

Wendy Nicholls

Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler

Eminence grise

FIRM SIZE *UK*

FOCUS *Individual designs*

A designer with over four decades of experience, Wendy Nicholls is a force to be reckoned with in the world of interiors. 'The important thing is letting your individuality come across. It's a very emotional thing,' she says. Nicholls launched her interior design career after a spell in specialist textile training, followed by a stint at Mann & Fleming. Joining Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler in 1976, she worked closely alongside Tom Parr, before running her own design team.

Her textile background aligns with her clients' current yen for 'bespoke handwoven fabrics,' yet her enthusiasm alone seems more than enough to make her a unique and sought-after talent. As for her inspirations, she cheerily cites 'Clients – and their houses!'

Katharine Pooley

Katharine Pooley

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *Boutique*

FOCUS *Classic and contemporary*

'We've been working on more projects in the US, including a family home in Washington and a private jet,' says Katharine Pooley, who is advising a growing roster of clients based in North America.

She has been overseeing 30+ projects across four continents. The Middle East continues to be a big focus for Pooley, with projects in Oman and Dubai, including a beachfront villa on The Palm. 'I don't think priorities have changed a great deal: ultimately, private clients want a home that's both beautiful and practical,' she says.

This is a dynamic practice, as Pooley's book, *Journey by Design*, attests. She also recently worked on a 46,000 square foot property in Qatar, delighting in creating a 'Gatsby suite'.

Elliott March and James White

March & White

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *International*

FOCUS *Design & manufacturing*

British designers Elliott March and James White are best known for outfitting superyachts, and have recently been busy recreating an 'authentic New York vibe' inside Renzo Piano Building Workshop's first condo in Manhattan.

March founded March & White with James White in 2010, and the firm now has offices in London, New York and LA. Both have strong architectural backgrounds which, says White, 'brings both logic and objectivity to [the] process... We create interiors in the same way we approach artistic endeavours. We create an idea and concept, select a palette and then add layering with pattern and texture. Each project is a unique story.' March is captivated by objects that 'increase in allure as they age'.

Paolo Moschino

Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *Boutique*

FOCUS *English design with 'continental flair'*

Paolo Moschino bought Nicholas Haslam in 1995, and has never looked back – the interior design company now has two London showrooms and one in Chelsea Harbour. Moschino and Haslam worked closely for eight years, and now work separately.

Moschino notes his firm is still 'grounded in the principles of English design,' though there remains a strong 'continental flair' to the company. Be it a 19th century French oval embroidered living room, or a private home in Holland Park, Moschino finds the ideal lighting, fabrics and furniture for each client. His designs are dynamic, unafraid of a splash of daring colour: but his spaces are well proportioned, showing the harmony of his imagination.

Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill

Spencer-Churchill Designs

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *Boutique*

FOCUS *Period décor*

Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill is an expert on quintessential English homes and regularly appears in *House & Garden's* top 100. Her commissions span the world, from period properties to modern apartments.

The eldest daughter of the 11th Duke of Marlborough grew up in Blenheim Palace, which inspired her love for period design. She set up Woodstock Designs in 1981 to offer specialist advice on renovations that artfully combine current tech and historic architecture, before forming Spencer-Churchill Designs, producing furniture, fabrics and wallpapers. Former president of the UK Chapter of the International Interior Design Association, she is also a board member of the New York School of Interior Design.

Rose Uniacke

Rose Uniacke

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *Boutique*

FOCUS *Furniture & lighting*

The 2013 Andrew Martin Interior Designer of the Year Award winner, Rose Uniacke, has been dubbed the 'Queen of the Serene' by the *Sunday Times*. Her spaces are always considered, with unobtrusive designs which enable each room 'to breathe'. Uniacke's interiors benefit from her expertise in furniture and lighting – she also deals separately in traditional antiques. But there's nothing staid about her work: she brings together the finest craftspeople in the country to create a fusion of old and new. Colour is used sparingly, but with decided effect: in the green coverlet in a Pimlico house, or lime curtains in a living room overlooking Buckingham Palace. Victoria Beckham and *Vogue's* fashion editor are said to be fans.

Martin Waller

Andrew Martin

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *Boutique*

FOCUS *Global designs*

The travel-inspired design house Andrew Martin, founded in 1978, has been at the forefront of some of the world's most 'kaleidoscopic' designs, which are 'imbued with an intrepid and itinerant spirit.' When we visit the ruins of Pompeii, the politics and economics are largely forgotten,' says Martin Waller, the artistic mind behind the firm. 'It's the interiors that excite – delivering the character, ambitions and foibles of the long-lost families that lived there.' He cites his main inspiration as Stephen Falcke – the man who 'revolutionised the way African tribal art and African textiles can be used in crisp contemporary designs.'

Taking Falcke's lead, Waller also weaves African cultural influences within the projects he creates, often for fellow globetrotters like himself.

Hubert Zandberg

Hubert Zandberg Interiors

Outstanding in field

FIRM SIZE *Boutique*

FOCUS *Vibrant designs*

When Hubert Zandberg was asked to decorate a grand bedroom in London, the globetrotting designer manipulated the listed space by dividing a *verre églomisé* screen and standing each half in the alcoves on either side of the chimney. 'I wanted to add a "ping" to the room,' as he told *Country Life*. 'The screens add depth and movement without taking centre stage.' Often frenetic and always daring, Zandberg's designs suggest an aesthetic always at full throttle: a 'liveable interpretation' of his own imagination. He's not incapable of serenity, however: one Holland Park townhouse project has seaweed greens, suggestive of a placid underwater dwelling. Others include various European villas as well as designing the Queen Anne's Gate Development.