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inspiring spaces
by florida's hottest designers

Beth Benton Buckley



ANIL KAKAR



JUST AS HIS WORLD TRAVELS HAVE BEEN FAR-REACHING and varied, so has the route Anil Kakar took to opening Interiors by Kakar House of Design. The acclaimed designer was born in New Delhi, India, and spent several years of his early childhood there before moving with his family to Michigan, where he stayed to earn his bachelor's degree from Michigan State University. From there it was on to a prominent design firm in Chicago, which eventually led him to South Florida, where he combined his passion for design and business by earning his MBA from the University of Miami.

But while working as a wealth advisor for several major banks, Anil just couldn't shake his desire to create. After completing several personal projects and at the urging of friends, he decided to pursue design full-time.

"I strive to create beautiful and comfortable spaces that will enhance my clients' lifestyle for years to come," says Anil. "Something that is completely in keeping with their vision and their lifestyle, while infusing it with my creative talents."

Anil founded B11 Design in 2010, naming his eventual empire's parent company in honor of his paternal grandparents' house number in New Delhi. Kakar House of Design, Anil's retail store—where avid shoppers can find stunning furniture, lighting, sculpture, rugs, and accessories—followed two short years later.

That same urge to source incredible décor from all over the

world for his store also fuels Anil's designs, which include not only residential and corporate but also retail, hospitality, and even private jets.

"I use eclectic pieces, from art to fabrics to furnishings to lighting, in each project, to create that unique vision," he says. "From antiques to vintage to custom and new, we design for a life well lived and well-traveled."

Treating each space as "a visual escape," Anil layers his creativity, time, energy, and talent until the resulting design is reflective of his clients' wishes. And he's not afraid to do the

heavy lifting himself, if that's what it takes to get a room just right.

"A truly great designer will really get in there and do whatever is necessary to get the job done, even if that means lifting furniture and dusting and cleaning a bit," he says. "I don't just delegate—I really do whatever needs to be done myself. Nothing is too menial for me, or any good designer worth their salt."

Anil also understands the importance of timelines, and how many of his clients find it difficult to remain patient when it comes to experiencing the final reveal of their new space: a room (or several) that they will live in and love for years to come. He's a problem-solver and a doer, and maintains an easy rhythm throughout the entire length of each project. Even unexpected challenges have taught Anil to stop and seek inspiration from places both expected and unlikely, and he does so often on his adventurous travels.

"No two designs are ever alike, nor should they be. Each is a personal stamp of the people inhabiting those spaces."

"I am always inspired by Mother Nature," Anil says. "She is the greatest designer, with all the colors, patterns, and textures. When I am traveling, I feel greatly inspired by past civilizations and current cultures and societies."

