

As Seen In

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EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | LOUISIANA



Tried & True

Design Center New Orleans holds its own against big-city venues by giving local professionals a true showroom experience

Karin Nelson and Troy Wilson met in 1998 while working at Jacqueline Vance Rugs in New Orleans. Designers by trade, they opened Nelson Wilson Interiors in 2001; within a decade, they developed a thriving business and a strong nationwide network of industry suppliers. Realizing that other local designers often had to leave the state to find the resources they needed for projects, the pair began selling directly to the design trade.

Today, they own and operate Design Center New Orleans (DCNO). With 6,000 combined square feet of showroom space and a curated collection, DCNO carries designer goods from the classic to the antique, artisanal, high-end bespoke, and more. It has become "an essential source for New Orleans-based design professionals," says Nelson. "We order pieces, handle all of the billing, and take care of any problems that might arise."

DCNO spans two locations, both former homes, so designers can envision how furniture, art, lighting, and accessories will look in the scale of a house. The showroom offers true trade discounts and keeps samples and products from the lines DCNO represents on hand, so designers can see and feel the quality. "We ensure designers and their clients alike have the resources they need," says Nelson, noting that she and Wilson also prioritize supporting local craftspeople, from plasterers to artists.

Throughout it all, their goal has been to stand behind local designers and help them see their projects to fruition. "We have a vibrant design community," says Wilson, "but we knew our designers needed a home base. It's exciting to bring fine fabrics and beautiful furnishings to our city."

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Modern art and traditional Japanese-style vases blend old and new in this soft spring green living room. A gold domed ceiling, stark black-on-white throw pillow, and ancient-style artwork blend to create timeless design. A mural brings a touch of greenery to the pale gray and taupe accents in this lounge-friendly living room. A dragon throw pillow, sculpted winged mythical creatures, and striking leopard print bring a pop of wild nature and myth to this living room. *Photos by Allison Gooete.*