

BLACKLINES OF DESIGN

Brooklyn Publishing Company

April 9, 2014

[HOME](#) [ABOUT US](#) [ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN](#) [DESIGN](#) [BUILDING DESIGN](#) [STUDENT CORNER](#) [PROJECTS](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [ADVERTISE](#) [CONTACT](#)

DESPACE DESIGNS

Diane S. Taitt

Founded in 2005, De Space Designs is a full service, Interior Architecture studio. They are change Makers committed to connecting Visions, Ideas, Culture and People, to improve the world we live in, and the quality of life for all, through a sustainable, human and earth centered approach to design. The company aspires to create sensory journeys that inform, inspire, comfort and heal humanity in every project. In addition, there goal is always to deliver the best culturally and contextually relevant design, within budget and on time. De Space Designs mentor a movement of socially and ethically responsible design that positively improves people lives, and sustains the ecosystem.

De Space Designs is a minority, woman-owned CBE, MDOT, MBE, WOSB certified. For over 20 years, Diane has been practicing architecture, interior design, devising workplace strategies and branding companies, in the United States.

Diane has received over 10 design awards and has been featured in numerous publications. She has been an innovator and leader at both large and small firms including the post as Director of Interior Architecture at Leo A Daly, one of the largest firms in North America. Diane launched De Space Designs to focus on "Earth-Centered Design" a holistic and integrated design concept she formulated.

Her world travels provide a rich, cultural experience from which she draws constant design inspiration. She studied architecture in Italy and Denmark, backpacked through North Africa, led high-end commercial interior architecture projects in China, and documented a spiritual journey through Indonesia.

Her personal commitment to work with a social purpose includes work with the YMCA, DC public school system, University of the District of Columbia, Creative Associates, and The Refuge of Hope. She has served as a mentor and adjunct professor at Pratt Institute, The Art Institute of Washington and Marymount University. Diane now leads a team of talented architects and designers at De Space Designs, who share her passion and commitment to design excellence.



Women's Locker Room

ARTICLE LIST:

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN:

- RENALDO C PESSON

DESIGN:

- DESPACE DESIGNS
- REFLEKTION DESIGN
- 3D RENDERING AT YOUR SERVICE

HOME SHOW:

- ADHDS 2014
- DIFFA: PHILIP GORRIVAN
- TRIBUTE TO MAYA ROMANOFF

STUDENT CORNER:

- PRATT SCHOOL OF ART + DESIGN
- KANIKA GARG
- PAOLA LIGONDE
- FRANSHEKSA REVILLA
- TAN FUNG CHAN

PRODUCTS:

- KITH&KIN
- MICHAEL CURRY MOSAICS
- ADHDS - GAGGENAU

BOOK RELEASE:

- SALVAGE SECRETS
- ARCHITECTURE GUIDES & TRAVEL
- MODERNISM'S POPULIST ARCHITECT



Legacy Wall



Men's Locker Room

Diane S. Taitt, founder of De Space Designs, a boutique interior architecture studio in downtown DC, was hired to design the new 44,000 sq ft Anthony Bowen YMCA facility at 14th & W in 2010. The iconic state of the art facility, re-opened in September 2013, has been historically rooted in the DC Shaw community since 1912, and shares it's rich history. The opening of the new facility is a significant accomplishment that rests on the shoulders of the neighborhoods' African American heroes. It grew out of the vision and tireless commitment of the current Y leadership of the Metropolitan Y.

What makes the re-building of the Anthony Bowen YMCA, the first African American YMCA in North America particularly significant is its unique story of courage, and perseverance against the backdrop of slavery, war, segregation, economic decline, as well as social unrest. Over its 160-year lifetime, never forgetting its commitment to community, the AB Y has managed to adapt to changing circumstances with bold and unforgiving determination.

The central design concept of the facility is one of connectivity and transparency. Connectivity through time, honors the rich colorful history of the facility and the legacy of its founder Anthony Bowen, by embracing storytelling, integrating environmental graphics in the architecture, and commissioning installations by a collaboration of local artists.



Lobby/Reception



Monumental Staircase

Design Concept

The design concept was to create a contemporary and connected floor plan, with an easy flow from room to room. Creating a sense of continuity of space was important for the family with young kids, but affords them privacy when needed. The home owners love of texture and earth tones is reflected in the use of slate, pattern, hand painted textured walls, and stone. The home is warm, inviting and immediately comfortable. The transitional design affords the modern conveniences and responds to the original architectural style of the Shepherd Park house and the community at large.

House 3, another of De Space Designs wonderful creation was a complete gut renovation with a 2000 Sq Ft addition to a 16th street 1920's tudor style house.

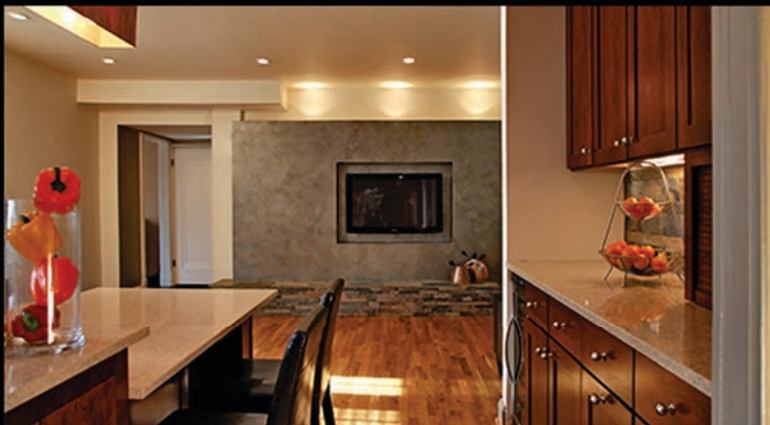
The original garage was converted to the new open plan kitchen. Slate tiled walls bring an earth bound palette, of warm greys; new windows flood the space with light. The open kitchen is truly the heart of the home. The entrance foyer was opened and rotated to maximize the space. The existing staircase to the basement relocated. The previously unfinished basement was converted into a play area for the kids, a family room, bedroom and bath. Custom millwork throughout maximized the smart use of space.



Living Room



Kitchen



Kitchen

[Click here to view more projects](#)

Information provided by: De Space Designs

Photos by: Kenneth M. Wyner