

MASTER OF DESIGN DELIGHT

A peek into Annie Santulli's world



Among the reasons Annie Santulli is one of Palm Beach's busiest interior designers is a passion for her work.

But her main satisfaction may be seeing their faces light up when they see a finished room or home for the first time — whether it's a newly completed Jupiter Island project with an ocean-view rooftop outdoor living space accessible only by a gold spiral staircase, a 150-foot yacht or a Fort Lauderdale estate.

"I have always been very perceptive, and as a designer, this often allows me to fill in the blanks as to what my clients want but have trouble verbalizing," she said. "I am not happy until my client says, 'I can't believe what you've accomplished.'"

She took a few moments to share her design philosophy and favorite tips with *Florida Weekly's* LUXE readers.



COURTESY PHOTOS

From dark, soothing woods to coastal design elements, designer Annie Santulli never fails to paint with a broad brush to infuse beauty in her design concepts.

What's your favorite home design trend right now?

I love the fact that today anything goes. For example, when your client loves a dated Bombay chest, you can paint it with white lacquer and it becomes a modern piece that you can mix with a contemporary or transitional look. I also love adding

complementary art and unique accessories wherever possible, incorporating a client's special pieces keep the space personalized.

What trends are you're glad have gone by the wayside?

I could not wait for the dark, over-scaled Mediterranean look to go out of fashion. I found it almost impossible to

create spaces that were bright, unimposing and full of life with these dark, heavy pieces.

What are some of your favorite architecture and design build resources?

I regularly read *Architectural Digest* and the regional interior design maga-

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COURTESY PHOTOS
Mix master: Contrasting color and neutrals find their respective places in these creative design palettes.

zines searching for unique architectural achievements and interesting interiors. I also regularly visit the Houzz and Dering Hall websites not only because they are updated daily with fresh ideas, but also you can interact with designers, suppliers and fabricators to get unique insights. These websites allow for discussion about on trend styles and new products as they become available. I highly recommend my clients use these resources as well.

What was the most difficult project or home you’ve ever done?

My most challenging project was the interior design of a very unique 150-foot yacht. Architecturally, the yacht was very much Old World design, but my client had some modern style preferences. My challenge, in addition to working within the unique outfitting requirements needed for a fully gutted yacht on a short, six-month timeline, was to design an interior with a modern slant that complemented the yacht’s unique architectural details.

Please share any advice you have for a homeowner embarking on new home construction or any resources?

I think the best advice I can give someone embarking on new home construction or an interior redesign is to extensively vet the architect, contractor and designer. Look at their work and speak to their references. In addition to being comfortable with their qualifications, it’s very important that you feel good chemistry with this person as you’ll be living with them and their work for an extended period of time.

What do you love about being a Palm Beach interior designer?



I love working in South Florida, especially the Palm Beaches. It attracts people from all over the world with myriad styles and budgets. I’ve had the opportunity to work with many wonderful people not only from all over the United States but from all across the globe. As a designer, I love to produce unique fresh work, and having a deep and diverse client pool allows me to continue to stretch my creative muscle.

What do you wish prospective customers would know prior to getting started on a project?

To get a starting point on what a prospective customer likes I used to have them go through the tedious process of looking through magazines and catalogs. Today, the Internet has really helped streamline this process by allowing you to create online scrapbooks with labels and categories. There are a few websites that offer these features, but I ask my clients to follow me on Houzz so that I can simply log in and see what they’ve created in one place. When we are talking about new construction or a full gut, this is essential.

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