

What Homeowners Want to Know About *Interior Design*

BY YAMINI HINGORANI
Yamini Designs, LLC

Home renovators and designers were busy in 2012—and Yamini Designs was no exception. Every day I fielded questions like these from local homeowners considering renovation and design projects...

1) I'm intimidated by the potential costs of an interior designer or being pushed into buying all new furniture for my home. How can I stay in budget?

A: A good designer listens to her clients! As an independent designer, I'm not tied to any one source for furnishings but instead look for the best value, whether that means shopping online, at local retailers, or through professional design showrooms and wholesale resources. I'm proud to say cli-



Yamini Designs created a spa-like aesthetic in this master bath with the use of serene colors and added drama with a dark, soaring wood vanity with inlaid mirror that complimented the tall, angular ceiling.



Yamini Hingorani advises Bloomington resident Jill Steiner on fabric, paint, and rug selections. Photos courtesy Yamini Designs, LLC

ents appreciate Yamini Designs' ability to "value-engineer" high-end looks on a not so high-end budget.

2) I want to update my bath, not completely gut it. Is that possible?

A: Absolutely. I



This Spicewood kitchen received a total makeover by Yamini Designs, including new soapstone countertops and custom cabinetry with a built-in pantry.

recently helped a client give a 20-year old master bath a facelift without starting from scratch. We minimized costs by keeping the existing tub and shower and instead replaced the vanity, re-cladded the tub deck, and added new floor tile. The results (see photo) were

featured in the *HT* home section.

3) Can I buy design services a la carte?

A: I tailor my services to what clients need — whether that's a few hours of time rearranging furniture and choosing paint colors or something more extensive, like drawing up plans and overseeing a kitchen or bath renovation. Sometimes clients just want me to go shopping with them, which I'm happy to do!

4) Our kitchen is badly in need of renovation. Where do we start?

A: Some clients begin with an inspiration photo or a finish they love. For example, in the kitchen in the photo attached, the clients knew they wanted a soapstone

counter top, so that was our jumping off point. When clients begin with a blank slate, I ask lots of questions and together we review photos to come up with a design direction. It's a fun process and it works!

5) We are building new home and we want to make sure we're maximizing the space in our home. Can you look at our plans to make sure they'll suit our needs?

A: Many clients ask me to review their home plans to make sure they are getting the most functional use out of their space. I recently helped a client reconfig-

ure plans she purchased on-line by improving the kitchen's traffic flow, creating a larger work area, and changing awkward cabinet angles to maximize usable space.

Yamini Hingorani, ASID is a licensed interior designer and a professional member of The American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). Yamini Designs, LLC is a full service interior design firm specializing in residential, small scale commercial, and hospitality projects. Visit yaminidesigns.com or call Yamini at 812.335.1915 to learn more. And visit Yamini Designs at Home Show 2013, BOOTH 251.

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812-335-1915
www.yaminidesigns.com