

Portfolio

100 Top Designers



Architecture Interior Design Landscape Design

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100 Top Designers

Whether building a new home or upgrading an existing one, finding the right design professional is integral to any project's success. Innovative and insightful architects, interior designers and landscape architects are adept at solving design dilemmas and translating clients' wishes into ideal living spaces.

Home & Design Portfolio: 100 Top Designers connects consumers with seasoned professionals in and near Washington, DC, who can help with a range of design objectives—from interior makeovers to custom homes, renovations and luxurious landscapes. Showcasing styles ranging from traditional to modern to mid-century, the images in this guide speak volumes about the quality of talent found in the Mid-Atlantic region. We hope they also inspire you to make your home-improvement visions a reality.



Left to right: A compassionate addition to a Kalorama home by Donald Lococo Architects; photo by John Cole. An elegant makeover by Solis Betancourt & Sherrill; photo by Brian Wancho. An elevated pool overlooking a meadow in Leesburg by Campion Hruby Landscape Architects; photo by Bob Hruby.

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Portfolio Contents



84

Architecture

DESIGNERS BY NAME

Sarah Armstrong	18
Studio 360 LLC	
Seth Ballard	20
Ballard+Mensua Architecture	
Lou Balodemas	22
Balodemas Architects	
Anthony Barnes, Stephen Vanz	24
BarnesVanz Architects, Inc.	
David Benton	26
Benton Architecture + Interiors, LLC	
Jay I. Brown	28
Levin/Brown Architects	
Jim Burton	30
Carter + Burton Architecture	

Jonas Carnemark	34
CARNEMARK design + build	
Cathy Purple Cherry	36
Purple Cherry Architects	
Anne Decker	40
Anne Decker Architects, LLC	
Olvia C. Demetriou	42
HapstakDemetriou+ Architecture & Design	
Robert M. Gurney	44
Robert M. Gurney, FAIA	
Mark D. Hughes, Bulent Baydar	52
Harrison Design	
David Jameson	54
David Jameson Architect Inc.	

■ ARCHITECTURE

DESIGNERS BY NAME

Patrick Brian Jones	60
Patrick Brian Jones PLLC	
Devin S. Kimmel	62
Kimmel Studio Architects	
Randall Kipp	64
Randall Kipp Architecture	
Richard A. Leggin	66
Richard Leggin Architects, P.C.	
Donald Lococo	70
Donald Lococo Architects, LLC	
Thomas Manion	76
Manion + Associates Architects, P.C.	
Randall Mars	78
Randall Mars Architects	
James McDonald	80
James McDonald Associate Architects P.C.	
Matthew McDonald, Jennifer Verbeke	82
MCDStudio Architecture + Design	
Mark McInturff	84
McInturff Architects	
Stephen Muse, William Kirwan	88
Muse Architects	
George T. Myers	92
GTM Architects	
Jeffrey Penza	96
Penza Bailey Architects	
Travis Price, Kelly Davies Grace, Leith Almashal	98
Travis Price Architects	
Warren C. Ralston, Matthew Somma	102
WCRA	
Beth Reader, Chuck Swartz	104
Reader & Swartz Architects	
James F. Rill	106
Rill Architects	
Michael Patrick Rouse	108
MPR Architecture	
Greg Wiedemann	110
Wiedemann Architects, LLC	
Christian Zapatka	112
Christian Zapatka Architect	
Steve Ziger, Douglas Bothner	114
Ziger I Snead Architects	



106



88



Interior Design

DESIGNERS BY NAME

Charles C. Almonte	118
Charles C. Almonte Architecture & Interiors	
Katherine A.H. Ballou	120
Hendrick Interiors	
Lisa Bartolomei	122
Bartolomei & Co.	
Romain Baty	124
Romain Baty, LLC	
Shannon Bieter	128
Shannon Bieter Interiors	
Melissa Broffman	130
Melissa Broffman Interior Design	
Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey	134
SCW Interiors	
David Anthony Chenault	136
David Anthony Chenault LLC	
Nancy Colbert	138
Design Partners, LLC	
Robert Cole, Sophie Prévost	142
ColePrévost	
Melissa Colgan	146
Melissa Colgan Interiors	
Caryn Cramer	148
Caryn Cramer LLC	

Arlene Critzos	150
Interior Concepts, Inc.	
Mary Douglas Drysdale	154
Drysdale Design Associates	
Joanne Fitzgerald	164
Gatéga Interior Design, LLC	
Gina Fitzsimmons	166
Fitzsimmons Design Associates	
Laura Fox	168
Laura Fox Interior Design, LLC	
Samantha Friedman	170
Samantha Friedman Interior Designs, LLC	
Maria Galiani	172
Galiani Design Group	
Lorna Gross	176
Lorna Gross Interior Design	
Therese Baron Gurney	178
Baron Gurney Interiors	
Paula Grace Halewski	180
Paula Grace Designs & Coaching, Inc.	
Syntha E. Harris	182
Syntha Harris Interiors, LLC	
Pamela Harvey	186
Pamela Harvey Interiors	

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120



164

■ INTERIOR DESIGN

DESIGNERS BY NAME

Barbara Hawthorn	188
Barbara Hawthorn Interiors	
Andrea Houck	190
A. Houck Designs, Inc.	
Dolly Howarth	192
Howarth Designs LLC	
Karen Kalicka	194
MAX Interiors	
Deborah Kalkstein	196
Contemporaria	
Kirsten Anthony Kaplan	200
Haus Interior Design	
Charlene Kennerknecht	202
Monarch	
Kori Keyser	206
Keyser Interiors, Inc.	
Vicky Lal	208
Vicky Lal Design LLC	
J. Paul Lobkovich	210
Lobkovich Kitchen Designs	
Sallie J. Lord	212
GreyHunt Interiors	
Fabiola Martens	214
Fabiola Martens Interior Design	
Jamie Merida	218
Jamie Merida Interiors	

Sandra Meyer	222
Ella Scott Design, LLC	
Sandra Meyers	224
Sandra Meyers Design Studio	
Tracy Morris	226
Tracy Morris Design	
Kristin Peake	230
Kristin Peake Interiors	
Charlene Petersen	234
Cashmere Interior	
Kelley Proxmire	236
Kelley Proxmire, Inc.	
Lisa Puchalla	240
LilyMae Design	
Lauren Sachs	242
Lauren Sachs Designs	
Jose Solis Betancourt, Paul Sherrill	244
Solis Betancourt & Sherrill	
Skip Sroka	246
Sroka Design, Inc.	
Nadia Subaran	248
Aidan Design	
Martha Vicas	252
M.S. Vicas Interiors	
Margery Wedderburn	256
Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC	
Melanie Whittington	258
Whittington Design Studio	



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282

Landscape Design

DESIGNERS BY NAME

Richard Arentz	262
Arentz Landscape Architects	
Alan Blalack, Josh Kane	270
Kane Landscapes	
Kevin Campion, Bob Hruby	272
Campion Hruby Landscape Architects	
Howard Cohen, Chad Talton	274
Surrounds Landscape Architecture + Construction	
Joshua Dean	276
Wheat's Landscape Design + Construction	
Katia Goffin	278
Katia Goffin Gardens	
Donald Gwiz	280
Lewis Aquatech	

Joel Hafner, Judith Petersen, Bernie Mihm	282
Fine Earth Landscape	
Jennifer Horn	284
Jennifer Horn Landscape Architecture	
Kevin McHale, Stephen McHale	286
McHale Landscape Design, Inc.	
Charles Owen, Oomer Syed	292
Fine Landscapes, Ltd.	
J.R. Peter, Joseph Colao III	296
Colao & Peter, Luxury Outdoor Living	
Michael Prokopchak	300
Walnut Hill Landscape	
Joseph Richardson	302
Joseph Richardson Landscape Architecture	



112



134



286

Contents by Firm

■ ARCHITECTURE

Anne Decker Architects, LLC	40
Ballard+Mensua Architecture	20
Balodemas Architects.....	22
BarnesVanze Architects, Inc.....	24
Benton Architecture + Interiors, LLC	26
CARNEMARK design + build	34
Carter + Burton Architecture	30
Christian Zapatka Architect	112
David Jameson Architect Inc.....	54
Donald Lococo Architects, LLC.....	70
GTM Architects.....	92
HapstakDemetriou+ Architecture & Design	42
Harrison Design	52
James McDonald Associate Architects P.C.....	80
Kimmel Studio Architects	62
Levin/Brown Architects	28
Manion + Associates Architects, P.C.....	76
MCDStudio Architecture+Design	82
McInturff Architects	84
MPR Architecture	108
Muse Architects.....	88
Patrick Brian Jones PLLC	60
Penza Bailey Architects	96
Purple Cherry Architects.....	36
Randall Kipp Architecture.....	64

Randall Mars Architects	78
Reader & Swartz Architects	104
Richard Leggin Architects, P.C.	66
Rill Architects.....	106
Robert M. Gurney, FAIA.....	44
Studio 360 LLC.....	18
Travis Price Architects	98
WCRA.....	102
Wiedemann Architects, LLC.....	110
Ziger I Snead Architects	114

■ INTERIOR DESIGN

A. Houck Designs, Inc.	190
Aidan Design.....	248
Barbara Hawthorn Interiors.....	188
Baron Gurney Interiors.....	178
Bartolomei & Co.....	122
Caryn Cramer LLC	148
Cashmere Interior	234
Charles C. Almonte Architecture & Interiors.....	118
ColePrévoist	142
Contemporaria	196
David Anthony Chenault LLC	136
Design Partners, LLC.....	138
Drysdale Design Associates.....	154
Ella Scott Design, LLC.....	222
Fabiola Martens Interior Design....	214
Fitzsimmons Design Associates....	166
Galiani Design Group.....	172

Gatéga Interior Design, LLC.....	164
GreyHunt Interiors.....	212
Haus Interior Design	200
Hendrick Interiors.....	120
Howarth Designs LLC	192
Interior Concepts, Inc.....	150
Jamie Merida Interiors.....	218
Kelley Proxmire, Inc.	236
Keyser Interiors, Inc.	206
Kristin Peake Interiors	230
Laura Fox Interior Design, LLC.....	168
Lauren Sachs Designs	242
LilyMae Design	240
Lobkovich Kitchen Designs.....	210
Lorna Gross Interior Design.....	176
M.S. Vicas Interiors	252
Margery Wedderburn Interiors, LLC	256
MAX Interiors.....	194
Melissa Broffman Interior Design	130
Melissa Colgan Interiors	146
Monarch	202
Pamela Harvey Interiors	186
Paula Grace Designs & Coaching, Inc.....	180
Romain Baty, LLC	124
Samantha Friedman Interior Designs, LLC.....	170
Sandra Meyers Design Studio.....	224

SCW Interiors.....	134
Shannon Bieter Interiors.....	128
Solis Betancourt & Sherrill.....	244
Sroka Design, Inc.	246
Syntha Harris Interiors, LLC.....	182
Tracy Morris Design	226
Vicky Lal Design LLC.....	208
Whittington Design Studio.....	258

■ LANDSCAPE DESIGN

Arentz Landscape Architects	262
Campion Hruby Landscape Architects.....	272
Colao & Peter, Luxury Outdoor Living.....	296
Fine Earth Landscape.....	282
Fine Landscapes, Ltd.	292
Jennifer Horn Landscape Architecture	284
Joseph Richardson Landscape Architecture	302
Kane Landscapes	270
Katia Goffin Gardens	278
Lewis Aquatech	280
McHale Landscape Design, Inc.	286
Surrounds Landscape Architecture + Construction.....	274
Walnut Hill Landscape	300
Wheat's Landscape Design + Construction	276



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Architecture



Espresso millwork and black-framed windows define a sunlit dining nook (opposite) in a home by WCRA; photo by Stacy Zarin Goldberg. Carter + Burton Architecture designed a weekend retreat in Virginia's Blue Ridge (above), employing a mix of passive-solar design and quality craftsmanship; photo by Daniel Afzal.

Sarah Armstrong, AIA

STUDIO 360 LLC

Fairfax, Virginia | 703-350-5562
studio360architect.com

Throughout her childhood, Sarah Armstrong loved to study how things are built and how light travels through a structure. A passion for art and design inspired her to find practical ways to express her creative side—and architecture proved to be the answer.

Now the principal of her own firm, Armstrong focuses on luxury remodeling, additions and custom homes. “We strive to create balanced, clean designs that respond specifically to each site, context and client,” explains the architect, who is versed in historic preservation and traditional homes as well as modern design and detailing.

Qualities that connect Armstrong’s projects include a sense of scale and an emphasis on natural light. “It is impossible for space-planning to work well without a starting point of beautifully controlled light and proper proportions,” she says. “An architect can offer suggestions to modify these elements in ways a client may never have considered.”

Armstrong makes the design process a collaborative one. “I find great joy in the process of helping clients and their families achieve their dreams for their homes,” she reflects. “I can’t imagine doing anything else.” For the past four years, Armstrong has been named a Top Architect by *Northern Virginia* magazine.

See more at HandD.com/SarahArmstrong



Clockwise from top: A beach house in Delaware’s Fenwick Island reflects a timeless aesthetic. A light-filled, modern kitchen offers a warm welcome. The transformation of a master bath creates an airy retreat. An inviting kitchen establishes a family-friendly hub in the home; interior design by Lauren Liess.

LEFT: ERIC TAYLOR; OPPOSITE, TOP: BOB NAROD



Seth Ballard, AIA, NCARB

BALLARD+MENSUA ARCHITECTURE

Washington, DC | 202-810-6555
ballardmensua.com

Seth Ballard brings a lifetime of international travel to his architecture practice. “I worked for years for a Burmese architect on projects in Thailand and Myanmar,” he recalls. “Working with my father-in-law and associate, Vicente Mensua, has exposed me to the amazing architecture of Spain and France. Everywhere I travel, I dive into the culture and absorb the art, architecture, food and music. Each experience makes me a better architect and designer.”

Founded in 2005, Ballard Mensua provides architectural, historic preservation and interior-design services with professional project management from start to finish. Ballard and his team study clients and how they live now as well as how they will grow into their home. “With furniture plans and deep thought about how a space will be used over time, our projects are always properly sited, with clean circulation, light and good chi,” Ballard says. A detailed cost-study phase and design process ensure that every decision his clients make is an informed one.

The firm’s recent accolades include Best Architect awards from *Arlington Magazine* in 2016 and 2020 and Best of *Northern Virginia* magazine awards in 2018, 2019 and 2020. Ballard+Mensua also received a 2017 Best of Houzz award. Seth Ballard was named 2019 Best Residential Architect in *Build* magazine.

See more at HandD.com/SethBallard



PHOTOS: MICHAEL GEISSINGER



Clockwise from opposite, top:
A Japanese-inspired red-cedar portico, custom PVC brackets, metal roof accents and a stone base, together with landscaping by Everett Garden Designs, add curb appeal to this truly custom home. Inside, walnut floors, mahogany trim and Western red cedar timber trusses, fabricated by Streamline Timberworks and installed by Gerald Staley Builders, create the feel of a Western lodge. The kitchen is distinguished by furniture-like cabinetry. A built-in fire pit is framed within a cedar pergola.

Lou Balodemas, AIA

Veena Shahsavarian, AIA; Micheal Holliday, RIBA, International Assoc. AIA

BALODEMAS ARCHITECTS

Washington, DC | 202-363-4820
balarch.com

Though he initially planned to study aerospace engineering in college, Lou Balodemas switched his sights to architecture. “I figured it would allow a broader and more immediate pursuit of my interests in design, art and history, while still being based in science and practicality,” he reflects.

The native Washingtonian founded his eponymous firm in 1988 and today oversees a team of emerging architects whose fresh insights and design sensibilities complement his experienced approach. The practice serves a diverse client base of developers, commercial businesses, government agencies and private homeowners, which fosters a vibrant and dynamic office culture.

On the residential front, Balodemas designs and renovates creative homes by carefully considering a project’s goals and overall context—including history, setting and typology—while avoiding a defining look. “Some projects are bold and modern while others are more comfortable fitting into their surroundings,” he observes. “Regardless of style, we use materials, colors and textures in a seamless and thoughtful way.”

Designs are presented to clients in an open, collaborative manner and refined to ensure the result suits homeowners’ personalities, aesthetic and lifestyle. “We consider our clients to be the drivers of the finished product and attentively lead them through every step of the process,” Balodemas explains. “We allow their perspective to guide solutions.”

See more at

HandD.com/BalodemasArchitects



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHANDER



Clockwise from opposite:
In a Potomac renovation, Balodemas Architects surrounded a fireplace with custom walnut paneling and Heath Ceramics tile. Butterfly House, a comprehensive renovation and addition in Kensington, boasts a new front porch with a cedar soffit, new cedar-and-metal siding and painted brick. In a newly renovated Chevy Chase home, the expanded foyer maintains an existing mid-century stair and planter. During the project, the firm incorporated a new screen wall, new entry doors and Aristocrat Anthracite floor tile from Architectural Ceramics.

Anthony Barnes, FAIA, LEED AP | Stephen Vanze, FAIA, LEED AP

Wayne Adams; Melanie Giordano, AIA; Ellen Hatton, AIA; Michael Patrick, AIA, LEED AP

BARNESVANZE ARCHITECTS, INC.

Washington, DC | 202-337-7255
barnesvanze.com

BarnesVanze Architects translates discerning clients' needs and desires into beautiful, livable spaces. Founders Anthony "Ankie" Barnes and Stephen Vanze, with fellow principals Melanie Giordano, Michael Patrick, Ellen Hatton and Wayne Adams, oversee a talented staff of architects and designers who create homes that reflect their owners' tastes and values, while responding to the unique characteristics of the properties on which they're built.

"We strive to know our clients well as people," Barnes says. "We look at how they live and their values. We are not selling a point of view, except that good design, regardless of style, is important."

Exposure to a range of cultures, styles and methods has informed each principal's approach. "Our training—in school and in practice—as well as extensive travel experience, allows us to draw from a variety of inspirational sources," Vanze observes.

BarnesVanze has received many accolades from professional peer groups. These include the prestigious John Russell Pope Award for an addition to a home Pope himself designed in 1932. That project also received an award of excellence from AIA Northern Virginia, which has also recognized the firm's modern renovation of a glass-enclosed pool house and party space.

See more at HandD.com/BarnesVanze



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHANDER



Clockwise from opposite, top: A sunny eat-in kitchen flows onto a covered porch in a new addition to an 1890s home in Chevy Chase. Shingled façades and exposed joinery distinguish a newly built Arts and Crafts-inspired home in DC. A beautifully restored Palladian window and staircase grace a 19th-century abode. Fretwork transoms crown entryways inside the Arts and Crafts-style residence. A family room and master suite addition complete with a circular stair tower complements a 1920s Mediterranean Revival in DC.

David Benton, AIA

BENTON ARCHITECTURE + INTERIORS, LLC

Washington, DC | 202-213-1197
bentonarchitecture.com

After nearly 20 years at some of the finest architecture firms in the DC area, David Benton now heads Benton Architecture + Interiors. While he currently works solo, Benton regularly partners with skilled contractors, craftsmen and consultants, with whom he has cultivated relationships over many years, to deliver thoughtful and beautiful results. Projects range from whole-house interior renovations to sizable home additions.

“Whether a home is considered traditional or contemporary, I respect the classic design principles of scale, balance and harmony,” he says. “By adhering to these core principles, we create thoughtful, functional and welcoming spaces that reflect our clients.”

Benton’s design process begins with “getting to know the homeowners—how they live today and how they dream of living,” he explains. “Having a strong sense of the client’s style, as well as the existing house and surroundings, helps lay the groundwork for a bespoke home that will enhance their lives.”

Benton Architecture + Interiors delivers on the big picture, from initial design through construction oversight and the furnishing of interiors so that clients ultimately have a house that feels like home. Benton’s ideal client appreciates good design and enjoys the process of exploring new possibilities together.

See more at HandD.com/DavidBenton



PHOTOS, THIS PAGE: ANGIE SECKINGER



Clockwise from opposite, top: A historic DC condo designed by I.M. Pei got a whole-home renovation. A seamless addition expanded a 19th-century waterfront cottage to take full advantage of its dramatic coastal setting. Relocating the kitchen in a coastal Connecticut house allowed spectacular waterfront views. A harmonious blending of two apartments created a generous and light-filled master suite in a mid-century DC condo.

PHOTOS, THIS PAGE: DAVID OTTENSTEIN

Jay I. Brown, AIA, LEED AP

Rebecca L. Kent, AIA, LEED AP; Erica L. Wunderlich, AIA; Dwayne Van Horn, AIA

LEVIN/BROWN ARCHITECTS

Owings Mills, Maryland | 410-581-0104
levinbrown.com

Jay Brown “caught the architecture bug” on a college trip to Europe. He returned home, transferred into the architecture program at University of Maryland, completed his bachelor’s of architecture degree and never looked back. After earning a master’s degree in landscape architecture from the University of Pennsylvania, he founded a residential design firm, The Architectural Foundation, Inc., merging in 1986 with Mark David Levin, AIA, a commercial-architecture firm. Today, Levin/Brown wears both hats (the firm has a specialty in religious architecture), with a concentration on custom residential design. Its staff of 10 includes eight architects and one interior designer.

Levin/Brown works in any architectural style, ensuring that every home responds to topography, existing and proposed vegetation, solar orientation and views—while meeting the clients’ functional, aesthetic and budgetary constraints. “We welcome the opportunity to team with interior designers, landscape architects and contractors,” Brown says. “Our clients speak highly of our creativity and flexibility; we are known as architects who listen, and this attitude is present in all facets of our work.”

Brown’s award-winning designs have been recognized and published numerous times. Recent accolades include the 2019 International Awards Program for Religious Art & Architecture’s Religious Arts—Visual Arts Award; and the Associated Builders and Contractors’ Chesapeake Shore Chapter 2018 Award for Excellence in Construction.

See more at HandD.com/LevinBrown



PHOTOS: ALAN GILBERT



A spacious, contemporary home in northwest Baltimore County delicately balances natural materials and clean lines. Clockwise from opposite, top: Clever lighting and material selections produce an ambiance of casual sophistication in the open-plan kitchen. Expansive glass openings bring in plenty of natural light via the home's front façade. Backyard amenities include a pool, a cabana with overhead infrared heaters and a floating fireplace complete with an A/V system. A two-story glass entry floods the foyer and living room with light while creating a seamless connection to the outdoors.

Jim Burton, AIA

CARTER + BURTON ARCHITECTURE

Berryville, Virginia | 540-955-1644
carterburton.com

A house designed by Carter + Burton Architecture reflects the careful process of blending site, client program, technical innovation and tasteful artistry. The Berryville, Virginia-based firm has been passionate about integrating modern, sustainable and contextual thought into its work since its formation. The team focuses on new home design as well as renovations, additions, interior design, landscape design and public work.

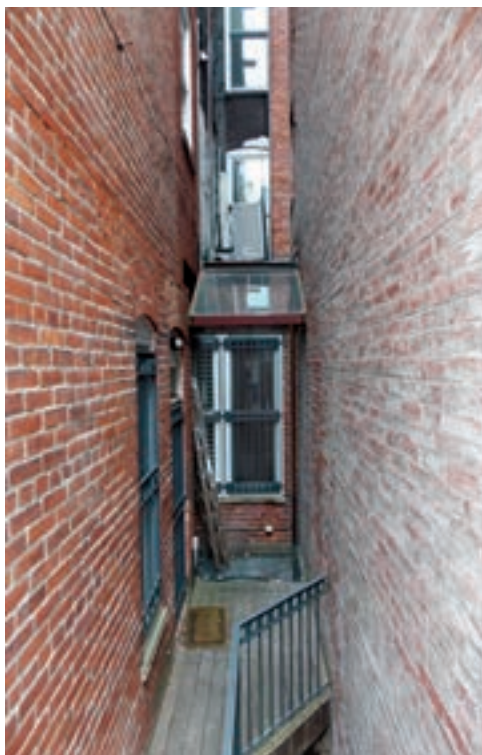
Carter + Burton has enjoyed a large number of repeat clients, a testament to its overall approach. “Our projects demonstrate the process of blending place, program, innovation and craft,” says principal Jim Burton.

The firm’s projects incorporate energy efficiency, natural daylight and eco-friendly building materials. Carter + Burton’s staff cares deeply about connecting a house and interior space to a site and works to make those spaces comfortable and inspiring.

Burton has refined an engaging and enjoyable design process that ensures a client’s needs are met. “We are problem-solvers who thrive on working with people,” he says. “We are committed to creating sustainable, well-designed work within a wide range of budgets. Many of our design elements inspire storytelling and a sense of spirit and place.”

Carter + Burton’s portfolio has garnered many awards and its work has been published around the world, most recently in *WWArchitecture’s 30 of the Most Relevant World Architects*, by Oscar Asensio.

See more at HandD.com/JimBurton



PHOTOS: JULIE ROBERTS HOME TEAM

The transformation of an outdated historic row house in DC (opposite) created an open plan, flooding the former alley (above, left) with natural light that penetrates five stories into the basement (above, right). Natural wood tones and colorful tile embellish the guest bath (top).





Carter + Burton designed a house in western New York State close to a rushing creek (right) so the client could experience its visual and audio qualities from the safety of the residence. Strategies were used to site the house near the cliff's edge and incorporate plenty of large windows in the great room (above) to capture ever-changing living views. A weekend home in Virginia's Blue Ridge (opposite) employs a mix of passive-solar design, technology, acoustical engineering and hidden functionality to support spaces that reinforce quality craftsmanship and detailing.



THIS PAGE: NICA JADOCH (TOP) & WADE MICHAEL (BOTTOM); OPPOSITE: DANIEL AFZAL



Jonas Carnemark, CKD, CLIPP

CARNEMARK DESIGN + BUILD

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-657-5000
carnemark.com

In 1987, Jonas Carnemark founded a company to realize his creative goal: to bring home-remodeling dreams to life—with both beauty and purpose. Since then, he has built a 17-person design/build firm where devotion to the clean lines of modern design flows easily alongside attention to comfort and accessibility. “Beauty in home design grows out of the owners’ notion of place and personality,” Carnemark says. “We work hard to sustain a meaningful interaction with our clients throughout the design-build process.”

