



Vail Valley is paradise for many. When wandering through Vail Village, what catches the eye is the distinct Bavarian architecture that is signature Vail. But don't judge a book by its cover, for the interiors of many of those buildings and homes are not quite as cookie cutter as the outside. In fact, there are many tremendously creative interiors in the Vail Valley, due in part to these six distinctive women interior designers. No two are alike in their approach to work or their special touch to create a masterpiece interior. Yet, all of them are dedicated to making Vail Valley a dynamic, beautiful place in which to live in comfort and style.

PICTURED FROM LEFT Interior Designers Carol Moore, Eddy Doumas, Patti Dixon, Dallas Lyon,

Melissa Greenauer, Tracie Schumaker

BY Annie Uyehara  
PHOTOS Brent Bingham Photography



Eddy Doumas

# worth interiors

VAIL VALLEY

Worth Interiors with offices in the Vail Valley and Denver is an internationally recognized firm for the creativity of both principles, Eddy Doumas and Lisa Kanning. Worth Interiors was selected one of the top design firms globally by the Andrew Martin Design Review in 2006 and 2008, which is known as “The Academy Awards of the Interior Design Industry.” Worth Interiors believes the interior design and interior architectural detailing of any project is key to producing the complete experience, whether it be a private home, hotel, or restaurant.

Lisa Kanning was raised on a Montana ranch. While attending boarding school near Boston, she discovered there was “more out there than cows and horses!” She studied psychology in college and was close to receiving a degree when on a whim, she changed to interior design. “A psychology background can be a benefit in this biz,” she quipped. Kanning moved to Vail in 1997 and with her friend Eddy Doumas started Worth Interiors in 1999. Kanning travels a lot for work, as Worth Interiors tends to follow clients from home to home.

**When you meet with a client, what is foremost on your mind?**

It is to convey confidence in my design abilities while remaining open to the vision of the client. While the designer may have a clear perception of the outcome of a project, it is often hard for a client to visualize. It is a balance of the designer’s expertise and the client’s wishes.

**What is your signature style?**

I tend to prefer a more monochromatic palette and rely on texture for impact—more of a discovery of design rather than being obvious. A silky smooth pillow placed on a nubby textured linen sofa can have the same impact through the refraction of light as a bold color can have contrasting against a neutral hue. My use of color tends to be in small accents, and the bulk of interest draws from textural differences.

**What is the biggest challenge when you work on the interior of a home?**

Window coverings can often create a challenge. Many times an architect has a vision of the exterior of the home without taking into account the practicality of providing privacy to the interior. If a client prefers blackout window coverings in a bedroom, it is often impossible to achieve with peaked windows, etcetera, and sometimes it feels as though you are defeating the architect’s work of providing light in a space.

**What project are you working on now in the Vail Valley?**

I am just completing a remodel of a duplex in Bachelor Gulch that has been very rewarding. While the clients have been very receptive to my ideas, it is often a challenge to work within the confines of existing spaces that have no real architectural interest. I was able to create interest through textured wall coverings, panels of raw steel, and accent walls covered in roughly hewn stone.

Founded by Tracie Schumacher to fulfill a lifelong dream, Studio80 is named after Tracie’s daughter Adie, which is pronounced “eighty.” Studio80 is a unique new design firm offering a fresh breath of design to the Vail Valley and beyond. Studio80 specializes in turnkey interiors: following a project from initial space planning through final furnishings installation. With 20 years of design experience, its expertise ranges from residential and commercial renovations to luxury resort designs.

Schumacher has a Fine Arts degree from Iowa State University. She moved to Colorado in 1993 to “be a ski bum and marry a rich man.” After waitressing for years, she served her last blue plate special 20 years ago. She worked at Slifer Design as a project manager for many years and did other design-related work.

After working in interior architecture, Schumacher wanted a closer link to interior design. “I thought I should be doing all of it from start to finish.” She didn’t see design going the way she wanted, and thus is the impetus to start her company. “I felt boxed in; it wasn’t fulfilling my creative needs. I thought I could do better on my own and be more creative.”

Schumacher has a full life outside the office. She has two children, two pit bulls, a black cat, and “a bunch of plants.” While she adds hobbies like music and reading, she also has a bit of a wild side. “Last year I was in the Eagle County Demolition Derby. My car was a 1971 Lincoln Mark XI, and I placed 5th out of thirteen places, which I thought was great considering I was the only female in the event. I’m pretty much up for anything nutty.”

**What makes being an Interior Designer in the Vail Valley so unique?**

I think it is getting to meet people from all around the world. Each client is so unique in the way they live and function on a daily basis. It’s interesting to get into the daily routines and lifestyles of each one of them to help create their dreams.

