

my ICON

ANA ENGELHORN
FOUNDER, ANA ENGELHORN
INTERIOR DESIGN
REVEALS HER DESIGN ICONS



Ana believes that perfectly imperfect interior design is about bringing out the innate authenticity of a room and its objects. Echoing the Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi, Ana and her team celebrates the imperfections found in natural building materials and objects.

Half German, half Spanish, born in Switzerland and with a life spent in Switzerland, Spain and England, I am a soup, mixed with many different cultural influences.

My parents are my style icons. They have been, and continue to be, my biggest influences in interior design; I have grown up amongst their stunning interiors, watching and learning from their brilliant style and approach; I have inherited my innate sense of style from them, and we have very similar approaches, mixing the old with the new and using authentic, natural materials. My parents have distinct, mixed characters: my Spanish mother has a very passionate personality and my German father has a dry sense of humour. They, like me, have adapted to different cultures, and you can find many traditionally English traits in my mother, while my father has taken on some classic Mediterranean qualities. My father has always believed that if you have an architect working for you, you should give them free reign to do what they want, to create their artwork. This is how our holiday home in the Costa Brava came to be converted into a showpiece by the renowned architects RCR from Girona. My parents decorated the house with the help of the famous Spanish Gallerist Miquel Alzueta, and it was featured in Architectural Digest some years ago. While it is a stunning house, it is more a piece of art and is a perfect example of my father's belief that no one should interfere with an artist's flow, especially not the person paying for it! Now a designer myself, I would love to be given free reign, as my father gave his architect, but I also believe that for the client to be truly happy and feel at home with the end design, reflecting who they are, they have to share in the design experience. I feel it's my job to intuit the client's needs and translate them so well into the design scheme that it speaks for itself. Although I have interpreted my father's approach in a slightly different way, his ideology has led me to set a very high bar for myself and, I believe, with exacting standards come the best designs.

Interestingly, given their eye for interiors and obvious skill at design, my parents never wanted to work as interior designers. Trying to convince someone else of something beautiful would, they have always said, be too much of an arduous task. They prefer to design and decorate their own homes and enjoy the spaces with their family and friends, surrounded by their treasured pieces. Those who visit are always impressed by how they have managed to bring it all together and amazed at how they feel so at home there. Ultimately, those are two of my main goals when working on a project: bring it all together in a way that works perfectly for the people living there; yet also allows visitors to feel at home.

If I am remembered for anything, I hope it is for having an eye for bringing a special touch into spaces, creating homes and commercial spaces that people feel good in and look forward to coming home to each day, like my parents.

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