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Dickinson Realizes Childhood  
Dream as Interior Designer

Cypress, Texas

# Dickinson Realizes Childhood Dream as Interior Designer

By Kathy Bowen Stolz

Not everyone realizes a childhood dream, but Suzanne Dickinson of Dickinson Interiors in Cypress certainly did!

From the time she was seven years old, Dickinson told everyone she was going to be an interior designer when she grew up. No one questioned her choice because she was one of those kids who regularly rearranged the furniture and even chose the exterior color of the family's house!

Now this native Houstonian specializes in transforming entire spaces, usually serving as the general contractor on kitchen and bathroom renovations all over the greater Houston area. She said homeowners often will choose these two spaces first when renovating because they reap the best reward for homeowners in both investment and resale.

Projects range from 2,000 sq. ft. to 12,000 sq. ft. , with

costs and length of time to complete depending on the scope of work, she said, but they will typically take at least four weeks.

The first and most important step in any of Suzanne's projects is to interview the homeowners to determine what they really need or want. "I ask question to find out how I can make their dreams come true," she stated.

"The 'want to know' is a big part of what I do is educate clients about what we can do. Then they start to think outside the box, to get creative."

She encourages clients to provide inspiration pictures, even of the front yard and elevation of a home because anything can provide clues to their style preferences. "My goal is to find out the design style of my clients. I want them to say 'Oh, my gosh! I love it! It's exactly what I wanted!' instead of 'I hired a designer, and this is what she did' when the project is done."

Suzanne admits to being very flexible about change orders. "I'm too flexible, according to my staff! But I feel strongly about customer service. As an only child, I'm a people pleaser, and making people happy and transforming spaces is the most gratifying part of my work."

She begins demolition in a house only when the materials are on site. "I want to diminish the inconvenience to a family. I don't want to make them live with construction for an extra week waiting for materials to arrive," Dickinson said. "I always have the homeowners' best interest at heart."

She positioned herself to start her own firm by graduating with a bachelor's degree in interior design from the University of Texas and later with a master's in business administration from the same university.

But first Suzanne worked as a buyer and regional manager for a small chain of clothing stores for 11 years after college. "It was really fun, but I decided to pursue my passion" and returned to interior design in 1990.

Her clients come from all walks of life, she noted. There's







no typical customer. But the one thing they have in common is that they choose her because of her reputation. She said she recently created the website [www.dickinson-interiors.com](http://www.dickinson-interiors.com) because “so many people want to see what I do.”

Capitalizing on her years of retail experience, Suzanne opened the Dickinson Interiors retail store in Cypress 20 years ago that features furniture, home furnishings, accessories, floral design, clothing and jewelry. A very capable staff of seven manages the store and operations, allowing Dickinson to spend most of her time on job sites and working with clients.

Her office and studio share space with the retail store.

As for the future, Suzanne Dickinson will continue to pursue her passion for interior design, assuring that her clients’ homes tell the story of who they are and to be a collection for what they love.

*You may contact Dickinson Interiors by calling 281-370-2099, by visiting [www.dickinsoninteriorsonline.com](http://www.dickinsoninteriorsonline.com) or by emailing [suzanne@dickinson-interiors.com](mailto:suzanne@dickinson-interiors.com). The studio and store is located at 13044 Louetta Road, Cypress, TX 77429.*



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