

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition  
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**Lighting Inc.**  
Established 1959

LIGHTING BEAUTIFUL SPACES SINCE 1959

## DIALOGUE WITH A DESIGNER

INTERVIEW WITH KATHY ANDERSON, PRINCIPAL DESIGNER/OWNER, EKLIKTIK INTERIORS



# Dialogue with a Designer

Kathy Anderson, Principal Designer/Owner, Eklktik Interiors

*Customer service and product quality have always been the top priorities at Lighting Inc. Their second generation, family-owned business' belief is that through hard work and dedication, they can be second to none when it comes to lighting options.*

*They understand that the top design professionals in the Houston market are committed to creating individualized and functional designs to meet the lifestyles of their clients' families. It's why they diligently work with the area's top interior designers and design firms in order to assure their clients' gratification when it comes to realizing their dreams, reality and inspirations in making their house a home.*

*With more than 100 years of employee experience at Lighting Inc., they aspire to stand out in the industry in assisting to find the perfect lighting fixtures for their customers' needs. Their passion for lighting, home décor and customer service has been the driving force behind their business since 1959, and they are eager to serve. Please contact Jeff Fee at 713-623-6500 for more details.*

*This month Lighting Inc. talks with Kathy Anderson, principal designer and owner of Eklktik Interiors, who brings a broad perspective and exclusiveness to her interior designs. Inspired by her world travels, Kathy focuses on creating a personal design that is timeless.*

*With extensive residential as well as commercial experience, Kathy has found that a vital key to truly successful interior design projects is communication. She believes the design process should be an enjoyable one. By helping her clients better understand the process, the experience becomes less intimidating for them. Her ability to read her clients is a strength that helps her to create that "signature" environment for each space. Kathy received a degree in interior design from Brigham Young University and is a licensed and registered interior designer.*

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

**Kathy Anderson:** I believe the best projects happen when builder and designer have an open exchange of ideas. Designers look at a project not only aesthetically but also functionally. We have been a design/build firm and have done numerous remodels, but I realized that each job has its own skill set. I am really a designer first. I joined the Greater Houston Builders Association to get to know quality builders and remodelers because I got into the build part because I couldn't find someone I trusted with our design.

Each project we approach is with the mindset that it should be better than our last job. Working with quality

builders and remodelers has been a gamechanger for us. WE have more time to design fabulous projects, and we can focus on that, not the build part. We have contractors we work with that like to think outside the box with us, and we have a great relationship with all of them because we understand and value their skill set. They value us to bring a different skill set to their project that sets them apart as well. When that relationship of trust and respect is solid, magic can happen.

**Lighting Inc.:** *What sets you apart from other designers?*

**Kathy Anderson:** I think that fact that I have done remodeling myself over the last 35+ years sets me apart. Designing is one thing; building it is quite another. It does make a huge difference. WE approach each job as if we were building it. It pays to think it through in the design process to know how feasible it will be and at what costs.

I am a practical designer. I look for the ultimate functional design. I have seen houses that are beautiful but just don't function very well. The design wasn't thought out. I think that happens when people get in a hurry and just want to "churn and burn" projects. We as a firm take the time to lay out multiple options, to understand how our clients live, entertain, work, relax. It is so important. It's not just about finishes, etc. It's about EXCEPTIONAL LIVING.

**Lighting Inc.:** *What are some common mistakes made by builders and homeowners?*

**Kathy Anderson:** I think some builders can get in a rut. They build the same thing over and over. I understand that to some degree...they are busy. That is why I think that the best builders liaison with an interior designer to help their homes become unique and memorable. I know that we in our firm literally travel the world looking at the latest and greatest in building materials, lighting, furniture, design, anything to stay current and relevant. It's our passion!

Homeowners make the mistake by not protecting their investment and getting the most out of their dollar by not consulting a professional. Even if they want to "do it themselves," they still need to consult a professional to make sure it all ends as planned. Even just having another set of eyes on your project will ensure things don't get missed.

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

**Kathy Anderson:** As previously stated, I spend a lot of money traveling to markets, shows, parade of homes, all over the world. I attend at least six to eight markets and trade shows a year all over the country and Europe.



I attend Parade of Home shows all over the U.S. as well. I love to travel, and it brings a great perspective to our designs. We don't carbon copy anything. Our designs are unique to our clients because each of our clients are unique. It would be a disservice to them to not give them our best and our best for THEM!

**Lighting Inc.:** *What fascinates you and how have you incorporated that into your designs?*

**Kathy Anderson:** Interesting that you ask that. My favorite aspect of design might just be lighting! I LOVE LIGHTING!

I am obsessed! Lighting can make or break a space. It is the one single element that I think is overlooked most of the time. Obviously, decorative lighting is big and can add major impact, but I think it is so important to have layers of lighting in your space. It creates a mood. Immediately! Washing of walls, spot-lighting a major piece of art, back-lighting a mirror, accent-lighting a ceiling, or up-lighting a corner can create an ambience like no other.

**Lighting Inc.:** *How would you characterize your personal style?*

**Kathy Anderson:** I am definitely eclectic! I love design. All of it. It feeds my soul. My personal style is comfortable and casual. My home is kid friendly (I have six grandchildren). A place to relax, visit and nurture the soul. I have a big family and lots of friends. My home is a revolving door. It is a welcoming place for all, and I cherish that.

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

**Kathy Anderson:** BUDGET! That's the first thing that has to be discussed. Let's face it, no one wants to go over budget! Secondly, we would discuss the overall feel and direction of the design, and, if there is a client, then that is discussed as a team. We all need to be on the same page. As in any design process, communication is key.

**Lighting Inc.:** *Last thoughts?*

**Kathy Anderson:** Houston is a great city! WE are a very eclectic society of different peoples and cultures. I love that. We have a great opportunity as a "building community" to hold ourselves to a very high standard to make our city a leader in quality construction and



design. I feel we are doing that. There are great builders and remodelers out there doing beautiful quality work. Houston is home to some of the most talented designers in the industry today. I feel blessed and excited to get be a part of this great city and industry!

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*Feel free to contact Eklektik Interiors with any questions you have regarding Eklektik Interiors or your personal design queries. We will connect you with our friendly and competent staff and designers. We'd be ecstatic to work with you and customize an interior design plan unique to you!*

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