

Designer Friday: An aspire Exclusive Interview With Gray Walker

By Aspire Design and Home – Published: November 28th, 2025



Gray McElveen Walker, ASID, is an interior designer known for merging fresh modern interiors with her love of collected heritage pieces. Gray's work exudes a confident femininity with a sophisticated southern grace. Gray has been featured on design platforms both nationally and internationally, ranging from House and Garden UK to the Wall Street Journal, to the cover of aspire design and home magazine. Rooted in Gray's South Carolina heritage and her love of art and history, the studio blends clients' personal stories with global influences, bold use of color, and custom, one-of-a-kind pieces. Whether designing city homes, country houses, or coastal retreats, Gray Walker Interiors is known for its attention to scale, sense of place, and timeless perspective. See some of Gray's jaw-dropping interiors in today's Designer Friday.

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This foyer channels peak grandmillennial glamour with its gilt staircase, pleated skirts, powder-blue console, and a ceiling that glows like old Hollywood.



Soft botanical wallpaper, a sculptural lily-petal chandelier, and sun-washed drapery make this bedroom feel like a garden that decided to bloom indoors.

Andrew Joseph: What is your favorite design element to incorporate into your projects? *Gray Walker: Lighting is one of the first rounds of selections. I put lighting in the realm of architecture... It is expensive and worth it. Lighting is part of the platform. Good light fixtures are what I preach about daily.*

AJ: How do you balance functionality and aesthetics in your designs?

GW: Asking my client how they want to live in the room: What are their main goals for the function of the space? Space planning is first and foremost... then the aesthetic.

AJ: What's the best piece of advice you've received as a designer?

GW: Keep your blinders on and keep going through the good AND the bad.

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The muted scenery wraps the room in a soft stillness, creating a dining experience that feels contemplative rather than performative.

AJ: What is the most important element in a successful interior design?

GW: I believe my drive to keep getting better at what I do and creating new hurdles to jump are key elements to my personal success as an interior designer. No one can light a fire in me like I can. Passion and self-motivation are a must in my design career.

AJ: How do you approach a new design project?

GW: My client will usually unintentionally direct me to something that sparks my creativity. Initial walk-throughs teach me a lot about a client. There might be a painting or rug that they love that initiates a color palette. I listen very carefully to what is said as we peruse the existing home.



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AJ: What inspired you to become a designer?

GW: My mother. My earliest memories of art and design are with my mother arranging accessories and moving furniture around our house. She is an artist and an avid gardener. There were always fresh-cut roses in mason jars from her garden and paintings in process on easels in the breakfast room. She was the mad scientist type, while I loved decorating my dollhouse meticulously and color-coding my closet to feel more like a shop. I got my creativity from my mother and my sense of business from my father. Both of my parents wanted me to have a career I was passionate about and were my biggest fans while I navigated my journey. My first degree is a BA in art history. After college, I studied photography in Italy and left thinking I was going to continue that path. I was in my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina, and got a job working with my mom's interior designer while I figured things out. I learned that the composition I was truly passionate about was that of a room. I wasted no time going back to school for my BA in interior design.

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