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ADDONFIELD

ISSUE 9 | 2026

FROM LANTERNS TO LION DANCES

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ProFILE:
DENISE JONASZ
OF PURE COUTURE

A CUT ABOVE

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TATIANA GAMBINO
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Letter from the Editor:

In this issue, we go behind the scenes of Haddonfield's Lunar New Year celebration, get to know two local business owners, and consider the ideas behind one of the town's most enigmatic sculptures.

It's heartening to see how popular Lunar New Year celebrations have become in recent years, and the Asian American Culture Clubs at Haddonfield Memorial High School and Middle School were instrumental in bringing our town's vibrant festivities to life. High school senior Madisen Klumbach was struck by the turnout, and she shares how she and her classmates are helping to build cultural awareness — both in their schools and in the broader community — while deepening their own understanding along the way.



Julia Bozone
EDITOR

One aim of our "ProFile" series is to demystify the jobs of people who live or work in Haddonfield. Running a consignment shop might seem like a straightforward job, but as Denise Jonasz, owner of Pure Couture, knows, it's actually quite delicate.

She specializes in estate sales and closet cleanouts, which means that people often call her after a loved one has died or when they themselves are downsizing. She goes through their clothes and accessories, making piles of things they might want to keep, things that would work well for the store, and things that can be donated to charity. Telling someone that something might not work for the shop isn't easy, and Jonasz tries to treat everyone with empathy. I find her particularly deft at balancing compassion and commerce — but then again, she's following a true passion, having left a steady sales job nearly two decades ago to open the shop at age 41.

Another friendly face you might recognize is Tommy DeRitis from Tommy's Original Barber-shop. His shop doesn't just offer sharp, professional haircuts, hot-towel shaves, and beard trims. It gives its guests a relaxing, immersive experience of brotherhood and camaraderie. Just ask dozens of DeRitis's longtime friends who are among the loyal customers of his family-friendly shop.

And finally, we learn about Hanna Jubran's striking sculpture, "Unity," which is made from steel sheets. As you move around the piece, the interplay of shapes and colors seems to shift depending on the time of day. Jubran hoped to condense time and space with the piece.

I hope these stories reveal something enriching and insightful about the people and places in our town.

