

An excerpt from *People That You Meet* as featured on the *Vanessa Pollock Team* blog.

## Julie China

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What town do you live in? Maplewood

Where did you live before that? I grew up in Central PA, then lived in Philly, Brooklyn and Hoboken all prior to Maplewood.

What brought you to SOMA? The close proximity to NYC and the Midtown Direct was definitely a major factor, but the beauty, charm and character of the town is what sold us. We fell in love with the architecture and tree lined streets immediately.

What do you do for a living? My husband Darren and I run an interior design and architecture business called Idea Space Architecture + Design. We have been working on some great local projects in town, as well as in Manhattan. Our projects range in size from full gut renovations and additions, kitchen and bath design, furniture and finish selection, to paint consultations. We love working with families to create comfortable homes that are both beautiful and functional spaces. People often come to us because they have a difficult time visualizing their space or they have a challenging design problem to solve. Darren and I are both good problem solvers and one of the most exciting stages of the process is early on when we're figuring out what the possibilities are from a spatial standpoint. We both love what we do and it is truly rewarding to see the spaces

we design come to life. It feels great to know that we are making a difference and improving the lives of our clients.

**What's your favorite feature of your home?** Our tiny powder room. It is painted a bright red-orange that actually inspired the color for our new branding. I love the pop of color in that small space and it is beautifully contrasted by a modern graphic print of the Cinque Terre. It is like a mini escape from the chaos that exists from my two kids running around!

**Where do you love to go on a date night?** We don't do as many date nights as we should! After a client meeting the other night we stopped for a glass of wine at Coda and ended up sketching out trim details on a paper napkin. Pathetic, I know!

**What's the best book you've read in the last 5 years?** Oh, the Places You'll Go by Dr. Seuss. My daughter received this as a gift after her Pre K graduation from Village Babies. If you have a little one, go buy it!

**What's something that amazes you?** That the vast majority of home buyers want something that's 'done.' When Darren and I searched for our first home we only looked at places that needed work. We wanted the freedom and flexibility to make it our 'own.'

**Describe your family:** We are a family of four. My daughter is a first grader at Tuscan and my son just turned 3. Life as working parents who run a business together is non-stop, but we wouldn't have it any other way.

**Favorite local place to eat?** Arturo's, Cactus Charlie's, St. James Gate, Coda...so many good places!

**Who/What did you aspire to be when you were little?** A fashion designer, but that changed to interior designer when I was a junior in high school. I wanted to apply my creative skills with my practical side.

**Of all the places you've traveled, which is your favorite?** Toss up between Bora Bora and Italy!

**What can you not live without?** My family of course!

**What inspires you?** Travel and time away from the day to day realities of real life. This does not happen often, but when it does it is refreshing for sure.

**How would you describe your "style"?** Warm and approachable with a modern sensibility.

**Coffee or tea?** Coffee in the morning is a must!

**ALSO: WHAT CHARITY or ORGANIZATION are you most passionate about?** We are passionate about mentoring young adults who are interested in pursuing careers in architecture and interior design fields.