

The Best of Design

Understated Elegance

CHARLOTTE DUNAGAN AVOT

This refreshing—and rare—professionalism has produced the rapidly growing demand for interior designer Charlotte Dunagan Avot. In just six years, she has become the go-to creative guru for the rich and famous all over the world. Her company, Atmosphere Creations, in Miami's hot Design District, works on a referral-only basis, with the waiting list to grow it.

Charlotte's sought-after style can be simply expressed in two words: understated elegance. Her refined eclectic taste, respect for client's needs and wishes, along with a flawless ability to create timeless, versatile spaces, draws a sophisticated international clientele of luxury homeowners and boutique businesses from South Florida, the Caribbean and Europe. She is fluent in English, French, and Spanish, which adds to her global appeal.

Style and creativity are literally in Charlotte's genes. The daughter of an interior designer mother and antique dealer father, she was born and raised in Paris. Traveling with her parents throughout Europe, she developed an eye for exceptional workmanship and the quality of collectible pieces of art and furnishings. She began her formal training at the MUM Graphic Design School in Nice, France, and received a bachelor's degree from the Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, graduating first in her class with the Academic Achievement award and Most Outstanding Thesis award. Her extraordinary talent for combining color, textures, and styles has since earned her a reputation as a designer's designer.

Since a home is so personal, this chic Parisian credits her clients as her true inspiration. Charlotte invests a great deal of time getting to know who they are and how they live, which often results in long-lasting relationships.

As the proud mother of two active and beautiful boys, Liam and Morgan, Charlotte knows how a home has to function. "A home must suit your way of being," she says. "You must want to live in it. A space can be very beautiful and formal, but it has to work for your lifestyle."

Whenever possible, she collaborates with the architects on a project to create livable spaces that balance both form and function. Impeccable attention to proportion and the details of a room, even down to custom hardware, make all the difference. She refuses to rely solely on ready-made showroom stock, calling instead upon international re-



sources to find new materials and one-of-a-kind pieces, combining furniture with history and character.

Also renowned for her commercial work, the versatile designer loves the buzz about her just-completed shoe store, Tuccia Di Capri, an restaurant project, the up-scale Maison D'Azur at the Astor Hotel in South Beach. She's already at work on its offshoot, Brasserie D'Azur in Midtown Miami.

Charlotte's success is based on more than just her creative talents; her professional and business savvy are razor sharp. "I am in the service industry," she says. "I am here to facilitate the process and make the experience as enjoyable as possible while making my clients' dream house come true. That is my true passion." ❖

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"Charlotte is a tremendous talent and a pleasure to work with. She has an uncanny ability to conceptualize room layouts and envision how an entire house should flow. She has great vision and can anticipate problems BEFORE the actual building starts. She worked incredibly well with everyone involved in my home, including the architect, general contractor, and the trades-people. She spent hours in oversight, making sure every last detail was meticulously carried out. She took a very personal interest in every last detail. Her furniture and finish resources are first class and off the 'beaten trail'. She handled everything—furniture, window treatments, flooring, millwork, art, antiques, accessories, and linens. In many instances, it was like having my own personal shopper. I am so lucky to have found her—she's the best!"

— Jeffrey Miller



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"This has been my favorite experience in home design. Charlotte is a breath of fresh air—so knowledgeable, professional, and talented. I have learned a tremendous amount from this process. She and her staff are always accessible, flexible, and willing to work with our individual needs. This has been a truly wonderful experience, which could have otherwise been very stressful. I cannot say enough wonderful things about A.C. and Charlotte Dunagan. Miami's best kept secret...but not for long.

— Mike & Alicia Piazza