



A moment with Interior Designer Ana Engelhorn

**Tell us a bit about yourself,
how did you start your career?**

I started my interiors career as a side gig. Alongside my work in event management and business, I was developing my own property company: buying homes, improving them – often while living in them myself – and selling them on. I took the step to formalise this interest in homes and interiors when I was pregnant with my second child.

At that time, I felt ready to make the career shift, to study and learn how to design interiors professionally – to do for other people what I was already doing for myself. After completing my training, I moved to the UK from Barcelona and set up my own interiors business – wanting the freedom and flexibility to manage my projects and time.

How can you characterize your style?

I am a soup – half-German, half-Spanish, born in Switzerland with my life spent between Switzerland, Spain and England. This international upbringing is evident in my style – an eclectic mix of textures, colours, fabrics and pieces from all periods. Combining antiques with more modern pieces adds a richness to any scheme and I especially love working with natural materials whose imperfections highlight their uniqueness and ability to adapt to new surroundings. Preferring authenticity to perfection, historic buildings are a dream to me – I enjoy working around an old building and making its imperfections or historic elements shine.



What do you think are the main design elements to consider when it comes to interior design?

Time: Everything always takes much longer than you envision.

Budget: If there is a figure you do not want to go over, communicate it at the start.

Scope: Be clear about what you want to do. While acknowledging there will always be little add-ons, the clearer your vision, the better.

Personality: a truly well-designed a room reflects the person living there – whether in its art or ornaments or in its overall design.



Are there any interior designers from the past that you appreciate a lot?

I very much like Jamie Drake. He is a bit nuts but has flair, and mixes styles to suit his design.

What is your definition of success?

Being happy to go to work, having a financially viable business and adding something positive to people's lives. In the end, when you feel a real sense of accomplishment and joy about something is also when others feel that benefit.

Could you share some decorating tips?

I recently did a blog on things *not* to do when designing your home. The pointers sum up my design philosophy: infusing a place with character and charm by mixing the new with the old and adding carefully considered colour and lighting schemes to complement the furnishings and pieces – all while letting the owner's personality shine through. Flipping that piece around, here are my top tips for decorating your home:

- Mix styles
- Use a range of colours and textures
- Get the lighting right – layering where necessary
- Hang art where it can be clearly seen
- Include exact dimensions in your planning
- Account for delivery times
- Use a variety of suppliers
- Consider how a space works as well as how it looks
- Decorate the space with pieces or ornaments personal to you



 @anaengelhorn

www.anaengelhorn.com