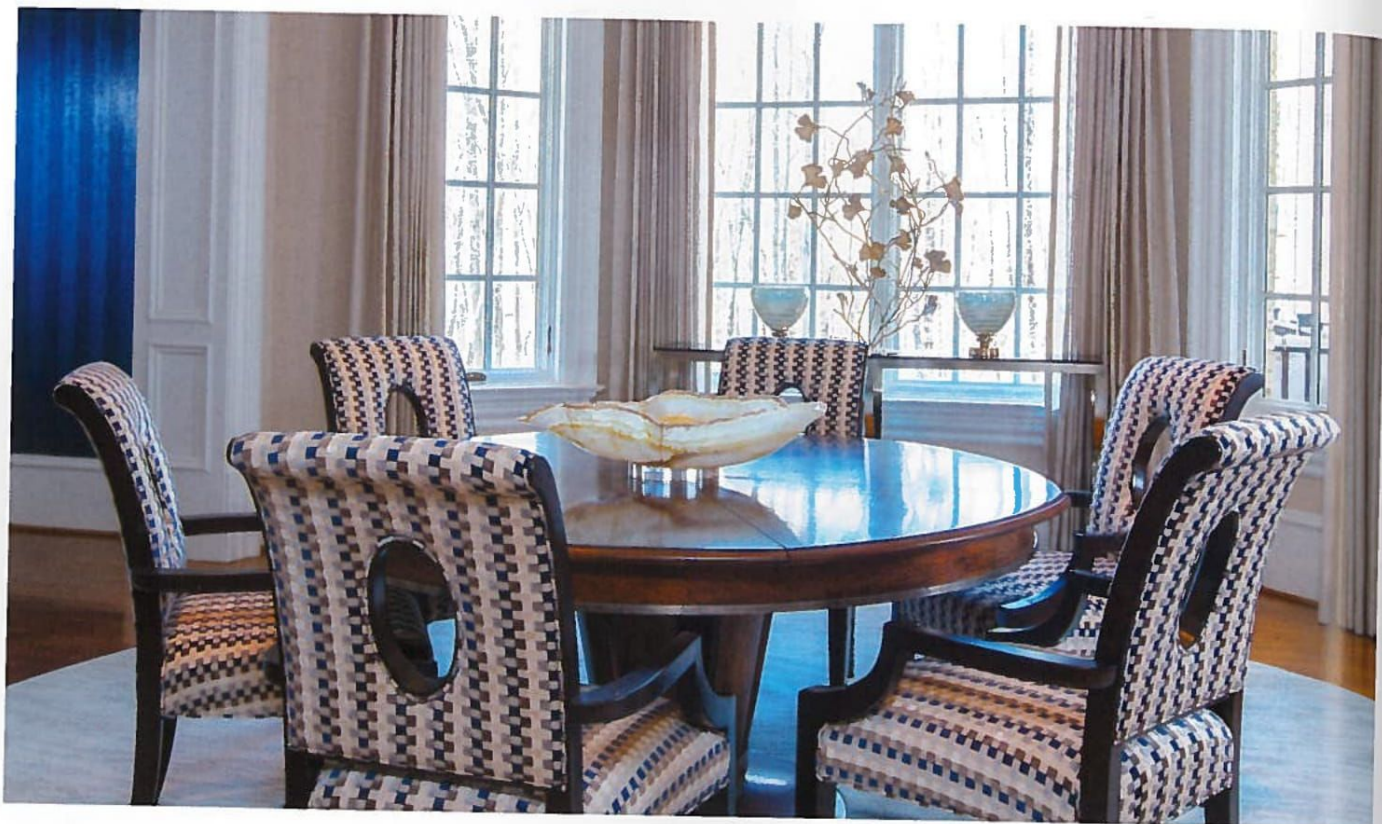


Arlene Critzos, ASID | Samantha Sopp-Wittwer



After studying in Rome and earning a design degree at Mount Vernon College, Arlene Critzos founded Interior Concepts in 1979. Today, the firm employs about 50 people.

As Critzos explains, "To me, interior design is not just a career, it's a passion." She and her team approach every project by first gaining a total understanding of the client's needs, quality expectations, budget and timing. Then, they work from concept to completion to create the right balance between a homeowner's lifestyle and design.

"We take great pride and pleasure in creating what we believe is the most valuable facet of a person's life—their environment," Critzos observes. "We love working collaboratively with our clients to create homes that are truly unique and that will be a haven for them. We believe that comfort, scale, art and overall visual beauty all are important."

Recent projects by Interior Concepts span the style spectrum from a relaxed retreat in the Bahamas to a contemporary urban residence. Critzos also had the recent privilege of designing the Vice President's residence at the Naval Observatory in Washington. The firm's work has been featured in local and national publications, and has been recognized with numerous design awards.

See more projects at HandD.com/ArleneCritzos

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PHOTOS: GEOFFREY HODGSON



Colorful dining chairs in a modern silhouette convey whimsy in a breakfast room (opposite, top). Clean-lined furnishings and modern art lend a fresh approach to a dining room with classical paneling (above). A sleek custom cabinet with interior lighting defines and divides two areas in a master suite (opposite, bottom).



A formal family room (above) features stunning, two-story draperies and a pair of sweeping, curved sofas. A deep-hued, upholstered wall provides a rich backdrop to eclectic furnishings in a master bedroom (opposite). Critzos and her team combined dramatic contemporary pieces within the architectural context of a classic dining room (right).



