

# Design Central

The Newsletter of the ASID Student Chapter at Houston Community College

## Kitchens—The Design is in the Details

By Mary Calvin, owner of The Cabinet Studio and Leia Miller, The Cabinet Studio

Not many years ago the kitchen was thought of as a purely utilitarian space. The main thrust of the design was the work triangle and the newest interior fittings that made working in the kitchen more convenient.

Today, style and personality are an important part of the design. Homes are designed with open floor plans, which makes the kitchen a central part of the living space. Most families spend the majority of their time in the kitchen. Kitchens need to function first as a place to cook, but also as a place to eat, watch TV, do home work, pay bills and entertain.



A contemporary kitchen design by Mary Calvin (Photo by Mary Calvin)

Every client has specific needs to consider when planning their kitchen. It's up to you as a designer, to determine the feel, the ambiance, the style, and how the client plans to use the room. Having a beautiful, functional kitchen that supports their lifestyle can change their whole experience.

Because kitchens are an integral part of the adjoining space, clients want cabinetry that looks more like furniture and less like kitchen cabinets. Wood has become the number one finish again. It adds warmth and texture to a room, whether it is a light maple or a rich cherry, and clients appreciate that added texture and warmth.

Currently Houston has several design trends working: the soft contemporary style, the modified Arts & Crafts style, and the more ornate, old world style. The details—while very different from one another—are important in all three styles.

The current contemporary style is warm with clean lines that blend simple forms and minimal moldings. A rich, dark cherry or light, warm maple with a square-frame, recessed-panel door is one of the most popular styles. Stainless steel hardware, appliances, and accents are an integral part of this look.

When clients ask for the modified Arts & Crafts style, they are looking for a relaxed, comfortable and very livable kitchen. The square-framed recessed-panel door with either a

warm maple finish or a white painted finish will often fit the request. The moldings have a simple detail. Family treasures are casually displayed to add to the cozy family feel.

The old world style kitchen is for a client who likes some formality or sophistication. The goal is often to have the room look furnished. This is done through the use of ornate door styles, layers of crown molding, turned posts, carved corbels, and furniture toe kicks. A raised panel door with applied molding, finished in a rich, distressed, glazed cherry gives this kitchen the sophis-

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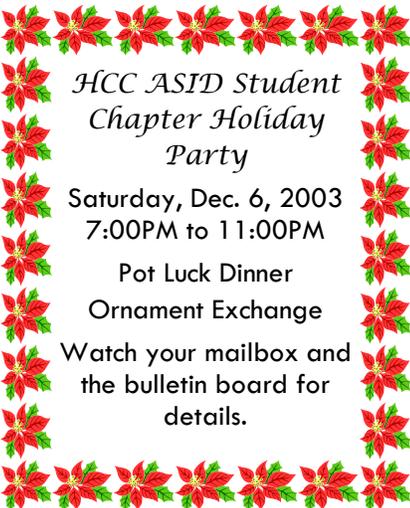


## November Events

**November 11.** ASID Student Chapter meeting. 11:00AM to Noon. SJAC 323. See notice on page 2.

**November 18.** ASID Professional Chapter meeting. "Designing Outdoor Living Environments." 11:30 to 1:00, lunch. \$5.00 for students. Info/RSVP 713.626.2743.

**November 27 – November 30.** Thanksgiving holiday at Houston Community College. All school facilities are closed.



*HCC ASID Student Chapter Holiday Party*

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003  
7:00PM to 11:00PM

Pot Luck Dinner  
Ornament Exchange

Watch your mailbox and the bulletin board for details.



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KAST FABRICS

## From the President...

"Nothing Beats Hearing from the Source" by Bonnie Jackson

As you know, our theme for this year's student ASID meeting series is "Resources: the Nuts & Bolts of Interior Design." And so far this year, we've heard from many wonderful resources.

Our October meeting was held at Lighting Unlimited where we heard from Bernard Woolf and his team of lighting professionals (see page 6).

