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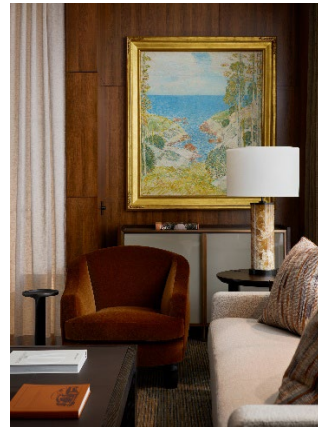
ADAC & VERANDA ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF THE 2026 SOUTHEAST DESIGNERS AND ARCHITECT OF THE YEAR AWARDS

ATLANTA: Presented by ADAC (Atlanta Decorative Arts Center) in collaboration with VERANDA, the 2026 Southeast Designers and Architect of the Year Awards were revealed last night during an elegant, celebratory gala at the Atlanta History Center. The annual awards celebrate the Southeast's most influential firms and individuals, recognizing exceptional talent that continues to shape and elevate the region's design landscape. A distinguished panel of judges selected this year's winners across architecture, contract design, and residential design from a highly talented pool of 17 finalists representing the region. Leading up to the gala, finalists were recognized on Wednesday evening with an intimate celebration at Made Goods during ADAC's annual spring market, DESIGN ADAC.

The 2026 Southeast Designers and Architect of the Year winners are:

CATEGORY	FIRM
Architect	D. Stanley Dixon Architect <i>Atlanta, GA</i>
Contract Design	The Design Atelier <i>Atlanta, GA</i>
Residential Design	Melanie Turner Interiors <i>Atlanta, GA</i>

"It's incredibly rewarding to see both legacy and momentum reflected in this year's winners," said Katie Miner, ADAC General Manager. "Both D. Stanley Dixon Architect and Melanie Turner Interiors have been recognized in these awards before, and their continued wins speak to a sustained level of excellence that continues to shape the design landscape in the Southeast. At the same time, it's especially exciting to celebrate The Design Atelier as a first-time winner after years of consistent finalist recognition – particularly as they've expanded into the contract space. It's inspiring to see their team grow in this space and execute it so successfully, which speaks to the evolving strength and versatility of design talent across the region."



(Left to Right: D. Stanley Dixon Architect (Photography by Eric Piasecki, Styling by Helen Crowther & Shannon Dixon), The Design Atelier (Photography by Emily Followill Photography), and Melanie Turner Interiors (Photography by Mali Azime))

With more than 120 entries, this year's distinguished finalists and winners were selected by a team of top industry professionals, including VERANDA Editor-in-Chief, **Steele Marcoux**, VERANDA Executive Editor, **Ellen McGauley**, Peter Dunham & Associates Founder, **Peter Dunham**, and Kligerman Architect & Design Founder, **Tom Kligerman**. Remarks from the judges regarding the finalists are below:

"This firm made exciting use of historical and local materials and forms in wholly authentic yet original ways. The resulting homes are beautifully designed for comfortable contemporary living, deeply rooted in regional architectural traditions," expresses Steele Marcoux about D. Stanley Dixon Architecture.

Peter Dunham describes the space The Design Atelier created as "exuding a tailored confidence that should serve as a template for every CEO. Every detail is beautifully resolved and executed. This could easily be a high-end residential project," he says.

Tom Kligerman notes, “I feel like I am in Tuscany when I look at the vaulted ceilings in this house. Additionally, the high ceilings with arched windows give a clean, Palladian vibe to this new building. The villa feeling is reinforced by tapestries, chairs, and furniture with cabriole legs, velvets, and exterior scaled pendant fixtures which link to a European resident while still feeling vibrant, light, and fresh,” of Melanie Turner Interiors’ space.

Additional photos of project submissions and interviews with the 2026 winners are available upon request.

ABOUT D. STANLEY DIXON ARCHITECT: Multi-award-winning architect Stan Dixon’s edited approach to the classical elements of architecture creates an understated aesthetic that is historically based while embracing influences of modern design. His goal is to interpret individual needs and desires through contextually sensitive work that engages appropriate style, scale and proportion, giving every building a sense of permanence and delight. The resulting body of work has set an exacting standard.

ABOUT THE DESIGN ATELIER: The Design Atelier is known for curating timeless interiors that capture the authentic spirit of their clientele, resulting in welcoming and livable environments. The firm’s collaborative approach in working with clients, architects, builders, and artisans allows for a cohesive and creative process that elevates the team rather than the individual, resulting in designs that are more thoughtful, intentional, and impactful. The Design Atelier has completed projects along the eastern seaboard.

ABOUT MELANIE TURNER INTERIORS: Melanie Turner creates spaces that are not only beautiful but deeply immersive, blending balance, light, and scale to design environments that feel serene, vibrant, and timeless. Since founding Melanie Turner Interiors in 2010, she has built a team of twelve, delivering personalized, globally reaching projects that reflect the unique tastes and lifestyles of her clients. Her collaborative approach ensures each space is visually stunning and thoughtfully tailored. Melanie’s work has earned multiple accolades, including three Southeastern Residential Designer of the Year awards, and has been featured in top national publications. Her first book, “Inviting Interiors: A Fresh Take on Beautiful Rooms” (Rizzoli), showcases her signature blend of beauty and function, and her second book, currently in progress, explores how design can elevate everyday life.

ABOUT ADAC: Built 65 years ago by renowned architect and developer John Portman in the prestigious Buckhead community of Atlanta, ADAC (Atlanta Decorative Arts Center) is a community-focused, nationally recognized leader in the world of interior design and home fashion, serving as the essential one-stop shopping resource for interior designers, architects, and builders. In November 2018, ADAC was acquired by ANDMORESM and parent company Blackstone, the world’s largest operator of premier showroom space for the furnishings, home décor, and gift industries. The 550,000-square-foot ADAC campus consists of ADAC and ADAC WEST and features over 40 design studios and more than 65 showrooms offering over 1,400 of the industry’s finest product lines, including furniture, fabric, rugs, lighting, accessories, floor and wallcoverings, antiques, fine art, kitchens, bath, tile, and stone, and home theater products as well as three restaurants, The Hungry Peach, KR Steakbar, Krog Bar Coal Fired Pizza. Likewise, ADAC’s extensive services include custom designs such as electronic systems and kitchen cabinetry. To learn more about ADAC + ADAC West, visit: www.adacatlanta.com or join on social @adacatlanta.

Media Contacts: Tara Murphy + Rehgan Smith | 360 Media, Inc. | 404-577-8686 | tara@360media.net

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