

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | ST. LOUIS

## DESIGN IS THERAPY

Chelsea Elisabeth Smith helps clients discover their own timeless aesthetic.

There was never a doubt that Chelsea Elisabeth Smith of Chelsea Design Company would become an interior designer. "I was raised by an artistic mother from New Orleans. We moved around a lot, so it was always my job to make our house feel like a home," Chelsea explains. "I began childish renditions of floor plans at the age of five and learned to adapt to my new environments." She turned her enthusiasm and imagination into a friendship-driven design career built on transparency and creativity.

"Open, honest communication is essential. You can't have a successful project without a foundation of trust between the designer and client," Chelsea says. "Whether the client is enthused about the design or anxious about the cost, they can come to me with their concerns because they know the project is just as important to me as it is to them."

When tasked with a new project, Chelsea strives to take in every detail about her clients and their environment. Absorbing this information is critical for her, particularly with historical home preservations. Appreciative of all design styles, Chelsea avoids imposing her own aesthetic on her clients. Instead, she works to weave their personal style with the home's age and history to create a harmonious design that is not only nurturing and timeless, but authentic to the client.

When restoring a 1907 home in St. Louis' historic Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood, Chelsea incorporated the homeowners' love of nature, cooking, and gardening into every detail of the kitchen renovation. While remaining historically truthful, she crafted an area that spoke to the husband's love of tea and conversation along with the wife's passion for cooking from her garden. What was once a cluttered room has become a functional, nature-inspired sanctuary.

"I believe that design is therapy," Chelsea says. "Thoughtful, reflective design makes life better."

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** The kitchen of this 1907 home that Chelsea modernized maintains its historic architecture while incorporating the new homeowners' nature-centered passions in the timeless color palette and materials. Chelsea Elisabeth Smith in her design studio. Insect wallpaper in the stairwell brings to mind antique scientific drawing charts and the clients' love for the outdoors.



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