

5 MINUTES WITH...

Tracey, a top Interior Designer for luxury residential, commercial properties in Cambridge, London and Essex.



Where do you find your inspiration when it comes to designing someones house?

I take inspiration from my clients lifestyle. My ethos is you must understand a clients desires from the heart - how they would they like to 'see and feel' their space. After this initial evaluation I draw from periods of time whether contemporary or classical and combine colour, texture and form to produce an exclusive result. Every room is personal and never can be reproduced the same for the next client, even if I tried.

When your not being an interior designer, do you have any cool hobbies or favourite things to do in your spare time?

Keeping fit is imperative to a healthy and creative mind. So three sessions in the gym per week, of either aerobic, meditative or just taking great walk in the countryside is important to me. I love to explore architectural cities, houses, palaces and gardens. I'm curious, why they developed, and how they developed. I love food, and love cooking in my fabulous kitchen which i designed recently. I love eating out but mnothing can beat food at home - my family are food fanatics so we love to cook!

Lets talk about what makes your interior design stand out from the crowd in the industry, tell us about your signature style ...

I have an open mind so when ever I begin, I think eclectically - bringing together the old and the new, classical and contemporary. What stands out is the attention to detail, my interiors are on-trend, personalised as well as being meticulously managed.

I see that your husband is a painter and decorator, do you ever work on projects together as a couple?

Yes many. We've been married 23 years, Derek, also known as 'egal eyed del', is my man but



"Give a small room a big personality"

also my co-designer. He is the first person I call when discussing the next big project after seeing a client. With a spotless reputation (excuse the pun) and 18 years experience, he has an idea of what works and what doesn't - after all, he works all the time. For example, you might have a room with varying roof levels - if your using two colours, del-boy knows where to start and end each one.

What do you look for in a room?

Room height is important because it can make a room feel grand and luxurious, but it can also make a room feel cold and empty. I look for ways to make an impact straight away. There are always ways of making a room appear larger or taller using 'tools' from my designers toolbox! I look for architectual details, mouldings and any usable focal points that the eye can be drawn to. A small room scale is more easily controlled when applying personality, colour and style. Give a small room a 'big' personality!

Lets talk memorable moments. Tell us your 2 worst moments thus far

Thankfully I have not had any major disasters but, I can muster one when a client of mine

changed their mind on a very expensive paper and had to remove it from the wall, manoeuvring large items of fragile furniture - not to be messed with. Nevertheless, carefully, and though of army precision tactics - the alteration went un noticed!

Who are your most inspirational designers and why?

For witty and stylish interiors i adore the designs of Kit Kemp. I'm totally in ore of her luxury hotels throughout thr world and kelly Hoppen for her calm relaxed neutral pallet and beautiful textures. In architecture, Andrea Palladio, 1508 - 1580. Without his legacy and contribution to classical architecture, the world would be a very dull one.

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