

THE *House & Garden* DIRECTORY OF THE 100 LEADING INTERIOR DESIGNERS

*On the following pages we present 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.

Susan Crewe

Susan Crewe, EDITOR



Sandra Ankarcona

Background Sandra Ankarcona trained at Parsons The New School for Design, in New York, followed by an MBA in business administration; after working as a director at Clinique, she set up her own interior-design company - Cox Design - in 1984. She has an international practice, with a team of five, and undertakes a healthy mix of residential and commercial work.

Projects As well as the total refurbishment of a listed, Robert Adam building in St James's, and of a Georgian town house in Kensington, Sandra is currently working on a town house in Holland Park, and the decoration of a Paris apartment. She is also designing private residences in the US and Spain.

She says Luxurious interiors are a seamless harmony of pleasure, performance, and a touch of the unexpected.

We say A well-established, discreet designer, for whom creating the ultimate 'private space for public people' is paramount. Her interiors are opulent, beautifully thought out, and confidently executed, often with an unexpected flourish.

Contact Cox Design, 29 Argyll Road, W8; 020-7938 1144; e-mail: enquiries@coxdesign.co.uk



Alidad

Background Persian-born Alidad came to London over 30 years ago, and - after working for many years as director of Islamic art, carpet and textiles at Sotheby's - he started his own interior-design business in 1985. He and his close-knit, Chelsea-based team work worldwide, but say they are just as happy to take on modest domestic projects as they are large, architecturally led ones.

Projects The team is currently working on the design and decoration of large estates in Cornwall, Madrid, Sardinia, Kuwait and Beirut, and has just completed a large, private residential project in central London. Last year, Alidad launched his own hand-embroidered Bosphorus Collection of fabrics, based on sixteenth- to eighteenth-century Ottoman-inspired textiles.

He says For me, every detail matters: the eye may not perceive that the job is perfect, but it will see harmony. My designs are always bespoke, and the client comes first, but I am also true to myself. My style is timeless.

We say An award-winning, world-class designer with a distinctive style. Alidad's elaborate, highly textured and richly coloured interiors are individual and recognisable, with a new strand of modern style creeping in.

Contact Alidad, The Lighthouse, Gasworks, 2 Michael Road, SW6: 020-7384 0121; email: info@alidad.com; www.alidad.com



Monika and Geraldine Apponyi

Background Monika Apponyi (right) trained at the Ingham 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.

Contact MM Design, The Studio, Redlo House, 2 Michael Road, SW6: 020-7751 0171; e-mail: info@mm-design.co.uk



Charles Bateson

Background Charles originally studied fashion and textiles at Winchester School of Art. After working for three years as product designer at David Hicks, he switched to interior design, working for John Stefanidis. Charles left in 1994 to launch his own practice, and describes his team of four designers as 'small but perfectly formed'.

Projects Currently executing a phased four-year project, including refurbishment of an old Cotswold-style house and the landscaping of its grounds, Charles is also working on a new-build junk in Hong Kong, from the layout and joinery to fabrics and furniture, as well as the full refurbishment of a house and garden in Holland Park, and a new-build house on the Isle of Wight.

He says We are a compact design team working with a small number of clients in a very detailed and personal way. Our scope of work is very wide, from country estates to bespoke boats, from wrecking-ball demolition to joinery, and from one-off furniture to artworks.

We say A versatile and approachable designer with a crisp, elegant style, unsurpassable efficiency, and a love of intricate finishes.

Contact Charles Bateson Design Consultants, Unit 44, The Market Building, 191-195 High Street, Brentford, Middlesex: 020-8560 5260; e-mail: charles.bateson@btinternet.com; www.charlesbateson.com



Tom Bartlett at Waldo Works

Background After studying architecture at Manchester University and the Bartlett School of Architecture, Tom Bartlett set up his own company, Waldo Works, in 2001. His intention was always to 'work hard at architecture and interiors of all sorts', and he now heads up a team of eight, comprising architects, architectural designers and interior designers.

Projects Tom is currently working on the substantial extension and redesign of a seventeenth-century house in Wiltshire; apartments in Hyde Park; the building and interior design of houses in Marrakesh; a private house in north London; and the architectural conversion, interior design and decoration of rental apartments in Covent Garden.

He says We are a post-postmodernist, architecturally based interior-design practice; we like a bit of colour (sometimes), a straight line or two, and a few historical references, but most of all we like working to a client's brief.

We say Tom is a consistently creative and challenging designer with his finger on the pulse, unafraid to be experimental, and with a bold and witty take on architecture and design.

Contact Waldo Works, Top Floor, 17 All Saints Road, W11: 020-7313 9029; e-mail: fran@waldoworks.com; www.waldoworks.com



Bill Bennette

Background South African-born Bill Bennette has worked in London since 1967. He gained experience with Charles Hammond and John Siddeley Design before opening his own practice in 1972, and now employs a team of five. He has studied specialist aspects of interior design throughout Europe and the States, particularly seeking knowledge in construction, joinery, marble and stonework.

Projects Bill's team is currently working on a large, new-build family house in north London; two 'very special' houses also in north London; a large house in Wilton Crescent; and a house on South Audley Street, Mayfair. All his projects involve complete refurbishment, including new bathrooms, joinery and stonework.

He says I favour simple shapes and natural tones, but will occasionally break my own rules. My style is timeless and eclectic; I like order and discipline in interiors. Everything must be functional, and beautiful furniture and art must be allowed to breathe, without too many objets d'art.

We say Attention to detail and an eye for luxury mark out this sophisticated, international designer, whose work typically features fine joinery, marble and stonework, custom-made furniture and unusual textiles.

Contact Bill Bennette Design, Studio 10, 39 Tadema Road, SW10: 020-7351 2550; e-mail: bb@bbdesign.co.uk; www.bbdesign.co.uk