CARNEMARK design + build specializes in the design, remodeling and restoration of homes and condominiums in the DC area, handling projects from initial planning and design through construction and ongoing service. Using a client-responsive and eco-sensitive process, the firm’s team turns abstract ideas into clean, sensible designs executed with careful craftsmanship. Says Carnemark, “We stress the importance of form and function, as well as service and integrity, on every project.”

Carnemark has received more than 100 national and regional awards for his company’s work throughout the Washington, DC, metropolitan area and across the country. These include “Best of Houzz” awards for seven years running. A frequent speaker at international design events, Carnemark has served as a judge for leading national design competitions and was recently named an industry Top Innovator by *Kitchen & Bath Design News*.

See more at HandD.com/JonasCarnemark



PHOTOS: ANICE HOAGLANDER

Clockwise from above: A clean-lined master bath with extra-wide doorways and seamless thresholds combines sleek style and accessibility. The dramatic exterior makeover of a Colonial home yields fresh, contemporary curb appeal. Dual islands are the perfect recipe for an efficient, modern chef’s kitchen.



Cathy Purple Cherry, AIA

PURPLE CHERRY ARCHITECTS

Annapolis, MD; Charlottesville & Middleburg, VA; Greenbrier, WV
410-990-1700 | purplecherry.com

The mission of Purple Cherry Architects is to create beautiful residences that provide clients with an enduring sense of comfort and harmony. Founded in 1996 by architect Cathy Purple Cherry, the 18-person firm offers full architecture and interior design services on projects ranging from renovations and additions to new homes.

“We seek to understand not only the physical, but also the emotional relationship a client will have with a particular space or structure, and how that translates to design,” explains Purple Cherry. “From the initial client inquiry through project completion, our team is devoted to being servants in the creation of exceptional homes.”

To that end, the firm employs the latest technology from design to documentation. With all projects developed in 3D software, clients are able to explore their homes via a 3D viewer. “These models allow a quick understanding of the massing and volume of the home,” Purple Cherry observes. “And we encourage clients to create virtual idea boards to help us capture their preferences and inspirations.”

Cathy Purple Cherry, who has been recognized with more than 35 design awards, takes pride in guiding homeowners through the design process step by step. “When the journey is truly successful,” she reflects, “architects are the creators of places and spaces that evoke joy, inspiration and contentment.”

See more at HandD.com/CathyPurpleCherry



PHOTOS: DARREN SETLOW



Clockwise from opposite:
A cathedral ceiling with
exposed timber framing lends
rustic detail to a living room
with a large stone hearth
as its focal point. A new,
7,000-square-foot home in
Hot Springs, Virginia, boasts
a large covered porch with
stunning mountain views.



Clockwise from above:
The design of a new home located on a tributary of the Chesapeake Bay was developed so that each living space could be angled to capture water views. Its living room fosters conversation with a calm color scheme and an open seating area. The formal dining room features classic, timeless textures in the context of an elegant coastal home. The rear exterior of the home boasts an upper balcony allowing for unobstructed waterfront views and a porch that opens out to the pool deck.



PHOTOS: DAVID BURROUGHS



Anne Decker, AIA

ANNE DECKER ARCHITECTS, LLC

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-652-0106
annedeckerarchitects.com

Anne Decker Architects, LLC, specializes in the design of well-crafted homes and additions that enrich and inform a sense of place. Sensitivity to scale, simplicity of form and attention to detail characterize the work of this nationally recognized firm.

With more than 25 years of experience creating timeless architecture, principal Anne Decker and her eight-member team believe that intimate and open collaboration with each client ensures that every design represents the unique vision of its owner. The firm approaches each project with a focus on being good listeners, rigorous attention to detail and a keen appreciation of the site and its unique requirements. "Our goal is to create architecture that feels warm and familiar, while clean and distilled at the same time," reflects Decker. "By removing what is unnecessary, a project becomes all about proportion, texture and light. There is complexity in simplicity and beauty in restraint."

Anne Decker Architects' work has appeared in national and regional print and digital publications and books, including *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Décor*, *Residential Architect*, *Traditional Home*, *New Old House*, *Washingtonian*, *Home & Design* and *DPAGES*. The firm has received the Palladio Award, a *Residential Architect* design award, a John Russell Pope Award and other awards from the AIA's Maryland, Northern Virginia and Potomac Valley chapters.

See more at HandD.com/AnneDecker



PHOTOS: GORDON BEALL

These pages: Located in Washington, DC, a light-filled pool house frames breathtaking views. The line between interior and exterior spaces is blurred by the use of limestone flooring throughout, while oversized steel doors and windows allow full transparency to the surrounding landscape.



Olvia C. Demetriou, FAIA

Elisabeth Kim Oliver, Studio Director; Alexi F. Adamstein, Designer; Andrea Ross, Head of Interiors

HAPSTAKDEMETRIOU+ ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Washington, DC | 202-333-9038
hd-ad.com

Olvia C. Demetriou, FAIA, and Peter F. Hapstak, III, AIA, founded HapstakDemetriou+ in 2011, bringing with them extensive experience as the principals of Adamstein & Demetriou, Inc., and CoreDC, respectively. HapstakDemetriou+ designs residential and multi-family buildings, hotels, restaurants, offices, retail and gallery spaces. With a team of 20 architects and three interior designers, the firm's work is both inventive and eye-catching.

Demetriou oversees the residential portfolio. A graduate of The Cooper Union School of Arts & Sciences, she was the youngest architect ever elected to The College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects in 2000. Her design solutions are bold and imaginative with an emphasis on dramatic and sculptural forms, evocative lighting, sensual materials and inventive detailing. Her attention to detail has been recognized by her peers through numerous awards.

"At HapstakDemetriou+, we are passionate about creating designs that surprise, delight and energize the people who experience them," Demetriou says. "Our unique architectural designs couple our clients' vision and core values with the pragmatism of a livable home."

Olvia Demetriou's work has been featured on Fox Television and in hundreds of publications, including *Architectural Record*, *BusinessWeek*, *Interior Design*, *Interiors*, *Architectural Digest*, *Rizzoli's Private Washington*, *World Architecture*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Metropolitan Home*, *House Beautiful* and *Elle Décor*.

See more at HandD.com/OlviaDemetriou



THIS PAGE: GREG POWERS (TOP); BILL WHITCHER (BOTTOM); OPPOSITE: MAXWELL MACKENZIE



HapstakDemetriou+ reimagined a Northwest DC home (opposite, top and bottom) with exposed-steel beams and columns on the exterior and a floating roof plane for solar shading. The interior is defined by oak-lattice walls and exposed-steel columns. A Georgian home (above and left) was reinvented as a modern art gallery. Oxidized copper panels on the exterior create a quiet contrast to the stone façade and a sliding glass door opens to a landscape by Arentz Landscape Architects. Minimalist interiors allow the art to sing; above the Boffi kitchen, an Ingo Maurer Red Ribbon light fixture takes center stage.

Robert M. Gurney, FAIA

ROBERT M. GURNEY, FAIA

Washington, DC | 202-237-0925
robertgurneyarchitect.com

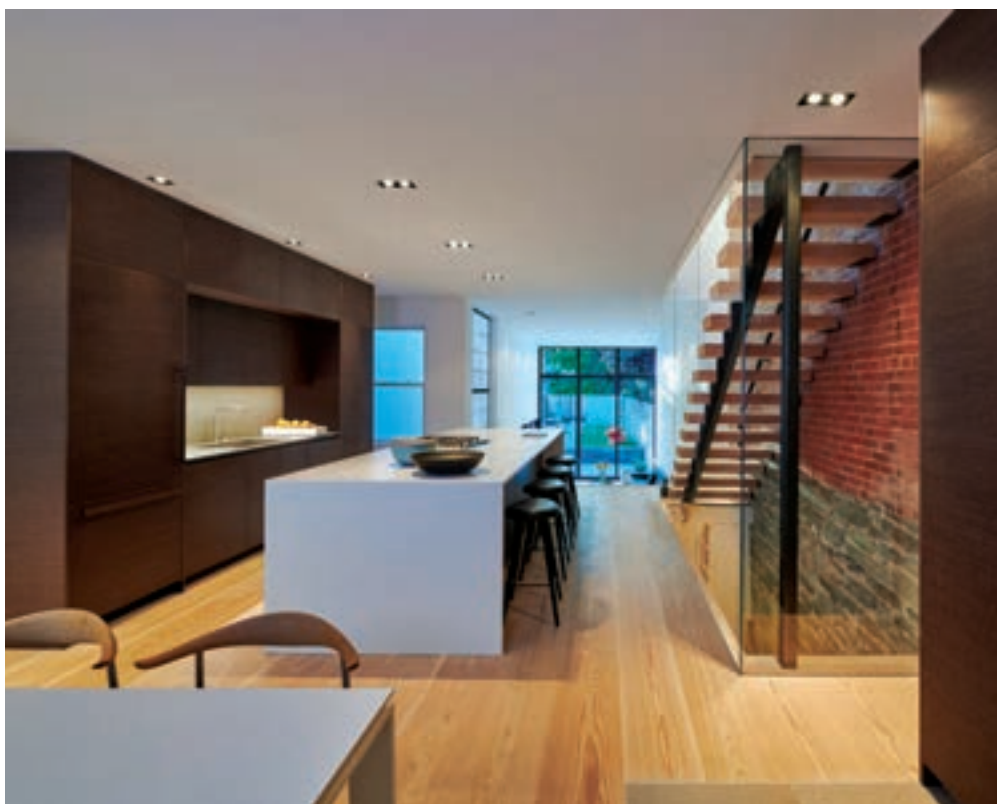
The office of Robert M. Gurney, FAIA, designs meticulously detailed modern residential and commercial projects that are sensitive to site, program and budget. Materials are employed with honesty, integrity and ecological awareness. Interior spaces are active and intricate, tranquil and minimal. Regardless of project size or budget, the firm produces spaces that strive for design excellence.

Whether working in complex historical districts or on a vacant site, the design process involves an understanding of site-specific issues, availability of materials and construction methods, with considerable client interaction.

Design solutions arrive through the thoughtful manipulation of light, color, texture, form and geometry, with results that are simultaneously complex and distilled. Attention to detail and awareness of location, landscape and history lead to solutions that respect historical, topographical and regional context, without being revivalist.

Works by Robert M. Gurney, FAIA have won more than 320 local, regional and national design awards and have been published in numerous local, national and international magazines, books and periodicals. They are the subject of two monographs, *Modern Order: Houses by Robert Gurney* and *Robert M. Gurney Architect*, part of Images Publishing's Master Architect Series.

See more at HandD.com/RobertGurney



These pages: Robert Gurney transformed a traditional row house in historic Georgetown into an open, modern dwelling. Exposed walls of brick and stone, Douglas fir floors and rich cabinetry create a warm, minimalist aesthetic. A modern addition incorporates abundant glass and opens to the rear garden.

PHOTOS: ANICE HOAGLANDER





These pages: A new residence in Northwest DC aligns with the existing homes on the street, but allows for large, private outdoor areas behind it. The house is divided into three volumes that are connected by two glass links. Traditional materials, gabled-roof forms, tall chimneys and steel windows are crisply detailed.



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHANDER





These pages: A 200-year-old townhouse in Georgetown became an airy, modern abode, accommodating the new owner's spatial requirements and extensive art collection. The renovation significantly improved the connectivity of spaces, while respecting the historical integrity of the existing architecture. Modern interventions, such as glass-and-steel doors, marble flooring and a sleek fireplace mantel, complement original elements like the front stair, crown molding, columns and pilasters.



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHANDER





These pages: A new house located in Rehoboth Beach was conceived from the inside out to focus on both the Silver Lake and Atlantic Ocean views. Broken into four cedar-clad volumes, the house becomes a series of indoor/outdoor spaces which maximize the views inherent to the site.



PHOTOS: JOHN COLE



Mark D. Hughes, AIA | Bulent Baydar, AIA

HARRISON DESIGN

Washington, DC | 202-733-1479
harrisondesign.com

Since it was founded in Atlanta almost 20 years ago, Harrison Design has focused on creating buildings that are highly functional, refined and enduring. In 2010, Mark Hughes and Bulent Baydar established the firm's Washington, DC, office; the local practice designs gracious residences and estates that vary in style but embody the principles of classical architecture.

The son of British parents, Hughes grew up in DC and on occasion visited the British Embassy, where he was inspired by the work of famed architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. In a high school drafting class, Frank Lloyd Wright's work, theories and drawings particularly sparked his passion.

Always captivated by buildings and drawing, Baydar fell in love with architecture on an early visit to Barcelona, where he discovered the imaginative designs of Antoni Gaudí. Studying architecture was a given for both principals, who now work with four associates to fulfill clients' dreams and desires.

Considering each homeowner's goals and vision, Baydar and Hughes aver, is the secret to a successful project. "Instead of following trends, we create homes with architecture that endures," explains Baydar.

"We believe that every project, no matter the size, should be well considered and endowed with good design that will ultimately enhance and bring pleasure to clients' daily lives," adds Hughes. "That is our greatest reward."

See more at HandD.com/HarrisonDesign



PHOTOS BY GORDON BEALL



Clockwise from opposite, top: A French Regency-style residence in McLean was inspired by homes in France's Dordogne River Valley with its stone exterior, slate roof and simple plank shutters. Sporting a peaked turret, stone façade and charming, light-blue shutters, a Norman-style residence in Vienna would look perfectly at home in the French countryside. Abundant archways connect the home's loggia, with its timbered, vaulted ceiling, to the terrace, pool and landscape beyond for comfortable indoor-outdoor entertaining. A gambrel roof, flared eaves and Tudor-style windows add elegance to a classic, New England Shingle-style residence.

David Jameson, FAIA

DAVID JAMESON ARCHITECT INC.

Bethesda, Maryland | 240-483-0377
davidjamesonarchitect.com

Primarily situated in and around Washington, DC, the work of David Jameson Architect evocatively negotiates the insertion of modernist residences within distinct urban conditions, suburban environments and rural landscapes. The studio aspires to elevate space into a poetic experience.

David Jameson believes that instilling a narrative ideology is what elevates his projects into meaningful architecture. “The resulting spatial experiences are intertwined with the conceptual genesis of each project,” Jameson observes. “My studio explores each commission as habitable art.”

Some of David Jameson’s most recent awards for residential design include the American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Honor Award for Interior Architecture; AIA National Honor Award for Small Projects; International Architecture Award; American Architecture Award; AIA|DC Award of Excellence; AIA|Maryland Award of Excellence; and AIA|Virginia Award of Excellence.

See more at HandD.com/DavidJameson



PHOTOS: PAUL WARCHOL

Screened by metal-clad walls, Ontario Residence (above) features burnt-wood siding and a roof deck. Manifold House (opposite) pays homage to manufactured assemblages with its prefabricated structural frame and weathered-steel louvers that control privacy and modulate light. Public functions revolve around a two-story volume on the main level.





THIS PAGE: PAUL WARSCHOL; OPPOSITE: BRUCE DAMONTE PHOTOGRAPHY



Situated a half-mile from California's San Andreas Fault, Woodside Residence (this page) amplifies the natural and experiential forces at work on the site and beyond. Spatial fissures between the rough concrete structure and refined wood volumes allude to the tension between the earth's surface and tectonic plates shifting beneath. Like a mirage, Vapor House (opposite) celebrates water and its experiential qualities. Panels of rippled steel provide privacy and reflect the earth and sky, rendering unclear the building's scale and materiality. Planar glazing, both kinetic and fixed, blurs the distinction between interior and exterior spaces that ebb and flow around the pool.



PHOTOS: PAUL WARCHOL



Stone walls orient Wildcat Mountain Residence (opposite) to its site; balanced above heavy wall elements, the glass-enclosed living pavilion acts as a lens to the landscape. Hull House (this page) was inspired by the sloped roof requirements of a historic district; an abstracted origami-like tent drapes a steel-framed, hull-like space bound by transparent walls and an arrangement of pavilions.

Patrick Brian Jones, AIA

PATRICK BRIAN JONES PLLC

Washington, DC | 202-765-1232
patrickbrianjones.com

Growing up as one of eight children, says Patrick Brian Jones, he “always tried to create a sense of order in the midst of chaos.” Since earning an architecture degree at Catholic University, he has continued on the same path, gaining a range of experience at boutique design firms in DC for 13 years before launching Patrick Brian Jones, PLLC, in 2011.

“I design spaces that are sophisticated yet simple, that reflect the needs and lifestyles of those who inhabit them,” he relates. “I specify materials carefully, suggesting environmentally responsible products when possible, but always ensuring each new space will withstand the test of time.”

The sole proprietor of his firm, Jones regularly works with outside consultants and teams with other architects on larger projects. His architectural training has made him as comfortable in the studio meeting with clients as he is in the field working with contractors.

“I think the key to executing a well-designed home lies in listening to clients and being able to interpret their needs,” he notes. “That’s how I create spaces that are functional and interesting, often incorporating experimental elements in subtle and restrained ways.”

Projects by Jones have appeared in nine publications over the past nine years, including *Home & Design’s* Late Spring 2020 issue.

See more at HandD.com/PatrickJones



PHOTOS: GREG POWERS



Patrick Brian Jones recently overhauled a Logan Circle row house in clean-lined, modern style. Clockwise from opposite: A large glass slider and a playful window composition update the rear façade. A mix of classic and contemporary design details merges flawlessly in the newly opened-up main level. The living room fireplace was transformed with a contemporary gas insert and floor-to-ceiling marble surround.

Devin S. Kimmel, AIA, ASLA

KIMMEL STUDIO ARCHITECTS

Annapolis, Maryland | 410-571-3604
kimmelstudio.com

Trained as an architect, landscape architect and illustrator, Devin Kimmel brings a holistic approach to his craft. Since launching his firm in 2010, he has focused on “artful design”—architecture that is seamlessly integrated with its landscape. His projects reflect the vision of his clients, who are encouraged to be part of the design team. As the architect reasons, “We have accomplished our mission when the client looks at a design and says, ‘Yes, this is me.’”

Kimmel and his staff of 12 are versed in traditional and modern forms. “If a client specifies a building in classical, farmhouse, Colonial, Shingle or Tudor style, we will enjoy designing it—and we will know how to do it,” he affirms.

Even when designing modern structures, architectural history remains first and foremost. “Knowing tradition does not imply that we are bound by it,” Kimmel notes. “But history helps us decide when to tweak or even break traditional rules.”

Kimmel Studio Architects has earned numerous awards; the project pictured on these pages received the People’s Choice Award for Excellence in Design from the Chesapeake Bay Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. That same organization chose Kimmel as 2019 Architect of the Year; he and his staff take pride not only in their finished work but also in the beautiful black-and-white drawings, color renderings and 3D models that they present to clients.

See more at HandD.com/DevinKimmel



Clockwise from top: The pitched roof and chimneys of an Annapolis residence pay homage to a historic home in the area; the pool house boasts easy flow from the inside out; the entry features double-height ceilings and a helical stairway; and the kitchen opens onto a porch with expansive water views.

PHOTOS: JENNIFER HUGHES



Randall Kipp, AIA, NCARB, ASID

RANDALL KIPP ARCHITECTURE

Irvington, Virginia | 804-438-6287
kipparchitecture.com

“We are often taught, or teach ourselves, that good architecture must spring from urban settings,” architect Randall Kipp observes. “But my experience has taught me that life and practice in the country—in nature, surrounded by wildlife—is the true inspiration for good buildings.” His firm builds mostly on the shores of rivers, creeks and bays in the Chesapeake region.

Randall Kipp Architecture was founded in 1993 and comprises a team of six architects, interior designers and industrial engineers. Kipp brings a background in paper-making, letterpress printing, ceramics and carpentry to his work. “To me, architecture is a logical extension of these crafts, which are tactile in nature and employ form, transparency, structure and simplicity,” he notes.

Each project designer shepherds the work through the entire process, from design through construction, including the construction-document and construction-administration phases. In this way, the design intent is preserved and oftentimes amplified. “Our buildings do not stand proud and speak loudly, but blend calmly into their settings, enhancing the experience of living with nature,” Kipp says. “We pride ourselves on creating spaces that reflect our clients’ lives, and strive each day to be better designers and design better buildings—not only for our clients but also for the planet.”

See more at HandD.com/RandallKipp



PHOTOS: MAXWELL MACKENZIE



Clockwise from opposite:
A home facing Carter's Creek in Irvington employs steel framing that allows for large expanses of glass. A lofted great room features timbers salvaged from a tobacco warehouse; heated-concrete floors; a kitchen island of wood and plate steel; and a fireplace wrapped in concrete panels. An Irvington home built on an old boat railway below the floodplain rests on wood pilings that elevate it above the tidal lowland; a raised motor court connects to the front door via a steel-and-wood bridge.

Richard A. Leggin, AIA

RICHARD LEGGIN ARCHITECTS, P.C.

Cabin John, Maryland | 301-320-0107
rlarchs.com

A life-long interest in building and design, along with a propensity for math and engineering, inspired Richard Leggin to become an architect. He launched his own practice more than 30 years ago with a focus on custom residential work and small commercial projects. Many of Leggin's early projects involved updating historic buildings in Georgetown and Dupont Circle. Today, he and a staff of four focus on renovations and new construction throughout the mid-Atlantic region.

"Our goal is to provide exceptional service to our clients as we guide and assist them through the design and building process," he says. "Excellence in design, drawings, communication and professional practice is also a core value."

The architect and his colleagues take a collaborative, interpersonal approach to every project. "Our clients become fully engaged; when we work through options and possibilities together, better ideas happen," he explains. "The final design is as much our clients' as it is ours."

"I'm fortunate and grateful that people entrust me with their homes; it's a big responsibility," Leggin continues. "And I especially appreciate clients who return for help on subsequent projects—some after many years."

Richard Leggin Architects has created hundreds of elegant and inspired homes. A custom home by the firm was published in the Spring 2020 issue of *Home & Design*.

See more at HandD.com/RichardLeggin



PHOTOS: ROBERT RADJERA; STYLING: CHARLOTTE SAFARI



On a steep site, Richard Leggin designed a “not-so-big” family home (opposite) to fit nicely into its established Palisades neighborhood in Washington, DC. Inside, the home boasts an office in the treetops (above) featuring functional work surfaces, quiet seclusion and beautiful views; and a light-filled, open-plan kitchen, family dining bay and living area (left), where large sliding doors open onto a garden terrace. *Home & Design* covered the residence in its Spring 2020 issue.



Clockwise from above: Located in Virginia's Northern Neck, a classic home designed in the Tidewater tradition takes advantage of water views on three sides. An extensive renovation and second-floor addition enhance a welcoming, French Country-style abode in McLean. A comprehensive addition/remodeling project in Kenwood, Maryland, created a comfortably classic family room. A McLean pool pavilion made of cedar and stone features an oversized fireplace, outdoor kitchen, ceiling heaters and folding glass/screen door panels to allow for year-round use.



THIS PAGE: ANICE HOCHLANDER, OPPOSITE, TOP: KENNETH M. WYNER, OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: LINDA TITANTE



Donald Lococo, AIA, NCARB

DONALD LOCOCO ARCHITECTS, LLC

Washington, DC | 202-337-4422
donaldlococoarchitects.com

Architect Donald Lococo and his staff sympathetically modernize traditional homes and craft warm modern homes. Integral to this process is a conversation that encourages clients to express their vision for their residence along a dynamic traditional-to-modern spectrum. Unbound by one style or period, dreams steer each design.

Repeated features and recognition for the firm's work in a range of styles are a testament to its fluid dexterity. Donald Lococo Architects has been featured in traditional publications like *Architectural Digest* and on the covers of modern magazines such as *Remodeling*. The firm has earned a national AIA award for the modern Wedge House renovation, and consecutive traditional John Russell Pope Awards from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art. The team also received the prestigious national Benjamin Moore Hue Award, recognizing DLA's designs for modern and traditional projects.

A full-service practice, DLA has also received recognition for architectural interiors including custom kitchens and casework. Although the firm has worked across the country and abroad, Donald Lococo has continued his residential focus in the DC area and across the eastern United States for more than 25 years.

See more at HandD.com/DonaldLococo



With clean lines and natural materials, the Modern Courtyard home (top) balances one partner's affection for Mies van der Rohe proportions and the other's love of warmth and human scale. The whole-house renovation of a 1940s Tudor (above) was inspired by the home's original plaster openings, gable roofs and metal windows; the project includes an award-winning kitchen addition (opposite).

TOP: MAXWELL MACKENZIE; LEFT & OPPOSITE: ANICE HOACHLANDER





Overlooking Washington's Rock Creek Park, the Linnean House (right) combines classic proportions and a limestone façade; this new home received a John Russell Pope Award from the Mid-Atlantic chapter of the Classical Institute of Architecture and Art as well as an NKBA Award for the master bathroom. A compassionate addition opens the City Home Renovation in Kalorama (above and opposite) to sunlight and garden views. The historic home's integrity is maintained in the rebuilt stairway and new steel-framed doors that open to the backyard.



TOP: GORDON BEALL; LEFT & OPPOSITE: JOHN COLE





Featured in numerous magazines and on two covers, the new American Farmhouse (above) contrasts rough stone with crisp, white board-and-batten siding. The French Country Home remodel (right) transformed a 1950s split level; a series of French doors with fieldstone arches replaced the front façade. Repeatedly published, the Modern Mill home (opposite) in Leesburg, Virginia, references the architecture of waterway mills. Hand-hewn timbers counterpoint modern detailing with warm windows and stairways in this industrial revival. These elements allow the new home to be inviting while remaining modern and fresh.



TOP: PAUL WARCHOL; LEFT: WALTER SMALLING; OPPOSITE: MAXWELL MACKENZIE



Thomas Manion, AIA

MANION + ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS, P.C.

