

# Finding Inspiration with Cynthia Renée Marcusson

## Through the Torii Gate

### Designer Cynthia Renée Marcusson on cultivating an inspirational symbol of transition into her work

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## Cynthia Renée Marcusson

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For many years Cynthia Renée Marcusson, the award-winning bespoke designer based in Cary, North Carolina, has been fascinated by the torii gates found in Japan. Commonly located at the entrance to Shinto shrines, the gates “symbolize passage from the world of everyday concerns to the sacred world of universal community,” she explains.

Although Marcusson has never been to Japan, she was immersed in Japanese fine antiques and aesthetics as a custom jewelry designer and gemstone expert consultant for the posh Golden Door Spa for several decades. The grounds at this top-rated luxury spa in San Marcos, California, are based on the peace of Japanese arts.

“Torii gates are there,” says Marcusson. “Passing through them was an opportunity for me to detach from listening and reacting to the squirrel running my brain, bringing my focus to the peace available in the present moment.”