

Business Feature... Designer Interiors of Ballston

By Annemarie Dalfonso

Ballston –We first met Nicole Skinner in 2007 when she advertised her design company with us. We recently caught up with her and were thrilled to hear what she has been up to over the past 4 years. Trust me when I say that this young woman has been busy!

Nicole grew up in Burnt Hills and moved to Broadalbin in 1996 with her husband James. Nicole has proudly owned her company for over 16 years. Her design studio is located in Burnt Hills, but in 2007 Nicole decided that she wanted to reach out to the local market and she began advertising. "I saw a real increase in my business locally and I began to do a number of in-home design consultations and design projects here. I stayed busy in the local market but was seeing a huge increase in clients in the Saratoga area as well" says Nicole.



NICOLE M. SKINNER GRAUDINS
Owner/Interior Designer

Nicole credits a large portion of her success in the Saratoga market to working with Builders in the area. Acting as the Design Coordinator for their spec houses and assisting new home owners in the selection of everything from roof shingles to paint colors. Many times the homeowners would retain Nicole after they moved in to assist them with general design projects, like window treatments, furniture selections, layout and accessories. "I am a firm believer that

Interior Design services can be tailored to most anyone's budget. I work with clients that just need a little direction, to commercial and residential clients that

have large budgets to work with. I can do a whole house or just a room. I'm budget friendly" she says with a grin.

In 2010, Nicole had the privilege to once again work with Waldron Builders on their Showcase of Homes entry. "I worked very hard on that home and showcased the work of a number of local artisans. To give the home an "Authentic" appeal. The home was basically traditional in design, blending Mission Arts & Crafts Style with nods to the Adirondack style that people in this area love so much. "I had

just found out that I was pregnant with our son Preston when I started the project, so it was tough on me., but I was ready for the challenge! The result, being a part of an amazing design team, we received numerous awards in the design categories." says Nicole with a big smile. Nicole has worked on homes in the Parade of Homes and recently completed a room in the Vanguard Showhouse in Niskayuna. An area of design that has really seen growth in the past several years is home staging and Nicole enjoys helping her clients ready their homes for sale or rental by streamlining accessories and freshening up the decor. "It's amazing what just rearranging furniture or changing a paint color can do to a room" Nicole says. "

Nicole recently lost her beloved grandmother Zena, who had served as her inspiration since she was a little girl. "My Grandmother was way ahead of her time, she was so creative and artistic in everything that she touched. She could've given Martha Stewart a run for her money" she says with a grin. It is in the spirit of her grandmother that Nicole has decided to open a Giftique at her Design Studio in Burnt Hills called "Now and Zen Giftique". The Giftique is slated to open next fall and will showcase local artists and artisans as well as gifts and home decor....a blend of old and new. "My goal is to create a Giftique that will have an ever changing selection of great merchandise that will enhance your home and your experiences there. I am really excited to fulfill a dream that I have all my life and do it in memory of my grandmother. I know she is smiling!"

You may contact Nicole at her Studio in Burnt Hills, Designer Interiors of Ballston, 711 Saratoga Road, Burnt Hills, NY 518-399-6240 or 518-883-4751. Her new website www.designerinteriorsofballston.com is under construction and will be up and running shortly. email her at designinter@aol.com. Nicole will also be a contributing columnist in our special quarterly publication, The Little Black Book, a resource for local women.



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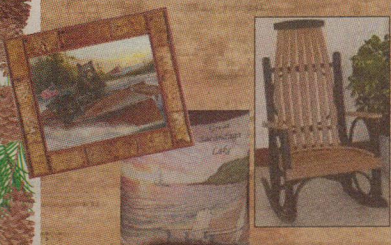
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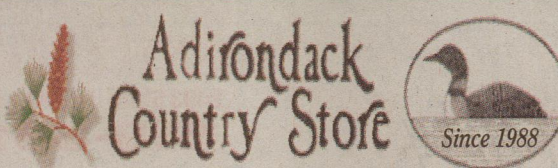
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