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HOME & DESIGN

Designers at home

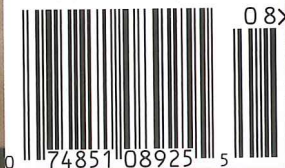


Private Tour with the Nationals'
Ryan Zimmerman

Design Pros to Watch

HOT TALENT

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HOT TALENT

Five up-and-coming pros bring a fresh perspective to the local design scene

In this annual feature, H&D spotlights a handful of designers who are blazing exciting new trails in firms of their own. This year's group gathered in the Washington Design Center, where they were photographed in various showrooms. Pictured in the entrance of J. Lambeth with a backdrop of Lewis & Wood wallpaper, they are (from left) Kenneth Byrd, Angela Justice, Rachel Dougan, Stephanie Gamble and Erica Riggio (front).

PORTRAITS BY MICHAEL VENTURA



KENNETH BYRD

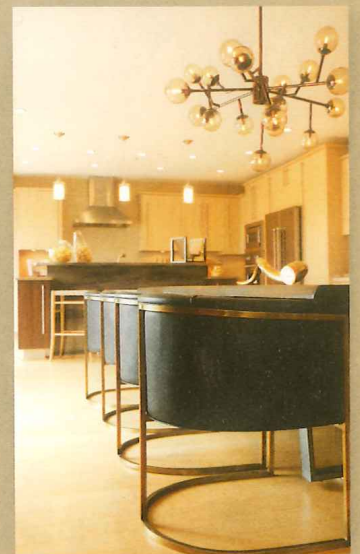
Kenneth Byrd knew he wanted to be an interior designer from the time he was a boy rearranging furniture in his parents' Virginia Beach home. He eventually settled in Richmond, where a background in visual merchandising and real estate led him to staging homes on the market. Then a developer hired him to oversee the renovation of an historic warehouse into luxury condos—a project that launched his design career.

He founded Kenneth Byrd Design in 2010 with a focus on both commercial and residential work. After a couple of years in Richmond's historic Fan District, the firm moved to the "grittier" Shockoe Bottom area. Now the head of a five-person studio and a storefront (open by appointment), Byrd brings an unexpected, modern sensibility to the city's traditional landscape. "We have an aesthetic that goes against the grain of traditional Richmond," he says. "Our clients want that city edge."

However, Byrd and his team approach historical projects with respect. "We don't come in and strip down a 100-year-old home," he explains. "We want to embrace the age of the home and celebrate its architectural features."

"Design is a collection of styles and flavors," he continues. "I definitely like 'old meets new.' A space has more soul when things are collected, they come from different eras and everything has a story."





Kenneth Byrd reviews fabric samples in the Romo showroom (opposite). The designer brings a refined sophistication to his work. A play on geometric shapes and textures, the dining room in a Richmond row house (opposite, top) combines a Jonathan Adler chandelier with a woven-silk grasscloth wall covering by Phillip Jeffries. In another historic row-house renovation, Byrd mixed masculine lines with feminine undertones, furnishing the bedroom (opposite, bottom) with a Bernhardt bed, Arteriors light fixture and Vanguard chairs. He revived a living room in a Monument Avenue home (left) with a reflective Phillip Jeffries wall covering on the ceiling, a marble-mosaic fireplace surround and trellis chairs from Caracole.

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Interior Design: Kenneth Byrd, Kenneth Byrd Design, Richmond, Virginia. Text: Sharon Jaffe Dan. Photography: Samantha Hollins.