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WHO'S WHO

in charlotte interior design

BY VICKI PAYNE



Lucky is the Charlotte resident who's planning to renovate, update or refresh their habitats this year. Charlotte is home to some of the country's top interior designers and delightful shopping venues.

It was a tremendous treat and honor to put together the first annual Charlotte Living's Who's Who in Charlotte Design. This year's top 10 leading ladies of interior spaces represent some of the best designers nationwide.

Their style ranges from classic to rhythmic. They represent a variety of backgrounds, educational training and years of front line experience. Common to all is their individual style, impeccable work, attention to detail, and the creation of spaces that inspire their clients. Working with a talented designer entuses a fresh approach to challenges, and the results are always exciting.

Charlotte's wonderful retailers augment their success. I asked each designer to share a few of her favorite shopping haunts with us. Be sure to check out the Great Places to Shop for Your Home section. Why not spend the day with a friend discovering new home décor shops and become inspired. *

Watch Vicki's show "For Your Home" on WTVI, PBS Saturdays 10:30am, on Create TV Tuesday and Thursday at 11:00am and 5:30pm or online at www.foryourhome.com.

Working with a talented designer entuses a fresh approach to challenges, and the results are always exciting.



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE CIARLANTE

CAREN BISTANY



Caren Bistany is an award-winning designer and creator of custom cabinetry with 25 years of experience in the industry. She is passionately involved in every aspect of the cabinetry process, from space planning and design through construction, installation and final finishing. Through two decades of

steady growth, Caren has deliberately chosen to keep her company small in order to provide a truly personalized and tailored liaison with her clients. One of her greatest joys is hearing that her work has transformed the homes and the lives of her clients.

DESIGN STYLE

Caren's design expertise is complemented by strong technical knowledge, allowing her to create cabinetry that goes beyond beauty to become an integral, functional enhancement for the entire home. Her love for architecture, millwork, interior design, and art is evident in her inspired designs and meticulous attention to detail.

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FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

"I can't name one in particular. Over the years I have developed strong relationships with a variety of vendors in Charlotte for tile, granite, plumbing fixtures, appliances and hardware.

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

Clean lines supported by high quality products, natural materials, and a well-balanced mix of textures and finishes.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CAROLINE LIMA

EMILY CLARK



Emily Clark is the author of the popular interior design blog, *Emily A. Clark: design. simplified*. She shares easy and attainable decorating ideas for creating a home that you love. As a mom of five, she believes that decorating (even amid the chaos of life!) should be more fun and less intimidating—no matter your budget or skill level. Her home has appeared in *Better Homes & Gardens* and *Better Homes & Gardens Refresh* magazines. She has also been featured in *Family Circle* and *The Design Cookbook*, as well as on popular websites like *Style Me Pretty Living*, *PopSugar*, *HGTV.com*, *Apartment Therapy* and *The Huffington Post*. In addition, she

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has served as a style expert for CNN Living online and for companies such as Lowe's, HomeGoods, Pottery Barn Kids and The Home Depot.

DESIGN STYLE

It's always hard for me to put a name on my particular style because I really like a little bit of everything—from country farmhouse style to chinoiserie-influenced pieces. I actually think it's possible to incorporate lots of different styles in the same space, so I try not to overthink my "look" when shopping for new treasures for our home. I hope my designs come across and relaxed and comfortable, with a polished feel. I'm not huge on trends, but lean more toward traditional pieces with a little bit of fun thrown in the mix.

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

I love the thrill of the hunt, so *The Sleepy Poet* is a always a fun stop for me.



HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

Thanks to all of the inspiration that's now out there (Pinterest, magazines, blogs, etc.), I think homeowners are becoming braver and less afraid of incorporating really personal touches into their homes. I'm not sure if it can officially be called a trend, but sentimental—even quirky—items can inspire an entire room. I love the idea of blowing up a favorite photo as a huge piece of art, or using an old door from a family home place, or mixing in your grandmother's antique chairs with a really modern table. I don't think the ultimate dream is to have a house that looks "model home ready" anymore, but to create a home that really feels like "you."

