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A week in
the life of
Christine May

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A week in the life of... Christine May

For nearly 20 years, Christine May of Christine May Interior Design has applied her creative skills to residential and commercial interiors, both contemporary and traditional. Here she talks about one week in her busy schedule

Monday

My week starts with a visit to St Katharine Docks just by Tower Bridge. After a year of working on the complete refurbishment of this duplex penthouse, I'm ready to add some finishing touches before the clients can finally move in. Most of their artwork is in storage in Germany so I'm having to make do with a fairly minimal scheme for the photo shoot.

While I'm near enough to Wapping, I pop into Pendragon Frames to arrange delivery of the canvas I've had framed for another client. We take a look at a new canvas I commissioned, which has just arrived and decide on a lovely tray frame in natural ash.



Hadley Wood

Tuesday

Today I'm making my way to one of my favourite shops for accessories, Ecco Trading in Battersea. I love this Aladdin's cave and, luckily for me, they have just received a new shipment of goodies. As quickly as they unbox them, I'm grabbing artworks and decoratives for my client in Hadley Wood [in north London].

A quick bus ride to Sloane Square and I'm looking for additional items for my clients' bedroom, dressing rooms and bathroom. After an afternoon of searching shops from Andrew Martin to India Jane, I'm ready for a cup of tea and a pastry. I jump on the train at Sloane Square and make my way ▼



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back east to my home and studio where I share a glass of wine with my neighbour while we put the world to rights.

Wednesday

Up bright and early this morning to get to Hadley Wood in time to meet with the curtain fitter and the picture hanger. I'm really pleased with the scheme. I've been involved with these clients for almost three years now. Originally I came to help with accessorising the client's own efforts, but I ended up working on the entire house.

My team and I have done everything from replacing the heating, wiring and plumbing systems to designing most rooms in the house, including the pool house and, latterly, the master bedroom, bathroom and "his and hers" dressing room suite.

Originally there was a gym, which we moved to the pool house, a dressing room, the bedroom and separate bathroom. There are now two good-size his and hers dressing rooms and we've completely refitted the bedroom and bathroom. The suite has its own inner hallway allowing the bedroom itself to be open plan into the hallway while still being private from the rest of the house, with a master bathroom to its left and the his and hers dressing rooms to the right.

My client loves all things calm and neutral and I think the silver, taupes and ivory colours have worked perfectly for her. After placing the artwork that I bought yesterday around the house, I'm ready for the photo shoot tomorrow.

I go home and indulge in my weekly guilty pleasure of The Sopranos, a bowl of pasta and a glass of fruity red. ▼





St Katharine Docks

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Thursday

I meet the photographer, Richard Gooding, and my PR, Nick Lee of Niche PR, at Hadley Wood to photograph the master suite that I've been working on for the past six months. It's a damp, overcast day, not ideal for our purposes, but we make the best of it. Richard and Nick recce the space and discuss angles and lighting needed while I tweak flowers and smooth linen. It's a long but productive day and, as always, the results are well worth it. I go home exhausted.

Friday

I'm off to another project in Docklands today. This time it's a two-bedroom apartment in Narrow Street that I did the designs for earlier in the year. I meet with my contractor, Dan from Fredereck Sage, and the client who has asked her property developer father to come along too. We discuss the designs and "dad" wants to know about the practical things like the under-floor heating,

Games and think that the best time to start will be at the end of September. Dan and I pop along to Gordon Ramsay's pub The Narrow for a light lunch and to further discuss the project.

I make my way back to the studio and catch up with correspondence and phone calls before getting ready for an evening out with my friend Carolyn. We're going to a private viewing, which turns out to be rather disappointing, so we make our way to a tapas bar and have an enjoyable evening discussing our next spa visit and our dream fantasy holiday.

Saturday

On Saturday morning, I whizz over to pick up my sister to do the weekly shop together. After lunch I visit my family in Essex and I take the two dogs, a cocker spaniel and a Jack Russell, out for a run. This is probably the only truly aerobic exercise I've had all week! Why is it that when I throw the ▼





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ball, it invariably travels in the opposite direction to where I was aiming?

Over supper we talk about what we've all been doing during the week and what's on the agenda for the week ahead. I leave for the drive home after a lovely day of catch up.

Sunday

I go to Finchley to spend an enjoyable afternoon with my friends Sian and Nick. Sian is a graphic designer and the conversation inevitably turns to all things artistic. She wants to decorate her living room and, of course, she will enlist my help and pick my brain – and sample boxes – for ideas!

I return home, for a few hours of “me” time.

I contemplate the past week and decide it's been busy, enjoyable and productive. I'm grateful that I have a job I love and, as my head hits the pillow, I look forward to the new week ahead.



St Katharine Docks



Hadley Wood