

JOHN ERIC

HOME & LIFESTYLE®



Home+Design

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

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DESIGNER SPOTLIGHT

THE BEST OF THE BEST



Michael Winn, Founder & President,
WINN Design + Build
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As the founder and president of WINN Design + Build, Michael Winn has had the privilege of leading a talented team dedicated to transforming homes into beautifully designed, highly functional spaces. His passion for architecture and design stems from a deep appreciation for craftsmanship and the art of creating spaces that enhance daily life. With a background in both construction and design, Michael has spent the past two decades refining a process that integrates creativity with technical expertise, ensuring that his clients receive a seamless experience from concept to completion.

What are some of your favorite places to travel to and how do those spaces inspire your work at WINN Design + Build?

Travel has been an incredible source of inspiration for my work. Norway, in particular, has had a profound influence on my design philosophy—embodying a perfect balance of simplicity, warmth, and functionality. The emphasis on natural light, clean lines, and sustainable materials in Scandinavian architecture aligns with our approach to home design.

Another destination that has shaped my perspective is Japan. The seamless integration of indoor and outdoor living, the use of natural materials, and the deep respect for craftsmanship seen in traditional



Project photos by Stacy Larin Goldberg



Japanese architecture all resonate with our approach at WINN. These global influences help us craft homes that are timeless, highly functional, and deeply connected to the way people live.

What are the latest home design trends you're seeing in 2025? In architecture and interior design?

In 2025, we're seeing a continued emphasis on wellness-driven design. Homeowners are prioritizing spaces that support their well-being—whether it's through biophilic design, improved indoor air quality, or dedicated areas for relaxation and mindfulness.

Architecturally, there's a shift toward more simplified, intentional design. Clean lines, natural materials, and open, light-filled spaces remain in high demand. Energy efficiency and sustainability are no longer just trends but essential components of new and remodeled homes.

In interior design, we're seeing a return to texture—layered, tactile materials such as plaster walls, warm woods, and natural stone are bringing depth and character to spaces. Muted, earthy palettes and organic shapes continue to dominate, creating an inviting and comfortable aesthetic.

Are there new finishes and products that you especially like?

Yes! We're excited about the resurgence of handcrafted materials and artisanal finishes. Limewash and Venetian plaster are making a big comeback, adding depth and movement to walls in a way that paint simply can't.

On the product side, we're seeing a rise in innovative smart home solutions that blend seamlessly with design, rather than feeling like an afterthought. Materials that are both beautiful and sustainable—like engineered stone with recycled content or wood alternatives that maintain the warmth of natural materials—are also gaining traction.

What space do you remodel the most? Which spaces would you like to remodel more of?

Kitchens and primary bathrooms remain the most frequently remodeled spaces, and for good reason. These are high-use areas where great design has the most tangible impact on a homeowner's daily life.

One area we'd love to see more focus on is the entry sequence—the way a home welcomes you. Thoughtful mudroom design, integrated storage, and functional yet beautiful foyer spaces set the tone for the entire home. Additionally, we're seeing increasing interest in multi-functional spaces, such as home offices and wellness rooms, which reflect evolving lifestyle needs.

What's the biggest change you have seen in the design-build industry since you started?

Technology has completely transformed the way we design and build. From 3D modeling to virtual walkthroughs, we can now help clients visualize their future homes with incredible accuracy before construction even begins.

Additionally, the rise of sustainable building practices has been a major shift. Clients are more educated than ever about energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and responsible material sourcing. The demand for high-performance homes that are both functional and environmentally conscious has reshaped the industry in a very positive way.

Anything else to add about your work at WINN?

At WINN, our goal is to create homes that feel both timeless and highly personal. We believe the best design-build projects come from a deep understanding of how our clients live and what they value most in their homes. Every detail matters, and we pride ourselves on our ability to merge aesthetics, function, and quality craftsmanship in a seamless, stress-free process.



Project photos by Stacy Zarin Goldberg