

# LEONARDO ANNECCA BIOGRAPHY



## 2005

### ALVIN ALLEY OPEN STUDIOS, NEW YORK

Ten years have gone by since Leonardo said goodbye to a career in dance, but the art form still makes his heart race to this day. Luckily, his new career in architecture has given him the opportunity to combine the two. Good thing, too, since his love for dance is too strong to let go of.

### "FLOWER HOUSE," WOW DESIGN, FELISSIMO NEW YORK

Just living in New York puts Leonardo in a euphoric state, as is exhibited in his Flower House, which was part of Wow Design at Felissimmo Design House, held in conjunction with ICFF. Leonardo also opened an art showcase space, L.A Gallery, at ICFF.

## 2004

### L-A-DESIGN NEW YORK

Becoming a registered architect in Paris was an unexpected dream come true in Leonardo's insanely busy life, but moving to New York and opening a second studio in the summer of 2004 was the icing on the cake!

### ARCHITECTE DPLG, PARIS

After spending two years working in California for various architectural practices, the French Government, through the Ecole D'architecture de Paris La Villette, recognized Leonardo's acquired skills, plus the completion of four years of the Architecture University. That is to say, he managed to graduate with the title of Architecte DPLG in January 2004.

## 2003

### L-A-DESIGN PARIS

In 2003, Leonardo achieved his ultimate dream: After the successful design of the 747 bar in Italy, he opened his own design studio in Paris.

## 2001

### JACQUES GARCIA OFFICE, PARIS

Just back from the U.S.A., Leonardo was hired by Jacques Garcia to work on U.S. hospitality projects. From an aesthetic point of view, Jacques and Leonardo are night and day. In fact, at his initial interview, Leonardo remembers that he didn't even want to sit on Jacques's over-the-top Louis XIV chairs! Though people consider Jacques the king of luxury and baroque design, Leonardo defines his taste against that aesthetic, but work is work and so it went.

## 1999-2000

### ANSHEN+ALLEN ARCHITECTS, SAN FRANCISCO

In the summer of 1999, Leonardo realized yet another of his goals: To work as an architect in California. From 1999-2001, he worked at Anshen + Allen, one of the oldest architecture practices in San Francisco.

## 1998

### D. GOMEZ ARCHITECTURE INTERIEURE, PARIS

Leonardo began working as an interior architect with Didier Gomez in Paris. But even then, the ideas of working in California and striving for more ambitious goals were already in his mind.

## 1997

### ECOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, PARIS

When a serious accident during a dance rehearsal ended his days on the stage, Leonardo didn't waste one day one single day fretting over changing his career plans. As the dream of being a professional dancer quickly vanished, he immediately enrolled at the Architecture program at the Ecole D'architecture de Paris La Villette (EAPLV). He entered the program just a few months before he complete his degree in interior architecture from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Arts Décoratifs (ENSAD).

## 1996

### CENT PAS DANCE COMPANY, PARIS

Though he didn't begin his studies until the age of 25—much later than the others boys—Leonardo trained in modern ballet for few years, eventually joining the dance company Cent Pas in Paris, performing in the theatre and in competitions.

## 1995

### DA SILVA BHURUMS AWARD, PARIS

The director of ENSAD, Richard Peduzzi, awarded Leonardo the Da Silva Bruhums prize, which honors the top three designer- students each year. In 1995, the competition concerned the opening of the new school building designed by Philippe Starck. At this time, Leonardo was very busy, dividing his time between art school and dance classes at the Centre de Danse du Marais in Paris.

## 1994

### ECOLE NATIONALE SUPÉRIEURE DES ARTS DÉCORATIFS, PARIS

Before graduating from design school in Milan in the fall of 1994, Leonardo was accepted into the prestigious ENSAD in Paris, in the school for design and architecture. Dream after dream was coming true! The "Arts Déco" school in Paris would soon change his design vision forever.

### HIGHTOWER CENTRE DE DANSE INTERNATIONAL, CANNES

Leonardo's motto had fast become: "Dance or die." Impassioned and excited that his true dreams were at arm's reach, he moved to Cannes each summer, from 1994 to 1997, to attend the summer studios of the Hightower international dance school.

## 1992

### ACCADEMIA DI BELLE ARTI, MILAN

At the Nuova Accademia di Belle Arte (NABA) in Milan, Leonardo began to come to terms with his childhood dreams of becoming "someone who could build things." At this time, he also met an ex-maestro from La Scala in Milan, where he began taking ballet classes.

## 1991

### GALLERIA FAC-SIMILE, MILAN

When Leonardo began working at the Fac-Simile gallery in Milan with well-known artist-gallery director Horatio Goni, he realized he was making a sweeping life change. At the gallery, Leonardo met Gianni Colombo, an artist and director of NABA, Milan's fine arts school. Colombo encouraged Leonardo to go back to college and start a

creative career. Heartened by his successes, Leonardo also gained the courage to follow another of his other dreams: studying dance and ballet. At the age of 25, he began his training as a novice.

## 1990

### TELEKTRON ENG. LONDON

In this year of transition, Leonardo spent almost a year working as intern in an engineering company in London. During this time, he gathered the energy to break with the past, including the strong Italian tradition in which young men follow in their father's career footsteps—which in Leonardo's case would have meant becoming an economist.

### UNIVERSITÉ DE NICE, FRANCE

While attending the school of Literature and Philosophy at the University of Nice, Leonardo made a commitment to break with his past. Well into his twenties, he began to follow a creative life path that he felt had been calling to him since he was a child.

## 1989

### POLYTECHNIC OF CENTRAL LONDON

The same year that he graduated with a degree in Economics from the University of Parma, Leonardo attended the summer session at Polytechnic of Central London to study art and art history. This was one of many essays to break with tradition and his economics studies.

## 1986

### PEAT, MARWICK & MITCHEL, ROME

Tired of the dead boring life at the University of Economics in Parma, Leonardo escaped for six months to Rome, where he worked as the youngest intern at marketing research company Peat, Marwick & Mitchell.

## 1982

### UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI ,PARMA

In the innocence of youth, Leonardo enrolled in the school of Economics at the University of Parma at a very young age—a decision he would later regret. With his hallmark determination, a few years later he would graduate with great notes but also a lot of pain. "I hate it, but I made it!" he said.

## 1976-1978

### PIACENZA, ITALY

As a little kid growing up in Italy, Leonardo spent most of his childhood building small-scale houses, plane prototypes, and furniture, or just sketching impossible subway tunnels. This is when the dream of a becoming a creative, "person who builds things" was first instilled in him.