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-229-7000
manionarchitects.com

Manion + Associates is a full-service firm whose staff is passionate about design. Residential work is its main focus, and provides opportunities for everything from energy-efficient contemporaries to historic restorations. The firm was founded in 1979 by principal Thomas Manion and currently has six employees, including two consulting architects.

Manion and his team employ a process that involves and educates the client. "By understanding clients' goals and objectives, we establish good working relationships," Manion says. The firm emphasizes an open, cooperative approach with consultants and builders.

Manion has written and lectured on passive-solar, earth-sheltered and other energy-saving approaches. "Residential design is constantly evolving," he observes. "Each concept must relate to the site and setting; efficiency and orientation are crucial. Success is a woven litany of systems, materials and focus."

During the past few years, Manion + Associates designed an addition using split logs; created a home combining Asian and Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired elements; and received awards for various historic restorations. The firm has won 12 Potomac Valley AIA design awards and one Maryland AIA award. As Manion says, "We take on projects that challenge, educate and help us grow."

See more at HandD.com/ThomasManion



OPPOSITE & ABOVE: KEVIN CARNEY; LEFT: BRANDON PEREZ



Clockwise from opposite:
Framing was exposed for the extension of the main living space in a contemporized Bethesda split-level. The front façade of a Cabin John home received a contemporary facelift, including a boxed-out bay and cedar accents. A new home in Glen Echo was designed in a modern Craftsman style, with a second-floor balcony maximizing views of the Potomac River.

Randall Mars, AIA

RANDALL MARS ARCHITECTS

McLean, Virginia | 703-749-0431
randallmarsarchitects.com

In the design of every residential commission, Randall Mars concentrates on creating spaces both inside and outside the home, defined by the building masses and the environment. In shaping these spaces, he avoids the big box response, and creates distinctive and diverse places. The notion that it's possible to create a unique response to each and every programmatic challenge guides the architect's practice today.

Mars founded Randall Mars Architects in 1989; today, this boutique firm focuses on designing homes that celebrate light, space and texture. When orchestrating a project, Mars and his colleagues take cues from their clients, as well as the site and the environment. "Terrain, foliage, orientation and light influence our response to homeowners' functional needs and aesthetic desires," he remarks, adding, "We try to give our clients what they will love—more than what they ask for."

Mars contends that too many homes today are oversized, resulting in the diminishing of our natural environment. "We don't believe that size matters," he explains. "Rather, we strive for excellence in detailing and creating an environment rich in materiality and spatial diversity. All of our homes are very livable; they do not exist as sterile sculptures, but more as a canvas for living."

Mars teaches at the WAAC, the Alexandria Campus for Virginia Tech, and served as a board member of AIA Northern Virginia and Virginia AIA for more than 15 years.

See more at HandD.com/RandallMars



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHANDER



Clockwise from opposite, top: A major renovation and addition to a Mid-Century Modern home designed by Charles Goodman in Alexandria's Hollin Hills respects the existing structure while incorporating more glass and bright, airy living spaces. A modern oceanfront getaway in Dewey Beach, Delaware, is clad in concrete panels with ipe rain screens; glass doors enclosing the main level retract into the walls, expanding the living space outside. A full-house renovation in North Arlington takes advantage of the existing deck-house wood ceiling and exposed beams, contrasting them with modern millwork and a sleek stone fireplace surround.

James McDonald

JAMES MCDONALD ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS P.C.

Great Falls, Virginia | 703-757-0036
jamesmcdonaldarchitects.com

James McDonald founded JMAA in 2009 with the ideal of providing unique design solutions to help clients create new spaces they can call home. McDonald and his team of 10 staff members work on projects ranging from modest renovations to grand estate homes. “The goal and design energy is the same,” McDonald says. “Every step of the way from our initial design process to the finished home, we work with clients to balance their wants and needs with their space and living requirements.”

Growing up in a community with a lot of construction happening around him, combined with seeing great European architecture at a young age, inspired McDonald’s enjoyment in the built environment. He and his team rely on extensive design and construction experience and an understanding of the market in leading clients towards the right solutions.

“The hardest thing to learn is how to listen, to hone in on what clients are looking for,” McDonald observes. “Every project begins with understanding their needs and wants. Our design charrette process allows us to explore different directions with them.”

Over the last couple of years, JMAA has received numerous Aurora awards and Great American Living Awards. A home designed by the firm was featured in *The Washington Post*.

See more at HandD.com/JamesMcDonald



LEFT & OPPOSITE, TOP: HOMEVIST; TOP: GREG HADLEY; BOTTOM: BRADLEY CARCONE



Clockwise from opposite, top:
a custom home in McLean; a
custom contemporary home in
Potomac; Chateaux de Lune in
Great Falls, Virginia; and a new
model home in Bethesda.

Matthew McDonald, AIA | Jennifer Verbeke, AIA, LEED AP

MCDSTUDIO ARCHITECTURE + DESIGN

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-215-7277
mcdstudio.com

As youngsters, Matthew McDonald and Jennifer Verbeke loved to draw and imagine special houses. Verbeke doodled plans before she ever heard the word “architect.” And once McDonald learned about that profession, he knew it was the right career choice for him.

After studying architecture at universities with strong, design-driven curricula (McDonald at Virginia Tech and Verbeke at Carnegie Mellon), both honed their skills at architecture studios as well as design/build firms before launching MCDStudio in 2013. This experience left each principal with a solid understanding of both the design and construction phases.

Today, their four-person firm focuses on residential projects in a wide array of types and styles. The partners value collaboration—both internally and with clients and industry partners. “We set aside our own egos and listen to our clients to help turn their dreams into reality with our guidance, expertise and creative thinking,” McDonald explains.

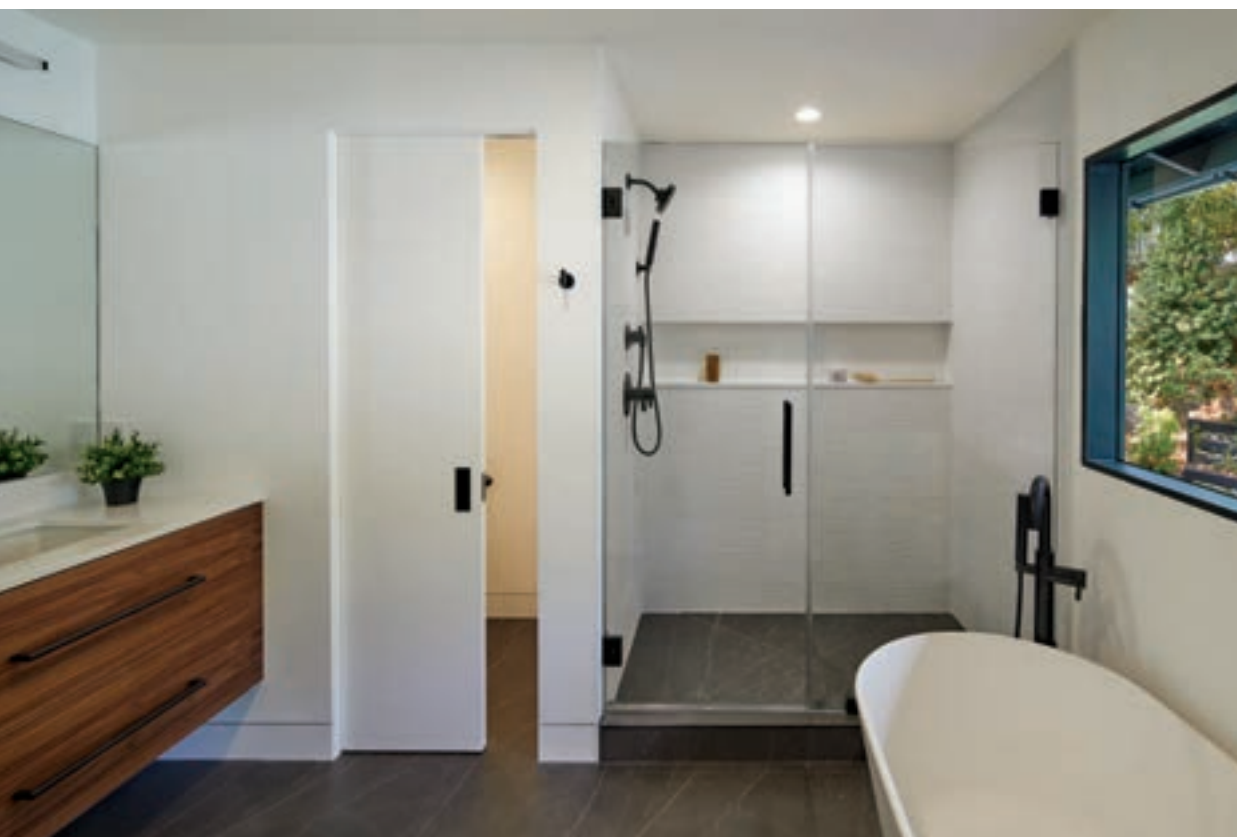
He and Verbeke also leverage the latest 3D and virtual reality technology to help homeowners visualize what their space can look like. “By using these tools early on in the process,” says Verbeke, “we can make better-informed decisions that ensure a smoother construction process down the line.”

As McDonald reflects, “Our core value is that the best design is the one that makes the clients’ lives better than before.”

See more at HandD.com/MCDStudio



THIS PAGE: LOU MAZZATENTA (TOP) & GEOFFREY HODGSON (BOTTOM), OPPOSITE: ANICE HOACHLANDER



Clockwise from opposite, top: A renovation and addition in Arlington incorporated a new stair adjacent to what was the home's existing exterior wall; the exposed stone now creates a rustic accent. In the makeover of a dilapidated, Mid-Century Modern house in DC, MCDStudio replaced its windows, railings and front door and upgraded the exterior with natural-wood accents and a new paint scheme. An expansive master bathroom features large-format Porcelanosa tiles and a custom floating walnut vanity; black plumbing fixtures add contrast. A Chevy Chase addition encompasses a spacious kitchen with a stainless-steel hood, glazed subway tile backsplash and an island that faces a new family room.

Mark McInturff, FAIA

Peter Noonan, AIA; Christopher Boyd, AIA; David Mogensen, AIA; Jeff McInturff

MCINTURFF ARCHITECTS

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-229-3705
mcinturffarchitects.com

Mark McInturff launched McInturff Architects in 1986. Today, the firm remains intentionally small, with six members and a bent toward contemporary design for residential, commercial and institutional projects.

While McInturff's work is modern, the firm has no single identifiable style. "I have learned many lessons from good traditional buildings," McInturff observes. Each client and site is unique, and he collaborates with clients in order to tailor his work to their needs.

"We are good listeners—our goal is to be involved in the entire process," he explains. "The best projects integrate everything, from the initial design through the finished product, including landscape and interiors."

McInturff Architects has received more than 350 design awards, including 37 AIA DC/Washingtonian Residential Design Awards and three national AIA Honor Awards. The firm's projects have been widely published locally and nationally, and McInturff's work has been the subject of three monographs: *In Detail: McInturff Architects* (2001); *In Residence: McInturff Architects* (2007); and *In House: McInturff Architects* (2013). A fourth book, *About the House: McInturff Architects*, is scheduled for release late in 2020. Mark McInturff was elevated to the AIA's College of Fellows in 2000.

See more at HandD.com/MarkMcInturff



A slender new house in Northwest DC (top) overlooks a pool; its entry (above, left) is inviting yet private. A living room (above, right) is screened by sliding bronze panels under a bridge. The living room of a Georgetown house (opposite) sits atop a bluff overlooking the Potomac River.

TOP & OPPOSITE: ANICE HOACHANDER; LEFT & FAR LEFT: JULIA HEINE





Clockwise from above:
A 1,000-square-foot house reflects the minimalist lifestyle of its owners. A large home-office addition with its own entry shares a parking court with the existing house. A folding wall of glass connects a new kitchen to the pool and garden beyond. A parking court buffers a home from its busy street, providing gracious access to both cars and guests.



TOP, LEFT & OPPOSITE: JULIA HEINE; TOP, OPPOSITE: ANICE HOACHLANDER



Stephen Muse, FAIA | William Kirwan, AIA, LEED AP

MUSE ARCHITECTS

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-718-8118
musearchitects.com

Established by Stephen Muse in 1983, Muse Architects offers extensive experience in both architecture and interior design. In 2003, longtime employee William Kirwan became a principal of the firm; today, Muse Architects has a staff of 14. "Our work is designed to be site- and client-specific," Muse explains. "We extend what is best about existing conditions while mitigating problems. At completion, we have hopefully constructed a building that looks like it has always been there."

The structures designed by Muse Architects are personal, and aim to surpass what their owners imagined they could be. "We ask clients to describe their backgrounds so we can design a home that recalls their memories and has meaning to them," Kirwan notes.

Muse Architects has received more than 160 design awards from local and national AIA chapters and from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The firm's work has appeared in more than 200 books and periodicals, including *Architectural Record*, *Architectural Digest* and *The American House, Design for Living*.

In addition to the Washington, DC, area, completed projects by Muse Architects can be found up and down the East Coast from Cape Cod to North Palm Beach, Florida, as well as near Chicago and in Big Timber, Montana.

See more at HandD.com/MuseKirwan



Muse Architects modernized the interiors of a log cabin (above), opening the space up to views of Deep Creek Lake in Western Maryland. A custom Bethesda home (opposite) clad in local fieldstone, stained siding and shingles is distinguished by expansive windows that overlook a private rear courtyard.

LEFT: ERIK KVALSVIK; OPPOSITE: MAXWELL MACKENZIE





Clockwise from above:
A farmhouse renovation in Afton, Virginia, featured a new guest cottage, garage and pool—all sited toward views of surrounding mountains. A family room addition complements the aesthetic of a 1930s home in Bethesda while maximizing views of a neighboring park. Utilizing under-counter storage in a Northwest DC kitchen left room for expansive windows offering garden views.



PHOTOS: ERIK KVALSVIK



George T. Myers, AIA, NCARB | *Mark Kaufman, Steve Mulholland, Rolando Valdez, Lauren Clark, Tamara Gorodetzky, Luke Olson, Douglas Roberts, Jessica Parker Wachtel*

GTM ARCHITECTS

Bethesda, Maryland | 240-333-2000
gtmarchitects.com

Now entering its fourth decade of service, GTM Architects is an award-winning residential and commercial firm offering planning, architecture and design services. Principal George T. Myers launched GTM in 1989; today, the firm employs a staff of 58 in its Bethesda and DC offices. Projects—traditional, contemporary and everything in between—can be found throughout the region and in more than 20 states.

“We believe the most important quality of a well-designed home is its ability to perfect the homeowner’s vision,” notes Myers. “We are responsive, courteous and talented professionals who bring vision, creativity and passion to our work, prioritizing the client’s wants and needs above all else. As collaborative partners, GTM achieves exceptional service through insightful listening and the open exchange of ideas.”

GTM’s team offers vastly diverse specialties and a wide array of skills developed and fine-tuned over many years. Accomplishments include countless custom residential homes; a broad range of innovative commercial interiors; multifamily and mixed-use urban-development projects; and commercial buildings ranging from fitness, retail and restaurant sectors to educational and financial institutions. Among other accolades, during 2019, GTM Architects received six Maryland Building Industry Association Awards, a Chrysler Award and a *Home & Design* Designers’ Choice Award.

Says Myers, “GTM’s strength is diversity, both in style and in our architects’ knowledge, which excites our clients and lets their vision shine.”

See more at HandD.com/GeorgeMyers



LEFT: DIEGO VALDEZ; TOP & OPPOSITE PAGE: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Clockwise from opposite, top: Extensive millwork and an arched, cased opening refine a Garrett Park home designed by GTM's Jessica Parker Wachtel and Douglas Roberts. Cantilevered roof projections clad in metal meet Western red-cedar siding in a modern Bethesda home designed by GTM architects Mark Kaufman and George Myers; inside, exposed, blackened-steel beams with a floating walnut ceiling panel complement rift-walnut cabinetry and oak flooring. Traditional details distinguish a Bethesda residence designed with understated elegance and symmetry by GTM's Tamara Gorodetzky.



Clockwise from above:
GTM's Luke Olson designed a porch with motorized blinds, ceiling-mounted space heaters and pocket doors to create indoor-outdoor flow. A Four Square-inspired courtyard contains a home's focal point: a minimalist pool scape that sits on a central axis from the front door; inside, Mark Kaufman contrasted stained and painted cabinets in a modern kitchen. Farmhouse details and modest exterior building forms hide contemporary interiors while respecting the historic neighborhood of Garrett Park.



THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG, OPPOSITE, TOP: MICHAEL KRISS



Jeffrey Penza, AIA

Laura Thul Penza, Ryan Behneman, Leah Marie Penza

PENZA BAILEY ARCHITECTS

Baltimore, Maryland | 410-435-6677
penzabailey.com

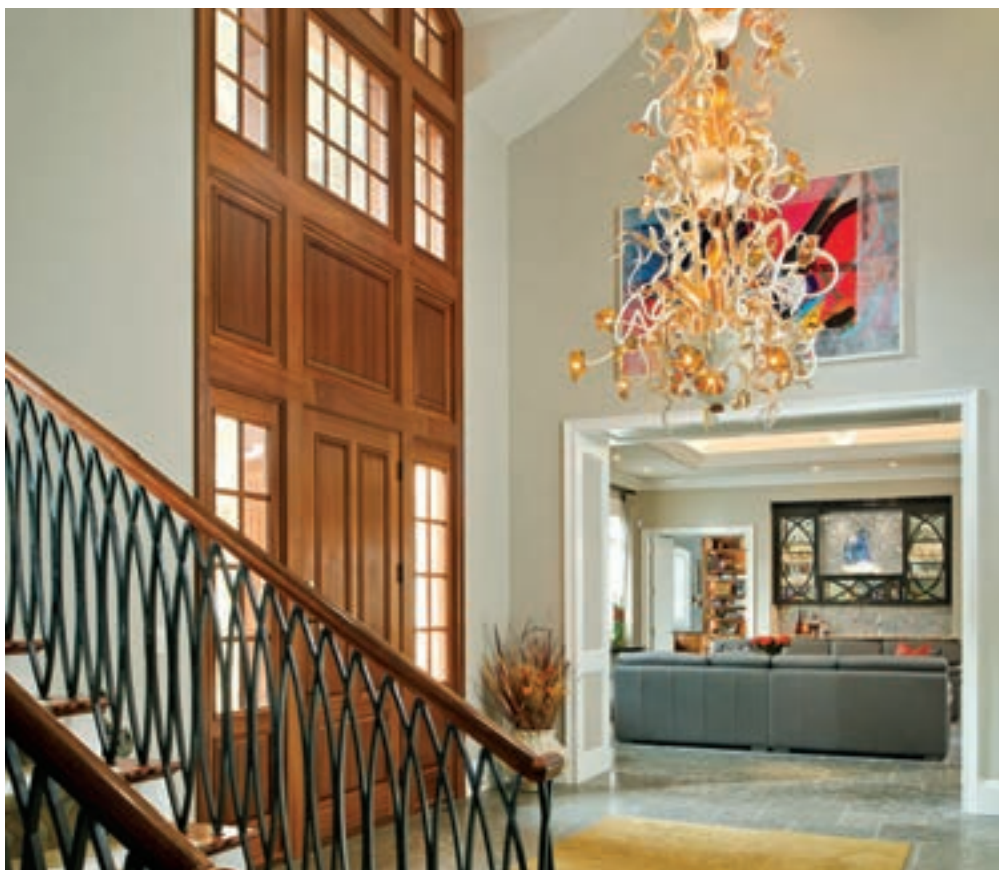
“When I was young, a cousin who was studying architecture introduced me to what he was learning,” recalls architect Jeffrey Penza. “His design work opened my eyes to the built environment and began my fascination with architecture.”

Penza established his own practice in 1989, and merged with partners Dan Bailey and Laura Thul Penza in 2007 to form Penza Bailey Architects. Today, he and a staff of 17 offer architectural design, interior architecture and planning services for private and public clients of all sizes. Residential work includes new design, additions/trans-formations, waterfront and historic restoration and adaptive reuse.

“PBA provides responsible, passionate and creative design through teamwork, responsiveness and integrity,” Penza observes. “Architecture requires an array of skill sets: the ability to listen, to see things in three dimensions, to problem-solve and to stay current as codes, materials and technology change. I especially enjoy client relationships, resulting in projects that exceed expectations.”

Penza is a board member for AIA’s Baltimore chapter, serving on design-awards and house-relocation committees. He has participated on architectural-review committees—spearheading the Homeland Association’s successful efforts for historic designation—and was a juror for the MBIA’s Renovation Awards. PBA was named one of *Baltimore Business Journal’s* 2019 Top 25 Largest Architecture Firms and received an ABC Greater Baltimore’s Excellence in Construction Award. Projects have been featured in many publications, including *Home & Design’s Chesapeake Views* and *Baltimore* magazine.

See more at HandD.com/JeffreyPenza



PHOTOS: VINCE LUPO



Penza Bailey recently designed a sprawling, custom home in Maryland's Caves Valley Golf Club community. The stone front façade (above) boasts brick accents and an arched entry portico. The expansive backyard (left) features an outdoor kitchen and pool. Interior spaces include a double-height foyer with an imposing mahogany door (opposite, bottom) and a luxurious master bath (opposite, top).

Travis Price, FAIA | Kelly Davies Grace, AIA | Leith Almashal

TRAVIS PRICE ARCHITECTS

Washington, DC | 202-965-7000
travispricearchitects.com

"I have always tried to be a trail-blazer," avers Travis Price. "Since I was 12 years old, I loved building tree forts in the Georgia swamps, traipsing through the jungles of Panama and being immersed in European cities. To sculpt and touch livable space was my deepest passion."

Price founded his firm in 1980 and has since amassed a vast portfolio. He teaches award-winning graduate architecture courses, lectures on historical places for the National Geographic Society and builds authentic modern architecture "for happy clients," he says.

He and his staff of six design residential, commercial and institutional projects, espousing a design philosophy that synthesizes ecology, mythology and technology in a modern idiom. "We listen carefully to the stories of the client and the site, both before and during the design process," Price relates. "We hope to inspire authenticity so that clients find shoes that fit them."

TPA recently received eight national AIA design awards for its Spirit of Place installations; last year, Price was nominated for the National AIA Gold Medal for contributions to cultural and ecological literacy in modern architecture. He is the author of two award-winning books, *The Archaeology of Tomorrow—Architecture and the Spirit of Place* and *The Mythic Modern—Expeditions into the Spirit of Place*, and is currently at work on a third.

See more at HandD.com/TravisPrice



PHOTOS: KENNETH M. WYNER

Price designed a modern addition to a home in Rock Creek Park with a roof-top haven (top) that nestles amongst the trees. The four-story addition (opposite) stretches towards the sky; translucent panels on one wall admit light to a sculptural, open stair (above, left and right).





Fin roofs on a house overlooking the Potomac (above and right) were designed to shade it in summer and bathe it in sun-heated light in the winter. Maple ceiling panels create warmth in the home's open-plan interior (opposite, top and bottom), bordered by a wall of windows looking out to a picturesque water feature; beside the fireplace, a comfortable seating area beckons.



PHOTOS: KENNETH M. WYNER



Warren C. Ralston, AIA | Matthew Somma

WCRA

Chantilly, Virginia | Arlington, Virginia
703-667-7861 | wcralston.com

“The process of building a home is deeply personal—and emotional,” says principal Warren Ralston of WCRA. “We have great rapport with our clients and each other, and we endeavor to make the experience comfortable.” The Northern Virginia firm boasts projects spanning from Florida to New York; Ralston and his team, including designer Matthew Somma, create homes that are both intimate and inviting. “In so many ways, architecture is about the way a space makes you feel rather than the sum of its parts,” Ralston says. “Your eyes might not perceive why a space feels good—you just know it does.”

Ralston brings a high level of precision and technical planning to his projects—developed while working for a contractor in the aerospace industry. “That meticulousness found its way into our studio,” he explains, adding that this perspective has helped him impart intensity, depth and clarity of detail to the built environment.

By contrast, Somma brings a focus on illustration and painting to the table. “Matt has a unique aptitude for color, light and texture,” Ralston notes. “His sketches illuminate the design narrative in a way that both captivates and engages clients.”

The award-winning WCRA is also philanthropic, working with local organizations on constructing and renovating shelters for the area’s homeless population and designing accessible homes for wounded veterans.

See more at HandD.com/WarrenRalston



Hornbeams frame intermittent glimpses of a grand estate (above), where a tumbled white-brick façade is accented by cast-stone detailing around the entry. A sunlit dining nook (opposite) employs espresso millwork and black-framed windows to visually divide the open-plan space. Brushed-gold fixtures and white-upholstered furnishings create understated drama.

LEFT: ANICE HOACHANDER, OPPOSITE: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Beth Reader, FAIA | Chuck Swartz, FAIA

Nathan Webb, AIA, Kevin Walker, AIA, Laura Ours, AIA, Joel Richardson, Assoc. AIA, Pete Serafin, AIA, Kayla Bromley, Assoc. AIA

READER & SWARTZ ARCHITECTS

Winchester, Virginia | 540-665-0212
readerswartz.com

Beth Reader and Chuck Swartz established Reader & Swartz Architects in 1990. Over the course of 30 years, their practice has built a portfolio of residential, commercial and institutional projects that reflects a variety of architectural perspectives ranging from historic to vernacular to modern.

Reader & Swartz works closely with clients to create unique, site-specific buildings that take the homeowners' needs, wants, life experiences and personalities into account. The firm also carefully considers the building site and its context, views, sun path and topography, making a conscious effort to "listen" to each place and to design architecture that is appropriate to its environment. This approach doesn't limit possibilities, but instead is a starting point from which to create conceptually driven, situational, provisional architecture not constrained by style.

