

# LIVING ROOM | Erika Taylor



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Erika Taylor, Owner & Principal of Taylored Interior Solutions LLC, a full-service interior design company-based in Philadelphia, PA and member of the Black Interior Designers Network (BIDN)

### Why is diversity in design an issue that the industry needs to embrace?

It's an issue because Black designers are often overlooked. We aren't invited to or considered for the same opportunities as our White counterparts. We have more to offer to the design world than all things cultural. I noticed early on, when I returned to school 8 years ago, that there weren't many who looked like me- in the industry. I was the only Black student in the interior design program for a while. I didn't have any Black instructors, either. We need more representation all across the board, on the college level, within national organizations, etc. We are equally educated and talented, but we have to work 10 times harder to prove that we deserve a shot. I'm honored and thankful for this opportunity. I hope that the design industry will continue moving in the right direction.

### How do you incorporate your own background, history and heritage into your own design work?

Each of my client's styles, wants, and needs vary, so I don't incorporate my background, history, or heritage into my design work. For me, that's a challenge. My design philosophy: We help you love the life you live, by designing the spaces you deserve. My favorite part about designing this room was putting all of the contrasting pieces together, to ground the space. Then layering in the warmer touches with a pop off color. My inspirations in the room are the wallpaper and the artwork.

### About Erika's Design:

Black and white has always been one of my favorite color combinations. It's a great foundation for any room that works as-is and plays well with any accent color you can imagine. That said, a black-and-white palette can feel a bit cold or too industrial, which is why I love the idea of using natural wood accents to bring warmth to black and white spaces.

When I designed the living room, I wanted to create a space that leans more toward masculine style, but is softened by the addition of accent pieces in rich textures and abstract wall art that make the room both sophisticated and inviting. The play on shape is an added bonus.

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