



When moving into a new abode, some dwell-

ers are satisfied with simply painting the walls and arranging the furniture to the best of their abilities, while others call in a design team to create a perfect haven designed exclusively to reflect their personalities and preferences. Beyond just living in a space, they yearn to create a *scene*. They'll review hundreds of shades of crème just to find that exact hue to perfectly accent carefully curated furniture assortments.

At the end of a long day, many of today's design savvy dwellers seek a respite from the chaos of the outside world. When they enter their homes they want to feel calm, relaxed, and ultra comfortable in an environment that truly suits their lifestyles and needs.

A great interior certainly calls for a fusion of elements such as contrasting textures, complementing colors, and fine materials. Scale and light are also key to creating a perfect space. Those in search of the perfectly-curated home should consult the experts for a custom design—from layout to colors, fabrics, and decorative accents (after all, it seems that everything is custom designed today anyway). There's bespoke clothing, custom cakes, and even soul-searching closet redos.

One of the determining factors in achieving a specific style is knowing whom to call. Some designers specialize in classic while others are adept at creating contemporary or neo-traditional looks. Look no further: we've combed top-notch interior designers who can assist in creating the ideal space to suit a variety of different lifestyles.

Here's a guide to some of New Jersey's top talents.

Interior Motives

THIS LINEUP OF 10 INTERIOR DESIGNERS CAN INSPIRE DREAM LIVING SPACES IN A VARIETY OF WAYS & MEANS BY REGINA MOLARO

SWIFT & MORRIS INTERIORS HOBOKEN

With an exquisite design aesthetic and boundless curiosity, Carol Swift has been the passionate, creative force of Swift-Morris Interiors since its founding in 1983 with English cabinet-maker Neil Morris. Swift's approach to design integrates her clients' lifestyles with an assured aesthetic sensibility and an appreciation for fine furnishings and art. Her vision reflects a diverse artistic background, which includes study with master glass blowers Joel Philip Myers and Fritz Dreisbach and an assignment teaching art at the American school in Xalapa, Mexico. While living abroad in Scotland and England, she worked at the Richard Demarco Gallery in Edinburgh and Hammersmith Studios in London. Upon returning to New York, she became the antique buyer for Bloomingdale's before starting Swift-Morris Interiors. Commissions range from exotic Caribbean villas to chic urban brownstones, and all design projects in between. Her work has graced the cover of New York Spaces, and has been featured in New Jersey Life, Design NJ, Southern New England Home, and New England Home magazines. swiftmorrisinteriors.com



BETSY BERNER INTERIORS RED BANK

Betsey Berner has enjoyed her work as an interior designer for more than 15 years. In 2007, she started her own firm in Red Bank with a focus on residential design. With an appreciation for the beauty of decades past, she has also worked on the restoration and design of several historic homes in Monmouth County. While her work focuses primarily on residential design, she has created corporate spaces as well, and has also transformed warehouse/loft spaces into professional offices.

'I'm passionate about textiles and work directly with upholsterers who employ traditional methods in designing custom pieces for my clients. I also specialize in antiques and fine art, and incorporate both into my designs where and when appropriate," said Berner, whose work has been featured in several blogs and publications, including Traditional Home. betsybernerinteriors.com

CHATHAM INTERIORS CHATHAM

Elizabeth Humphry earned her interior design degree from the prestigious Parsons School of Design in New York City. After an apprenticeship with Price and Calder Designs of New York and Philadelphia, she started her own firm, Chatham Interiors.

Humphry specializes in residential and commercial design, construction, and decoration. Her approach to a project is to first study the architecture of the building, followed by the exposure and layout of each room, and then the needs of the client. Her classic sensibility and appreciation of antiques has enabled her style to grace many homes across the country and abroad. Humphry's work has been spotlighted in the show houses at Stately Homes by-the-Sea and Mansions in May. She's also been highlighted in various publications. chathaminteriors.com

AMY MANOR INTERIOR DESIGN RED BANK

Amy Manor has developed a discerning eye for the mercurial design worlda skill she cultivated by having career stints in the fields of fashion and business management. Her resume includes working directly under renowned designer Georges Marciano (co-founder of Guess) in a visual merchandising capacity that had her managing more than 500 stores. While planning the in-store shop concept spaces, Manor discovered that she had an intrinsic ability to create compelling interiors.

Prior to meeting new clients, Manor describes herself as a "blank canvas." She believes it vital to eliminate preconceived thoughts on the style in which a home should appear. Abstaining from the "cookie-cutter," she likes to ensure each project's originality and personality. Rather than relying on glossy magazines or trends being promoted via design showrooms, Manor's clientele serves as the source of her inspiration. After all, she offered, they have stories to tell, and Manor has a talent for rendering their narratives through design.



Her clients include Femme by Ashley and The Tasting Room (both in Red Bank), as well as Kiawah Island Beach Front—a South Carolina rental property. Manor takes the time to journey to exotic destinations such as Turkey and Italy in order to tour the factories of the products she features, and to meet their employees. She attends gallery openings across the globe and has been known to nurture brick-and-mortar furniture design shops into international successes. She opened her first interior design showroom in downtown Red Bank in 2012 in an effort to display some of those exclusive brands, and is in the midst of expanding. amymanor.com

