’s favorite project is dining room he designed for a private residence in Lyford Cay, Bahamas that he says is “akin to walking inside of a musical jewelry box.”

# FOUNDERS

## JAVIER CALLE

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Javier Calle, USGBC LEED, is a recently reincarnated design professional. After 24 years in the retail design world, Javier followed his instincts, “cut the cord,” and took the plunge into the entrepreneurial world, as a founding partner of Studio DADO, a Miami-based design firm that specializes in creating memorable interior spaces on cruise lines and in the hospitality industry.

In his previous life, Javier worked as a senior associate at RTKL Associates, Washington, D.C., during which time he travelled the world, practicing and perfecting his craft.

A graduate of Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, Georgia, Javier started as a retail specialist, and cut his teeth on many large-scale, highly visible projects, such as the exclusive Mexico City-based departmental store, El Palacio de Hierro. In another challenging project, he was a part of the designing team behind Royal Caribbean's behemoth vessel, The Oasis of the Seas.

Javier's drive for excellence is strongly marked by his passion for achieving the right balance between his love for classic, timeless design that has the fluidity to adapt to the demands of the present and the need for being anchored in functionality and industry standards.

The same passion shapes his life outside work. Javier takes great pride in providing a wonderful life for his children, and is a generous mentor for young designers. An avid outdoorsman, Javier is a huge soccer fan and an avid bicyclist.



# FOUNDERS

## JORGE L. MESA

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Jorge L. Mesa, IIDA, LEED Green Associate, loves showstoppers! Colors that pop, shoes that demand compliments and sublimely created spaces that beckon and seduce, Jorge is drawn to vibrancy and beauty in design. A founding partner of Miami-based design firm, Studio DADO, Jorge encapsulates the raw energy and constant innovation that are the hallmark of award-winning design. For him, Studio DADO is a space of aesthetic freedom, where every day is an exercise in adventure and out-of-the-box design solutions.

In his 12 years as a designer, Jorge has assembled an impressive portfolio of work within the cruise line and hospitality industries. While working as an associate at CallisonRTKL, Miami, FL, he worked on expansive projects such as the Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas and the Oasis class ships, where he configured and refined everything from the stunning staterooms and state-of-the-art spa, the on-board art gallery and casino, to the Asian-inspired Izumi restaurant.

A Miami native, Jorge graduated with a degree in interior architecture from Florida International University, Miami. His vibrant upbringing in a large Latin family fostered his vivacious personality and creative talents. Everything Jorge does, he does with his own brand of enthusiasm and infectious charm. Whether he is designing a space, traveling to unusual places, or styling his hair, Jorge does it with style and panache.

## YOHANDEL RUIZ

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For Yohandel Ruiz, LEED AP, IIDA, NCIDQ, an empty space is not a scary thing. Instead, Yohandel, a founding partner of Miami-based design firm, Studio Dado, revels in the idea of creating a story that gives the space meaning and a unique, functional allure.

With an undergraduate degree in interior architecture from Florida International University, Miami, Yohandel is a skilled designer with outstanding research and conceptualizing abilities. His designs are labors of love, and reflect the energy, sense of creativity and joy he brings to each of them.

In his more than 20 years of experience, Yohandel's penchant for design has seen him travel to China for the Midea VIP & Golf Clubhouse in Foshan, Guangdong, create an exclusive furniture line for Cumberland Furniture, lead hospitality-based projects like the Regent Explorer Pacific Rim Restaurant, from start to finish, and finally, establish his own partnered firm, Studio Dado.

A seasoned designer, Yohandel considers himself a creative conduit through whom his clients express their design requirements, and Studio Dado as the space where he has the freedom, support and resources to finesse concepts and designs that meet their demands.

A native Miamian, Yohandel speaks fluent Spanish; has inherited a love for all things Latin from his family, from food to music; enjoys photography, foreign films, and gardening; and is an ardent supporter of local arts and artisans.



