

US: 2011'S FIVE STAR REAL ESTATE AGENTS

# KC

## DESIGN EXCELLENCE

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**A PERFECT INSTRUMENT**  
ARCHITECT MOSHE SAFDIE'S  
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july



It isn't always easy being excellent.  
**Consistent superiority** is difficult to maintain, and it draws a target for those trying to best you. But that doesn't deter the individuals and organizations that comprise Kansas City's **design community**—a talented and creative bunch determined to strive for excellence, both for themselves and for the **city they love**.







# design

HONORING 2011 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS  
SPONSORS **KC MAGAZINE AND COMMERCIAL JOURNAL**  
CATEGORIES **INTERIOR DESIGN, CRAFTSMANSHIP,  
OUTDOOR, GREEN, ARCHITECTURE**  
STORY BY **KC MAGAZINE STAFF**

## built to last

Now in its fourth year, *KC Magazine's* Design Excellence Awards program has found its legs. The same can be said of this year's 51 winning projects and the talented interior designers and architects who were behind them. Ours is a town on the brink: Local arts, dining and fashion luminaries are continually garnering national—and international—praise. And we are thrilled to report that the same is true for our commercial and residential design projects. So we honor each of the firms that submitted projects in the 2011 Design Excellence Awards. Whether or not they go home with a trophy, each serves as a shining beacon that is catapulting Kansas City's reputation for excellence into the 21st century. For that, we thank and congratulate them.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: This residential interior design by Jill Tran Interior Design won three DEA awards: a gold for Interior | Specialty and two bronzes, one for Interior | Dining/Living Room and one for Interior | Best Use of Art. Altar Bridal, designed by H2B Architects, won the Silver Award for Interior | Specialty, while PGAV Architects' work on the Union Station Kansas City Administration Offices garnered a Bronze Award in that category.



## 2011 DESIGN EXCELLENCE AWARDS

### Interior | Specialty

**GOLD** Jill Tran Interior Design

**SILVER** H2B Architects, *Altar Bridal*

**BRONZE** PGAV Architects, *USKC Administration Offices*

### Interior | Bathroom

**GOLD** Jill Tran Interior Design and Lyon Design, LLC

**SILVER** Portfolio Kitchen & Home, *Paul Residence*

**BRONZE** Rebecca Riden AIA Architect

### Interior | Kitchen

**GOLD** Portfolio Kitchen & Home and  
Clockwork Architecture + Design, *Stewart Residence*

**SILVER** Design Connection Inc.

**BRONZE** Portfolio Kitchen & Home, *Cobb Residence*

### Interior | Dining/Living Room

**GOLD** Ethan Cole Designs

**SILVER** Jill Tran Interior Design

**BRONZE** Jill Tran Interior Design

### Interior | Office

**GOLD** SFS Architecture, *Midwest Public Risk Headquarters*

**SILVER** BCS Design, Inc.

**BRONZE** SFS Architecture, *Lutjen Inc. Headquarters*







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: David Zebley's Silver Award-winning design for Portfolio Kitchen & Home in the Interior | Bathroom category. Portfolio's Kira Satarova and Clockwork Architecture + Design's Christian Arnold teamed up on the Gold Award-winning project in the Interior | Kitchen category, while Jill Tran Interior Design and Lyon Design, LLC's share the gold in the Interior | Bathroom category. Rebecca Riden won bronze in the bathroom category.



**Interior | Best Use of Art**

**GOLD** Jill Tran Interior Design

**SILVER** BCS Design, Inc.

**BRONZE** Jill Tran Interior Design

**Interior | Children's Room**

**GOLD** Noble Designs

**SILVER** Jill Tran Interior Design

**Interior | Traditional Interior Design**

**GOLD** Davison Architecture + Urban Design LLC, *Grin Residence*

**SILVER** Alan Karlin Design, *Symphony Designers' Showhouse Entry*

**BRONZE** Portfolio Kitchen & Home, *Paul Residence*

**Interior | Contemporary Interior Design**

**GOLD** SFS Architecture, *Lucile H. Bluford Library Renovation*

**SILVER** Portfolio Kitchen & Home and  
Clockwork Architecture + Design, *Stewart Residence*

**BRONZE** NSPJ Architects, *St. Clair Condo Project*

**Craftsmanship**

**GOLD** PGAV Architects, *UMKC Miller Nichols Library*

**SILVER** Studiobuild, *Suscito Media Center*

**BRONZE** smallSHOP studio







This living room at left garnered Ethan Cole Designs the Gold Award in the Interior Dining/Living Room category, while Jill Tran Interior Design took home the silver (opposite, bottom left) and bronze (bottom center). BCS Design, Inc. won the Silver Award for the Interior | Office project below.





