

The Dallas Morning News

Texas' Leading Newspaper

\$1.00

Dallas, Texas, Saturday, May 19, 2012

dallasnews.com

The List finds pieces to complete a room

By BRITTANY COBB

Special Contributor

Published: 18 May 2012 05:05 PM

Earlier this year, mother-daughter duo Molly Bowman Stephens and Marianna Riley Stephens launched Bowman & Riley Interiors. The design firm specializes in creating traditional spaces with a sense of humor, according to Marianna, who graduated from SMU in 2009 and runs the Dallas office while her mother works from Austin.

In addition to their hourly interior design work, the team offers The List, a pay-by-product service for clients still needing a few key pieces to complete their interiors.

"We started brainstorming about The List while I was living in New York City last summer and working for a designer," Marianna says. "We had so many friends with great taste who didn't want to rework their entire home but wanted a few great items. Since they didn't have the time to shop, we wanted to simplify the process for them."

Here's how it works: A client contacts the pair to describe and discuss the furnishings or accessories a room is lacking; the design duo homes in on the client's personal style and confirms a budget for the project.

Once the duo identify an item they think fits the client's needs and expectations, they email photos for approval and, if confirmed in writing, make the purchase. There is no minimum price to get started, and Marianna says it usually takes a few weeks or less to fill customers' orders, unless they are custom designs.

"We shop for any look besides supermodern," Marianna says. "We want the house to fit the person and bring out what they're comfortable with and what's conducive to their lifestyle."

The women gravitate toward off-the-beaten-path shopping destinations rather than designer showrooms, including the spring and fall Round Top Antiques Fair, Paris flea markets and the studios of local artisans and craftsmen for upholstered pieces and custom orders. For retail finds, Quatrine and Mecox Gardens, both in the Knox-Henderson neighborhood, are regular stops.

Past requests include antique books, lampshades, collectibles and custom dining chairs. Since they are

shopping for multiple clients at one time, they do not charge an hourly rate, but bill the retail price plus 20 percent.

Delivery is free anywhere in the Dallas, Austin or Houston areas; if shipping is necessary, the client is charged.

"The List is a great way to work with designers but not spend thousands of dollars," Marianna says.

Brittany Cobb is a Highland Park freelance writer. home@dallasnews.com

To join The List, email thelist@bowmanandriley.com

or call Marianna Stephens at 512-284-4891.

For more information on the design firm Bowman & Riley and to read Marianna's blog, go to bowmanandriley.com.



Complete your list with 'The List':
a pay-by-product personal shopping service
for furniture and finishing touches