

INTERIORS



# INSPIRING INTERIORS



A collection of  
interior design  
ideas from  
the world's  
best  
interior  
designers

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DESIGN BUREAU



SPECIAL EDITION



# INSPIRING INTERIORS



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A COLLECTION OF THE BEST  
INTERIOR DESIGN AROUND THE WORLD—  
WHERE YOU LIVE, WHERE YOU WORK,  
WHERE YOU PLAY

.....



# Tread Strongly

Designbar turns a tire headquarters' employee area from drab to fab with inspiration from the brand

**N**inety-one thousand square feet. More than 400 employees. Monika Nessbach knew she had a big job ahead of her when she was brought on to design the employee common areas at the headquarters of Continental Tire in Fort Mill, South Carolina. "The former employee cafeteria was super-institutional," says Nessbach, owner of Charlotte-based firm Designbar. "It was all white and light gray vinyl tile flooring, bright white fluorescent lights, old tables and chairs. For the most part, employees went out to lunch." We chat with Nessbach about how she built the brand into spaces where the workers would actually want to hang around.

**DB: What influence did the company's product have in the design of their office space?**

Monika Nessbach: I definitely wanted to personalize the space and include dramatic statements. There are many tire manufacturers out there, so I had to find a way to make the product stand out for them. Each tire has a patented tread pattern that is unique to the manufacturer. I worked with the company's graphic designer to incorporate the different patterns into the custom designed floors inside and the large zinc planters on the patio outside.

**DB: It looks like the tread theme is used on the walls, too.**

MN: I used a custom tread pattern stencil for the cafeteria accent walls that were painted in the client's corporate colors. I added a dramatic 60-foot modular wall and worked with a custom sign company who created the client's oversized logo that is LED backlit in the same corporate color that was used for the accent walls. The opposite walls are all glass windows so the logo can be seen from the outside and adds a nice effect, especially at night.

**DB: What designers did you use for the furnishings?**

MN: For the ceiling, I added super cool futuristic chandeliers from Fine Art Lamps and 3Form Varia Ecoresin acoustical panels that have an industrial look to them. The furniture I selected consisted of modern tables by Segis and a mixture of the classic white and orange Verner Panton chairs. For the exterior patio space, I incorporated modern sectional lounge seating by Janus et Cie with river stone shaped outdoor patina coffee tables by The Phillip Collection. And the oversized ceiling fans give the area a Southern feel, customary to the Carolinas.

172



**+ PERFORMANCE ACOUSTICS**

When the decorative ceiling panels were first installed, they didn't have as much "curve" as the designer wanted, so Designbar reached out to Performance Acoustics, a specialty interior contractor providing acoustical and aesthetic solutions. "We arranged to hang the panels with limited edge support, allowing them to naturally gain curvature," says owner Scott Rhodes.



# What's one place in the world where you feel interior design is really spectacular?



"I have an appreciation for the design aesthetic of the Philippines since working with a family

originally from there. Their home incorporates design elements from their roots such as sisal, linen and cotton blends, ebony wood, and dark stains. Views of trees and flowers, a soothing neutral color palette with splashes of bright 'tropical' color, and a prayer room translates the peaceful and gentle nature of the Philippines into their home."

—DENISE WENACUR, DW Design & Decor P. 147



"I have such a weakness for Moroccan design. I love the simplicity of the buildings juxtaposed with the elaborate colors and patterns of the tiles, rugs, and textiles. I am happy it is fairly mainstream now and that Moroccan rugs are found within many different styles of interiors."

—ALANA HOMESLEY,  
Alana Homesley Interior  
Design P. 98



"As crazy as it sounds, Las Vegas is amazing for the food design experience. Their restaurant build-out budgets are insane, and the execution of the experiences in their restaurants is amazing."

—SUE GENTY,  
Sue Genty Interior  
Design P. 185



"I was able to visit a friend in Shanghai about a year ago and I was super surprised by the modern and cutting-edge design and architecture. It was great to see that the Asian influence still was intact and that both old and new were very much in harmony."

—MONIKA NESSBACH,  
Designbar P. 172



"Urban centers that have experienced unrestrained social change in the last two decades are hotbeds of creative expression. Places like Budapest, Prague, Istanbul, Barcelona, and major cities in Latin America come to mind. These are metropolitan hubs with a rich heritage of varied architectural influence and superb craftsmanship combined with new urban cross-cultural vitality."