

MARC STRAITS

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Interior design projects featured in national publications such as Better Homes and Gardens, Country Home, Chicago Home and Garden, Bed and Bath, Home Design and Remodeling and the Chicago Tribune magazines.
- Style and design consultant for The Oprah Winfrey Show, producing in-studio and on-location sets. Created the library-like set concept which became an integral part of Oprah's Book Club shows.
- Appeared on local home shows as a design expert.
- Chosen by Sotheby's as a top Midwest designer to participate in the book launch for *Verdura: The Life and Work of a Master Jeweler* and jewelry exhibit. Created a room vignette and original artwork, *Flashing the Bling*, inspired by Verdura pieces.
- Designed layout and interiors for a two-story home that was built inside the Mall of America - Minneapolis, MN. Design process included interfacing with manufacturers, suppliers, project coordinators, builders, and sponsors, as well as scheduling and delivery responsibilities.
- Designed commercial sets for Peter Elliott Productions which included clients such as Kohler, Sony and Armstrong Flooring.
- Restoration projects include landmark properties in Chicago's Gold Coast and Lake Forest, Illinois. After purchasing the 1899 Belden House in Aurora, Illinois, conducted historical research to integrate authenticity into the home's design and renovation. Ongoing involvement with Aurora community leaders for preservation and development of historical district.
- Event design projects include:
 - Design and install "Green Room" furnishings for Oprah Winfrey's Personal Growth Summit at Arie Crown Theatre, Chicago
 - Maxim's, Chicago reception
 - A runway/stage set for Chicago Gucci store remodel opening
 - Set designs and propping special event shows for The Oprah Winfrey Show
 - Tablescapes for Oprah Winfrey's private dinners (celebrity chef Art Smith) with Oprah's Book Club guest authors.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Straits Design Associates - Chicago
Owner and Proprietor

1995-present

- Established interior design business, specializing in upper-end residential projects.
- Managed daily operations, including purchasing, outsourcing and managing client relations.
- Delegated and managed project workload for freelance designers and interns.
- Developed schematic furniture layouts to determine practical requirements for clients' needs.
- Knowledge of basic construction and building techniques with the ability to produce drawings and specifications for interior architecture and design.
- Ability to sketch and render design concepts during client presentations.
- Advised clients on space planning, layout, furnishings, lighting and color coordination.
- Designed furnishings, art work and accessories to meet the special needs of clients' homes.
- Subcontracted fabrication, installation and deliveries of millwork, wall coverings, artwork, furniture and other related items.
- Experienced in setting up camera angles and lighting for television and print projects.

- **OTHER PAST WORK EXPERIENCE**

A Plus Talent - Chicago

Runway, Television and Print Model

- Worked and traveled internationally for clients such as Sears, Saks Fifth Avenue and Marshall Fields, and for Gucci in Milan, Italy.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

Harrington Institute - Chicago, IL

- *Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design*

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago - Chicago, IL

- *Interior design studies*

Northern Illinois University

- *Pre-med*

Aurora University

- *Bachelors of Science in Biological Sciences*

ASSOCIATIONS & INTERESTS

Marina City Condominium Association

- Currently on the Board of Directors
- Head of Design Committee for Chicago's landmark Marina Towers, developed new space plans and designs to upgrade common areas, created a residential entertainment space, meeting room and exercise facility.

Lake Forest Preservation Foundation Member

Chicago Academy for the Arts

- Benefit board member
- Design director for fundraising galas and events
- Active in helping board reach financial goals by fundraising.

Interests include European travel, historical renovation, antiques, art history, piano, culinary arts.

Portfolio, United States and United Kingdom references available upon request