



### ***Mikel Welch***

As a young boy living in Southfield, Michigan, Mikel Welch busied himself with the construction of sofas and dining tables for imaginary houses. It was evident to his family that creativity and a passion for design were embedded in Mikel from birth.

Today Mikel runs his interior design business Mikel Welch Designs in New York City and works as an on-air personality and design expert for Pickler & Ben on CMT Network, Executive Produced by Faith Hill. Here, Mikel showcases his talents to the show's 1.5 million viewers, teaching them how to create luxury inspired spaces on a conservative budget. Prior to working alongside the Country music legend, Mikel worked for comedian and television host Steve Harvey. Mikel served as the design expert for Steve Harvey, recipient of the 2014, 2015, 2016 & 2017 Emmy for best informative talk show. Here, Mikel showed the show's 2.2 million viewers tips and tricks for renovating unfinished basements, designing sophisticated masculine spaces and creating luxury looks at affordable prices. Mikel joined Steve Harvey as a set designer in 2012. In this role, he created lavish greenrooms for prominent personalities, including First Lady Michelle Obama, First Lady Hillary Clinton, Oprah Winfrey, Joan Rivers and Halle Berry.

The public first became familiar with Mikel's relaxed, fun and enthusiastic personality – when he appeared on HGTV Design Star's Season 7 in 2012 and finished as a top-four contender. But this wasn't his first brush with reality television. Mikel worked behind the cameras as a set designer for the Style Network's hit reality show Jerseylicious in 2011.

Mikel started to formally learn the ropes of the interior design business after graduation from Atlanta's Morehouse College. At just 27 years of age, Welch opened Dwell Interior Design

Solutions in Atlanta which he maintained until he made the decision to relocate to New York City. In Manhattan, Mikel worked for interior design firm Jillian Browder Designs, among others.

In 2016, Mikel was chosen to be one of 20 designers participating in the Traditional Home Magazine “Hampton Designer Showhouse” – one of the country’s top showhouses. As part of this event, he reimagined the center bedroom suite of this luxury coastal home. Welch has appeared as a design expert on CBS-TV’s *The Talk*, Bravo-TV’s *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*, NBC-TV’s *Openhouse NYC*, Lifetime Network’s *The Way Home*, E! Network’s *The Fabulist*, ABC News, NBC News, Fox News, WGN News and has made special guest appearances on behalf of Inspired Closets, CB2, Ethan Allen, West Elm and Pottery Barn. His designs have been featured in *Elle Décor*, *Conde Nast Traveler*, *Play Boy Magazine*, *Family Circle Magazine*, *The Huffington Post*, *New York Post*, *HGTV Magazine*, *Luxe Magazine* and *Ebony Magazine*. Mikel has recently been profiled in *People Magazine*, *The New York Times* and *Traditional Home Magazine*.

After years of experience as a tastemaker in the television industry, Mikel has been selected as a new designer in the upcoming season of TLC’s hit series, “Trading Spaces.” In this role, Mikel will join such esteemed names as Brett Tutor, Carter Oosterhouse, Doug Wilson, Frank Bielec, Genevieve Gorder, Hildi Santo Tomas, Joanie Sprague, John Gidding, Kahi Lee, Laurie Smith, Sabrina Soto, Ty Pennington and Vern Yip. “Trading Spaces” is set to air in 2019.