In Dennis McNabb's Materials, Methods and Estimating class, we have also been on many field trips. This has been a great way to see firsthand just how custom draperies, bedding, furniture, and more are produced, and to hear directly from the resources on how they work with designers and what the designer's role is in their processes.

Many thanks to the folks who have opened their workrooms to us includ-



ing: Carol Addiego at Perfect Quilts, Steve Addiego at G&S Workroom, David Longwood at Design Furniture Mfg., and R.J. "Sam" Simpson, maker and conservator of fine furnishings. And, of course, many thanks to Dennis for arranging these trips.

Also this month, we had the privilege to meet, hear, and visit with renowned interior designer, Thomas Pheasant (see page 5). Following his presentation, Mr. Pheasant took time to meet with the students, answer our questions, and offer advice—a truly rare opportunity. Many thanks to Mr. Pheasant and to Marjorie Darmitzel, showroom manager, and all the folks at Baker Knapp & Tubbs, who hosted the event on our behalf.

I hope you've enjoyed this semester's activities and found them valuable. ✦

## From the Editor...

"Details! Details! Details!" by Donna Marcotte

Putting together this newsletter each month is always an exercise in details, but, this month, I was confronted with the *topic of details* at every turn—in Mary Calvin's article on kitchen design; in Amy Rose's report on Enkeboll Design; and in Thomas Pheasant's presentation on his furniture design. So I guess we should listen when told to pay attention to details—always good advice for interior designers.



We won't be publishing a newsletter in December. That's our customary practice to allow time for final exams, projects, and holidays. We'll be back in January for the Spring 2004 semester and the rest of the wonderful ASID events we have planned. On behalf of the ASID student chapter leaders, happy and safe holidays to you and your families. ✦




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# Kitchen Design

(Continued from Page 1)

ticated ambiance that the client wants.

Today's clients want their kitchen to reflect their personalities. They want a place to cook and entertain that makes them feel comfortable.

### An Overview of Mary's Career

Mary Calvin started her kitchen design career in 1975, in Salem, MA. After her first year, she returned to Houston to continue her work. In 1980, Mary opened The Cabinet Studio Inc. at 9709 Katy Freeway (its current location). She has worked for many clients in the Memorial, River Oaks and West University area over the last 23 years.

During the first 10 years of business, Mary was responsible for all of the general contracting for her firm, which, during those years, did kitchens, baths, and additions. For the last 13 years she has specialized



At the Cabinet Studio, Mary Calvin also designs home offices. (Photo by Mary Calvin)

in kitchen and bath design and installation.

For Mary, one of the most rewarding parts of being in business for so long is the opportunity to work for clients on their second and third projects with her. She has recently added entertainment centers and home offices to her showroom, which expands the opportunity for repeat business.

Mary is designing a new showroom that will open in January 2004. Cabinet Innovations will be located in suite 219 at The Decorative Center and will display a large selection of Wood-mode cabinets and Brook Haven cabinets, a less expensive custom line, and a great line of bath furniture. Please come by and see the fabulous new showroom. †

*Many thanks to Mary Calvin for contributing this article and to Leia Miller, her assistant, for writing Mary's career overview.*



Arts & Crafts style kitchen by Mary Calvin (Photo by Mary Calvin)

## Rose's Resource Report: Enkeboll Designs

"Adding Details of Distinction" by Amy Rose



Have you ever wondered, while admiring elaborate structural woodcarvings, how you could incorporate them in your current design project without flying in a European master craftsman? No need to search the globe; we have a great resource right here in the USA—Enkeboll Designs, where you will find an extraordinary selection of highly crafted architectural woodcarvings including arches, moldings, rosettes, mantels, panels and onlays.

