

Outstanding Women in Business 2025



Ashley Lauren



Design Director/Partner, MM Interior Design Group

Business address: 609 State St., Greensboro

Education: Bachelor's of Science at the UNC-Greensboro

Why selected: Lauren joined MM Interior Design in 2020 and was promoted to design director and then to ownership partner. She passed the National Council for Interior Design Qualification exam, one of the highest qualifications in the interior design industry. She became one of the first designers in North Carolina authorized by the N.C. Board of Architects to sign and seal her own interior technical drawings for city submission. She is also licensed by the Board of Architecture & Registered Interior Designers. She has numerous awards in the industry, including the Excellence in Design Award by the American Society of Interior Designers. While at UNCG with the Interior Architecture Department, she helped design and build a 4,500-square-foot community-oriented home called My Sister's House.

Where are you a native of? Princeton, NJ

How did you get started in your career? Upon earning my Bachelor of Science degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, I began my career in the furniture industry with a nationally recognized company. After a few years, I transitioned to the interiors team at a commercial architecture firm where I gained valuable experience. Ultimately, I found my true calling in residential design at MM Interior Design Group, which has become my professional "forever home."

What are you passionate about? I have always been fascinated at how the aesthetics of a space can affect a person's mood and can impact cognitive function. Stemming from this I have dedicated my career to learning everything I can about interior design and interior architecture.

Proudest achievement? My greatest personal achievement is, without question, my daughter. She brings endless joy and inspiration to my life. Professionally, my proudest accomplishment is becoming a partner at MM Interior Design Group. It's here that I've truly found my place, surrounded by incredible people who share my passion for design, and together we've built a vision for an exciting and meaningful future.

Next big professional goal? My goal is to continue growing as a leader, refining my skills to inspire and guide others, while fostering an environment that encourages innovation and excellence. I am passionate about mentoring aspiring interior designers who are driven to make a meaningful impact in the design and architectural industries. By sharing my knowledge, experiences and insights, I hope to empower the next generation of professionals to bring their unique perspectives and creativity to the forefront, shaping a future defined by thoughtful and transformative design.



What do you like to do in your spare time? Spending time with my daughter, sharing experiences and making memories, going to the theater, having a glass of wine and chatting with my most trusted crew.

Something that would surprise others? I played violin for over 15 years and want to pick it back up soon!

Someone who fostered and influenced your growth? My now business partner and the founder of MM Interior Design Group, Marta Mitchell, has been a true inspiration in my professional journey. She was the first leader in my industry who truly took the time to listen – listening not just to my goals, but also to my challenges and offering thoughtful guidance on how to overcome them and achieve success. Her mentorship and support have been invaluable, shaping my growth and helping me reach new heights in my career.

How have you supported other women in career growth? Since becoming a professional interior designer I have actively been involved in student portfolio reviews and project critiques, job shadowing and interior design internships at our studio. I am also very involved in the Women's Professional Forum of Greensboro, NC, a group of professional women who are dedicated to creating opportunities for women and girls to achieve their leadership and professional dreams.

Something unusual in your purse, briefcase, laptop bag or backpack? That's easy. I don't go anywhere without my pig stress ball!



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