

INTERIORS EDITION

PUTNEY & BARNES

time & leisure

ISSUE 181
AUGUST 2015

**STYLE
YOUR HOME**
WITH OUR **30-PAGE**
INTERIORS GUIDE

REAL LIFE
FROM SW15
TO SAFARI

HOT HOT HOT
BEST SUMMER DAYS OUT

INSIDE THE SW LONDON HOME OF
LEADING UK DESIGNER

JULIETTE BYRNE



At Home
with...

Colour CRUSADER

Interior designer **Juliette Byrne** has been named as one of the top 20 interior designers in Britain. Jon Watt was invited into her Fulham home

Interior designer Juliette Byrne is someone who has always been influenced by her surroundings. The first of these influences was her parents. Born of a Hungarian artist mother and a Canadian photographer father, she says she was always going to be a colourful character. And you only have to look at her Fulham home to realise this is indeed the case: there's not a room that isn't beautifully brought to life by the addition of a vibrantly coloured chair here or a feature wall there.

'Growing up, I was definitely influenced by my surroundings and decided early on that interior design was the vocation I wanted to pursue,' she explains. 'I grew up surrounded by an eclectic colourful home with much visual inspiration.'

Byrne started her career in the mid 1980s after graduating from the Chelsea School of Art and then training at Conran. Following that, she established her own Chelsea-based architectural interior design consultancy that quickly established a reputation for creating elegant and sophisticated

interiors which blend the classic with the contemporary.

But throughout her career she has continued to be heavily influenced by the people and places around her. Not least her two daughters, aged 18 and 21, and their dog Minty, who have helped her to appreciate the interior design needs of families. 'We have made it an important part of our company, to work closely with clients and their families to try to achieve a blend of elegant interiors that also fit well with their lifestyle. So many clients have children of different ages and so we are experts in creating living spaces that work for all ages and also bedrooms and play areas that enhance the house and are rooms that will be used as the generations grow older.'

Byrne says she drew inspiration from a period in the 1990s when she and the family lived on a boat on the Thames. 'Living on a boat, however big, does make you more aware of what you need and what you can do without. Clutter is very overwhelming and removing that element makes a space flow and creates calm around you.'

These themes of simplicity and quality seem to run throughout Byrne's portfolio and in her own homes. Rooms are sparingly designed with a selection of pieces or a colour palette that makes a statement without dominating.


'I am a great admirer of Christian Liaigre,' explains Byrne, 'and the simple but



wonderfully stylish interiors that he creates all over the world. I try to use good quality materials as they will remain timeless and also make sure that the proportion of the furniture fits well into the space.'

There's no doubt that Byrne's philosophy has gone down well with clients. She was recently named as one of the Best 20 Interior Designers in Britain by *The Telegraph* and also featured in the *House and Garden* Top 100 Interior Designers for the third consecutive time. All of which has helped Byrne to expand her business internationally and branch out into property and project management. The result has been a series of stunning and high-profile jobs, from a contemporary-style chalet in Chamonix to a Grade II-listed house in the Cotswolds and a five-bedroom Chelsea townhouse, including excavating a vast double basement.

What links them all, though, is Byrne's eternal passion for design. That flame which was first ignited by her parents, still burns bright and flares even stronger when I ask about future trends in the industry. 'Trends move so quickly in interior design but vibrant colours certainly seem to be popular. You'll see people adding feature walls in either a texture or paint to create drama in the room. I'm also seeing staircases located in central positions in houses – these are often overlooked, but using open tread or glass handrails can enlarge a space and add a really dramatic design feature.'

So, what's clear is that for Juliette Byrne the future is bright – in more ways than one. 

www.juliettebyrne.com

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