

It's easy when you know how...

By Paula Gundry Interiors

We've all heard the saying, "it's easy when you know how" which is something we often hear our clients say when presenting detailed interior design schemes for their homes. Followed by the sudden realisation, that we have listened carefully to what they looking to achieve. Allowing time to consider both how we can help our clients develop their ideas, as well as offering suggestions which they may not have otherwise considered, is very important.

Clients understand that with over 14 years of experience in operating an Interior Design and installation company, Paula Gundry Interiors has a lot of experience and skills to offer. Whether this is one room or a complete home, we are involved with every aspect from layout options, functionality (how you will use and live in your home at different times) to flooring, lighting, furniture, all decorative aspects not to mention our

beautiful hand made cabinetry, kitchens and bathrooms to name a few aspects.

We help our clients to develop and create wonderful rooms and homes, which they enjoy whilst being safe in the knowledge that they have invested wisely, with our support and care. It can be daunting as a novice, to have the responsibility to refurbish alone!

When discussing what our clients would like to achieve, we learn much more about them and how they live in their homes; whilst offering reassurance about the long-standing, high-quality and reliable tradespeople we bring with us a part of our team. This should not be underestimated and is consistently at the forefront of our minds throughout each project.

With this in mind, I'd like to share one of the many projects recently completed, a client who was referred to us by another. For the purposes of our feature, we'll call her Amanda, a busy grandmother in her mid 50's who enjoys travelling considerably.

She has a good eye, but does not wish to dedicate her days to waiting around for people to arrive (as is often the case with independent trades or deliveries) nor deal with the intrinsic details required to create a stunning home.

Life as she said, really must go on, so our full end-to-end, design, build and installation service, with fully coordinated tradesmen and suppliers worked a treat. Essentially, we dealt with every one and everything which we supplied and installed, whilst her life continued as normal.

Amanda wanted us to create a stunning home to reflect her taste, be practical and functional yet which also looked beautiful and timeless. A home to look forward to sharing with friends and family was at the top of her list.

She also had collections of beautiful decorative items collected over the years, special and personal to her as well as an enviable collection of amazing hand bags which she wanted to display. We must share how we helped her display these within another article...

We began by discussing her needs in detail and drawing on the experience of our wonderful interior design team and multitude of professional trades people with whom, we've worked and built relationships with for many years.

Our process is simple and an enjoyable one and we begin in the open plan living area. We created functional zone layouts, defining each area with the use of task lighting, textures and floor surfaces, all crucial to the success of any open plan area. We then layered decorative lighting to create mood and atmosphere, allowing us to create a space which is both practical and stylish - a cosy, comfortable, yet fun, smart home. Lighting could be controlled and adjusted for the simplicity of reading a book or indeed to entertain visiting friends and family. Every detail and possible situation covered and planned for whilst also making the most of natural light which flooded in from multiple aspects of the room.

We designed and built beautifully detailed cabinetry with a brushed brass metal inlay, connecting everything from lighting, the inset bespoke artwork and the Quooker tap visible from the kitchen. We introduced touches of rich moss greens to work beautifully with the darker metal tones, warm walnut finishes, all aspects of which are lit and styled elegantly from the day through to the evening, just like the perfect day-to-evening outfit! Rich porcelain materials were introduced onto the kitchen surface, within the drinks area and behind the existing contemporary wood burner to punctuate the space with a hint of subtle luxury.

Dramatic lighting is one of our favourite aspects, often not explored properly yet can make or break a room. In fact, most of the items we specify and supply are not available in Norfolk/Suffolk, ensuring each of our project designs remain individual and unique to each client, a factor which we certainly pride ourselves on.

All samples of materials for cabinetry, flooring, fabrics and finishes were laid out to be viewed alongside our technical drawings, helping the scheme come to life and be fully communicated to our client. We feel that it is key to creating an immersive design experience which includes the client throughout the whole home design process. We then priced each aspect so Amanda could review, safe in the knowledge that she'd be able to give full

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consideration to the overall cost of her rooms. Once all elements have been agreed, we move onto the next stage - actually planning and carrying out the full scheduled installation, bringing our designs to life.

The perfect home for a delightful lady and we thoroughly enjoyed drawing this look and feel through the remainder of her house. Creating a connected and cohesive home, but with each room having its own personality.

We hope you enjoy sharing some of the images which, even though they have been professionally photographed, look even more beautiful in the flesh.

Next time.. we'll be discussing hand bags!

■ **Visit our Norwich Showroom:**
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