



**Meet the Season Seven *HGTV Design Star* Finalists:**



**Jordan Cappella**  
**Age: 40**  
**Venice, Calif.**

Born and raised in Sydney, Australia, Jordan moved to the United States 16 years ago to study interior design. After studying at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, he returned to Australia to take on his first project—redesigning his mother’s beauty salon. Back in America, Jordan expanded his design horizons with projects such as restaurants, homes and apartments, as well as a homeless shelter. Inspired by designs from the 50s, 60s and 70s, Jordan says his favorite design styles are Hollywood regency, modern and art deco. Jordan, an entrepreneur with his own candle and furniture line, says he loves to push design boundaries by mixing unexpected patterns and bold colors that most people would never imagine.



**Danielle Colding**  
**Age: 36**  
**Queens, N.Y.**

Danielle, a former professional modern dancer, is now an interior designer in New York. After she earned a B.A. in anthropology from Stanford University and an associate’s degree in interior design from the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandise in Los Angeles, Danielle opened her own design firm. As a self-described problem-solver, Danielle believes she uses her open, friendly and quirky personality to connect with her clients. She characterizes her design style as global chic, classic modern and edited traditional.



**Bex Hale**  
**Age: 37**  
**Abilene, Texas**

Originally from Portland, Ore., Bex moved to Abilene, Texas to pursue her education at Abilene Christian University. After graduating with a B.S. in industrial technology, she opened her own retail home furnishings store where she discovered her passion for interiors. As a self-taught designer, Bex has undertaken a variety of design projects for commercial and residential clients, as well as corporate events. To Bex, design is a visual story that takes viewers on a journey. She describes her favorite design style as “art eco,” which is an artistic, eco-friendly design using industrial materials, rich warm tones and clean lines. She used this look for one of her favorite projects—a restaurant design in San Francisco where she used 100 percent recycled materials.



**Rachel Kate**  
**Age: 35**  
**Minneapolis, Minn.**

Instead of joining the family motorcycle business, Rachel followed her passion for design, which she says began in the fourth grade while she was sketching fashion and interior designs for fun. In high school, she developed her natural talents by painting fabrics, sewing clothes and reupholstering chairs to sell to friends and family. Rachel has completed more than 50 home décor projects, 20 full remodels and 20 new construction projects. Currently, Rachel is a mom who runs her own freelance design business and believes there are no limits with design. She characterizes her style as eclectic rustic, antique French and coastal beach house.



**Miera Melba**  
**Age: 64**  
**Delray Beach, Fla.**

Born in Amsterdam, Netherlands, Miera says her love of art and drawing was first inspired by her father, who was an award-winning window dresser. After studying art at Calvin College and earning a real estate license, Miera worked as a receptionist in a home development sales office where she had the opportunity to join the in-house design firm. She later opened her own design firm, which she operated for 28 years working on condos, high-end homes and coastal residences. Miera, who is an award-winning designer, now works as a residential interior designer and describes her favorite style as seaside coastal, transitional and eclectic.



**Yuki Northington**  
**Age: 43**  
**Bay Saint Louis, Miss.**

A Mississippi native and a mother of four, Yuki unearthed her design abilities while working as a receptionist at a design/build firm. With a B.A. in painting from the University of Missouri and a B.A. in interior design from the University of Northern Iowa, Yuki is an interior designer, artist and retail store owner and has designed law offices, healthcare facilities, residences and commercial sites. Influenced by fashion and jewelry trends, Yuki says she loves mixing classic and modern styles in any home design project. She describes her personal style favorites as eclectic, gothic Tudor and coastal casual.



**Luca Paganico**  
**Age: 36**  
**Pittsburgh, Pa.**

Luca says he knew he had a natural passion for design when, as a child, he would frequently rearrange his bedroom and draw on the walls. After graduating with a B.A. in industrial design from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, Luca kick-started his own firm by designing a golf course club house, bars, restaurants and condos. Luca says he loves showing people the fun in design and describes his style as modern and eco-friendly. He uses the term “designology” to describe the fusion of two different styles to create a unique new design.



**Stanley Palmieri**  
**Age: 34**  
**Pittsburgh, Pa.**

Stanley says he can build anything he imagines. Graduating with a B.F.A. from West Virginia University and a M.F.A from The State University of New York, Stanley discovered his love of interior design when landscape design and construction clients asked for his opinion about their home interiors. Stanley works as a construction project manager at a general contracting firm and describes his favorite design styles as minimalism, pop art and cubism. Stanley says his favorite project was the installation of a popular bar and restaurant in his college town—a space he transformed from a parking garage.



**Britany Simon**  
**Age: 28**  
**Phoenix, Ariz.**

Britany discovered her knack for design years ago when she and her sister redecorated Barbie's dream home. After graduating from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in business and interior design, Britany launched her career by working for several design firms where she focused on residential flooring, cabinets, and kitchen and bath design. Today, Britany is a designer and account executive at a home building retailer, as well as a photographer and home stager for her own design firm. When it comes to designing a space, Britany says she loves the challenge of creating something fabulous on a budget. She describes her style as eclectic and edgy with touches of "glam-chic."



**Kris Swift**  
**Age: 34**  
**Austin, Texas**

Originally from Ontario, Canada, Kris says he grew up knowing he was destined to be a designer. Since completing his master's degree in convergent media from the University of Texas, Kris opened his own design business and gained vast residential, commercial and hospitality design experience. Inspired by nature and art, Kris characterizes his favorite design style as eclectic, rustic modern and industrial baroque. With his self-described "contagious enthusiasm," Kris believes his motto of "risk equals reward" will help make him the next HGTV Design Star winner.



**Mikel Welch**  
**Age: 32**  
**New York City, N.Y.**

As a self-taught designer, Mikel has gone from a sales associate to professional set designer and prop stylist for shows such as *Glam Fairy* and *Jerseylicious*. After completing a B.A. in business from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Mikel pursued his dreams to design and stage restaurants, showrooms, residences and model homes. He says his favorite design styles are modern, transitional and mid-century. He also loves simple, common sense design solutions. Mikel says he can visualize the full potential of any space, whether it requires repurposing furniture or adding wallpaper to a ceiling.



**Hilari Younger**

**Age: 31**

**Dallas, Texas**

Hilari says she discovered her passion for design as a child when she wanted to redo her bedroom every few months. After studying fashion merchandising and public relations at Howard University and getting on-the-job design training in retail establishments, restaurants, home stores and real estate firms, Hilari found her way to commercial and residential design. Today, she is a mom, a self-employed contractor and interior stylist who has completed dozens of design projects ranging from apartment lobbies to model homes and offices. Inspired by fashion and classic movies, Hilari says she loves reviving vintage looks and defines her style as an eclectic mix of ethnic modern and ornate glamour.

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