



INTERIOR DESIGN

Super Natural

Mary Ann Smiley maintains her position in the forefront of Dallas design.

Mary Anne Smiley has always loved design. She devised and drew house plans in fourth grade, but in the 1960s, the dean of the architecture school at Oklahoma State University advised her that “women do not enroll in architecture.” So Smiley walked across the street to the school of Interior Design and Fine Arts and has never looked back.

LEADER OF THE PACK. For more than 40 years Smiley has been a modernist. She is known for her use of rich fabrics, statement lighting, contemporary art, and use of antique furniture as accents. And she always tops off a room with a punch of pure color. She is regularly featured in D Home, Luxe, and Design Guide. She has been selected as a D Home Best Designer for 11 consecutive years. She has also received multiple Design Ovation and Legacy of Design awards from ASID and was recently honored as one of the Fab FIVE women designers in Dallas by Roche Bobois.

WHAT IF? It's Smiley's mantra. A small glass panel with a photographic image caught her eye at a showroom, and the next thing you know, Smiley “confabbed” a single large photograph into a steel countertop. She fashioned an industrial chrome strip, normally used as tile trim, into transition pieces between a wood floor and tile or carpet. These days Smiley is intrigued with ideas for repurposing those leftover cardboard rolls at the upholsterer. Stay tuned.