Expert Contributors

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN



Benita Cooper
Benita Cooper Architect
Benita Cooper Design

HOME REMODELING



Ken Endt
Cipriani Remodeling
Solutions

PERSONAL CARE



Tommy DeRitis
Tommy's Original
Barbershop

Contributors



Jennifer Amato



Christine Barcia



Suzy Katz



Doug McConnell



Debra Wallace



Brian Spagna

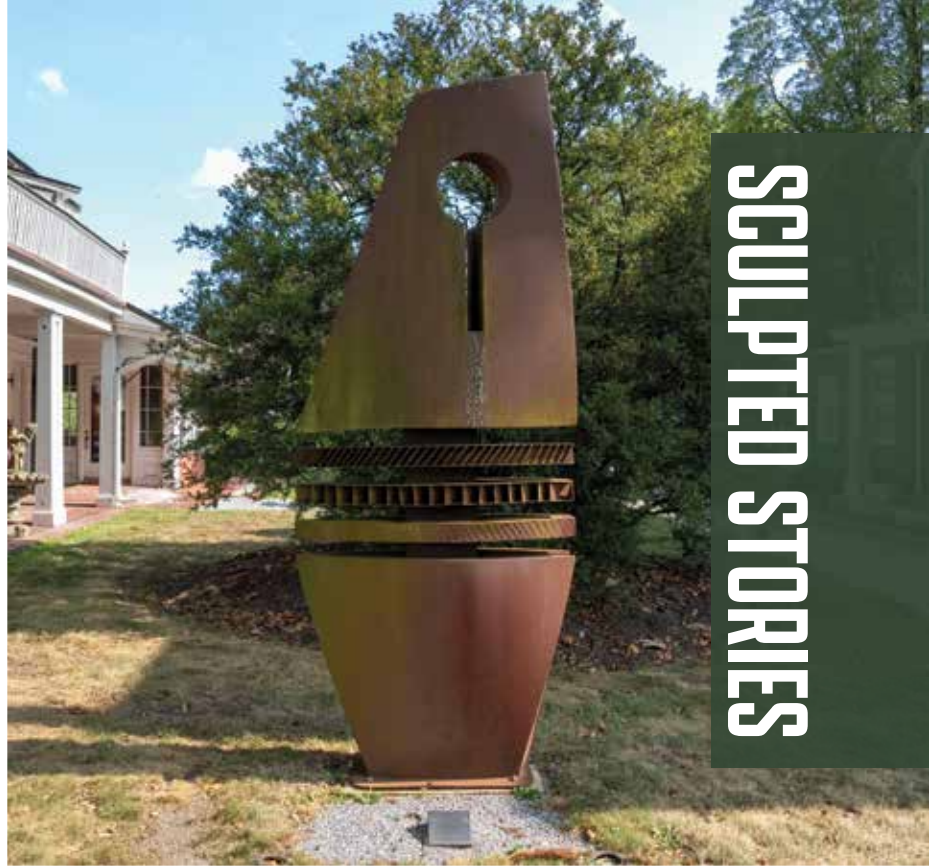
Forever Changes

“UNITY” REVEALS THE INTERPLAY OF NATURE, TIME, AND IMAGINATION

By **Christine Barcia**

“I am emotionally motivated to be creative and to contribute to humanity,” said Hanna Jubran, the creator of Haddonfield’s striking “Unity” sculpture. The 700-pound abstract work, crafted from 1/8 inch weathered steel sheets, stands prominently on Kings Highway, across from the PATCO station.

see SCULPTURE page 6



SCULPTED STORIES

Photos By Doug McConnell

Hanna Jubran, creator of Haddonfield’s striking “Unity” sculpture, hopes that observers can “transcend the formal qualities” of the structure and “freely engage in its intrinsic meaning through symbols, metaphors, and abstraction.”

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SCULPTURE

from page 5

According to Jubran, the sculpture “takes the shape and form of a process by which a circle and organic forms physically change and develop inside the structure, involving growth and abrupt changes.”

“I incorporate recognizable, geometric, and organic forms that invite contemplation and slowly reveal the content of the sculpture,” Jubran explained. “This work is an expression of universal concepts of life and industry since the beginning of time. It expresses the universe from the micro to the macro. The interplay of shapes, forms, spaces, and colors change with the time of day and as you move around the piece.” Through the interplay between nature and sculpture, he aims to condense time and space.

Jubran hopes that observers can “transcend the formal qualities of the object and freely engage in its intrinsic meaning through symbols, metaphors, and abstraction,” he said via email.

Joe Sikora, president of Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust’s executive committee and of Haddonfield landscape architecture firm Sikora Wells Appel, praised the sculpture as “a beautiful interpretive piece that enhances the walkability” of the area.

A professor of sculpture at East Carolina School of Art and Design in Greenville, North Carolina since 1994, Jubran holds an MFA from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. His work often explores the concepts of time, movement, balance, and space.

Jubran and his wife, sculptor Jodi Hollnagel-Jubran, operate J&H Studio Inc. in Grimesland, North Carolina. Travel is inte-

gral to his life: “I move my sculptures frequently for outdoor exhibitions across the eastern U.S.,” he said, noting that his work is usually featured in outdoor exhibitions 20 or more times a year.

He also brings extensive international experience, having created works for major sculpture symposiums and biennials in Argentina, Latvia, Germany, Finland, Mexico, Israel, Cuba, Canada, Lithuania, and Japan, where he won a semi-grand prize at the Toyamura International Sculpture Biennial. The pieces typically becomes a permanent part of the host community’s collection.

Born in Jish, in Israel’s Upper Galilee, Jubran developed an interest in three-dimensional art during his high school years in Nazareth — a passion that has guided decades of work across continents.

“The nature of my goals for art is to reflect my aesthetic views, concepts, and sincerity of expression,” he said. “My sculpture is based on my own creative imagination. I hope my sculpture will, in turn, inspire people in both the arts and sciences.” —08033



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DESIGN DEMYSTIFIED: HOW GREAT PLANS CREATE BETTER REMODELS



By **Ken Endt**,
Cipriani Remodeling Solutions
Expert Contributor

Before a single hammer swings or a tile is laid, the successful outcome of your remodeling project is determined by one critical phase. It isn't the demolition, framing, or even selecting the materials and beautiful finishes. It is the **design process** — the discovery of needs, thoughtful planning, and documentation of a project.

As a Remodeling Design and team leader at Cipriani Remodeling Solutions, my role is to bridge the gap between a homeowner's initial inspiration and a clear, buildable reality. Many homeowners share their collection of inspirational photos, list of frustrations, and a nagging feeling that their home no longer fits their lifestyle. What they often lack is **clarity**. That is where our design process with simple, defined steps bridges the gap.

