

# DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL

Volume 2012, Issue 4



Serving the Custom Home Furnishings Industry since 1993



# From the Editor-in-Chief



Michele Williams

## Change Is OK!

**I** don't know about you, but sometimes when faced with change, I get nervous. Then I might start on the "what ifs." What if the new product doesn't work as well? What if the client isn't happy? What if the new process takes me longer? What if I just don't like it?

Lately I've had to make a lot of changes, all necessary but not all wanted. Life is ever evolving and change is inevitable. The great thing about being willing to change is the opportunity to learn or experience something new — something we might have otherwise missed.

Consider where in your life or business you've been doing the same thing or using the same product over and over. Spend a little time investigating what new techniques might be available, and invest in sample sizes to try them out. Introduce new products or offerings to your customers or designers; go to a network meeting that you haven't attended before.

Try something new — anything. You just might be surprised! 🐾



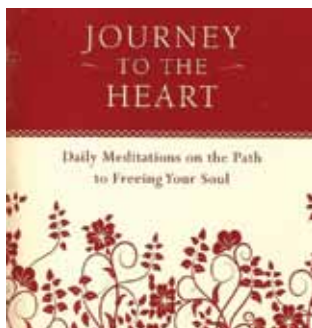
*Michele Williams*

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A PUBLICATION OF THE CUSTOM HOME FURNISHINGS ACADEMY

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**Lois Roegge** is the owner of Rylie Max Studios in St. Charles, MO. Rylie Max Studios specializes in the design and fabrication of custom window treatments and other soft home furnishings. Lois is a member of WCAA, WFCP, and is a CHF Alumni Design Contest winner. She is married with two children and two dogs, and competes in triathlons in her spare time.

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**Kristine Gregory** is principal of Bedeckers Interior Effects Inc. Kristine is an Allied Member of American Society of Interior Designers, past president of the Richmond Chapter of WCAA and a WFCP Specialist. She is the only designer in the Richmond area who is an expert in both the psychology of color and personal organization. Visit her website at [www.bedeckers.com](http://www.bedeckers.com).

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**Laurie Medford** is the Business Development Manager / Expert Services for Rowley Company. Before joining Rowley, Medford owned Centsible Creations, a professional design, fabrication and installation company for both wholesale and retail customers. Medford is an instructor for Custom Home Furnishings Academy and is member of WCAA and WFCP.

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Since 2005, **Carol Collord**, the owner of Creations by Carol located in Medway Massachusetts, has been creating custom soft furnishings including window treatments, bedding, custom slipcovers and lampshades. She is a career professional in both slipcovers and window treatments. As a WCAA member, Carol became Treasurer of her local chapter in 2010, and was recently appointed to the WCAA Board of Directors as a director at large.



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Spotlight on



**Nancy B. Letts** is the owner of Pine House Drapery, a full service workroom started in 2001 that serves interior designers and a few retail clients in beautiful northern Michigan. Nancy and husband Rob fabricate everything from window treatments to upholstery. Nancy is a member of the D&D Pro Network, DraperyPro, WCAA, and is a CHFA Career Professional in Slipcovers.

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**Kim Chagnon** started Kim's Upholstery in 1996, offering a full range of soft home furnishings. Kim is a graduate of Keene State College and Hallmark Institute of Photography. She is secretary of the WCAA National and immediate past President of the Eastern MA chapter. You can see Kim and her team in action on her Kim's Upholstery YouTube Channel.

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**Lauri Lodini** owns and operates My Window Dresser, a one-person, to-the-trade workroom in Langhorne, PA. A workroom owner for seven years, Lauri has a fine arts degree from Long Island University. She is a CHF Alumni, CHF Alumni Design Contest winner and WCAA Member. Lauri specializes in detail-oriented window treatments and soft furnishings.

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**Shari Walla** is co-owner of Accent Custom Drapery Design, LLC of Shelby Township, Michigan. Having experience in auto design, Shari specializes in drafting window treatment patterns. She is the current president of the Greater Detroit Workroom Association, as well as a member of the WCAA.

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**Bill Scott** is a Vice President of MSP and helps guide the company as a member of the Senior Management Team. Additionally, he serves MSP client associations as an Executive Director. Throughout his career, he has guided Boards of Directors, built educational and certification programs, increased membership, managed conferences and improved operational efficiencies.