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE IN-VIRONMENTS

JEANINE DEVANEY



Jeanine DeVaney, president and owner of Charlotte In-Vironments, Inc. specializes in residential space planning and design for projects which encompass kitchen and bath renovations, additions, outdoor living spaces and new homes. Her work spans thirty successful years of award winning projects recognized by NARI, COTY Awards; and HBA, The Excellence in Remodeling Awards. Her projects have been featured in both local and national publications, including Better Homes and Gardens Kitchen

and Bathrooms, Southern Living, Charlotte Observer, Charlotte Living Magazine, and Southpark Magazine. Clients boast of her seamless designs and how the space planning couples with creative solutions for family living and entertaining for today's homes. The Charlotte In-Vironment's team is well versed in creative space planning and exterior design, and full construction drawings that include specifications and product selections. An article in the Business Journal called DeVaney the "House Whisperer" as she can hear what the house is asking for with the client's criteria and budget in mind.

DESIGN STYLE

The strongest request in home design is the desire for the open plan for living. Many homes with dated and boxy floor plans can "live large" by opening up the spaces, re-purposing rooms, thus using all the square footage in the home. The Kitchen continues to be the heart of the home for family living and entertaining, with views and access to the family

living room, family dining room, and fabulous outdoor living spaces. The desire for quality products and classic design for the home in the kitchen and bathroom enhances the value of the home through time. DeVaney's designs encompasses optimum space planning followed by product selections that fit the style of the home and the client's budget.

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

Appliances – Queen City TV and Appliances; Plumbing – Ferguson Enterprises; Stone Counter tops – AGM Imports and American Granite

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

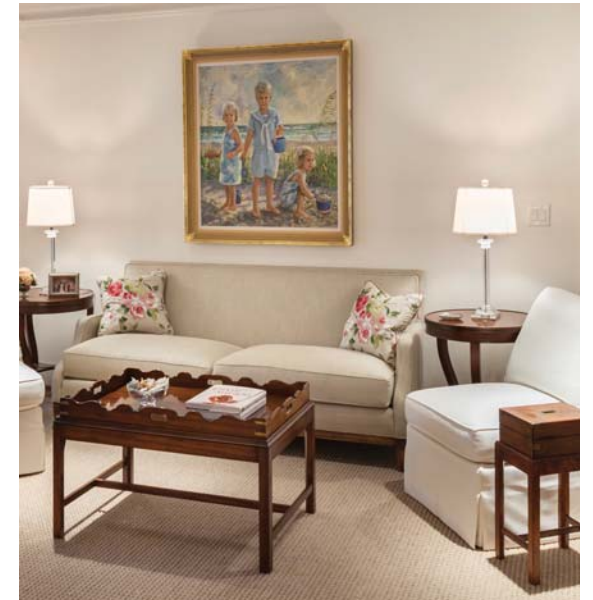
The trend for over-scaled and unique light fixtures in various materials and finishes for kitchens, bathrooms, and dining rooms sets the stage for the client's budget.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOE CIARLANTE

ANITA HOLLAND



Formed in 1996, Anita Holland Interiors has created elegant residential interiors in the Southeast for over twenty-five years. The firm specializes in all phases of design, including new construction and major renovations. Anita Holland is an ASID member.

DESIGN STYLE

Anita Holland Interiors specializes in classical, traditional and transitional interiors. Anita Holland has repeatedly been recognized as one of the region's leading interior designers.

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

For Retail: Windsor Hall Antiques.
For To The Trade: Darnell & Company

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

Transitional, Transitional, Transitional

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MEKENZIE FRANCE

BETH KEIM



Beth Keim has been working in the interior design field for 15 years and started Lucy and Company after returning from China with her six month old daughter Lucy. "I found an untapped local market for high end kids rooms, and today that same energy and fun is creeping all over my clients' homes."

LUCY AND COMPANY

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DESIGN STYLE

I think I am best known for my use of multiple patterns, textures and color. I am a huge wall paper fan and love layering several in each project. I am certainly not afraid of bold color. I believe a home should look collected and filled with unique pieces that have meaning and interest. I love the layering process and shopping local, and while "less is more" was once my motto, I am all about the "more is more" look these days using vintage finds, amazing art and new, highly functional pieces that have multiple purposes. Adding a little whimsy in each design is something I love to do to bring a room from seriously designed to real, livable and personal.



FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

Places I hit most often for accessories are Slate Interiors, Cotswold Marketplace, as well as several local art galleries like Hidell Brooks. I love something original and "found" as opposed to too commercial. Also want to always try and support my fellow small business locals!

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

Collected vintage filled with pattern

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STACEY VAN BERKEL AND DUSTIN PECK

LISA MENDE



As principal of Lisa Mende Design for over two decades, Lisa's portfolio includes a broad range of projects from historic preservation to new construction. She is a newly appointed member of Thermador's Design Council for 2015. She participated in Modenus Blogtour London & KBIS and will travel to BlogtourFrankfurt for Ambiente in 2015. In the role of tastemaker, Lisa has been a High Point International Furniture Market Style Spotter for

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three markets and Brizo Blogger19. Lisa is a social media authority and editor of a widely-acclaimed eponymous blog, which was named by Modenus as Top 100 Blog in 2013 and 2014. She is a member of Design Trust of NYC, ASID, WithIt, and IDS

DESIGN STYLE

Lisa provides smart solutions and new ideas to take your projects to the next level. Her nationally acclaimed firm creates "casual, luxe interiors rooted in tradition with a bold, modern interpretation." Vintage pieces and antiques mixed with modern classics and original art are hallmarks of her design aesthetic. Lisa harkens back to her southern roots to create homes that center around family life; tradition and heritage with a fresh approach for today's active lifestyles.



FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

I love to peruse the aisles of Slate, for one of a kind pieces to add interest to projects.

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

Mixing metals is a huge trend. Keep things interesting by mixing brass, and variations of warm metals with nickel and iron to create a look that is both layered and complex.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RON ROYALS

LISA SHERRY



I started my creative career in the world of fashion photography, set design and styling. I loved it but I don't like to stand still. Interior design and lifestyle crafting was a totally organic next step. I love the real world – working with great clients, designing beautiful interiors and exteriors that satisfy and surprise all at once.

LISA SHERRY INTÉRIEURS
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DESIGN STYLE

My style has been called “casual luxe.” I tend to resist definitions. Think “eclectic.” My work celebrates and elevates beauty in everyday life. I love surprises and unexpected juxtapositions. It's all about the mix – as I always say – new and old, luxe and boho, subtle and dramatic. Always sophisticated and warm.

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

Charlotte is such a great shopping destination. I do have some favorites: Slate Interiors, Isabella, Cotswold Market, Darnel and Co. (trade only), Bird Hardware



HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

There's so much stimulating style percolating right now. How about a prediction about what's going to be hot next? I would encourage trend-spotters to be on the lookout for over-scaled art and accessories. It will be sort of unmissable! Proportion normally rules, but you know how I hate rules! These big pieces – art and accessories – anchor and elevate a space all at once. Honestly, not everyone “gets it,” but they will in a year or two when it's a full-fledged trend!

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRIS EDWARDS AND TIM BUCHMAN

AMY VERMILLION



Amy Vermillion, Allied Member ASID (American Society of Interior Designers), has been practicing interior design for over 22 years. Since opening her firm, she has been a leading member of the Charlotte design community and an innovative influence on extensive renovations, private jets and interior design projects in the Southeast. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior and Environmental Design from Illinois State University. Before moving to Charlotte in 1995, Vermillion worked for two prestigious design firms on Chicago's North Shore. Known for her meticulous attention to detail and personalized service, she attributes her success to a close designer-client relationship. Her design work and expertise have been featured in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Charlotte Home & Garden*, *Southpark Magazine*, *Urban Home* and the *Charlotte Observer*.

AMY VERMILLION INTERIORS
amyvermillion.com
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DESIGN STYLE

My aesthetic has been described by others as tailored elegance which I know pleases my Mother immeasurably! I like to use color, texture and scale thoughtfully in order to achieve a beautiful space that is both serene and subtle. Livability is crucial and I always consider my client's needs and lifestyle when I start the design process. And it's important that my design reflects my client's voice – whether it's with their artwork, collected treasures or family mementos. Nothing pleases me more than to have great architectural details as a backdrop for my furnishings and I really enjoy the entire design of my client's homes from renovation and new construction to custom furniture, window treatments and everything in between.

FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

While most of my furnishings are custom, I often shop locally in Charlotte for the finishing touches. At times I will bring my clients with me if they enjoy that, but I also select items and bring everything to my client's home to install personally. I love BD



Jeffries in Charlotte! The ladies are incredibly helpful and they have a great selection of art, accessories and furniture.

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

I love that we are mixing metals and it allows more freedom with the finishes of lighting and hardware. We are still seeing warm metals like brass but now it's on trend to mix with other warm alloys like nickel and “gilver” (a combination finish of silver and gold). Pairing metals with natural textures is a great idea – grass cloth for walls (and wallpaper in general), faux bois (wood patterns) in rugs and feel good fabrics like brushed cotton. And the continuing trend of healthy interiors through the selection of low VOC paints, better air filtration systems and the implementation of “smart” home technology is hotter than ever.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF ALLY WHALEN DESIGN

ALLY WHALEN



I believe if you are truly passionate about your career you will be successful not only in your business endeavors, but in life as well. Following that belief has allowed Ally Whalen Design to flourish by creating fresh and inspiring spaces for our clients, as well as opening our first store front, Simplicity Interiors, located in Cornelius, North Carolina. While my career began in the apparel industry, I followed my devotion to design and have been richly

rewarded with incredible clients and amazing spaces across the nation. Since our founding, Ally Whalen Design has been featured in many regional magazines as well as several national Better Homes & Gardens publications. We have also been awarded Best of Houzz for both design and customer service over the last four years.

DESIGN STYLE

My style is an eclectic mix of old, new, and repurposed pieces. I love to mix high-end and affordable pieces to really bring a room together, and in doing so get the most out of my client's budget. In every project, whether a complete remodel or just a simple room decor update, I try to bring fresh, clean lines that blend with interesting pieces. Whether my client's taste ranges from traditional, rustic chic or contemporary, I believe every space should be livable and inviting – a space that reflects my client's personality and has seamless functionality.

ALLY WHALEN DESIGN

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FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

My favorite place to shop for my clients would be of course our store, Simplicity Interiors. However, there are so many incredible interior design stores in the Charlotte area as well. I often find myself drawn to the Sleepy Poet for its diverse mix of pieces, as well as The Furniture Connector for its broad range of design styles.

HOTTEST DESIGN TRENDS

One of today's hottest trends is definitely the use of reclaimed material. Not only are a lot of clients asking for aged wood beams or mantles, but there is an enthusiasm for pieces that tell a story.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF TRACI ZELLER DESIGN

TRACI ZELLER



Traci Zeller Designs believes that beauty is created when you make the ordinary, orderly. With this philosophy in mind, Traci and her team daily seek to empower families to live harmonious lives, full of style and grace. As a busy wife and mother to exuberant twin boys, Traci understands the challenges of today's active lifestyles and creates solutions that are both beautiful and functional. Twice named one of Charlotte's 25 Most Stylish People, Traci employs a crisp, sophisticated mix of classic and modern pieces to create elegant, yet comfortable interiors.

TRACI ZELLER DESIGNS

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With her mission to create stylish spaces where children are nurtured, Traci founded her firm in 2003. Degrees in both accounting and law enable her to assist clients with budgets and contracts throughout the design process. In 2013, she introduced a line of textiles and home accessories in order to offer her growing audience simple solutions that bring joy and spirit to the everyday. Traci's polished style has brought recognition from *Traditional Home*, *House Beautiful*, *Domino*, *Charlotte Home + Garden*, *Charlotte Urban Home* and *South Park* magazine among others. Traci is also an affiliate member of ASID and a three-time Style Spotter for High Point Market.

DESIGN STYLE

Crisp, sophisticated mix of classic and modern pieces to create elegant, yet comfortable interiors



FAVORITE PLACE TO SHOP IN CHARLOTTE FOR CLIENTS

It's hard to choose just one store, but I often pick up pillows, accessories and other small items at Cotswold Marketplace. It's a one-stop shop!

HOTTEST DESIGN TREND

Wallpaper! Don't worry, though -- this is "not your mama's wallpaper." Patterns are crisp, fresh and fun, and strippable wallpaper paste will prevent any future "how do I get this down?" woes. Plus, wallpaper adds a certain dimension to a room that's difficult to replicate. I'm crazy for wallpaper in just about any room, but dining rooms and powder rooms are a natural fit.