**Do you have a signature style?**

I wouldn’t say I have one particular style. Each project, whether it be modern or traditional is my opportunity to use my artistic eye to create something one of a kind. I enjoy mixing architecture, furnishings, and fabrics as my art—it’s not a recipe. One thing I can say is that having an interior architecture background really helps to back up the interior design touches, so that each one of my projects flows from the trim on the windows to the pillows on the sofas.

**What projects are you working on now in the Vail Valley?**

My three main local jobs are: a new construction modern masterpiece by RKD Architecture; a rustic mountain retreat lodge; and a Vail condo being remodeled in a very contemporary style.

**What project are you most pleased with in your interior design career?**

It is the LN House by David Adjaye in Denver. The architecture was truly one of a kind—a breath of fresh air. It’s nice to see architects be able to step out of the box and create with a functional end result in mind.



Tracie Schumacher

# studio80 interior architecture & design

EAGLE



Patti Dixon

# morningstar interior design

EDWARDS

Dixon has been in business since 1982, and Morningstar Interior Design is one of the top design firms in the Vail Valley. Dixon's firm is a five-time B.E.A.M. Award recipient for Best Interior Design awarded by the National Association of Homebuilders, and it has been an American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) associate member since 1982. Dixon received a Bachelor of Arts with an emphasis on interior design from North Texas University in 1975. She grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, and she moved to Vail in 1981 with her husband mainly to ski. She was unable to find work in interior design when she moved here, but within a year she launched Morningstar Interior Design.

When she's not at work, Dixon enjoys being an artist, sculpting in stone, and ballroom dancing.

### Why is Vail Valley so special?

I feel fortunate to be able to work with the caliber of clientele we have in the Vail Valley. The variety of clients from all over the world inspires such individual and varied design work, ranging from the traditional to the most bold modern and everything in between! I love the variety and I love the long-term relationships I have been able to for with my clientele.

### Is there anything especially in vogue in mountain homes?

I find that just about anything goes nowadays. I think nature always has a presence in this beautiful valley. I try to incorporate the environment—to recall where they are. The interpretation may be in the use of soft textured fabrics, wood grains, iron finishes, stonework or lighting.

### Are there things designers should avoid for mountain homes?

No antlers.

Hire local: We have access to such truly gifted craftsmen in the Vail Valley. Practical floors and finishes so maintenance is not problematic and leisure time is more prevalent.

### What is your signature design?

I am glad you asked that important question. Good design is the only signature I need. Whatever sparks the imagination is what is of interest to me.

### What projects are you most pleased with in your interior design career?

I have two, and I cannot pick between them. One is a Beaver Creek residence on Holden Road where Southern clients were the dream clients: it features contemporary design and is a large residence, but it is especially comfy and inviting with fantastic art, rugs, finishes, tile work, cabinetry and leather walls. The other is a Saddle Ridge residence remodel in Beaver Creek. This was a transformation to the hilt! My London clients were absolutely fabulous. We shared the vision of possibility to what this place could look like, which was most certainly a challenge. From every minute detail to the overall design theme and character, it was a labor of love.



Dallas Lyon

# lyon design group

EDWARDS

Dallas Lyon of Lyon Design Group is the woman behind the name. The firm was voted "Best in the Vail Valley" in 2010. The philosophy of Lyon Design Group is to "approach each project with a fresh perspective." Each design is created with the client in mind. Dallas Lyon describes her company's interior design style as creative, bold, and never repetitive. "We are equally organized, strategic and motivated by the ever changing design world, and strive to make each of our client's vision a success," says Lyon.

### What makes the Vail Valley so distinctive?

I find the Vail Valley is different from working in many other cities in that most of my clients live somewhere else. Usually I am working on someone's second or third home, so the process is much more unique than that of someone who lives here full-time. Client communication is key. The foremost factor in specializing in resort design for second homeowners is to make sure they know that they are in good hands. I want to make sure that when they walk in the door on Christmas Eve that not only is everything perfect, but that every detail has been addressed.

### When one thinks of mountain homes, one thinks mostly of cliché themes. Is this fair to say?

Mountain homes have changing design trends to go with the times. However, a good designer knows when to say when. For example, Mountain Modern has run its course, so let's come up with something new, shall we? I like to have fresh ideas when I begin each project, no matter what the current trends are at the time. It takes great vision not only to see what's hot right now, but also to see what's going to be hot five to ten years from now. Just like fashion, I'm not a slave to the trendy stuff, but a visionary for the always in look.

### Any designer tips on what to avoid?

My designer *do not do* this list? Hey, if it's not Christmas year-round, then don't furnish your home as if it is, right?

### What is your signature style?

I don't have a signature style. I think that is what makes a great designer, so rather than forcing one's style onto clients, I try to bring out their own unique style through good design. By listening and understanding my client's needs and interpreting their likes and dislikes, I utilize intuitive intellect when designing for my clients. The style of the home, location, and architectural features all come into play, as well.

