

# VISIONS *of* DESIGN



An Inspired Collection of North America's Finest Interior Designers

Design visions have been a way of life for Arlene Critzos. Having lived and studied internationally, decorative arts and interior design became her passion. When Arlene founded Interior Concepts in 1979 she quickly realized that by broadening the design capabilities of her company she and her staff could work in multiple creative paths. The firm has a staff of 80 people divided into design divisions from high-end residential to commercial. The design divisions allow Arlene and her highly talented and tenured senior design group to create and complete work in the most professional manner. Arlene and Interior Concepts have worked in England, Spain, the Middle East, Malaysia, China and the United States.

*Arlene Critzos vit dans un monde de visions créatives. Elle a vécu et étudié dans différents pays, et les arts décoratifs et la décoration intérieure sont sa passion. Lorsque Arlene a fondé Interior Concepts en 1979, elle a vite compris qu'en élargissant les capacités d'invention de la société, elle et son personnel pourraient emprunter de multiples chemins créatifs. La société emploie 80 personnes réparties en divisions, du résidentiel de haut de gamme au commercial. Les divisions consacrées à la décoration permettent à Arlene et à son groupe permanent expérimenté et de grand talent de créer et de réaliser des travaux de la manière la plus professionnelle. Arlene et Interior Concepts ont travaillé en Angleterre, en Espagne, dans le Moyen-Orient, en Malaisie, en Chine et aux États-Unis.*

*Las visiones de diseño han sido una forma de vida para Arlene Critzos. Habiendo vivido y estudiado internacionalmente, las artes decorativas y el diseño de interiores se convirtieron en su pasión. Cuando Arlene fundó Interior Concepts en 1979, se dio cuenta rápidamente de que ampliando las capacidades de diseño de la compañía, tanto ella como su personal podrían trabajar en múltiples áreas de diseño. La compañía tiene un plantel de 80 personas repartidas en divisiones de diseño, desde el área residencial de lujo hasta la comercial. Las divisiones de diseño permiten a Arlene y a su muy talentoso y experimentado grupo de diseño senior crear y terminar obras de una manera extremadamente profesional. Arlene e Interior Concepts han trabajado en Inglaterra, España, Medio Oriente, Malasia, China y los Estados Unidos.*

# Arlene Critzos

M A R Y L A N D





Above & Previous Page: Within a home that is truly European eclectic, the design of massive 12-by-14-foot antique doors from a chateau in France dictated the scale of the room. Massive gothic windows, oversized draperies and the sculpture of David are all in balance of the doors. From contemporary to French to Asian and Italian, the styles are a great mix of inclusive aesthetics. A powerful painting of a monk with child from the Murillo school centers the main living space. The two-story gothic windows join up with a classical European mix of furniture.

Left: A cozy family room vignette comes across as transitional, with clean lines. The linen gauze draperies filter light to the paisley cashmere chairs.

Facing Page Top: The homeowner wanted a very casual, coastal-inspired interior, seen in the conversation and viewing area of a great room on Figure Eight Island. The clean, streamlined look matches the powerful interior architecture. With off-white walls, bone-textured chairs and a coconut-shell cocktail table, the room reflects the natural habitat outside the large windows.

Facing Page Bottom: Chocolate walls meet crisp white trim and lush Italian bedding. The headboard is a twist on a classical motif. The Sumac rug anchors the room.  
Photographs by Gordon Beall





"My style, in general, is gathered, rather than pure. There are more surprises that way."

—Arlene Critzos







"I love having the opportunity to affect people from the moment they walk in their home; it is their haven and they are giving me the privilege to create their environment."

—Arlene Critzos

Top: Leading to an outdoor living area, the cozy sitting area is stimulated by a magnificent wall fresco. The historic reference is from Salzburg's famous Pfardeschwemme, where large panels of magnificent horses adorn the outdoor square—the archbishop's horses were bathed there. The handmade chair and table are made of twigs and stems.

Bottom: The perfect geometry of a clean-lined Italianate loggia comes about in the residence. Each quadrant is perfectly balanced by stone-floor and plaster-ceiling details—a natural stage for an 18th-century French horse art collection, an exquisite console of 18th-century Boulle and sculpture.

Facing Page Top: The 18th-century English Parlor exudes power in color and style. The Georgian mouldings and details throughout dictated the classicism required. The client's love of strong color—yellows, whites, golds and cherry red—along with refined antiques from around the world brought the residence to perfection.

Facing Page Bottom: The twist shows clearly in the rich and diverse room. Eggplant-colored walls work as an envelope to all soft-textured neutrals. A Dutch marquetry headboard juxtaposes with clean-lined lines and chairs. A statement mirror moves the wall and reflects the entire space.

Photographs by Gordon Beall





Who wouldn't want to be an interior designer? The opportunity to work in such a beautiful medium, enhance the lives of fascinating people and travel the world gleaning inspiration at every turn is all too enticing. But few have the innate creativity, attention to detail and sheer patience that it takes to envision, orchestrate and produce original design after original design. It is these interior designers—just upward of 60 of North America's most respected and acclaimed—who are celebrated in *Visions of Design*. Alongside photographs of their best work, the professionals reveal the inspiration behind each design: why they chose certain pieces or finishes, what type of lifestyle their composition responds to, and how they came up with the innovative twists that make their designs special.

The work and philosophies of professionals like Arlene Critzos of Interior Concepts will leave a lasting impression. Arlene—with a team of some 80 professionals—has an interesting concept for design: inclusion. See how she finds pieces not because of their inherent style but rather for aesthetic necessity, and notice from the pictures how right she is. By the sheer largeness of Interior Concepts, the interiors of the world are transforming, thanks in part to enviable firms like Arlene's.

Each of the designers featured in *Visions of Design* has a unique personal aesthetic, yet is well versed in and more than capable of creating interiors in a wide array of styles. The diversity of these professionals' abilities is impressive and oftentimes unexpected. Those accustomed to designing contemporary lofts in the city are just as likely to design rustic dwellings in a classic European style. And many designers in less urban areas, who are accustomed to traditional aesthetics, are commissioned by an international clientele to create sleek spaces. Regardless of where their studios are based, the designers—and their work—transcend region. Toronto's metropolitan spaces, New York's sophisticated living environments, California's coastal chic, the graciousness of the South, the warmth of the Midwest, and the desert region's characteristic mystique are sure to inspire your own interiors—wherever it is you call home.