JULIAN MERCER

JEWELRY DESIGNER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Jewelry Designer and Graduate Gemologist with 9+ years designing fine and bridal collections from sketch to CAD to finished piece. Selects stones, specifies metals and settings, and works with casters and bench jewelers to deliver pieces that meet quality and cost targets.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Jewelry Designer Feb 2022 - Present
David Yurman, New York, NY

- Design cable and gemstone pieces for two seasonal collections a year, with 40 to 50 approved styles per season.
- Create CAD models in Rhino and MatrixGold and send 3D prints to the casting team, which cut sample rounds from three to two.
- Re-engineered a hinge on a bracelet design to reduce returns for loose links, trimming warranty repairs by about 30%.
- Specify stones, metals, and finishes with merchandising and sourcing, keeping unit cost within 5% of target on launched styles.
- Review production samples against drawings and measurements before approval and reject out-of-tolerance pieces at the vendor.
- Mentor two junior designers on technical drawing and setting constraints during weekly design critiques.
- Sourced 15 new colored stones from two approved vendors and set quality grades that kept color consistent across production runs.

Jewelry Designer Aug 2018 - Jan 2022
Tiffany & Co., New York, NY

- Designed bridal and everyday diamond pieces for a core collection and managed styles through sampling and release.
- Selected center stones and accent diamonds with the gemological team, using GIA reports to match cut and clarity standards.
- Presented hand sketches and gouache renderings to merchandisers and won approval on 12 of 15 pitched designs.
- Cut time from approved sketch to finished sample by a week by moving to a single CAD file handoff for the vendor.
- Visited bench workshops to resolve prong and setting problems on new designs before volume production.
- Developed a 24-piece bridal capsule that became a top-five collection by revenue in its first year.
- Prepared cost breakdowns for stones, metal weight, and labor on each new style so merchants could set margins early.

Bench Jeweler and Design Assistant Jun 2016 - Jul 2018
Signet Jewelers, Akron, OH

- Repaired and resized rings, set stones, and soldered chains, completing 25 repair jobs a week at a high first-time quality rate.
- Created custom bridal designs for retail customers by sketch and wax carving, with 85% of consultations leading to orders.
- Reviewed and graded diamonds with loupe and microscope for customer sales and appraisals.
- Learned CAD software on the job and produced the first digital models for the store's custom program.

CORE SKILLS

Jewelry sketching and rendering | Rhino 3D and MatrixGold | Gemstone selection | Diamond grading | Metals and alloys | Stone setting knowledge | Casting and finishing | Technical drawings | Cost and margin targets | Bench techniques | Trend research | Vendor and production management | Appraisal basics

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Fine Arts in Jewelry and Metalsmithing, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, RI

CERTIFICATIONS

Graduate Gemologist (GG), Gemological Institute of America | Certified Bench Jeweler, Jewelers of America