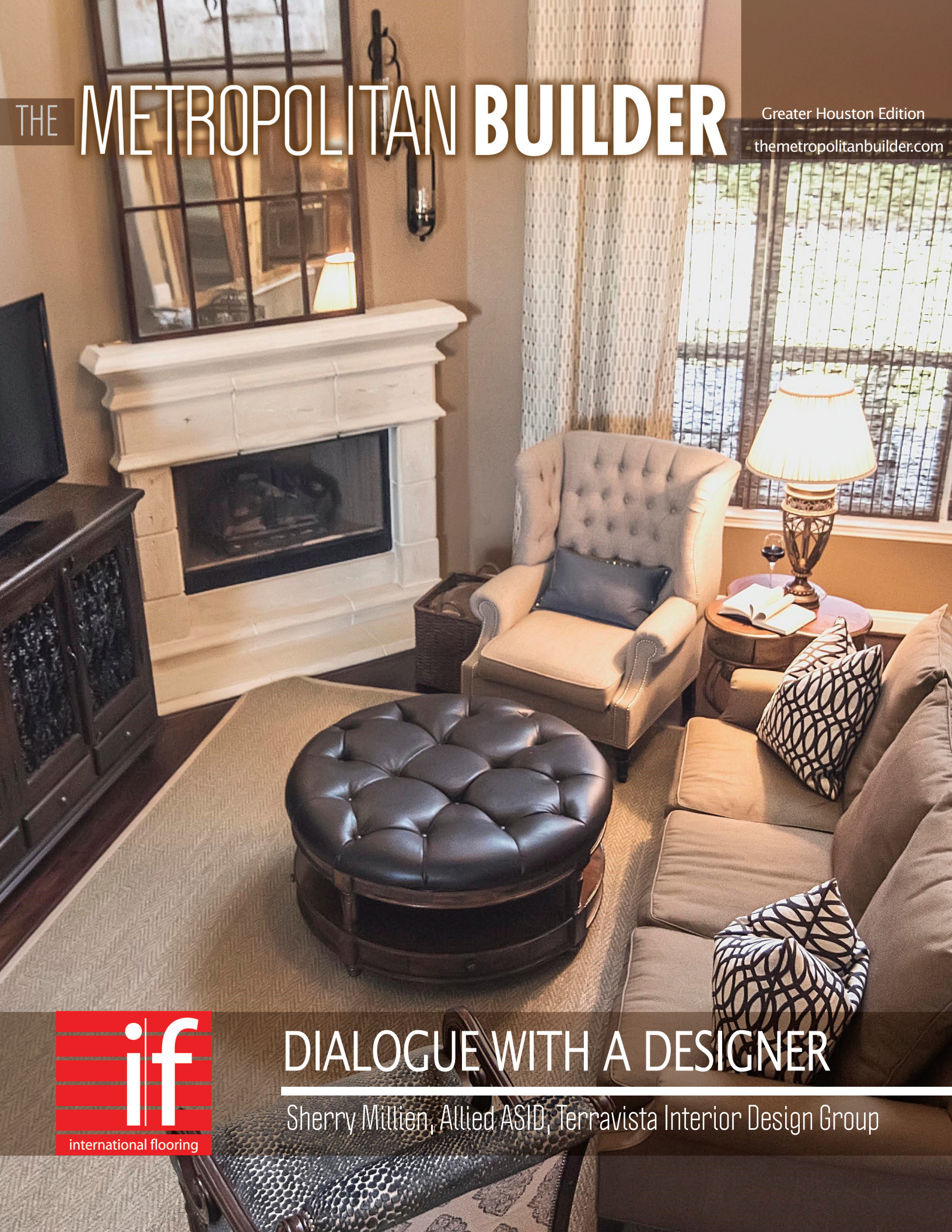


# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition

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## DIALOGUE WITH A DESIGNER

Sherry Millien, Allied ASID, Terravista Interior Design Group



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*International Flooring knows that dreams, reality and inspiration make a house a home. It also knows that an interior designer or interior design firm often becomes an integral part of this process. As a National Wood Flooring Association (NWFA)-certified company, International Flooring takes great pride in working with some of the finest professionals in the Houston market, providing the best quality wood flooring and carpets available and superb customer service. International Flooring offers its clients a private showroom full of exotic wood floors not found in retail showrooms. This month International Flooring speaks with Sherry Millien, Allied ASID, Terravista Interior Design Group.*

*Sherry Millien, one of America's premier Christian-based designers, is known for the one-of-a-kind interiors she creates for prominent clients throughout the metropolitan Houston area. Sherry is expanding her full service luxury interior design business nationwide, but she specializes in serving homeowners in The Woodlands, Bellaire, Kemah, Katy, Cypress, Tanglewood, West University and other area communities. She provides everything from project management and remodeling to space planning and furniture selection.*