Why use pre-fabricated particle board or PVC columns when you can specify a carved wood fluted column with a Corinthian capital, or a decorative oak corbel? These architectural elements can add extraordinary detail and distinction to existing structures. Kitchen and bathroom cabinets can be made to resemble traditional hand-crafted furniture. Onlays, decorative features used on flat panels and doors, can add punch in an otherwise lackluster room. Using Enkeboll products, you can achieve a truly custom design for your client's



project, at a fraction of the time and cost of custom hand-crafted design. And the results will be unlike anything your clients might see in a "do-it-yourself" design center.

Raymond Enkeboll, the founder of the company, has earned a national reputation for the quality and style of Enkeboll's merchandise. The company is headquartered in Carson, California with over 500 products available for your design needs. The range of carving designs can be specified in your choice of various woods such as hard maple, red oak and cherry.

Enkeboll's wide variety of architectural woodcarvings are available in a 2020 electronic catalog format to drop the precise measured product into your computerized design rendering. A full color catalog with specifications is available for a small fee if you call Enkeboll directly. Their website is quite informative but not as detailed as the catalog.

The German-born architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe is attributed with saying, "God is in the details." Remember, decorative moldings and architectural elements can be the finishing touch for your next design project. It's the details that can set your design apart from the competition.

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All information in this article is from [www.enkeboll.com](http://www.enkeboll.com).

Photos on this page are used with permission from Enkeboll Designs.

Special thanks to Richard Enriquez from Enkeboll Designs for his help in providing information to prepare this article. †



The first faces you saw: April Harkin (L) and Amy Rose (R) checked in guests at the entrance to the Baker Showroom. Kitty Cobb (standing) was the photographer for the evening (except for this photo).



Bonnie Jackson (HCC ASID Chapter President), Dennis McNabb (HCC Student Advisor) and Barry Streets (Chair of Committees HCC ASID)—all key in making this event happen.



After his presentation, Mr. Pheasant stayed and talked with students, answering questions and offering career advice.

Renowned interior designer Thomas Pheasant spoke at the Baker Knapp & Tubbs showroom about his design philosophy and the line of furniture he designed for Baker. Proceeds from the event will benefit the scholarship fund for the ASID student chapter at Houston Community College.



Thomas Pheasant and Marjorie Darmitzel, Baker showroom manager, pause for a photo.



Volunteers from the HCC ASID student chapter pose with honored guest, Thomas Pheasant. (L to R) Veronica Sudol, Kitty Cobb, Brenda Kerr, Bonnie Jackson, Donna Marcotte, Thomas Pheasant, Misty Shedd, Lisa Nixon Sparks (rear), and Vicki Lynn Sam.

## The Thomas Pheasant Affair was a Splendid Evening

By Donna Marcotte

On Thursday, October 23, 2003, more than 80 people gathered at the Baker Knapp & Tubbs showroom in the Decorative Center Houston to hear renowned interior designer Thomas Pheasant speak about his interior design philosophy and about the line of furniture that he has designed for Baker.

Prior to Mr. Pheasant's presentation, guests gathered in the Baker showroom for wine and hors d'oeuvres and to view many pieces from the "Thomas Pheasant for Baker" furniture collection. Guests also had a chance to meet and talk with our guest of honor.

Mr. Pheasant—a fourth-generation Washingtonian and interior designer known for his mastery of the monochromatic palette and simple, uncluttered designs—may have easily been mistaken for a banker, in his classic charcoal grey suit and crisp white shirt. However, once he began speaking, his passion for design was evident.

While passionate about his topic, he was also quite easygoing and entertaining, with a self-deprecating sense of humor. Mr. Pheasant, who has appeared in *Architectural Digest* many times, is well known for his use of a neutral color palette. He joked that friends and colleagues tease that his color schemes range from "white to beige" and, for many projects, his design strategy consists of painting the walls white, adding some white furniture and fabric, and getting published in *AD*.