### Outdoor

**GOLD** Davison Architecture + Urban Design LLC,  
*Hudson Residence Deck Renovation*  
**SILVER** PGAV Architects, *Kansas City Zoo Polar Bear Exhibit*  
**BRONZE** Awnings by Haas, Inc.

### Green

**GOLD** SFS Architecture, *Lutjen Inc. Headquarters*  
**SILVER** PGAV Architects, *Kansas City Zoo Polar Bear Exhibit*  
**BRONZE** Williams Spurgeon Kuhl & Freshnock Architects

### Architecture | Historical Renovation

**GOLD** el dorado inc  
**SILVER** el dorado inc, *Finn Lofts*  
**BRONZE** DLR Group, *Piper High School*

### Architecture | Exterior

**GOLD** SFS Architecture, *Midwest Public Risk Headquarters*  
**SILVER** PGAV Architects, *UMKC Miller Nichols Library*  
**BRONZE** RDM Architecture, *Patterson Residence Renovation*

### Architecture | Interior

**GOLD** SFS Architecture, *Lucile H. Bluford Library Renovation*  
**SILVER** BCS Design, Inc.  
**BRONZE** SFS Architecture, *Lutjen Inc. Headquarters*

### Architecture | Contemporary Architecture

**GOLD** Williams Spurgeon Kuhl & Freshnock Architects  
**SILVER** DLR Group, *Career & Technical Education Academy*  
**BRONZE** Wendlandt & Stallbaumer





In addition to the Edward Tanner Award for Interior Design, Jill Tran took home myriad other 2011 Design Excellence Awards. Among them were the Gold Award for Interior | Bathroom (right), the Silver and Bronze Awards for Dining/Living Room (opposite and bottom left, respectively) and the Gold Award for Best Use of Art (bottom right). The room immediately below is another of her signature designs.





# edward tanner awards

CATEGORY **INTERIOR DESIGN**  
WINNER **JILL TRAN INTERIOR DESIGN**  
PROFILE BY **KAITLIN MOTLEY**



If the Edward Tanner Award for Interior Design were to recognize achievement for a lifetime only as long as that of our Design Excellence Awards themselves, Jill Tran would still be an indisputable frontrunner. A talent honored by the awards program all four years, Tran has established herself as a designer with a knack for transforming houses into homes.

Paying strict attention to her clients' personalities, interests and sometimes hard-to-articulate desires, Tran has achieved what is perhaps the oxymoronic goal for every interior designer's portfolio: consistent variety. Armed with myriad influences and emotions suggested by her clients, Tran scours the world for unique pieces that bring everything together in nuanced harmony. Often quirky paintings or sculptures, the pieces add personality to a room and act as a jumping-off point for conversation.

The anticipation of the activity and daily life that will take place in the finished rooms could be what inspires Tran to search far and wide for the eye-catching details that often punctuate her work. She visualizes the way her clients and their guests will interact with a room to be sure no detail is overlooked. Such was the case with this year's winning design in the Children's Room category (not pictured). "[A] custom upholstered bench was brought in to allow the little girl to climb into bed by herself like a big girl, without having to utilize a side stool for Mom and Dad to trip over," Tran says of the project.

If wedding multiple influences and personalities is the challenge for Tran, the other part of interior design seems to come naturally. She has trademark flair for layering interesting textures and fabrics and setting them off with bursts of color. Tran adopts her clients' visions and maintains their requests, but she leaves an inimitable signature behind. In regard to Tran's winning bathroom design (a collaboration with Lyon Design, LLC, above), DEA judge Kim Tucker notes: "I am in love with this vanity—and those silly, sexy legs. The bathtub styling says: Jill Tran."

Tran has crafted her brand into design that is quintessentially both her own and her clients', leaving a bit of legacy behind—just like this award's namesake.

