

Q: How can you create unique spaces on a limited budget?

A: With clients reluctant to embrace the boldness of colour and pattern, I sometimes feel the way to go to create immediate impact and interest on a budget is to be fearless with colour, texture and patterns. A geometric rug in a reception room creates a huge impact, add one bold coloured accessory and there you have the punch. A few selective items can often be the make or break of a scheme. A common problem is to try too hard and schemes look contrived. Don't be afraid to mix patterns...you'll be surprised by the end result!

Q: What is important to you when designing a space?

A: We have many beautiful buildings in London and I like to work with the existing architecture to create a balance between old and new, having a contemporary piece of furniture against a back drop of wall panelling or re-stored cornice work. For me, this is what it's all about. We should be proud of the heritage of buildings we get to enjoy but in the same token, not be afraid to stir things up a little. Rule breaking is a good thing in design.



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Q: What direction is your practice taking when it comes to trends for 2010?

A: My view is basic is back, not in a minimalist sense but basic materials, taking the natural beauty of materials and using those in different ways throughout the home. We should celebrate the natural beauty of what we can produce ourselves in the UK. We have beautiful stones and wood types, for example an oversized wooden door in a raw cut vertical finish looks stunning if done well. Also natural materials don't equal hippy/eco either, it can look like art and luxury!

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Thinking space

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