

PHOTOGRAPHY SARAH TACOMA

# DESIGN therapy



In need of some advice before purchasing new furniture or tackling a home remodelling project? Here's what some locals in the field of decorating and design have to say.

## CARLA PAVLOV *CR Designs*

**Where do you find design inspiration?** I find inspiration wherever I go and it can strike at any time really. For example, the shape and colours of a reflection in a puddle after a rain can alter my perception and inspire a new design idea.

**Do you have any design rules?** My top rules: Famed architect Louise Sullivan stated, "Form ever follows function, and this is the law. Where function does not change, form does not change." Then of course Milton Glacier said, "There are three responses to a piece of design – yes, no, and WOW!" For edification I always strive for WOW!

**Tell us about one of your favourite projects:** A favourite project of mine in my commercial portfolio is my YMCA designs. To be a part of a philanthropic institution like the Y is an honour and a humbling experience. Of course, having a client's absolute trust in a collaboration effort in their home is equally humbling and an honour.



## SARAH LINA & TAMMY ROWBOTHAM *Luxus Dekor*

**Tell us about Luxus Dekor:** Our business was built upon a dream to follow our shared passion for interior design. Merging our two styles together has created this fabulous bed, bath and home décor store. We provide a personalized shopping experience for each customer and we love being able to participate in your home decorating.

**Do you have any styling tips for homeowners?** Your dwelling should be a space that you can't wait to come home to at the end of the day. It should best represent

you and your unique style. Find a balance between trend and tradition. Accent pieces are a great way to incorporate new styles as they are easy to switch out when the next trend comes in.

**What's hot in home décor for 2018?** It's all about creating a minimalistic, relaxed, lived-in environment. Artisan and handcrafted items in organic and raw materials create an earthy appeal. Marble, mixed metals, pastels and everything fringe is what's hot for accents in 2018!

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AMANDA THEDE  
& KAITLYN SHULAR  
*K-Interiors*

**Tell us about your company:**

Our showroom houses three companies: K-Interiors, Bruce County Custom Cabinets and Dennison Homes. This allows our design team (which also includes Tanya Tsatsos) to design and manage the completion of all aspects of your project. Our showroom also offers a life-size kitchen and one-of-a-kind vanities as well as every sample needed for your custom project!

**What do you enjoy most about design?** What we enjoy most about designing is helping the

client from start to finish while making the entire project flow seamlessly. We are helping people make the space they live in exactly how they would like it and that is a huge privilege and a responsibility we take very seriously.

**What is your favourite colour scheme to work with?**

Our favourite scheme right now is pairing whites with light greys, taupes and light natural wood tones. We like keeping in mind how close we are to the wonderful beach so this palette really works nicely in our area.



AMANDA KING

*Warton Home  
Design Centre*

**What design services are offered at Warton Home Design Centre?**

We offer design services solely through our kitchen department as part of our quoting procedure. After performing a site measure at the client's house and obtaining as much knowledge as I can regarding their personal style and needs, I take that information and begin the design process.

**Do you have any design rules?**

The amount of design choices can sometimes be quite overwhelming for a client. I find the best way to overcome this is to start by selecting one item that they love, such as a rustic hardwood or exotic granite and then choosing colours and products to complement that item while maintaining balance.

**Do you have any renovation projects on the horizon at your own home?**

Yes, I am happy to say that I will be taking on my own kitchen renovation this winter. I will gain a client's perspective in the kitchen design process, which will add to my skills as a designer and consultant in this field.

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**ANNE MORROW  
& ANNA BURNS**  
*Cuneo Interiors Ltd.*

**What consultation services do you offer?** We offer three types of in-store or in-home consultation services: paint and wallcoverings, custom window fashions, and whole home flooring choices, including custom bath and shower designs. Our shower systems use porcelain tiles and Schluter waterproofing and trim designs to ensure lifetime installations.

**Tell us about your favourite new products in your showroom:** Our favourite new product is luxury vinyl tile and plank flooring. It comes in a variety of wood and porcelain tile designs. It's very durable, waterproof and pet-friendly. It works great in any area of your home and is available in loose-lay, click together or glue-down installation.

**What is your favourite space in your own homes and why?** We each feel that our family room is our favourite space in our homes. Anne says "it's where I go at the end of a busy work day and curl up with a good book to relax, surrounded by the warmth of earthy colours and natural textures".