Reader & Swartz has received more than 70 design awards—from the Virginia, Northern Virginia and Washington, DC, chapters of the American Institute of Architects as well as many from national magazines. The firm's work has appeared widely in such publications as *The Wall Street Journal*, *Custom Home*, *Veranda*, *Southern Living*, *Residential Architect*, *Design Bureau* and *Washingtonian*.

See more at HandD.com/ReaderSwartz



PHOTOS: NATHAN WEBB/READER & SWARTZ ARCHITECTS



Opposite page: The Crooked Bow Tie House is clad in black, vertical steel siding and Western red cedar shiplap; a cantilevered volume houses the owners' bedroom, with views of the Cacapon River Valley. The dining and living spaces center on a steel fireplace. This page: Gray cedar shakes, cedar lap siding and ashlar limestone clad the Stone/Wood/Blue House, where light pours into an artist's studio via large windows and skylights above exposed wood trusses.

James F. Rill, AIA

RILL ARCHITECTS

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-656-4166
rillarchitects.com

From small-scale renovations to large, single-family homes, Rill Architects has been designing custom residences, renovations and additions since 1987. The firm is equally at home designing traditional and modern projects, working closely with clients to create spaces that are both innovative and tasteful, and that respond to homeowners' unique personalities, lifestyles and needs.

Founder and principal James Rill cultivates team spirit amongst his colleagues by ensuring that they remain involved in every phase of the project. "I believe teamwork and collaboration are imperative to achieving personal and beautiful designs," Rill explains. "This sense of collaboration should exist not only within Rill Architects but also between our firm and both clients and contractors."

Rill and his team carefully consider clients' goals while guiding them through the complexities of the design and other processes. "We never forget that as architects we are just visitors to the home and site, while our clients are the ones who will be living there," Rill notes.

Projects by Rill Architects have received recognition via more than 200 published articles and awards. Among the firm's accolades, James Rill was named 2016 Hall of Fame Architect in *Home & Design's* Designers' Choice Awards. In 2019, the firm was *Annapolis Home's* grand-prize winner for architecture.

See more at HandD.com/JamesRill



Collaborating with designer Lauren Liess, Rill Architects renovated a lake house in Virginia (top). It features an open living space (opposite) with custom metal detailing; an expanded master bedroom (above, right) boasting a new roofline and clerestory windows; and custom kitchen cabinetry paired with soapstone countertops (above, left).

PHOTOS: HELEN NORMAN



Michael Patrick Rouse, AIA, NCARB

MPR ARCHITECTURE

Washington, DC | 202-780-5910
mprarchitecture.com

As a child, Michael Patrick Rouse spent many Saturdays on his grandmother's farm in rural Delaware. Though he enjoyed playing on the grounds, he was fascinated by the house—a replica of a Bohemian castle designed and built by his great-grandparents.

This early experience inspired Rouse's interest in architecture. He earned a Master of Architecture degree from the University of Maryland and, after eight years as an associate at Hamilton Snowber Architects, founded MPR Architecture in 2015. Since then, his firm has completed a wide range of projects, from modest additions in urban neighborhoods to new homes on the Chesapeake Bay and in Tidewater North Carolina.

"We focus on creating solutions that respond to the unique characteristics of site, existing residences and our client's lifestyle," Rouse explains. "We believe that while the design is important, so is ensuring that clients experience the richness of the process."

Rouse and his two associates foster client discussions that emphasize context, aesthetics and the owners' functional wishes; all projects include collaboration with Rouse. "Each aspect of the process requires attentive listening and synthesis to create a custom solution," he reflects.

Michael Rouse is a graduate of the Christopher Kelley Leadership Development Program offered by the AIA|DC chapter.

See more at HandD.com/MichaelRouse



Clockwise from top: The kitchen in a newly renovated Georgetown row house features custom cabinetry and built-in appliances. An addition in Rockville boasts a new screened porch. Entry stairs welcome guests into a new three-bedroom North Carolina abode. Custom millwork enhances the living room in the Georgetown row house.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG; MICHAEL ROUSE; ANDREW SHERMAN; STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Greg Wiedemann, AIA, Principal

Associates: Felix Gonzalez, AIA, and Barbara Sweeney, AIA

WIEDEMANN ARCHITECTS, LLC

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-652-4022
wiedemannarchitects.com

Principal Greg Wiedemann heads a nine-person firm bringing more than 30 years of experience to the table. Blending the technical knowledge of an engineering education, a broad perspective gleaned from training in urban planning and a degree in architecture from Harvard, Wiedemann brings a holistic approach to design and to his team.

Wiedemann Architects strives to achieve specific solutions that address challenges and celebrate the uniqueness of each site and client's aspirations, with attention to detail and commitment to sustainability. The firm eschews one signature style. "Our modern homes and seamless additions share one common goal: to achieve a timeless fit with their context," Wiedemann says. "And we are dedicated to each project, regardless of its size and scope."

Projects range from modest additions and new residences to apartment and penthouse renovations and the design of rural estates. In addition to the DC area and Maryland's Eastern Shore, the firm works in Virginia, Delaware, New York, North Carolina and West Virginia.

Wiedemann Architects has received numerous design awards, including, most recently, a 2019 AIA Maryland Award for Excellence in Architecture, a 2019 AIA DC Award for Historic Resources, 2018 and 2019 AIA Chesapeake Bay Design Awards; and 2018 and 2019 International Property Awards for Residential Design.

See more at HandD.com/GregWiedemann



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHANDER



Wiedemann Architects designed a modern residence (opposite) combining stucco, wood and glass to create privacy on an exposed corner lot. A Shingle-style home in Rehoboth Beach (this page) welcomes views of Silver Lake from nearly every room.

Christian Zapatka, AIA, FAAR

CHRISTIAN ZAPATKA ARCHITECT

Washington, DC | 202-333-2735
christianzapatka.com

Christian Zapatka Architect, PLLC, is an award-winning firm specializing in residential architecture in the Washington metropolitan area. Seeking to fuse the best of both modern and traditional design in order to create classic, timeless structures, principal Christian Zapatka and his team design new homes, additions and renovations.

Founded in 2000, the firm has completed numerous projects in the Washington, DC, area and is committed to creating comprehensive architecture integrating both site and interior design with building design. Projects have appeared in numerous publications, including *The Washington Post*, *Washingtonian*, *Architectural Digest*, *Traditional Home*, *Veranda*, *Elegant Homes*, *Beautiful Homes*, *Home & Design* and *ArchitectureDC*. Zapatka's work has also been featured in such books as *The Modern Townhouse*, *Luxury Bathrooms*, *The Perfect Kitchen* and *Inspired Modern Homes*.

Christian Zapatka is a member of the American Institute of Architects and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome, from which he received the Rome Prize in architecture. After completing his professional degree in architecture at Princeton and an apprenticeship with Michael Graves, Architect, Zapatka taught architectural design and history at a number of universities before establishing his own practice in his native Washington, DC.

See more at HandD.com/ChristianZapatka



PHOTOS: GORDON BEALL

Clockwise from above: Casement windows and doors lend depth to a row house addition on Capitol Hill. Vaulted roofs and terraces distinguish a custom McLean house on the river. Wraparound steel and glass connect a Georgetown addition to the outdoors. Steep rooflines and numerous windows make a strong impression for a newly built house in Northwest DC.



Steve Ziger, FAIA | Douglas Bothner, AIA, LEED AP

ZIGER | SNEAD ARCHITECTS

Baltimore, Maryland | 410-576-9131
zigersnead.com

Architects Steve Ziger and Douglas Bothner have long been inspired by the relationship between the natural and built environments. As design partners of Ziger|Snead Architects in Baltimore, they oversee a staff of 21 architects and designers with a focus on transforming campuses, organizations, communities and homes, from concept through construction. Central to the firm's work is the belief that great design can and should create positive physical and social impact.

"We delight in the role we play in pursuit of functional and aesthetic beauty," says Bothner. On every project, he, Ziger and their associates thoughtfully consider clients' aspirations, a project's site and context and functional and technical requirements. "By listening carefully, challenging preconceptions and engaging expert consultants, contractors and craftspeople," says Ziger, "we create designs that demonstrate simplicity, functionality and value while innovating in the use of materials, building and sustainable technologies."

No matter the scale of the project, the firm strives for simple, elegant design that captures the essential. "Great design should transcend the purely functional and aspire to be enduring, thoughtful and beautiful," contends Bothner.

Since Ziger|Snead was founded in 1984, it has been recognized with more than 100 state, national and international design awards and is repeatedly ranked as one of the top 50 firms in the nation by the AIA's *Architect* magazine.

See more at HandD.com/ZigerSnead



THIS PAGE: KEVIN WEBER (TOP) & ERK KVALSVIK (BOTTOM); OPPOSITE: ADAM ROUSE



Clockwise from opposite, top: A custom mahogany window wall system blurs the line between interior and exterior spaces, extending the great room of Woodvalley House in Pikesville, Maryland, to the terraces and gardens. The unique, angled geometry of Slate House in Baltimore allows for unobstructed and open views into the landscape; organic materials, including stone, wood, steel and water, express rawness and simplicity. Inside, Slate House employs an archetypal gable form; cathedral ceilings emphasize the verticality of the trees. With architectural references to traditional coastal homes in New England—including a hipped gable roof, cedar shingle siding and copper flashing—a residence in Prouts Neck, Maine, was designed to feel like it has been there forever.



Interior Design



In a family room by M.S. Vicas Interiors (opposite), a custom fireplace is surrounded by limestone and brass accents; photo by Anice Hoachlander. Monarch infused an Alexandria residence (above) with crisp architectural elements and a serene color palette; photo by Lydia Cutter.

Charles C. Almonte, AIA, ASID

CHARLES C. ALMONTE ARCHITECTURE & INTERIORS

Silver Spring, Maryland | 202-492-8494
charlesalmonte.com

Following architecture school in his native Manila, Charles C. Almonte earned a master's degree in historic preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. "Living in a city where I didn't know anyone was both exciting and intimidating," he recalls. "It made me independent, resourceful and tenacious."

Later, he moved to the Washington area, where he launched Charles C. Almonte Architecture & Interiors in 2008. Almonte and his two associates start each project with an in-depth meeting with clients to identify the scope of work and discuss their preferences and concerns, then create spaces that reflect their clients' vision. "We aim to meet homeowners' design needs and wants with functional and aesthetically pleasing solutions," he explains. "While we designers may have our own aesthetic," he reasons, "at the end of the day it is our clients who will be enjoying the structures and spaces we design for them."

Educated and licensed as both an architect and an interior designer, Almonte brings a unique perspective to the table. "I can provide ideas for decorative enhancement, as well as solutions that reconfigure the architectural envelope of a building," he relates.

Almonte was named a *Home & Design* "Hot Talent" designer in 2015; his projects have recently appeared in *Home & Design* and *Northern Virginia* magazines.

See more at HandD.com/CharlesAlmonte



THIS PAGE: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS; OPPOSITE, TOP: ANGIE SECKINGER; OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: CARL HUTZLER



Clockwise from opposite, top: A serpentine-shaped sofa by Della Robbia anchors the living area of a condo unit designed for collectors of contemporary art. Farrow & Ball wallpaper in an orange strié creates a cheery backdrop for a guest bedroom inspired by sunrises and sunsets. A McLean master bath boasts a moody and sophisticated vibe, with a palette blending various shades of gray and blue; diamond-shaped glass mosaic tile provides an interesting visual element reminiscent of water. The addition of skylights and windows bathes a newly designed modern farmhouse kitchen in natural light; dark gray-washed island cabinets offset white perimeter cabinets in this inviting space designed for large family gatherings.

Katherine A.H. Ballou, Allied ASID

HENDRICK INTERIORS

Washington, DC | 202-247-1654
hendrickinteriors.com

From an early age, Kate Ballou's parents instilled her with an appreciation of art and design. Noting that her mother is a ceramics artist and her father started painting later in life, "I became acutely aware not only of my surroundings," Ballou reflects, "but also the impact my environment had on my mental, emotional and physical well-being."

Eventually, this revelation inspired her to study fine arts at the Rhode Island School of Design and interior design at Parsons. After training at Baird Architects in New York and Jacobsen Architecture in DC, Ballou founded her own residential practice, Hendrick Interiors, in 2014. She focuses on selecting furnishings and materials and designing custom pieces and millwork that infuse functionality and beauty in a home while reflecting her client's lifestyle. As Ballou explains, "I bring an analytical approach to my designs and enjoy collaborating with architects to select furnishings that respond to the volumes and materiality in their work."

Ballou cultivates relationships with creative entrepreneurs around the world, and original art plays a major role in all of her projects. "Art adds an element of surprise, emotion and personality to a home," she observes. "I continue to explore an array of resources to maintain a positive impact on the way we feel in the spaces that we inhabit."

See more at HandD.com/KateBallou



Clockwise from above: A Palisades living room welcomes guests with a playful mixture of color, pattern and texture. Ballou designed custom millwork to showcase a Spring Valley client's extensive artifact collection. Verner Panton chairs upholstered in faux leather host family-friendly dinners. A window treatment fabricated by Everett Design boasts an embroidered leading edge.

THIS PAGE: LAURA METZLER, OPPOSITE, TOP & BOTTOM, LEFT: AMANDA ARCHIBALD, OPPOSITE, BOTTOM, RIGHT: LAURA METZLER



Lisa Bartolomei

BARTOLOMEI & CO.

Washington, DC | 202-965-7667
bartolomeiandcompany.com

A desire to make an impact on peoples' lives led Lisa Bartolomei to create her design firm, Bartolomei & Co., in 1986. She has been helping people find happiness in their homes ever since—in locales as far-flung as Jordan, Paris, Florida, Bermuda, California and New York. "I strive to create environments that emphasize comfort, usability and, of course, beauty," she notes.

When a long-time client called and said, "I just bought a yacht and I need your help," the designer jumped at the chance. "He wanted something unique," she recalls, "not just another sleek, modern yacht." Always up for a challenge, she and her client got to work—and created a floating jewel box.

The finished project conjures the warm and sophisticated atmosphere the client was looking for. "Like all our projects, this one was an adventure in combining knowledge, skill and resources," says Bartolomei, who traveled between DC, New York and Miami searching for art, accessories and even custom china and glassware that would impart a "gentleman's yacht" feel to the space. "We turned the *Ariadne* into a luxurious escape."

Bartolomei & Co.'s work has been featured in *Interior Design*, *Home & Design* and *The Washington Post*. She has appeared on *Good Morning America* and *ABC News*.

See more at HandD.com/LisaBartolomei



PHOTOS: GEOFFREY HODGSON

The yacht *Ariadne* (these pages) experienced an extensive overhaul. The ceilings were reshaped, recovered and relit. Existing Biedermeier millwork was enhanced with Art Deco antiques and contemporary furnishings. The walls were lined with fabric, and Bartolomei selected custom upholstery, bedding and window treatments. En-suite bathrooms were luxuriously outfitted.



Romain Baty

ROMAIN BATY, LLC

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romainbaty.com

Romain Baty, who hails from Paris, moved to DC and established his full-service residential-design firm in 2016. After four years working on both sides of the Atlantic, he says, he has forged an approach that combines a French sensibility with the generosity and comfort of the American lifestyle. His work ranges from light decoration to extensive renovations. “I have three North Stars: elegance, balance and joy,” he observes. “The last is not to be overlooked because we have enough worries in our everyday life already—and as the famous decorator Dorothy Draper once said, ‘decorating is fun.’”

Baty began his career working at elite fashion houses such as Chanel, Dior and Givenchy. After heading international retail development for Yves Saint Laurent Beauty, he made the move from fashion to interiors. “My approach is truly tailor-made,” he relates. “I combine craftsmanship and unique pieces in my clients’ homes to create refined and singular designs that will fit their needs while reflecting who they are. My clients are a great source of my inspiration—and I love houses with soul.”

Baty was featured among *Home & Design*’s Hot Talent in 2018, and his projects have appeared in *Home & Design’s Idea Book* and *DC Modern Luxury*. He is a member of the MensBook committee for DC.

See more at HandD.com/RomainBaty



LEFT: JEAN-FRANÇOIS GSCHWINDT; OPPOSITE: GORDON BEALL (TOP); STYLISH PRODUCTIONS (BOTTOM).



Clockwise from opposite, top: A rug in a subtle, veined pattern grounds a living room in varied white, beige and black tones. A renovated Capitol Hill home was inspired by the Parisian *hôtel particulier* style, embracing the look of a grand French townhouse and flowing out to a garden. The kitchen in a Capitol Hill row house plays on the look of a 1950s American diner with amethyst-hued walls and dramatically veined, black-marble surfaces.



Clockwise from above: In the living room of a Paris mansion, gold accents reflect natural light and smooth textures convey serenity. A 1930s Hollywood boudoir inspired a bedroom where dark-blue lines on the walls recall slim moldings. An enlarged opening between the kitchen and dining area in a row house lightens and connects the spaces; Mies van der Rohe chairs and a Karl Springer dining table are a mid-century reference. Baty used printed porcelain slabs to create dreamy, abstract drawings in a master bath.



TOP: JEAN-FRANÇOIS GSCHWINDT; OTHER PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS



Shannon Bieter, ASID, IIDA

SHANNON BIETER INTERIORS

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sbieter.com

Shannon Bieter, who grew up in the South, has always had an appreciation for antiques and fabrics. In the 1990s when she was working for America Online's lead production team, she was tasked with designing a break-out conference area—and that's when she realized she wanted to pursue a career in commercial and residential design.

After studying at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, Bieter launched her firm 15 years ago. "I specialize in fresh, timeless décor using bold accents to give each room a signature look," she says. "I love to create beautiful spaces for busy professionals and families who want balance and high-end, turnkey-ready rooms at the end of their day."

As a mother, Bieter also understands that spaces need to be functional. "We live in a fast-paced urban area and it's important for me to bring a sense of calm to the spaces I create," she observes.

Bieter likes to combine old and new pieces to create a "collected" feel in every project. "I try to make each room unique. I incorporate family pieces into my projects to ensure the house has a personality and doesn't look like a model home," she explains.

Shannon Bieter's work has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Home & Design* and *Avenel Living*.

See more at HandD.com/ShannonBieter



PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS



Clockwise from opposite, top: Pale teal accents enliven a neutral master bedroom. Coral-hued, Klismos-style chairs and a chaise in plush fabric beckon in a Bethesda living room. A home office combines whimsical Thibaut wallpaper and tangerine fabric on the chair backs. A chair covered in Kravet fabric provides a cozy fireside perch. Bieter turned a small pantry into a bar area with mirrored cabinets and a chevron marble backsplash.

Melissa Broffman, Allied ASID

MELISSA BROFFMAN INTERIOR DESIGN

Arlington, Virginia | 703-536-5409
melissabroffmaninteriors.com

Melissa Broffman, owner and principal of Melissa Broffman Interior Design, creates interiors with character, comfort and timeless appeal. Broffman equally embraces traditional, eclectic, transitional and modern designs in projects ranging from decorating to renovations and new-house construction. "I believe it's all about making a house a home," she says. "I strive to capture a one-of-a-kind look by incorporating personal treasures and family heirlooms that go beyond the retail sameness of today's home-furnishings market. My designs express each client's unique personality."

Prior to becoming a designer, Broffman—a self-described "people person"—worked at CNN, where she dealt with all kinds of subjects, including celebrities and newsmakers. "The experience taught me to express myself and see the big picture by observing, listening and telling a story," she comments. "In many ways, that's what I do as a designer—I help create a narrative for my clients' homes that they can live with, embellish and enjoy every day."

Broffman is a Best of Houzz 2020 award-winner for both design and service. Her work has been featured in *Home & Design*, *The Washington Post* and, most recently, the March/April 2020 issue of *Arlington Magazine*.

See more at HandD.com/MelissaBroffman



PHOTOS: BOB MARCO



A classic entryway (opposite) with a Palladian door surround and paneled ceiling provides a warm welcome. An open-plan living/dining room (above and left) is anchored by botanical paintings by Linda Kosovych; a Salvations coffee table and a chandelier by Visual Comfort enrich the living and dining areas, respectively. Architectural windows, elegant drapery and a restful palette unify the space.



PHOTOS: BOB MARCO



In a kitchen (above), white cabinetry is topped with marble and wood while open shelving displays creamware; a still life by Sabrina Cabada adds personality to a breakfast nook (opposite), where a Jonathan Adler drum pendant hangs above a Saarinen Tulip table and bamboo chairs. A spacious master bath (left) encompasses a soaking tub, marble finishes and glass-front cabinetry.

Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey

SCW INTERIORS

Alexandria, Virginia | 703-549-2449
scwinteriors.com

Founder Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey's firm, SCW Interiors, offers complete design services, specializing in innovative and distinctive spaces that are tailored to fit clients' lifestyles and to reflect their personal taste.

With offices in both the DC area and Texas, SCW Interiors serves a wide geographic area and works with both residential and commercial clients. Detailed construction and design documentation is provided for each project—from new construction to renovation—to facilitate space planning, interior architecture and furnishings. SCW provides project coordination and management, pulling from extensive design resources.

The firm also draws on owner and lead designer Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey's unique background in the culinary arts to provide full-service kitchen and bath design. A partnership with Christiana Cabinetry makes private-label cabinetry available to clients.

With a lifelong passion for design, Cavin-Winfrey brings more than 20 years of experience in the industry to her work. A native of the Southwest, she studied at the University of Texas, the Culinary Institute of America and Parsons School of Design. She finds inspiration in her background, along with her experiences as a wife and mother, to create exceptional designs that incorporate beauty and function.

See more at HandD.com/CavinWinfrey



Clockwise from above: A custom fixture illuminates a tabletop detailed in ebony and walnut in a kitchen with an unexpected display of artwork. A bold, lacquered-green solarium boasts a cupola and laser-cut marble floors. SCW enlisted Gracie to hand-paint local birds and fauna on gold paper for an enthusiast in Virginia.

THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, TOP: LESLEY UNRUH; OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: JOHN BESSLER



David Anthony Chenault

DAVID ANTHONY CHENAULT LLC

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davidanthonychenault.com

David Anthony Chenault has been described by clients and peers as brilliant, passionate and bold—a disruptor in the world of interior design. In his nearly 30-year-long career, he has masterminded visionary designs for a number of expansive residences in the Washington Metro area, as well as celebrated commercial projects nationwide. As principal designer for David Anthony Chenault Interior Design, he employs myriad styles to create moody, timeless spaces that are beautiful, elegant and unforgettable. Chenault's designs evolve as he helps clients identify dreams inherent in their desired outcome. "I approach every project as a labor of love, pouring over each minute detail without compromise," he says. "It is passion for this process that drives me."

Chenault's latest projects include Mia's Italian Kitchen, the redesign of the iconic Majestic Café in Old Town Alexandria and La Vie, located at The Wharf in Washington, DC. The latter won an award for interior architecture at the 2020 German Design Awards. This year, Chenault will complete a number of commercial designs, including Nara, Rumi and residences in Beacon Hill and Keymar.

See more at
HandD.com/DavidAnthonyChenault



Clockwise from top: In a moody master bedroom, a Christian Benini mural serves as a headboard; soaring horsehair sheers envelop the bed. Velvet Christian LaCroix drapes soften a guest room featuring a vintage Boho chandelier. Chenault expertly layers details in his work, as shown in a vignette combining the bust of a child with a vase of fresh flowers.

PHOTOS: MARIO MINEROS PHOTOGRAPHY



Nancy Colbert, ASID, NCIDQ

DESIGN PARTNERS, LLC

McLean, Virginia | 703-242-0886
designpartnersllc.com

Design Partners is known for creating livable rooms that seamlessly integrate architecture and interior design. Principal Nancy Colbert has cultivated a signature style combining classic beauty and contemporary comfort. Her rooms are elegant and always original. Her skilled use of space, materials, color and furnishings produces projects that are fresh and sophisticated.

While Colbert knows that “getting the bones right” is critical to any design, she strongly believes that good design solutions are the result of teamwork and ongoing communication between designer and client. Her team includes trusted, talented craftsmen who deliver projects on time and within budget. Colbert and her staff also stay current with best design practices, styles, trends and product lines.

“We do not have a one-size-fits-all approach,” she notes. “With our know-how, creativity and sensitivity, we consistently produce results that reflect the needs and taste of the client.”

Colbert graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a bachelor of fine arts in interior design. She is NCIDQ-certified, licensed in Virginia, Maryland and DC and a member of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). With more than 25 years of experience designing residential and commercial projects, she believes that a design degree is only the beginning of a lifetime of education in this ever-evolving profession.

See more at HandD.com/NancyColbert



THIS PAGE: ERIK KVALSVIK; OPPOSITE: ANGIE SECKINGER



Clockwise from opposite:
A luxurious master bathroom features custom cabinetry, honed-marble tile, an Art Deco-inspired crystal-and-antique-brass chandelier, soaking tub and an antique-nickel bench in aubergine fabric. Furniture, fabrics and finishes were carefully curated for a loggia combining comfort and sophistication. Millwork and moldings transformed a master bedroom, which was further elevated by silk bedding and a custom drapery wall.



Clockwise from above:
An uninspired kitchen became a fully functioning center for family life with new cabinetry, granite countertops and an updated palette. Custom art and a dramatic, mirrored chest enliven a bedroom vignette. Mood-altering custom LED lighting and top-notch accoutrements turn a run-of-the-mill basement-level bar into a sexy man cave, well stocked for modern entertaining.



THIS PAGE: ERIK KVALSVIK; OPPOSITE: ANGIE SECKINGER



Robert Cole, RIBA | Sophie Prévost, ASID

COLEPRÉVOST

Washington, DC | 202-234-1090
coleprevost.com

Since co-founding ColePrévost in 1996, Sophie Prévost and Robert Cole have embraced the symbiosis of architecture and interior design, practicing both simply as a design process. “The emphasis of each discipline works best as part of a cohesive whole,” explains Cole.

Both trained as architects, Prévost grew up in Monaco. She studied fine arts in Paris and moved to the U.S., where she earned professional degrees in interior design and architecture. Educated in New York and London, Cole is a British-registered architect and a professor of architecture. “Our years of experience working on a diverse range of type and scale, here and abroad, is stimulating: It keeps us fresh and curious,” says Prévost.

