



Interior design projects can often feel intimidating and confusing for homeowners. Everyone wants to love their home, but they may not have the imagination to know what they want. And love can quickly turn to hate if the house is not working for them. Jeanne Collins, the founder and principal designer of JerMar Designs in New Canaan, CT, takes the mystery out of design with a professional approach that is grounded in her experience in corporate business. Her personal understanding of the lifestyle challenges of her clientele makes her unique in the design world. Jeanne's concierge design services, combined with her business and creative strengths, make the design process joyful, organized and on budget.

A recent project of Jeanne's was to design an office for a young family in Greenwich, CT. JerMar Designs was tasked with taking a boring, all-white spec home office and transforming it into a space that reflected the style of the homeowners, while also supporting the needs of two distinct businesses. The Greenwich homeowners wanted to feel connected to their office, yet the challenge was how to integrate form and function that would appeal to them both. As first-time homeowners, the couple needed all new furnishings, which offered JerMar Designs the exciting possibility of a blank slate. "This was a rewarding design project," Jeanne recalls, "as the clients wanted spaces that felt like them, yet challenged their design sense, which they understood would result in a home





that felt like it was not only theirs, but unique.”

The husband works in finance, and he is often managing multiple screens while on Zoom calls with clients who have high standards. Likewise, the wife, who works with a private middle school, required a background that would reflect her personality and professionalism while on Zoom calls with parents and educators. Designing an office used by both husband and wife required a delicate balance between femininity and masculinity. Just as in a romance or relationship, it is the balance that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

Great design is all about balance and curation. For this couple, Jeanne played up a black and white palette to acknowledge the dichotomy, and then layered in rounded decor and subtle pops of red. Jeanne’s custom-designed desk is a great example of the mix between masculinity and femininity. The deep black piece with a thick top is softened by rounded corners. A curated mix of feminine and masculine accessories brings harmony to the bookshelves. Semigloss black wainscoting stands in contrast to a grass-cloth wallcovering with elegant metallic accents, thus continuing the sophisticated balance of strong and soft, delicate and bold. “I love how fresh cut flowers breathe life into a room,” says Jeanne. “Soft materials such as throw blankets and sumptuous pillows simply look and feel good. A beautifully designed room makes you feel at rest and inspired. What is more romantic than that?”