



Friendly Spaces

A strong friendship and fresh design vision unite two Georgia decorators.

BY K. Faith Morgan | PHOTOGRAPHY BY Jill Buckner Photography and Adamo Photography



Best friends and Atlanta-area interior designers Joann Kandrac and Kelly Kole have created a partnership that balances both their visual and relationship styles. “Our business is very reflective of who we are,” they say. “It’s fun, sophisticated, hard working, and efficient.” Although both have a background in the business world—Joann in the legal field and Kelly in luxury-property management—they have always expressed an affinity for design and décor. After changing careers and earning a degree from the Art Institute of Atlanta, Kelly began working in the same design showroom where

Joann was a merchandiser and buyer.

The two first joined forces to execute a room in a designer showcase house, and they quickly realized their partnership was meant to be. With complementary personalities, styles, and work ethics, they soon founded Kandrac Kole Interiors. “We went into business together eight years ago,” they say, “and we have had steady, exciting, and meaningful work ever since.”

Working with your best friend is a lot like maintaining a marriage, say Joann and Kelly. Patience, mutual respect, and compromise are all integral factors. Thankfully, though, they’re almost





always of the same opinion when it comes to creating a look. “We like clean, fresh, comfortable, and colorful spaces infused with personality,” they say.

Joann and Kelly strive to craft their makeovers to especially reflect the personal style and story of each homeowner. “They think designers are going to sweep in and move their things to the side,” they say. Instead, Joann and Kelly spend time digging through attics, basements, and closets, looking for items to repurpose in the home. They hear a lot of “if you think you can use it” and “that old thing?” from their clients. But with a fresh coat of paint and some new upholstery, the elements often become the showpiece of a room. Whether it’s a grandmother’s wingback chair or a family Bible, these long-forgotten heirlooms bring unique looks to each space.

Joann and Kelly are also committed to using their skills and success to bless others. As active members of Room Service Atlanta, an organization of area designers who donate their services to shelters and children’s homes, they are able to see great design improve the quality of life of the recipients. “We feel extremely blessed to help others less fortunate know what it means to live in comfortable and beautiful surroundings.”

The most exciting part of the design process is seeing a client’s reaction at the reveal, they say. “Customer service and making sure our clients love their homes is what we’re all about.” ❖

For information, contact Kandrac Kole Interiors at 770-514-9699, or visit kandrac-kole.com.

FROM THEIR HOMES TO YOURS

- Look for inspiration when you travel. Interesting motifs and unique color combinations abound throughout the world; there’s always something new to discover.
- Integrate items you already own into your décor. Whether it’s including a piece of your child’s artwork in a gallery installation or freshening up an old family rocking chair with paint and a brightly colored pillow, pieces with stories add depth and character to a room.

