

Custom Design



*Creating your
story in jewelry*



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*Call, text or
e-mail for a free
consultation*

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The Bespoke Design Process

Bespoke Custom Design



Custom commissions are individually conceived and created exclusively for you. I do not replicate bespoke designs; each piece is entirely unique and thoughtfully crafted to reflect its wearer. The creative possibilities are virtually limitless. From the initial concept and sketch development through to the finished piece, the process typically requires approximately 8 to 12 weeks, depending on the complexity of the design.



Fine Jewelry Showcase



Any design featured in my [showcase gallery](#) may be commissioned and customized with a production timeline of as little as two weeks. A formal design consultation is not necessary for these pieces.





Three Step Process

From the initial contact to the finished piece, custom designed pieces typically take between 8 and 12 weeks.

Our bespoke process unfolds in three distinct stages: the complimentary Initial Consultation, the Design Phase, and the Commission Phase. During your private consultation, we will explore whether a custom creation is the right path for you and discuss the thoughtful details that shape a truly exceptional piece.

This guide and accompanying workbook have been carefully curated to help you refine your vision, clarify your preferences, and enter the Design Phase with intention and inspiration.

Each bespoke design is created in close collaboration with you. Your ideas, preferences, and perspective serve as the foundation from which I craft a piece that is distinctly yours. This workbook has been thoughtfully prepared to guide you through the initial discovery process, helping you articulate your vision and lay the groundwork for a truly personalized design experience.

The design phase encompasses dedicated consultation and development time and is an integral part of the bespoke experience. During this stage, I create detailed 3D CAD renderings and prepare thorough, accurate proposals that reflect work that requires careful attention, technical expertise, and thoughtful refinement. This level of commitment ensures that each commission receives the care it deserves and reflects a shared investment in creating a truly exceptional piece.

I am always happy to answer general questions via text or email, and during the complimentary consultation I can provide an initial guidance range to help you understand anticipated costs before entering the formal design phase.



The Consultation Phase

During this consultation, we will explore your vision, inspiration, and the story you wish your piece to tell. We will discuss design possibilities, aesthetic direction, and anticipated investment ranges to determine whether moving forward into the Design Phase is the right next step for you.

You are invited to view examples of my commissioned custom work on my website [online portfolio](#). Jewelry in my [jeweler showcase](#) is customizable and ready to wear. You can also visit my display case at [Bugbee's on Main](#) (formerly Antiques Marketplace).

Initial consultations are offered privately at my studio in Brooklyn, Connecticut, or may be conducted via Zoom for your convenience.

The Design Phase

Following your Initial Consultation, entry into the Design Phase is secured with a \$200 non-refundable retainer. This marks the beginning of your bespoke creation and allows me to dedicate focused time to your piece.

During this phase, you will receive detailed 3D CAD renderings, a lifelike video presentation of the selected final chosen design, a written design brief, and a comprehensive investment proposal. Together, we will refine and confirm the essential elements and architecture of your piece, culminating in a precise final price for both the creation process and the finished work.*

The retainer also includes the curated sourcing of gemstones and a private in-studio viewing for your consideration.** Should you proceed, the retainer will be applied toward your final design or stone selection. The design fee is non-refundable and non-transferable.

The Commission Phase

A deposit equal to 50% of the approved estimate is required to initiate production of your piece. At this stage, the design will be fully finalized, including comprehensive 3D renderings that precisely illustrate the completed work. Any selected design variations or options will be thoroughly developed and visually presented prior to production.

**All estimates are given in a low to high range in order to make room for minor changes, the metals market, and additions. I will never exceed the high end of the estimate range without written approval.*

***Stones must be purchased in full at the time of the viewing.*



Bespoke Custom Piece Cost

My bespoke creations typically begin around \$2,000 in 14kt gold for designs that are lighter or more understated. Investment increases with scale, weight, and the intricacy of the design.

Platinum pieces generally begin at approximately \$3,000. In addition to its higher purity and density, platinum requires specialized finishing techniques and additional polishing and finishing time, which contributes to its elevated investment.

More sculptural or highly detailed elements, such as florals, fauna, or other dimensional motifs, along with the number and size of gemstones, will further influence the overall cost. While I do create sterling silver pieces, finely detailed or substantial designs can exceed \$1,000.

As with all fine jewelry, current precious metal market conditions may also impact the final investment of your piece.