DESIGN IS ABOUT LIFESTYLE, NOT JUST AESTHETICS

There is a common misconception that design is merely about picking colors, following the latest trends. In truth, great design is an exercise in empathy, environment, and function. It's about understanding how you live because every family is unique:

- How do you move through your kitchen during meal preparation and clean up?
- Where does clutter naturally accumulate?
- Which areas of your home feel “dead” or underutilized?
- How does your bathroom use impact your morning routine?

Before we ever put pen to paper, we spend invaluable time learning these nuances. Without this foundation, even the most visually stunning room can fail to improve your quality of life. My team and I are experienced at asking questions that will discover your true needs.

THE POWER OF EARLY DECISION-MAKING

One of the most valuable lessons I share



with homeowners is that **flexibility decreases as construction progresses**. In the design phase, a change costs nothing more than a few strokes of a digital pen. Once construction begins, that same change can trigger a domino effect of delays, structural rework, and budget overruns.

A complete, well-developed design eliminates guesswork. It allows for:

- **Fixed Pricing:** Accurate quotes based on specific materials and installation methods rather than “allowances.”

see CIPRIANI page 11

A group of eight women, presumably designers, are posing in a construction site. They are standing in front of a wall of exposed wooden studs and sheetrock. There are blue ladders and other construction equipment visible. The CIPRIANI Remodeling Solutions logo is in the top left corner of the image. The text 'Additions | Kitchens | Bathrooms | More' is below the logo. At the bottom, there is a large white text overlay and a QR code.

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CIPRIANI

from page 9

- **Streamlined Logistics:** Ordering materials early to avoid supply chain hiccups.
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BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN VISION AND STRUCTURE

Translating a dream into a buildable plan is where technical experience is non-negotiable. A beautiful two-dimensional floor plan must also comply with local building codes, structural concerns, and be built with practicality. At Cipriani Remodeling Solutions, our designers work together with our production teams. This internal collaboration is our “secret sauce.” We vet design ideas against construction reality early on to prevent the heartbreak of a “perfect design” that is either structurally impossible or prohibitively expensive to execute.

DESIGNING FOR YOUR INVESTMENT

A responsible design process invites budget discussions and considers expenses. Instead of reacting to costs after a contract is signed, we align your priorities with your investment level. This allows you to make **informed decisions** — perhaps choosing custom cabinetry that you love, while opting for a more economical but still beautiful backsplash.

FROM UNCERTAINTY TO CONFIDENCE

It is perfectly normal not to have all the answers at the start. In fact, the most successful projects evolve through a series of “what if” conversations. A designer’s role is more than a creative partner; we are your **trusted advisors**. We provide the framework to turn a mountain of decisions into a manageable, step-by-step journey. Ultimately, great design process creates a beautiful space but also a **clear path forward**. When the plans are comprehensive and the expectations are aligned, construction feels less like a leap of faith and more like a natural, triumphant step to success.

Have an upcoming remodeling project? Schedule a consultation with us now or register for one of our free remodeling seminars at our Design Center this spring! —08033

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FROM LANTERNS TO LION DANCES

STUDENTS BRING
A CELEBRATION —
AND ASIAN
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TO LIFE

By **Jennifer Amato**

Bright lions in flashes of red, orange, and blue danced through Kings Court, heralding good fortune for the year ahead. Percussionists banged their sticks against drums while nimble fingers plucked the strings of a guzheng (a Chinese zither). Children dipped calligraphy brushes in ink to write their names in Chinese letters, and created paper lanterns to decorate their homes. Vendors scooped out servings of spring rolls from Banh Mi Ngon in Cherry Hill and yaksik from Ga Yeon Rice Cake in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

Haddonfield's Lunar New Year festival was a beautiful representation of Asian culture in celebration of the Year of the Fire Horse. Community members packed Kings Court on February 21, but many may not have known that students from the Asian American Culture Clubs (AACC) from Haddonfield Memorial High and Haddonfield Middle schools were instrumental in bringing the day to life.



Photos by **Brian Spagna**

"I'm proud to share my Asian culture because it's an important part of who I am and because Asian American experiences haven't always been visible or understood," said Alice Lee, advisor for the Asian American Culture Clubs (AACC) at Haddonfield Memorial High and Haddonfield Middle schools. Haddonfield's Lunar New Year festival was a beautiful representation of Asian culture in celebration of the Year of the Fire Horse.

Planning began months earlier. In October, under the guidance of the high school AACC advisor Alice Lee, students ran a lantern-making activity during the school's Multicultural Day. Those same handmade lanterns transformed Kings Court into a canopy of color for the February festivities.

