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HOUSE & GARDEN

July 2015

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PRACTICAL PERFECTION

From laidback luxury on an island paradise to the gentle evolution of a Sussex farmhouse

PLUS THE DYNAMIC CHATELAINE OF AN INNOVATIVE COUNTRY ESTATE

SUSIE ATKINSON



A super-busy designer with a talent for creating soothing and classical rooms with a crisp vibe, Susie Atkinson eschews passing fashions, preferring to 'bring a room to life with exquisite colours, furniture or a favourite heirloom'. She enjoys using natural textiles and textural surfaces, such as wood, zinc and granite. These are welcoming interiors, with the capacity to surprise.

Background Susie draws on more than 20 years' experience, having trained at the Inchbald School of Design and launched her company in 1994. She has a team of five at her Hammersmith studios, offering architectural and design services.

Projects Susie works on both commercial and private-home commissions. Current projects include town houses in Wimbledon and Soho, a riverside property in Hammersmith and a country house in Surrey, as well as The Queen's Club sports complex. She recently completed two barns in Sussex and a large estate in Bath. Her new upholstery range launches in 2015.

Which rules do you break? 'I like to throw unexpected fabrics together – geometrics with florals, a velvet with hessian – to add interest and depth.'

✉ 020-7835 5525; susieatkinson.com

SUZY HOODLESS



The always-glamorous interiors created by Suzy Hoodless are an eclectic fusion of bold colour and expertly mixed vintage and modern furniture. As a former magazine stylist, she has the confidence to design based on instinct, and she enjoys challenging her clients' ideas. She defines her style as 'curated, timeless; an alchemy of styles and periods'.

Background Suzy set up her design consultancy in 2000, having previously worked as interiors editor for *Wallpaper** magazine. Her experienced team combines the skills of interior design, creative direction, brand identity and project management, working on a mix of high-end private-house and commercial projects.

Projects Suzy's W10 studio is currently working on a family town house in Bayswater, mixing 'well-crafted traditional and classic design with contemporary elements', and a family house in north London. It has just finished a five-storey town house off Portobello Road.

Most unusual design request? 'Every brief has its quirks. One example was being asked to design a bedroom with 14 beds.'

✉ 020-7221 8844; suzyhoodless.com

FROM TOP Tara Bernerd.
Suzy Hoodless. Taylor
Howes. Susie Atkinson

T IS FOR...

TARA BERNERD



For clients wanting cutting-edge interiors, Tara Bernerd's interior-architecture and design practice operates on a global platform. The look is 'industrial glamour', with statement colour, hard surfaces and luxurious materials.

Background Prior to launching her practice in 2002, Tara amassed experience in the commercial property and interiors sectors, joining Yoo, Philippe Starck's global property company, and overseeing the launch of its boutique arm, Yoo Too. Today, her Belgravia studio has a team of 15 architects and designers.

Projects Tara works for select clients on private projects: ongoing is a penthouse overlooking Central Park in New York. Recent commissions include the multimillion-dollar redesign of the Sixty Soho hotel in New York, the redesign of bedrooms and suites at Hotel Russell in Bloomsbury, and interior design for the Wood Wharf development in Canary Wharf.

What's your tip for a great interiors find? 'Arnold Chan at Isometrix (isometrix.co.uk) for lighting, which is key to the mood of any project.'

✉ 020-7245 1658; tarabernerd.com

TAYLOR HOWES



The award-winning Karen Howes continues to build her successful design practice and, in 2015, moved her 26-strong team into a new studio in SW7. Private clients, hoteliers and property developers flock there not just for the comprehensive design service, but also for the Taylor Howes brand of restrained glamour.

Background After early years working for an art dealer and selling property, Karen co-founded Taylor Howes with Gail Taylor in 1991, but took sole charge of the company in 2011. Today, Karen is supported by five directors. She is also on the advisory board for KLC School of Design.

Projects Current work includes a nine-storey town house in Queen's Gate, a private villa in Abu Dhabi, a 450-square-metre office in Knightsbridge and private houses in St John's Wood and Surrey. Taylor Howes's first lighting collection, with The Urban Electric Company, launched in 2014.

Which interior designer would you hire? 'The amazing Mary Fox Linton – she has been an inspiration to me from the start.'

✉ 020-7349 9017; taylorhowes.co.uk