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Charlotte

Designer Profile

Cause and Effect

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Relationships Drive Designs

Photography by Pat Shanklin



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For most of us, life doesn't happen like an episode of an HGTV show. Designers don't swarm in and completely change the look of our homes in 72 hours. However, one husband in Johnson City, Tenn., had that experience when his wife worked with Interior Concepts by Wanda Suitt-Horton. "He walked in at the end of the second day and looked around in amazement," Horton says. He saw furnishings that were in place, draperies that were installed, and a house that had become a home.

That immediate gratification actually took several months of preparation.

"I spent about five months on the front end, checking the details and making a trip to do the measurements, so that when it came time for the installation... everything was in place," she says. "The most important part of the design process is spending that time up-front. Then, seemingly all of sudden, the home is done and everything fits."

That level of preparedness is what Horton means when she describes experiencing the best in design. "Design is all about the process. You want the homeowner to have a great experience and to be happy that they made the choices they did, but to get to that point, you rely on the accumulated abilities of the designer. You trust that they have acquired different experiences and can bring those to the table."

Over decades of designing, Horton has acquired a wealth of experience – particularly in forming relationships with her clients and the spaces they call home. "I have an ability to walk into an area and almost instantly assess the spatial relationships and see how one thing relates to another. I focus on cause and effect in design, always asking, 'if I do this, what is its relationship to the next thing I do.' That allows you to properly plan the space, balance the space and relate to the scale of the space."

Relating to her clients is Horton's most critical role. "The better the fit between client and designer, the better the project will be." After 12 years of running her firm, those relationships are secure. "We've really come full circle. I have clients for whom I'm doing second and third homes. It's like having an extended family," she says.

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Wanda Suitt-Horton Interior Concepts by Wanda Suitt-Horton



Style

Determined by individual client's taste

Education

Degree in Interior Design from
East Carolina University

Special Projects

- HomeArama 2005
- 2004 co-chair and participating designer in IDS American Red Cross showhouse
- 2000 HomeArama
- 1997 HomeArama

Awards

- HomeArama People's Choice Award – 2005 and 1997

Affiliations

- IDS Associate

Contact Me

By appointment only
(704) 847-8115
interiorconceptsbywanda.com



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