



Founder of the award-winning London-based design studio, Ana Engelhorn Interior Design, Ana and her team take a perfectly imperfect approach, uniting the old with the new, antiques with modern pieces, to create fresh, timeless interiors. Based on the Japanese wabi-sabi philosophy – the notion that an object or material is alive and evolves with time – their designs celebrate the imperfections found in natural materials and furniture in its raw state..

Ana was born in Switzerland to Spanish and German parents. They inspired her from an early age with their love for beautiful spaces and talent for design – converting historic buildings across Switzerland and Spain into hotels and restaurants. She is thus well versed in both the hospitality and interiors worlds. After gaining a BoA in Business Administration, Ana co-ran a restaurant for six years and later a hotel and vineyard in Spain. She went on to acquire a certificate from the International Design Institute, combining her interests professionally in hospitality as well as design.

Her multicultural background and eclectic taste come through in her work. Never one to shy away from something new or different, she loves striking fabrics, rich colours, stand-out chandeliers and art that makes a statement. Believing strongly that the quality of the product is integral to the quality of the design, Ana takes time to get to know the suppliers as well as the story behind the products she sources.

It is perhaps unsurprising then, that she especially loves working with spaces and materials that have a story to tell, which show their beauty with age. In new buildings, Ana is guided by her client's needs to inform the design and shape of the space, bringing in older pieces to complement the new. In older buildings, the focus is on restoring the space to its original state, highlighting any historical features, while adding a modern twist.



In the Catalan Farmhouse project (see photos), for example, for which she recently won the International Design & Architecture's 2019 Europe Award for Interior Design, Ana restored a 16th Century Farmhouse in Palamós to its former glory. With her team of specialist builders and architects, she focussed on transforming the building into a spacious, three-bedroom house using original materials and highlighting historic features, such as the stone floors on the ground floor and antique oak floorboards upstairs. Accentuating the property's high ceilings, they created large, airy rooms that brought the sweeping Spanish countryside indoors. For the décor, Ana sourced antique furniture from the UK and Spain that befit a historical European farmhouse. Brandt Tudgay from Bespoke Furniture Makers, one of the UK-based antiques suppliers from whom she sourced pieces, commented:

"The timeless pieces Ana chose from our collection for the Catalan farmhouse were exceptional in that setting. They stood out like pieces of art with the antique wooden flooring and stone walls forming the beautiful backdrop."

Bold, contemporary touches, such as chrome bathroom fittings from Drummonds and modern artwork, bring the look into the 21st century, creating an elegant marriage between antique charm and modern luxury. As Drummonds said:

"The craftsmanship in Drummonds' bathrooms, paired with Ana's eye for organic materials produce luxurious interiors with a rough, contemporary edge. The historic settings and European style of Ana's projects enhances the elegance of our products, so they become the eye-catching, breathe-taking centre of attention."

Ana and her team are committed to creating stunning, characterful interiors yet believe, above all, that whether house or hotel, the interior should feel like a home, not a showroom. They thus take time to get to know and understand their clients as well as the space, working collaboratively to push the limit on what's possible with the design brief. They aim to create hotels that not only look great, but are comfortable and inviting – in other words, that feel like a home away from home.