## OceaniaNEXT

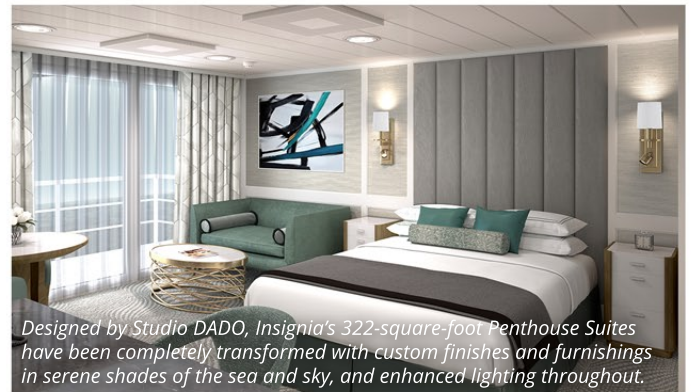
### **OCEANIA CRUISES COMMISSIONS WORLD-CLASS DESIGN FIRM FOR \$100 MILLION RE-INSPIRATION OF FOUR SHIPS**

*Miami-Based Studio DADO Lead Design Architects for OceaniaNEXT Campaign*

**Coral Gables, FL, August 14, 2018** – Studio DADO, a Miami-based hospitality design firm, is announcing its partnership with Oceania Cruises' OceaniaNEXT initiative, a \$100 million re-inspiration of the line's four 684-guest ships, Insignia, Sirena, Regatta and Nautica. Beginning with Insignia, the OceaniaNEXT campaign is a sweeping initiative that includes a dramatic, comprehensive redesign of staterooms and suites, as well as a luxurious renewal of public spaces.

The DADO design team led by Yohandel Ruiz, June Cuadra, and Jonathan DaCruz have used the line's 450 ports of call as inspiration to reinvent the majority of Insignia's public spaces, including the Reception Hall, Upper Hall, Grand Dining Room, as well as lounges and bars, including Martini's, Toscana, Polo and Horizons.

Studio DADO is the exclusive architect of the redesign and re-inspiration of Oceania's remaining Regatta-Class ships, scheduled to be completed by 2020. As a relative newcomer to the industry, DADO is the only cruise ship design firm in Miami that is helping to create the total transformation of an entire line of luxury ships.



*Designed by Studio DADO, Insignia's 322-square-foot Penthouse Suites have been completely transformed with custom finishes and furnishings in serene shades of the sea and sky, and enhanced lighting throughout.*

Bob Binder, President and CEO of Oceania Cruises, states, "The Studio DADO team was initially commissioned to completely redesign just the public rooms onboard the Oceania Insignia. They blew us away during our first meeting. Experiencing their energy and passion was delightful, and exactly what we needed for OceaniaNEXT. We immediately enlisted them to also design 342 staterooms and suites that were stripped down to the steel. They nailed the designs within the first shot, and in only two weeks."

Yohandel Ruiz, founding partner of DADO, and project design lead says, "We're really proud of the design our studio has created for Oceania Insignia. The ships are a smaller scale, giving us the opportunity to explore design in a more intimate way. Our approach started with highlighting the exquisite architectural elements found throughout the ship and using them as our backdrop to introduce a more contemporary language in the furnishings and finishes. We envisioned a residential environment for the guests with the ship being an extension of their lifestyle, filled with all the luxuries they have come to expect from Oceania. Guests will never want to leave the ship."

Insignia will debut on December 17, 2018 followed by Sirena in May 2019, Regatta in September 2019, and Nautica in June 2020.

#### **About Studio DADO**

Studio DADO is a Miami-based boutique cruise ship and hospitality design studio with over 60 years of cumulative design experience. By synthesizing functionality and elegance, DADO breathes vibrancy and utility into every location its designers take on. DADO impossibly blends approachability with glamour, culture with confidence, free-thinking fun with structure, and their growing portfolio reflects their out-of-the-box approach. Both passionate and purposeful, designers of DADO have transformed some of the most impressive spaces on board ships for Norwegian Cruise Line, Oceania Cruises, Regent Seven Seas Cruises, Carnival Cruise Line, and Princess Cruises into livable art. Memorable aesthetics, appreciation of culture, and a firm understanding of both client and patron needs have cemented Studio DADO as a world-class, upscale design studio since its inception in 2016. Get in touch with them at [www.studiodado.com](http://www.studiodado.com) and learn more about current projects by following them on Instagram @studiodado.

