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AMY MANOR

People often ask Amy Manor what *kind* of interior designer she is. "So what do you do? Traditional? Contemporary? What's your style?" explains the owner of the studio that bears her name at 12 West Front Street. "And I always say, 'I have no style. I'm a blank canvass. My style evolves with the client.'" It's not, really, the usual way of doing business in an industry full of designers all-too quick to offer their own style as inspired solution to a client's needs, as though even those needs were their own.

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Amy is different; she gets involved, asks questions—"How do you want the room to function? What's your budget? What do you like?" She listens, and comes to know the client and family; the other day she was busy texting with some of one's kids. She draws upon her deep professional experience for guidance to assure that all decisions make sense, throughout a process that is as rewarding as it can be demanding. "I can't start unless I have all this information. I get inspired by my clients and their challenges, and that's how I go to work."

Amy's work—her passion—began in the fashion industry in the late 1980s under iconic fashion designer Georges Marciano (co-founder of Guess), serving as regional manager of visual merchandizing for over 500 of his showrooms. This was a time that saw high-end designers begin their move into the home-store, interior furnishings market. With Ralph Lauren, she notes, think a mix of casual mid-century modern; or Calvin Kline: a paucity of color and simple clean lines. Amy, a pioneering, keen-eyed risk taker—"I love the journey of finding new product and what the next trend is"—was right there with them.

"I could see the connection, the influence of how people live and dress, how it all trickles into interior design," she says, "and where I could take it." After working for different firms in the Red Bank area, she opened Amy Manor Interior Design in 2008. While most designers have an office, Amy maintains, as a client resource, an exquisitely outfitted showroom. She carries what's trending and best: the Christopher Guy, Arbol Flooring, Shine by S.H.O, and the luxe Dorya handcrafted furniture line.

"I'm always looking for what's most intriguing," she notes, which has her globe hopping in search of new brands, artisans, and vendors. She considers her longtime vendors as part of the team.

"I just love what I do, the space planning, the creative design and implementation, all of it," she says. "I don't feel like I'm working."



AMY MANOR INTERIOR DESIGN

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