

Nina Magon.
Photo by Michael Martinez
Photography.



CONTOUR INTERIOR DESIGN

The Epitome of True, Creative Style

If you could see through the eyes of Nina Magon, you would have a front-row seat to a view of a world that showed life not just as it is, but as it could be. And what it can be is contemporary and slightly charming, pristine and distinctly diverse, said Magon, owner and creative director behind Contour Interior Design – one of the nation's top interior design firms.

absolutely!
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COVER STORY
By M.G. Angulo

Known for her distinctive ability to design high-end residences and commercial and hospitality spaces, Magon is credited with giving rise to a more diversified design in Texas, as well as putting Houston on the map in regards to interior design.

"Design in Texas has been generalized as traditional design with brick houses and shingle or clay tile roofing. We believe that we have increased awareness in Texas for a broader scope of what interior design means and can mean," Magon said of her design firm, which has two locations: one in Houston and the other in Miami, Florida.

"I love modern and contemporary design with a touch of glamour for softness and depth. I absolutely love modernizing original architecture," she said. "Be it an English Tudor house or French architecture, I adore mixing styles of furniture and eras and modernizing them to how we would live and experience them today. This creates impeccable and eclectic design."

Starting Contour Interior Design

To hear her tell it, her "entrepreneurial spirit" led Magon to create Contour Interior Design nine years ago in her desire to begin building something of her own.

"I like being in control, and I wanted to show my skills and what I could bring to the design world without being guided by someone else's views," said Magon. "So when I finally came to the realization that I undoubtedly wanted to become an interior designer, I began to read and learn about the 'gurus' of interior design and recognized that to follow the path of my design mentors, I would need to start my own firm."

Contour Interior Design opened in 2007 in Houston and in Miami in 2014. Together, both locations feature a 10 person staff, including Magon, and each team member "excels in a specialty whether it be in details, construction documents, procurements or even creativity," Magon said.



The new 8,500 square-foot restaurant 51fifteen includes a variety of custom pieces all designed by Contour Interior Design.
Photo by Julie Saefer Photography.

"We take on clients who are interested in out-of-the-box design, unique living, European-inspired design and who are forward thinkers willing to take on a creative leap of faith with us." — Nina Magon

"My team is extremely talented, and each individual has been hand selected by me," she added. "I hire people who excel in areas that I do not, so that my team will be stronger and creative excelling in a high level of aptitude."

Taking into account the job scope and size, Contour Interior Design handles an average of 30 clients per year. Magon pointed out, "We take on clients who are interested in out-of-the-box design, unique living, European-inspired design and who are forward thinkers willing to take on a creative leap of faith with us. Our general client market is anyone who is looking for high-end residential, commercial or hospitality design."

The Calling of Interior Design

A native of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Magon moved to Houston when she was 14 years old. She describes herself as growing up in "a Real Estate family," so it is not a far-fetched premonition that she would find a career in designing quite fulfilling.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science in economics and finance from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Magon opened her own store in the Houston Galleria. It was while she was working in retail in her early 20s that Magon felt her attention was drawn more towards the design of her store, rather than the actual merchandise in it.

"At that point, I shut my store down and decided to be in a creative field that combined Real Estate with fashion, which was interior design."

Her first take at interior design actually came in a speculation job opportunity before Magon even began interior design school. In what she described as a "custom build from start to finish," the spec house drew in accolades for the upcoming designer.

"I was praised highly for my taste level and for the design of that house, which propelled me to want to learn more. And so, I began taking post graduate studies in architecture and design from The Art Institute of Houston."

Nate Berkus, the producer of NBC's *American Dream Builders*, a 2013 competition show that featured Magon — who ended up being the second runner up on the show — said Magon "is a design force to be reckoned with."

And just this year, Magon was chosen for Design on a Dime Miami, an event hosted by Housing Works and *Elle*



Contour Interior Design implemented brass shelving, backlit panels and blossom lighting inside 51fifteen's bar for a contemporary look. Photo by Julie Soefer Photography.

