

Designing Outside
Of The Box
A Q&A
With Amy Smith
Of Lafayette
Custom Interiors

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Amy Smith collaborates with homeowners, business owners, and building professionals to design new spaces and redesign existing spaces. A graduate of Purdue University, she honed her skills for seven years under the direction of Stephanie Stephan of Stephan Design. Then in July 2018, Amy established her design firm, Lafayette Custom Interiors LLC. Amy has collaborated with clients on a wide variety of projects ranging from hospitality design to whole home remodels and everything in between. To give us a glimpse into how this process works for a homeowner, Amy shares a story of a client's interior redesign and how she pushed their thinking outside of the box!

Can you tell us about the client and what they were hoping to achieve in their home?

My client is a very busy family! They were living in a home that already had a great flow to it and was located on a beautiful site but the interiors were in need of an update. The home already had many custom features and my client did not want to lose these unique architectural elements in the remodel. I will



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never forget my client contacting me after our first appointment and asking me to "Please think outside the box on this project." They were open to making big changes and hired me for creative solutions that they might not have thought of on their own. This statement was not only music to my ears, but also encompasses the spirit of this entire project from start to finish. My client was open to all of my ideas, willing to take risks, and trust the design process. These are all components of a successful project.

What was your inspiration for the design?

My client's home was very traditional and featured a lot of stained wood. Their

style has evolved over the years and they have grown to love a modern industrial style. We worked together to incorporate a more contemporary aesthetic while preserving the integrity of the traditional style of the home.

How did you work with the client to make design decisions?

This is a collaborative process that involves multiple meetings and iterations. Our process begins with an appointment in the home that allows us to gather technical information as well as learn about the preferences of those that regularly use the space. Our next appointment involves the presentation of several preliminary design concepts. This is when the



After talking with her clients, they decided on a modern industrial aesthetic for the interior redesign.



As part of the design, Amy Smith helped the client conceal everyday items using built-in shelves next to the vanity.

client provides feedback that will guide me in developing the final plan for their space. I always try to make selections that appeal to my client yet push them out of their comfort zone and encourage them to consider something different. It is important to me that each project is unique to my client and I think that this is evident in my work.

What was your favorite part of the final project?

It is difficult to pick just one space, but there is a bathroom that I really loved designing. This space is used primarily by teenagers and provided an opportunity to get creative in designing storage solutions that provide functionality without the need for a bulky vanity. We were able to conceal built-in shelves next to the vanity that provided easy access to products used regularly but remained out of sight to maintain the open feel of the space.