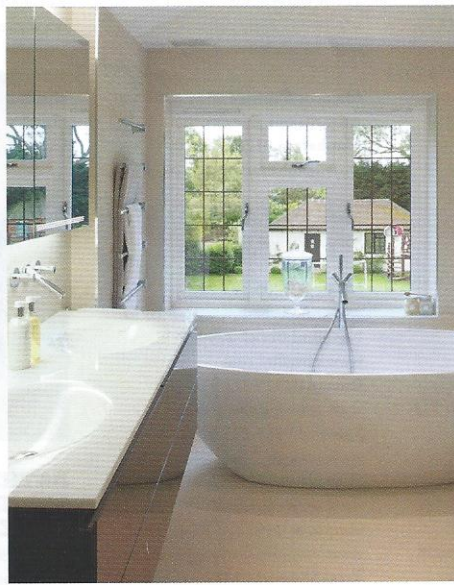


DESIGN TALK

Christine May, principal designer, Christine May Interior Design talks heros, the Pantheon and glassware

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“ Trust your interior designer; let them do what you’re paying them for! ”

DESIGN & WORK

Where did you study?
KLC School of Design.

Do you have a formal design qualification?
I’m a qualified Graphic Designer but my heart was never in it. I didn’t realise that interiors would be my calling until I bought my first house.

How long have you been designing?
I was born with a pencil in my hand!

What was your first design job?
I turned two 1960s classrooms into a French-style bistro for students and staff, on time and on budget.

Who is your hero?
Oh so many! Barbara Hulunicki first inspired my love of interiors through Biba, David Hicks for his bravura, Barbara Barry for her understated elegance, Patricia Urquiola for her endless inventiveness...

What is your favourite interior?
The interior that always sticks with me is the Pantheon in Rome. It’s cool, simple, calm and restful.

CHRISTINE’S TOP TIPS

Check your wardrobe to see what colours are most prominent. Those are probably the colours you feel most comfortable with, so take your lead from there.

Add something unexpected to the mix. If the contents of your wardrobe indicate that your taste is mainly for monochrome, add a shot of hot pink or burnt orange.

Spend your money on good contractors and craftspeople. Top quality handiwork will make inexpensive materials look top notch.

Go with your gut instinct, don’t over analyse.

Trust your interior designer; let them do what you’re paying them for!



FAVOURITE THINGS

My favourite place for inspiration is...
the V&A – a treasure trove. A shapely silhouette in the fashion gallery is as likely to inspire a design as a chair from the furniture collection.

I wouldn’t be without...
a rather precious picture of my dad who died a few years ago. He’s in his army uniform in India before partition with a couple of local kids standing by his side. I’d be bereft if I lost it.

My pet hate is...
poor workmanship.

Guilty pleasure...
I have a huge collection of mid-20th century glass. There’s far too much of it to display at home so I keep the bulk of it in a storage unit.

I’m working on...
Among others I have just starting working on a penthouse in St Katharine’s Dock, London. The clients are having extensions built on part of their roof terrace either side of the main apartment to include a luxury kitchen and a cinema room. I’m planning to mix reclaimed wood with sharp Italian design.