

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition

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Dialogue with a Designer



 **BATHS**
OF AMERICA
FINE BATH & KITCHEN GALLERY

Jennifer Kizzee



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Baths of America opened its doors in January 2005 when brothers Ali and Zeeshan Sultanali decided to start selling plumbing and tiles to the Houston market. Baths of America focuses on customer service and partners only with brands offering quality products and customer service. In addition to plumbing, Baths of America now offers door and cabinet hardware, major appliances, cabinetry, and countertops. It has turned into a one-stop shop for designers, builders, and architects, offering the latest designs and trends in the market.

This month BATHS OF AMERICA speaks with Jennifer Kizzee, owner of Jennifer Kizzee Design, a full-service interior design firm that specializes in taking your home from “blah” to “wow”. Even as a young girl Jennifer Kizzee had an eye for design. Although she went on to have a successful career in sales and marketing, Jennifer’s natural attraction to interior design never waned. She found an outlet for design by transforming living spaces for family and friends. In 2016 she realized interior design was her true calling and launched Jennifer Kizzee Design in partnership with her husband, Jon.

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

Jennifer Kizzee Design: I have always had a passion for all the pretty things in the world. I always remember rearranging my room and hand painting my walls since I was 10 years old which drove my mother crazy sometimes! This whole thing was born from helping friends, neighbors, friends of a friend kind of deal. I just knew I was beyond driven and had an eye to put 2 items together and make them look awesome! It was until 2016 that I decided to make the jump from a career in Corporate Marketing/Sales (which was super scary) to being a Full time Interior Designer and I cannot express how happy I am for taking a leap of faith to launch Jennifer Kizzee Design.

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

Jennifer Kizzee Design: I am the only woman within my own firm with no official degree in Interior Design. I am 100% self-made into this industry and I have always encouraged other women to follow their true passion early on in their careers. It took me years to finally realize that my heart was always on helping others making their dreams and visions come true!

BOA: *How can an experienced interior designer help a custom home builder or a remodeling contractor with their*



building or remodeling projects?

Jennifer Kizsee Design: In so many ways! People now-a-days have so much access to things and ideas such as Pinterest, Houzz, FB, IG and even though that is a great resource it also often confuses people and makes the decision-making process a lot more difficult. Having an experienced designer on your court ensures their clients will make collected & cohesive decisions throughout their house they will not regret.

BOA: What sets you apart from other designers?

Jennifer Kizsee Design: Our team is very diverse, fun & talented but most importantly, we are very chilled and

approachable. Some people might not know this, but a lot of our past clients are now good friends!

BOA: What has been your most challenging project and why?

Jennifer Kizsee Design: There are always challenges in every project, but I would say with no doubt that our biggest challenges right now come from shortage of raw materials, household items, furnishings, labor, etc. due to the pandemic and the results of extreme weather conditions. A project that could have taken 3 months, now would take double the time and that is frustrating to all parties, but we



are managing it the best we can by educating our clients on what is happening in the industry & how to better prepare.

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

Jennifer Kizzee Design: We always start with a pre-design meeting with the client where we have them share with us their Pinterest boards and/or photos of spaces that they like and dive deep into specific details. Once we get that part taken care of and we have a clear understanding of their likes and wishes, we jump to the design and schematics phase.

BOA: What are some common mistakes made by builders and homeowners?

Jennifer Kizzee Design:

Builders: Lack of detail in their finishes. Most of the spaces tend to not be very functional.

Homeowners: Jumping on home projects without fully understanding how much things cost. HGTV's renovation budgets are not real!

BOA: Speaking about staying current, how do you keep yourself up to date with all the design trends happening in the industry today?

Jennifer Kizzee Design: I follow a lot of great designers and architects on Instagram and other outlets. We also attend markets to keep up with the trends and we are constantly training our team to continue to enrich our knowledge about what is out there.

BOA: What is your favorite design style?

Jennifer Kizzee Design: Modern Coastal has always been my thing since I grew up between rivers and beaches, but

I am developing this love for modern style with an organic twist.

BOA: What fascinates you and how have you incorporated that into your designs.

Jennifer Kizzee Design: I was born and raised in South Mexico and have always loved the beach. If you look at our portfolio, you will see we have all 50 shades of blue there-I love the color of the ocean and lately some greens, so every chance we get we like to incorporate somehow in our designs to give spaces a more relaxed feel.

BOA: How would you characterize your personal style?

Jennifer Kizzee Design: Tough one! But here it is: Modern - Organic.

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

Jennifer Kizzee Design: I recommend starting with a wish list. This can include everything you want to achieve with your project, but I always recommend that my clients have top 3-5 things that they absolutely must have in their home. We use that info to help them figure out what their budget also needs to be.

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