



MARYBETH SHAW, SHAW JELVEH DESIGN, **Baltimore**

MARYBETH SHAW BELIEVES that design is political. The reason is simple. “You are either designing for accessibility and openness or restricting access. Designers must be informed of the world around them in order to understand the impact of their design.” The 46-year-old designer started her professional life studying political science at Smith College. She later earned a master’s degree in city planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and another M.A. in architecture from Ecole Nationale Supérieure d’Architecture de Paris-Belleville.

After working for several architecture firms and serving as creative director of a wall-covering company, Shaw moved to Baltimore and founded Shaw Jelveh Design. The company offers a variety of services like interior, architectural, product, and environmental design, as well as branding and identity ser-

vices. “But I like graphic design,” says Shaw, whose work has appeared five times in *Print’s* Regional Annual. “I’m particularly valuable to clients because I’ve been on all different sides. I am definitely not a person to be put in a nice, neat category.”

Shaw’s family and five-person office are based in Baltimore, but Shaw Jelveh Design has a second studio in New York City. “I like to keep my contacts in New York. I love the design community there,” she says. Though her clients are mostly from the Eastern Seaboard and California, she appreciates Baltimore because it has great resources for three-dimensional projects. “We can get all kinds of objects fabricated in Baltimore—metalwork, fine machining of hardware and attachment systems, surface treatments. Baltimore’s old industrial base serves designers well.” **MADISON SCHMAKEL**

One design object you crave: A Patricia Urquiola Fjord Chair, or anything by Le Corbusier.

Dream project: An architectural commission for a school, museum, or other public building.

Most ordered food when working late: Eggplant parmigiana sandwiches.

Best way to take 10 on a workday: Go down to the first floor of our studio (in a Baltimore row house) for an espresso.