Stone Cost

The investment in gemstones is the most variable component of the custom design process. We may incorporate stones you already own, provided they can be securely and appropriately reset after evaluation.

Budgeting

I encourage you to establish an overall investment range and share it with me at the outset. Having a clear understanding of your budget allows me to thoughtfully guide stone selection and design decisions in a way that aligns with your expectations. My goal is never to upsell, but to create a piece that is both exceptional and comfortably within your intended investment.



Your Choices Shape The Design

Even the most understated designs offer an extraordinary range of possibilities. While I will guide you in refining and focusing your options, I ask that you arrive at your consultation having completed some initial research. Please be prepared to identify the type of piece you wish to create, whether a ring, necklace, tiara, or other form, and to describe your desired aesthetic in broad terms.

Helpful descriptors may include: organic, geometric, modern, minimalist, delicate, ornate, sculptural, simple, diamond-accented, stone-forward, Art Deco, Art Nouveau, bold, slender, elevated, low-profile, and similar stylistic references. I encourage you to bring visual inspiration to support your description, as well as to share any elements or styles you prefer to avoid.

My role is to collaborate with you in bringing your vision to life. Throughout the design process, you will be asked to make a series of thoughtful decisions that shape the final piece. I intentionally refrain from imposing personal preferences, as jewelry is deeply individual and there is no singular “right” or “wrong” design, only what resonates with you.



I have the ability to create virtually any design you envision, which means the possibilities are truly limitless. Defining your preferences and aesthetic direction is the essential first step in shaping a piece that is uniquely yours.

The Story Begins With Three



To begin the design process, I require a minimum of three pieces of visual inspiration from you. These images help me understand your aesthetic sensibilities, preferences, and the elements that resonate most deeply with you. They may reflect objects, textures, architecture, art, or moments that inspire you, these references do not need to be jewelry-specific.

This visual dialogue allows me to translate your taste and inspiration into a piece that feels authentically and beautifully yours.



Design language is inherently personal, and terms such as “modern” can hold different meanings for different individuals. What feels contemporary and refined to you may be interpreted differently through another lens.

Providing visual inspiration allows us to establish a shared aesthetic vocabulary, ensuring clarity of vision and eliminating potential misunderstandings as we shape your bespoke piece.



Two of the most valuable sources of inspiration are your own jewelry collection and thoughtfully curated online research. Exploring pieces you already own can reveal subtle preferences in scale, proportion, texture, and overall aesthetic.

Additionally, conducting image searches using descriptive design terms will expose you to a broad range of styles and interpretations, helping you refine what resonates most strongly. Together, these references provide meaningful insight into your personal taste and guide the direction of your bespoke design.



Save pictures and links to pieces that you like or dislike for any reason and make notes to help me understand your preferences. For example: *“I like the idea of a cluster ring, but there are too many stones on this ring and I prefer a smaller profile.”*



Diamonds and Gemstones

Before the design process can truly begin, I must first understand the gemstones that will define your piece. We may thoughtfully repurpose stones you already own, honoring their history and sentiment, or I can source a carefully selected diamond or gemstone that perfectly embodies your vision.

Each stone carries its own character and structural qualities. Emeralds, opals, tanzanite, pearls, and other more delicate gems require considered design decisions and mindful care, while diamonds and sapphires offer exceptional durability and versatility. Selecting the right stone is both an aesthetic and practical choice, and together we will ensure it is beautifully suited to the life it will live.

Purchasing Diamonds and Gemstones

Will your piece feature a newly selected gemstone or diamond, or would you like to incorporate stones you already own? I work closely with a trusted network of specialized vendors to source exceptional gems. My priority is to secure a stone that aligns beautifully with your aesthetic vision and intended investment. You may think of me as your personal gem curator, thoughtfully selecting options that meet both your standards and your story.

Mined Diamonds

Formed naturally within the earth over millions of years, these diamonds display a remarkable range of shapes and subtle color variations. Each stone possesses unique characteristics, which may include natural fluorescence and other distinct features that reflect its geological origin.



Lab Grown Diamonds

Created in a controlled laboratory environment, these diamonds possess the same physical, chemical, and optical properties as their earth-formed counterparts. They offer exceptional beauty and brilliance while providing a more affordable investment option.



The 4Cs of Diamonds

A useful resource when learning about diamonds is the GIA [4C's of Diamond Quality](#).
GIA is the best resource for all things gem related.

