

DESIGNER

INTERIOR

OWNBY DESIGN

It's no secret to her clients, co-workers or fellow professionals that Claire Ownby thrives in a collaborative atmosphere. Whether exchanging ideas early in a project with architects and builders, or inviting input from clients, the founder of Ownby Design has earned a reputation as the ultimate team player. Then again, what team wouldn't benefit from the innovative mind of this award-winning creator of clean, intimate and sophisticated spaces? Since launching her firm in 1998, Ownby has specialized in turning the ordinary into singular design statements. "The number one factor in the design process is the client's lifestyle needs and style preferences," says the graduate of Arizona State University, whose team handles residential projects in Arizona and Hawaii. "Once this is determined, I allow the architecture and natural surrounds to guide the creative process." Her keen eye and sense of detail has been honed and enhanced through her many travels, during which Ownby continues to find inspiration in the way other cultures embrace their environments. That appreciation extends to the use of organic materials and a shared sense of eco-responsibility, a thread that runs throughout projects by Ownby Design. Such passion has been recognized time and again by the American Society of Interior Designers, including a first-place award for Design Excellence in 2009 and Designer of the Year honors in 2007.



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"From inspiration comes creative design and when professionally executed function and luxury become one."



What are your favorite types of styles to work on and why?

Overall my work tends to be transitional in style. However, I work on projects that vary from modern to Mediterranean. The one common factor is the simplicity in the end result.

How do you think your clients would characterize you?

Pragmatic and diverse, yet extremely creative. Since I am usually the project lead, I'm able to wear different hats through the process while working with the team.

What are you working on next?

I am starting a seventh phase for a client that I've been working with for five years. We started with a bathroom and have worked our way through three of their homes.

FEATURES: Ownby Design was hired to furnish this Spanish Mediterranean home in Whisper Rock. We used warm colors with clean lined furniture pieces to balance the highly detailed architectural elements that were already there.



FEATURES: This modern oceanfront estate in Maui won Kitchen of the Year in 2007. The natural materials balance the sleek modern lines of the design. This kitchen reflects how small simple details can have a dramatic impact.



FEATURES: This remodeled master bath was influenced by the home's modern architecture and the client's desire for a calming space. The open floor plan allows natural light to fill the space while providing an intimate bathing area.



FEATURES: This desert mountain home was a modern approach to Spanish architecture. The neutral palette offered a backdrop for the client's collection of both old Spanish art and modern canvas pieces.



FEATURES: The Old World charm of this Estancia mountainside home was not what caught the eye of its owners; it was the view. We downplayed the more formal architecture with detailed modern furnishings which presented a more contemporary feel to the home.