Mr. Pheasant began his presentation by showing photos from some of his *Architectural Digest* layouts and giving an overview of his design philosophy. Some important aspects of his philosophy include: the strong use of form and shape giving his pieces a sculptural quality; preference for a pale, neutral color palette offset with rich,



dark woods creating a contrast that lets you appreciate the forms; and the importance of order and symmetry. He explained that when rooms are ordered and symmetrical, it makes the inhabitants feel relaxed and calm, even if they are not consciously aware of the design elements.

Mr. Pheasant then treated us with "before and after" photos from some of his personal design projects, including some from his own apartment in Paris. I think these before and after views provided an even greater appreciation for the impact of his design.

While he has been designing custom furniture pieces for his clients for many years, Mr. Pheasant told us about how he came to design a line of furniture for Baker, and a bit about the process. He



explained that, when faced with designing furniture without a specific space in mind, he eventually had to design an entire house. With a space in mind, he began creating individual furniture pieces and focused on creating pieces that could be used for multiple purposes in different rooms, for example, a dining table that might also be used in an entrance hall. He also said, since designing the line, he has experimented with different details—such as embroidery and hardware—to add further distinction to the pieces. As an outgrowth of the furniture line, he has also created fabric, lighting, bedding, and accessories. While these were not initially requested by Baker, it seems once Mr. Pheasant's creative energy started flowing, there was no stopping it.

Mr. Pheasant closed his presentation with an opportunity to ask questions. At the end of the formal presentation, he remained for almost an hour, speaking with the students, answering our questions, and offering advice. He urged us to travel as much as possible to experience and appreciate other cultures.

The ASID Student Chapter at HCC would like to thank Mr. Pheasant for sharing his time and knowledge with us, and for allowing us to use this event as fundraiser for our interior design scholarship fund.

We would also like to thank Marjorie Darmitzel, Houston showroom manager for Baker Knapp & Tubbs, and her entire team, for hosting the event on our behalf.

And many thanks to our ASID Student Advisor, Dennis McNabb, for making this event possible. †

*Background information on Thomas Pheasant is from the Baker page on [www.kholerinteriors.com](http://www.kholerinteriors.com).*

*Photos on this page are used with permission from Baker Knapp & Tubbs.*

# Thomas, “After the Show”

By Donna Marcotte

Oprah Winfrey keeps her cameras rolling after her “official” show ends and uses that footage to create her “Oprah After the Show” show. We had a bit of that happening ourselves, when, after Thomas Pheasant finished his official presentation, he stayed and spoke with us at length, answering questions and offering advice.

I was fortunate enough to be there to listen. As I was summarizing some of what he said for several of you who could not stay, I decided this was definitely another worthwhile column for this edition of *Design Central*.

So I am recapping some of Mr. Pheasant’s words of wisdom. Please keep in mind, this is my summary of what I understood him to say. But I was listening very closely (actually, I was hanging on every word) and believe I’ve correctly captured the

essence.

**Remember the client.** Mr. Pheasant explained, as designers (and people) we have our own styles, but we must always remember the needs and desires of our clients. Even someone like Mr. Pheasant, who is sought out by clients for his distinctive style and reputation, must consider his clients and meet their needs.

**When looking for work, be prepared.** Mr. Pheasant spoke of a young woman who he hired at his firm. He explained that as a recent college graduate, she had some industry experience but not an extraordinary resume. However, she wrote an excellent cover letter—good enough for him to call and speak with her. That phone conversation impressed him enough to invite her to Washington for an interview, and he has since hired her.

In speaking of her and this experience he used the word “prepared” several times. He explained she had done her research; she knew about him, his firm, and his design philosophy.

The night prior to our Houston event, Mr. Pheasant was speaking at another Baker event in Dallas. His employee that he spoke of was in New York City, representing Mr. Pheasant at the opening night of a show house. She was speaking to visitors about a room Mr. Pheasant had designed and she had helped him install. I’d say she is prepared!

**Travel, and experience other cultures.** He said this in his main presentation and reiterated it at the “after show.”

There was a lot more—more than I can print here. Catch me in the halls; I’d be happy to tell you about it. †

# Giving Thanks for Helpful Folks

By Donna Marcotte



John O’Dell and Misty Shedd

In addition to our HCC ASID student chapter volunteers who helped out at the Thomas Pheasant event, we had help from a couple of other guys.

