

# DESIGN + DECOR

THE FLORIDA EDITION

*The Top 25 Designer Issue*

*Obsession*



**ARLYNN MCDANIEL**  
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Knowing about home construction makes Arlynn McDaniel's job as a designer so much easier. As senior lead designer at Freestyle Interiors, Arlynn has 19 years of experience in both interior design and construction. "I catch many things that come up when people are thinking up creative things to do," she says. "I tell them that a fireplace will be too big, the tile won't work because of grout lines, or we can't do that ceiling because of the way the trusses are running." But Arlynn wants to make things work for her clients. "I listen to my clients' needs and wants, and work with them to achieve their dream home. In the end, they need to be happy with their environment, and it is my job to help them get there."

Arlynn's obsession is ceiling details and





how they relate to the room and the style of the house. “I just love ceilings. They play a large role in the overall feeling of the house, and should be considered when making decisions for the rest of the house,” she says. “Ceilings don’t have to be intricate, but they need to be consistent with the rest of the design. It’s a part of the home that tends to get forgotten, but I think the ceiling completes a room—it brings balance, weight and symmetry, and it delineates different seating areas and uses of a room. Wood, wallpaper, metal, crown, paint: there are so many things you can do with a ceiling. Tech has also come along with ceiling details, and we’re able to do some cool stuff that people haven’t really thought about.”

How can ceiling designs be tied in with the rest of the room? “Based on design of house, if we do a plank wood floor, we’ll do wood beams up in the ceiling and stain them the same for color continuity,” says Arlynn. “We can do an accent paint color we’ve done in a niche, and put it on the ceiling. We’ll do a floor tile inlay on the floor, and we’ll duplicate that shape in the ceiling.” Other elements of a room that can be used to draw attention to the ceiling, she notes, include seating, uplights, wallcoverings with vertical stripes, and window treatments. “When I do a ceiling,” she says, “I think about people looking up, and I want it to be fun and creative.”

Arlynn’s special expertise in home construction is especially beneficial in planning ceiling designs. “I possess deep knowledge and understanding of the overall construction process,” she says. “This helps me to better understand how to design interior architectural details. I take a lot of time to make sure all the components work and will actually fit into the space.”