



Chamber Spotlight



Nora Ramsdell designs with flare

Combine an artistic flair with the attention to detail characteristic of a computer software engineer, and you've got an interior designer that can deliver a home or office space that's not only beautiful but imminently functional. In other words, you've got Nora Ramsdell of Nora's Interior Design, LLC.

When Ramsdell was in her 20s, she was all about computers and enjoyed an exciting career as a software engineer. After buying her first home, she discovered she also had a passion for interior decorating, and she was good at it. Visitors to her home would often ask if she worked as an interior designer. So after 16 years in the computer industry, Ramsdell decided to pursue a career change and earn her certification from New York's Sheffield School of Interior Design. In 2005, she opened her own design business.



Nora Ramsdell

Since then, Ramsdell has helped her clients realize their dreams for their living or work spaces. Her projects have ranged from designing and furnishing a small business's office space to overseeing the complete gutting and renovation of a 30-year-old bathroom. Her Web site, www.norasid.com, contains numerous photos of the vividly distinct spaces she has created in area homes through her personal approach, manipulation of colors and integration of existing materials with new ones. And you can be sure each environment also works well with the client's work or lifestyle.

"When I was building my own home, it was about making it fit to how I lived," Ramsdell explained, "even down to the small things. In my previous homes, the master bath had only one plug. That didn't work for me, so I made sure my new home

had five outlets in the master bath."

She brings that same level of attention to detail to the designs she does for her clients. For example, when a business owner wanted to redesign an office space on a limited budget, Ramsdell determined the best configuration given the existing Internet outlets so that the client could achieve the effect she wanted without having to re-wire the space.

One of the most unique and intriguing services Ramsdell offers is an online Designer Room Review through AvaLiving.com. Clients can submit photos of a room online and, for a nominal fee, request advice on the design. It's a convenient way for people to tap professional advice and spend smarter; and it's also a

low-risk way to "check-out" a designer before committing to a larger project.

"The client and I can start a relationship at a minimum level and build from there," Ramsdell explains.

She is the only designer in Central Virginia who offers this service, and it has allowed her to provide consultations worldwide.

Ramsdell also uses computer technology to create 3-D renderings of her designs to help her clients visualize the final product. Her interior design blog at www.norasid.blogspot.com contains great ideas and advice, and she leads a general blog for Skirt! magazine.

Submitted by Doris Elderman, executive director, Goochland County Chamber of Commerce