

ON OUR RADAR

The design set

These are the names that are
defining how to decorate now

Kay Westmaas of
Studio Westmaas

FEATURE ARABELLA YOUNES PHOTOGRAPHS RACHAEL SMITH

**STUDIO WESTMAAS**

While she only spent one year with designer Rose Uniacke before setting up her own studio in 2016, designer Kay Westmaas was influenced by Rose's understated and elegant schemes that combine soft hues, natural materials and antiques. To this, Kay adds a dash of Caribbean influence, thanks to her Barbadian heritage. Kay advocates simple, uncomplicated interiors that outlive trends. Having studied interior

architecture at the University of Brighton, Kay worked in London on restaurant design and then moved to Barbados to gain experience in hospitality before returning to the UK. 'The studio's style draws on a palette inspired by time spent in Barbados and England alongside tactile fabrics and natural materials,' she says. Studio Westmaas created this serene bathroom and dressing room for clients in Holland Park. studiowestmaas.com →



ANDREA BENEDETTINI

Having grown up in Tuscany, Andrea won a scholarship to the English National Ballet School and came to London aged 18. After training, however, Andrea decided to study architecture in London. It was an internship with American studio Jed Johnson Associates that led to a passion for interiors and, back in the UK, Andrea worked for Harrods, Cocovara and Laura Hammett before setting up on his own in 2019. He is showing at WOW!house, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour this year and describes his approach as 'a balanced combination of contemporary and traditional elements where form follows function and where understated elegance conjures a sense of tranquillity'. This dining nook has his classic, neutral palette with accent soft colours. andreabenedettini.com



STUDIO KAYA

Studio Kaya's work is hard to pinpoint. One scheme might feature a media unit inspired by Japanese shoji screens, another has an antique bamboo dressing table, while a bathroom might be a mix of micro concrete with contrasting materials. All point to a skill for combining pieces to create individual yet harmonious wholes. Born in Turkey, Deniz Bayern moved to London in 2009 to study an art foundation course at Central Saint Martins, then a BA in product and industrial design, then a one-year diploma at KLC. She then had a brief 'but extremely valuable' stint at Studio Reed, then worked with Soho House and Fran Hickman. In 2019, Deniz opened her studio. This office by Studio Kaya centres on an antique bureau from Kernow Furniture. studiokaya.co.uk



POLLY ASHMAN DESIGN

Polly is a one-woman band. 'I work with incredible people but when it comes to my projects it's me on the emails and at the end of the phone,' she says. Polly learned about property through doing up houses and working as an interior designer for building firm Lofty Creations. It gave her the ability to understand elements such as which walls can and can't be moved, alongside a fearlessness when it comes to stripping houses back. Having not learned the rules means she feels no compunction to adhere to them although she credits designers such as Anna Hewitson as sources of inspiration. This en suite by Polly Ashman is painted in Clove by Edward Bulmer Natural Paint with marble floors and skirting adding a refined touch. pollyashman.com



PHOTOGRAPHS (ANDREA BENEDETTINI, DINING ROOM) RAY MAIN; (STUDIO KAYA) CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD; (POLLY ASHMAN DESIGN, PORTRAIT) CREWE READ; (POLLY ASHMAN DESIGN, BATHROOM) 82MM PHOTOGRAPHY



A serene but decorative living and study space by Studio Shan

PHOTOGRAPHS (PORTRAIT) SOPHIE DAVIDSON; (SITTING ROOM) ALICIA WAITE



STUDIO SHAN

Malaysian-born Lishan Tham grew up visiting building sites which taught her what can be achieved when hard work is combined with creativity. Having worked as an urban planner following a degree at LSE, she switched tack and took on a diploma in interior design at KLC. After securing an internship at Rose Uniacke, and a stint at Gunter & Co, Lishan joined Studio Ashby where she worked for seven years before

going alone in 2021. The studio has a reputation for spaces with a sensitivity towards modernism combined with the influence of having grown up in South-East Asia, evidenced by warm colours and creative patterning. She confesses a penchant for granny-ish Chinese antiques, 1960s furniture and wood panelling that dates back to her childhood in Malaysia. Her courage with colour she credits to her time working with Sophie Ashby. studioshan.co.uk →



Emma Shone-Sanders of
Design & That
Studio



DESIGN & THAT STUDIO

Rooms by Emma Shone-Sanders often involve muted hues, interesting textures and vintage furniture with a leaning towards Scandinavian designs. Well-crafted schemes with an understanding of spatial design reflect the fact that Emma studied architecture at Liverpool School of Art and Design followed by an MA in interior architecture at London's Sir John Cass School. She set up her practice in 2016 after spending 10

years working at various studios. Her projects include a boutique hotel in Scotland and a large family home in Fulham. Describing her interiors as pared back and contemporary, relaxed and liveable, each project involves lots of collaboration with the client. 'I'm inspired by the space itself,' says Emma. 'I start with the functionality and go from there.' This breakfast area by Design & That Studio features art by Pedro Enrico Garcia. designandthat.com

PHOTOGRAPHS CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD



STUDIO KROKALIA

Though Pallas Kalamotusis is London based and raised, she is of Greek heritage and can therefore turn her hand to a Mediterranean villa as easily as a London house. Pallas has a BA and an MA in art history from The Courtauld and was working for an art curator when she was asked by a client to look at their home in Athens; things snowballed from there. Studio Krokalia was set up in 2014 and has garnered a reputation for employing symmetry and balance alongside a knowledge of art. 'Our portfolio ranges from modern architectural projects to historical restorations; it's diverse and concerned with the marriage of history and modernity,' says Pallas. Here, the client wanted a homely room with a masculine edge for the top floor of a Victorian house. krokalia.com

