



GULF COAST DESIGN+DECOR

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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2018
TOP 25
DESIGN FIRMS



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What is your interior design philosophy, and how does it apply to meeting your client's design needs?

My interior design philosophy? Design is personal, and it is intimate. My job is to make that happen for our clients. For some potential clients, design starts off as overwhelming—we understand this and know how busy our clients are. That's why we spend the time to understand each client's personal style, to take the world of options offered in custom design and narrow down those choices to a manageable few. For our clients, design becomes fun and easy because we educate them along the way. As their design develops, I introduce my clients to people, products and even places they would not find on their own. Often, my signature style, Cashmere & Blue Jeans®, is woven into the design, which is a wonderful way to add to our client's personal style within a specific design aesthetic.

How do you define luxury design?

Today's luxury design isn't necessarily the look of bold displays of wealth, opulence and grandeur we've known in the past. Today's luxury is defined differently—it is defined with more exclusivity. Clients today who are looking for and expecting luxury are longing for uniqueness in their design: pieces and products that are high quality and customized to their wants and needs. Yes, of course that comes with a price, but it doesn't necessarily drip and scream, "Look at me!"

What inspires you inside and outside the interior design world?

I find people inspiring. Everyone has a story, and stories are captivating. As I learn more about people, I want to know more about their passions, careers and families. What makes them tick is almost always inspiring in one way or another. We're all on this ride called life, and it certainly is more exciting and inspirational when we share the journey together.

What design rule would you love to break?

Well, I don't follow the rules to begin with! I was the kid in school who was always coloring outside the lines. I don't know design to be much different!

What are three things about you that nobody knows?

1. I can frame a house.
2. I love Vin Diesel and the Fast & Furious series—please don't judge me!
3. I would like to become a Master Gardener someday.

If you could bring back one era of design, what would it be?

Anything but glazed chintz!

If you could create any style home in southwest Florida and go against the current trends here, what would you do?

I'd love to weave rustic or reclaimed elements into a Scandinavian modern design. This doesn't mean just furnishings, but within the architecture itself. Imagine grabbing the clean, contemporary front-door handle on a reclaimed antique nine-foot-tall door, pushing it open to reveal a sleek, white, crisp entry with a direct sight line through to a 20-foot wall of glass overlooking a long reflecting pool. As you step into the foyer, your feet land on reclaimed whitewashed brick that interfaces with an almost nonexistent base detail. Above your head is a stunning vaulted ceiling of salvaged planking—another element drawing your eye to the reflecting pool focal point. This exquisite ceiling intersects with a square, polished white molding detail balancing the baseboard and creating a nondescript pocket to wash the walls with light. One single, simple, modern fixture adds dimension and depth to the ceiling, while to your right is a stunning, bold, yet not overbearing painting that fills a niche almost the size of the wall itself. To the left of the foyer, a large opening draws you around the corner into a great room where all you can see is the corner of another reclaimed element—the wood floor pulling at you, demanding your attention to see what is in store for you.