Chapter secretary Veronica Sudol’s husband, Taylor, accompanied his lovely wife to the event, and we kept him busy directing traffic, carrying a variety of things, serving wine, and cleaning up.

John O’Dell, chapter vice president Misty Shedd’s “significant other,” has been to so many ASID events, we are considering making him an honorary member—even if he is not in the interior design field.

Many thanks to Taylor and John and to all the ASID chapter members who volunteered to help out at this event. †



Taylor and Veronica Sudol

## October Meeting at Lighting Unlimited was Brilliant

“Off-campus ASID Chapter Meeting was a Festive and Informative Occasion” by Donna Marcotte

In October, our student ASID chapter members had the privilege and pleasure to be the guests of Mr. Bernard Woolf, owner of Lighting Unlimited, and have our monthly chapter meeting at his showroom, located at 4025 Richmond Avenue, here in Houston.

Mr. Woolf, along with his wife Geraldine and son Justin (who are principles in the business) and his team of incredible lighting professionals, dazzled us with a delightful lighting “meal.”

To accommodate our group, the evening was divided into 5 lighting topics each represented by the course of a meal. We divided into small groups and each group spent 15 minutes on a course/topic, then rotated onto the next.

Our menu began with “Starters,” which included a warm welcome from Bernard and his team, and an overview of the evening’s events. Next, it was on to “Appetizers” which featured Kent Beardsley and Shane Ransom talking about light emitting diodes (LED) and fiber optic lighting systems. Then it was the “Pasta” course of residential lighting, presented by showroom manager, Darlene Fautt. Our “Entrée” consisted of a discussion on monorail, cable and low-voltage lighting systems presented by Justin Woolf, followed by a “Dessert” of basic recessed lighting planning given by our host, Bernard Woolf. We finished off the evening with a “Coffee & Cake” introduction to dimming systems provided by senior lighting designer, Gerry Bullock.

In addition to our glorious meal, we were sent home with “goody-bags” of brochures and information about lighting.

Many thanks to Jose Velez, who helped arrange the meeting, and to Bernard, Geraldine and the wonderful team at Lighting Unlimited! ✦



Lighting Unlimited showroom manager Darlene Fautt shows ASID members some beautiful crystal chandeliers.



Lighting Unlimited owner Bernard Woolf explains the basic options and planning considerations for recessed lighting to HCC ASID members.

## Two ASID Members to be Inducted Into Honor Society

"Kudos to Vicki Lynn Sam and Veronica Sudol" by Donna Marcotte

Vicki Lynn Sam and Veronica Sudol, both students in the Interior Design program at HCC, will be inducted into the Omega Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society on No-



**Vicki Lynn Sam**

ember 7, 2003, 6:30 p.m., at the HCCS-West Loop campus. Faculty and students are invited to the induction ceremony.

The Omega Sigma Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) is the honor society for two-year colleges. To become a member, a student must have a 3.5 or higher GPA. PTK members are eligible to apply for \$35 million in transfer scholarships offered by 600 senior colleges and universities. PTK's mission statement says: "The purpose of Phi Theta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarships among associate degree students. To advance this purpose, Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunity for the development of leadership and service, for an intellectual climate to exchange ideas and ideals, for lively fellowship for



**Veronica Sudol**

scholars, and for stimulation of interest in continuing academic excellence."

Other PTK members from the Interior Design program include Bonnie Jackson and Amy Rose. Congrats to all of our scholars! †



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## In the Spotlight: Marsha Brown

By Claudia Sundin



For the more mature readers of this column, hmm...let's say over 30 years old, have you ever wondered if it's too late to make a career change and follow your dreams? Perhaps you felt you were too old, spent too much time investing in that "other" career, or just didn't have the confidence to do it?

