

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

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Dialogue with a Designer



BATHS
OF AMERICA
FINE BATH & KITCHEN GALLERY

Teena Caldwell

Twenty-Two Fifty Interiors

Dialogue with a Designer

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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 Teena Caldwell, owner of Twenty-Two Fifty. Twenty-Two Fifty was founded in July of 2021 by Teena and her daughter Lauren Worsham. Teena previously worked out of her home and was the owner and principal designer of Interiors by Teena. She graduated from the University of Houston with a bachelor's degree in interior design and has been in the design industry for well over 25 years. After months of talking about the possibility of owning a store, the ladies decided it was worth a shot. The store has taken off in ways they never expected. Our store is truly a "Boutique for the Home." We want our customers to walk into a visually stunning presentation of items from all around the world. Our team is ready to help you customize a mix of our pieces!



BATHS OF AMERICA: *What motivated you to go into the interior design field?*

Teena: *Growing up, I was always fascinated with architecture and interior design. My grandmother was an amazing artist, and I*

spent a lot of time with her. I loved seeing her creations come to life.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *How has the field of interior design changed since you graduated?*

Teena: The field is now much more open to blending styles together, which I love to do.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *How can an experienced interior designer help a custom home builder or a remodeling contractor with their building or remodeling projects?*

Teena: An experienced interior designer can give an overall concept that helps in avoiding costly mistakes. No detail is left out. Our team sits with the client and makes sure that everything on their plans will function for their family, as well as developing an overall design concept.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *What sets you apart from other designers?*

Teena: Going beyond the design process is what sets me apart from others. I really get to know my clients and understand their lifestyle. I also learn how they want the space to function.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *What has been your most challenging project and why?*

Teena: *The most challenging projects are the ones that are currently being worked on* because our industry is experiencing extended lead time on all items. Everything from appliances to upholstery are taking an extended amount of time, slowing the completion of the overall design.

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

Teena: When the project is a new construction, I usually like to begin with the selection of hard surfaces such as countertops. They are a piece of art. It adds character and becomes so personal! The selections dictate the color palette and so many other selections that will go in the space.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *What are some common mistakes made by builders and homeowners?*

Teena: It's so common for new homeowners

to be excited about their new homes and immediately make purchases that later don't work for their space or lifestyle.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *Speaking about staying current, how to you keep yourself up to date with all the design trends happening in the industry today?*

Teena: Shop! Shop! Shop! You see what's out there when you shop. I shop not only in interior design stores but all retail stores. Interior design follows fashion.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *What is your favorite design style?*

Teena: I love a mixture of styles and time periods. I love the saying "Grandma had it. Mother threw it away. I bought it back."

BATHS OF AMERICA: *What fascinates you and how have you incorporated that into your designs.*

Teena: Repurposing fascinates me. In my retail store,



the cabinets are made from wood that was on the side of my grand- mother's home. This is the home my father grew up in as well. It makes me feel so good that a part of my past is still a part of my present.

BATHS OF AMERICA: *How would you characterize your personal style?*

Teena: I am very eclectic. I love mixing the new with the old. I'll end up using 18th century antiques and mix it with

a modern acrylic piece. When the design is too much of one style, it can become boring and uninteresting.

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

Teena: Establishing a design concept. I ask clients to share pictures of interiors they like and the ones they don't like.



BATHS OF AMERICA: *How do you keep yourself up to date with current design trends in the market?*

Teena: Every week I dedicate time to looking at the aesthetic styles that are influencing our space. I keep up with design blogs, social media, magazines, etc. And of course, I never miss the market!



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