

"As a kid, I was in awe of Frank Lloyd Wright! (Actually, I think that continues in a subconscious way.) I still remember connecting with the thoughtfulness in his work. There is an exquisite balance that I strive for in my projects. There is a subliminal comfort to a space when the right amount of attention is paid to light, color, and detail."

"I think I was born interested in design. It is just part of who I am. I grew up in the city of Chicago, surrounded by fantastic architecture and design. There was never a question for me that this was my future."

"Often, our clients are people shifting their lives to follow a dream or passion. We are a small business, too, and also very passionate about what we do."

"I spend my time developing crazy ideas and determining how they will come into reality. My inspiration comes from spaces and the human interaction with those spaces. I have gone from a passion that began with the perfectly cooked egg to a passion for designing the perfect environment in which to enjoy that egg."

"I do love and appreciate the works of many of the mid-century furniture designers. Delivering simplicity and functionality, they took the opportunity to explore new materials and utilize manufacturing techniques to inspire their design ideas. This changed the nature of furniture design."



## Behind the Design

THIS CHEF-TURNED-DESIGNER RUNS HER OWN BUSINESS CREATING INTERIORS PERFECTLY SUITED TO HER SMALL-BUSINESS CLIENTS.

**Melissa** Friday spent 10 years as a chef, developing recipes and managing the execution of her on-plate ideas. This served her well as she transitioned into a design career. She opened her own company, Xan Creative, in 2001, after six years as a design project manager for another company. These days, you can see her work in the well-designed spaces at Snooze, Marco's Coal-Fired Pizza, and the Great Divide Brewing Co. Tap Room. She is guided by an "under-promise, over-deliver philosophy" that translates into pride in her finished rooms.



SNOOZE BY STEPHANIE FRIDAY

"I often find myself inspired by poorly executed design. It drives me to think of solutions to these details."