

# SPECTACULAR HOMES

of Greater Washington, D.C.

AN EXCLUSIVE SHOWCASE OF DESIGNERS IN WASHINGTON, DC, NORTHERN VIRGINIA & MARYLAND



# Arlene Critzos

INTERIOR CONCEPTS, INC.

Founder and President of Interior Concepts, Inc., Arlene Critzos is an award-winning, well-known interior designer who heads ICI as a full-service firm specializing in high-end residential and commercial interiors and a division of award-winning model home design. Arlene takes great pride and pleasure in creating what she believes is the most valuable facet of a person's life—their environment. "I love having the opportunity to affect people from the moment they walk in their home; it is their haven."

Developing her creative design and professional expertise combined with the clients' wish lists, Arlene produces truly successful, personalized interiors. Arlene's unique, breathtaking designs are often inspired, if not at least contributed to, by her years of global travel. After studying in places such as Rome, Holland and the U.K. and working in Mainland China, Jordan, Spain and more, she developed a comfortable appeal for international interiors and a personal style she calls "European Traditional."

Although she has traveled around the world and back, Arlene is happy to call Annapolis home. She finds the town to be a small-town sanctuary which draws many people from faraway places to settle permanently. "They have come here to



nest and we are chosen, in many cases, to create their living habitats. It is a town that is open to good design," said Arlene.

Arlene works on an assortment of projects ranging from large architectural projects to smaller room-based projects. She begins the projects with the architecture—moving walls, creating ceilings, designing the furnishings and finishes; then the accessorizing is the final and very important phase.

Interior Concepts has designed major spaces in the Middle East, China, England and Spain and in various U.S. states.

#### ABOVE:

A series of geometric spaces create this perfect logic which connects all the rooms on the main level. Accented moldings in custom plaster and metalwork finish each area. Furnished as a gallery of art, scale furniture and antique accent chairs complete the space. The floor is crafted of stone and wood. Photograph by Gordon Beal

#### FACING PAGE:

The designer strategically positioned the living room in the center of the house to make sure that it was used. Twenty-four-foot ceilings with two-story gothic windows create the architecture. A powerful classical painting of monk and child from the school of Mantegna fills the space. Three seating areas complement each other all in various neutral tones and textures. Occasional pieces mix wood, stone, metal and antique washed Venetian woods. Photograph by Gordon Beal



**ABOVE:**

This billiard room has multiple uses and functions. Seating at an antique English walnut fireplace, billiard area, music area and a game table complete this space. A 19th-century, 12 foot silver leaded French stairway sets the stage as you enter the room. A palette of reds, ochres, olives, chocolate and black warms this space. A mix of silk, Orientals and animal prints layer as "floor cloths." The red center sofa is the anchor for all other patterns. Leather, tapestries and antique trunks complement each other. The high ceiling is beamed while large plaster gothic sleepers fill the slopes of the ceiling.  
Photograph by Gordon Neal

# Q&A

## More about Arlene ...

**WHAT PERSONAL INDULGENCE DO YOU SPEND THE MOST MONEY ON?**

My two passions: horses and travel.

**WHAT COLOR BEST DESCRIBES YOU AND WHY?**

Taupe for its great neutrality and red for its bold pop. I love the versatile nature of neutrals because I can punctuate them with art and color.

**YOU CAN TELL I LIVE IN THIS LOCALE BECAUSE I ...**

Well, you can't! I have lived in and studied many places throughout the world, so my work really has a global reference. That does not mean I do not love this locale, though. I love the proximity of the ocean and the nostalgia of the downtown areas, all within close proximity to one of the country's greatest cities, Washington, D.C. Many interiors here in Annapolis are casual and coastal, but there is always room for a little reference to the arts.

**NAME ONE THING PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU.**

I am an open book, a very straightforward personality. I have a passion for vegetable gardening and cooking.

**WHAT IS THE BEST PART OF BEING AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?**

I truly enjoy the endless creative path, the continual growth of knowledge and interacting with the client to a great end result.

**WHO HAS HAD THE BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON YOUR CAREER?**

My parents were supportive of me from the inception of my career. They saw no boundaries for me and gave me a life of various ethnic influences.

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#### ABOVE TOP:

An outdoor space with water views, this photo captures an interior wall with an over-scaled marble-side table, great for outdoor buffets. Above it is an antique architectural turn-of-the-century metal window frame from France hung as art and embraced by two iron sconces. Multiple seating areas join this table in the room's composition.

Photograph by Gordon Beaf

#### ABOVE BOTTOM:

A great transition area to the porch, outdoor fireplace and eating area, the fresco-style painted stallions set the theme art for the outdoors. Taken from a historic "stall" in Saltsburg, Austria, these horses provided design inspiration. Arched openings draped in sheer gauze add movement and warmth. A handmade twig chair and ottoman remain outdoors all year.

Photograph by Gordon Beaf