



PORTRAIT & TOP RIGHT: KEVIN ALLEN. OPPOSITE: MARK KITAOKA.

Gretchen Everett, shown here in her Silver Spring-based studio, says she revels in the creation process. "I love to take a bolt of fabric and watch it become something." *Opposite:* Everett prefers "clean and simple" aesthetics like The Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas designed by architect I.M. Pei.

Gretchen Everett, owner of Gretchen Everett Hardware and Home in Silver Spring, prides herself on being a one-stop shop when it comes to window design. After her workroom sews the draperies, Everett calls on a network of craftsmen in three different states to create custom metal and acrylic rods, brackets and rings on which to hang them. "Hardware has always interested me, but there was such a limited selection," she says, recalling her work at a design firm before she started her own business in 1999. "I conducted many searches for unique drapery rings and drawer pulls but couldn't quite find what I was looking for." Now, aficionados across the country seek out her hand-cut, hand-polished hardware, but just as important as the design, Everett says, is her mission to keep U.S. artisans employed. "It's really important to have all my craftsmen on shore," she says. "There are very few of these guys who are manufacturing things from scratch." Even now, with her bespoke business at the forefront of the Washington, D.C., design community, Everett's true creative passion continues to stand strong. gretcheneverett.com; 301.495.2978

Part of Everett's distinct hardware collection includes these handcrafted rectangular drapery rings and rods in polished-brass and nickel finishes.



CURTAIN CALLING

GRETCHEN EVERETT



I GOT STARTED...

When I was on a trip to Southeast Asia to search for inspiration and unique fabrics. While there, I agreed to take on a large project. That was my first client, and since then, the phone has continued to ring.

WORK APPROACH:

I like very clean and simple design. I worked in the clothing industry for years where Issey Miyake and Kenzo inspired me.

DREAM COLLABORATION:

I have long admired the work of architect I.M. Pei. I believe collaborating with someone of his genius would challenge me to reach new heights in my own design.

INSIDE TIPS:

Work with talented people and keep expectations high. Organization is key.

EVERY DESIGNER SHOULD:

Consider the technical process; it's just as important as the creative process.

FAVORITE RESTAURANT:

Le Chat Noir in Washington, D.C. It's a small French bistro with a casual atmosphere and excellent food.