

ERICA NICOLE

I N T E R I O R S

ROOTED WARMTH. REFINED DETAIL. ENDURING DESIGN.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What makes Erica Nicole Interiors different from other designers?

I am both a designer and a builder-minded strategist. With hands-on construction experience, I shape projects from the inside out, not just selecting finishes, but influencing layout, flow, and how the home functions long before construction begins.

I do not create builder-grade spaces. My work is layered, soulful, elevated, and deeply intentional. I ask the questions that impact framing, plumbing, electrical rough-ins, and daily usability (decisions that must be made before walls are closed).

For that reason, I strongly recommend reaching out before construction starts. When design leads the process, beauty and function-work together seamlessly from the very beginning.

Which rooms do you specialize in?

I design every room in a home, from full-house renovations to thoughtfully furnished single spaces. I'm especially experienced in complex, luxury kitchens and primary and guest bathrooms, where technical precision and elevated design must work seamlessly together.

Do you design kitchens, or does the cabinetry company handle that?

I design the kitchen, completely.

As an avid cook and baker, I design kitchens with the precision of someone who has spent years understanding how a space should truly perform. I think in terms of flow, movement, zones, and high-functioning culinary environments, not just cabinetry layouts. I establish the overall plan, develop the zones, map out cabinet-level organization within each area, and create renderings and elevations that guide the full design. Every drawer, cabinet, and appliance placement is intentionally planned around how you cook, bake, entertain, and live.

Once the layout and design intent are fully established, I collaborate with a cabinetry designer to finalize manufacturer-specific details such as crown profiles, specialty inserts, and construction specifications. This ensures the technical elements are refined while the integrity of the design remains intact.

The result is a kitchen that is both exceptionally functional and beautifully elevated.

What services do you provide?

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT & VISIONING

We begin each project by understanding how you live. Through thoughtful design meetings, mood boards, and layered material studies, we establish a clear creative direction that feels both personal and intentional.

SPACE PLANNING & LAYOUT DESIGN

From reimagining floor plans to refining furniture layouts, we thoughtfully shape the function and flow of each space, ensuring rooms feel intuitive, balanced, and beautifully proportioned.

CUSTOM CABINETRY & MILLWORK DESIGN

We design bespoke cabinetry, vanities, kitchens, and built-ins tailored to your lifestyle. Each element is developed with both beauty and high-level functionality in mind, resulting in elevated, non-builder-grade solutions.

ELEVATIONS & DESIGN INTENT DRAWINGS

We create detailed elevations, renderings, and design intent documents to clearly communicate layout, materials, and architectural detailing, guiding builders and fabricators through precise execution.

MATERIAL, FIXTURE & FINISH SELECTION

Every surface is thoughtfully curated - from stone and tile to lighting, hardware, and plumbing fixtures. Selections are made cohesively to ensure depth, warmth, and long-term integrity.

PROCUREMENT & ORDER MANAGEMENT

We oversee sourcing, ordering, tracking, inspection, and coordination of materials, fixtures, furnishings, and decor - protecting accuracy, lead times, and design consistency.

CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION & SITE COLLABORATION

We maintain structured collaboration with your general contractor, conducting site visits and installation reviews to ensure the final result reflects the original design intent.

FURNISHINGS & FINAL STYLING

From upholstery and rugs to art, greenery, textiles, and collected objects, we complete each space with layered styling, creating homes that feel lived-in, storied, and magazine-worthy.

What is your signature style?

Warm, soulful, timeless, layered, and storied - unmistakably elevated. I create homes that feel collected and lived-in rather than overly designed. Thoughtful materials, curated textures, intentional lighting, and layered finishes come together to create a sense of quiet luxury. I'm naturally drawn to a refined, rustic California aesthetic, but each project is tailored to the architecture, lifestyle, and vision of the client. No matter the style, the result is cohesive, deeply intentional, and professionally executed.

Can you design in different styles?

Yes. I've designed in a range of styles, from modern and Scandinavian to refined rustic, Georgian-inspired homes with a contemporary nod, and layered cottage interiors.

While the aesthetic may shift, the foundation remains the same: elevated, intentional, and thoughtfully storied. Every project is tailored to the architecture and the client, ensuring the final result feels cohesive, timeless, and beautifully executed.

I've never worked with a designer before. What should I expect?

Expect clarity, structure, and a professionally guided experience from start to finish. I am hands-on, detail-oriented, and known for anticipating potential issues before they arise.

My goal is to make your project feel seamless and well-managed while delivering a deeply personal, elevated, and sophisticated home that reflects how you truly live.

What if I don't know my style or feel overwhelmed?

That's exactly what I'm here for.

Through thoughtful conversation, we'll uncover what you're naturally drawn to, understand how you truly live, and translate that into a cohesive, elevated design. You don't need to know the terminology or have everything figured out, I guide the process and shape the vision.

You won't be navigating decisions alone. We'll figure it out together and create a home that feels beautiful, personal, and entirely yours.