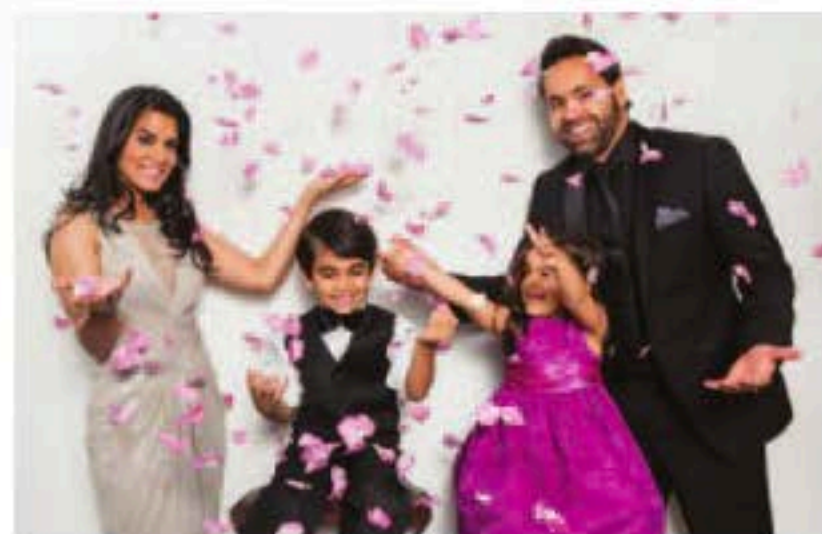
Décor Magazine. The who's who of the nation's best designers are chosen to design vignettes with donated vendor furnishings and then sell everything to a VIP crowd and the general public, with 50 to 70 percent of all earnings going toward ending AIDS in the United States. "Being a designer for Design on a Dime was one of the biggest honors I have had to date," Magon said.

Staying Involved and Giving Back

In addition to running a top-notch design firm — which was recently aligned with Saks Fifth Avenue and Landmark Hospitality to design the new 51fifteen Cuisine and Cocktails restaurant and Bar 12 of the new Saks Fifth Avenue in Houston — Magon dedicates herself and her firm to non-profits, including Dec My Room, The Pin Oak Charity, Pratham and Ek Disha.

Dec My Room works with Texas Children's Hospital in decorating rooms for children who are in the hospital for extended stays. Pin Oak raises money through charitable events and horse shows for Texas Children's Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House and Candlelighters. Pratham raises money for children's education in India, and Ek Disha funds high impact humanitarian projects.

Magon has been married to her husband Karun since 2005, and they have two children. "It is extremely important for me to give back to the community that has given and supported me tremendously," Magon said.



Nina, Aryan, Alina and Karun Magon. Photo by Laurie Perz Photography.

Inside 51fifteen, Contour Interior Design implemented mid-century modern pieces with the classic color scheme of white, gray, black, brass and white stone in one cohesively designed space.
Photo by Julie Soefer Photography.



The Contour Interior Design Way

If you ask Magon how Contour Interior Design stands out from other firms, she will tell you it can be outlined in the motivation and skill behind her firm and her designers. "We are a forward-thinking group of individuals who specialize in creativity and unique living solutions. We understand creativity, art, design and the design process. We understand project management and budgets. We understand the business management aspect of design paired with the most impeccable design end result. We are a boutique firm interested in each of our clients' individual needs."

Additionally, Magon – who is member of the American Society of Interior Designers, the Interior Design Society, the International Interior Design Association and the American

Institute of Architects – said her firm has "an abundance of resources from which it specs and tries to never use the same selections twice. Not only do we house the best talent in Texas, but we understand the most unmatched aesthetic that is completely distinctive for each one of our clients."

"We are a team of achievers and givers. I have worked extremely hard for the last nine years to bring great design to Texas and to change the perception of what and how unique and individualized design can be," Magon said, noting the firm's extensive referral list. "In the process, I have learned and grown and have created a beautiful team with similar thinking. We can and do make dreams a reality."

For more information about Contour Interior Design, visit contourinteriordesign.com. 

Contour Interior Design's Awards

Counter Culture Finalist – Macaron By Patisserie: 2016
Hospitality Design Awards
Hospitality Design Magazine

Nina Magon – Woman to Watch: 2016
Women Who Mean Business Awards
Houston Business Journal

Best New Design Blog – Live Stylish Daily: 2016
Design Bloggers Conference

Best Contemporary Interior Design Firm in Texas: 2016
Interiors Texas Modern Luxury Magazine

Best of Houzz: 2016
Design and Customer Service

Top 10 Interior Designers in Houston: 2015
Decorilla

HGTV Fresh Faces of Design Finalist: 2015
HGTV

Fresh Faces of Fashion: 2015
Houston Modern Luxury Magazine

15 Best Interior Designers in Houston: 2015
BuildDirect

Star on the Rise: 2015
Decorative Center Houston

Best of Houzz: 2015
Design and Customer Service

Semi-Finalist, American Dream Builders: 2014
NBC

Best of Houzz: 2014
Design and Customer Service

Best of Houzz: 2013
Design and Customer Service

American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) Design Award: 2013
Best Commercial Retail Interior Design

PaperCity Design Award: 2012
Best Commercial Design

Houston's Best Prism Award: 2012

Star Award: 2011