On the day of the festival, members of both clubs, plus National Honor Society volunteers, manned stations in bracelet and paper-lantern making, calligraphy, and a book giveaway. Middle school students, led by AACC advisor Susan Sin, showcased an educational trifold display, sharing the history and traditions of Lunar New Year with curious visitors.

"As a young Chinese American, I really loved seeing how many people came to celebrate with us," said Madisen Klumbach, a senior and AACC officer, adding, "especially because I am only half [Asian] and I didn't get to experience all of this growing up."

"I really liked that we were able to create a fun environment for people to learn about Lunar New Year and the Year of the Fire Horse, along with the celebration we did last

year."

Members of the Haddonfield Education Association, the Haddonfield Human Relations Commission, and local business owners, like Julie Beddingfield of Inkwood Books, were also integral to the day's success.

Rachel Chung, a Tatem Elementary School parent and educational assistant, offered the talents of the South Jersey Lion Dance club.

"Community members have shared that they enjoy the event and value having it included as part of a larger community celebration," Lee said. "Students have felt proud and have enjoyed the interactions, especially knowing they help bring greater awareness to the community."

The mission of the Asian American Culture Clubs is to engage students of all races in celebrating, embracing and increasing awareness of Asian and Asian-American identity. The purpose is to foster student development and success through cultural awareness, leadership, philanthropy and community service, most importantly in a safe space, Lee explained.

see LUNAR NEW YEAR page 25





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Denise Jonasz of Pure Couture

By Suzy Katz

Denise Jonasz has owned Pure Couture, a consignment shop on Mechanic Street in Haddonfield, for 19 years, but she doesn't describe her work as simply buying and selling clothes. Much of it happens outside the store: in clients' closets, in family homes, and during estate cleanouts. In addition to styling shoppers and curating the racks, Jonasz meets with clients, evaluates clothing and accessories, and helps determine what might find a second life through consignment. The work requires a sharp eye, emotional sensitivity, and, at times, the ability to help people let go. Here, Jonasz shares how she found her way into the business, what really goes into consigning and estate work, and why clothing can mean more than fabric.





HOW ONE SHOP OWNER BALANCES COMPASSION AND COMMERCE

I was 41 years old and working in sales when the idea of opening a consignment store first came to me. Fashion has always been my passion. I studied fashion merchandising at the Art Institute of Philadelphia and started my career as a men's clothing buyer before eventually moving into sales. Even then, I was already a consignment shopper. I loved the thrill of the hunt. A mentor of mine who had owned a consignment shop for many years said to me one day, "Denise, you love this so much. Why don't you think about opening your own store?" Not long after that conversation, I saw a "For Rent" sign on Mechanic Street. I called up the landlord, told him I wanted to open a consignment shop, and signed the lease. Looking back now, it was a big moment in my life, but at the time, it just felt like the right step to take.

I grew up shopping in Haddonfield. My parents lived in Voorhees, and my mom used to bring us to Kings Highway to buy



our shoes and clothes. I was brought up to shop in a town instead of a mall, and that has always stayed with me. When you shop in a small town, you are supporting small

businesses and the community around you. Over time, you also develop an eye for things.

see PURE COUTURE page 16

Photos by Doug McConnell

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PURE COUTURE

from page 16

Clothing, textiles, and fabrics have always interested me. I pay attention to what people are wearing and make sure I stay on top of what is trending, but I also look closely at quality. I can see on a rack if something is made well and if the material is good. I am really against fast fashion and tend to gravitate towards pieces that are well-made.

Over the years, a lot of my work has come through referrals. Someone will say a friend told them to call me, or that I helped another family. Sometimes it's when someone is downsizing, and sometimes it's after someone has passed away. I meet them at their house, ask where the person has shopped, and start looking through their closet. It is a very personal process, and I try to treat people the way I would want someone to treat my own mom.

A typical day can start early. I wake up and check my bank account because I write checks out to consignors every single day. I want to make sure everything is in order before I head to the store. Even after the shop closes, the work does not really stop. I am answering messages on Instagram or Facebook and trying to keep up with social media. I make reels during the day so people can see what new pieces are coming into the store. I always say I'm like a one-man show over here.

When I go through a closet, I usually create three piles. One is for the shop, one is for family members who may want to keep something, and the third is for charity. People often ask where everything in the store comes from. I usually tell them, "I am the estate — I'm the estate sale before it hits the street."