The principals work closely with their clients to understand their needs, personalities and lifestyles. “There are many solutions to any issue,” Prévost observes. “We seek the right questions, listen carefully and collaborate with our clients towards a design that fits them like a glove and often exceeds their expectations.”

The duo shares a deep respect for craftsmanship. They collaborate with builders, fabricators, artisans and artists linked in their desire to create excellence. Remarks Cole, “We enjoy working with others to craft spaces where function, comfort, beauty and art are fused into a unique experience.”

See more at HandD.com/ColePrevost



PHOTOS: ANGIE SECKINGER

In the makeover of a DC apartment, ColePrévost created a calm, open living space (top) and designed the custom millwork and coffee table (above) in the entertainment area. The dining space (opposite) features a commissioned sculpture by Barbara Liotta; an antique French chain was adapted to serve as the chandelier's swag.





Clockwise from above:
A curtain hides an unsightly
plethora of doors for utility
services, creating a serene
backdrop for the dining room;
the console behind the sofa
was designed by ColePrévost.
The firm also designed the bed
and bench in the apartment's
primary bedroom suite. Cole
and Prévost converted a guest
room into a home office, where
they designed the custom desk
and magazine stand.



PHOTOS: ANGIE SECKINGER



Melissa Colgan

MELISSA COLGAN INTERIORS

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Melissa Colgan brings a wealth of fascinating experiences to Melissa Colgan Interiors, the boutique firm she founded in 2018. After a career in New York City covering international markets and styling interiors for such publications as *Elle Décor*, *Veranda*, *House Beautiful* and *Martha Stewart Living*, she joined the design scene in DC, where she worked for local luminaries Darryl Carter and Lauren Liess. “It was an invaluable education, although I eschewed the traditional design-school route,” she says. “My background gives me a unique approach; I bring an editor’s eye to every space and know how to scour the globe for the perfect piece.”

Colgan creates collected spaces that toe the line between classic, bohemian and slightly modern. Her attention to detail and sophisticated color sense result in thoughtful and original designs that are imbued with a layered, worldly spirit. She works closely with both clients and other colleagues—architect, contractor, landscape designer and others—to guide a project’s style. “I combine my creative eye and design expertise with my clients’ unique desires to create spaces and places that are as stunning as they are personal,” Colgan notes. “My interiors reflect my belief that the places where we spend our lives should be welcoming, functional and a celebration of individual taste.”

See more at HandD.com/MelissaColgan



Clockwise from top: Warm-gray cabinets and Moroccan zellige tiles dress up a Dupont Circle kitchen, while the bedroom’s earthy palette complements a collection of antique seascapes. Iron window frames and river views inform the clean lines and airy palette of the living and dining rooms in a District Wharf condo.

PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Caryn Cramer

CARYN CRAMER LLC

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caryncramer.com

Caryn Cramer discovered her affinity for design when she entered the lobby of Miami's famed Delano Hotel for the first time. "That was when I really knew how powerful design can be—and how utterly creative," she recalls. "It was transforming."

Cramer entered the field in a roundabout way, first studying critical theory and law before earning a master's degree in design from the Corcoran. Soon after, she ventured to Copenhagen as a visiting scholar at The Royal Danish School of Design, where she printed fabrics for a textile designer while completing her thesis. She later returned to her native Washington, DC, and launched her firm, Caryn Cramer, in 2011.

Since then, Cramer has transformed many clients' homes and has also developed her own collection of sustainable fabrics that she designs and paints by hand, then prints digitally on Belgian linen. "I love textiles and pattern-layering," she remarks.

Cramer points out that her varied education and background give her a unique perspective as a designer. "I tend to be a thinker, someone who really enjoys the history and meaning of the things in a home," she reflects. "I'm thorough—maybe even design-obsessive!—so there's no detail overlooked."

See more at HandD.com/CarynCramer



LEFT & OPPOSITE, TOP: ANGIE SECKINGER; OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: MARK LUTHRINGER



In her design of a guest suite for the 2017 DC Design House, Cramer created a custom wall mural at the end of the entry hallway (opposite), and laid a rug made of recycled leather belts on the floor. The bedroom (above) is a study in color, pattern and coziness. She upholstered the walls and created custom comforters in her own fabrics; the vintage Moroccan rugs are from Matt Camron. In the living room of an Old Town Alexandria home (left), she blended the husband's traditional taste with the wife's affinity for mid-century modern style. Cramer upholstered the wing chairs in a John Robshaw coral stripe; the coffee table is by Noguchi.

Arlene Critzos | Catherine Belkov | Samantha Sopp-Wittwer

INTERIOR CONCEPTS, INC.

Annapolis, Maryland | 410-224-7366
interiorconceptsinc.com

Interior Concepts, Inc.'s principal, Arlene Critzos, has been creating beautiful interiors for more than 40 years. Her personal experience—encompassing European studies, travel and multiple decorative arts degrees—and the expertise of her team result in a broad range of designs.

“Our approach emphasizes creativity and professionalism, and we never begin a project without totally understanding our clients’ needs, financial scope, quality expectations and timing,” Critzos says. “We work collaboratively on homes that are truly unique and a haven for their owners.”

Colleagues Catherine Belkov and Samantha Sopp-Wittwer bring design degrees and a passion for all facets of design to their work. The team's latest projects span the style spectrum—from a relaxed island retreat and a modern mountain aerie to an urban contemporary abode and a refined French residence. The firm was also tapped to redesign the vice president's Naval Observatory residence.

Critzos founded Interior Concepts, Inc., in 1979. Today, ICI employs about 50 people creating homes that emphasize comfort, scale, art and overall visual beauty. Recent accolades include three Builder & Fine Design awards from *Annapolis Home*. Critzos received a *Home & Design* Designers' Choice Award and was named the 2019 Face of Interior Design by *Annapolis Home*.

See more at HandD.com/ArleneCritzos



PHOTOS: BRANTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

Interior Concepts, Inc., designed a residence in Naples, Florida, to reflect its casual, warm-weather locale. Reflective surfaces add freshness to the living room (above), where a vibrant abstract painting (opposite) inspired the blend of color, pattern and texture.







The two-story living room (above) conveys drama via brilliant hues inspired by the Florida waters. The dining room (opposite) showcases a fresco painting on the wall; it complements the chair fabric and a gold objet d'art on the table in a similar leaf pattern.

Mary Douglas Drysdale

DRYSDALE DESIGN ASSOCIATES

Washington, DC | 202-588-0700
marydouglasdrysdale.com

Drysdale Design Associates is a full-service, residential interior architecture and design firm that creates and implements projects ranging from simple decoration to complex renovations. Founder Mary Douglas Drysdale is known for an original and timeless style that seamlessly bridges traditional and modern aesthetics. She and her staff are trained in architectural and interior design, with technical knowledge of kitchen-and-bath design and millwork. “We embrace the concept of one-stop interiors shopping,” Drysdale explains.

As the lead designer on every project, Drysdale emphasizes open dialog with clients. “I communicate with my clients often and raise all issues,” she says. “We are problem-solvers working to make the aspirations of our clients come true.”

Drysdale received first-place awards from the NKBA for large bath in both 2017 and 2018, and won first place for mid-sized kitchen in 2013. In 2017, she was voted by her peers into *Home & Design's* Interior Design Hall of Fame. She was a member of the Design Leadership Summit in 2014 and a Top 100 winner of Andrew Martin International's Designer of the Year contest in 2014 and 2019. Her work has been published in *Architectural Digest*, *House Beautiful*, *Traditional Home*, *Aspire Design & Home* and *Luxe Magazine*.

See more at HandD.com/MaryDrysdale



LEFT & OPPOSITE: EARL KENDALL; TOP: JOHN COLE



"The details are what make an interior space visually memorable and express a quality of completeness," says Drysdale. A DC bathroom (these pages), which won an NKBA 2015 Best of Class award, combines white stone, intricate millwork, well-placed mirrors and graphic modern art to produce great style and elegance.





PHOTOS: JOHN COLE

Clockwise from left: Transitional and modern elements are beautifully balanced in a Kalorama renovation featuring the work of Washington artists. A dark and lush bedroom enhances a Charleston, South Carolina, project. Drysdale selected a saturated custom-gray hue for the kitchen in a downtown Bethesda penthouse.



PHOTOS: FRANCESCO LAGNÈSE

Drysdale renovated and decorated a suburban estate in Bethesda for longtime clients. In the comfortable dining room (opposite), modern art complements walls painted a rich shade of blue; the same color crops up in an elegant table setting (above).







Drysdale worked around a massive structural column in laying out the architectural plan for a Bethesda penthouse. She combined new, modern seating with existing furnishings from a prior house she had completed for these clients.

JOHN COLE



PHOTOS: RON BLUNT



Mary Drysdale's training and extensive experience working on historic and older homes enable her to create the luxe interior spaces preferred by many of her clients—including a stately yet welcoming bedroom (opposite) and an opulent dining room (above).

Joanne Fitzgerald, NKBA

GATÉGA INTERIOR DESIGN, LLC

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gatega.com

As a young girl, Joanne Fitzgerald and her mother frequently visited art museums together; it was these excursions that instilled in the future designer a true love and admiration for design. “As long as I can remember,” Fitzgerald reflects, “my passion has been architecture and the decorative arts.”

After initially embarking on an engineering degree in college, she pivoted to fine arts and eventually found her way to working for several commercial architecture and interior architecture firms. A life-long affinity for design led Fitzgerald to launch her own full-service interiors firm in 1996. Gatéga Interior Design specializes in residential, restaurant, hospitality and light commercial projects.

Today, Fitzgerald brings her unique experience to the forefront in her work. “I approach most projects from a more technical perspective as they relate to construction, spatial forms, circulation, lighting, color theory and functionality,” she explains. “My life-long interest in architecture and design, as well as a foundational education in engineering, allow me to bring a truly holistic approach to each project.”

Fitzgerald’s goal is not to brand each project with her own signature, but rather to create each space as a reflection of the client and their culture and lifestyle. As she reflects, “My overarching mission is to listen carefully to each client in order to produce the most successful spaces that represent their individual priorities.”

See more at HandD.com/JoanneFitzgerald



PHOTOS: MAXINE SCHNITZER



Fitzgerald recently completed a comprehensive renovation of a penthouse near Dupont Circle. Clockwise from opposite: Art by Francie Hester and chairs from Baker ground a seating area where a spiral stair leads to a rooftop deck. A black slate fireplace surround creates a dramatic focal point; the oval table is by Ironies and the sofa is from Thayer Coggin. The master bath boasts a custom vanity by Hardwood Artisans and mirrors by Mirror Image. Phillip Jeffries wallpaper makes a bold statement in the powder room.

Gina Fitzsimmons, ASID

FITZSIMMONS DESIGN ASSOCIATES

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fitzsimmonsdesign.com

With 75 percent of her clientele living on the water, designing waterfront homes has become a specialty of Gina Fitzsimmons. Principal of Annapolis-based Fitzsimmons Design Associates, she has been creating beautiful spaces on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay for more than 25 years—always ensuring that the views take center stage. “It’s important that your furnishings and window treatments do not detract from the view as you compose the interior,” she explains. Fitzsimmons describes her style as “Chesapeake cozy.” It’s a natural, harmonious and tailored look that is comfortable, functional, unpretentious and easy-going.

She and her team begin by gathering information about their clients’ functional needs, aesthetic preferences, budget and time frame, and helping them set priorities. They then customize a style to fit the clients’ vision. From presentation to final installation, they painstakingly study how each piece interacts with the design, making selections that will lead to the best possible results.

Gina Fitzsimmons is a professional member of ASID and is NCIDQ-qualified. She is the recipient of peer awards from ASID: first place for kitchen and show-house design and first and second place for residential design. Her work has appeared in *Chesapeake Views*, *Annapolis Home*, *Home & Design* and *The Baltimore Sun*.

See more at HandD.com/GinaFitzsimmons



During the renovation of an Annapolis home, the ceiling of the great room (top) was lifted and the beams painted white; navy accents offset neutral furnishings. The library (above) incorporated a capacious secretary in a smoky finish. The sun room (opposite) is anchored by a custom sofa upholstered in several patterns.

PHOTOS: GWYN HUNT



Laura Fox

LAURA FOX INTERIOR DESIGN, LLC

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laurafoxinteriordesign.com

Laura Fox has always had an eye for beautiful things. Paired with her creativity and a love of being challenged and working with people, this innate affinity made interior design the perfect fit for her in 2015 when she first hung out her shingle. Today, “I absolutely love every aspect of what I do,” she professes. “Working hand-in-hand with clients from various walks of life—not to mention subs, vendors and my incredible team—is truly a privilege.”

Fox and her team of three enjoy problem-solving and figuring out exactly what each client needs. From initial consultation to final installation, they seek to create a road map of sorts—a guide to making each home exactly what the client envisions. “We listen intently to their needs, how they live their lives and what they are looking to achieve,” Fox explains. “From there, we jump into action.” Strong project-management and communication skills as well as impeccable organization are utilized to ensure all projects stay on track and on budget.

Homes by Laura Fox Interior Design are chic, timeless and comfortable. Fox attributes her laid-back sense of style to a childhood near the beach in Chesapeake, Virginia. “It should be okay to spill a little red wine now and then,” she comments. “I want people to be able to live in their homes.”

See more at HandD.com/LauraFox



Clockwise from above: A mid-century home boasts large-format concrete tile and brass details. Nature provides the backdrop for swivel chairs in gray woolen fabric and an antique brass cocktail table. Charcoal walls lend drama to a dining room. Open wood shelving complements geometric tile with contrasting grout in a chic kitchen.

PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Samantha Friedman, ASID, NCIDQ

SAMANTHA FRIEDMAN INTERIOR DESIGNS, LLC

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samanthafriedmaninteriors.com

Samantha Friedman brings a background in hospitality and restaurant design to her full-service, residential-design firm. “I bring a unique eye for space-planning to each project,” she explains. “My experience is with a classic, traditional aesthetic, which I feel gives me a more grounded and educated perspective. My projects make sense stylistically.”

Founded in 2007, Samantha Friedman Interior Designs focuses on all aspects of residential design, from new builds and renovations to facelifts, kitchens and bathrooms. Friedman and her team of two select all fabrics and finishes for every space, layering textures and colors to create warm and inviting environments. Rooms are well edited to reflect the homeowners’ personalities. “We believe in livable design. We aren’t trendy, and we emphasize longevity, relying on classic elements incorporated with pops of modern,” the designer observes. “Our style is driven by our clients’ vision.”

Friedman was inspired to become a designer by a wish to be creative and make a difference in people’s homes. “Everyone should love what they come home to every day,” she avers. “Home should make you feel relaxed, comfortable and happy. I bring that comfort to people—and I get to have fun while doing it.”

See more at HandD.com/SamanthaFriedman



PHOTOS: JESSE SNYDER



Clockwise from opposite: Friedman used masculine patterns and textures to transform a century-old Dupont Circle row house into a sophisticated, modern-day bachelor's pad. Intended for a family with older kids, a "grown up" basement room in McLean is warmed by textured wallpaper, a velvet sofa and swivel chairs. A teenage girl's bedroom features a custom bed, nightstands and shelving; sparkly wallpaper and a shag carpet add pizzazz.

Maria Galiani

GALIANI DESIGN GROUP

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galianidesigngroup.com

As a young girl, Maria Galiani recalls visiting an architect's office in her native North Carolina to see a full-scale model of her aunt's future residence. "Months later," she recalls, "we walked into their beautiful new home. The whole process fascinated me." This first encounter was one of many that inspired Galiani to earn a BA in interior design from Meredith College in Raleigh.

Today, as principal of Galiani Design Group, she has more than 30 years of experience in the field. She and her staff of three break the design process down into small steps, working alongside clients to incorporate their desired aesthetic while balancing the elements of light, color, texture and pattern. "We also keep in mind the architecture and bones of a home," she explains.

Galiani continues to hone her craft, finding fresh inspiration on every project. "My relationship-based approach, a love of architectural details and my eye-opening travels guide me as I work with clients of various backgrounds," she reflects. "The ultimate goal is to create a memorable and livable experience for all my clients."

See more at HandD.com/MariaGaliani



PHOTOS: GORDON BEALL



Galiani Design Group transformed three guest bedrooms in a historic 1854 Old Town Alexandria home into a luxurious master suite. Clockwise from opposite, top: The bedroom features a hand-gilded bed, an original marble fireplace surround and a mirror that conceals a TV. Custom millwork graces the dressing room. The serene master bathroom boasts custom vanities, neoclassical-style mirrors and a wall of Calcutta Belgia marble from Marble Systems. A quiet reading nook is equipped with a hand-forged iron sofa and an armoire that doubles as a morning coffee bar.



A renovation reimagined the first floor of a McLean residence. Clockwise from above: Mohair walls envelop a sitting room where Kravet chairs gather around an Oly coffee table. Galiani created a sleek kitchen with blue-and-white Rutt cabinets and matching bar stools. Deep blues enliven the dining room, which combines an latesta table and a Niermann Weeks chandelier.



PHOTOS: GORDON BEALL



Lorna Gross, ASID, NCIDQ, MBA

LORNA GROSS INTERIOR DESIGN

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-881-7777
lornagross.com

Lorna Gross Interior Design is a global, full-service design firm with residential specialties in new construction, renovations and furniture planning. The company's commercial work includes restaurants, executive suites and branded businesses.

President Lorna Gross believes great design is highly individualized and unique, yet also comfortable and livable. A dedicated client advocate, she has a talent for unearthing statement pieces that capture the essence of a homeowner's personality. "I love the challenge of sourcing rare and unique items that give a space individuality," she reflects.

Having grown up in Louisiana and New York, Gross is as comfortable at a formal bone-china dinner as she is at a raucous crawfish boil or crab feast. Her father was a contractor and her mother a teacher and seamstress who emphasized hard work and education. Gross infuses a lifetime of world travel and dynamic influences—from sugarcane fields to corporate America—into her design work as well as into her firm's values and business practices.

The designer holds a bachelor's degree and MBA from University of Maryland's Smith School and a B.A. in interior design from Marymount University. She is a board member of the International Women's Forum and the Design Trust. Among many awards, Gross is a recipient of ASID's prestigious Designer of Distinction Award.

See more at HandD.com/LornaGross



This page, clockwise from top: A geometric metallic wall covering creates a backdrop for hair-on-hide chairs and a contemporary rug. Tall draperies add drama and height to a cupola niche with a comfy daybed. Coral-backed stools and mini-pendants accent a soft-gray kitchen with quartzite countertops. Opposite: Art and unique details create interest in a sophisticated but comfortable setting.

KITCHEN: NICK NIELE PHOTOGRAPHY; OTHER IMAGES: ANGIE SECKINGER



Therese Baron Gurney, ASID

BARON GURNEY INTERIORS

Washington, DC | 202-244-6883
barongurneyinteriors.com

Therese Baron Gurney launched her career as an interior designer working for several prominent Washington, DC, design and architecture firms, including that of internationally acclaimed modern architect Hugh Newell Jacobsen. In 1985, she established her own firm. "I design with a modern aesthetic and tailor interiors to harmoniously integrate with the architecture," she explains. "My firm is small so I can be involved in all aspects of my projects."

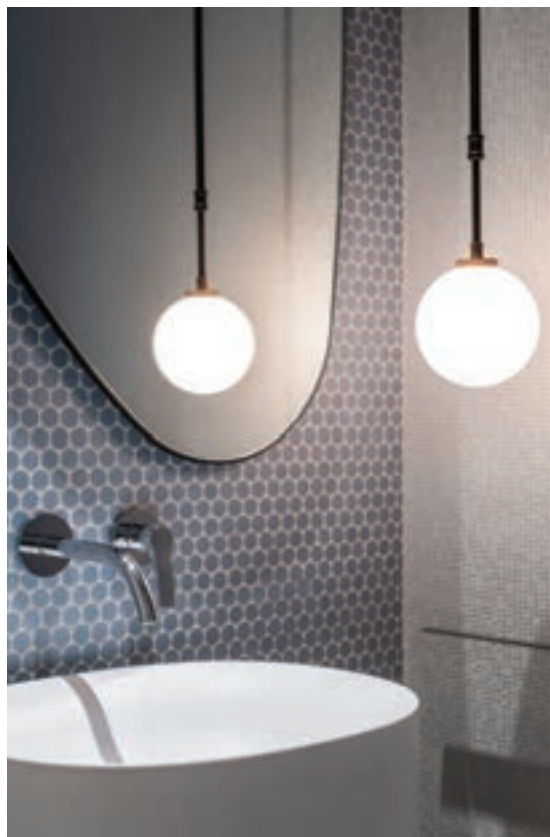
Baron Gurney's expertise lies in space-planning, lighting design, graphics, custom furniture, millwork design and furniture specifications. She also consults clients on art selection and installment; audio/video and computer coordination; and furniture system installations. Throughout her career, she has frequently collaborated with architect Robert M. Gurney, FAIA.

Baron Gurney has been recognized with numerous design awards over the years, including multiple Awards of Excellence from the Washington Metro Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers. In 2002, the chapter named her a Designer of Distinction. Her work has appeared in many local and national publications, as well as in the architectural book series *Modern Order*, and in *Robert M. Gurney: Master Architect*.

See more at HandD.com/BaronGurney



THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: MARCO PETRINI; OPPOSITE, TOP: MAXWELL MACKENZIE



Clockwise from opposite: Therese Baron Gurney designed a modern kitchen in Chevy Chase with Julia Walter of Boffi Georgetown. It features JANUS et Cie's Arthur table with an integrated turntable, Andreu World dining chairs and a StickBulb pendant. She also collaborated with architect Robert Gurney on the renovation of a DC home, where D'Urosio swivel chairs and a custom, heathered-wool rug define the family room and accentuate colorful art works. Baron Gurney orchestrated the design of a small powder room with a focus on proportion and scale. The space combines a Boffi PH freestanding wash basin, a Solstice mirror and a Boccia pendant. Stone Source mosaic wall tile and Maharam wallcovering provide a textured backdrop.

Paula Grace Halewski

PAULA GRACE DESIGNS & COACHING, INC.

Ashburn, Virginia | 703-201-1490
paulagracedesigns.com

Before studying interior design, Paula Grace Halewski earned graduate degrees in clinical social work and business. Experience in these fields enables her to take a multi-dimensional approach to design projects, both in terms of understanding clients' needs and streamlining the process from concept to completion. "I was inspired to become an interior designer to help people live in homes they are proud of, that truly are comfortable and reflect who they are," she says.

Halewski launched her firm in 2003; today, she and a staff of three create modern and classic interiors that are personalized, functional and livable. They adhere to an efficient and effective timeline on all of their projects. "From the discovery phase where we learn our client's aesthetic and functional aspirations to placing the last accessory, organization is key," she explains. "There is a proper order to the process that enhances creativity and enables our clients to know what's happening every step of the way. We and our clients are a team; everyone is valued and knows what to expect."

Recognized for her interpersonal skills, Halewski has completed national lecture tours to teach other designers how best to work with clients. Her finished interior projects and furniture designs have been published in *Home & Design* and *Arlington Magazine*.

See more at

HandD.com/PaulaGraceHalewski



Clockwise from above: For a musician client, Halewski created a custom dining room rug that evokes guitar strings. A kitchen makeover combines white perimeter cabinets, a dark gray island and a stunning marble backsplash. The designer transformed a dated living/dining room with a new fireplace surround and furnishings reupholstered in soft neutrals and blues.

PHOTOS: GEOFFREY HODGSON



Syntha E. Harris

SYNTHA HARRIS INTERIORS, LLC

McLean, Virginia | 703-448-0201
synthaharrisinteriors.com

Syntha Harris began her career in fashion, working as a runway and print model for more than two decades. “I worked directly for designers like Oscar de la Renta, Mary McFadden and Ralph Lauren,” she says. “Surrounded by legendary style icons, I learned how they approached every aspect and detail of design. This experience contributed greatly to the interior designer I am today.”

Though she worked in fashion, Harris was educated as an interior designer and in 2002, she found her way back to interiors, launching a small, boutique firm with a handful of key staff. Today, she and her team center their design process around open communication, transparency and a commitment to the designer-client relationship. “The client is the heart of my company’s focus,” Harris avers. “Creating a design experience that is seamless and enjoyable—and a home that is elegant and practical, luxurious yet functional—is our goal.”

Harris continues: “Designing a perfect home doesn’t have to start with a blank canvas. The most transformational change can happen by keeping the things that you love, and integrating purposeful and functional elements. We infuse understated elegance and sophistication, reimagining your space by curating it specifically for you and your family.”

See more at HandD.com/SynthaHarris



Clockwise from above: A classic kitchen in Ashburn, Virginia, boasts white Shaker-style cabinets and quartzite countertops. A contemporary watercolor above the sofa is the focal point in the elegant yet child-friendly living room. Textured wallpaper and windows flanked with Kravet draperies create a warm and inviting dining room.

PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS





PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS



Clockwise from opposite, top: Cool tones set the stage for a clean-lined Potomac family room with a custom sectional in endurance fabric to cater to guests of all ages. A dining area boasts a graphic black-and-gray palette with pops of blue from the clients' art and crystal collection; chairs on acrylic legs seem to float. A restful contemporary bedroom features a bold, white-leather bed that serves as the room's focal point.

Pamela Harvey

PAMELA HARVEY INTERIORS

Herndon, Virginia
pamelaharveyinteriors.com

Pamela Harvey is an award-winning designer, tastemaker and principal of her residential and commercial design firm with offices in Northern Virginia and St. Petersburg, Florida. Harvey prefers a modern take on traditional style, emphasizing color, classic silhouettes and timeless pieces with a touch of glamour. With more than 20 years of experience and degrees in psychology and interior design, Harvey has honed her distinctive eye for what she terms “livable luxury.”

