

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition  
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## Dialogue with a Designer



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

Shundra Harris

Shundra Harris Interiors | Houston, TX



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## Shundra Harris

*MWG INNOVATIONS - With a passion for designing and working with glass, Esvin Tista founded MWG Innovations in 2018 on the idea that offering custom bath glass and mirrors for new construction and remodeling projects should fall in the line of an exquisite art job. Esvin takes great pride in creating unique pieces of art designed to bring life to the ideas given to him by the builders, designers, and trades he partners with. His work includes intricate designs of fabricated unique custom metal, wood, and glass pieces for shower doors, vanities, mirrors, handrails, and more. MWG Innovations is committed to providing all clients with high-quality products and services in which yield outstanding customer satisfaction.*

*This month MWG INNOVATIONS speaks with Shundra Harris, founder and principal of Shundra Harris Interiors (SHI), professional member of American Society of Interior Designers, NCIDQ certified and a Texas Registered Interior Designer whose pursuit of thoughtful and intelligent design for all people and all spaces has made her a national leader in Design.*

*Shundra is one of the elite Past Presidents of the American Society of Interior Designers, TX Gulf Coast Chapter. She now volunteers to write for the NCIDQ exam and has*

*served the National Board of ASID as Chair of the Chapter Support Team. She is also on the National ASID Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Throughout her design career, as a student, and ultimately as the Past President of Texas Association for Interior Design, Shundra has advocated for Interior Design in Texas. One of the most rewarding experiences in her career has been shaping design minds as an Adjunct Professor at the prestigious Prairie View A&M University, School of Architecture.*

**MWG INNOVATIONS: What motivated you to enter interior design?**

**Shundra Harris:** Frankly, design found me! Like most designers, I've had "the" creative gene for as long as I can remember but I studied and worked as an engineer in my first career. Renovating my own home in 2002 gave me visibility to the industry. Research and love for construction led me to an education and career change to interior design.

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

**Shundra Harris:** There is a relentless effort (by national design organizations, ASID, IIDA, NCIDQ, CIDA) to promote and educate how design of the built environment affects the health, safety, and wellbeing of the end user. We

no longer look at design with a lens of luxury or aesthetic alone. Contrarily, functionality, sustainability, and how the designed environment nurtures and supports people are the primary goals and foundation of design.

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

**Shundra Harris:** A designer's working knowledge of construction, the built environment, project management, material specifications, accurately communicating conceptualized design details and technical solutions, and a command of industry terminology and jargon are crucial to helping contractors and builders build successful projects.

**MWG INNOVATIONS:** *What sets you apart from other designers?*

**Shundra Harris:** I am a registered Interior Designer, qualified by education and examination. I am also a trained Engineer with an understanding of structure and construction. Those technical skillsets coupled with creativity have been invaluable to my projects and ultimately my career in design.

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

**Shundra Harris:** One of my first projects was the design of a 12,000 sf Montessori school (commercial design). However, my client hired a residential contractor. Several of the commercial product specifications failed, due to residential building methods utilized. That lesson taught me to ask, verify, review and document questions and concerns throughout the construction process. Now, I host a lean design meeting with contractors and sub-contractors to review and qualify design specifications prior to implementation to alleviate and decrease unknown and unforeseen issues.

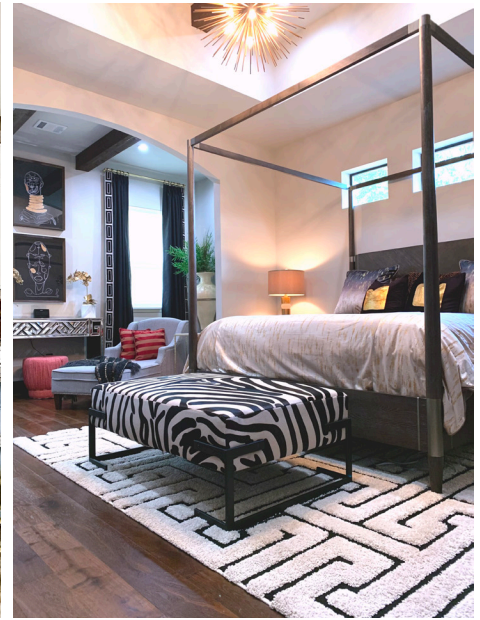
**MWG INNOVATIONS:** *How do you begin the materials selection process when working with builders' and remodelers' clients?*

**Shundra Harris:** No matter what the project is, I develop scaled CAD drawings of the project site and proposed material selections and request the builder's material and labor allowances to ensure budget is adhered to. Design details are communicated to the construction team for installation clarity.

**MWG INNOVATIONS:** *What are some common mistakes builders and homeowners make?*

**Shundra Harris:** The top mistakes I've seen have been related to budget and schedule overruns, generally due to the lack of successful communication and proper expectations. Also, misinterpretation of design documents or lack of design information are other areas where mistakes are prevalent.





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

**Shundra Harris:** I attend major building and industry market shows and events annually. I also attend and teach twelve interior design continued education hours annually, required for my interior design licensing with Texas Board of Architectural Examiners and my affiliation with the American Society of Interior Designers.

**MWG INNOVATIONS:** *What is your favorite design style?*

**Shundra Harris:** My personal favorite design style is Mid-Century modern. However, my role as a designer is to guide my clients in curating the style that elevates the way they live and enhances their visual pleasures respectively.



**SHUNDRRA HARRIS, ASID, RID, NCIDQ**

- *Founder and Principal Designer*
- *Registered Interior Designer (RID)*
- *Seminars by Design*

*VP Media and Technology, TAID |  
Site Advisor, CIDA |  
Item Writing, NCIDQ Examination*

*DEI Committee, ASID |  
Engagement Committee, ASID  
Foundation*

*Past President, TAID |  
Past CST Chair, ASID |  
Past President, ASID TXGC*

*Former Adjunct Professor, Prairie  
View A&M University, School of  
Architecture*



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PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

**C: 817.228.7297 | O: 281.215.5186  
E: [sharris@shundraharrisinteriors.com](mailto:sharris@shundraharrisinteriors.com)  
W: [www.shundraharrisinteriors.com](http://www.shundraharrisinteriors.com)**



**713.572.2284  
[bathsofamerica.com](http://bathsofamerica.com)  
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