

BUBBA IS SUITE ON DESIGNER

By SUSAN EDELMAN

There's a new designing woman in Bill Clinton's life — a fashionable Harlem interiors maven who's been tapped to decorate the ex-president's office.

She is Sheila Bridges, 37 — Harlem's answer to Martha Stewart — shortly after he cut a high-profile deal for penthouse office space on 125th Street.

"She's very talented, very smart, very savvy, and most importantly she's from Harlem," Clinton spokeswoman

Julia Payne said of the choice.

Bridges had the inside track on the job all along — she's a friend of Clinton pal Vernon Jordan.

A meeting with Clinton to discuss her ideas for his new office sealed the deal.

The designer's classic yet contemporary style "caught our eye," Payne said.

Bridges has done work for the writer Tom Clancy as well as rap mogul Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs — who hired her after he saw her work in the Manhattan apartment and Connecticut home of former Motown Records president Andre Harrell.

But the exacting Bridges

cut ties with Combs in 1998 over matters of taste.

She apparently found the rapper's need to have the initials "PD" — for Puff Daddy — emblazoned on the gates of his Hamptons mansion, painted on the bottom of his pool, and monogrammed on beach towels a little too gauche.

Asked what she plans for Clinton's new digs, Bridges remained mum.

"I don't tell details when we're working on a project," she said.

"Right now we're in that phase of getting things approved by him and other members of his staff."

But another member of the design team said the decor would include beige marble floor tiles, off-white walls and wooden shelves.

"[It is] very simple and elegant," said Navid Maqami of Greenberg Farrow, a prominent Manhattan architectural firm designing the layout, lighting and other aspects of Clinton's office.

The 8,300-square-foot spread on the 14th floor — with a sweeping view of Manhattan — will include workspaces for staff, a kitchenette, and Clinton's office with a private shower, Payne said.

"She's very talented, very smart [and] very savvy."

CLINTON SPOKESWOMAN
JULIA PAYNE



'BRIDGES' TO 21ST CENTURY: Sheila Bridges is reportedly decorating Bill Clinton's offices with beige marble floors, off-white walls and wood shelves. Chris Ramirez