

HOUSE & GARDEN

100

LEADING INTERIOR DESIGNERS

PART TWO

In association with
Istdibs

Welcome to part two (L-Z) of our indispensable directory of the top interior designers based in the UK today. Included in our selection are designers new and old, who specialise in decorating everything from centuries-old English country houses to ultra-modern apartments in New York, Tel Aviv and beyond.

Once again, we have asked for recommendations from industry experts and included some of their comments, along with address-book secrets from the designers featured and an insight into what

— or who — inspires them. Congratulations to each of the 100 leading interior designers — and thank you for continuing to inspire us.

Hatta Byng EDITOR

PS If you missed the first part of the directory in the June issue, you can download the digital edition (see 'Contents' for information). You can also read the full directory at houseandgarden.co.uk from July.

HOUSE
& GARDEN
100
LEADING INTERIOR DESIGNERS

RITA KONIG



NEW ENTRY Spearheading a new breed of young designers, Rita König likes her interiors to look 'as undecorated as possible'. Her designs are easygoing, quirky and fun, underpinned with a rigorous understanding of clients' needs. She's the perfect choice for those in search of colour, a casual vibe and expertly pitched vintage pieces.

Background Rita has worked as an interior designer for the past 12 years, including a six-year stint in New York. Now based in London, she continues to criss-cross the Atlantic for selected projects. Rita twins her design commissions with style journalism: she's European editor for *T Magazine* as *The New York Times*, and also writes a column for *House & Garden*.

Projects Rita is converting a Notting Hill pub into apartments and working on a hotel and members' club in Hollywood. She is also completing a house in New York and a beach house in Antigua for the same client.

Industry recommendation 'Rita's interiors have a palpable feeling of joie de vivre. She has stayed true to English decorating traditions but the result always appears fresh,' says Fabrice Bana of design blog *A-Gest of Style*.

☎ 020-7736 0750; ritakonig.com

RIVIERE



NEW ENTRY Robert and Josyane Young are the experts behind Robert Young Antiques in Battersea and also run this sought-after design consultancy.

They take on just two to three projects concurrently, interweaving historical accuracy and respect for architecture with what Robert lightly terms 'the occasional rough accent'.

Background Rivière was founded in 1983, evolving out of demand from the antiques shop's clients. Robert and Josyane trained, respectively, at Sotheby's and the V&A, and navigate between contemporary and traditional spaces. They design, source and commission everything from specialist paint finishes to art.

Projects Focusing mainly on private houses, Rivière is currently creating guest rooms in a house in Highgate, and working on a small Georgian town house in Kensington and a hunting lodge in Belgium. Robert and Josyane recently completed a seventeenth-century house in Highgate and a nineteenth-century family house in Notting Hill.

Which interior designer would you hire? 'We admire Kit Kemp's playful and adventurous use of scale, and her mix of old and new.'

☎ 020-7228 7847; robertyoungantiques.com



FROM TOP **RETROUVIUS**
Design: Rita König Rivière

RETROUVIUS DESIGN



Architect Maria Speake heads up the design team at this brilliantly innovative and deservedly popular interiors and architectural practice based in Kensal Green. She and her team interact with everything from Sixties architecture to listed buildings and 'try to be as fun and unpretentious as possible'. Their intelligent interiors are by turns elegant, robust and achingly cool, and they are masters of reusing salvage in enterprising new ways.

Background Maria met Adam Hills while studying architecture at Glasgow School of Art in 1993 and set up *Retrouvius*, initially specialising in salvaged architectural antiques. They moved to London in 1997. The studio now has four full-time architects, two focusing on sourcing furniture and fixings.

Projects Highlights from *Retrouvius*'s current project list include: the design of and interiors for a newbuild house in Devon; the reconfiguration of a Grade II-listed building in Fitzroy Square in London; a 'sensitive upgrade' of a Hugh Casson house; a newbuild in Woodstock; and the overhaul of a Seventies yacht. The team has recently completed a colourful revamp of a Parisian apartment and a newbuild house in Highgate.

Most unusual design request? 'A tattoo parlour on a big boat.'

☎ 020-8960 8676;
retrovius.com