Pamela Harvey Interiors works closely with each client to achieve personalized results that exceed expectations. Guided by clients’ aspirations, experiences and what is meaningful to them, the team designs refined spaces that tell visual stories. “Each client has a unique point of view,” Harvey says. “Our role is to transform that vision into reality while elevating it to its greatest potential.”

The designer frequently participates in charity events. For the past 10 years, she has worked with In the Bag for the Red Cross and has designed show house rooms and holiday décor to benefit Children’s National Hospital. In 2020, she designed the great room in the Aspire Design and Home decorator show house in McLean. Harvey’s work has appeared in *Home & Design*, *Southern Home*, *Elle Decor*, *Florida Design*, *DC Modern Luxury*, *Washingtonian*, *Virginia Living*, *House Trends*, *Designers Today*, *Cottages & Bungalows* and more.

See more at HandD.com/PamelaHarvey



Clockwise from top: A chic dining room combines bold blues; a small living room makes a big impact with crisp-white millwork and Sunbrella fabrics for stress-free entertaining; a swivel chair and ottoman create a cozy, restful spot; and blue-and-white accents embellish a hallway showcasing a custom, hexagonal skirted table.

TOP: ROBERT RADJEFER; OTHER PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Barbara Hawthorn

BARBARA HAWTHORN INTERIORS

McLean, Virginia | 703-241-5588
barbarahawthorninteriors.com

Barbara Hawthorn's career has been informed by life experience. Growing up in New York, Los Angeles, London and Paris exposed her to the best in design, architecture and the arts. Working in her father's engineering firm taught her drafting skills and about alternative energy sources. A background as an artist instilled an understanding of color, light and composition.

"Good taste is about quality, value and knowledge—with a nod to the classics and an eye to what is fresh and 'today,'" observes Hawthorn. "We create spaces that will provide lasting value with comfort and durability. Functional opulence is our mantra."

Hawthorn was named Hall of Fame Designer by *Home & Design* in 2009 and has been recognized by numerous publications as one of DC's best designers. In January 2018, she was honored by the Women's Leadership Group of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington as their "Fearless Woman" for her contributions to the lives of at-risk children in the region. She was named Professional Woman of the Year 2011-2012 by the National Association of Professional Women.

Projects by Barbara Hawthorn Interiors, Ltd., have appeared in both national and local publications and have been showcased on network and cable TV.

See more at HandD.com/BarbaraHawthorn



Clockwise from top: Draperies in Lelièvre fabric complement a dramatic Keith Fritz dining room table. A living room embodies serenity and harmony; artwork conceals a TV screen. In a tranquil bedroom, the custom bed, night tables, sofa and bedding were designed by Barbara Hawthorn. A sitting room groups Niermann Weeks chairs and ottomans on a sensuous carpet.

PHOTOS: KENNETH M. WYNER



Andrea Houck, ASID, IFDA

A. HOUCK DESIGNS, INC.

Arlington, Virginia | 703-237-2111
ahouckdesigns.com

Andrea Houck believes in homes with soul. “Nobody wants spaces that look exactly like those next door,” she notes. “Bespoke details, fine craftsmanship, and thoughtfully chosen furnishings make all the difference.”

Founding her eponymous firm in 2000, Houck sees her role as equal parts interpreter and problem-solver. “We translate our clients’ aspirations and bring them to life. For 20 years, our mantra has been ‘creating spaces you will love...traditional, modern or somewhere in between.’”

With a fine arts background, Houck prioritizes balance, scale and proportion in her one-of-kind designs. She choreographs the entire process, from planning to installation. “Our clients lead busy lives,” she observes. “We pull it all together for them and respect their budget throughout.”

A. Houck Designs, Inc., provides residential interior design and consultations on construction. Houck frequently collaborates with architects and builders on the selections process for new construction and renovations. As she explains, “We develop a cohesive selections package, help avoid costly mistakes, and keep the process moving smoothly.”

Houck’s work has appeared in numerous publications, including *Home & Design*, *The Washington Post* and *Arlington Magazine*, where the designer ranked a top vote-getter in the 2020 Best of Arlington survey. Houck has participated in show houses for Children’s National Health System. She shares her passion on her blog, *Creating Spaces*.

See more at HandD.com/AndreaHouck



Shades of purple, pink and green lend freshness to a Capitol Hill living room (top); custom, embroidered-silk window treatments frame a bay-window seating area (opposite). A blue accent wall is a tranquil backdrop for a bespoke headboard (above, right). A walnut chest and burnished-brass mirror (above, left) create a pretty-and-practical vignette.

TOP, OPPOSITE & LEFT: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG; FAR LEFT: JENNI VERRIER



Dolly Howarth, IFDA, IDS

HOWARTH DESIGNS LLC

Arlington, Virginia | 703-671-8448
howarthdesigns.com

Howarth Designs was launched in 2002, after founder and principal Dolly Howarth experienced what she describes as “an inhumane office environment.” As she recalls, the workplace “set in motion for me a crusade against the absence of design.” She adds, “Now that many of us work from our homes, it has never been more important to craft our living environments with function, form and peace in mind.”

Howarth became committed to the ideal of good design and how to share it, believing, she says, that “sound design eases the mind.” Her projects are initiated and inspired by her clients; rather than dictate a signature look, she listens carefully, using her conceptual and analytical skills to create streamlined interiors that reflect each client’s distinctive personality. She has traveled extensively throughout Europe and her work is influenced by a wide range of design styles, including Bauhaus, Vienna Workshop, Scandinavian, Art Nouveau and Arts & Crafts.

“My focus is on quality over quantity,” Howarth notes. “My aim is to provide undivided attention—and I bring to bear a lifetime of experience that benefits each client and every project.”

See more at HandD.com/DollyHowarth



Dolly Howarth turned a dark, seldom-used living room into a peaceful, sunny space (these pages) full of style and family-friendly comfort.

PHOTOS: ANGIE SECKINGER



Karen Kalicka

MAX INTERIORS

Potomac, Maryland | 301-502-3524
karenkalicka.com

Karen Kalicka launched MAX Interiors in 1999 after a career designing model homes for local and national builders. “I like the challenge that residential clients bring to the table,” she says. “I pride myself on exceptional customer service and a personalized approach.”

MAX Interiors designs residential and light commercial interiors throughout the DC area. Projects include full-home design, kitchen and bath renovations, new-home construction and lobbies and club rooms in residential buildings.

Kalicka works with local custom-home builders on interior and exterior selections for spec homes, and consults with management companies on updating exterior guidelines for their communities. “Being an active member in the design community, I attend furniture markets, meet with reps and take seminars to keep my finger on the pulse of the design world,” she says.

Developing a trusting relationship with clients is paramount. “My design process begins with a ‘meet and greet,’” Kalicka explains. “This gives me an opportunity to assess clients’ design directives.” The goal is to translate their vision into reality through attention to detail, scale, color, texture and a tasteful mix of periods and styles. Incorporating clean lines and personal elements, Kalicka creates a sense of timelessness and functionality in each home. “Staying on trend is important,” she notes. “But I never want to lose sight of my clients’ vision.”

See more at HandD.com/KarenKalicka



PHOTOS: BOB MARCO



A casual breakfast room (opposite) features a two-tone dining table by MacKenzie-Dow paired with Kravet host chairs in Osborne & Little fabric. A 25-foot-long rug and matching Visual Comfort chandeliers marry the living and dining areas in a light-filled great room (above and left), enlivened by silver and gold tones. White walls highlight architectural features; seating includes Jonathan Wesley sofas in Romo velvet.

Deborah Kalkstein

CONTEMPORARIA

Potomac, Maryland | 410-874-6682
contemporaria.com

Growing up in Peru, Deborah Kalkstein was inspired by an uncle who was an architect. He would show her drawings and take her to visit his construction sites. “To see something come to life, from an idea on paper to reality, is a pretty spectacular thing,” Kalkstein observes. “Design and architecture have allowed me to do that.”

Kalkstein launched Contemporaria in a Bethesda printing studio in 1999, moving to a showroom in Cady’s Alley five years later. She recently moved her Georgetown location to a 100-year-old house in Potomac, where she and her colleague, Hayley Hartner, still work with top, mostly European contemporary-furniture companies and ply their expertise on remodeling and design projects.

“We’ve created a strong bond with our manufacturers over 21 years working together and we are able to pass it on to our clients,” Kalkstein notes. “We offer complete design services—from selling the perfect sofa to remodeling whole homes including bathrooms, kitchens and outdoor spaces.” The team has long-term relationships with construction crews in Maryland, Virginia and DC “who share our eye for design, aesthetics and detail,” says Kalkstein.

Projects by Kalkstein have been featured in numerous regional publications; Contemporaria has been included on *Washingtonian*’s “Best Of” list for several years running.

See more at HandD.com/DeborahKalkstein



PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

A quiet spot (above) for reading or enjoying a drink pairs Minotti furniture and a Flos floor lamp. A spectacular window (opposite) creates understated drama; each piece speaks for itself and there is perfect visual harmony. The chairs are from Molteni’s Gio Ponti collection with a ceiling fixture by Foscarini.





Clockwise from above: In a living room, a Glass Italia bar showcases favorite objects including a Skull candelabra by Seletti, while a Molteni chair and Minotti ottoman beckon. Kalkstein juxtaposed a room's traditional interior architecture with timeless, modern pieces such as a Minotti sofa and coffee tables by Woodnotes; a Tuareg floor lamp by Foscarini is a focal point. A serene and inviting bedroom combines a Cappellini bed and lighting by Flos and Bocci; a matching throw and pillow from Missoni Rug by Paola Lenti create visual balance in the space.



PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Kirsten Anthony Kaplan

HAUS INTERIOR DESIGN

Rockville, Maryland | 301-785-8065
hausinteriordesign.com

Kirsten Kaplan started her career in design 20 years ago in San Francisco, and carried her clean, unfussy, light-filled aesthetic with her to DC, where she founded Haus Interior Design in 2005. She brings an unusual combination of skills to every project: an MBA from Yale, experience in construction and a childhood spent surrounded by iconic furnishings and art. “Which means I adeptly handle all phases of a comprehensive design project, from overall vision-casting to detailed implementation,” she notes.

Though she has several employees on staff, Kaplan oversees every aspect of each project. “Thousands of decisions need to be made that require an immediate response during any project,” she explains. “We are committed to acting quickly and in the best interests of our clients, while professionally accomplishing the goals we set forth from the start.”

Kaplan creates bespoke interiors with expertise and professionalism, ensuring that each space always reflects its owner. “From traditional elegance to classic simplicity, we have a broad range of design capabilities and creative talent,” she avers. “Whether a project involves renovation or turnkey furnishing, our clients are confident knowing we will oversee every detail and decision, from the initial consultation to the final reveal.”

See more at HandD.com/KirstenKaplan



Clockwise from top: Sleek shapes and a touch of chrome lend approachable sophistication to a modern living room. A family room is anchored by a warm sisal and a custom abstract painting. A Ralph Lauren-inspired living room boasts grass-cloth walls and masculine furnishings. A custom banquette, black table and oversized brass pendant finish a breakfast nook.

LEFT & TOP: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG, RIGHT & OPPOSITE: ROBERT RADIFERA



Charlene Kennerknecht

MONARCH

Vienna, Virginia | 703-860-6755
monarchinteriordesigngroup.com

For more than two decades, Charlene Kennerknecht has been known for creating elegant, beautiful interiors in a warm and welcoming style. Her designs reflect her personal aesthetic—a predilection for light, air and space—and her pursuit of simplicity and refinement. She places great importance on the quality of furnishings, materials and finishes. “The biggest compliment we get is when clients tell us they love spending time at home,” she says.

MONARCH is bi-coastal, with Kennerknecht based in Virginia and design partners in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Salt Lake City. These origins are reflected in the firm’s work, which seamlessly combines a casual West Coast vibe with a traditional East Coast sensibility.

Kennerknecht leads all design projects. Getting to know clients, understanding their needs and preferences, winning their trust and collaborating with them is at the heart of her work, and something she finds particularly rewarding. The firm’s continuing success is anchored in these long-lasting and valued relationships.

Projects by MONARCH stand the test of time—a hallmark of great design. “We choose comfortable, quality furnishings. We aren’t overly trendy, though our work is on-trend,” Kennerknecht reflects. “Above all, we bring extensive expertise to grant our clients’ wishes for how they choose to live.”

See more at
HandD.com/CharleneKennerknecht



PHOTOS: LYDIA CUTLER



These pages: An Alexandria residence is a study in restraint of color and scale in which architectural elements are honored and respected. Rooms follow one another in a gentle procession of function and mood. The use of cool and warm grays imparts a sense of calm yet is still interesting and inspiring. Hints of color add dimension and contrast.



These pages: Situated high above the Potomac, this is a home that welcomes a large and busy family, bringing calm and comfort from the first alarm clock to the quiet sounds of night. The outdoor spaces are as important as the rooms inside. The sweep of the surrounding woods is accentuated by large patios designed for entertainment and quiet reflection.



PHOTOS: LYDIA CUTLER



Kori Keyser, ASID

KEYSER INTERIORS, INC.

Frederick, Maryland | 240-651-5656
keyserinteriors.com

Kori Keyser says her “fate was set” when she was a teenager and her mother began taking her to local designer show houses. Along with visits to historic homes such as Monticello and Falling Water, these experiences cemented her interest. “Learning about history and design made me realize what I wanted to be when I grew up,” she reveals.

A father who was a woodworker contributed to her education, teaching her “how things are made, how they work together,” she explains. “It’s what gives me the ability to walk into a room and immediately see what works and what doesn’t—and how to improve or correct it.”

After earning a BS in Interior Design and passing the NCIDQ (National Council for Interior Design Qualification) exam, Keyser hung out her shingle in 2009. She works solo for the most part, designing residential projects in a collaborative style with her clients. “I spend a lot of time talking to them, gaining an in-depth understanding of how they use their homes,” she says. “Then we work together to create beautiful, functional spaces that represent them as well as the home’s architecture.

“When a project is done,” she continues, “it should feel like a seamless complement to the home, or as if it has always been there.”

See more at HandD.com/KoriKeyser



During a recent project, Keyser grouped comfortable seating on a Tufenkian rug in the family room (opposite), which features chairs from RJones and Currey & Company lighting. In the breakfast room (above), Sanderson drapery fabric complements walls faux-finished by Dieter Pluntke Decorating Inc.



Vicky Lal

VICKY LAL DESIGN LLC

Potomac, Maryland | 240-988-4350
vickylaldesign.com

Though Vicky Lal earned formal degrees in technology, a lifelong passion for interiors eventually inspired her to switch gears and pursue a certificate in interior design. In 2000, she launched her own firm, Vicky Lal Design LLC, which specializes in designing interiors for residential and commercial renovations and new construction.

One of Lal's earliest accomplishments was completing her own custom home. "When I built and designed my own family's home 18 years ago, the process allowed me to recognize that I had a natural flair for design, color, textures and fabrics," she says. "After this inspirational experience, I immersed myself in my new goal of making interior design a full-time pursuit."

Lal has finished 300 projects since then, from kitchen and bathroom makeovers to entire residences. She and her team evaluate every job in terms of function, mood and harmony. "We start with a detailed client interview during which we assess their likes and dislikes," the designer explains. "This process allows us to get a sense of the clients' style while also providing us with insight into what they are envisioning."

"My ultimate goal," she continues, "is to understand my clients' needs and wants, and to ensure that every space is a reflection of who they are."

See more at HandD.com/VickyLal



PHOTOS: BOB MARCO



Clockwise from opposite:
In a modern home in Potomac, Lal combined Calligaris bar stools and a chandelier by Crystorama. A newly expanded dining room features Phillips Collection furniture, chandeliers by Corbett Lighting and orange Wallquest wall covering. In a glamorous living room, Vahallan wallpaper creates a dramatic backdrop for a Poltrona Frau sofa.

J. Paul Lobkovich

LOBKOVICH KITCHEN DESIGNS

Tysons, Virginia | 703-847-0601
lobkovich.com

An early infatuation with automobile and industrial design inspired J. Paul Lobkovich to become a designer. He later studied architecture in Italy, an experience that shapes his perspective to this day. "Scale and proportion are paramount in my work," he observes.

Lobkovich worked as a residential and commercial architect for several years before shifting his focus to a new specialty: kitchen and bath design. He currently has more than 25 years of experience creating one-of-a-kind kitchens in locations such as New York City, the Hamptons, Chicago, Florida, California and, of course, Washington, DC.

A Lobkovich kitchen is defined by elegant, straightforward design that marries form and function. Luxurious touches include rare stone surfaces and custom metalwork—from gorgeous hoods of mixed metal to metal-cabinetry accents. "We try to incorporate unique elements in every design, so that no two projects are exactly alike," Lobkovich says. "Capturing the spirit of the house—whether it is a new, modern structure or a historic home full of character—is important. The kitchen should be a logical transition to the other living spaces of the home."

Lobkovich Kitchen Designs was named a *Home & Design* Designers' Choice award-winner in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

See more at HandD.com/JPaulLobkovich



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS; BLACKROCK HOLDINGS LLC; TIMOTHY BELL; LOBKOVICH KITCHEN DESIGNS



Clockwise from opposite, top: A transitional, blue-painted kitchen in McLean boasts a custom, blackened-steel hood with brass accents. Also in McLean, a custom, stainless-steel hood with a waterjet pattern enlivens a classic white kitchen. Lobkovich designed a custom-fitted wardrobe with full-height, mirrored walnut sliding doors in Alexandria. An Art Deco-inspired kitchen in McLean reveals macassar ebony, polished brass and nickel accents.

Sallie J. Lord, ASID, IDS

GREYHUNT INTERIORS

Chantilly, Virginia | 703-819-3277
greyhuntinteriors.com

GreyHunt Interiors' staff of six creates livable luxury and cohesive designs. "Our spaces are welcoming, providing beautiful backdrops for our clients' lives and memories," says Sallie Lord, who founded the firm in 2009. "Whether we're decorating a single room or doing a full-house remodel, we strive to ensure that our clients see themselves in each and every design."

Lord's father, a master builder in England, first inspired the designer's career path. "His love of quality and beautiful lines created an appreciation and love within me for all different styles and tastes," Lord recounts. "I also worked in our family's store selling antiques and new items. Seeing happy clients was always a thrill; it encouraged me to get my design degree—and I never looked back."

GreyHunt Interiors' process begins with listening, then formulating a design concept that reflects how clients want to feel in their home, curating the perfect pieces to support that vision and then layering in color, pattern and texture. Floor plans address the way clients live, and visual tools aid their understanding. In the final stage, Lord and her team "organize everything up until the very last accessories are in place," she says.

Projects by GreyHunt Interiors have been published nationally and internationally. Lord was named a businesswoman leader by *House of Coco* magazine.

See more at HandD.com/SallieLord



Clockwise from top: An emerald-green Valentino clutch inspired a sitting area with a zebra-print rug. Deep blue contrasts with crisp white trim in a living room. A chrome bar cart is softened by grass cloth wall covering and linen drapes. A powder room melds Fabricut wallpaper and a green-painted ceiling.

PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



Fabiola Martens

FABIOLA MARTENS INTERIOR DESIGN

Washington, DC | 202-450-4042
fabiolamartens.com

Growing up in Europe, Fabiola Martens developed a keen eye for design and interiors and a love for art and antiques. She earned law degrees in two countries, but quickly decided to pursue a more creative career in interior design. She founded her eponymous DC-based firm more than 20 years ago.

Martens considers design a way of life. "It is intuitive to me and should never appear forced," she explains. "I believe that good interior design flows from a harmonious dialogue between the architecture of the home and the people who live in it."

For every project, Martens takes time to develop an intimate understanding of her client's objectives and lifestyle, enabling her to create comfortable, yet sophisticated living spaces that withstand the test of time and reflect the unique character of each client. She loves working with elements that have been part of a client's life and incorporates them in new ways in the spaces she creates. She believes in using excellent pieces and has a strong ability for layering colors and textures.

Martens is fluent in a diverse palette of styles, influenced by both her American and European sensibilities. Her interiors are grounded in classical style but do not shy away from the contemporary.

She prides herself on long-lasting relationships with her clients. It is not unusual for her to work on consecutive homes and city pieds-à-terre, as well as vacation homes and office spaces.

See more at HandD.com/FabiolaMartens



PHOTOS: GORDON BEALL



Clockwise from opposite:
In a Washington living room, pared-down pieces upholstered in white linen are seamlessly integrated with an oversized French Trumeau mirror and a period Louis Philippe chair with a gilt-carved swan motif. The rift-cut, white-oak herringbone parquet floor provides a quiet backdrop for the more ornate antiques and art; the walls are painted Standish White by Farrow & Ball. In the light-filled breakfast nook, a graceful English Regency table sits between a pair of ebonized Regency chairs upholstered in Belgian linen.



PHOTOS: GORDON BEALL

Clockwise from above: A chest with drawers in alternating shades of leather forms a counterpoint to the more organic wall sconces along the staircase in a foyer. A small study with a custom-patterned cowhide area rug, sateen wool-upholstered chairs and lacquered walls provides a cozy setting for reading by the fire. Dramatic pieces in bold colors create a fun and light-filled family room; the three-armed Serge Mouille ceiling light accentuates the open feeling of the room.





Jamie Merida

JAMIE MERIDA INTERIORS

Easton, Maryland | 410-819-8666
jamiemerida.com

Jamie Merida, whose parents ran a gallery and furniture business, grew up surrounded by art and antiques. So it was not a reach for him when, in 2000, he founded Bountiful, a home-furnishings store on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Clients began asking for design help, so Merida subsequently launched an interiors practice, creating spaces that reflect homeowners' interests, personalities and lifestyles. "We spend a lot of time getting to know clients before the process begins," he says. "That helps us incorporate personal touches that make every design unique and special."

Today, Merida's staff of 22 includes five interior designers. "Our approach could be described as 'traditional made modern,'" he observes. "We have a deep appreciation for classic design, but love finding ways to make it feel fresh." Merida and his team not only focus on overall aesthetics, but also on small details that can make or break a project. "There are so many moving parts that need to come together perfectly," he remarks.

Merida now has his own furniture and home-accents line, the Jamie Merida Collection for Chelsea House. He recently acquired a 16,000-square-foot building that houses the Jamie Merida Interiors design studio, as well as his Bountiful Home and Bountiful Flooring retail stores. Merida's work has been widely published locally and nationally.

See more at HandD.com/JamieMerida



Architectural detailing throughout a grand Eastern Shore home emphasizes soaring ceilings and water views. The entry's custom tile floor (opposite) makes an impression. Gold accents enliven the living and dining rooms (top and above, left). The great room (above, right) highlights menswear-inspired textiles. Lead designer: Denise Perkins for Jamie Merida Interiors.

PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS





For the remodel of The Bellmoor Inn & Spa in Rehoboth Beach (these pages), Merida chose a sophisticated palette of soft blues and creams to reflect the inn's coastal setting—as exemplified in the game room (right). The walls and fireplace mantel in the library (opposite and above) were painted rich gray to create a warm, cozy feeling.



PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS



Sandra Meyer | *Carly Thompson, Alysha Hutchinson*

ELLA SCOTT DESIGN, LLC

Bethesda, Maryland | 703-655-1708
ellascottdesign.com

Ella Scott Design was originally founded by principal Sandra Meyer as a Bethesda-based home store and design studio—but in 2004, after several years in business, Meyer chose to close her brick-and-mortar retail shop and concentrate on her passion: interior design. Today, her full-service firm, Ella Scott Design, employs a team of four professionals on projects throughout the DC Metro area and beyond. “Our focus is on beautifully crafted yet functional spaces that reflect our clients’ personalities and wishes,” Meyer says.

The firm has streamlined a fine-tuned and efficient design process that begins with client meetings to discuss needs and visions, then moves into presentations and the active design phase. Meyer and her team work closely with architects and builders, installers and vendors to achieve the goal of producing a well-designed home that evokes a sense of ease and delight, and is personalized for each client.

“I react to scale and orientation and am drawn to textures, finishes and furnishings that result in beautiful, curated and functional spaces,” Meyer notes. “My desire to create meaningful spaces, keen eye and innate sense of design and taste have guided my success and set me apart.”

See more at HandD.com/SandraMeyer



PHOTOS: STYLISH PRODUCTIONS



Clockwise from opposite: Meyer selected a 72-inch RH table for clients who requested ample seating for their breakfast nook. A family room centers on a Lee Industries sectional and curved-back Bolier chairs. Cabinets combining rift-cut oak with a cerused finish and straight-sawn oak in a black stain make this kitchen a focal point; the island fixture is from RH and the stools are by Industry West.

Sandra Meyers

SANDRA MEYERS DESIGN STUDIO

Rockville, Maryland | 301-929-9788
sandrameyersdesign.com

When Sandra Meyers was growing up, she loved helping her father with projects around the house—and to this day, she finds the start of a new project exciting. “I learned the essentials for building a home from start to finish,” she recalls. “Now when I begin a project, all I can think about are the challenges and how I’m going to solve them.”

Sandra Meyers Design Studio focuses on residential and light commercial interior design. Meyers brings a trained eye and a thorough knowledge of architecture, scale and proportion to her work, and is adept at blending exquisite fabrics, distinctive furniture and functional floor plans into a cohesive whole. She enhances her clients’ unique vision, bringing it vibrantly to life.

Meyers takes pains to make it clear to clients from the start that she is there to help them achieve the style that is right for them—whether it be contemporary, transitional or traditional. Once clients’ needs have been made clear through extensive discussion, she suggests the changes or additions that will have the greatest impact on the space.

Meyers received a “Ones to Watch” award from the Washington Design Center in 2010. Her work has appeared in *Home & Design*, *The Washington Post* and *Washingtonian*.

See more at HandD.com/SandraMeyers



PHOTOS: ANGIE SECKINGER



Meyers designed the interiors of an open and welcoming custom home for family of six, working with the homeowner from the project's inception to create a functional design that doesn't sacrifice style. Custom details like wide-plank, white-oak floors convey warmth and comfort—from the kitchen (above and opposite, bottom) to the master bedroom (opposite, top).

