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HER CLOSET  
AND THEN SOME  
VARIETY ADDS SPICE  
TO AMY SEDLACEK'S  
WARDROBE

FASHIONABLE  
FOOD  
DINING TRENDS  
REFLECT LOVE  
OF LOCAL  
AND MORE

The  
*stylish*  
LIFE

FASHION AND INTERIOR  
DÉCOR MELD FOR SOME

STORY BY A.C. SHILTON

# HOMES, SWEET, BEAUTIFUL, HOME

For local trendsetters, fashion and style are reflected in stunning interior design.

**W**hen it comes to fashion, Southwest Florida may not be New York City — we actually think it's better. Stroll the streets during the lunch hour and you'll see total fashion plates mixing with chic business types mixing with Tommy Bahama-inspired coastal cool kids.

We may not be cutting edge, but at least we've really got variety going for us. And because our sartorial

preferences tend to be reflected in our homes, in Southwest Florida, everyone's home décor is slightly different, and you never know what to expect.

We spoke with five of our favorite local trendsetters on how what they wear influences their nests. While each has a decidedly different personal esthetic, all five could immediately point to specific lamps, area rugs and paint colors that echo items found in his or her closet.

## The Traditionalist

When Jennifer Toussaint was a girl, every Saturday was spent out shopping with her mother and grandmother. The trio would hit all of Boston's best department stores, scoping out great finds. A few decades later, Jennifer carries her mother and grandmother's fashion sense with her.

A Naples-based lawyer, Jennifer wears a lot of suits, but she finds ways — such as fun, frilly blouses and sheer silk scarves — to personalize them. And you'll never, ever, catch her without some sort of sparkly jewelry on.

Like her lawyerly suits, Jennifer's home is decorated in a mostly traditional style, with dark wood and formal fabrics. But don't you dare mistake traditional with boring. She works in fun and feminine accessories in a way similar to how she amps up her courtroom appearance.

"Really, it's funny, my home looks just like how I dress. I use the same color palette and

even the same patterns," she says.

Indeed, the pattern in her sofa can be found throughout her accent pieces and even in a few items in her wardrobe. Her love of sparkle isn't missing from her home, either. "My bowls and frames and candlesticks, those are like little jewels that I have out and around," she says.

While Jennifer says she got her fashion sense from all those Saturdays out shopping with her grandmother, her interior design savvy comes from her mom.

"She really wanted to be an interior designer; she has a real eye for design. But when she was getting ready to go to college, in those days you were either a teacher, a secretary or a nurse. It wasn't really an option."

Although Jennifer relies heavily on guidance from the two generations before her, she always stays true to her own aesthetic.

"My mom will come over and move something a little to the left and I'll look at it and then move it back to the right, so I definitely do my own thing!"



Jennifer Toussaint



Kira Krümm

and it's changed me. It's affected my aesthetic. Now I call my style 'casual coastal'."

Meaning she's swapped tight slacks for linen, and blazers for flowing blouses. Still, she almost always wear heels.

"I try and pair casual items with something less casual like high heels or jewelry to keep it dressy."

The child of two artists, Kira showed talent as a painter early on. Her parents, however, pushed her to pursue a slightly more stable path. While she wanted to become a fashion designer, her father suggested she try interior design.

In yet another example of why your father is always right, Kira excelled from the moment she entered the design

world. While she no longer paints, she says she does approach her wardrobe and her home design the way she used to approach her art.

"It's all about balance. You want to balance everything: the lines, the shape, the color," she says.

Balance is crucial in keeping a neutral design from feeling boring, or even worse, clinical. For every beige or cream she selects, there's a touch of interest in an accessory to counter it.

And sometimes Kira even goes so far as to incorporate her actual designs into her wardrobe. She once made a scarf from a fabric she used in her collection (a few clients actually noticed) and she liked a shell emblem she had made for a throw pillow in her Coastal Collection bedding so much that she had a few made into necklaces.

"I gave them to people who had really helped me along the way. If you see someone wearing one of these mother of pearl pendants, you know they're special to me," she says.

## Staying Neutral

Internationally-known designer Kira Krümm occasionally gets teased by her clients for dressing exactly like her designs. But when you've spent 20 years branding your personal design aesthetic, it's hard not to incorporate it into your daily life.

"Even when my son was born, when he was young I used to dress him like a little accessory," admits Kira, who lives on Marco Island.

Kira — who has a studio in the Miromar Design Center in Estero — is known for her use of neutral colors; creams, grays and bronzes are the currency she trades in. In her own home and in her home designs she uses organic touches to create visual interest against her super-minimalist color palettes.

She does the same in her wardrobe, opting for shell earrings over metals and textured fabrics over synthetics.

"Twenty years ago you would have seen me in a white power suit — I thought I needed to convey this sense that I was a professional. But the lifestyle here is very relaxed