

Biography: Robbin Cook, President of [John Wind Maximal Art](#)

The design bug bit Robbin Cook long before she realized her affinity for business relations. Raised within a meticulously restored 18th-century home—a labor of love by her design enthusiast mom and dad—Cook absorbed her parents’ penchant for clean design and knack for curation. Countless weekends were spent at the knees of her mother and father at local Connecticut flea markets, where antiquing became a family affair. The reward for their efforts? Antique door hardware, objets d’art, and other items that could plug into their historic home’s existing traditional-style decor like missing pieces in a puzzle. It was during these family outings that Cook learned to discern the treasure among the fray.

With her parents’ full support, Cook followed her passion for design to Philadelphia University, where her appreciation for aesthetics played off a strength inherent to the future company president: an aptitude for business. Both traits spurred Cook to work in jewelry boutiques full-time during her studies, and this same zeal eventually led Cook to a serendipitous encounter in 1985 with John Wind, then an up-and-coming jewelry designer with a need for someone like Cook—someone equally persistent, pragmatic, creative and “can-do,” four traits Wind still attributes to Cook three decades after their initial introduction. She started working for John Wind on January 2, 1986, just one week after graduating with a degree in Textile Marketing—and as the saying goes, “the rest is history.”

Outside of maintaining the day-to-day operations of John Wind Maximal Art as company president and art director (she has a “great eye,” says Wind), Cook’s interests lie in the very thing responsible for her success: family. Two teenaged children, Madisen and Spencer, are Cook’s proudest achievement, with her daughter doubling as the muse for John Wind Maximal Art’s Circa 1985 product line. Still, a space in Cook’s heart is reserved for old homes; she dabbles in real estate, flipping older properties to restore their architectural integrity. And yes, she still knows her way around a flea market.