### What projects are you working on now in the Vail Valley, and which are you most pleased with?

Currently, three out of my five clients are repeat clients. So that tells me I've made great relationships with my clients along the way, which is my ultimate goal. I am pleased with all of them, of course.



Melissa Greenauer

greenauer  
design  
group  
EDWARDS

Firm owner Melissa Greenauer began her career in landscape architecture, but she found her heart lay in interior architecture and design with the understanding that interior spaces should connect to the exterior of the property. After receiving a degree in Landscape Architecture from West Virginia University, Melissa moved to Vail in 1993. “I skied the winter before with friends, and I ended up making a professional connection. I figured that I would give it a whirl before I moved to New York, but living in the Vail Valley grew into building my career. This is a small village, but it has a lot to offer with diverse clientele and a really strong local community.”

Greenauer opened her design firm in 1998. Her background supports her appreciation and understanding of every element of the design process from concept to completion. With a growing profile in the Middle East, Greenauer Design Group, Inc., has received recognition in Lebanon and the United Arab Emirates. Greenauer Design Group, Inc., also maintains a presence in the U.S. and was awarded a first place Interior Design honor from ASID, Colorado Chapter for a remodel project in Vail Village, Colorado.

Greenauer spoke to WHJ by phone from Dubai where she was attending a design show.

#### What drew you into the designer field?

I was a creative child and gravitated towards fashion and design. I started my university studies in interior design and changed to landscape architecture, following my passion for all things outdoors. During a position at an architectural firm, I realized how lengthy the architectural process can be from first drawings to the start of a building. I then realized I preferred to work with clients once they already have committed to the structure. That evolved into the appreciation of my career in interior design.

#### What trends are you seeing in mountain homes?

I’m seeing a stronger pull to western elements that went away for a while. Western details were really pared down, and a very sleek look has evolved in the mountains. People are warming things up again, using more color, and adding back western design details but keeping it focused and sophisticated.

#### What do you mean by “western style?”

Western style in Vail means a combination between European alpine and a tie to the cowboy Western rough and rustic look. Western style now is sophisticated, and clichés like antler chandeliers have more elegant and refined features.

#### Who or what inspires your design work?

I pull from a lot of different people and sources. I get inspired by seeing creative things, and I think about how I can use details or conceive it better or differently. I also get inspiration from my travels, design shows, and looking through monthly publications. The magazines are doing a fantastic job of showing off great design work for ideas. Right now, I’m at a show in Dubai, and I met a fantastic lighting designer to work with on a project in NYC.

Carol Moore is an award-winning interior designer and owner of Carol Moore Interior Design. With nearly 30 years of interior design experience, Moore specializes in interior space planning, material specifications, and custom furniture interior designs. She graduated from Iowa State University with a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Interior Design in 1980 and completed her interior design internship at Bloomingdales in New York City.

“I moved to Vail in 1981 to combine my passion for skiing with a career in interior design. Initially, I worked as a ski instructor to supplement my income as an interior designer,” she said. In 1988, she joined Slifer Designs, where she managed one of three design teams for both residential and commercial projects. In 1996, she launched Carol Moore Interior Design, Inc. Moore and her associates’ goal is to provide expertise in interior design services with an emphasis on personal attention to detail at competitive pricing. In 1994–95, Moore won the B.E.A.M. award for her work on a Vail Golf Course residence. She also received the ASID Interior Design Awards in 2001 and 2002 for her work on two separate residences in Beaver Creek. She is professional member of ASID.

#### Some would define Vail as cookie-cutter architecture. Perhaps this isn’t the case?

The diversity of design projects and clients has been unimaginable for a girl from Des Moines, Iowa. We have designed Bavarian-influenced ski chalets and classic contemporary homes, as well as a desert oasis and a beach getaway. When my clients realized the Vail and Aspen areas were where their families preferred to live, many moved to the mountains full-time and asked me to work with them on their primary residences. Several of them have decided they need vacation homes elsewhere, so I have collaborated with them for their vacation homes. We have projects on both coasts, in the desert, and out of the country.

#### Do you have a distinct style?

In general I try to incorporate an interesting mix of classic contemporary and traditional pieces. This gives the appearance of treasured objects acquired over times in order to create a beautiful, thoughtfully furnished home with a timeless appeal. I prefer fewer but larger scale, impressive accessories over miniscule tchotchkes (Yiddish for multiple tiny accessories).

#### Where do you find inspiration?

I find inspiration everywhere. At home, I pour through design magazines and rip out pages of ideas for my design library. I have been very fortunate, as I love to travel and shop flea markets throughout the county and internationally. Last year we attended the Paris furniture show, “Maison et Object,” as well as the flea market. At the show we were able to shop the European vendors that we would not have access to in the States. I found a beautiful art deco cabinet at the flea market that now sits prominently in my living room.



Carol Moore

carol  
moore  
interior  
design  
EDWARDS