

TRIAD BUSINESS JOURNAL

SPECIAL SECTION

CELEBRATING THIS YEAR'S 40 UNDER 40

TBJ honors 40 business leaders who have yet to hit their 40s but have already made their mark on the Triad.



Image: Triad Business Journal

Angela Austin

Design Director/Partner, MM Interior Design Group

Age: 39

Business address: 609 State St., Greensboro

City you live in: Greensboro.

Education: BFA in interior architecture with minor in business

Why selected: Starting with MM Interior Design Group as a designer, Angela distinguished herself with her design skills, prodigious work ethic and leadership and was promoted to Design Director where she supervised and supported a team of designers. In 2021, she became a partner, where her role now includes all strategic and business decisions. She is NCIDQ certified, which is the highest certification in the interior design industry. She is also licensed by the Board of Architecture & Registered Interior Designers. She is a three-time recipient of Excellence in Design Award by the American Society of Interior Designers.

Where are you a native of? Winston Salem

What would you tell someone considering living and working in the Triad? The size of the city is perfect. Everything a larger city has to offer without the traffic. It's filled with hidden gems, like unique restaurants, bakeries, breweries, and parks. The cost of living is lower than many other major cities, making it a great place to raise a family or start a business.

What is the Triad missing that would make it more appealing? To continue to make parts of downtown more pedestrian friendly on a full-time basis like we see with First Friday events.

What is something about you that would surprise others? I grew up without a TV.



Do you prefer to be in front of the camera or behind it? I can do either, but I generally prefer the creative process needed behind the camera. However, I love presenting and being able to share the excitement with our clients during their big reveal!

When facing a tough scene, do you prepare or improvise? I prepare until all that's left to do is improvise.

Tell us about a time when you were almost famous. When I was in Greece with friends eating dinner, I had my back to the rest of the restaurant. The waiter comes to our table after I hear some commotion behind us and asks me if my name is Reese. Given I was on vacation I decided to play along and said yes. Moments later, a young child comes up and asks for my photo since she now thought I was Reese Witherspoon! Well, let's just say I didn't feel great about myself after she snaps a selfie of her and I. But I can only imagine the laughter after the family sees the photo and realizes I was most certainly not Reese Witherspoon!

Where do you hope to be in your career in five years? To establish our firm as the premier choice for clients seeking innovative and personalized interior design solutions. By combining our expertise with advanced technologies like VR, we are revolutionizing the design process. I'm committed to nurturing a talented team and providing opportunities for professional growth. Ultimately, I aspire to create a thriving business that not only delivers exceptional results but also positively impacts our community. Whether the project is residential or commercial, the goal is to create inspiring spaces that elevate lives and leave a lasting legacy.

What is your most meaningful volunteer activity? Our firm was inspired by the tireless efforts of health care workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we decided to give back to the community by offering a \$20,000 bedroom makeover. After receiving over 100 nominations, an OR technician who was part of the first team transferred to the COVID-19 ward was selected by a panel including top area physicians. After consulting with her, we designed and renovated her bedroom, adding a dressing room and bathroom. We installed new flooring, walls, ceilings, furniture, lighting, and decor. She and her family were so grateful. It was truly rewarding to provide a space for rest and renewal for such a dedicated healthcare hero.

What is your favorite song? "I Need You" by Jon Batiste

