

Interior Spaces

The Fine
Art of Design

by Teresa Beck

For a homeowner, steering the way through new home construction and interior design can be like trying to conduct a symphony—with no experience! The details of contract management are vast, from concept and design and grounds location, through masonry, framing, plumbing, wiring, sound systems, pool construction and landscaping, and finally, to furnishing.



A project's success directly correlates to the quality of communication between the client, the architect, the interior designer, and the

contractors. When choosing an architect or designer, ask to see drawings and visit existing homes so that you can visualize yourself in one of the firm's designs.

Thomas Everett Lamb Design and Development offers an integral approach to home construction and remodeling. With degrees in architecture, interior design, and urban planning, Lamb designs new structures or renovations and sees them through to completion in an intimate collaboration with the homeowner. "It's a hand-holding process," says Lamb. From the first discussion, through the various phases of development, to the final placement of accessories, it's important to create a home that is not only visually unified, but reflects the lifestyle and personality of the client.

While a dedication to beauty and harmony is foremost, Lamb does not dictate every detail. "If the owner puts his child's drawing on the refrigerator door, it's not out of place in one of my interiors," he says. He helps clients develop themselves aesthetically by employing their tastes and building upon their collections and choices. It's important that the designer recognizes all the details while, at

the same time, offering visual breathing room for the idiosyncracies of each resident.

Lamb's range of expertise covers traditional styles such as Colonial or Georgian, as well as contemporary, Art Deco, and the Tampa Bay favorite, Mediterranean. He translates classical concepts into contemporary structures, with axes and symmetry unifying and harmonizing the work. A Tampa native, Lamb earned B.A.'s in architecture and art history at the University of Notre Dame, with a year spent studying in Rome. His M.A. in urban planning at City College of New York comes with the distinction of studying in an invitation-only program with Jonathan Barnett, the world's leading urban planner. After several years as a project planner for a large Manhattan developer, Lamb moved to Tampa in 1990 to open his current business.

Whether the residence will be your family estate or just one of a series of domiciles, if resale is a consideration, Lamb advises to make sure the end result is market-friendly, regardless of your budget. If a client has to limit the budget, Lamb will make sure that design quality rules over size of construction, keeping the design stylistically and proportionately correct in reference to classical training.

When the project draws to a close, you should be comfortable in living with your guided choices. "When the home is finished, it's not a showroom," stresses Lamb. With client choices nonetheless, Lamb's strong influence is visible. He likes to view the home as a living, breathing, responsive work of art.



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