

THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

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DIALOGUE WITH A DESIGNER

INTERVIEW WITH MARIE FLANIGAN



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MARIE FLANIGAN

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 the Showroom Manager for more details. 713-861-2343.

This month Morrison speaks with Marie Flanigan, Principal at Marie Flanigan Interiors, an award winning interior designer whose passion and achievements in design have positioned her as one of the nation's best. Her trademark style is evident through the sophisticated use of texture, color, and light, creating environments that celebrate innovative simplicity while reflecting the lives of those who live, love, and grow within. Trained as an architect, she expertly unites structure with style, creating sophisticated spaces that

have been featured on the pages of premier publications, including Traditional Home, Elegant Homes, Southern Home, and Luxe.

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

Marie Flanigan: My education is rooted in architecture and that influences my approach to every project. I believe that an extraordinary home is less about the furnishings and décor, and more about how well the architecture and those interior elements speak to one another.

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

Marie Flanigan: Builders and contractors are an extension of our own team and vice versa. Together, we are stronger at identifying client needs and determining how our various skills can bring their dream home to life. When a builder-designer relationship is built on steady communication, decisions can be made faster, less mistakes are made, and the construction process will ultimately be more peaceful for the homeowner.

Morrison: *What fascinates you and how have you*



incorporated that into your designs.

Marie Flanigan: I am continually inspired by people, art, and travel, and, with design in particular, I am always fascinated by my clients' life stories. The details of those stories help me create spaces that have a powerful sense of meaning. A special piece of art or a rug that has been handed down for generations can serve as an exciting starting point in the development of a design; your past doesn't have to dictate the present, but it does help create a steady foundation.

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

Marie Flanigan: We host an inspiration session and look through images of homes they love and some they don't. Feedback, both good and bad, helps our team outline a strong vision for each space with detailed notes about the materials they prefer and those they don't, making it easier for us to build out a tailored design that suits their lifestyle.

Morrison: *What is your favorite design style?*

Marie Flanigan: A timeless style that feels collected and layered over time with distinctive combinations of antique and contemporary elements. Style should be rooted in simplicity, boasting soothing hues and the bold use of texture.



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

Marie Flanigan: Refined elegance and innovative simplicity. I love the integration of interior and structure through the sophisticated use of texture, color, and light, creating environments in which people love to live.

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

Marie Flanigan: In the past, designers were much more hung up on defining and fitting clients into a particular style, whereas today's leaders are less concerned with those titles and the boundaries they put in place. We are creating new and ever-evolving hybrid genres that are deeply rooted in our clients' lifestyle needs and desires.

Morrison: *What would you recommend builders and/or homeowners do first in a home design project?*

Marie Flanigan: That would depend on the size of the project but I always like to start with an open and honest brainstorming session held between the homeowner, builder, and our team. It's important to sketch out the big picture so that everyone understands the general look and feel the homeowner is looking for. This is also a good time to determine whether that vision is realistic for the style and structure of their current home, and what kind of architectural changes might need to take place to bring that vision to life. Detailed concepts and timelines can be drafted from there.

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

Marie Flanigan: I shy away from overly trendy elements because I strive to create spaces that will feel relevant for years to come, but I don't mind their well-edited use in an otherwise timeless space. I love visiting annual furniture markets in High Point and Las Vegas for an inside look at how industry leaders are approaching new technologies, finishes, and materials; I always leave feeling inspired!

Marie Flanigan

2525 Driscoll Street
Houston TX 77019

mflanigan@marieflanigan.com

