

On the following pages we present the first part of our guide to the top decorators working in the UK today

It is increasingly recognised that our enjoyment of a building and its functional success are as dependent on the interior design as on the material it is made from and the efficiency of its infrastructures. It follows that the professionals who are responsible for how our domestic interiors look and work as spaces are as crucial to the outcome as architects and engineers. Good interior design is life enhancing, contributing positively to our well-being as well as to the value of our homes. At *House & Garden* we follow the careers of both established and emerging interior designers

and decorators, and every three years we publish our directory of leading practitioners based in Britain. Inclusion in the directory is by a rigorous selection process with many factors taken into consideration, but it is ultimately evaluated through the lens of *House & Garden* and must inevitably, therefore, be subjective. The list includes well-known firms and low-key individuals; there are traditionalists and modernists and 17 new entrants. What they all have in common is talent and a profound commitment to good design.

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Susan Crewe, EDITOR



Monika and Geraldine Apponyi

Background Monika Apponyi (right) trained at the Inchbald School of Design, and has been working as an interior designer

for 30 years. She launched her company, MM Design, in the Eighties. In 2006, her daughter, Geraldine Apponyi (left), a fine-arts graduate, became a partner in the business; their new team of four continues to work internationally.

Projects Their current projects include the complete reconstruction of a collapsed nineteenth-century farmhouse near Salzburg, where they are rebuilding the exterior to traditional standards, but with an interior suitable for twenty-first-century living. They are also working on a new-build house, set on a Greek island amid olive groves, for returning clients.

They say The wonderful thing about our partnership is the combination of Geraldine's art-school creativity and Monika's technical experience and strength in classical design, plus our excellence in execution. We are highly motivated when we work together and believe that we represent the best of the past, present and future.

We say With the freshly formed mother-and-daughter team, this is an exciting new phase for a well-respected and award-winning designer, well known for turning out elegant, sophisticated and minutely detailed interiors.

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