



RABIH HAGE

Rabih Hage is an architect who later added interior design to his repertoire. He has a deep understanding of a building's history and an ability to perceive its future potential. He is a thinker who is eloquent with his ideas.

Philosophy 'Respond to the personality of the place and the people living in it.'

Key influences 'My architecture teacher Jean Saint-Aroman taught me patience and humility in design. And I am influenced every day by new encounters and people - I believe we continually evolve.'

Advice 'Analyse your surroundings. If you are a good analyst, you are a good designer.'

Loves Artwork by Aki Kaurola. rabih-hage.com

RETROUVIUS

The interior-design side of this architectural-reclamation and vintage-furniture business is headed up by the delightful and deeply artistic Maria Speake. Her use of materials - many of them reclaimed - and colour ensure her projects always sing with modernity.

Philosophy 'Celebrate the layers of life.'

Key influences 'Agnès Emery, founder of Belgian interiors company Emery & Cie, for using colour with confidence. And some of our amazing clients, for their co-counselling.'

Appeal 'We have access to all these wonderful materials with their embedded histories and we have many a good chat along the way.'

Loves 'Exploring the geometric possibilities of salvaged wood. We are mad for intensely coloured marble and onyx, combined with marbles and figured stone. Also vintage textiles - particularly tapestries.'

retrovivus.com

[1] A drawing room in London by Rabih Hage. [2] Rita König's sitting room in her London flat. [3] Maria Speake at the Retrouvius studio.

RITA KÖNIG

With decorating in her DNA (her mother is design doyenne Nina Campbell), Rita König is developing into one of the key designers of her generation with her individual and down-to-earth take on comfortable interiors that delight the eye.

Philosophy 'A room should draw you in and make you want to stay.'

Key influences 'Living in America was a huge positive influence. It also helped me recognise what I love about England and living here.'

Advice 'A cane chair really alleviates the "pudding-head" of upholstery. It's a genius piece of advice that I was given by the LA-based designer Peter Dunham, whose houses I adore.'

Alternative career 'I think that I would have made an amazing housekeeper.'

Loves A drinks tray. ritakonig.com

RIVIÈRE INTERIORS

The impressive reputation of Robert and Josyane Young as dealers in antiques specialising in vernacular furniture and folk art led their customers to start asking this husband-and-wife team to decorate their houses. Since establishing Rivière Interiors in 1983, they have completed works as varied as a Charles II town house and a newbuild in the Netherlands, combining contemporary materials with historical details.

Philosophy 'Honour the brief; respect the architecture; create balance; blend old and new; play with materials, tone, texture and light; help it feel natural.'

Expect An open fire, broken colour finishes and a Windsor chair.

Say no to Coloured sanitaryware.

robertyoungantiques.com >

