
Best

Interior designers

Meet five of the best interior designers in Cheshire



Rachel Bates
@Rachel Bates Interiors

Rachel Bates came to her current career in interior design not through design, but due to pressure from friends and family. Having project managed the design and build of her fabulous home in Mottram St. Andrew, pictured left, Rachel then set about creating an interior to love forever, but her efforts were considerably slowed by demands from friends that she apply her obvious skill to their own homes. Word spread and soon Rachel accepted the inevitable and set up shop.

Her work has led her across Cheshire and beyond and has not been limited to interior design. After inviting Nina Campbell to host a showcase event in her Mottram home, Rachel was delighted to be asked to create a range of accessories to be sold in Nina's flagship Chelsea store. The Decorative Botanicals collection consisted of a personally sourced collection of antique and vintage glassware, cleverly filled with incredibly lifelike, delicate silk flowers.

Be inspired

Rachel is positively bubbling with excitement as 2015 sees the launch of the Rachel Bates collection of home interior products and accessories, which includes hand painted Limoges porcelain, exquisite crystal, rugs, furniture and decorative accessories.

To support this she is launching her own online boutique; an elegant curation of both her own brand creations and her edit of what she loves from leading brands around the world. In the last year Rachel has worked tirelessly on some fabulous collaborations with brands including the Little Greene Paint Company, Laurent Perrier, Ormonde Jayne London, Claire Coles, Nina Campbell, Stuart Fox and many, many more.

We can't wait!

THIS PHOTO BY DARREN CHUNG & RACHEL BATES PORTRAIT BY PHILIPPA GEDGE

Lisa Keates
@Keates Interiors
of Cheshire

Lisa Keates, pictured right, took the brave step of setting up her own business in 2011, after working for some of the best interior design businesses in the country - including one project working on an international royal residence. Her work has earned her the recognition of being made an Industry Partner in The Society of British and International design (SBID) and she has featured in several publications, including Concept for Living magazine, plus has made regular appearances on BBC Radio as an interior design consultant.

2014 was an excellent year for Lisa: not only was she a finalist in the SBID

International Design Awards but she also won Residential Interior Designer of the Year at the Northern Design Awards for her stunning work in a Grade II listed building in Cheshire.

Be inspired

Lisa is looking forward to completing another significant project this year - a huge property in Stratford-upon-Avon, where the clients have briefed her to deliver contemporary style with an industrial twist. From polished cement to burnished copper, this looks set to be another jaw-dropping residence. Lisa has also started work on a Grade II listed Georgian Hall in Cheshire where her love of bringing faded glamour back to its full glory is set to be challenged by decades of thoughtless DIY.



Helen Lewis,
Senior Designer
@ Horton & Co

Horton is an established name in North West luxury residential and commercial interior design. Established over 30 years ago, Horton has developed a young, dynamic, award-winning team. Recently they have added architectural and landscape services, complementing their strong interior design reputation.

Helen Lewis, pictured below, says she thrives on project managing a diverse range of large projects and experiences intense pleasure as she follows the development of the original design concepts while they are transformed into beautiful homes.

Be inspired

Last year Horton & Co performed strongly at the Northern Design Awards, winning Entertaining Space of the Year (a project by Helen herself) and being shortlisted for a further two categories; Best Interior Design Practice and Room of the Year. 2015 is set to be an exciting year for them and Helen, with the rest of the team, is looking forward to new design challenges, fabulous completed projects and many happy customers!





Jan Constantine

Yes, we're aware that Jan Constantine isn't an interior designer per se, but how could we miss her from our Best of Cheshire list when she's had such an impact on the homes of people across the UK?

In fact, before launching her eponymous interiors accessories brand, Jan, who is based in Betley, worked for many years in interior design. In the early stages of her career she was a fashion designer and later she established an interior design business and worked as a stylist for magazines and advertisers in London, before moving to Cheshire and eventually founding her current company.

Be inspired

We caught up with Jan to find out what we should look out for in 2015.

'I'm very inspired by today's modern architecture and one of my favourite designers is Thomas Heatherwick. I think his designs are just so beautiful, so organic, yet all made possible by the digital age that we live in.

'My Archipatch Collection is inspired by some of the iconic buildings that I love, such as the Gherkin, the Shard and the Great Court ceiling at the British Museum. I will be developing this collection to include more futuristic designs for 2015.

'The licensing side of my business has just taken a great leap forward. I've done five trips to Japan in the last 18 months and I absolutely love it, so it's very exciting to see my brand building there too. I will be going again in March for the British Fair at the famous department store, Takashimaya, in Nagoya.

'Finally, another exciting thing will be the launch of my silk scarf collection, which will be a first step back towards my fashion roots.'

Lana Filippova @Art of Interiors

Lana came to interior design by a somewhat circuitous route, having started her working life designing electronic and mechanical systems for aircraft, in her home city of St. Petersburg, in Russia. A move to the UK with her new, British, husband allowed her to tap into her creativity - something she'd put aside as a 'hobby', rather than a potential profession - and re train as an interior designer. Fifteen successful years later, a client asked her to source a piece of art for a tricky wall in his home, and Lana ended up creating one for him herself. One thing led to another and

soon her work was being sold in galleries across Cheshire, including Gallery 22 in Cheadle, owned by Lesley Mitchell. The two came together in an harmonious blend of art and design, and the new business, Art of Interiors, has gone from strength to strength, with recognition at the Northern Design Awards in five consecutive years.

Be inspired

2015 holds many exciting challenges for Lana, not least a brief for the interiors for a whole home in Nice. Lana says that while the property and location are like nothing she has worked on before, she will take

her usual approach and ensure it meshes perfectly with the client's hopes, wishes and needs to provide a luxurious space designed for living in, and not simply looking at.

This perhaps sums up Lana's approach: make it all about the client. While she is not averse to pushing a client a little into a direction that they find unexpected, she says she never applies her own ideas without knowing, absolutely, that the client will love them, and she does this through asking literally hundreds of questions until a complete picture is built in her mind, which then she can translate to their home.

