



The Tastemakers



Barrie Benson

Interior Designer

Charlotte, North Carolina, interior designer Barrie Benson loves architecture from the fifties. And the sixties. And the seventies. "Every era has value," she says, "and too many buildings are lost before we realize they need to be saved." Benson is a tireless advocate for preserving Southern architecture, a cause she took up after investing in her own 1956 ranch-style home. A modern-meets-traditional approach runs throughout her work, from interiors she creates for clients to commercial projects like the newly refurbished Reid's Fine Foods, a Charlotte institution she helped reinvent as a hyperlocal Southern food emporium. "Eighty years of pictures and memories drove the vintage look," Benson explains, "while stores like Eataly and City Bakery in Manhattan inspired the design. At the original Reid's, regulars had tabs. Everything is so global now, people are looking for that sense of community and history."

photograph by JOEY + JESSICA