The store itself is small, about 600 square feet, so everything has to be curated. With that kind of space, I have to be selective about what I take in. One of the hardest parts of my job is saying no when someone brings in pieces from their closet. They may have spent the morning going through pieces they used to wear and enjoyed. It's difficult to tell them something will not work for the shop.

Being part of the community is also a big part of the work. I get asked for donations often, and whenever I can help, I try to. I support multiple churches that help the homeless in Philadelphia, and I have

see PURE COUTURE page 18



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PURE COUTURE

from page 17

been involved with Rally in the Alley in Haddonfield, which raises money for local causes. One of the most meaningful things I have done is help dress women who are going through breast cancer for a fundraising gala. I worked with several women to help them find gowns for the event. One of them told me she never thought she would feel beautiful again. In all my years of doing this, hearing something like that can make your whole career.

Lately, I have also noticed more Gen Z shoppers coming into the store or discovering me online. They are really smart and savvy with their money, and they are looking for classic investment pieces from Ralph Lauren and Calvin Klein, which they will keep in their wardrobes for a long time. Teens come in with their friends or parents. I think it is wonderful to see the younger generations embracing gently used clothing. What keeps the work interesting is the people. Everyone who comes into the store has a story, and I take the time to listen. I truly feel blessed to do this work. —08033

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Photos By Doug McConnell

"I realized early on that I had an eye for styling hair, and I started noticing good and bad haircuts," explained South Jersey native Tommy DeRitis (top row, second from left). "After my mom cut my hair with her clippers, I was hooked. I liked it enough that I wanted to keep getting better." He opened Tommy's Original Barbershop on North Haddon Avenue in December 2021.

A Cut Above

AT TOMMY'S ORIGINAL, YOU COME FOR THE HAIR —
AND STAY FOR THE BROTHERHOOD

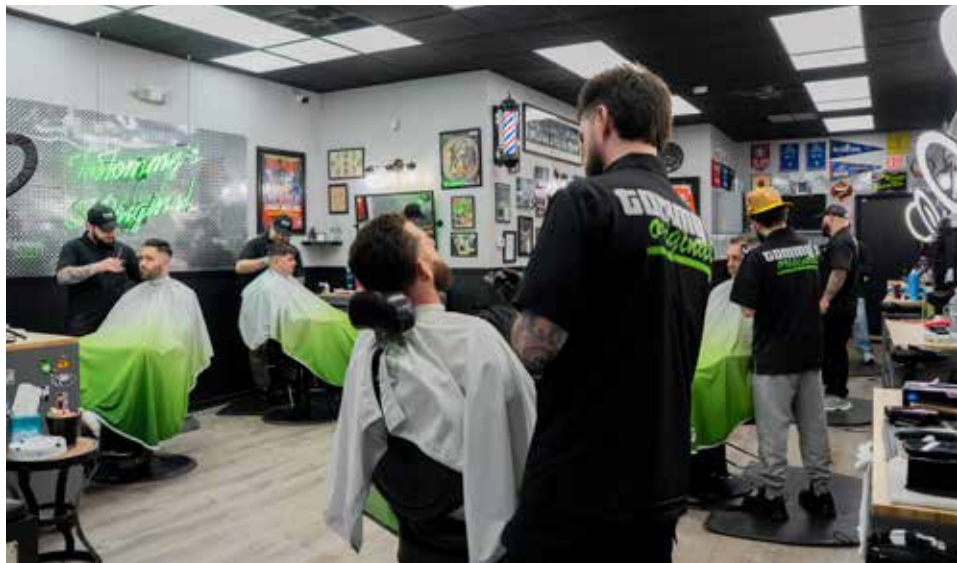
By **Debra Wallace**

When Tommy DeRitis was in high school, his mother let him turn her Cherry Hill dining room into an unofficial barbershop where his friends came in a bit shaggy and left well-groomed and more confident.

Back then, they recognized his abilities, passion, and business acumen. Today, a few dozen buddies from more than 15 years ago continue to support his passion for providing great haircuts and a sense of community at Tommy's Original Barbershop in Haddonfield.

Billy Roesberg, a contractor and foreman, has fond memories of DeRitis cutting his hair at DeRitis' mom's house when he was 17.

see TOMMY'S page 20





TOMMY'S *from page 19*

“Growing up, Tommy always had the vision of what his shop would look like,” Roesberg reflected. “This shop is everything you would expect — sports memorabilia, big-screen TVs, cigars, good conversation, and great haircuts.”

He continues to find the perfect haircut and close shave at Tommy’s Original.

