Susan Slotkis, founder and principal designer of Profiles—Personalized Interiors, has worked in the service industry her entire adult life. Previously an administrative social worker, Slotkis began her journey towards a different service field when she took an intro to interior design adult ed. class. She later went on to earn a degree from FIT and start her own practice. But that wasn’t enough for Slotkis; over the last 20 years she has also become an assistant professor and an author of the esteemed book Foundations of Interior Design.

The name of Slotkis’ firm, Profiles—Personalized Interiors, is one she feels best reflects her designs. Priding herself on her deep understanding of both history and her clients’ tastes and wishes, Slotkis is always ensuring each of her proposals is unlike any other. Like social services, Slotkis feels interior design is a service industry, where “you’re problem solving for your clients,” she said. To ensure a successful project, Slotkis advises that you must “begin where the client is.”

When talking with Slotkis, her passion for art and design was extremely evident; she explained the history of Meissen and their secret ingredient to me with such fervor and delight! “It’s so important to know the roots of the design items you select before you place them in a space,” she said. The only people that may rival Slotkis’ dedication to understanding the intricacies of each tableware designer are the design consultants at Michael C. Fina. They are always eager to help customers make informed and educated decisions regarding their tableware purchases, and offer concierge-level service to their discerning clientele on a daily basis. A family owned and operated specialty shop for over 70 years, Michael C. Fina specializes in tabletop fashion, fine jewelry, and fine stationary and invitations. It has become the ultimate destination for leading interior designers like Slotkis.

What Slotkis feels sets her design firm apart from others is her sensibility and values, and her obvious knowledge. She said, “My prior experiences have taught me how to be sensible, how to create options, and how to work within a budget.” Slotkis is constantly exposing herself to new trends, keeping up to date with design information, and traveling abroad for inspiration. Always cautious to work within her client’s means while providing them with an ideal space, Slotkis says, “I design for the rest of us.”

Slotkis’ book, Foundations of Interior Design, is being revered as an essential source book. Not only does it discuss history, textiles, and the importance of accessories in the home, but it also relays best business practices and space planning in modern times. With her knowledge, service background, beautiful designs, and commitment to education, Slotkis is ensuring that interior designers will exceed our every wish for years to come.

By Teegan Conti

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