

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition

themetropolitanbuilder.com

Dialogue with a Designer



Ekλεκtik
INTERIORS

Livable Design That Feels
Unique From Room To Room





Dialogue with a Designer

Kelly Wesson

Photography by Michael Hunter

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 Kelly Wesson, Managing Designer at Eklektik Interiors, where she began her interior design career out of college in 2017. At Eklektik Interiors, she manages the team and leads projects. Her current focus is on residential design, where she works with builders, remodelers, and homeowners. She coordinates all facets of a project, from construction drawings and material selections, to the finishing touches of furnishings and accessories.

Kelly has a particular love for livable design that feels unique from room to room. Her goal for every project is to create a space that feels intriguing yet comfortable. She likes to fuse classic elements with bold ideas and pops of quirkiness. Her favorite aspect of designing is creating personal connections within the industry and with clients.

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

KW: Early on, I learned that our surroundings can have a massive impact on our emotions and well-being. When I was in a rut as a child, I would move my entire bedroom around to revitalize the space and create new energy. I still do this, honestly! I also found an early love for computer-aided design through games like SIMS, where even as a teenager, I had access to learning how to build homes with a mouse & screen. Due to these factors, I naturally followed the path towards studying interior design in college.

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

KW: The most significant change to our industry in recent



years has been social media's influence on design. It has allowed more and more people to have access to images and videos of great design. It's made design more tangible to the average homeowner. They see that well-designed spaces can come from something other than a luxury budget. As designers, we use social media as a multi-functional tool - to promote our work in a portfolio manner, obtain potential clients, and find inspiration for new ideas.

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

KW: While I may have my own personal design style when working with clients, I always prioritize their desired style. I want to make sure their home feels well designed but also totally them, filled with all their favorite things! I also want my clients to feel personally involved with the project from start to finish. I ask lots of questions about how they live, why they do or don't like things, and what they want/need to make their home as perfect for them as possible. I'm also very detail-oriented and organized; I make sure to prioritize spreadsheets and selection books. My construction drawings will have call outs of every detail that is important to building the design how it's intended. I've learned over the years that these details need to be documented and provided as early as possible to avoid





future confusion or concerns.

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

KW: I always start with finding out the client's style, by going through example photos with them of my own work and inspiration photos from other sources. Then, I like to develop a mood board of preliminary ideas and selections for paint colors, flooring, lighting, etc. If possible I prefer to meet in person to show real tangible materials/colors laid out in front of the client, but I also will always have a supplementary digital version that I send to the client. Once I have an understanding of the client's preferences, I start selecting options for them to choose from in each material category.

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

KW: I love and appreciate so many different styles, but my personal favorite is what some call California Casual. Off-white walls, natural wood floors & cabinets, textural elements, chunky furniture, warm accent colors, and unique/quirky touches. It creates a fun space that feels comfortable and youthful but also harkens to great vintage designs from the mid-century.

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





KW: The way people live is so different and unique in terms of their experiences. I love getting into personal conversations with them about what they need to have a kitchen, bathroom, closet, etc., function perfectly for the way they live. For example, if a client loves to cook, we can tailor each cabinet to aid in their prep and cooking process. I enjoy planning out these details with them and learning new things from each client!

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

KW: As a designer, my main intention when working with a builder or remodeler is to make their job easier. My goal is to take over the responsibilities of creating a space that the homeowner or future buyer will say is not only exceptionally functional but also aesthetically pleasing. While hiring a designer may make things more complex, we're elevating the home's value in many different ways.

MWG INNOVATIONS: What are some common mistakes builders and homeowners make? **KW:** Rushing through the process. I know there will always be a desired timeframe for completion on both the builder's and homeowner's end, but I urge them to take time with decisions that could create issues further down the line. For the homeowner's sake, I want to ensure they're truly happy with all their decisions and not to simply pick something due to its lead time or





ease of installation.

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

KW: As I mentioned previously, my main tool for inspiration is social media. I keep up with various designers in different cities, and I am always interested in seeing the popular trends from state to state. I also enjoy going to furnishing markets, where I get to see companies change out their showrooms from year to year to incorporate new trends. Seeing a new running theme and how each vendor puts their spin on it is always exciting.



Kelly Wesson
Managing Designer at
Eklektik Interiors

Phone: 281-881-8794

Email: kelly@eklektikinteriors.com

Eklektik
INTERIORS