

MINKA MCDONALD

... brings energy to every space

As vice president of Jinx McDonald Interior Designs, Minka McDonald, ASID, NCIDQ, LEED AP, has been creating interiors in Southwest Florida for several years. Her sense of space, tone and textures is both subtle and forward-thinking. Luxe Living's Michael Korb spoke to the designer about her craft.

Q: When did you first realize you wanted to be an interior designer?

A: I spent most of my 20s working in public relations in Miami, and I loved going to the stunning lounges and restaurants. I was delighted by the elegant homes I visited in Jamaica and also by the fun and warm environments my mom was creating in her design career here in

Naples. I finally decided I wanted to work in the creative realm with beautiful materials and took the plunge into design.



Minka McDonald



COURTESY PHOTOS

Mirror panels flanking a silver mica panel framed by richly stained trim work expand and brighten the living area in this model rendering.

Q: Where did you learn your craft?

A: I earned my master's degree in interior design from Florida State University. I learned the art of design as well as the business side of it by working as my mother's design assistant and then for two other prestigious design firms

as well as for myself in Orange County, Calif. I returned to my mother's company as a lead designer in 2010 and I continue to learn every day. Of course, there are certain elements crucial to good design that come from within and cannot be learned, such as the ability to visualize a space.

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Q&A

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Q: Do you have a formula for how you create a space? Do you start with a certain feature or inspirational piece?

A: Every project begins at a different stage. Sometimes I am creating a home from the ground up, while other times I'm updating an existing space. When it's from the ground up, I talk to my clients about the atmosphere they want to create. If the backgrounds are already installed, then I start there to develop a color palette that ties in nicely with the existing finishes. Fabrics add a lot of texture and flavor, so they are critical.

Q: What do you ask your clients to help you get inspired?

A: It is important to get to know your clients' lifestyle before you set out to design their home. Will it be a casual or formal place? Will there be kids, grandkids or pets coming in from the beach with sandy feet and wet swimsuits? Do the upholstered pieces need to be covered in durable outdoor-rated fabrics? Do the clients entertain a lot? If so, are the kitchen, living room, outdoor kitchen and outdoor living spaces outfitted accordingly?

Q: Is there a trend happening now that you're excited about — or that you hope disappears soon?

A: There are so many exciting innova-

tions happening in design today. Technology has pushed the creative boundaries in flooring products, countertop surfaces, wall coverings, textiles, lighting and even plumbing fixtures. There are so many gorgeous new things to learn about and choose from. The sky's the limit, really. I am grateful to be an interior designer in Naples in 2019. I absolutely love what I do.

Q: How did you and your mother get your first names?

A: Mom's story is better than mine. When my grandmother brought newborn mom home from the hospital and my grandfather got a good look her, he announced that she looked just like the neighbor's bulldog, Jinx! The name stuck. And when my mom was pregnant with me, she saw a picture of a cute little Dutch girl in my brother's yearbook and she decided to take the name for me. I think they're both fun names. ■

— *Jinx McDonak Interior Designs*
1959 Trade Center Way, Naples
598-4800; www.jinxmcdonak.com

Above right: Serene and sophisticated, this master suite has a private outdoor shower and spa and a lake view.

Right: The focal wall in this great room is clad with 10 slabs of back-lit Azul Calcite, a linear fireplace, an ostrich leather paneled barn door, curved indoor/outdoor bar and an inviting angular sectional for enjoying it all.



Above: Minka McDonald's touch is evident throughout this 75-foot Hatteras motor yacht.

Right: This contemporary coastal dining room is punctuated by the custom ceiling detail, Vanguard dining chairs and a table base and light fixture of polished nickel.

Far right: The Century dining table and chairs and custom buffet by Old Biscayne Designs are highlighted by a Curry & Co. glass bottle light fixture and the client's own photography.

