



Barbara Chandler is H&G's design correspondent. She has 35 years' experience as a design writer and chairs the Homes & Gardens Classic Design Awards judging panel.

# Harrods relaunches its design service



Interior designer Sara Cosgrove brings her invaluable experience and expertise to the store's newly revamped design studio

## WHY IS THIS YOUR DREAM JOB?

Harrods is an international institution; people seek help for homes all over the world and our clients tend to be customers for life. I head a team of ten designers and we have decorated four interior design suites here at the store for personal consultations.

## HOW CAN A DESIGNER HELP?

Interior designers turn ideas into visuals and then into real rooms. They know about products most people have never dreamt of. They solve problems, save time and prevent expensive mistakes. A designer can help anyone, whatever their budget.

## SO WHERE DO YOU START?

With the brief. You must decide every detail before employing contractors. Cost is crucial for most people, so I classify design features on a scale

of 1 to 10: 1-3 for necessities, 4-7 for things I would like to include and 8-10 for nice but not essential. It concentrates both mind and budget.

## WHERE DOES YOUR LOVE OF DESIGN COME FROM?

I grew up on the west coast of Ireland, where home was a Georgian hunting lodge in a permanent state of restoration. I used to go to country-house auctions with my father, who is a property developer, and we would come to London to look for beautiful things. We loved Bennison fabrics, and the antiques shops in Pimlico.

## AND YOUR EARLY CAREER?

After leaving school I studied Classical Civilisation at university in Dublin but I discovered fashion and interiors while working for the designer John Rocha one summer. I then trained in interior design at KLC School of Design and went on to work for Allegra Hicks, Helen Green and Candy & Candy.

## WHERE IS HOME NOW?

A ground-floor flat in a Victorian terrace in West London, which I share with my sister. It's a dark space, so I've used light-reflecting colours, sharp white architectural details and mirrors everywhere. My garden and conservatory are my city sanctuaries.

## TELL US A DESIGN SECRET

Detail, detail, detail. You have to sweat the small stuff: there is no easy way.

## WHAT ASPECT OF YOUR JOB GIVES YOU THE MOST SATISFACTION?

That's simple - a happy client.

Contact the interior design service at Harrods, 020 7730 1234, harrods.com.



## ROOM AND BOARD

Cardboard may seem an improbable material for furniture. In 1972 Frank Gehry made his famous Wiggle chair, which is still produced by Vitra, 020 7608 6200, vitra.com. Now a new range in corrugated card comes from Cardboard Future, 01306 646548, cardboardfuture.com.

"Cardboard can last as long as wood or plastic, but is softer and more friendly," says design director Mary Dorrington Ward. Giles Miller and Philippe Nigro have cardboard creations such as Wardrobe C (above) at new London store Skitsch, 020 7584 6839, skitsch.it. And, in Manchester, Liam Hopkins creates intricate chairs and sofas for his company, Lazerian, 0161 337 0999, lazerian.co.uk.



## GREEN BOTTLES

Moving away from its homespun look, recycled glass tableware still has a faint greenish tinge but is now less chunky and more elegant. The new Mia collection (above) from LSA, 01932 789721, lsa-international.com, includes mouth-blown glasses and carafes. On a larger scale, glass studio Eluna, 020 7241 7479, eluna.org.uk, turns bottles, window offcuts and factory waste into worktops, screens and glass bricks strong enough for load-bearing walls. "We use no resins or dyes. It's 100 per cent glass," says director Martin Goodrich. Bottle Alley Glass, 01424 773919, bottlealleyglass.co.uk, recycles bottles into worktops, splashbacks, lighting and more. ▶