



**IIDA NY**  
*Member Profile Spotlight*

**General**

Name: Rebecca Dorris Steiger  
Company/Firm: TPG Architecture  
Title: Senior Associate, Creative Director

**Questions**

**Where were you born, where do you currently reside, where did you graduate?**

I was born in the Bronx, NY. My husband and I spent nine years living in San Francisco and returned to New York City in 2005. I graduated from Cornell University with a degree in interior design.

**Why did you choose a profession in the interior design industry?**

I have always been creative. Arts and crafts were a big part of my childhood. My mother was always knitting or doing needlepoint. Color, texture, and pattern helped shape my aesthetic. Fast forward to my professional years—I am fortunate to have found a profession where I can use my creativity, analytical skills and problem solving ability to address clients' biggest challenges.

**What professional accomplishment are you most proud of?**

I'm proud of my focus on being a leader and mentor in this profession. I've learned so much from some really great mentors, and I feel a personal responsibility to pay it forward. What good is all of this knowledge if I don't pass it along to others? I believe it's my role to lift others up and help them succeed.

**Where's your favorite place for inspiration in New York?**

The streets of NYC provide all kinds of inspiration. Look up - look down - look at the street art, the sidewalk, the concrete, the doors and the windows. NYC is a quilt of inspiration.

**Favorite hobby or special interest outside of work?**

I love to knit with hand-dyed yarn. I've become a yarn snob and love to purchase yarn from local makers in NYC, and will go out of my way to support local fiber artists whenever I travel.

**Top magazines, podcasts or newspapers?**



I've listened to a few podcasts and have enjoyed *Studio Chats* with Kelsey Paul and *Design Matters* with Debbie Millman. I'm more into non-fiction audio books and listen while I walk to work. I recently finished listening to *Cultish, The Language of Fanaticism* by Amanda Montell. It was fascinating to learn about how the strategic use of language can be used to manufacture community, a sense of belonging, and an us/them attitude.

**Favorite aspect of working from home, hybrid or in the office?**

I absolutely HATE working from home. I was very fortunate to have found a job three months after having been part of a giant pandemic layoff. I went into the office every day and got to know my colleagues. My favorite part of working from the office is the connections I forge with my colleagues at all levels. Remote work may be a valid option, but it does not replace the face-to-face human connections you get when you go into the workplace.

**What is your biggest pet peeve and pleasure?**

My pet peeve is also kind of a guilty pleasure. I see all of the typos, and I can't help it. I save the worst/best ones, like a conference table shop drawing from over 10 years ago that called out "Satan Nickel". *Well, isn't that special?*

**Favorite travel destination in the world?**

Anywhere. I did not grow up traveling. As an adult, I feel lucky to be able to take the time to visit other cities and learn about other cultures. I went to Spain before I had children. I would go back in a heartbeat. I would love to bring my sons with me and show them more of the world.

**If you could travel to any time and place in history, where and when would you choose and why?**

I think I would like to travel back to the '50s and '60s to experience the Eichler era in California. I have an interest in Eichler homes and really want to learn more about his work bringing modern design to the general public.

**What was your favorite subject in college?**

Design studio, of course. I loved researching the design briefs and coming up with well-thought out responses to design challenges. I also loved the community we built in the design studio.

**Best piece of professional advice you have ever received?**

There's a lot. Know your value. Know your worth. Be true to yourself. Speak with conviction. Own your mistakes and learn from them. Apologize only when you've made a mistake. You don't have to like everybody, or be liked by everybody. Be a mensch.

**A fun fact about yourself?**

I have a stool collection. It started with a plastic Tam Tam stool that I found at the Daly City flea market, followed by an Eames Walnut stool, a Vitra cork stool, and a Kartell Atilla Gnome stool. I quickly realized that once you have more than three of anything, it's a collection.

**One goal you would like to accomplish with IIDA NY?**

I have been involved with IIDA for over 20 years, both in San Francisco and in New York. My ongoing goal is to help people understand the value of joining and building a professional network. I would not have been able to achieve what I have without the support of amazing colleagues and friends I met by attending events, meeting new people, serving on IIDA committees, and serving as a leader on the IIDA NY Board of Directors.