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BY KELLY POTTS

CHRISTINA ROUGHAN'S JOURNEY FROM FASHION TO INTERIORS  
CONTINUES TO EARN HER ACCOLADES.



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**F**or as long as interior designer Christina Roughan can remember, art has been a source of inspiration and passion. “I was always inspired with art, ever since I was a child,” says Roughan, who went to school for fashion design and had a successful run in the world of fashion before pursuing her career in interior design. Now, Roughan has her own design company and enjoys creating a beautiful lifestyle for her clients.

After graduating college and studying at the Paris Fashion Institute, Roughan began her career at Ralph Lauren, where she worked in the luxury fashion brand’s computer archive area. Her first job was fit for a style enthusiast, and entailed photographing men’s and women’s clothing and cataloguing every detail about the pieces — the name of the sleeve, the type of buttons or the silhouette of the dress, for example — into the system for future design inspiration. Roughan says that the experience of her first job was amazing, noting that she spent 10 years in various positions at Ralph Lauren.

“I learned so much and started working as a designer, then transitioned to Tommy Hilfiger,” states

Roughan, who worked as the high-end brand’s Visual Director of Store Design, helping to design showrooms and creating eight freestanding stores during her time with the company. Eventually, Roughan was inspired to start doing freelance interior work on the side, and later began her own company as an interior designer. “You have to have knowledge of both,” she says of the relation between fashion and interiors, “they play into one another and impact each other.”

In 1996, Roughan started Sullivan Design and had clients including Ralph Lauren, Donna Karan and Takashimaya. In 2009, the global design firm Roughan, Inc. was founded and has since developed a diverse portfolio of interiors in various locations including Connecticut, New York City, Los Angeles, the Hamptons, Nantucket, Italy and London, to name a few. Roughan, who describes her design style as Modern Traditional, says, “My style and inspiration varies based on the project and the client,” noting that she enjoys being able to transfer thoughts and feelings into a space.

Roughan says, “My goal is to make something really beautiful and create a lifestyle for my clients that they don’t want to leave,” adding that she has a



“We wanted to create a ‘wow’ moment right when you walked in,” Roughan says of this foyer in Greenwich, Connecticut. Each piece of artwork was curated, and some even customized, to perfectly adorn the staircase.



Roughan describes this light and airy Upper East Side master bedroom as “uniformly masculine or feminine.” The spacious master suite, which Roughan says is big enough to be its own apartment, also features a sitting room, bathroom and long hallway.



lot of repeat clients who come to her because they love her work and her character. “I’m easy to work with,” she says, “If someone really has to integrate a piece into a room, I’ll incorporate it into the design process.”

While she finds inspiration in every room of a home, Roughan really enjoys designing dining rooms and media rooms. “I love dark spaces and using black; black is great when done in a really tailored way,” she says, “but I also love all-white rooms, too.” Roughan’s designs are just as fluid and evolving as her color choices, with projects ranging from Country Chic homes in Connecticut, to townhouses in New York City, to beach-inspired homes in Florida.

The well-known designer mentions that her

most challenging project yet was a townhouse in London. “It was challenging because it was out in London, but it was a lot of fun and we got it done,” she says of the majestic, perfectly accessorized townhome.

Roughan was able to go back to her roots at Ralph Lauren with one project that she mentions was particularly fun — the Oceania Cruise Lines Marina Suites. For this unique project, she collaborated with Ralph Lauren Furniture to create Traditional-style suites on the cruise line.

The interior designer recently celebrated Roughan Inc. being featured in the 2016 Andrew Martin Interior Design Review; her prior company, Sullivan Design, has been featured three times as well. “It’s an honor to be featured in that book; it’s

like the Academy Awards of the design industry,” says Roughan. “It’s very inspiring and it’s universal, so a lot of people see it.” The designer fondly recalls having a good friend call her to say she saw Roughan in the book while traveling abroad; a memory that Roughan found both exciting and serendipitous.

When it comes to what Roughan, Inc. has planned for the future, the designer says, “Just keep on going and really creating great designs. I’d love to partner with real estate agents, builders and possibly create some kind of line, but I’m not sure what just yet.” Until then, Roughan says that she will continue to do great work and help her clients create spaces that they love to come home to, noting, “A room isn’t complete until you have the right accessories.”

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