



Raji Radhakrishnan's master bedroom in the 2006 Design House at the Washington Design Center; below, the designer in her living room.

Raji Radhakrishnan

"Keep things simple so the special things shine."

Age: 35

Background: Born in southern India. Moved to the United States in 1993, holds an MBA from American University. Planning an online shop — Maison et Toi — featuring 20th-century decorative arts to launch later this year.

Design beginnings: Built her own furniture when she was 15 and spent breaks during business school at the Washington Design Center.

Biggest influences: Albert Hadley and Muriel Brandolini.

Recent favorite writings: "The Royal Academy Lectures," by Sir John Soane.

Style: Traditional to modern. "My goal is to bring the sides together. I want a unified space."

Trends she likes: A beautiful sculptural piece, such as a lamp, table or chair, juxtaposed against soft upholstery. "It's comfort for the eye, as opposed to comfort for the body. It creates good balance in a room."

How design has changed: High-end items are more accessible; exclusivity really is not exclusive anymore.

Favorite shops: In Washington, Gore Dean for antiques, Bulthaup Kitchen, Apartment Zero. In New York, Amy Perlin Antiques, Maison Gerard, Liz O'Brien for vintage modern.

Favorite chain stores: Crate and Barrel for kitchenware, Restoration Hardware for classic bath fixtures.

Go-to items: Sculptural lighting, especially in black or pure white. "It's a great way to punctuate a room."

Favorite paint colors: Benjamin Moore's Calming Cream and Donald Kaufman's DKC8, a white with tints of yellow and green: "It's a bit warm and a bit cool."

Favorite shelter magazines: House & Garden and Metropolitan Home.

Recent house splurge: An original Lichtenstein painting. (Advice to parents with young children: Invest in art rather than expensive furniture. Children can't reach art.)

Recent inexpensive purchase: White waffle dish towels from Crate and Barrel (\$10.95 for a set of four).

What she would do with \$1,000: Buy a reproduction John Prouvé Potence wall-mounted lamp.

General design tip: First rule: patience. Try to live in an empty or near-empty house before making decisions about it, to see how you want the space to work for you. "For example: I'd like to put my keys here; I'd like to face this way when I eat."

Raji RM & Associates. Brambleton, 703-542-7889, www.rajirm.com



BY MARGARET THOMAS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

DESIGNER PICKS


Funnel pendant lighting from Galbraith & Paul is a favored find of **Liz Levin**.



Sally Steponkus turns to Peter Fasano's "Brompton" and "Maile" linen fabrics for upholstery and draperies.



Hickory Chair Chippendale side chair, with custom upholstery and detail, is a favorite of **Andrew Law**.



Raji Radhakrishnan likes to punctuate a space with sculptural lighting, such as this vintage Alberto and Diego Giacometti lamp.

PLANTATION SHUTTERS
Shutter Pricing Starts At -
\$19.50
Per Sq Ft Installed
Capitol Shutter Company
Servicing Virginia/Maryland & DC Since 1945
800-917-9405 www.capitolshutters.com

Quick Delivery
For View Master

Granite & Marble SUMMER SALE!

Huge Savings You Won't Want To Miss!

Call for our **WEEKLY Special** Single Slab Clearance!

SPRINGFIELD MARBLE & GRANITE
6202 Gravel Ave • Alexandria, VA
703-313-7900

If only you had home delivery. 1-800-753-POST

Why are you *Paying More!*

for **FULL CUSTOM!** \$ **273**
PAIR 90" Dupioni Panels, Lined & Int.

2 WEEK Delivery! \$ **393**
PAIR 90" Taffeta Panels, Lined & Int.

> Measurement & Installation Service <

Lucky You! Now there's..
SILK SUPPLY CO.
and More!

(703) 796-9533 Tuesday Thru Saturday 10-5, **SilkSupplyCo.com**
Sterling Showroom: 22510 S. Sterling Blvd, #112, Sterling Va.

EXOTIC GRANITE COUNTERTOPS AT OUTLET PRICES

Now, the finest granite countertops can be in your home at unheard-of low prices, guaranteed.

From **\$3350** sq. ft. Installed! **900 SLABS IN OVER 80 COLORS** in-stock, ready to custom cut, finish and install!

Great Deals on **SILESTONE**

GraniteOutlet
Fabricator of the world's finest stone
600 S. Pickett Street • Alexandria, VA 22304
703/212-4811

NKBA 15811 Frederick Rd • Rockville, MD 20855
301/208-2151
www.graniteforless.com

FREE Bathroom Vanity Top! Call for Details.

MARBLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA

No Contractors License - Class A # 2705 100586A - MD Home Improvement License # B9857

**Post your resume on
washingtonpost.com and earn
PostPoints.**



PostPoints

washingtonpost.com/postpoints

The Washington Post
If you don't get it, you don't get it.