



Krista Shugar's living room design updated this Annapolis home. Photo: John Cole

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Design: Catherine Weinstock
Photo: Bruce Buck

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Among Theodore Alexander's introductions at market will be the Rowan swivel chair.

Updated and elegant

DESIGNERS IN THE MID-ATLANTIC REGION SHARE PROJECTS THAT ILLUSTRATE THEIR STYLE



KD Designs

The homeowners of a 4,500 square-foot waterfront home in Annapolis, Maryland, wanted a solution to the bulky, painted brick fireplace wall in their family room, as well as organic elements that would blend cohesively in the open-concept space, as the furnishings from their previous home in California did not work. They turned to **Krista Shugars** of **KD Designs**, a Decorating Den member in Hanover, Maryland. She turned the fireplace into “a work of art” with a custom, stacked-wood feature and artwork from Chesapeake artist Nancy Hammond. (Another view of the room is shown on page 6.) Other furnishings included a Fairfield Chair custom sofa, Surya’s handknotted Biscayne rug, custom coffee tables from Robert Ortiz Studios and a custom bench cushion by Undercover Sewing.

“This newly transformed space captures the essence of coastal living while providing a sanctuary of comfort and style,” she said.

Photo: John Cole

Thyme & Place Design

A neighbor and “dear friend” turned to Sharon Sherman of New Jersey-based **Thyme & Place Design** for help with a kitchen that had not been renovated since the late 1980s – and it had to be a kosher kitchen as well, she said.



Kosher dietary restrictions require the separation of meat and dairy products, among other conditions. “Meeting these requirements can be quite a challenge but it’s a challenge I accepted with coaching from my client,” she said. In this kitchen, other issues included the refrigerator’s location, which impeded the kitchen’s flow, and the main entrance to the space was through a cramped passage. Sherman shifted the doorway, created a coffee/wine bar, relocated

the refrigerator and replaced an unused desk with a walk-in pantry, “making better use of space and improving the main entrance to the kitchen.” Sherman details the project’s journey on her website’s blog.

Sherman used rift-cut white oak cabinets with black hardware for a modern look and a deep violet paint on the walls. The quartz countertops “have a hint of lilac veining which the client loved.” The backsplash features white Thasos stone tile for a touch of sparkle, and luxury vinyl tile was used for flooring.

“I feel that this project is a testament to the power of thoughtful kitchen design,” said Sherman. “It’s a tale of two kitchens within one space, showcasing the incredible potential and power of a well-executed design.”

Photo: Mike Van Tassell

Deborah Bettcher

This client wanted a “whimsical great room design that was conducive to hosting gatherings and her ongoing book club,” said **Deborah Bettcher**, a Decorating Den interior designer based in West Chester, Pa. “The careful selection of fabrics for the drapery was key to pulling the design together,” and the botanical print (Fabricut’s Aqua Garden) inspired the rest of the room’s color scheme, which included soft green paint on the walls. Other furnishings included a woven jute rug for texture and casual vibe, a woven bench and Craftsman swivel chairs with polka dot upholstery.

“Our client’s finished great room is now an oasis of tranquility and charm,” Bettcher said. “She’s thrilled to have her new ‘happy place’ – a beautiful, welcoming space to entertain her friends and family.”

Photo: Jon Friedrich

on page 30: TOBE DesignGroup

David Howard Ezrin of **TOBE DesignGroup** designed this cozy, lush den in Bethesda for an artistic client, who actually selected the pillow fabric from Kravet so much she had a skirt made to match. Other furnishings include the Anthropologie swivel chair reupholstered in Mitchell Fabrics, Interlude Home’s Liora drink table and Élitis’ Anguille wallpaper.

Photo: Goran Kosanovic



| DESIGNERS TODAY

DESIGNERS talk details

MID-ATLANTIC DESIGNERS TALK ABOUT MUST-HAVE FEATURES, GO-TO RESOURCES AND MORE

Where are your growth opportunities for the next 12-24 months?

Laura Nayar, New York:



“Believe it or not I’m seeing a lot of growth in commercial office space design. As companies refine their hybrid work model, they are also rethinking how to best use their office space to fit it. Whether they are downsizing or rethinking how to use their current space, there is a lot of opportunity to refresh and adjust.”

Krista Shugars, KD Designs, Hanover, Md.:

“Our greatest growth opportunities come from larger-scale, multi-room or whole home projects from time-starved individuals who value a mutual partnership with our firm and the benefits of full-service design.”

Sharon Sherman, Thyme & Place Design, Wycoff, N.J.:

“There are so many possibilities in the design field. I have been doing conference presentations and I love that. I have also been coaching interior designers who want to add kitchen and bath design to their practice. I have also expanded my design service offerings for people who really want to work with me but prefer to handle the nitty gritty on their own.”

What are the top three must-have features for clients right now?

Laura Nayar:

“1. Flexibility. I work on many projects in New York City and a lot of spaces need to do double duty. For example, a den can function as a guest room or furniture from one room can be pulled into another for entertaining. I try to get creative with layouts and make spaces work for each client’s unique lifestyle.

2. Color. I have found that clients want to experiment more with color. It could be a statement wallpaper or upholstery that pops. Clients are more willing to go bold.

3. Personal sanctuaries. People are still spending a lot of time at home and they want their home to feel deeply personal. One thing I am seeing more of is that clients want to create personal sanctuaries in their homes — everything from mom caves to dens with hidden wet bars to infrared sauna workout rooms.”

Deb Bettcher, West Chester, Pa. (right):

“Clients are seeking sofas as a staple and drapery and lighting to make a personal statement.”

Sharon Sherman:

“In kitchens, top-shelf appliances (especially steam ovens), with a beautifully designed kitchen. The style tends to follow my quiet luxury design vibe in natural materials and colors. In bathrooms, [they want] wellness features like chroma therapy, steam showers with aroma therapy and serene design feel. And fabulous art to complete the space.”

What are some of your favorite local resources?

Krista Shugars:

“The Maryland Design Center/Peyton Home is a wonderful resource for everything fabrics and trims and so much more. We always know we can find what we need for any type of project. ProSource of Columbia is our go-to resource for all our flooring and tile needs. It is truly a one-stop source for tile, flooring, kitchen and bathroom design and the staff is friendly, helpful and knowledgeable.”

Deb Bettcher:

“I love to use a local woodworking studio for custom tables. I also promote local artists by guiding my clients to artwork that reflects the style and personality of their space.”

Sharon Sherman:



“Green Street Joinery in Keansburg, N.J., is a great cabinet and millwork shop I have started working with. Wayne Tile of Ramsey for tile. Most of my sources are not retail outlets.”

Laura Nayar:

“I live in downtown Manhattan and some of my favorite local shops include Stella in Tribeca for bedding and home accents, The End of History in the West Village for pottery, and Double Knot in Tribeca for vintage rugs and textiles.”