

THIS WORD-OF-MOUTH  
GUIDE TO INVALUABLE  
**HOME** SERVICES SUCH AS  
,  AND  IN THE **UK**  
WITH TIPS, REVIEWS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS  
FROM CLIENTS SHOULD  
REALLY BE EX-DIRECTORY

**HELEN KIRWAN-TAYLOR**

**Catherine Pawson and Juliette Byrne Ltd**

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**Costs** Middle/high end. Charge a set design fee or a monthly retainer on a larger project; they work like architects by taking a percentage of the overall costs.

**Travel** Based in London but will travel all over the world.

**Size of job** From one room up.

**Attitude** Avis – we try harder.

Pawson and Byrne have done 'ultra modern' in LA, 'English chintz' in Sussex and even 'chalet chic' in Megève. Then there's the yacht, the marketing suites for big developments and the reception areas. They are so diplomatic that you're hard pressed to know how any decisions are ever made. Pawson is the wife of the minimalist architect John Pawson and (ironically) worked for Colefax and Fowler before renouncing all chintz. She paired up with Byrne, a graduate of Chelsea College of Art, to start what is an entirely word-of-mouth business (they hate the media, even though the media loves them).

'Nothing is too much trouble' is their motto. They employ only two assistants and are never more than a mobile phone away (clients develop a co-dependent relationship with them). They do absolutely everything (design, project-manage, obtain planning permission) and anything (stock the fridge) at any time of day or night.

**What the clients say**

**'Catherine was fantastic to work with. Not only does she have impeccable taste, she really understood what we were looking for. We were amazed that even with the distance to California, Catherine was able to be so organized and put together such a warm and lovely home for us. We would definitely work with Catherine again and can't say enough how much we enjoyed working with her in the past.'**

**Ellen Bronfman, client in Los Angeles**

**'I really enjoyed working with Juliette Byrne, and she has always been fantastically quick and efficient, and has a tremendous sense of style.'** **Annouschka Ducas, client**