	What It Means	What You See	Why It Matters
Carat	The diamond's weight (not its size).	Bigger diamonds look larger, but shape and cut affect how big it appears.	Larger diamonds are rarer and cost more per carat.
Cut	How well the diamond is shaped and faceted.	More sparkle and brilliance when cut well.	Cut has the biggest impact on beauty and sparkle.
Color	How colorless (or tinted) the diamond is.	Whiter diamonds are graded closer to D; yellow tint increases toward Z.	Less color usually means higher value (unless it's a fancy color).
Clarity	Tiny natural marks inside or on the surface.	Most imperfections are invisible without magnification.	Cleaner diamonds are rarer, but many lower grades still look perfect to the eye.

Quick Grading Reference

Carat: Measured in weight (1 carat = 0.20 grams)

Cut Grades: Excellent – Very Good – Good – Fair – Poor

Color Scale: D (Colorless) → Z (Light Yellow)

Clarity Scale: FL → IF → VVS → VS → SI → I

Tip: If you want maximum sparkle for your budget, prioritize Cut first, then Color and Clarity.



Guidance & Insights

I am pleased to incorporate a chain you already own into your design, with the exception of hollow chains due to structural limitations. If you plan to provide your own chain, please bring it with you to your consultation so we may evaluate its suitability. To purchase a chain for your piece, please visit my [jewelry showcase](#).

I maintain professional ring sizing tools in the studio and can accurately size you during your appointment. If you are referencing an existing ring, it is important to note which finger it is customarily worn on, as each finger varies in size. I strongly recommend designs that allow for future resizing whenever possible. Should an incorrect size be provided and subsequent resizing be required, an adjustment fee may apply.

Rings and Necklaces

- Which finger will the ring be worn on?
- Do you need a matching band?
- Do you know the wearer's size?
- Is this a surprise?
- Do you have a chain?
- How long do you want the necklace to be?
- Where would you like the chain to sit on your neck?





Your Consultation Checklist

PICTURES

At least three pieces of visual inspiration, preferably more.

STONES

Bring your stones along so they can be measured and checked.

CHAIN

If you are commissioning a pendant or necklace, bring any chain you might want to use to your appointment.

SCRAP METAL

For handmade pieces, I may be able to use your scrap gold. I cannot recycle chains or items that have been repeatedly sized or repaired. For cast bespoke pieces, casting grain, gold coins or bars are the only option.

MISC

Anything else you think will be helpful, please bring it along to your consultation



Clarity & Commitment

Open and thoughtful communication is essential throughout this process. This is your piece, and I encourage you to share any questions, concerns, or impressions no matter how small. Your perspective guides the work, and my priority is that you feel complete confidence and joy in the final design.

Once a piece has been cast in metal, changes are no longer possible, which makes clarity and dialogue especially important during the design phase. Because this is a true collaboration, mutual understanding and alignment are key. If at any point it feels that our creative styles or communication are not ideally suited, I will gladly recommend another artist whose approach may better serve you.

My pricing reflects the time, craftsmanship, and materials dedicated to each bespoke piece and is not subject to negotiation. The \$200 Design Phase retainer is non-refundable and non-transferable, and may be applied toward your commissioned piece within one year of the consultation.

Due to fluctuations in precious metal and gemstone markets, all estimates remain valid for one week from the date issued.





Further Refinements

And things to think about...

How often do you anticipate wearing your piece?

Pieces intended for daily wear such as engagement rings, should be thoughtfully designed with durability in mind. Jewelry worn occasionally may allow for more delicate stones (opals/pearls) or intricate design elements.

What is your timeline? Do you require completion by a specific date?

Most commissions require approximately 4 to 12 weeks, though timing varies depending on the complexity of the design and stone sourcing. I will always make every effort to accommodate important dates; however, advance planning is strongly encouraged.

Is bespoke design the right choice for you? How can I tailor the experience to best serve you?

While I provide highly detailed renderings and 3D models during the design phase, the completed piece is not revealed until it is fully crafted. This creative journey requires trust and collaboration. If you have specific preferences regarding visual previews, written documentation, or communication style, please share them. This process is centered on your vision and you remain at the helm throughout.

Do you need to visit the studio?

I am happy to work with clients locally or remotely. While I value in-person consultations, Zoom meetings offer an equally effective experience. If visiting my shop in Connecticut is not convenient, you are welcome to schedule your initial consultation via Zoom.



Quiet Corner Jewelers
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Contact



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