



Dunwoody Designer Shines

ARTICLE LUCY CROSWELL

When the American Craft Council (ACC) returns to Atlanta for its 25th anniversary show, Rick Anthony Bonner with Dunwoody's Insidesign will be sharing the spotlight with 240 of the nation's top master artisans at the esteemed ACC Show at the Cobb Galleria Centre March 14–16.

Now in its 25th year, the ACC is collaborating with 10 interior designers and architects in the Atlanta area with a refreshed on-site exhibition titled “Make Room, Modern Design Meets Craft—Let's Entertain.” Each designer will create a room setting in their own unique style inspired by fine craft objects.

A Michigan native, Bonner earned his degree in interior design and was recruited by international architecture and interiors firm SmithGroupJJR, and later worked with Polo Ralph Lauren. In 2007, he moved to Atlanta and launched Bonner, a design firm much broader in scope than the usual interior design firm. In 2013, he brought his trademark design philosophy—helping a person realize their best life through a luxurious mix of function, beauty and real value—to the design team at Insidesign.

It's been a busy past year for the Dunwoody designer. He has served as co-chair for the Cathedral Antiques Show House Inspiration House, and his 2013 room de-

sign was featured in the ACC's nationally distributed American Craft magazine.

Best known for his mid-century eclectic design style, Bonner uses black and white photography, custom designed pillows and luxurious textiles as some of his signature elements. Glass, metal and wood are craft mediums that inspire him most, and he is a collector of Egyptian Wedgewood Basalt.

“For this year's show, I selected paper work by Florida-based paper artist Lucrezia Bieler and New York-based wood turning artist Michael Scarborough. Bieler's intricate cut-out designs of woodland settings inspired the design of my space, “Tea in the Garden with Sabrina and Julia,” a tribute to my young nieces. It led me to Scarborough's fairy tale tea set; its organic structure and smooth turning are a perfect complement to the paper piece,” says Bonner.

As the premier marketplace for fine craft, the ACC Show in Atlanta draws thousands of collectors from around the Southeast who find great joy in learning the makers' creative processes, developing relationships with the artists and hearing the stories behind each handcrafted piece. With the addition of “Make Room,” event organizers hope to help attendees discover ways to integrate treasured objects into modern design settings.

Details

CraftCouncil.org/Atlanta