

MBK DESIGN



Michele Koken, who specializes in new construction projects, has been in the design industry for 18 years—since graduating from Ball State University with a degree in Interior Design. She goes well beyond specifying furniture and selecting accessories, working closely with architects and other professionals to plan and design specific interior spaces.

How would you define your design style?

I love a mix of styles when done correctly, but if I had to pick just one I would say an updated traditional style. I love mixing old and new elements, but keep a basis of classic and timeless design.

Where do you look to find inspiration?

Inspiration is everywhere for me. It comes from travel,

social media, magazines, design books, people, fashion and nature. I also find inspiration every time I travel to my little hometown in Kentucky. My dad collects things and antiques, so I find inspiration while shopping his unique finds.

What's the best part of your job?

Interior design is storytelling and each project is something new. Starting a project and seeing that vision come to life is the best. It is also rewarding knowing you have created a beautiful interior that the client loves and will enjoy for years to come.

What do you like better...

Carpet or Rugs? Rugs

Curtains or Shades? Both—I love layering draperies over soft shades

Bold colors or subdued hues? Subdued hues

Modern or Rustic? Is modern-rustic a choice?

Minimal or Ornate? Minimal

Process or Results? Process

Let's talk about favorites...

Favorite color? Blue

Favorite texture? Anything natural

Favorite pattern? Tribal and geometric

Favorite thing to display? In my own home I display antique crocks from my dad

Favorite room in your house? My kitchen

What new design trends are you most excited about right now?

I really love that mixing old and new is on trend. I have been doing this for years since I grew up with antiques. Layering vintage pieces in with new adds history and personality in more modern styles. I am also a huge fan of the natural earth tone palettes and texture on texture looks right now. Have you seen the gorgeous Sherpa and boucle fabrics on chairs? I absolutely love it!

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