

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition

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## DIALOGUE WITH A DESIGNER

INTERVIEW WITH NINA MAGON OF CONTOUR INTERIOR DESIGN





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*Morrison knows that dreams, reality and inspiration make a house a home. They also know that an interior designer or interior design firm often become an intricate part of this process. Design professionals should be committed to creating individualized and functional designs to meet the lifestyles of their clients' families. Morrison Showrooms work to inspire these ideas and is conveniently located in the heart of Houston. Morrison offers many brands and designs, all exhibited in unique settings with interactive displays. Whether it's appliances, plumbing, hardware, or lighting, they have brand to fit every budget and a style to fit every design. Contact Joann Ontiveros at 713-861-2343 for more details.*

This month Morrison talks with Nina Magon, creative director and principal of Contour Interior Design. Nina Magon is a multi-award winning, highly renowned interior designer and TV personality celebrated for her signature refined modern aesthetic that perfectly balances bold high design with a glamorous appeal. Her lavish residential and commercial interiors have won her national acclaim as she was named one of the top designers in the country by NBC. As the Principal of Contour Interior Design, she leads a highly talented

and successful team, whose mission is to design life-changing, one-of-a-kind environments, reflective of the clients' lifestyles that will allow them to not only live better, but encourage them to live stylish daily.

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

**Nina Magon:** I was always intrigued by the arts. Although I was an economics and finance major, I continuously craved to work with the creative side of my brain and create things that were visually beautiful, whether that was in the field of fashion or interior design. It was after I made the decision to merge both my family real estate background with fashion that I decided to go to school for design.

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

**Nina Magon:** In my opinion, it has evolved tremendously. Design is an ever-growing and ever-changing industry. We designers learn from history and implement those historical motifs, ideas, architecture and finishes to modern impressions.





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

**Nina Magon:** Interior designers are trained to think critically. We assist builders with lighting plans (where electrical outlets and switches should be with furniture in mind), architectural details and hard finish detailed drawings and selections. Most importantly, we assist builders and remodelers by creating functional and beautiful spaces.

**Morrison: What sets you apart from other designers?**

**Nina Magon:** We are not just interior designers; we are a developed brand. We have an extremely internationally and diverse team, with members from all over the world who have the experience, knowledge and expertise of not only national, but worldly interiors. Not only that, I have national TV experience and exposure, which re-taught me to design and build beautiful interiors with budget and time in mind. We have international and national experience in residential, commercial and hospitality. We understand budgets, timelines, work ethic and, most importantly, design. We are very well connected in the industry and known for our stand out aesthetics.

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

**Nina Magon:** Each project is unique to us with unique clients and unique challenges. The new restaurant in Saks Fifth Ave. has definitely proven to be the most challenging as it has had extremely rigid timeline constraints, which we have met, but had to reselect and redo the design several times to meet these constraints. Regardless of these setbacks, the design is absolutely remarkable, and I can't wait for the opening on April 28!

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

**Nina Magon:** The first step is show clients inspirational photos to truly understand their taste. Once that taste has been determined, we create a selections board for them to review and approve. The design process with us is extremely transparent and smooth.

**Morrison: Speaking about staying current, how to**





**you keep yourself up to date with all the design trends happening in the industry today?**

**Nina Magon:** We are huge readers. From Hospitality Design, to Contract to Elle Décor, we read it all and have subscriptions to all magazines to keep track of all trends. We also constantly attend markets throughout the year, including High Point, Maison de Objet in Paris, LCDIQ, What's New/What's Next and the design market in Milan.

**Morrison: What is your favorite design style?**

**Nina Magon:** I love all design styles, but I hold any style of Modern close to my heart. It could be Parisian Modern, Mid-Century Modern or Victorian Modern. It is extremely fascinating for me to take historical architecture and make it modern without losing its integrity.

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

**Nina Magon:** Design in general fascinates me. I love using unique finishes and furnishings in all of my designs.

**Morrison: How would you characterize your personal style?**

**Nina Magon:** Clean, chic and stylish.

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

**Nina Magon:** Hire a designer! The first step is to create an overall budget and allocate that budget in rooms of importance.

**Morrison: Any last thoughts, comments?**

**Nina Magon:** Thank you so much for this interview, and I hope it motivates builders and remodelers to use interior designers because we are more than decorators. We are functionality, space and mood creators.



*Photo by Amanda White*

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