

Utopia KITCHEN & BATHROOM

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MAGAZINE
2011

The only kitchen and bathroom magazine dedicated to luxury design

MARCH 2012

CUTTING-EDGE KITCHENS

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English style

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Designers' secrets

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132
*pages of pure
inspiration*



design talk

Up-close and personal with interior designer **Pippa Paton**

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Where did you study?

Chelsea College of Art & Design, where I have also now tutored.

What was your first job?

Trainee accountant at Arthur Andersen.

What was your first design job?

Interior design of a medieval hall in Kent.

Who is your design hero?

Ulf Moritz, Textile Designer. His innovative and unusual fabrics are fabulously tactile, bold and aesthetic and are truly part of the experience of a room.

How do you start a project?

I assess the space and the client's aspirations then work through how that space can fulfil those aspirations – or not.

What do you consider the most important thing about designing an interior?

That when completed it truly enhances the lives of those who live in it.

What is your favourite interior?

Anjuna Plage Privee, Eze Bord sur Mer. A restaurant and beach bar squeezed under the railway line and running down to the water edge. The interior is a mix of eclectic Asian pieces and everything from palm leaves to sails artfully put together to create a sense of effortless chic.

Do you have a trademark?

I will always incorporate a significant and unique item that really creates impact and creates cohesion for the scheme.

What luxury do you think is really worth it?

Lighting control. As we end up with increasingly multi-functional rooms it adds real value to be able to make the lighting suit the various moods and occasions.



Pippa's top tips:

• **Use the space brilliantly for what it is capable of...** Don't try and squeeze in a bath if a big shower is the best use of space. Also bathrooms are often odd shapes so have cabinets made to fit the space – it's not as expensive as you might think and the result is always better than 'making do'.

• **Get the details right, take your time to plan it functionally, not just aesthetically...** ensure there are niches and places to hold toiletries where you actually use them; in the shower and by the bath. Ensure good storage to hide all the bits and pieces. Ensure good towel hanging – preferably heated. Built-in laundry baskets are a great way of keeping bathrooms tidy.

• **Making a bathroom look more expensive that it actually was...** Use a single colour but different tone and textures to ensure it is cohesive and chic. Don't differentiate between walls and floors, use the same tile (consider different sizes on each). Always use the best taps you can afford. Hide wastes where possible by using slot wastes.

• **The wow factor...** Use a freestanding bath, mirror, an unusual basin or a stunning wallpaper on one wall to create a focal point and work from there.

From vintage Italian chandeliers to Arne Jacobsen's Egg Chair, here are a few of Pippa's favourite things...

I wouldn't be without...

A large fridge and freezer such as the Miele Mastercool range.

My pet hate in home decor is...

Short curtains, slavishly following fads and houses that look overly interior designed.

My favourite design ever is...

Arne Jacobsen's Egg Chair. Simple, clean lines, wonderfully comfortable and timeless.

What do you collect?

Vintage Italian chandeliers.

My best ever home buy...

Solid stone pedestal basin, it weighs 750kg and took 6 months to get to its final position.

What was your most extravagant home purchase?

The bespoke dining chairs made to complement the vintage steel dining table we bought in a rash moment after lunch in Sussex.

What are you working on at the moment?

Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire barn conversions, Soho and Chelsea apartments and a villa in the south of France.

