

Design OF THE TIMES

Kelly Hoppen, MBE, is a world renowned British designer who has pioneered a simple but opulent style that has permeated interior design at every level, and has resulted in her work being featured in newspapers and magazines across the globe. As well as designing apartments, houses and yachts for an international list of private clients (including Gwyneth Paltrow, Anthony Hopkins, Jude Law and the Beckhams) Kelly also undertakes commercial commissions including hotel, restaurant, office and aircraft interiors. Her own collections of paint, fabrics, rugs, carpets and ceramics have made her signature look increasingly accessible. Her books include *Table Chic*, *In Touch*, *Close Up* and the highly influential *East Meets West*. Her latest book is called *Kelly Hoppen Home*.

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD HOMES?

As a child we moved around quite a bit. I always loved my grandparents' home in Cape Town, with its eclectic mix of furnishings and the beautiful gardens; it had such a homely feel. That same feeling is what I try to factor into all of my designs today. My mother has always had a very distinct style: retro furniture, striking pieces of art. I suppose you can't help but absorb from the people around you.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN INTERIOR DESIGNER?

I am not sure that anyone inspired me as such but people have definitely helped me to become the businesswoman that I am today. My father nurtured my creative side. He ran the biggest textile company in South Africa. As a child I was constantly rearranging things in our home, trying to display everything at its best. I used to talk my mother into driving me around to show-homes on the weekends! I've always been interested in people's tastes and style; it's something I've thought is quite geeky – but it had a huge impact in developing my style. My mother is an amazing role model; she is a fantastic businesswoman and is also the one person who I would go to should I need a wholly honest answer.



WHAT'S THE MOST INTERESTING PART OF YOUR JOB?

Getting into the heads of people I'm designing for. I really try to work from the inside out. The space I create is not only aesthetic but also functional.

WHAT EXPERIENCE HAS MOST SHAPED YOUR PROFESSIONAL LIFE?

The death of my father was instrumental in my growth path. It taught me not to rely on anybody, and that life is fragile. I've always been really determined. My mantra is 'nothing is too big, and nothing is big enough'.

WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR INSPIRATION?

London is a huge influence for me. I find inspiration everywhere in the city – from running on Portobello Road whilst the markets are opening up, to a night out at a great venue. But I also find inspiration everywhere, from holidays, films, friends, art, generally during my down time.

SUM UP YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Opulent, sumptuous and textured.



DESCRIBE YOUR HOME

My Notting Hill townhouse can be described as eclectic and monochrome. There are striking lines, and sumptuous textures. Space and clean shapes are really important. I have used photography all over the house, mainly black and white but some colour pieces. But I love change, and staying ahead of the trends, so I'm considering moving to a new space. It'll be a new project for me.

PICTURES: Kelly's home features a monochrome living room, with the bespoke Boffi kitchen offering a functional space for family and friends to sit, talk and eat.



WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR PROUDEST MOMENTS?

Client-wise, working with the Beckhams was absolute heaven. It was hard work made worthwhile by the Beckhams 'tumble' reaction on arriving. It was the most heart-warming handover that I've ever done because they really appreciated it. Career-wise, receiving my MBE in early 2009 was the highlight of my career so far. To have the Queen commend you for your work is quite an amazing privilege.

WHAT'S HOT AND WHAT'S NOT?

I believe the trend for this year is called 'linear shabby chic'. People now want their homes to look like they have lived there for years, slightly lived in and

a bit creased but with a defined edginess to it, looking like a look has been thrown together with a bit of this from his house and a bit of that from hers and some bits from granny's, if you know what I mean. The emphasis will be on the important pieces in the home like art and photography.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

I have so many ambitions! I am shortly to launch an organic clothing range. I have a new range of furniture that will be showcased at Maison & Objet towards the end of the year, I am currently working on my next design book as well as an autobiography, plus many more things in the pipeline! 2010 is looking to be a very busy year, so watch this space!



TRENDS FOR 2010

COLOURS: Neutrals still rock and always will, as far as I'm concerned, but the added bits like art and photography can be anything and everything.

LIGHTING: This is very important - hidden and concealed lighting creating clever shadows and then adding magnificent star pieces to be lit, builds character and ambience. **Lutron** is the way forward for sexy lighting and it's simply done with one hit.

CARPETS AND RUGS: Pattern, slag and thick piles with a comfortable sinking feeling are also a must for this year.

TABLES: Tabletops will be mix and match and dining refectory tables are in, not only in wood but with edgy lacquers and yes benches are going to be huge but with massive vintage or modern lighting hanging above the table to give the linear shabby chic feel.

FURNITURE: This will be anything, but sofas will be rounder and deeper.

Vintage coffee tables and trunks will be seen in all materials that you would not normally expect.

KITCHENS: Designs will be simple but with a modern twist, plates will be on show giving the kitchen a very Italian look and feel.

BEDROOMS: These will be sexy, warm and inviting with lots of texture. There will however be less in the room, making the bed the star piece, a place that you need to be able to sink into and sleep soundly.

WALLS: Walls will be very seductive and edged and capped in metals. **Wallpaper will be also be massive this year and it will all be textural** so don't be surprised to see woodchip paper reappearing.

FLOORS: There will be a lot of wood in all colours.

ACCESSORIES: Easy crystals will be a must-have to balance homes and at the same time look beautiful.

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THIS PAGE: Regal Homes has appointed Kelly Hoppen to create this magnificent home, choosing a blend of beautiful fabrics and wonderful furniture to make a chic environment in which to live.





THIS PAGE:
Kelly was
commissioned
to create a
unique,
elegant,
stylish and
contemporary
interior for
this London
house.

