

For the last 24 years, Julie Mays has owned Julie Mays Interiors, designing residential and commercial spaces. She loves doing medical spaces, doctors' offices, surgery centers and hospitals. For her residential work, Julie does all different price ranges. Lately she has done a lot of bathrooms, kitchens, remodels, but really loves new construction. Julie is really passionate and selects each detail herself. One year ago she opened Trenton Interiors & Co. alongside Britt Choate and David Hedgepeth. Julie and David design, while Britt provides and installs granite, stone, tile, wood floors, etc.

JULIE MAYS

INTERIOR DESIGNER

interview by Meredith McKinnie
photography by Martin G Meyers

WHAT IS A SIMPLE WAY TO TRANSFORM YOUR HOME FOR FALL?

Lighten wall colors in a neutral palette. Put your color in things that can be changed easily like art, pillows, throws, rugs. Declutter cabinets. I take everything off the top of kitchen cabinets. You know how you feel after Christmas when you take your tree down, and it's heaven? That's how it feels to declutter. Then slowly reintroduce.

WHAT DESIGN ITEM CAN YOU NOT LIVE WITHOUT?

My favorite thing in my house is the lighting, chandeliers and lamps. Really, what it does is it brightens everything, and I put all of my lighting on dimmers, so I can adjust it exactly how I want it.

WHAT ARE YOUR GREATEST SOURCES OF DESIGN INSPIRATION?

Instagram. Now I love fashion, and I like doing design off of clothing shows, watching the catwalk. I love getting design ideas out of movies. I don't watch the movie; I look at set design.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE INTERIOR DESIGN-RELATED WORD?

Proportion.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE MATERIALS OR TEXTURES?

I love cut velvets, love linen, natural textures, the way pattern is contrast.

ANY DESIGN BLOG, WEBSITE, TV SHOW OR MAGAZINE YOU WOULD BE LOST WITHOUT?

It's Copy Cat Chic, a blog. They take a picture off of a designer, and then they find similar items at half the price.

WHAT ARE THE QUALITIES YOU MOST ADMIRE IN A ROOM?

The scale, the natural light from the windows or from the space is important. I love beams, architecture. I don't want to have so much busyness you don't recognize those things.

WHAT IS THE DESIGN RULE YOU LIKE TO BREAK?

I have my own design rules, and I don't break them.

