

# BERNARD INTERIORS

*A team of personal, polished, passionate and professional individuals*



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A Bernard Interiors-designed bar for a games room in a private residence; a formal living room; detail from a Bernard Interiors bedroom

**'We create timeless environments that facilitate our clients' lifestyle or business aspirations'**



Interior and architectural design studio Bernard Interiors has had a busy year, 'with more residential enquiries than ever as people reassess their homes and way of living,' says founder Jen Bernard. Over the past year the team has almost doubled in size to meet the growing demand both for entirely new projects as well as requests for revisiting existing schemes 'with space, comfort and functionality now being the main drivers.'

From an early age, Jen Bernard had a passion for all things creative including art, interiors and styling. At her first Saturday job, aged 16, she had the chance to style room sets for magazines including *Elle Decoration* and from then on she was hooked. Jen studied interior architecture at Edinburgh College of Art, and on graduating in 2002 took her first job in an architectural practice

specialising in commercial interiors. It was the time spent on site, building a rapport with clients and contractors, and problem solving that fuelled Jen's desire to run her own design practice. And so, at the height of the 2008 global recession, Bernard Interiors was launched from her kitchen table.

Eleven years on from the inception of Bernard Interiors, and after outgrowing two previous premises, current HQ The Church was purchased in 2019, complete with dry rot, woodworm and rising damp. Now renovated in the style of a New York loft and the base for Bernard Interiors, it 'serves as an inspirational and innovative platform to promote creativity for our 21-strong team.'

Personal, polished, passionate, professional – these are the four core values of Bernard Interiors that guide the design studio daily in its work and

relationships with clients, professional colleagues and suppliers. 'Our design approach adapts to each individual project and client,' says Jen, whose portfolio ranges from private residences in the UK and abroad, to hotels and luxury retirement villages. 'We create timeless environments that facilitate our clients' lifestyle or business aspirations.' The goal is simple: to exceed expectations.

Jen and the team have just finished working on a second phase at a private residence, originally completed in 2009, highlighting those lockdown projects and the shift in priorities since people have been spending more time in their homes. The redesign includes a new snug and a whole reconfiguration of the top floor to include a games and cinema room, complete with a bar.

As a practice, Bernard Interiors is experienced

in working with period properties and heritage buildings. Projects include an award-winning category A-listed Victorian townhouse in Scotland, a grade II\*-listed Tudor manor house in Hampshire and a grade II-listed Arts & Crafts country home in Northumberland. 'We love bringing older buildings back to life, with our carefully curated schemes,' says Jen. Upcoming projects include a grade II-listed Neo-Georgian mansion in Berkshire, a late 19th-century manor house in Solihull and a new build luxury retirement development in Cobham, Surrey.

'It's important to understand the building, its history and uniqueness,' she concludes. 'Our role is both to create beautiful environments and to respect the building's heritage. We never mimic the existing style of period, we aim to provide a new layer of history.' And an alluring one at that.

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