

GULF COAST DESIGN+DECOR

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



GULF COAST
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2018
TOP 25
DESIGN FIRMS



AMY ANDREWS
HILTON-INTERIORS.COM





What is your interior design philosophy, and how does it apply to meeting your client's design needs? My design philosophy is to form a collaborative working relationship with my clients—to have an end result where the spaces are designed in a way that reflects the homeowners and embraces their lifestyle.

How do you define luxury design?

The famous interior designer Billy Baldwin once said, "Lately I have been thinking how comfort is perhaps the ultimate luxury." Exactly! Luxurious design was once thought to be grand and lavish, yet often cold and stiff. Rooms can have grandeur, be formal or informal—we just want to be comfortable in these spaces. Our designs define luxury. We work to combine beauty and functionality. A room can be filled with the most gorgeous furnishings, but if it is not comfortable you will not enjoy it. Luxury in design is a space that is aesthetically pleasing and inviting, a place in which to entertain and find serenity.

Can you remember the first space that really made an impact on you?

An early room might just be my childhood bedroom at my grandparents' home in Louisville, Kentucky. Although it had been my aunt's room, it did become "Amy's Room" when I came along. It was not a large room, but it was filled with beautiful things: a four-poster bed, long curtain panels and a mahogany dressing table with a velvet-covered bench. As a little girl, I felt it was grand and elegant. The pretty four-poster bed was the perfect

spot to listen to stories and songs from my grandmother before I drifted off to sleep. Ironically, looking back, I realize this room defines luxury—it was both beautiful and comfortable!

What is the best interior design lesson you have learned?

After excellent customer service being the key to truly good design job, I would say I have learned to never ever stop learning! There is great history in interior design and architecture we continually revisit, but design is always changing and moving forward, too. I continue to educate myself. I never stop researching for the next great product, the best places for antiques or modern art, the most comfortable upholstery, the latest decorative finishes, wallcoverings no one else has, the best color lighting. I source everywhere I go, and I try to learn something new every day.

If you could create any style home in Southwest Florida and go against the current trends here, what would you do?

I would definitely renovate or build something in the Old Florida style. I would create as much indoor/outdoor living space as possible; who doesn't love a great porch? I love the beach bungalow and cottage feel of the West Indies, which inspired many of Florida's early neighborhoods. I would embrace timeless architecture with quality building materials and modern amenities. I love open spaces, but I would not want to build a home with a wide-open floor plan. I still enjoy intimate dining rooms and handsome studies. I like usable, functional spaces with great storage—and a view whenever possible!