



MEET THE SEASON EIGHT 'HGTV STAR' FINALISTS



Brooks Atwood

Age: 39

Brooklyn, N.Y.

Brooks describes himself as a “mad scientist of industrial design.” After receiving a B.A. degree in architecture from Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Ill., and a M.A. in advanced architectural design from Columbia University, Brooks says he feels right at home when he designs “because it’s the only profession where he can be totally insane and totally rational at the same time.” Brooks is a professor of industrial design at New Jersey Institute of Technology and also runs a design company that offers a range of services, from furniture design to sculptural installations for commercial and residential spaces. Brooks says “while he lets the process of design dictate the style, his personal style is futuristic and avant-garde.”



Tiffany Brooks

Age: 33

Antioch, Ill.

Tiffany, a wife and working mom, says she loves spending time growing her residential interior design business. She first demonstrated her design talent when she was offered the opportunity to stage model homes while working in property management. After one of her model-home designs won an award, she decided to follow her passion for interior design full time. She describes her design style as “classic with a twist” and enjoys mixing traditional pieces with a little rock n’ roll.



Tylor Devereaux

Age: 42

Grand Rapids, Mich.

Tylor, whose first career choice was to be an elementary school teacher, says he later decided to study his hobby of home decorating full time. After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in interior design with a minor in industrial engineering from Central Michigan University, he was soon working with top designers in the Midwest. Tylor, who opened his own design firm in 2004, has designed spaces from small- to large-scale homes, penthouse condos, restaurants and hotels. He lives with his partner of 11 years and his 16-year-old son.



Boris Eckey
Age: 35
Los Angeles, Calif.

A native of Hamburg, Germany, Boris' introduction to the design industry came at an early age—his mother worked as an interior designer and his father was an architect. Boris attended the Academy of Arts in San Francisco, Calif. where he received a B.A. in architectural interior design. Despite limited English-speaking skills, Boris launched his own design firm while enrolled in school. After 15 years as a successful designer, his company creates designs for a range of projects, from small residential spaces to large hotels. He credits his upbringing in Europe and his extensive travel for his appreciation of historical influences paired with contemporary pieces—a design style he calls “comfortable luxury.”



Tobin Green
Age: 36
Tampa, Fla.

Tobin, who credits his artistic nature to his upbringing in a predominantly female family, says that despite his macho exterior, he wears his heart on his sleeve. After losing his mother, Tobin decided to embrace his passion of architecture and design. He obtained a B.S. degree in housing and technical interior design from Florida State University and a M.A. degree in architecture from the University of South Florida. Tobin's passion for design led him to create the Abstract Photographic Review of American Architecture, a foundation that stimulates architectural education. Tobin says he is inspired by architectural photography in his design work which ranges from commercial design projects to high-end residential spaces. He describes his style as “vintage industrial chic” that infuses the historical personality of a space with edgy, personal updates.



Crisermey “Cris” Mercado
Age: 27
Miami, Fla.

Born in New York and raised in the Dominican Republic, Cris says she proudly represents her country and culture wherever she goes. At age nine, her family became aware of her design talents after she redecorated her parents' bedroom. Cris later attended school in the Dominican Republic, where she received a bachelor degree in architecture at Universidad UNIBE and has subsequently worked as an architecture assistant and a draftsman. Despite a design career that includes full-home remodels and set design for music videos and TV shows, Cris says she considers herself “a rookie” since she's only been working in the field for three years. She characterizes her style as “bold contemporary.”



Jessie Miller
Age: 31
St. Louis, Mo.

Jessie Miller, a self-described fashion-forward and outspoken woman, grew up in a small town “surrounded by cornfields.” Early in her career she was a successful real estate project manager and also explored home design. When she lost her job in 2011, she says she decided to focus on a full-time career in design. Jessie says she believes she has truly come into her own as a designer and touts a style that is glamorous with a street edge.



Anne Rue
Age: 41
Lake Mary, Fla.

When Anne isn't purchasing and rehabbing old homes in foreclosure with her husband or running her interior design firm, she and her husband are busy raising their three young boys. After graduating with an Associate of Applied Science degree in interior design from Seminole State College in Sanford, Fla., she started her career designing luxury tour buses and yachts. Since then, she has spent more than 15 years focusing on interior design and has successfully managed her own interior design firm for 12 years. She categorizes her design style as “beautiful, functional and livable eclectic.” She also says she loves to incorporate color into her designs and enjoys mixing classic-and modern design styles.



Jeribai Tascoe
Age: 33
Sonora, Calif.

When it comes to design, Jeribai says he is a “jack of all trades.” While he doesn't have formal design training, he has worked in many areas of design, including interior design, as well as product, graphic and web design. Jeribai, who works as a product manager for a software company and as a freelance graphic designer, recently began purchasing and redesigning old homes. He names his favorite project as the studio drum room that he created from a wooden shed and he considers his style a “fresh remix” in which he adds a new spin to classic styles.



Abby Vasek
Age: 35
Wimberley, Texas

Abby, a born and bred Texas girl decided at an early age to follow in the footsteps of her interior designer mother. While Abby earned a B.A. degree in graphic design from Abilene Christian University, she explored her true passion of interior design. In 2001, she and her sister opened a creative manufacturing design company that catered to the “tween” market, but later dissolved the company in 2009 when she and her sister each gave birth to twins. Now, Abby juggles a happy home with her husband and two 5-year-old boys and is a successful freelance designer. She describes her favorite design styles as “clean bohemian” and likes to incorporate animal prints, bold colors, over-sized pieces and luxurious finishes.