So much so that Roesberg, the father of two young sons — Cooper, 7, and William, 2 — takes his eldest son to Tommy’s and knows that when his younger son is ready, he will have his first, and subsequent, haircuts there. He appreciates the camaraderie and professionalism that comes with the experience.

“It’s a great environment, and I recommend all of the barbers who work there,” Roesberg said. “Tommy has been doing this for a long time. He knows what he’s doing, and only hires the best.”

While Roesberg plans to move his family to Bucks County this summer, he said he will always make the drive to see his favorite barber.

DeRitis, a lifelong South Jersey native,

opened Tommy’s Original Barbershop at 320 North Haddon Avenue in Haddonfield, in December 2021, and is proud to say that Roesberg is one of many high school friends who are among the most loyal customers at his family-friendly shop.

Tommy’s Original is easily accessible for both local residents and those visiting from nearby communities. The barbershop stands out as a beacon of style and sophistication for those seeking not just a haircut, but an authentic barber experience.

DeRitis has been a licensed barber for more than 11 years, having worked for several other shops before opening Tommy’s Original.

He describes his vision for his shop’s décor as an upscale “man cave kind of place” with memorabilia from football, baseball, and boxing, and TVs that mostly play sports.

“I realized early on that I had an eye for styling hair, and I started noticing good and bad haircuts,” explained DeRitis. “After my mom cut my hair with her clippers, I was hooked. I liked it enough that I wanted to keep getting better.”

DeRitis chose the current location because it has a great history and is the closest place on his side of the bridge to have a city feel. As a business owner, he advises those with a goal, dream, or passion to pursue it. “Go after it,” he said. “Instead of trying to figure it all out, start to put things in place. If it’s your goal, go for it. You never know until you try.”

The shop’s services include modern and classic haircuts, hot-towel shaves, and beard trims and cuts. “There has never been a day when I didn’t want to cut hair,” he said. “I’m extremely proud of this place and the five talented guys who work for me. You know it is my place by the style, and I love being the boss.”

The glowing reviews from satisfied customers reflect the team’s commitment to excellence. Every snip and shave is performed with precision and care.

DeRitis said the six highly-skilled barbers at Tommy’s Original are not just stylists; they are artisans who blend traditional techniques with modern flair.

When he is not working in the shop, DeRitis is usually doing work-related activities such as keeping the shop crystal clean, ordering supplies, taking inventory, and carefully arranging the memorabilia.

During his free time, he enjoys spending it with his family, playing golf, and lifting weights. “I honestly don’t take much time off; the work has to get done no matter what.”

In the future, DeRitis hopes to open a second shop. “I have to find the right place and the right guys to run it, and a second location will spring to life,” he said. “I believe the expansion will come sooner rather than later.”

So why head to Tommy’s Original Barbershop? “Everyone who walks in is going to get the haircut they want, and they will have a fun time being here, too,” DeRitis said.

“It’s pretty lively all the time, especially during the morning and evening rush,” he said. “Everyone gets a good experience, a solid haircut, and some laughs.

“What else could you ask for?” —08033



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BEYOND AESTHETICS: WHERE DESIGN CREATES VALUE AND POWER



By **Benita Cooper**
Benita Cooper Design
Expert Contributor



Design does more than make a home look beautiful.

It shapes how your life feels every day. It influences what your home is worth and how it performs on the market. And it helps prevent costly mistakes before construction even begins.

WHAT DESIGN ACTUALLY IS

Design is often misunderstood as finishes, the pretty colors and materials applied at the final stage.

I see design as the full ecosystem. Everything you see, and everything behind it that made it possible.

It includes architecture, space planning, technical resolution, interior and exterior selections, and the strategic thinking that connects them. It includes budgeting, sequencing, and decision-making. It is the process of considering every part of a project together, from the first idea through construction.

When design is approached this way, it becomes powerful. It does not just shape how something looks. It determines how it works, how it feels, and how it performs over time.

1. It transforms how your life feels, every day

The best spaces are felt immediately. Before you notice the materials or details, something shifts. Light moves as it should, and the room holds you naturally, feeling calm and energizing all at once.

What was once overlooked becomes magnetic. An awkward corner becomes a moment. A ceiling line becomes an opportunity. Every element relates to the next, so the space feels cohesive, intentional, and effortless.

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DESIGN

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This is not about adding more. It is about finding solutions within constraints and seeing opportunity in the ordinary. The result is an atmosphere that restores and energizes you, meeting you where you are each time you walk through the door.

Takeaway: That feeling does not happen by chance. It comes from a design process that knows how to see, shape, and align every element from the start.

