



# Janet Brooks

Janet Brooks Design

**LEFT**  
Curves are the theme of this beautiful desert home, from the architectural shapes, to the front door design, to the shapes in the custom Edward Fields area rugs. Floors throughout the home are 24"x24" Napolina Limestone.

**RIGHT**  
Powder rooms should be exciting! This powder room shows imagination, pizzazz and classy contemporary style with vertical grain cherry wood, fossil and handpainted wall graphics.



**I**t's all in the details," says Janet Brooks, who wrote a significant biographical detail in 1987 by moving to Scottsdale from Durango, Colorado.

Today, she and the staff at Janet Brooks Design offer interior designs that affirm the company's continuing attention to the small stuff: "Our talented designers and associates all have creative visions and expert knowledge of materials and their applications, but there is no substitute for detail." She adds: "We are responsible for delivering an incredible amount of accurate information in a timely manner or the project will fall behind schedule or be built wrong!"

"Quite often clients say they know they need our services, but their first question is, 'What, exactly, do designers do?'" She answers: "We explain that the full scope of our services includes designing and

specifying materials for every surface that can be seen or touched in their homes." When the challenge of making so many important decisions is separated into categories and put on a time line, it becomes more manageable. "All of us make it a point to get into our clients' heads and see the project from their point of view, so we are able to give professional advice but keep the design authentically theirs," Janet explains.

As a result, clients continue to return to Janet Brooks Design, trusting the firm to create exactly what they want, whatever style they've chosen. "Each project has given our clients real joy and resonates with their interests at that particular time in their lives," she says, "and the successful completion of each new commission gives all of us, in turn, great joy."



Just as importantly, multiple ASID awards haven't stopped the firm from learning: "There is never a day that we don't learn something new. We learn from the architects on each project, from the various tradesmen on the jobsites, from clients, who come from so many different professions and backgrounds, and from the myriad design resources we use constantly for research."

The result: fresh, colorful, inviting designs, unlike any other design for that, or any other, client. "Comfort and appropriateness to clients' sensibilities underlie all aspects of our practice," Janet says. Relatedly, the firm avoids design clichés and especially unauthentic knock offs of any style or material. "The home ends up looking like a caricature," she explains. "When

someone tries to make a home look 'important,' it usually does not blend with its environment and calls attention to itself in a most unflattering way."

The motto for the firm: "Keep it real!" An example: A few years ago, Janet and her husband celebrated the New Year in a tiny cabin in Sedona abutting Oak Creek: "The home was very simply furnished and basic in its amenities, but it offered phenomenal views and the sounds of the rushing water.

The architectural style blended with the forest, so whether we were inside enjoying the crackling fire in the old stone fireplace or outside on the deck in the snow, the structure was in perfect balance with its surroundings. It wasn't a Five Star resort; it was small and unassuming. But it reminded me that beauty, in its many forms, is always appropriate."



**ABOVE**  
This ultimate gourmet entertaining kitchen features the latest appliances, plenty of counter space, storage that never ends, and a window wall that opens up to a patio with unbelievable views of the Superstition Mountains.

**LEFT**  
This romantic, elegant bedroom provides comfort, a beautiful view and a lighted niche to display a collection of carved wooden Navaho women by artist Luis Fairfield.

## More about Janet...

### ANY SCHOOLING, ACCREDITATION OR ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS?

I am a Professional member of ASID which works to promote education and professionalism in the interior design industry. In order to become a professional member, a designer must satisfy the eligibility requirements of the National Council for Interior Design Qualification by successfully passing a two day exam.

### WHAT IS THE MOST UNUSUAL/EXPENSIVE/DIFFICULT DESIGN OR TECHNIQUE YOU'VE USED IN ONE OF YOUR PROJECTS?"

I did an unusual treatment in an ASID Designer Showhouse dining room. My design scheme was very formal and luxurious, but I used corrugated tin on the ceiling, which I found on a horse shed in Paradise Valley that was being torn down. We cleaned it up, used some acid on it to give it an interesting patina, and it made a wonderful and surprisingly elegant ceiling!

### WHAT IS A SINGLE THING YOU WOULD DO TO BRING A DULL HOUSE TO LIFE?

I would adjust the light, to bring out the best of the room. It's amazing how dull even a well designed space can look when the lighting is not working to bring it to life! I would start by adding or subtracting window treatments to achieve the best possible levels of natural light coming in from the outdoors. Then, I would use multiple levels of high and low voltage lighting, along with fiber optics, to add emotion, depth, surprise and drama. Lighting is everything.

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