

FACES of DESIGN

ATLANTA

IMANI JAMES

A European pedigree helps Imani James (imanijamesinteriors.com) bring timeless interiors to her clients.



The Mission Imani James lived in Europe and studied at the British Academy of Interior Design in London, the Paris American Academy in Paris and the Marangoni Design School in Milan, bringing a unique perspective to the Atlanta design community. “I worked in corporate America for over 20 years, but the opportunity to live in Europe and immerse myself in design gave me my start. My prior business background gives me valuable skills like project management, marketing and customer service to give my clients a full-package, positive experience as their interior design partner,” she says. Her high-end, residential projects see a mix of everyday luxury and highly functional designs that are sophisticated, approachable and appropriate for modern life.

The Challenge Timeless spaces and understated elegance need a nuanced approach, and James can balance it all in spades. Designing for comfort and style, not just one or the other, she can create livable luxury time and time again for her clients. “I design functional, tailored interiors that have neutral yet sophisticated tones and merge the modern and the classic seamlessly,” she says.

The Strategy An Imani James room looks simple but is complex, revealing layers of texture and color. One element that always makes an appearance and gets a lot of attention is art. “I believe art completes the room,” she says. “My husband and I are avid art collectors and enjoy original works in our home from Calida Rawles, Derrick Boateng, David



Frank Morrison art peaks in the background. Navy Caracole chairs sit at the dining table crafted of crushed crystals.

Goldblatt, Nelson Makamo and more,” she says. Instead of being a finishing touch for a room, art is often the starting point for James. “Colors, shapes, movement, whether figurative or abstract, can bring in the perfect pop of color and visual interest,” she says. “I’m particularly drawn to large-scale art. I do not consider the design to be complete until art is on the wall.”

The Victory Designers often have challenges with designing or redesigning their own homes, and James is no exception. “We redesigned the exterior landscape of my home. I was excited to get creative and play with exterior spaces,” she says. A recent trip to the Azores in Portugal was the inspiration point thanks to its abundance of hydrangeas. James relandscaped the yard with the help of a landscape architect, installing a new irrigation system, a newly built custom firepit, pergola, pavers, and of course, a plethora of planted hydrangeas.



Timeless black and white tile and oversized pendants



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