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The Ultimate Sample Kit Part 4: Roman Shade With Detachable Shaped Skirt



**Terri Booser** is Executive Director of Custom Home Furnishings Academy. She joined CHFA as an instructor in 2005, and in 2010 expanded her role to the position of Curriculum Director. Prior to her full time role with CHFA, Terri owned and operated An Interior Stitch, a custom wholesale workroom. Terri is the coordinator of the IWCE-Vision Construction Zone and a member of the WCAA.

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**Mary Bajor** is the owner of A Beautiful Room, an interior decorating company in Brewster, NY. Mary is a WCAA Certified Window Treatment Consultant and specializes in custom window treatment design and fabrication. She is a former instructor with the Brewster Continuing Education program teaching on various interior decorating topics.

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Pillow and Duvet Closures: Fabric Ties



**Donna Cash** operates a workroom in Flowerly Branch, GA. She's a 20-year veteran of the window coverings industry and has an associates degree from the Art Institute of Atlanta. She's a WFCP Associate, and a member of WCAA, DraperyPro and the Designers Workroom Council in Georgia. Donna is also a certified yoga instructor.



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Bark cloth ... Older Than Dirt?



**Judi Turner** owner/designer for Domicil Design in Dover, NH since 1992. Starting business in Germany, global inspiration continues to be an interest and influence. Domicil Design is a resource for clients looking for custom treatments, slipcovers, DIY supplies and soft furnishings. Judi is the current President of the WCAA Virtual Chapter.

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Industry Pros Introduce Girl Scouts to Window Coverings



**Andrea Pandolfi** is the owner of Brandywine Interiors, a design studio established in 2008 in Chadds Ford, PA. She specializes in full-service custom window treatments and was recently included in a "Masters of Design" guide in a local lifestyle magazine. She is a member of the SEPA and Central NJ chapters of WCAA. She has also been a Girl Scout leader for 6 years.

DRAPERY & DESIGN PROFESSIONAL is a bimonthly trade publication specifically for those who sell, design or create custom window treatments, upholstery, slipcovers and related services. Contributions from readers are welcomed. We look for articles that teach new techniques, inspire readers to tackle new projects and inform readers of current trends in fabrication and design.

To request submission guidelines, please e-mail Michele@CHFACademy.com.

To request a media kit, please contact the communications director.

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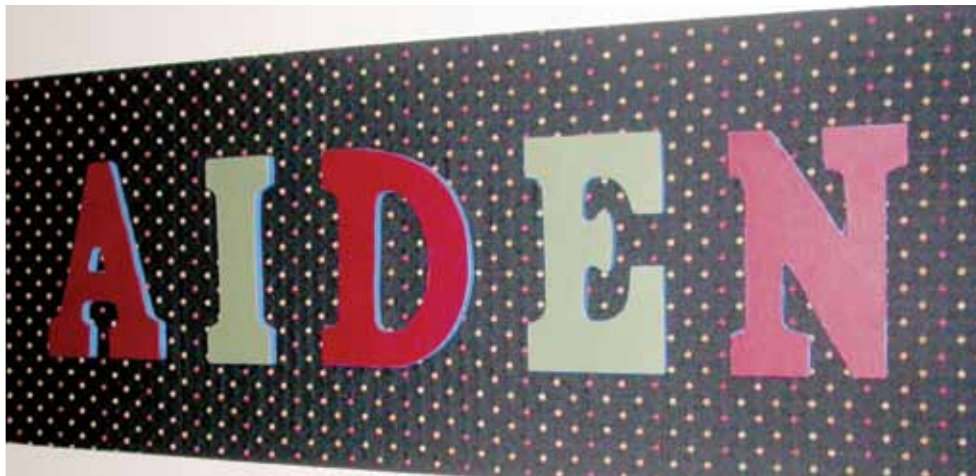
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# Make a Name for Yourself With Laminated Letters

