

# When Harry met Dorothy

## Beginnings of Gregorius|Pineo Wallcoverings

Harry Lawenda and Dorothy Kneedler Lawenda injected personality, luxury, grace and vision into the world of to-the-trade designer showrooms. They always sought out and represented collections that reflected their passion for the best. Today's design community continues to benefit from their Kneedler|Fauchère showroom legacy of respect for the modern heirlooms it represents, treating each and every piece like a fine jewel requiring the proper setting to illuminate its brilliance.

The same passion and imagination Harry and Dorothy brought to the world of showrooms guided their own line of handcrafted, artisan wallcoverings. This extensive line started as Kneedler Fauchère Imports in 1948 when Dorothy and the late Lucienne Fauchère decided to join forces to import natural hand-woven wallcoverings. Inspired by the textiles Dorothy had seen and loved during the time the two young girls met in the Philippines, the early collection included silk, hemp and grasscloth, imported from the Philippines and Japan.

When Harry, an up and coming young designer, met Dorothy in 1949, he began to style the collection. Infusing his flair for imaginative design and his mastery of modern coloration, along with a deep respect for the integrity of handcrafted weaving techniques, Harry's influence was soon making headlines. By 1956, Harry had already received top honors from the American Institute of Decorators for his innovative work, distinguishing himself among the nation's top designers. Inspired



Harry Lawenda and Dorothy Kneedler Lawenda  
Table Lamp in background designed by Harry.

by Japanese weave patterns of 1300 years ago, his award-winning "Kin-Gin" wallcoverings retained their handwoven integrity, but were given a new life through a wide range of colors and use of elegant metallic surfaces. New award-winning

# When Harry met Dorothy

## Beginnings of GregoriusPineo Wallcoverings

patterns, textures and color combinations met with excitement, and set KneederlFauchère Imports apart.

As the story goes, Dorothy, the uncommonly modern entrepreneur, not only immediately recognized Harry's talent, she found a kindred spirit. Married in 1951, they were soon become the unofficial visionary forces of the burgeoning design community in San Francisco, united in their love for each other, and their zeal to create a luxury experience for their clientele of artists, decorators and architects.

Today KneederlFauchère Group maintains its showrooms in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver and remains a prime cornerstone in the wondrous world high-end interior design and furnishings. In 2004, the company grew in its own product offerings, bringing the beloved handcrafted furniture line, Gregorius Pineo, under its ownership, with George Massar providing creative leadership of its furniture, lighting and accessories, as well as the Kneederl wallcoverings. In 2017, Massar and co-owner Doug Kinzley felt the timing was right to showcase all its product groups together under the GregoriusPineo label as a unified product house.

Today the legacy of Harry and Dorothy's quest for the best continues. Across all GregoriusPineo product lines is a commitment to preserve the integrity of the artisan hand. Its GregoriusPineo collections of wallcoverings of natural fibers are without an equal in the sophisticated colors and original wovens it sources and designs. New collaborations, such as Handcrafted by Atelier, excite the design world and continue to place GregoriusPineo wallcoverings on the short list of the world's top designers.