Tracy Morris

Maha Hartary, Stephanie Green, Emma Frankel

TRACY MORRIS DESIGN

McLean, Virginia | 202-465-8114
tracymorrisdesign.com

Tracy Morris approaches each project with a fresh eye and a holistic viewpoint. “One of the main reasons clients come to me is because they’ve found individual pieces they like, but they don’t know how to put everything together,” Morris observes. “I wouldn’t say I bring a particular style to my work; instead, I design spaces holistically, with my eye on an end product that will speak to my clients’ personal style in a unified, refined and elegant way.”

Morris founded Tracy Morris Design in 2003 and works with a staff of four on projects of all sizes and styles. While the firm’s focus is on residential design, Morris and her team have also brought what she describes as “a homey feel” to commercial projects such as restaurants and bars. Whatever the project type, Morris enjoys every phase of the process, and feels her experience with construction is what sets her apart from many other interior designers. “I have always loved the construction aspect of design,” she relates. “Being able to see a project through from pouring the foundation to fluffing the throw pillows, while working with clients, architects and builders, is rewarding to me.”

She adds, “Home is such an important place. I want to create spaces that clients can enjoy for a lifetime.”

See more at HandD.com/TracyMorris



Clockwise from above: A painting over the fireplace in a Georgetown condo contrasts with a green Julian Chichester chair. The kitchen of a McLean home by BarnesVanz Architects features a Waterworks backsplash, stools from Lee Industries and Circa Lighting pendants. A serene McLean living room showcases custom artwork by Joelle Somero.

THIS PAGE: ANGIE SECKINGER; OPPOSITE: GREG POWERS





THIS PAGE: GREG POWERS, OPPOSITE: ADAM SHURE



Clockwise from opposite, top: Clean silhouettes and symmetry complement the classic style of a Georgetown abode by Cecchi Homes featuring Theodore Alexander chairs and a French Accents rug. Morris updated The Willard Hotel's venerable Round Robin Bar with Moore & Giles leather and classic Winfield wallpaper; she refinished the woodwork and retained the iconic art that adorns the walls. An indoor pool in a McLean home by Artisan Builders boasts custom tiles and beams that connect to the wooded property.

Kristin Peake

KRISTIN PEAKE INTERIORS

Rockville, MD, and Kiawah Island, SC
301-545-0441 | kristinpeakeinteriors.com

Kristin Peake Interiors has evolved since it was founded in 2001, but the humble approach developed by principal Kristin Peake in the beginning, based on trust and respect, has not changed. The firm completes projects ranging from one-room redesigns to whole custom homes. "Our goal is to provide a concierge level of service, to exceed expectations from the initial consult to the final walk-through," Peake says. "We create a special place where children can grow and family members can play out the stories of their lives."

Peake and her team feel that the most important qualities of a well-designed home are day-to-day functionality; a layered material palette; and a sense of who lives there. "In the first meeting, I pay attention to what the clients want, how they live, what is important to them," Peake explains. "As a mother of teenage girls, I understand how the needs of families transition over time. I stress the importance of each family member having his or her own space, and of there being 'family' space where everyone can interact."

Peake's designs often reflect a tone-on-tone, neutral, less-is-more aesthetic that is both practical and beautiful. "Every room is designed with thought and detail," she observes. "The details are what make the difference."

See more at HandD.com/KristinPeake



Painted shiplap adds architectural detail to a cozy reading nook (above) nestled between bookshelves. A family room (opposite) combines rustic and refined elements, dominated by bold, large-format paisley chair fabric and floor-to-ceiling, black-framed windows.

PHOTOS: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG





Host chairs sport a bold floral motif, animating a dining room designed for large family gatherings as well as intimate dinner parties. By mixing antiques, an iron chandelier and architectural details such as a hand-hewn oak ceiling, Peake put a fresh twist on modern farmhouse style.



Charlene Petersen | Lauren Jaques | Whitney Wallin

CASHMERE INTERIOR

Brooklandville, Maryland | 410-878-0043
cashmereinterior.com

According to its principal, the interior design team of Cashmere Interior was not so much inspired as “called” to the profession. “Our common denominator is a passion for design,” says owner Charlene Petersen. “We all feel fortunate to have found this within ourselves—and to have an amazing outlet for practicing our art.”

Founded in 2010, the firm now has a staff of seven. Petersen and her senior designers each bring something different to the mix: Lauren Jaques offers an eclectic-modern sensibility with a twist of “boho” style, while Whitney Wallin creates a naturally textured, transitional-meets-modern-farmhouse vibe. Petersen combines these with her own global-rustic-modern aesthetic. “Our superpower strength? Collaboration,” Petersen avers.

Petersen and her staff feel that a well-designed home is functional first. “We believe that a successful project not only looks great but works even better,” Petersen notes. “When we create floor plans, specify finishes, pull fabrics...we make sure we know the who, what, when, where and why of how a space will be used.”

Cashmere Interior espouses the philosophy that clients should be able to walk into their homes and feel their personalities are represented. “Aesthetics and function are not mutually exclusive,” Petersen observes. “Both can be accomplished 100 percent of the time.”

See more at HandD.com/CharlenePetersen



Clockwise from top: A modern-rustic residence in Montana boasts a custom sectional in Romo linen. In the kitchen, custom backsplash tiles echo the home's color palette. A guest room is decked out in St. Frank wallpaper and a Four Hands bed. Antique finds, including a 17th-century Italian chest, grace an exquisitely detailed retreat in Baltimore County's horse country.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: WHITNEY KAMMAN (2); ALAN GILBERT



Kelley Proxmire

KELLEY PROXMIRE, INC.

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-320-2109
kelleyproxmire.com

Since founding Kelley Proxmire, Inc., more than 20 years ago, principal Kelley Proxmire has been creating pretty yet practical spaces that reflect the way her clients live. Today, she practices her craft with a staff of three.

From an early age, Proxmire was fascinated by interior design—by the interplay of color, scale of furniture and the mixing of fabrics. “I was an avid reader of shelter publications and loved seeing the transformation of rooms,” she recalls. She studied the work of Billy Baldwin, Mark Hampton, Frances Elkins and Michael Taylor; these icons laid the foundation for her beautiful and enduring style.

Adept at mixing traditional pieces with unexpected finds, Proxmire creates environments that are faithful to each home’s architecture and setting. She learns about her clients’ passions, favorite color combinations and furniture styles, and treasured heirlooms. She infuses each project with warmth and personality as well as balance, proportion and scale.

Proxmire was named Hall of Fame Designer in *Home & Design*’s 2016 Designers’ Choice Awards, and was inducted into the Washington Design Center Hall of Fame in 2009. She has participated in 25 show houses and has been featured in local and national publications including *Home & Design*, *Washingtonian*, *The Washington Post*, *Southern Home*, *Traditional Home*, *Southern Living* and *Coastal Living*, among others.

See more at HandD.com/KelleyProxmire



Clockwise from top: Proxmire incorporated treasured antique French bayonets above a living room fireplace. A serene, pale-pink nursery features drapery in Ferrick Mason fabric. A classic entry foyer sets the tone for a traditionally styled DC condo. Red chair fabric complements a window treatment with red trim.

PHOTOS: KIP DAWKINS





LEFT & TOP: KIP DAWKINS; RIGHT: ANGIE SECKINGER



Clockwise from top: A Juliet balcony overlooks the blue-and-white living room in a guest house. A palette of apple green, sea blue and white flows room-to-room in a historic Virginia home. A breakfast room accommodates both casual and formal gatherings with family and friends.



Lisa Puchalla

LILYMAE DESIGN

Washington, DC | 301-404-5626
lilymaedesign.com

Lisa Puchalla founded her boutique design firm, LilyMae Design, in 2007 after attending the Corcoran School of Art and Design—and after the inspiring experience of renovating her own 1907 Dutch Colonial home from top to bottom. Her approach is driven by an understanding of her clients' aesthetic sense and of the way they live. "I ask a series of questions and observe how the family interacts with their various spaces," she explains. "I then make sure each room is customized to be first functional, then comfortable and, most importantly, beautiful. I call it my 'relaxed elegance' design philosophy."

Puchalla defines "relaxed elegance" as a look that integrates her clients' personalities and lifestyles into beautiful, timeless spaces using refined materials and sophisticated colors. "They will be living in the space, so I make sure they have as much hand in the process as possible," she notes.

LilyMae Design was named a Best of Houzz award-winner from 2014 through 2019. Lisa Puchalla's designs have been featured in prominent publications including *Portfolio 100 Top Designers*, *Home & Design*, *The Washington Post*, *Quadrille Lookbook*, *Woodbridge Furniture Lookbook* and *Chicago Tribune*. Her work has appeared in blogs including House of Turquoise and Home Bunch.

See more at HandD.com/LisaPuchalla



Clockwise from top: A chandelier by Niemann Weeks graces a dining room; soapstone countertops complement Ann Sacks backsplash tile; a living room boasts a custom Hickory Chair sectional; clean lines, textures and color create a sophisticated living space; and a calming Farrow & Ball hue is the backdrop for neutral furnishings.

LEFT: ANGIE SECKINGER; OTHER PHOTOS: HELEN NORMAN



Lauren Sachs

LAUREN SACHS DESIGNS

Bethesda, Maryland | 301-325-5503
laurensachsdesigns.com

From a young age, Lauren Sachs could see the full potential of a space, redrawing her childhood room many times over. “I’ve had a love of design for as long as I can remember,” she says. Though she started out as an art consultant, she ultimately decided to make a career out of her passion and launched Lauren Sachs Designs in 1994.

Sachs’ design process revolves around connection and collaboration with clients, learning about their lives and how they envision themselves in their homes. “Asking the right questions, listening and serving as their guide in the process has proven to be a winning formula,” she explains.

Sachs views projects both holistically and in the smallest detail. “From color and texture to material and quality, my aesthetic interweaves a multitude of elements that come together to form each room as a cohesive work of art,” she says. “I draw inspiration everywhere I look, whether it is from travel abroad or something right outside my door.”

Sachs’ work has been featured in *Home & Design* and she received a *Bethesda Magazine* “Best of Bethesda” award in 2019. A third-generation Washingtonian, she has cultivated strong working relationships with local contractors, tradespeople and workrooms. “Their top-notch expertise helps bring my designs to life,” reflects Sachs. “My priority is to walk away from every project with happy clients.”

See more at HandD.com/LaurenSachs



PHOTOS: MAXINE SCHNITZER



Clockwise from opposite, top: A custom breakfast nook featuring a channel-backed banquette and upholstered chairs is sun-filled and cozy. In a Bethesda kitchen, the quartzite-topped island is flanked by custom cabinetry made of metal and back-painted glass. Textures and eclectic furnishings dazzle in a Carderock living room. A view past the faux-wood wall covering in a loft-inspired bedroom reveals a bathroom complete with a custom vanity and a Global Views mirror.

Jose Solis Betancourt | Paul Sherrill

SOLIS BETANCOURT & SHERRILL

Washington, DC | 202-659-8734
solisbetancourt.com

Founded in 1990, Solis Betancourt & Sherrill focuses on creating elegant, comfortable and personalized interiors while emphasizing client participation, attention to detail and an understanding of how a family will live in and enjoy their space.

Principals Jose Solis Betancourt and Paul Sherrill, who head a staff of six, share an interest in the interior architecture of a space as well as in the furniture, finishes and art; Solis Betancourt has an architecture degree from Cornell while Sherrill's degree is in art and interior design. "Because of our backgrounds, our firm has a deep appreciation for the professional role architects and landscape architects play when we collaborate on projects," Solis Betancourt notes.

The team has a proven track record of professional expertise and knows how to get the job done. "Our comprehensive approach ensures all aspects of the design are seamlessly integrated and consistent throughout the home," Sherrill says.

Solis Betancourt & Sherrill has completed projects nationwide and abroad. Honored on the AD 100 list three times, the firm's work has been published in *Home & Design*, *Southern Home*, *Traditional Home*, *Architectural Digest*, *House Beautiful*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Southern Accents*, *Washingtonian* and more; a book, *Essential Elegance*, celebrates 20 years of the firm's work.

See more at
HandD.com/SolisBetancourtSherrill



PHOTOS: BRIAN WANCHO



Clockwise from opposite: Soaring skylights illuminate the master suite of a Southwest Territorial Style home that was redesigned with total comfort and livability in mind; the neutral palette lets the clients' extensive collection of antiques take center stage. The designers raised the family room window and door headers and created a more pronounced bay window to let in more light. In the kitchen, the designers incorporated unique finds such as the custom hood and a vintage drafting table that functions as a kitchen island; behind the range, raku glazed tiles bring reflectivity and shimmer to the room, as does the travertine mosaic floor.

Skip Sroka, CID, DTL

SROKA DESIGN, INC.

Washington, DC | 202-734-3920
srokadesign.com

Skip Sroka has been creating timeless, sophisticated homes for private clients for more than 30 years. A love of art and design, along with a fascination with how things are made, led him to become an expert in producing finished environments that embody a sense of place unique to each client, and that provide lasting comfort and joy for their entire family.

As principal of Sroka Design, he brings boundless energy and enthusiasm to every project. He and his team skillfully combine elegance and comfort while integrating the best in modern amenities and ensuring the highest levels of both craftsmanship and value. As Sroka explains, "Throughout the process, we offer our clients advice reflective of their specific needs and goals so that they can feel relaxed and secure in the knowledge that we will tirelessly protect their best interests."

Regularly published, Skip Sroka is a *Home & Design* Hall of Fame interior designer, a National Capital Business Ethics Awards recipient, and the winner of a John Russell Pope Award, given by The Institute of Classical Architecture and Art. Sroka is a founding board member of Design Trust Ltd., a professional association of residential interior-design firm principals and owners, and currently serves as the organization's president.

See more at HandD.com/SkipSroka



Clockwise from top: A color-drenched library features lacquered millwork and a custom carpet by Skip Sroka. A synthetic rug withstands heavy traffic in an elegant foyer. A whimsical console with drawers for keys and leashes is set against a glamorous background of painted wallpaper. Frosted-glass cabinet doors strike a sophisticated note in an inviting kitchen.

PHOTOS: ERIK KVALSVIK



Nadia Subaran

AIDAN DESIGN

Silver Spring, Maryland | 301-320-8735
aidandesign.com

Founded in 2001, Aidan Design creates custom kitchens, bathrooms and built-ins in the DC area. Nadia Subaran, who co-founded and co-owns the firm with senior project manager John Schmiedigen, spearheads a staff of six. “We are guided by the principle ‘form follows function’ to design thoughtful living spaces that reflect the character and lifestyle of each client,” Subaran notes. “We are passionate about the challenges and merits of good design.”

Aidan Design is involved in each project from beginning to end and promotes a collaborative environment, working closely with homeowners, builders and other design professionals to make the process informative, exciting and engaging.

Subaran holds a Bachelor of Architecture from The Cooper Union for the Advancement of Art and Science and participates on both the Signature Design Suite Design Council and Kohler Designer Advisory Council. Over the years, she has shared her passion for design by teaching inner-city high school students architectonics and serving as an adjunct professor for George Washington University’s interior design program. Aidan Design has participated in four DC Design Houses to benefit Children’s National Hospital. Other organizations that the company has supported and directly engaged with are local Girl Scouts, Junior Achievement Program, The GenOUT Chorus of Washington, DC, Martha’s Table, and A Wider Circle.

See more at HandD.com/NadiaSubaran



Navy pantry cabinets enhance a bold, navy-and-white tile backsplash in a herringbone pattern (above). An island painted spring green provides a cheerful pop of color in a bright and welcoming kitchen (opposite).

PHOTOS: ROBERT RADIFERA







PHOTOS: ROBERT RADIFERA

Clockwise from left: Cabinets in warm gray are a perfect base for a kitchen that complements its mid-century space. A tanzanite quartzite countertop and backsplash add style to a compact wet bar. Stone, walnut and navy-painted built-ins are a harmonious combination in a custom mudroom.

Martha Vicas, Allied ASID

Jazmyne Simmons, Amy Bannecker

M.S. VICAS INTERIORS

Washington, DC | 202-588-8927
msvicasinteriors.com

Martha Vicas discovered her creative side later in life after spending years in international finance. She was inspired to become an interior designer following the renovation of her family's own home. "When I embarked on our renovation, I found the process both maddening and thrilling," Vicas recalls. She honed her skills at the New York School of Interior Design and founded her firm, M.S. Vicas Interiors, in 2001.

She and her staff of five approach all projects with a fresh eye, working closely with each client to refine a vision that suits their aesthetic and physical needs. "Our goal is to create timeless, elegant, livable interiors that enhance the way people experience their homes," explains Vicas, who views each project as a partnership.

The process begins with a thorough discussion of clients' goals, needs and desires. From creating meticulous architectural plans to the selection of furniture, fabrics and finishes, she and her colleagues are detailed-oriented and results-driven.

Spending extensive time abroad has informed Vicas' design approach over the years. "I'm an obsessive observer of art, architecture, color and texture and have been fortunate to be able to travel widely," she reflects. "I bring a finely tuned sense of color and scale and a broad global aesthetic to interiors."

See more at HandD.com/MarthaVicas



THIS PAGE: ANICE HOACHANDER; OPPOSITE: ROBERT RADPHERA; ALL STYLING: CHARLOTTE SAVANI



Clockwise from opposite: Satin-brass circular lights by Cameron House bring drama to a family room; a custom fireplace surrounded by limestone and brass provides warmth on chilly evenings. A blue island and a textural, custom-colored Ann Sacks tile backsplash enliven a chef's kitchen in a newly constructed home. An integrated bed niche and Urban Electric reading sconces make for lazy Sunday mornings in a master bedroom; wall covering reminiscent of men's wool suiting creates a cozy backdrop.



Clockwise from above: A formal living room invites guests to gather around a limestone fireplace; the bold, orange velvet sofa by Holly Hunt is a modern update of the classic Chesterfield sofa. A newly constructed riverfront home features a double-height great room that is perfect for entertaining or family time; the cocktail table is a custom design marrying slabs of petrified wood with steel legs. For the master bedroom of a new home on the water, Vicás commissioned a bed and integrated nightstands, made of American walnut by a craftsman in New York; the piece's live edge and butterfly joints are the perfect foil for the home's glass-and-steel architecture.



PHOTOS: ANICE HOACHLANDER. ALL STYLING: CHARLOTTE SAFARI



Margery Wedderburn

MARGERY WEDDERBURN INTERIORS, LLC

Great Falls, Virginia | 703-757-5001
margerywedderburninteriors.com

Margery Wedderburn Interiors creates beautiful spaces in both high-end homes and small commercial settings throughout the Washington, DC, metro area and around the country. Principal Margery Wedderburn launched the firm in 2000, after years of working with top area designers. Today, she and her staff of four translate and transform homeowners' thoughts and ideas into timeless, elegant spaces that reflect their sensibilities and personalities.

"We are very open to our clients. We listen from the start, developing deep trust and communication—which are essential to something as intimate as the interior design of a home," Wedderburn observes. "We ask clients to fill out forms, then look at magazine and interior images together and discuss their likes and dislikes. The rest is intuitive."

Creative arts are in Wedderburn's blood: Before receiving a master's degree in interior design, she was a harpist and dancer. She also holds an undergraduate degree in international business, so owning her own company comes naturally.

"A client's home is so personal," she says. "One of its most important aspects is the memories it holds. We are not about telling someone to get rid of everything and start over. For us, success is making sure our clients love the results we have created together."

See more at

HandD.com/MargeryWedderburn



THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: ANGE SECINGER, OPPOSITE, TOP & BOTTOM, LEFT: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG



A living room in the DC Design House (left and opposite) was designed by Margery Wedderburn and features fabrics by Kravet and a Niermann Weeks cocktail table: Wedderburn designed the gold screen in one corner. Phillip Jeffries woven wall covering clads the ceiling of a master bedroom in Great Falls (above and far left), where a Lexington headboard is paired with an undulating chest of drawers by Bungalow 5.

Melanie Whittington, ASID, IFDA | Kelly Jennings, Kate Stoyek, Trish Copenhaver

WHITTINGTON DESIGN STUDIO

McLean, Virginia | 703-533-3705
whittingtondesignstudio.com

“As a young girl, I learned that adding something beautiful or comforting to your environment can change your perspective on life,” reflects Melanie Whittington. She began college as a business major but longed for something more creative and people-oriented. A pivot to interior design allowed her to combine business skills with personal passions. She founded Whittington Design Studio in 2005 after 15 years of experience in other design firms.

Today, she leads a staff of four with backgrounds in residential, commercial and kitchen-and-bath design. “We believe that a well-designed home combines beauty, function and personality to enhance your everyday life,” Whittington says. “We’re committed to personalized service—to helping our clients tell their own unique story in their spaces.”

The process starts with getting to know the client and their lifestyle, to determine preferences for style and function. Each project is customized to ensure that every detail and layer is addressed. “Homes should be filled with warmth, color, texture, depth and personality,” Whittington observes. “Our stylish and beautiful designs are tailored to our clients’ lives. And we make the process fun.”

Whittington Design Studio was named a Best of Arlington winner by *Arlington Magazine* and a Best of Virginia winner by *Virginia Living*. Projects have been featured in *The Cottage Journal*, *Home & Design*, *Northern Virginia*, *Arlington Magazine* and *The Washington Post*.

See more at
HandD.com/MelanieWhittington



PHOTOS: HELEN NORMAN



Clockwise from opposite, top: Serene colors, a beaded chandelier and pattern play on fabrics make a McLean master bedroom an inviting retreat. A family room features original art, colorful custom accent pillows and a textured-raffia cocktail table. Navy chenille bar stools with nail-head trim and vibrant artwork enliven a modern kitchen. Lucite, marble and mixed metals add interest and sophistication to a seating area with a navy sofa and bold, tufted swivel chairs.



Landscape Design



Lewis Aquatech installed a picturesque stream (opposite) that runs throughout a client's property. Like a fine painting, a project by Arentz Landscape Architects (above) features a boxwood hedge in the foreground, a bosque of oaks in the center and Virginia's Blue Ridge on the horizon; photo by Roger Foley.

Richard Arentz, ASLA

ARENZ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Washington, DC | 202-537-8020
arentzdc.com

Arentz Landscape Architects primarily focuses on high-end residential and select boutique institutional projects such as niche hotels, private schools and museums. Founded in 1994 by principal Richard Arentz, the firm encompasses a staff of seven; they include Michael Rossetti, RLA; Patrick Carter, AIA; and Joe Sampsel, RLA, who manage offices in Rochester, New York; Washington, DC; and Warrenton, Virginia, respectively.

“We practice across a broad spectrum of scales from large estates to small urban gardens, developing big-picture relationships and focusing intensely on exacting details,” Arentz says. “Our award-winning work is very site-specific and tailored to clients’ needs. Consistency of design quality and consideration of scale and proportion, process and implementation are paramount to our firm.”

Aside from their DC-based work, the team is currently completing projects on both coasts of Florida and in Upstate New York, Pennsylvania and Accra, Ghana. Accolades include an ICAA John Russell Pope Award for landscape design; numerous Potomac Chapter ASLA Awards; a *Luxe* RED Award for Excellence in Design; and a 2020 Designers’ Choice Award from *Home & Design*. Richard Arentz joined the Design Leadership Network in Fall 2019.

See more at HandD.com/RichardArentz



PHOTOS: ROGER FOLEY



Opposite page: A gravel allée of hawthorns is framed by a clipped beech hedge (top). Lawn steps lead down to a perennial border and pool garden (bottom).
 This page: Mirroring the composition of a painting, Arentz designed a landscape so that the clipped boxwood hedge creates the foreground, a bosque of oaks the middle ground and the Blue Ridge the background (above). A view of the rear garden offers panoramic vistas (left).





PHOTOS: ROGER FOLEY

Clockwise from left: A Corten-steel sculpture by Jean-Pierre Rives imparts a sense of scale to a gravel entrance court developed for a Georgetown garden. Utilizing existing elements and enhancing layers of planting give this relatively small garden added depth. Materiality is always important, as exemplified by a Corten steel-clad retaining wall.



PHOTOS: ROGER FOLEY



Clockwise from opposite, top: The Miles River is visible beyond an American hornbeam hedge. A pool surround is clad in oversized Tennessee sandstone pavers in soft tan, buff and gray. Clipped boxwoods create an architectural contrast in a naturalized landscape. Winter King hawthorns provide dappled shade and four-season interest on a casual terrace.



PHOTOS: ROGER FOLEY

Attention to detail was critical in the landscape design for a grand estate (these pages), where limestone accents pull the home's classic architecture into its site. Carefully selected plantings frame the entry and focus attention on the front door.





Alan Blalack, RLA | Josh Kane, CLT

KANE LANDSCAPES

Sterling, Virginia | 703-803-3146
kanelandscapes.com

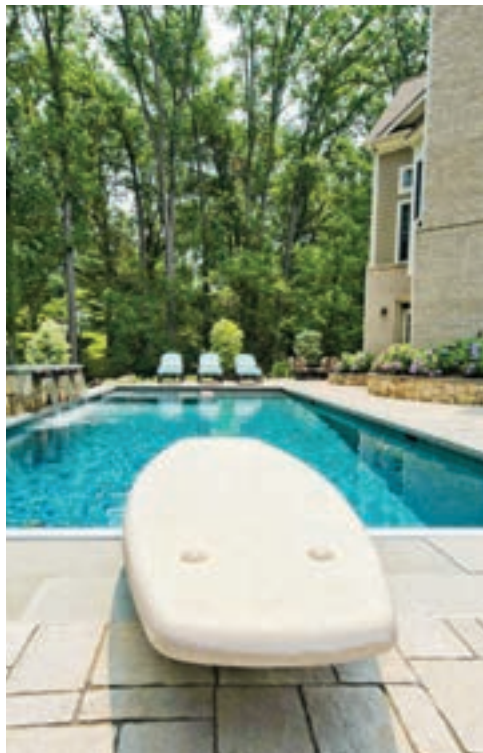
Josh Kane traces his career back to fourth grade, when he started a business mowing neighbors' lawns. Later, he earned a degree in horticulture and landscape design and in 1990, founded Kane Landscapes. Since then, the company has expanded every year and now employs a staff of 50.

