

Utopia KITCHEN & BATHROOM

The only kitchen and bathroom magazine dedicated to luxury design

MAY 2014

25 pages of
sunshine-
fuelled interior ideas

* expert advice * delicious recipes
* professional tips * exclusive interviews

Our guide to
**kitchen
finishes**

APPLIANCE &
TECHNOLOGY
SPECIAL

Real Homes

Techno bubbles

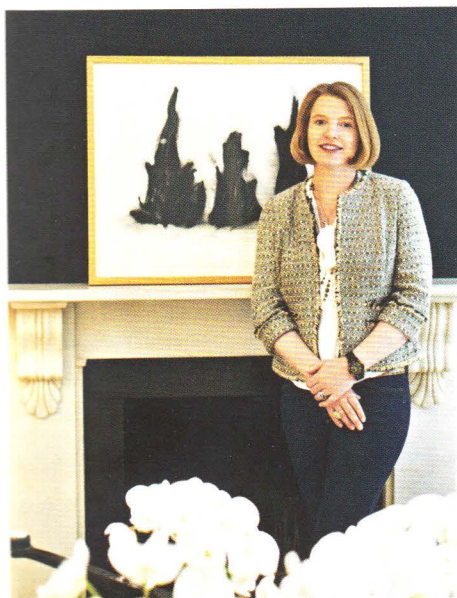
High-tech gadgetry's changing all the rules



DESIGN TALK

Melanie Rademacher, owner and creative mind, Mena Interiors talks cushions, coffee and collecting

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Photography Tom Mannion



Melanie's work



I can never have enough... unique cushions from de Le Cuona

DESIGN & WORK

Where did you study?
Tufts University, Boston, USA and Inchbald, London.

Do you have a formal design qualification?
Advanced Interior Design, Inchbald.

What was your first job?
Kelly Hoppen Interiors, I started as design assistant, hired on a temporary basis for one project. I ended up working there for eight years, by which time I was head of design.

What was your first design job?
My first design job was converting an old school house in London into a home for an art collector.

How long have you been designing?
Nine years.

Who is your design hero?
Frank Gehry – For the originality of his designs.

What do you do first?
I always start with an in-depth conversation with the client, to establish their dreams.

60 SECOND INTERVIEW

Nationality?
German.

When you were a child what did you want to be?
An architect.

Give three words that describe you?
Organised, committed and creative.

Favourite app?
USA and international press, I catch up on all my international reading and viewing on my iPad, from Architectural Digest, NY Times, etc. Sometimes I even sneak in a bit of Zombies!

What's playing on your iPhone?
'I like to move it move it' from the children's film Madagascar! My niece recently hijacked my phone and now it's the sound I wake up to!

Favourite snack?
Pistachio nuts

What 'luxury' do you think is really worth it?
Beautiful 800 thread count bed linen.

What one thing would you change about yourself if you could?
To switch off more easily.

LIKES & DISLIKES

My favourite place for design inspiration...
underwater – love the colours.

I wouldn't be without...
my coffee machine.

My pet hate in home decor is...
frivolous and overcrowded design.

My least favourite chore...
filing.

My favourite design ever is...
Eames Lounge chair, comfortable and only gets better with age.

I've got my eye on...
Pinara Table Light from Hector Finch Lighting.

My interiors address book secret is...
Christies, Old Brompton Road.

My best ever home buy...
a small armchair, it has moved with me and has received several makeovers.

I collect...
Art – anywhere I can in my flat!