2. It increases your home's value and market performance

Even if you are not selling now, chances are you will someday. Long-term value is not created by spending more, but by spending wisely. Knowing where to invest and where to pull back separates a home that simply looks good from one that truly performs.

The highest return rarely comes from the cheapest or the most expensive choice. It comes from the right allocation across layout, light, and flow, and from investing in the moments that define the space. These are the elements that hold value



over time and quietly set your home apart.

When design includes strategic planning and integrated budgeting, every decision has purpose. The conversation is not just about immediate cost, but long-term return. Design becomes a financial multiplier, not an added expense.

Takeaway: The right design does not just improve your home. It directs your investment with precision, so every decision contributes to long-term value.

3. It saves you from costly mistakes before construction even begins

For many homeowners, the hardest part is not construction. It is starting. The uncertainty, the endless what-ifs, and the rushed decisions caused by gaps between architect, designer, contractor, and supplier can derail a project before it begins. Done right, design replaces that uncertainty with clarity.

It allows you to evaluate feasible options before committing, turning ideas into real, testable scenarios. Decisions are made fully and intentionally, not reactively in the field. Budgets are predicted with logic and controlled early, where changes are far less costly.

When architecture and design are handled together, that clarity carries through the entire project. There is no gap between vision and execution, and no disconnect between drawings, selections, and construction. Everything works within one aligned system.

Takeaway: The right design process provides clarity before construction begins, ensuring decisions are made once, correctly, and carried through without compromise.

THE IT FACTOR

It is not one feature or one decision. The difference between a pretty home and a truly powerful one is a higher level of thinking that integrates aesthetics, budget, function, code, and technical execution from beginning to end.

This is where true quality comes from. Not from any single choice, but from the way every physical and logistical element aligns to support the whole.

The result is not just a beautiful home. It is a home that improves daily life, creates financial value, and empowers you long before construction begins and well beyond. —08033



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LUNAR NEW YEAR

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Each school has its own club, but they share a similar mission. Lee explained that the Memorial High School club was founded in 2020 in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the accompanying rise in anti-Asian hate, when the Dean of Students recognized the need for a safe space. There are now almost 20 students involved who meet once a month.

This school year alone, the high school club participated in the Multicultural Day celebration at the high school, a Diwali Fair in town, and club potlucks.

“For our Multicultural Day table, we decided to have students make lanterns which we saved to put up for our Lunar New Year celebration downtown,” Madisen said. “We had so many unique lanterns which I think really showed how many creative students we have as part of our club.”

“I was at the bracelet stand the entire time, but we did have a handful of kids come and decorate their own bracelets to take home, which I personally really loved because I was able to see how many children were excited to celebrate with us.”

“[And] I really like planning and being at our potlucks because they’re one of our events that students are guaranteed to come to and it’s a lot of fun being with the entire club every now and then,” Madisen said.

The AACC at the middle school started three years ago. There are about a dozen students who meet weekly. This club is a bit more informal, and students decide what activities they want, such as potlucks, food demos, visitor presentations, class activities such as calligraphy, fundraising initiatives and movies, Sin said.

As the next joint effort, the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Book Club in April will serve as an early kickoff to May’s AAPI Heritage Month. “This event is a crowd favorite,” Lee said. “We’ve been doing this now for five years. I read and select a book, then partner with Stacey Brown-Downham, the Community Events chair for the Haddonfield Education Association, to secure funding/the grant in providing the books (via Inkwood Books) for those who sign up for the event.”

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Haddonfield Happenings

It's all in the details. When it comes to your social calendar, change is ... not always good. But sometimes, it's inevitable. Check each organization's website for updated event information.

HADDONFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY SATURDAY, APRIL 18

All day. **Octopus Take-Home Craft.** Recommended for ages 3 and up, while supplies last.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. **Mother's Day Take-Home Craft.** Recommended for ages 3 and up, while supplies last.

IN THE COMMUNITY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15- SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Spring Stroll. A proper celebration of warm weather. Kick off the season with the new Spring Stroll even: a week-long celebration of outdoor shopping, daily concerts, and community spirit. Features live music from April Mae & the June Bugs, The Woodland Ave Band, and Craig Whitaker.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

12-4 p.m. **Haddy's Half-Birthday.** Yes, half-birthdays are a real thing. A highlight for families during Spring Stroll is Haddy's half-birthday, a fun-filled celebration inspired by the town's beloved dinosaur sculpture. Dino-Egg hunts, birthday cupcakes, and more.

