



## KIRYA J. DUNCAN

Design Evolutions Inc., GA

Growing up in historic Natchez, Mississippi on the banks of the renowned river, Kirya Duncan was born into an area rich in architecture. His mother noticed his passion and talent for drawing and encouraged Kirya to pursue drafting classes during his high school days at a local trade school. Taking her advice he enrolled in mechanical drawing, learned the basics of residential design, entered a statewide competition and took first place the impetus which led him to the profession of custom home design.

He studied drafting and design at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi and went on to attend the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg majoring in Architectural Engineering and became a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. Mentored by one of his professors, Kirya knew what he was meant to do. He moved to Atlanta in 1995 and worked for acclaimed residential designer, David Loftus from Archival Designs, and under his strong influence passionately became a residential designer exclusively applying his diligent efforts to the art and business of custom home design.

Opening his own residential design studio in 1999, Kirya is principal and sole designer. His clientele come to him by referral through builders and developers and he has a strong working relationship with his fellow professionals.



**ABOVE:**  
A unique perspective of the traditional U-shaped staircase reveals a fresh design twist as it descends to the hardwood foyer.  
*Photograph by S. Waite*

**FACING PAGE:**  
This French Country-inspired home blends a mixture of brick, stone and board-n-batten siding with touches of copper roofing evoking elegance and drama.  
*Photograph by Media Dreams Studios*



His designs have been acknowledged in the industry as he is an annual participant of the Live Design Competition sponsored by the Southern Builders Show where he and his award-winning designs have been recognized and showcased in Today's Custom Home magazine.

Specializing in all new construction, Kirya has been designing private residences in the suburbs, namely Stone Mountain, Conyers, Lithonia, Loganville, as well as some urban projects in Atlanta. His firm has designed custom homes in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Michigan as well as in Canada, developing both stock homes and custom homes. He develops them one of two ways either creating custom designs and converting them to stock plans or creating stock plans, incorporating the latest trends within parameters from developers, then providing an elevation to fit into the look and feel of the area. Kirya enjoys the respect and recognition from peers and their willingness to work closely with him from developers to builders to interior designers, all of whom regularly refer clients to him for custom home designs.

**TOP LEFT:**  
White custom cabinetry with black granite countertops set at various heights and a contrasting wood island creates visual interest in this inviting gourmet kitchen.  
*Photograph by Waite*

**BOTTOM LEFT:**  
The tasteful and practical kitchen design exemplifies a functional food preparation triangle with ample light and sufficient workspace to create family meals with ease.  
*Photograph by S. Waite*

In reference to Kirya's residential design preference, he embraces a classical style based on principles of proportion and scale learned from Greek, Roman and other examples of pure Classicism. He is not typecast in any one style and his breadth of knowledge and expertise allows him to design residences from a small Craftsman bungalow to a massive Tudor, French Country to Colonial, and most recently, Tuscan-inspired Mediterranean villas. One unique project is a commissioned rustic log home design for a sloped, wooded property in Ellijay, nestled in the foothills of the North Georgia Mountains. All of Kirya's work demonstrates classical characteristics just as the splendid architecture of his Natchez hometown—a timeless presence surrounds every custom residential design he touches. Kirya's single pointed focus is to pay homage to historical design principles yet adhere to today's lifestyles so the design will continue to work generations later—this noble goal has been realized for more than 15 years.

**RIGHT:**  
A red brick Georgian style residence with cedar shake shingle detailing complements the home's traditionally designed exterior.  
*Photograph by S. Waite*





**ABOVE:**

Classic proportions are the basis of this symmetrical exterior design—an arched entrance flanked by columns gives this stately residence a timeless curb appeal.

*Photograph by T. Sigley*

**FACING PAGE:**

An open staircase gives a sense of spaciousness and the stained wooden banisters with pure white painted posts/railings add striking contrast and classical interest.

*Photograph by S. Waite*

To Kirya, the most rewarding aspect of being a residential designer is working with clients and participating in the evolution of their dream home. Kirya's professional philosophy is simple yet profound: Form follows function. A time-honored and proven design concept, he believes one must first understand the functionality of the home, and then the form will naturally evolve and take place. When he meets with each client personally, he delves deeply into their lifestyle, determines their needs and logically executes plans based on the way they are going to live in the home.

Kirya loves the diversity of the people in Atlanta because they bring in new influences giving him the freedom to design in a variety of styles. Traveling to destinations across the U.S. for added design inspiration, each trip becomes an architectural "tour" and he has acquired a substantial library for reference including his latest treasure, *A Field Guide to American Houses* by Virginia and Lee McAlester. A family man first and foremost, this self-proclaimed workaholic has a 24/7 dedication to residential design and it shows.

**DESIGN EVOLUTIONS INC., GA**

Kirya J. Duncan, member of AIBD

2140 McGee Road

Suite C-140A

Snellville, GA 30078

770.978.4043

f: 678.638.1073

[www.designevolutions.com](http://www.designevolutions.com)