ISABELLA WORSLEY

Having studied architectural history at the University of Edinburgh, Isabella went on to train with Guy Goodfellow and later Kit Kemp before starting her own studio in 2018. Her mission is to 'create homes and commercial spaces which are as functional as they are attractive and unique, giving particular focus to architectural detailing and technical design as well as interior decoration,' she says. In terms of her approach, Isabella credits Guy with giving her a classical training and then Kit for installing the confidence to have fun with interiors. In this hallway of a historic house in the Peak District, designed by Isabella, a yellow striped wallpaper strikes a gentle contemporary note alongside oversized apple-green lamp bases. isabellaworsley.com

ANAHITA RIGBY

Anahita comes from an architectural background having studied her RIBA Part I and II degree qualifications in London before moving to Hong Kong for five years. There she worked as a project architect and interior designer for The Luna, a 32-storey tower in Wan Chai. On the back of that, she worked for hotels including Shangri-La and The Ritz. Two years ago, Anahita set up her own studio. She is showing at WOW!house, Design Centre Chelsea Harbour this year and says it is the combination of her qualifications as an architect and passion for interior design that results in well-considered, curated spaces. 'My style is forever evolving, and as a result, I'd describe it as eclectic,' she says. 'I'm a bit of a classicist at heart.' This red dining room is a recent project. anahitarigby.com →

PHOTOGRAPHS (STUDIO KROKALIA, SITTING ROOM) EMILY MARSHALL;
(ISABELLA WORSLEY, HALLWAY) HELEN CATHCART





ISABELLE LOMAS

After working for Soho House, Martin Brudnizki, Conran and Partners, and Sarah Delaney, Isabelle set up her studio in 2020. For her early training, she studied textiles and fashion at Central Saint Martins before a stint as a stylist for *Vogue*. She then did a diploma at The Interior Design School. Her work is full of character with schemes that reflect the owners' interests and personalities alongside the places they've travelled. 'The studio ethos is to look to the history of the building and surrounding area to ensure the finished result has a connection to its past and that the spaces within are intimate and timeless,' says Isabelle. The spare bedroom of Isabelle's London home is enveloped in Little Greene's Livid, with splashes of cranberry and blue velvet. isabellelomas.com



STUDIO ALEXANDRA

Alexandra Childs founded Studio Alexandra in 2016 but it gained attention two years ago after Instagram images were posted of the guest house she decorated in Devon, Glebe House. Alexandra studied art history in Manchester and worked for art and antiques advisor Corfield Morris. She did an interior design course at KLC, then worked at Martin Kemp Design for nine years before setting up on her own. She aims to create interiors that are vibrant and joyful but also environmentally and socially responsible. Having lived in Paris and spent time in the antiques shops, she realised how much stuff is already in the world – 'so we should make use of it,' she says. In this dressing room, Studio Alexandra used a cheerful sunshine yellow paint. studioalexandra.co.uk



SEAN SYMINGTON

Sean began his career in Toronto, where he studied at the Ryerson University School of Interior Design and then worked for several Canadian firms. Moving to the UK, he took on roles at Samantha Todhunter, David Collins Studio and Sims Hilditch before establishing his own studio in 2019. Based in Bath but with projects across the UK, he speaks of a love of interiors that don't take themselves too seriously. Sean cites David Hicks, Dorothy Draper, Mark D Sikes and Miles Redd as sources of inspiration. Colour and pattern are predominant features in his schemes which are playful and whimsical. Sean's client for this house in London was fearless with colour which allowed him freedom to embrace jewel tones and modern shapes in this sitting room. seansymington.com



PHOTOGRAPHS (ISABELLE LOMAS) CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD; (STUDIO ALEXANDRA, PORTRAIT) FINN STUDIO; (SEAN SYMINGTON, SITTING ROOM) CHRIS WAKEFIELD

Morrisstudio
used rich colour
in this design for
a London home



PHOTOGRAPHS OLI TOMLINSON

MORRISSTUDIO

Tom Morris spent more than a decade working as an interiors and design journalist for the likes of the *FT Weekend* and *Monocle*, as well as writing several books, before deciding to open his own studio in 2018.

Like a few others before him, the transition wasn't planned: a friend asked him to help choose furniture and, on the strength of the results, further projects flowed from there. He says the approach to designing a

room is about telling a narrative and how getting to know the client is similar to how he would interview someone about their story and then tie the threads together. "There is a natural attraction to things with a story rather than interest in style alone," he says. Craft plays an important role [one of his books celebrates his love of ceramics] and projects are defined by the presence of handmade and individual pieces. morrisstudio.co.uk →

DESIGN & DECORATING



Belen White
Campos of
Studio Beleta



STUDIO BELETA

Half Spanish, half British, Belen White Campos can walk the tightrope required to bring Mediterranean character into the cooler northern European light. She's been described as having a 'Riviera sensibility', delivering projects with a European twist. The studio is based in London and Lyon, and Belen sources pieces from across Europe. Belen grew up in Spain and trained in interior design at Central Saint Martins, KLC and

Madrid's Universidad Complutense. She joined Martin Brudnizki and Cochrane Design where she worked on projects for brands including Six Senses and Four Seasons. Belen founded Studio Beleta in 2019. 'I find beauty in architecture, nature, art, fashion and interiors. It's often the overlooked details that capture my imagination,' she says. This design for a Knightsbridge sitting room by Studio Beleta features candy hues and natural materials. studiobeleta.com