MONDAY, APRIL 20-SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Green Week. Celebrate sustainability and community action during Green Week, a week-long series of environmental programs and hands-on demonstrations organized by the Borough of Haddonfield's Environmental Commission. Come see raptors, learn about recycling, go on a family scavenger hunt and see presentations from our student ambassadors. Plus, Kings Court will host the annual Green Fair on Saturday, April 24.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

11 a.m.-2 p.m. **Grandparents' Day at The Children's Sculpture Zoo.**

The Haddonfield Outdoor Sculpture Trust (HOST) invites South Jersey's grandparents and grandchildren to celebrate Sculpture Month on Grandparents Day at the regional Children's Outdoor Sculpture Zoo in Haddonfield. The event will feature: sculpture demonstration by nationally-renowned sculptor John Giannotti (creator of the Haddonfield dinosaur sculpture "Haddy") at noon, drawings for jobs as "Visiting Curators" for Zoo animals and for a musical instrument that begins with a "U," free children's books on animals and art (courtesy of BookSmiles), free animal face painting, balloons, backpack pins, and animal crackers, and great family photo opportunities with the Zoo's animals. Rain date is Sunday, April 26.

THURSDAY, MAY 7

Destination Diva: Girls' Night Out.

Grab your besties and enjoy a special evening during Destination Diva: Girls' Night Out, a world-themed shopping event designed for a fun night in the town. Participating stores will stay open until 8 p.m., offering extended shopping hours, special promotions, and themed experiences.

SATURDAY, MAY 16

8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. **Farmers' Market Opening Day.**

Wildfether Distillery Parking Lot, 236 Kings Highway East. The popular Haddonfield Farmers' Market returns, marking the start of another season of fresh produce, artisan goods, farm-to-market goodies, and local flavors. @haddonfield-farm will soon be announcing some exciting changes this year.

THURSDAY, MAY 21

7-8:30 p.m. **When the Declaration of Independence Was News.**

Haddonfield Borough Hall Auditorium, 242 Kings Highway East. Author Emily Sneff will discuss how news of the *see HAPPENINGS page 27*

HAPPENINGS

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Declaration of Independence spread to people throughout the thirteen United States and the Atlantic world. Sneff is a historian of the founding era of the United States and a leading expert on the Declaration of Independence. A PhD in history from William and Mary, she is a consulting curator for museum exhibitions for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration and author of "When the Declaration of Independence Was News." The event is free.

MONDAY, MAY 25

10 a.m. **Memorial Day Parade.** The spring season concludes with a meaningful community tradition. American Legion Post 38 will host the Memorial Day Parade, honoring the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country. It begins at Kings Highway and Chestnut Street. Following the parade, there will be a Remembrance Ceremony at HMHS. If the parade is canceled due to inclement weather, the Ceremony will be moved to the Auditorium at HMHS at 11 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 31

1-3 p.m. **Tea with Martha Washington.** The Haddon Fortnightly, 301 Kings Highway East. Join Martha Washington for Tea at The Haddon Fortnightly! The Borough is excited to co-host an event with The Haddon Fortnightly at their clubhouse. Martha Washington's largely overlooked story reveals the important impact women had on America's early history. Carol Spacht, a historic interpreter with the American Historical Theater, portrays figures such as Martha Washington for venues including Valley Forge National Park and the Smithsonian Institution. Her performances help audiences engage with history on a personal level. Tickets are \$55.00 and include tea and sandwiches provided by Jane's Tea House. To purchase tickets, send an email to: Ginny@TheHaddon-Fortnightly.org or by phone: Marie DiMatties, 856-261-6911.

LUNAR NEW YEAR

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All of these efforts help the students feel love and support, too, especially after some years of potential divisiveness. During the early days of the AACC, Lee said she tried facilitating meetings where students could openly share in a safe space about how they felt about any current events or their lived experiences in Haddonfield.

During the pandemic, there was a lot of hurtful stereotyping of Chinese people, but Madisen thinks significant progress has been made since then. "I've noticed we've had more and more participants [in the clubs] each year," she said. Now the clubs focus more on cultural events that traditionally occur in Asia and bringing those experiences to their schoolmates and community.

"I'm proud to share my Asian culture because it's an important part of who I am and because Asian American experiences haven't always been visible or understood," Lee said. "Over the years, former students have shared that this work has helped them feel more connected to their culture, especially when I may be one of the only Asian women they know outside of their family. Knowing that students feel seen, supported, and affirmed makes sharing culture deeply meaningful to me." —08033



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