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JOHN AMERICAN HOME



SPRING MAKEOVER

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DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT

THE BEST OF THE BEST



TRACY MORRIS

Tracy Morris, who founded Tracy Morris Design in 2003, focuses primarily on residential design, but has also designed commercial spaces, such as restaurants and bars. Morris enjoys every phase of the design process, whether for residential or commercial, and whether it's a new build or a renovation. While her knowledge of construction sets her apart from other interior designers, it's her holistic approach to design with her eye on the end product that speaks to her clients. Morris designs spaces that reflect her clients' personal style in a unified and refined way. She's also a color expert with Benjamin Moore. www.tracymorrisdesign.com

What are some of the best aspects of being an interior designer today?

Some of the best aspects of being an interior designer today are:

- Working on such a wide variety of home styles. Thank goodness not everyone likes the same type of home. As a result, the design variety is amazing!
- The vast array of beautiful selections that are at our fingertips. There are so many gorgeous textiles, furniture options, tiles, paints, and more. It is a world worth getting lost in.

You often work with architects and builders at the onset of a new custom home. Tell us how that's beneficial for everyone, especially the homeowners.

When you can start the project at conception, it allows the team to create the best house from the very beginning. Reason being, you hear all ideas from everyone involved at the onset where even the smallest germination of an idea can lead to an impactful design element. When everyone is on the same page, it creates a synergy for the homeowners. It allows the architect, builder, interior designer, and

landscape architect to streamline the process, determine assignments, and focus on the work from the start.

What are the top trends you're seeing in interior design, both in business practices and home interiors?

We are seeing homeowners wanting to create more closed off spaces. For many years, we have worked hard to keep floor plans open. Now people are realizing that there is a need to have offices, homework rooms, screened porches, dens, and lounges that are separate from the rest of the house.

What renovations are at the top of most homeowners' wish list now?

Right now, the outdoor space is king! We have been creating beautiful outdoor rooms for the entire family to enjoy. This trend will be here to stay, at least for the next few years.

Are virtual meetings here to stay?

Virtual meetings are here to stay, more so for long-distance correspondence. We have been getting together in person more and more for local meetings; however, our out-of-state projects have been made easier by meeting virtually. We might just hold onto our virtual meetings a bit longer to make our lives less complicated with travel.

What is your best advice for someone who wants to pursue a career in interior design?

Take the time to intern for someone you admire. Try your hand at the day-to-day and understand all aspects of the job. The more you learn with on-the-job training, the better prepared you will be to find that perfect position in the interior design industry.

Article opening, Top left: Tracy Morris in front of her McLean, VA home designed by James McDonald Associate Architects and built by Artisan Builders. Front door paint color is Benjamin Moore Narragansett Green. Photo by Greg Powers

Top right: Tracy Morris designed the interiors of this screened porch in collaboration with Harrison Design, Horizon Houseworks, and Fine Landscapes. Photo by Greg Powers



Designed by Tracy Morris, this dining room includes Phillip Jeffries wallpaper embellished with gold studs. Photo by Greg Powers