

TRADE TALES | JAN 8, 2021 | 

## How do you deal with a client taking credit for your work?

No matter what your profession, having someone claim your work as their own is an awful situation to find yourself in. For interior designers, the scenario can be even more complicated because of how closely they work with the homeowner to develop a project, which can lead the client to feel possessive over the end results. We asked seven designers—**Meagan Camp, Gary Inman, Maureen Magula, Brian Paquette, Katy Popple, Sarah Walker** and **Cara Woodhouse**—how they’ve handled clients who tried to take credit for their work.

### LAWYER UP

“I had an issue once with a client that not only took credit for my work, but actually stole my design. I had schemed their entire home and they only ordered a small fraction of what I proposed. Their budget was getting smaller as we were working together. We decided to amicably part ways, until months later, I caught a glimpse of a room I designed for them on social media and they took full credit for my design! To say it was upsetting is an understatement. I had my lawyers reach out, and it was resolved in the end.” —Cara Woodhouse, Cara Woodhouse Interiors, New York



*Cara Woodhouse* Courtesy of  
Cara Woodhouse

---