PHOTO: BONNIE FOX

**JACQUELINE  
FURTNER**  
*barebirch*

**What do you enjoy most about owning a design store?** I am thankful every day that I am able to do what I love. I strongly believe that the spaces where we spend our time impact the way we think, act and feel. Spending my days helping people envision and build these spaces is rewarding and I can't imagine doing anything else!

**How would you describe your style?** Our look as a whole is very casual, cosy and warm but we layer pieces from many different styles

to create this. We have and will evolve over the years to keep up with trends but always hold onto this same feeling. We focus on unique pieces you won't find anywhere else.

**What is your favourite room in your own home and why?** Impossible to pick just one! Each room has its purpose and is furnished in a way that lends to the function of the space. While I do choose pieces I love, we have a home that can be lived in and enjoyed every day, by us, our family and our friends.

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**KRISTA MCKENSTER  
& COLLEEN RACO**  
*Grey Bruce Paint & Decor*

**Tell us about your decorating services:**  
We use our colour expertise every day in the store to help clients choose the right paint colours for any size project, from a small room to a whole home. We also offer in-home colour and design consultations. With a wide selection of furniture, accessories and bedding in stock we can help complete the whole look.

**What are your favourite colour schemes to work with?** Right now we're loving black for walls, like Benjamin Moore's Black Satin (2131-10). There are very few colours that don't look amazing in front of amazing black which makes it the ultimate neutral backdrop. It can add elegance and drama to a formal dining room and can add personality by allowing vibrant accents to pop in functional spaces like laundry rooms.

**Any personal home renovation projects on the horizon?** Our store! In order to inspire our customers' own home renovation projects, it's time to re-do our retail space. This includes new flooring, updated wall colours, an improved floor plan to accommodate new colours and products coming from Benjamin Moore in 2018, and more space for furniture pieces refinished in fun new colours from our in-house spray shop!

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HEATHER  
SMILLIE  
*House Rules Design Shop*

**Where do you continue to find design inspiration?** I think I find the most inspiration with the client – learning about them, their family and their lifestyle is the starting point in my design process. Together we identify what they are looking for from the space and then I bring ideas to make their project unique yet still reflect their vision.

**What are your design rules?** Other than function and logic, which must be at the forefront of any design, there are few rules to follow these days as the traditional way of approaching style groups is becoming non-existent. We are moving away from a cookie-cutter version of traditional or modern design in favour of a fusion blend of multiple styles.

**What is your favourite space in your own home and why?** I love the window seat in my home that looks over the lake. In every season it is a great spot to escape with a book, but in the winter I feel like I am inside a snow globe. It was a true DIY project as my son and I designed and built it together and my mom sewed the cushions and pillows. I have the craziest collection of colorful cushions that add whimsy to the space and make it fun and inviting.

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**GAIL SLOCOMBE**  
*Inside Ideas*


**Tell us about your business:**  
Inside Ideas is a home decorating store offering in-store and at-home service. Inside Ideas specializes in custom blinds, drapery, and upholstery. The showroom offers the largest selection of window coverings in the area. The drapery department stocks extra-long grommet curtains and offers thousands of fabrics to pick from. The bedding area offers Canadian-made product and unique imported textiles. We also offer on-trend area rugs that are not easily found. Your experience in store or at your home will amaze you.

**What is new and hot in the world of window coverings?**  
Motorized blinds at a reasonable price are very popular.

**What is your favourite space in your own home?** My bed because of my down-surround pillow and my Canadian-made cotton percale sheets. Sleeping is dreamy!


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& CHRISTINA LAMONT, *INTERIOR DECORATORS*  
*Smitty's Fine Furniture*

**What is new and hot in home furnishings for 2018?**  
Wood finishes continue to be more colourful and lighter in colour with more variety of wire-brushed finishes as well. The coastal look of soft muted tones of blue, white and taupe is gradually becoming more colourful with deeper, richer colours on all upholstery and accent pieces. Sectionals continue to be very popular.

**Where should homeowners splurge and where can they save?** We always recommend to purchase the best quality mattress set you can afford as you spend every night on it!

Also, to have a very comfortable chair that supports you is important. You can save on furniture in a room that you don't use very often.

**What are your top sellers this season?** Adjustable beds for every comfort level have become popular for every age group as people want to watch TV, work on their laptop or read in bed, but need support and comfort. Power reclining chairs offer the same ease of movement and comfort. Locally-made solid wood Durham Furniture is our most popular selling bedroom suite line. **OH**

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