How does pricing work?

Each project is unique, so investment is determined by scope, complexity, and level of involvement required. I provide full-service design and tailored proposals after reviewing your space and goals.

Because my role extends beyond surface selections into layout development, technical detailing, construction collaboration, and procurement oversight, my services are immersive and comprehensive. My clients are investing in design expertise that shapes both how a space looks and how it functions from the inside out.

Transparent pricing is outlined clearly before any work begins so expectations are aligned from the start.

How do I know if we're a good fit?

If you value thoughtful design, clear communication, and a home that feels intentional rather than trendy, we'll likely work beautifully together.

My clients appreciate craftsmanship, trust the process, and understand that exceptional results come from collaboration and expertise. If you're looking for a fully guided, elevated experience and are ready to invest in doing things well from the beginning, we're probably aligned.

How do you communicate during a project?

Communication is structured and consistent. I utilize email and text for timely updates, and we establish scheduled calls or in-person meetings — typically every other week — to review progress, decisions, and next steps.

This ensures you stay informed without feeling overwhelmed, while keeping the project moving efficiently and clearly.

Do you create construction documents?

It depends on the scope. For smaller projects where an architect is not required, I can produce detailed construction drawings. For projects requiring permitting and sealed architectural documents, those must be prepared by a licensed architect.

I always provide comprehensive design intent drawings, including elevations and renderings, to ensure the design is executed correctly.

Do you help with budgeting and material schedules?

Yes. I provide detailed material and fixture schedules including SKUs, quantities, lead times, and installation notes to support accurate pricing and planning.

I also coordinate and review orders and installations to help ensure everything arrives correctly and is executed as intended - preventing delays, confusion, and costly mistakes during construction.

Do you offer material sourcing and procurement?

Yes, I handle both sourcing and procurement.

I oversee material selection, ordering, tracking, and coordination of all finishes, fixtures, and design elements. Once items arrive, I personally open and inspect them and manage any necessary returns. This level of involvement ensures accuracy, proper lead-time planning, and consistency throughout the design.

While rough-in materials are selected and installed by the general contractor or trades, I am highly knowledgeable about these components. I ask the necessary questions (such as shower valve configurations, shared controls, number of settings, or required shut-off stops) and ensure the contractor is aware of these needs before walls are closed.

This protects both the functionality and the integrity of the final design.

Do you offer styling at the end of a project?

Yes! And in fact, I prefer to.

There's nothing better than when the designer who shaped the space completes it. Styling is the final layer of magic that brings everything together in a cohesive, soulful way.

I personally place the art, greenery, lighting, textiles, books, and collected objects to create a home that feels lived-in and storied, yet still elevated and magazine-worthy.

How do you ensure contractors follow your design?

I also conduct construction observations during and after key installation phases to ensure the work aligns with the design intent and specifications. This structured approach protects the integrity of the design and helps maintain a high level of execution throughout the project.

What happens if issues arise during construction?

They always do, even on the best-planned projects. You never truly know what's behind a wall until it's opened.

When challenges arise, I troubleshoot thoughtfully and proactively. I collaborate with a trusted, highly knowledgeable general contractor and construction consultant to develop creative, well-informed solutions, especially if the issue extends beyond my scope.

You won't be left to navigate surprises alone. My role is to help problem-solve efficiently while protecting the integrity of the design and your investment.

Do you select the contractors, or do I need to find my own?

I regularly work with a trusted general contractor who understands my standards and level of detail, though you are welcome to bring your own. I communicate primarily with the GC so the project stays organized and efficient, while they coordinate the trades.

I have hands-on construction experience and relationships with select trades and vendors, and I'll step in directly when needed to clarify design intent, but the general contractor remains the central point of coordination.

How long does a project take?

Project timelines vary depending on the room, scope of work, level of complexity, material lead times, communication flow, and the general contractor's availability.

Smaller furnishing projects may move more quickly, while renovations and new construction require extended planning and construction timelines.

How far in advance should I book?

I typically book 3–6 months in advance, depending on the scope, complexity, and my current schedule. Larger renovations and new construction projects require more advance planning.

Regardless, I always recommend reaching out, occasionally I'm able to accommodate smaller projects between larger jobs.

Do you work outside of St. Louis?

Yes. I take on select projects outside of St. Louis, particularly vacation homes, luxury rentals, and thoughtfully designed Airbnbs.

Travel and site visits are billed accordingly and outlined clearly during the proposal phase.

Do you offer commercial design services?

Yes. In addition to residential projects, I design select commercial spaces including hospitality, luxury rentals and Airbnb's, retail environments, and restaurants. I approach these projects with the same layered, elevated, and highly intentional process I bring to residential design.

Do you offer hourly consultations?

At this time, I focus exclusively on full-service design to ensure each project receives the depth, attention, and expertise it deserves. My process is comprehensive and best suited for clients seeking a fully guided, cohesive design experience.