*Sherry, who has 20 years' experience as an interior consultant, helps clients to save time, to update and upgrade their space and to overcome design challenges. Her clients include Fortune 500 executives, oil company representatives, professional athletes, doctors, surgeons, business owners and other successful professionals.*

*Integrity and extraordinary customer service are hallmarks of her company. The firm donates a portion of its profits to Disability Rights Texas.*

***International Flooring: What motivated you to go into the interior design field?***

***Sherry Millien:*** When I was eight years old, my grandfather gave me a book called "How to Draw What You See" and told me that I had a talent that I needed to grow and nurture. I decided that day that I would do something artistic. My sophomore year of high school, we moved and the school offered an interior design alternative to home economics. I decided to try it and fell in love. I realized that a room is my canvas, and interior design is my media.

***International Flooring: How has the field of interior design changed since you graduated?***

***Sherry Millien:*** I think that the internet and social media have changed the field a lot. They have made design more accessible to more people, which I think also makes design more overwhelming with so many choices at people's fingertips. They have helped to educate consumers that design has more to it than putting pretty fabric on a sofa. Consumers are understanding that there is a lot that happens behind the scenes and how designers do save them time, money and stress.

***International Flooring: How can an experienced interior designer help custom home builders or remodeling contractors with their building or remodeling projects?***

**Sherry Millien:** An experienced interior designer can be an important collaborator on the design build team. They can assist the homeowners in understanding that their design goals and objectives are based on how their own family lives, works and plays. They will help to guide the selections and surfaces used based on the lifestyle of the clients and make sure the home has a cohesive flow.

**International Flooring: What sets you apart from other designers?**

**Sherry Millien:** My company's core values are God first, client-focused customer experience, integrity, transparency and collaboration. I am very patient and careful in listening to my clients, not only to what they do say, but what they don't say. I am passionate that my clients' homes reflect who they are and how they live. I understand how to use color appropriately to make sure the houses flow as a cohesive unit and are their sanctuaries at the end of a busy day.

**International Flooring: What has been your most challenging project and why?**

**Sherry Millien:** I would not say that I can point to one project as more challenging than another. Every project will have problems that arise. I believe the challenge for any designer on a project is to have the maturity to calmly listen to their clients, vendors and trades involved and not take any problem or situation personally. When you take the time to recognize where someone is coming from and make sure they know they are heard, it becomes much easier to find a solution.

**International Flooring: How do you begin the materials' selection process when working with builders' and remodelers' clients?**

**Sherry Millien:** I start by meeting the clients to make sure they have a clear design plan and ask them to fill out my design questionnaire. I also ask for photos of anything that inspires them. We also need to review the plans to understand the flow of the space and how light will affect it. Then, I start with selections that will have the most impact in a room and drive the rest of the choices.

**International Flooring: What are some common mistakes made by builders and homeowners?**

**Sherry Millien:** I wish they would understand the value of having an interior designer from the beginning. We can assist the client with creating their design objectives and ask questions to really drill down to understand how the homeowners need a space to function and why they need or want something. We can help guide them in choosing the right selection so they don't make costly or long-term mistakes with color because undertones are tricky.

**International Flooring: How do you keep yourself up to date with all the design trends happening in the**



*industry today?*

**Sherry Millien:** I love to attend yearly markets as well as the continuing education classes offered by ASID and affiliated vendors. I also listen to podcasts that teach designers about the best business practices and how to keep the company up to date by working more professionally and efficiently.

**International Flooring: What is your favorite design style?**

**Sherry Millien:** I don't like to pin myself down to one style. I believe the most interesting rooms are a blending of more than one design style.

**International Flooring: What fascinates you and how have you incorporated that into your designs?**

**Sherry Millien:** I adore antiques. I believe that adding an antique to a room instantly gives the room a sense of history and depth of texture that other pieces cannot achieve.

**International Flooring: How would you characterize your personal style?**

**Sherry Millien:** Eclectic and timeless.

**International Flooring: What would be your recommendation for "what to do first" in a decorating project when working with the builders and/or homeowners?**

**Sherry Millien:** It is important for the homeowners to have a very clear vision and understanding of their design goals for their home and how the final product show be. The project cannot be a success if the roadmap is not clear from the beginning.



**International Flooring: Any last thoughts, comments?**

**Sherry Millien:** At the end of the day, the homeowners must be in love with their home. It should be the place they cannot wait to get back to the end of the day. In order to achieve this goal, they must stay true to themselves throughout the process and make sure the people on their team help them do that.

To contact Sherry Millien, Allied ASID, of Terravista Interior Design Group, call 832-264-6081 or email [info@terravistaidg.com](mailto:info@terravistaidg.com) or visit [www.terravistaidg.com](http://www.terravistaidg.com). The office is located at 18010 Norwood Oaks Dr., Spring, TX 77379.



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