As president and lead designer, Kane collaborates closely with senior landscape architect Alan Blalack to create well-thought-out designs guided by clients' desires and practical requirements. The company's in-house landscape architects and designers work hand-in-hand to present seamless site plans and quick turnarounds. And they focus on honesty, service, creativity, knowledge and professionalism.

"We spend a great deal of time listening to our clients upfront and then offering them multiple conceptual designs," explains Blalack. "Our 3D renderings allow clients to better visualize their properties, which ensures that we're providing what they requested as well as options they may not have considered."

The firm has won numerous design awards, including a 2019 award of distinction from the Landscape Contractors Association of Maryland, DC and Virginia (LCA). Actively involved in local landscape and community organizations, Josh Kane is the immediate past-president of the LCA chapter. "Love of the outdoors and the ability to create something beautiful in nature," he reflects, "are at the core of everything we do."

See more at HandD.com/BlalackKane



Clockwise from top: An outdoor kitchen featuring a full array of Viking fixtures is ready to cater to parties of any size. A welcoming pavilion anchors a resort-style backyard. Surrounded by lush plantings, a patio offers easy access to both the pool and yard. A pool set into the side of a steep hill takes advantage of dramatic views.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: JULIE KANE; MORGAN HOWARTH; JULIE KANE; BRIAN NEIROFF



Kevin Campion, ASLA | Bob Hruby, ASLA

CAMPION HRUBY LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Annapolis, Maryland | 410-280-8850
campionhruby.com

Founded in 2010, Campion Hruby is a family of passionate landscape architects rooted in the natural and cultural beauty of the Chesapeake Bay. “CHLA works in urban and rural areas on both private and public commissions,” says Kevin Campion. “We use modern, sustainable methods to amplify the unique character of each landscape, to forge a meaningful connection between people and nature.”

A team of 17 associates, designers and administrative staff works together to create exceptional designs in a collaborative process. “We find bold and imaginative solutions to complex landscape problems,” notes Bob Hruby. “A good design demands a great team, from owner to architect to craftsman. We value relationships and respect the commitment of everyone involved.”

Campion Hruby believes that a great garden reflects the lives of those who live in and care for it. “A garden is a declaration of style and art, an acknowledgment of time and place,” Campion observes. “It is a statement of environmental understanding and an act of stewardship. A great garden should change you in the moment, improve your general well-being and enhance the quality of your days.”

Campion Hruby received three awards from the American Society of Landscape Architects during 2017.

See more at HandD.com/CampionHruby



Clockwise from top: The elevated pool floats above a meadow on the banks of Goose Creek in Leesburg. Urban outdoor living is a lifestyle, with connectivity of spaces inside and out and abundant textures, hues, moods and fragrance. Geranium, allium, Russian sage and liriopie form a textural entry garden.

TOP: BOB HRUBY; LEFT: ALLEN RUSS; OPPOSITE: DAVID BURROUGHS



Howard Cohen, PLA | Chad Talton, PLA

SURROUNDS LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + CONSTRUCTION

Sterling, Virginia | 703-430-6001
surroundslandscaping.com

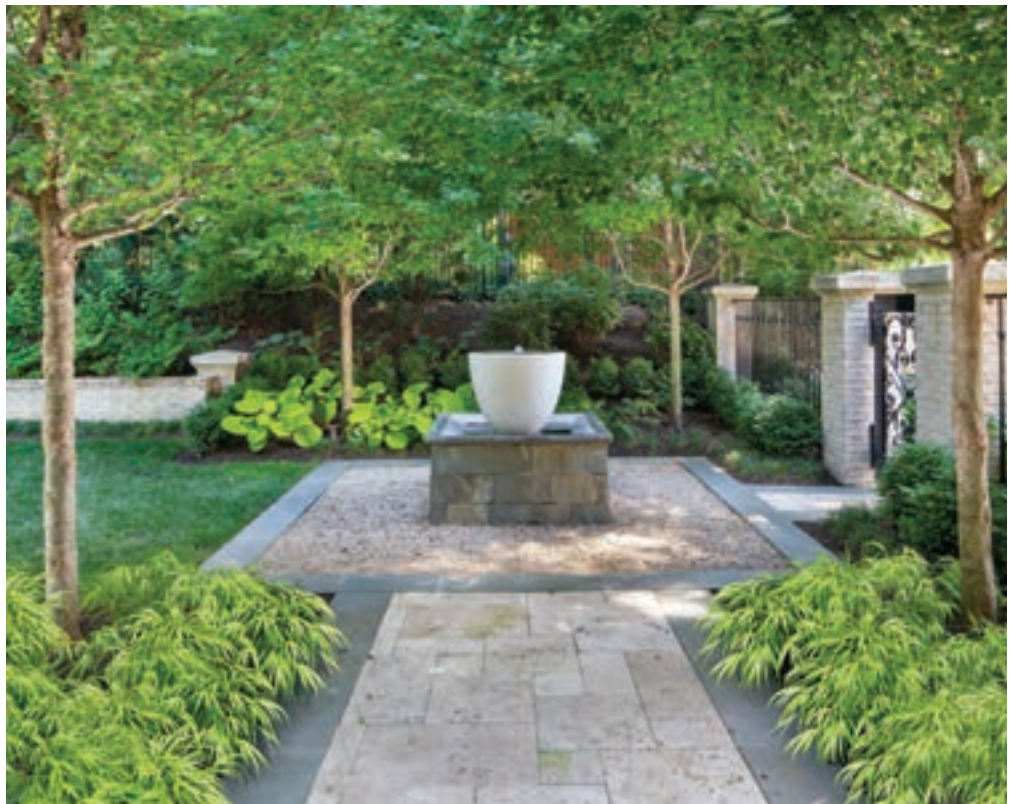
Barry Schneider and landscape architect Howard Cohen founded Surrounds Landscape Architecture + Construction in 2002 with the mission to develop and nurture environments that positively change the way their clients live and experience the outdoors. In 2006, landscape architect Chad Talton joined the firm.

Today, Surrounds is a unique company comprised not only of landscape architects but also of skilled craftspeople such as stone masons and carpenters. “We collaborate as a team to create award-winning projects while seeking creative solutions to meet every budget,” says Cohen. “Our designs are inspired by the personal style of the homeowner, making each project unique while complementing the character of the home and surrounding landscape.”

With more than 50 years of design/build experience combined, the principals of Surrounds bring a high degree of professionalism and expertise to each job. “All of our projects are evaluated and studied by the entire Surrounds team to ensure that we deliver an outstanding experience for our customers,” says Talton.

Recent projects have created one-of-a-kind outdoor amenities, from a thatch-roofed tiki hut to an arbor with a massive stone fireplace. Since 2002, Surrounds has won numerous local and national Grand awards from the Landscape Contractors Association. The company was also named a Hall of Fame landscape firm in *Home & Design's* Designers' Choice Awards.

See more at HandD.com/CohenTalton



PHOTOS: MORGAN HOWARTH



Clockwise from opposite, top: A custom water feature comprised of an urn spilling into a Pennsylvania bluestone basin creates a focal point in a courtyard covered in crushed gravel. Lawn steppers, made of Pennsylvania bluestone and travertine, lead to a custom pool house featuring a quartzite-stone fireplace and a copper hood. A tiered flagstone patio connects a rustic fireplace made of natural boulders to a garden pond with a waterfall. A covered lanai complete with its own fireplace overlooks a beautiful pool where spillways animate a granite-and-Pennsylvania-bluestone wall.

Joshua Dean

WHEAT'S LANDSCAPE DESIGN + CONSTRUCTION

Vienna, Virginia | 703-641-4790
wheats.com

Landscape designer Joshua Dean's challenging first career as a journalist is what led him to his second. "I found myself seeking refuge in my own garden as my reporting became increasingly focused on national security," he recalls. "I would remember a trip I took to Kyoto—the color and feel of the moss, the meandering paths and the rock gardens. These memories, coupled with the seasonal wonder of my own garden, inspired me to complete George Washington University's landscape design program."

After nearly 20 years designing and building gardens, Dean looks to architecture, plant material, clients, garden history and literature for inspiration. "I integrate these aspects to create unique gardens with their own sense of place," he observes. "The artistry of farmers, container craftsmen, sculptors, masons, carpenters and expert installers add special qualities to every garden I envision."

With nearly 200 staff members, Wheat's Landscape ensures that the build and maintenance phases of each project are executed to the highest degree possible. "Wheat's is a community-based, family-oriented business," Dean says. "We care for properties at all stages and seek long-term relationships with our clients."

Joshua Dean has received numerous awards, including Grand Awards from the Landscape Contractors Association. He has appeared on the TV shows *Ask This Old House*, *Curb Appeal* and *Indoors Out*.

See more at HandD.com/JoshuaDean



Clockwise from top: Dean designed a Japanese garden with boulders and a weeping Japanese maple. A garden centers on a marine-grade, stainless-steel sculpture by David Harber. An arbor lends character above a gas fire pit. Replacing an oversized pool made room for a smaller pool, patio and porch.

TOP: JOSHUA DEAN; OTHER PHOTOS: GEORGE E. BROWN



Katia Goffin, ASLA

KATIA GOFFIN GARDENS

McLean, Virginia | 202-352-5928
goffingardens.com

Katia Goffin founded her firm seven years ago, after gaining more than 25 years of experience in both Europe and the U.S. Today, Katia Goffin Gardens employs three landscape architects and designers. “Each of our gardens is a response to the clients’ desires and the site’s characteristics,” Goffin says. “Gardens are organized according to classical methods with thoughtful, modernist twists.”

Her work is inspired by a love of nature and an appreciation for the peace of green havens. “From a young age, I spent afternoons at my grandmother’s house where terrazzo floors bridged the indoors and outdoors, surrounded by the silence of her garden and its single large tree that swayed in the wind,” she recalls. “These sensibilities are what we seek to translate: a connection to nature and beauty, a green haven.”

To create a brilliant garden experience, the company emphasizes strong collaboration with the designers, architects, engineers, artists and craftsmen who will ultimately translate vision into reality. Shared iteration during the design process and close management during building and installation ensure the successful completion of bespoke outdoor spaces. “We blend beauty, order and simplicity to create timeless outdoor rooms,” Goffin observes. “A garden should mature like a good wine—it should get better with time.”

See more at HandD.com/KatiaGoffin



PHOTOS: ROGER FOLEY



Clockwise from opposite:
A hidden woodland path leads up stone stairs into a garden bordered on one side by a row of hedges standing sentinel. The composition of gravel paths, low boxwood hedging and clipped Winter King hawthorn frame the view to an expansive outdoor space. The strong patterning of lawn and planting-bed geometries is apparent from an upper pool terrace.

Donald Gwiz

LEWIS AQUATECH

Chantilly, Virginia | 703-631-2800
lewis-aquatech.com

The principals of Lewis Aquatech understand that people live and work in fast-paced environments and need a place to get away from it all. “We provide a space for our clients to relax and truly enjoy an intimate getaway in their own backyards,” says company director Donald Gwiz. The firm specializes in high-end landscape projects that often focus on dramatic water features—from streams and waterfalls that mimic nature to elaborate pools, fountains and spas.

The most important factor is fostering an open dialog between designer and client. “A lot of clients have an idea of what they want, but don’t know how to express it,” observes Gwiz. “Open communication allows a client’s thoughts to develop. Their personality and intentions should be reflected in their outdoor space.”

Recently, Lewis Aquatech designed a 10-acre landscape with six fountains, a 60-foot reflection pool, a custom koi pond, a woodland stream and more. The project exemplified the attention to detail that Gwiz attributes to a truly successful project.

“This is what separates a good design from an exceptional design,” he explains. “The flow of a space, the hand-selected natural materials, the location of joints, the proper plantings—it all creates an unforgettable environment.”

See more at HandD.com/DonaldGwiz





In a private woodland garden (above), many of the original plantings were preserved and new elements added. Lewis Aquatech installed a picturesque stream that runs throughout the property and conveys a peaceful sensibility. Different settings (opposite, top and bottom) are enhanced by perimeter-overflow pools, which become unique and beautiful pieces of water architecture with their dazzling, mirror-like reflections.

Joel Hafner | Judith Petersen | Bernie Mihm, ^{LA}

FINE EARTH LANDSCAPE

Poolesville, Maryland | 301-972-8810
fineearth.com

Fine Earth Landscape was founded more than 40 years ago and today employs 60 year-round staff members. "All three of our senior designers chose the landscape-design profession because we were inspired by our love of plants and our desire to help our clients enjoy their own 'great outdoors,'" says founder Bernie Mihm. Company president Joel Hafner adds, "We all know that we have achieved clients' design goals when they are absolutely thrilled with the results."

The senior designers at Fine Earth are Joel Hafner, who has mastered the ability to design and manage large, complicated hardscape projects; Judith Petersen, who combines a garden-design background developed in England with more than 40 years of experience; and Bernie Mihm, ^{LA}, who has catered to thousands of clients with a wide range of tastes and budgets over the past 40 years. Mihm reflects, "We all believe that our biggest strengths are our dependability and our commitment to customer service."

Fine Earth Landscape has been the recipient of four National Grand Awards. These were added to the more than 150 awards the company has received over the past 40 years.

See more at

HandD.com/HafnerPetersenMihm



LEFT, TOP AND OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: HILARY SCHWAB; OPPOSITE, TOP: ANGIE SECKINGER



The vice president's Family Heritage Garden (opposite, top) boasts an entrance framed by an Azek arbor, a delightful fountain and an irregular flagstone patio interplanted with mazus ground cover. A Bethesda project (left and opposite, bottom) includes an inviting entryway and resort-like pool. Another Bethesda project (above) features a swimming pool with a swim-up bar, an outdoor kitchen shaded by a retractable-top pergola and a stone fireplace; both projects won national Grand Awards.

Jennifer Horn, RLA | Mike Molkenthin | Farrah Abushaban

JENNIFER HORN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Arlington, Virginia | 202-573-7581
jh-la.com

“More and more, people are tapping into the potential of their garden spaces,” observes Jennifer Horn. “People recognize that a garden is not just something to view from within the house, but it is an extension of the house—both in style and use.”

Horn, who launched her firm in 2009, toggles between modern and traditional, taking cues from the architecture of the home as well as her clients’ lifestyle. “Clients are interested in maximizing the time they can spend in a garden and as a result, elements like fireplaces, fire pits, spas and outdoor kitchens are routinely part of our designs,” she explains.

Each project begins with a dialog between designer and client. “There are countless small details to consider when beginning a project,” Horn notes. “Finding a client’s style may be easy, but incorporating that into their daily life can require more problem-solving.”

Ultimately, she prefers her projects “not to look overdesigned,” she says. “I’m not so sure good design is created so much as discovered or uncovered. If a garden looks like it was inevitable, then we have done a good job.”

Washingtonian named Horn a Woman to Watch in its 2017 Powerful Women issue. In 2018 and 2019, Horn received Silver awards from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers.

See more at HandD.com/JenniferHorn



LEFT: ANICE HOACHANDER, OPPOSITE: ALLEN RUSS



Clockwise from opposite:
A slim lap pool rests on a raised, quartzite terrace that flows into a home designed by BarnesVanze Architects in DC's Wesley Heights. A weekend retreat in St. Mary's features a planted-stone walkway and mowed paths through wildflower meadows. Concentric retaining walls create a water feature to enhance a Bethesda home designed by Cunningham I Quill Architects.

Kevin McHale | Stephen McHale, RLA

MCHALE LANDSCAPE DESIGN, INC.

Upper Marlboro, Maryland | 301-599-8300
mchalelandscape.com

Since 1981, brothers Kevin and Steve McHale have designed, constructed and planted residential gardens throughout the mid-Atlantic region. Their design-build firm combines landscape, masonry, carpentry and maintenance. Projects range from renovating a Georgetown courtyard to creating a formal country estate.

McHale Landscape Design, Inc., combines landscape architecture, horticultural knowledge and field experience. "We work together to meet clients' expectations and budget," says Kevin McHale. With six locations (one with a 40-acre nursery), three design studios and a licensed, certified staff of landscape architects, craftsmen and artisans, McHale turns desires into reality in a process that considers the client a part of the team. "We listen to clients' needs and dreams, then transform them into functional, beautiful gardens and outdoor-living spaces." Steve McHale explains.

McHale Landscape Design, Inc., has received more than 350 Landscape Contractors Association (LCA) Excellence in Landscape Awards; 25 National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) Awards of Excellence; 30 National Environmental Improvement Awards; and four American Horticultural Society Awards. "Our focus is simple," says Kevin McHale. "To be the single source for a residential design/build project from inception, through implementation to aftercare. McHale clients are clients for life."

See more at
HandD.com/McHaleLandscapeDesign



McHale Landscape Design enhanced a McLean property with dramatic outdoor spaces, including a pool area framed by a pool house and privacy wall (top), and a sitting area focusing on a stone fireplace (above, right). Ornamental plantings (above, left) embellish the terraced retaining walls leading to the home's front entry (opposite).

TOP: BOB NAROD; ALL OTHERS: JOHN SPALDING





These pages: The backyard of a grand McLean home incorporates an outdoor kitchen, loggia, fireplace, swimming pool and spa, and two-story pool house designed and constructed by McHale. Travertine, stone, painted brick and lush plantings create a grand, yet intimate, entertaining space.



PHOTOS: JOHN SPALDING





PHOTOS: JOHN SPALDING

When designing the inviting landscape for a traditional, red-brick Colonial (these pages), McHale Landscape Design honed in on a mix of classic materials including brick, flagstone and local wall stone; the complementary brick pool house features a metal roof and painted woodwork.



Charles Owen, President | Oomer Syed, PLA

FINE LANDSCAPES, LTD.

Sterling, Virginia | 703-421-7441
finelandscapes.com

As a child growing up in Paris and Madrid, Charles Owen cultivated an appreciation for European-influenced design that he brings to his work as president of Fine Landscapes. Owen founded the company in 1978 to create outdoor living areas that reflect clients' aesthetic vision and complement the architecture of their homes. Today, the firm employs a staff of 45 and boasts a portfolio that represents a wide range of projects—from simple gardens to complex installations incorporating water features, outdoor kitchens and pool houses.

"We are often called on prior to construction to help site a house and its amenities, then lay out the overall design of the terrain," notes Owen. "We provide the essential factors to a properly designed landscape: balance and transitions between indoor and outdoor spaces."

In addition to site design, the company's expertise encompasses all the other facets of a successful project, including hardscape, outdoor illumination, water works, pavilion design and horticulture. Owen and his team study plant species to help bring innovation and diversity to every job.

Fine Landscapes has completed numerous high-profile projects in the Mid-Atlantic region and abroad. In 2019, the firm won a prestigious Land and Tree Conservation Award from Fairfax County, Virginia, as well as a craftsmanship award from the Washington Building Congress.

See more at HandD.com/FineLandscapes



Clockwise from top: A timber pool pavilion provides a focal point in a Great Falls project. An aerial view of an Oakton landscape showcases a free-form pool and timber pergola. In a McLean garden, a detached spa with fountains is hidden from view near an infinity-edge pool. A boxwood parterre garden envelops a fountain behind a private residence.

PHOTOS: SIESTA KEY FILMS





Clockwise from above:
A koi pond and vintage water wheel welcome visitors near an entertainment pavilion and an infinity-edge pool. Another pavilion in Great Falls boasts a full kitchen complete with an elaborate grill and a hammered-metal hood. A rain curtain cascades from a pergola into a spa below. An extensive pool-scape features a pool, terraces, pavilion and fire pit.



PHOTOS: SIESTA KEY FILMS



J.R. Peter, RLA | Joseph Colao III

COLAO & PETER, LUXURY OUTDOOR LIVING

Sterling, Virginia | 703-553-0123
colaopeter.com

Partners J.R. Peter and Joseph Colao of Colao & Peter, Luxury Outdoor Living employ about 40 full-time staff members devoted to creating stunning architectural outdoor environments that meet the aesthetic and budgetary needs of clients. The company adheres to a “no ego” policy where clients are interactive in the design process and their goals are paramount.

Complementary skill sets make the partners a good fit: Colao has a passion for construction and architecture, while Peter is drawn to nature. “For me, the outdoors is synonymous with fun and relaxation—two elements I want to bring more of to peoples’ lives,” Peter says. “Being a landscape architect allows me to create and share beautiful, relaxing outdoor environments with my clients, making an impact on the quality of their lives.”

Colao & Peter, Luxury Outdoor Living begins each project by understanding the needs of its clients, both present and future. A thorough grasp of construction enables the company to accurately analyze budget parameters, ensuring a design that will meet their financial objectives.

A frequent Landscape Contractors Association award-winner during the last decade, Colao & Peter was recently selected as one of Northern Virginia’s top four pool builders. The company has received beautification awards from the city of Alexandria, and its projects have been featured in many publications, including *Luxury Pools*, a top national magazine.

See more at HandD.com/ColaoPeter



OPPOSITE, BOTTOM: J.R. PETER; THIS PAGE & OPPOSITE, TOP: JIMMI SMITH



Clockwise from opposite: Views of the Shenandoah Mountains are a backdrop for a fire bowl perched on a tapered stone column. Rustic stone walls and railing details were recreated for a Georgian estate in Alexandria. White hydrangeas border a pool, creating drama while screening the neighbors.



Clockwise from above:
Imported slabs of custom-cut
granite enhance the modern
architecture of a Great Falls
home. Large-format travertine
pool pavers and a clean-lined
pergola complement a modern
farmhouse surrounded by
vineyards in Waterford, Virginia.
A 70-foot infinity-edge pool and
glass tile spa enjoy spectacular
Shenandoah Mountain views.
On an Aldie, Virginia, property,
a custom cedar pool pavilion
overlooks a serpentine
infinity-edge pool.



PHOTOS: JIM SMITH



Michael Prokopchak, ASLA

WALNUT HILL LANDSCAPE

Annapolis, Maryland; 410-349-3105

Easton, Maryland; 410-690-0977

walnuthilllandscape.com

During high school, Michael Prokopchak took drafting classes and worked at a local plant nursery. His love of the outdoors and affinity for design eventually inspired him to study landscape architecture. In 2006, Prokopchak founded Walnut Hill Landscape Company with a mission to create distinctive residential landscapes in Washington, DC, and Maryland, and on the Eastern Shore.

Today, he and his team of licensed landscape architects, designers and project managers collaborate closely with clients, delivering a high level of craftsmanship and service from concept to completion. "Every great project starts with a vision," explains Prokopchak. "We develop close working relationships with our clients to ensure that we capture the essence of their desires in bringing their dreams to fruition."

In addition to architectural design, Walnut Hill provides control and oversight of all aspects of its projects, from hardscape, lighting and pool installation to tree and soil management, irrigation and structural engineering. "Crafting outdoor spaces of unsurpassed quality is a highly collaborative effort, achieved through constant dedication to personalized service," says Prokopchak.

A recipient of numerous awards over the years, including a 2017 Judges Award from the National Association of Landscape Professionals, Prokopchak was named Landscape Architect of The Year in *Home & Design's* 2018 Designers' Choice Awards.

See more at HandD.com/MichaelProkopchak



PHOTOS: MICHAEL PROKOPCHAK, ASLA



Clockwise from opposite, top: A view across the pool toward the veranda shows the scope and composition of a verdant waterfront garden. A mirror-smooth swimming pool provides a nearly perfect reflection of a finely detailed cabana. Another cabana offers a shady respite from the hot sun, where residents and guests can enjoy hydrangea blooms and a breeze off the river. Stone piers adorned with lush planters frame a monolithic bluestone stairway that leads to the main entry of a residence.

Joseph Richardson, PLA, ASLA

JOSEPH RICHARDSON LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Washington, DC | 202-670-4405
jrichardsonla.com

Joseph Richardson Landscape Architecture creates distinctive, sophisticated outdoor environments for modern living. Founded by Joseph Richardson in 2014, the boutique firm takes on select commissions nationwide as well as in the Mid-Atlantic region. JRLA's portfolio of residential and specialty commercial projects reflects comprehensive, personalized services that result in meaningful connections between people, architecture and the land.

"From design inception through construction, we ensure the process is tailored to each client's vision, budget and schedule," Richardson notes. "It's not enough for a design to look good on paper—getting it built on time and on budget is often the real challenge. I am passionate about design and innately skilled in management."

Richardson, who hails from New Orleans, was drawn early on to his hometown's unique setting and architecture; this fascination led to an interest in creating elegant, inspired links between the outdoor world, the built environment and his clients. After earning his degree from Louisiana State University, Richardson focused on the design and construction of residential gardens; a subsequent relocation to DC allowed him to design large commercial developments and public spaces. Today, JRLA specializes in residential and commercial commissions that range in scale from intimate urban courtyards to sprawling country estates.

See more at HandD.com/JosephRichardson



Classical and Japanese garden elements combine in a McLean yard (top and above, left). A contemporary home designed by Thomson & Cooke Architects (opposite) is enhanced by its sloped lawn and newly seeded meadow; inlaid Pennsylvania bluestone leads guests to a large bronze vestibule gate designed by Richardson (above, right).

FAR LEFT & TOP: STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG; OPPOSITE & LEFT: ANICE HOACHLANDER



ON THE COVER

FRONT: Randall Kipp Architecture designed a steel-framed residence (left) in Irvington, Virginia, with large expanses of glass providing sweeping water views; photo by Maxwell MacKenzie. The dramatic makeover of a Bethesda penthouse by Drysdale Design Associates (right) combines low-slung, modern seating with an antique chest; photo by John Cole.

BACK: A custom fountain creates a focal point in a serene McLean garden designed by Surrounds Landscape Architecture + Construction; photo by Morgan Howarth.

Portfolio

100 Top Designers

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