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Philippa Devas

With her deceptively simple, elegant style, and fondness for mixing old and new, it is no surprise that Philippa Devas has carved out a successful niche for her company, Devas Designs. Here is a designer who likes to focus first on 'the bones' of a room, working closely with an architect, taking the proportions and existing architectural elements as a starting point. She launched Devas Designs in 1998, but spent her formative years working at Percy Bass and Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler, moving on to work with Chester Jones at his own practice. Her schemes frequently incorporate antique textiles, or distressed paint finishes, mixed with natural materials such as linen and wood, and are well suited to the London houses that constitute the bulk of her work. Currently, Philippa is also working on a country house in Ireland, and a chalet in France. She prefers to undertake whole-house refurbishments, and enjoys seeking out artworks for a client.



'Decoration should be a backdrop for works of art,' she says. **Philippa Devas, Devas Designs, 22 Halsey Street, SW3 (tel: 020-7584 9966, e-mail: mail@devasdesigns.co.uk, website: www.devasdesigns.co.uk)**



Christopher Dezille @ Honky

'Designers are creative problem solvers, who can analyse lifestyles, organize available spaces and interpret

personal preferences,' says Christopher Dezille of Honky, affectionately known to all as 'Dizzy'. Since launching his design and architectural services consultancy in 2001, he has enjoyed considerable success for his dynamic, modern interiors with a luxurious twist. Although his early portfolio was mainly commercial, he won the Design & Decoration Award for Best New Designer in Practice and Best Contemporary Residential Interior in 2003, and in 2005 was a finalist in the Best Show Home Interior category. Today, Christopher is working on seven high-profile residential projects, in London, Budapest and Monaco. He is a hands-on designer, with a perfectionist's attention to detail, and says he enjoys the designer-client relationship: 'The most rewarding thing for me in the design process is knowing that my clients are as passionate about the finished interior as I am.'

Christopher Dezille, Christopher Dezille@Honky, 19 Loubet Street, SW17 (tel: 07786-131186, e-mail: dizzy@honkydesign.co.uk, website: www.honkydesign.co.uk)

Nicky Dobree

It is barely four years since Nicky Dobree set up her own interior-design company, but she is already established as a rising star in the design world. Her luxurious, crisp, modern interiors use natural materials, and she was a finalist for Best Modern Residential Interior in the Design & Decoration 2005 awards. Although she began her career in publishing, she retrained in interior architecture and design, then spent seven years at Taylor Howes Designs before setting up on her own in 2002. For Nicky, architecture is always the starting point. 'It is the building itself that provides soul: once the space is right, then attention to detail is key.' She specializes in ski chalets, and modern residential projects in the UK. Right now she's working on a modern family home in Buckinghamshire, featuring a mix of black lacquer, leopardskin carpet and shocking pink, and on a new timber-frame house. Her mantra is simple. 'Have a good master plan before you start.' **Nicky Dobree,**

Nicky Dobree Interior Design, 25 Lansdowne Gardens, SW8 (tel: 020-7627 0469, e-mail: info@nickydobree.com, website: www.nickydobree.com) ▷