Well, Marsha Brown made such a change. Although interested in interior design since the ripe old age of 10, her parents discouraged her because "there is no money in that field." (Gosh, I hope everyone is wrong about that!) Originally from Fort Smith, Arkansas, Marsha moved to Houston in 1986.

After spending "several" years in the bookkeeping and accounting fields and working with her brothers in a construction business, Marsha pursued what she had always dreamed of—a career in interior design. She did a lot of research into schools offering interior design programs, then chose HCC because of its FIDER accreditation and, of course, its outstanding reputation.

Marsha graduated from the HCC Interior Design program in 1999, and this go-getter hasn't wasted any time since. After graduation, Marsha worked in the Decorative Center for Lee Jofa and Edward Fields. She credits her growing knowledge of color from these jobs as well as getting invaluable experience in the service side of the design field.

She began working at Expo Design Center as a kitchen and bath designer, and earlier this year, she was promoted to a project superintendent, which involves being a liaison between contractors, interior designers, and customers. And—as most of you know—since spring 2001, Marsha has also taught part-time in the Interior Design program here at HCC. This semester she's teaching one course in the evening.

But life isn't all work and no play for Marsha. She is quite the jock in her free time. Her hobbies include baseball, basketball, kayaking on Lake Houston, and camping.

Her advice to interior design students? "Network. Be involved with as many people in the field as possible, including architects, contractors, other designers and ASID. You receive education from these resources that is an ongoing learning experience. And when you're ready, go on as many interviews as possible. Know what's out there and what people are looking for."

Well, right now, I'm still practicing my drawing. This is Claudia Sundin, first year "mature" student reporting! ✦





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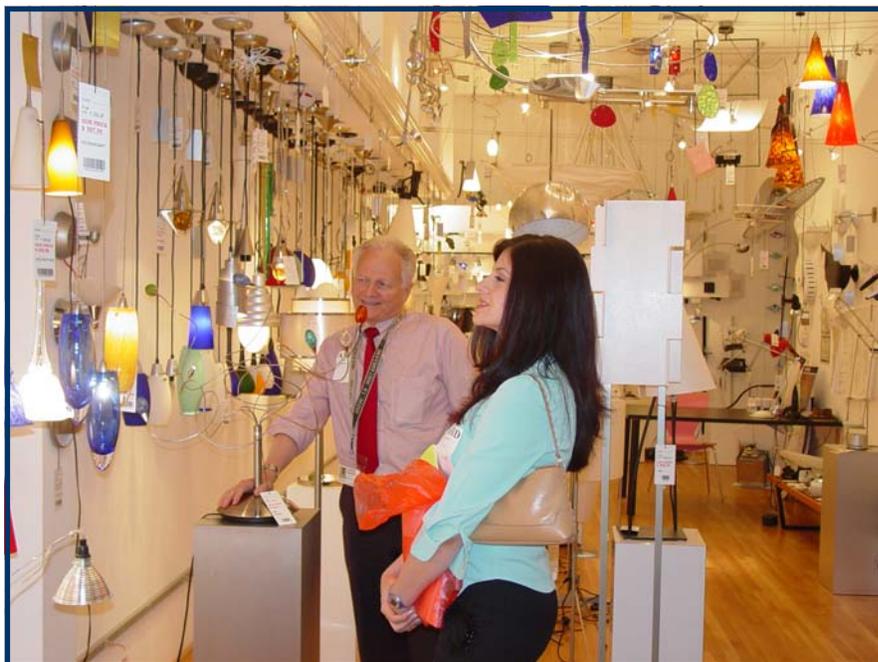
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## HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

Houston Community College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age or disability.

No meeting or newsletter in December. Look for us again in January 2004. Happy and safe holidays to all!



Lighting Unlimited owner Bernard Woolf shows HCC ASID student chapter member Juanita Nunez a sampling of the extraordinary lighting available in his showroom. Mr. Woolf and his team hosted our October ASID chapter meeting. See story on page 9.