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Sanchez: Streamlining With Style

BY WHITNEY SAUPAN I JUNE 27TH, 2012 I < SHARE



"When I was a little girl, my girlfriends and I would play Barbies. They would dress them up and I would make Barbie furniture and Barbie houses," said interior designer Victoria Sanchez.

So began a design career, which was on exhibit at the 2012 D.C. Design House.

Sanchez grew up around D.C. and has always lived here. She graduated from Marymount University in 1984. She has been designing for 30 years and has had her own business for 12. When she's finished her designing career, she says, "I would like to be a college professor and teach interior design."

"I've always been observant and had the gene and disposition to identify the basic principles of design," Sanchez said. "My grandmother would take me antiquing. She would try and teach me how to point something out."

She also said that her father helped her fine-tune her skills. "My father bought a lot of real estate. We would go to open houses, and I would say that this house would be better if they moved the wall, or they need a bigger kitchen." Sanchez explained that these experiences helped her grow as a designer. "It's my gift," she said with a laugh.

What a gift it is. Her Teenager's Getaway room in the D.C. Design House showed off her talent to a tee. The room is filled with bright colors, unique fabrics and intriguing furniture. Sanchez said her inspiration for this room came from her two teenage children and from Missoni patterns. "I saw the fabrics, and the light bulb hit me. I worked the design and it















## **SOCIAL SCENE**





snowballed and grew, and I got very excited about it."

She found items at antique shops, on eBay and at retail stores. "That was part of my inspiration, working outside the box, pushing myself, trying something new," Sanchez said. "I put myself in a position like a client would. I bought some retail pieces, some used pieces and I put it all together and came up with a high-end, really fashionable room. I feel that more people are interested in reusing things. That they are interested in pieces that have a little bit of history. All new isn't necessarily so fabulous anymore."

In general, Sanchez gets her inspiration from her daily life. "Inspiration is really everywhere that I go every day. It's all around us all the time. But until there is really a need for it — it doesn't click or register."

She also gets inspiration from other designers and from fabric and furniture manufacturers. "They work to identify the trends," she said. "Then, when I'm exposed to the trends, I'm inspired to experiment with them and incorporate those trends into my design and my work." She is also moved by classic design elements and architecture found in classical art. She said she believes that if a design has the basic elements then it will remain both timeless and spot-on.

When asked about the Washington style, Sanchez says that she sees a changing trend. "The traditional, federal, stereotypical designs seem very passé. All generations seem to be more interested in streamlining their interiors. There is a nod to the classic designs but not as heavy as in the past. Less is more seems to be the trend."

For Sanchez, the best part of designing "is that I can fulfill my designer fantasies in other people's homes. I love always being able to try new things all the time." Sanchez also says that helping the client is a great part of the job. "My job, as a designer, is to take my clients' wishes and turn them into their reality. I have the skills and resources, which is why they come to me. At the end of the day, I make people's homes beautiful for them."





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