

ONE ON ONE WITH LESLIE DERRICK



Written by Danielle Dean · Photography by Josh Beeman

Pear Tree Interiors, established in 1992, located in Madeira, has become known as one of the premier interior design firms not only in Cincinnati, but also nationally. **Leslie Derrick**, owner and interior designer of Pear Tree Interiors, sat down with *Venue Magazine* to discuss all things interior design.





VENUE: How did you decide to pursue a career in interior design?

LESLIE: As a young child I spent a lot of time with my Grandfather who was a German cabinetmaker. I would spend hours watching him and I think that experience is what first triggered my interest in design. When I moved to England in the early '90s, my interest in design was reawakened.

While living in England, I started doing a lot of research on my own and eventually opened a small art and antique import business upon returning to United States in '92. When I received my shipments from Europe, clients would come to my trunk shows, and they would often ask for my advice on where an item should be placed, or how an item would complement their existing decor. I, of course, would give them my advice and in many instances I would bring the items into the client's home and assist them in the placement.

Overtime, my small business grew into a full service interior design business, Pear Tree Interiors, now located in Madeira.

VENUE: Where do you find your inspiration?

LESLIE: We are surrounded by inspiration! I find inspiration in everything and I try to collect it to use in my projects. Just the other day, I was inspired by the bold colors I saw while browsing through the local farmers market.

My frequent travels provide lots of fresh inspiration. I read at least 10 design magazines each month, including foreign publications, along with interior design blogs and the *Weekend Wall Street Journal*.

I'm also inspired by other designers, especially the late Madeleine Castaing. She was a renowned interior designer and antique dealer, who became known for her use of daring and whimsical combinations. Designs by Charlotte Moss, Michael S. Smith, and Bunny Williams also inspire me. I'd say that each of them is very innovative, use a lot of layering, and break the common rules of design.

VENUE: What type of projects do you work on?

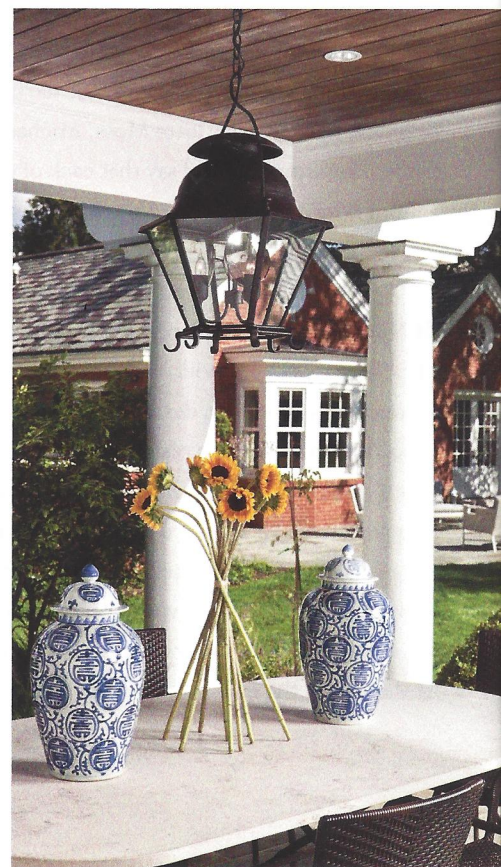
LESLIE: I work on a wide variety of projects, really anything that requires my assistance in developing and showcasing a client's personal style. My expertise is in residential projects; however, there are times that a client asks me to help them with their work spaces. I work on projects of all sizes from decorating a single room to full scale remodeling or new construction. No matter what the project is, or how large, I like to work with a team in a collaborative method bringing in experts from other fields to help implement the client's vision. At the end of the day, realizing the client's vision is most important.



What are seven things Leslie Derrick cannot live without?

1. Beautiful art
2. Scented candles from Cire Trudon – Roi Soleil is my favorite scent
3. A freshly made bed with linens from Leontine Linens
4. Having dinner parties for friends – the ultimate gift
5. Water ... it soothes my soul
6. Homegrown heirloom tomatoes
7. My girlfriends





VENUE: What is something you should not skip on when designing your home?

LESLIE: A good interior designer (laughs!) Don't skip on your dreams and the passion you have for creating your living space. A good interior designer can work with a budget and create beautiful surroundings using materials of all cost levels. Spending a lot of money on expensive materials without a good sense of design can have a poor end result. There are skills that interior designers, like myself, bring to the project that make it successful.

VENUE: What trends are you seeing in your projects?

LESLIE: I've been noticing a trend to simplify and edit your personal possessions. I really like this because it lets a room "breathe." I've also noticed a trend in using photography as art, high-gloss finishes on walls and furniture, organic items like petrified wood, and sophisticated lighting systems.

VENUE: Is there a fad that you hope to never see again?

LESLIE: Using 10 different trims in one room! I say select two trims and move on.

VENUE: Designers live in a color world, what is your favorite color?

LESLIE: Believe it or not, my favorite color right now is white. Some people might say that white is a shade not a color, but I actually have a paint deck that is just shades of white and there are about 100. I love layering several shades of white in a room and using them as a backdrop to show off the art and accessories in the room. White is full of dimension, is uncomplicated, and it makes you feel good.

VENUE: What excites you most when working with your clients?

LESLIE: I love listening to what their dreams and goals are for their space and guiding them to define their personal style. The excitement for me lies in the starting of a new adventure and sharing this excitement with my client. It is a discovery process for them as they see new things that they didn't know existed. For me, that's where the fun lives. My ultimate goal is for them "TO LOVE WHERE THEY LIVE."❖

Pear Tree Interiors is located at 6912 Miami Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45243. You can reach them at 513.233.2600.



"After working with Leslie, I came to realize how well informed and current she is. She knows what is available and how to get it for the client. She certainly has the resources and experience to bring the marketplace to the project and it is exciting to see it in my home. The whole experience was so enjoyable that I now call Leslie a friend, not just my designer."

– Client on working with Leslie Derrick

