



KELLY HOPPEN

Background In a career spanning over 20 years, Kelly Hoppen has established a global reputation. She has a team of 35 at her Notting Hill interior-design studio and runs a successful design school. Her furniture collection is available in China, Hong Kong, the US, Dubai and Singapore.

Projects Kelly's current residential interior-design projects include a trio of 280-square-metre apartments in Verbier, private homes in Geneva and Moscow, a 2,300-square-metre apartment in Beirut, a 1,850-square-metre house in Hampstead, and a footballer's home on Barbados.

She says My philosophy has always remained the same; I like to create calm environments based on Eastern cultures, and the principles of order and harmony. How people feel in a space is as important as the way it looks. Texture, form, light, sound and smell are imperative for a balanced living space.

We say Kelly Hoppen remains a tour de force in the design world – imbuing luxury homes, developments, yachts and hotels with her trademark East-meets-West style – and a favourite with clients in the worlds of film, sport and fashion.

Favourite luxury detail? Lighting, because it accentuates key features and areas and can impart a luxurious mood.

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GAVIN HOUGHTON (new entry)

Background Gavin Houghton worked in fashion, designing menswear, then joined *The World of Interiors* as an editorial stylist. After a stint as an art director at *Vogue* promotions, he teamed up with Stephan Eicker to launch the interior-design company Eicker Houghton. He began his own practice in 2008.

Projects Gavin is working on a Grade I-listed Nash house in Regent's Park, combining modern style with Parisian chic, and the London house of a fashion editor, using graphic wallpapers and strong colour.

He says I like a room to smile. I've been told my work reflects modern Bloomsbury: romantic, with wit and charm. Colour is very important to me. I especially like to rest my eyes on a good green.

We say A charming designer with a strong vision and a fistful of varied decorative looks up his sleeve, not to mention an addiction to finding the perfect decorative antique.

Most challenging commission? Adding warmth to a very modern Norman Foster glass apartment on the river. I designed an extra-long sofa, and teamed it with rustic, wood side tables and bronze vintage lamps.

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MARTIN HULBERT (new entry)

Background Martin Hulbert studied spatial design, and in 2000 joined Fox Linton Associates as design director. Backed by over 25 years' experience, he went on to set up his Chelsea Harbour-based company in 2010.

Projects Martin and his five-strong team are working on a private villa, estate and gardens in Tuscany, and private houses in London and Moscow. Commercial commissions include the redesign of the Phoenicia Hotel, Beirut, and a new pavilion and garden at Barnsley House in the Cotswolds. In London, Martin has just completed the Aromatherapy Associates Boutique & Treatment Rooms. He is also working on a new restaurant in Moscow.

He says My designs are a complex mix of styles, forms, colours and textures. I think of a room in a three-dimensional way to ensure interiors are a perfect fit for clients. I push the design as far as I can, then add an extra layer of detail and magic on top.

We say Martin Hulbert offers an appealing combination for potential clients, as he dares to break boundaries, yet is extremely approachable. His designs are unfailingly elegant and grown-up.

Spend or save? Things seen at a distance ought to look good. Curtains should hang beautifully and be well made, but don't need to be in expensive fabric.

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