By Laurie Medford  
Charlotte, NC



## Materials and Supplies

- Fabric
- Wooden letters
- Small paint brushes
- Rowley Company's Shade Laminating Adhesive
- Acrylic artist paint
- 1x2-inch lumber
- Double-faced adhesive tape
- FirmaFlex™ fiber board
- Screws and screwdriver
- Spray adhesive
- Staple gun and staples
- Hook and loop tape

Word or name boards are a popular way to decorate bedrooms for babies, children or teens; family rooms; or anywhere in the home you want to make a statement. Wooden letters are available from craft stores in small to large sizes, and are ready to paint, decoupage or laminate. For a recent room makeover, we partnered with interior decorator JoAnne Lenart-Weary of The Decorating and Staging Academy to create a nursery for new parents. When they requested to have their son's name displayed on the wall, we set out to see how a drapery workroom would tackle this "art project."

We were able to create the perfect name art display using a little creativity, art supplies and products commonly found in any workroom. So go ahead, make a name for yourself and offer letter art as an option for your customers.

Note: When using laminating adhesive, it is always best to do a test on a scrap of your fabric before starting the project. You'll want a fabric that doesn't pucker or bubble.

**Step 1** Pour a small amount of laminating adhesive into a disposable bowl. Add a drop or two of water and stir. Paint the adhesive onto the front and sides of a wooden letter. Place fabric on top and smooth evenly over the surface of the letter. Trim the fabric and clip around the curves and corners to allow the fabric to wrap around the edges of the letter. Set aside to dry and continue laminating fabric to all the letters.



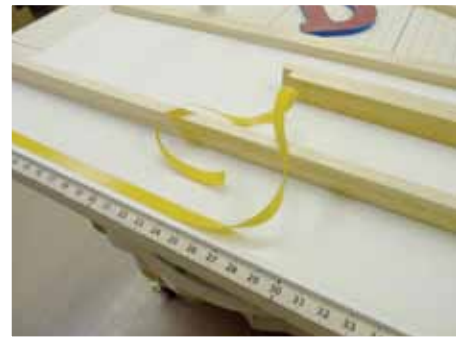
**Step 2** After the letters have dried, paint the edges around each letter with acrylic paint. The fabric edges won't show here, as the adhesive seals the fabric and holds it tight to the letter edges. You may need to paint two or three coats depending on the color of the paint. On this example we used a bright blue to make the letters stand out against the dark background.



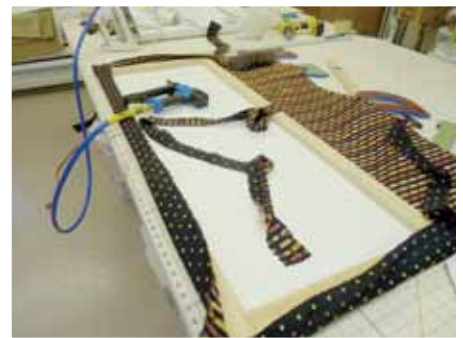
**Step 3** Mix small amounts of laminating adhesive and water to create a thin glue and paint over the surface of the letters. This will seal the surface and give the fabric a clear, satin finish. This step is optional; do a test on a scrap of fabric first to see how it will look.



**Step 4** Cut FirmaFlex fiber board to the size needed. We tried a few options, and decided on a space above and below the letters of about half the size of the letters themselves, as well as 2½ inches between each letter. Next, cut wooden 1x2-inch boards and stick them to the back of the FirmaFlex with double-sided tape, creating a frame; turn over and secure with screws from the front.



**Step 5** Spray the surface of the fiber board lightly with adhesive spray, and smooth the fabric evenly over the board. Wrap the fabric around the edges to the back of the frame and staple in place. (If you're using a thin fabric, add interlining or thin batting to the board before covering).



**Step 6** Measure and mark the layout of the letters on the board. Add double-faced adhesive tape to the backs of the letters and stick in place. Secure the letters with screws from the back of the board.



**Step 7** Cut a 1x2-inch board at least half of the width the finished board or more, and staple loop tape along one edge. Staple the corresponding hook tape to the inside edge on the back of the frame and mark the centers. Install the board on the wall 1¾ inches below the desired placement of the top of the name art with the loop tape facing up. Place the frame onto the board installed to the wall, centering the marks and pressing the hook and loop tapes together. The name board will be flush and secure to the wall. 🐾



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