

We are first time homeowners and decorators. I interviewed twelve designers; cold calls off of the Internet. Velvet was the best fit for our personalities. We liked her design direction. She is with-it professionally and very confident! We have since then become friends. Velvet advised us to do our homework before we started the project. We researched color palettes, floor plans, age appropriate fabrics, as we had very young children at the time. Velvet is astute enough to read us. We are practical people, not precious people. We put our feet up. We also entertain a lot. Ours is not a turnkey house. Every bit of floor space is lived in. I was a little nervous about her remodeling our kitchen. That can be a friendship-breaker, for sure! We obviously trusted her, though. We went on a vacation for a month and a half and came home to our new kitchen! The exterior of our house is Tuscan-inspired but once you get inside, we go for clean lines, modern and contemporary. She is a highly skilled designer in her own right, and designed our bookcases for us. We have a ton of books in our house! A lot of her work is virtual. Sometime she emailed pictures on hold at a store, with choices. Then I went to the store and picked out what I wanted. Another great thing about Velvet is that she does not mark up what she finds for us and shares her designer discount. We pay what she pays. And she was flexible about the payment plan, another bonus! When we went shopping together, she charged an hourly rate. For two weeks we went everywhere, from Macy's to Costa Mesa, and she held our hands through it all, like a babysitter. When she worked with us, we felt like we were her only clients. That is her special gift.

- Moira Mayer