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Lawrence - Belfair
Inside the Designer's Workroom

Talent We Admire: Wesley Moon

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Photo Credit Tom McWilliam

As you can imagine we have worked with many designers over our 40 years in the upholstery and curtain making business, and have seen many new designers rise in the ranks and be recognized for their great talent.

One designer we've been working with over the last few years who is clearly on his way to design stardom is Wesley Moon. My late sister Lana was particularly fond of him both as a designer and as a friend. She and I had many conversations about his ability to see abstract ideas as if they already existed: seating scale, curtain proportions, contrasting textures, and color relationships.

To celebrate his work, I asked if he'd like to share some images of rooms he's designed, and to answer some questions about his career, so that we might share them with you.



Photo Credit William Waldron

JC: How did you get your start in interior design?

WM: My love of architecture and interiors has always just been there – for as long as I can remember. I always knew what I wanted to do.

While in design school, I worked for Teri Duffy, a designer in my hometown of Atlanta. She was a wonderful mentor, cheerleader, and friend – and she still is! After I graduated, she encouraged me to follow my dream of moving to New York, which I did in 2000. From there, I worked my way up the ranks, landing several great job opportunities with very talented designers and a few big names. Then in 2008, the opportunity came for me to start my own firm and I haven't looked back!

JC: Any advice for young designers just starting out?

WM: Work for at least one smaller firm and for at least one big name designer before even thinking about starting your own company.

In small firms you get the opportunity to wear many hats. You have no choice but to learn all aspects of the business, and you get the chance to do more real design work. At a big firm, you may get less face time with the principal, or you can get pigeon-holed into one specific task, but learning their contacts, resources, and just having the name on your resume is invaluable





Photo Credit Sarah Girner / Marcela Riomalo

JC: How would you describe your aesthetic?

WM: Contemporary. And I mean contemporary in the sense that I want a room to tell the story of what's happening now in the lives of the people who live in it.

A home should feel collected and curated, but not particularly “decorated.” When you mix different periods and styles of furniture (that compliment each other, of course – that’s the curated part) with the artwork and accessories that the homeowner loves and has purchased while traveling; or inherited from an eccentric aunt; or even something that their kid made, it’s nothing less than contemporary because the collective room you are seeing right now could not have occurred at any time before.

And it won’t get dated as long as you keep adding to it and switching up the details. Rooms that are time capsules aren’t homes, they belong in museums.



Photo Credit William Waldron

JC: Who are the icons of design whose work you admire?

WM: Jacques Grange instantly comes to mind. He walks the perfect line between formal, chic, and livable. His rooms are very elegant and graceful, but never take themselves too seriously. And I love everything Paul Dupre-Lafon ever did. He was the height of restrained elegance.



Photo Credit Sarah Girner / Marcela Riomalo

JC: If you had to name your top 10 resources, who would they be?

WM: I love my vendors. There are so many great resources in this city, but I'm going to list the ones that are not only amazing at what they do, but are wonderful to work with as well. Many of these people have become my friends as well as vendors over the years, and I couldn't get anything done without some of them. In no particular order:

1. Anthony Lawrence Belfair – Okay, maybe there is a reason this one is 1st on the list, but it's still well-deserved! I know that any project I send to you guys will end in perfection.
2. Jeovani Alvarez (jeovalvarez@aol.com) – The best painter and wallpaper hanger in this city, quite possibly in the world. Also the nicest guys you'll ever meet.
3. Alliance Art Glass – Amazing for framing, mirrors, antique mirrors, and anything else glass related. Peter is the second-generation owner. He and his staff always go above and beyond with a smile.
4. PaperMills – Handmade wallpapers by my friend, Amy Mills and her sister, Noelle. Their prints are modern but with a nod to the past, just the way I like it... And they custom color!
5. Carlos de la Puente Antiques – I can always find the perfect lamp or light fixture there. Every fixture he has is like jewelry.
6. Rug & Kilim – My first stop for high-end antique rugs or super luxe custom carpets. Josh knows and loves every rug in his store and finds you a match like it's a dating game.
7. Double Knot – Another wonderful rug source. I go here for more tribal carpets like Pala Kilims and Moroccan rugs. Murat is always open to customizing things and making sure you get what you want.
8. Holland & Sherry – Every room needs a Holland & Sherry textile, pillow, and/or throw. I have big plans for their appliqué flowers – I just have to find the right client!

9. Alt For Living – A great stop for an unconventional textile or piece of furniture. Analisse really stands behind her designers as well as her products.

10. IV Design (iouriivanov@msn.com) – These guys are amazing wood-workers who find a way to bring whatever I design to life. Iouri will never tell me a design can't be done. He figures out how to make it happen.



Photo Credit Tom McWilliam

JC: Who's your dream client?

WM: What designer doesn't want a client with an unlimited budget and a realistic timeline to give him Carte Blanche on their high profile trophy property?

In reality, however, I'm always happiest when the client is excited about the project and the process. I want them to be willing to step out of their comfort zones a little – to look at design as a means to inject life into their home.

Of course it should be beautiful and sophisticated and chic, but a home needs life and a little sense of humor. I also love it when the client and I can learn from each other. Every client is unique and I look at each project as an opportunity to meet someone new, learn something new, and to broaden my own horizons by looking at design in a new way every time through the eyes of each individual client.



Photo Credit William Waldron

A word of special thanks to Wesley for talking with me. I'm planning on highlighting the work that we have been doing with other new designers in the coming months; please come back to see the other new designers that have talent we admire.

Joe