## ANNIVERSARY PARTY

### ***STUDIO DADO MARKS TWO-YEAR ANNIVERSARY WITH CELEBRATORY SOIREE AT NEW CORAL GABLES OFFICES***

*Historic Douglas Entrance Is Fitting Location to Celebrate Studio DADO's  
Continued Growth and Success*

**Coral Gables, FL, October 21, 2018** – Since opening its doors in November 2016, Studio DADO has made a splash in the hospitality design industry, providing design expertise to cruise ships restaurants, staterooms, suites, and other public spaces. The bustling firm is in demand: It has tripled in size in the past two years, and now includes a team of 14 at their new studio in iconic Coral Gables. This is stuff worth celebrating. Studio DADO will hold their 2nd anniversary party on November 2, 2018. Clients, vendors, friends and family of the design studio will be in attendance.

With 60+ combined years of hospitality design experience, DADO founding partners Greg Walton, Javier Calle, Jorge Mesa and Yohandel Ruiz knew what they were doing when they set up shop in South Florida, home of several major cruise lines and world-renown ports of call. Studio DADO attributes its success to a growing industry, the firm's solid reputation and a penchant for problem-solving that looks beyond design and considers operations and revenue implications. The firm's uncomplicated, yet collaborative boutique-like approach translates into flexibility, adaptability and agility, which are not commonly offered by traditional design firms. Initial projects as a new company included the redesign of Norwegian Bliss' seafood restaurant, Ocean Blue, as well as Teppanyaki, their Japanese hibachi restaurant, and the chocolatier for Norwegian's dessert nirvana, Coco's.



*Entry way to DADO's studio in the historic Douglas Entrance located in Coral Gables.*

Studio DADO has recently garnered international attention with their pivotal role as the design architects in the reimagination of Oceania's four Regatta Class Ships, dubbed as OceaniaNEXT, and their role in Princess Cruises' Sky Suites design; the benchmark of the new suite design style moving forward.

Studio DADO is also designing the public spaces for Norwegian Cruise Line's 2019 new build, The Norwegian Encore, the staterooms and several public spaces for Norwegian's next-generation new build, Project Leonardo and Carnival's XL Class new builds, for which they're designing the spa & fitness spaces, staterooms and suites. Other recent projects include Regent Seven Seas Cruise's 2020 new build, Seven Seas Splendor, and private island, Norwegian Great Stirrup Cay for which they're designing and planning the exclusive lagoon retreat, spa, beachfront luxury villas and public areas.

Their new office location has been both inspirational and functional: it leaves room for accommodating new designers, while the space itself, in fact, mirrors a theme of Studio DADO: unique design inspiration you can only find in Coral Gables. Javier Calle, founding partner of Studio DADO, admits that architectural influence had a lot to do with choosing their office location. He says, "Architecture is definitely the biggest informer of my design aesthetic. When I see an inspiring space, I immediately ask how I can manipulate the lines and volumes to give the user an experience that is memorable. When we were looking for a new office space, we wanted something that spoke to our culture as a firm, we wanted a space that was unique and had character, a place where our clients and colleagues would feel welcomed. The space had to feel elegant and casual at the same time. I think our office at Douglas Entrance checks all those boxes."

*Continued on page 10.*

## ANNIVERSARY PARTY *continued*

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DADO attributes its success to a growing industry, and the firm's solid reputation for problemsolving that looks beyond design by considering operations and revenue implications. Each project is uniquely orchestrated with direct hands-on involvement from DADO's founding partners. Yet, somehow Studio DADO also finds time to give back. Partner Jorge L. Mesa teaches a Cruise Ship and Super Yacht Certification program at Florida International University, and partner Greg Walton serves on the Advisory Board for the Cruise Ship Interiors Expo.

### **About Studio DADO**

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# ARTICLES

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# COVERED BY











# CONTACT

JULIANA RUIZ

305.606.5044  
dado@bryte-box.com

**BryteBox**  
CONSULTING



STUDIO DADO  
800 South Douglas Road, Suite 130  
La Puerta Del Sol  
Coral Gables, FL 33134

[facebook.com/studiodado](https://facebook.com/studiodado)  
[instagram.com/studiodado](https://instagram.com/studiodado)  
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