

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition  
themetropolitanbuilder.com

## Dialogue with a Designer



METAL WOOD GLASS  
INNOVATIONS

Diana Martin

Diana Martin Interiors | Houston, TX



# Dialogue with a Designer

## Diana Martin

*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 – Diana Martin of Diana Martin Interiors.*

*Being immersed in aesthetics began for Diana Martin at an early age. As the daughter of an architect and art lover, design is woven into her spirit. The journey led Diana to obtain a degree from the University of Texas in Interior Design. Diana's work career started at Index Design Group, specializing in hotel and restaurant design, working on numerous projects across the country over an eight-year stint there. Then with newborn in tow, she began taking on*

*small projects of her own and exploring new opportunities in residential design.*

*Flash forward almost thirty years to Diana's portfolio of interior design projects comprised of new builds and remodels, mainly residential with a few small offices when needed. Of course, being based in Houston implies many hometown projects, but also many notable projects in Austin, Aspen, Jackson Hole, Atlanta, Chicago, Paris, Dusseldorf, and a transatlantic vessel.*

*Diana works with her sister Janet Dowlearn with Habicon Interiors and on her own as Diana Martin Interiors.*

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

**DMI:** My father is an architect and designed and built both of my childhood homes. When you grow up in that environment, it is natural to be interested in design.

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

**DMI:** When I graduated from the University of Texas, all design students had to know how to draw because there was no such thing as Auto Cad. Now most all plans, elevations, and perspectives are done on the computer,



which is great, but something was lost there.

On the flip side, there is so much more interest in good design now and many more great products and innovative ways of doing things. The added help of seeing and accessing products via the internet and social media is incomparable.

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

**DMI:** An Interior Designer can bring new ideas to the table and share relevant experiences, good & bad, to make the project and the process better and more efficient.

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

**DMI:** I am very detail-oriented, introspective, and hands-on. I respect my client's intentions and always try to educate & keep them informed on the way to accomplishing a beautiful space that is theirs.

**MWG INNOVATIONS:** *What has been your most*

**challenging project and why?**

**DMI:** I worked with a client that moved from Chicago to Dusseldorf, Germany. The first hurdle was determining which furnishings she could take from her Chicago home using a floor plan in metric scale. Once she moved in (and yes the things we brought over did fit, thank goodness), I then traveled to Dusseldorf, and we charted new territories to find furnishings and accessories to fill in the blanks. It was a challenging but fun and rewarding project.

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

**DMI:** The interior should speak to the exterior, so I start by looking at the architectural style and layout of the structure as well as the exterior materials specified. After studying, I determine how the interior finishes relate and interface with the exterior. I usually begin with the flooring and any special architectural elements such as beams, unique doors, fireplaces, surrounds, etc., and then move to plumbing, hardware, and countertop material selections. The goal is to make the interior and exterior cohesive. It's also very



important to consider the interior finishes as a whole and how one selection will affect another.

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

**DMI:** Often people need to be made aware of the immense number of decisions that need to be made in a construction project and how one decision can adversely affect another until it is too late. Then when mistakes are made or things do not turn out the way the owner had intended, it can be costly to correct and frustrating for the builder.

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

**DMI:** Social media is an obvious way and easy to look at what is going on currently, but I also enjoy looking through actual paper design magazines. I am a licensed Interior Designer and a member of ASID, so I have access to many presentations, continuing education seminars, and product introduction events to keep current.

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

**DMI:** I love clean, edited, livable spaces that mix old

and new. I try to avoid passing trends and include one's treasures in a fresh way to create a timeless interior.

**MWG INNOVATIONS:** *What fascinates you, and how have you incorporated that into your designs?*

**DMI:** I love fine art and antiques and how including them in a space can make it so special.

*"I value the uniqueness of each client and strive to make the design theirs. My design objective is to create warm, inviting, and livable spaces, trusting a keen balance of old and new into a true, evolved, and timeless interior."*

– Diana Martin



**Diana Martin Interiors**  
 322 W 23rd St. Houston TX 77008  
 713/203-7566  
 dmartin@dianamartininteriors.com  
 www.dianamartininteriors.com



**METAL WOOD GLASS**  
 INNOVATIONS  
 Residential & Commercial

**713-834-4627**

esvin@mwginnovatoins.com  
 www.mwginnovations.com

**Experience, Expertise, Passion**

*We commit to high-quality work in every project we undertake providing you with tailor-made solutions for your custom designs. Show us the Space and we will create to meet your needs....*

**CUSTOM:**

- Shower Doors • Mirrors • Metal Framed Mirrors
- Grid and Cage Doors • Backpainted Backsplashes
- Cabinet Glass • Glass Walls & More

