

DESIGNER



Ciara Ephson

ELIZABETH METCALFE meets the founder of new interiors studio Fentiman Design to discuss her career and projects

It was inevitable that I would end up working in interior design,' says Ciara Ephson. The designer grew up surrounded by impressive interiors, thanks to her father Martin Ephson, who co-founded Farrow & Ball and later Fermoie. In 2011, fresh from an art-history degree, Ciara enrolled on a full-time interior-design course at KLC, after which she spent three months at John Cullen Lighting. 'I saw how detrimental it is for an interior if lighting is not done properly,' she says. She was then snapped up by Todhunter Earle, where she spent three years as a designer. 'It was there that I learnt the importance of spatial planning.'

When an opportunity to overhaul three flats in Fulham came along in 2016, Ciara set up her own London-based practice, Fentiman Design. 'It is named after the first street I lived on,' says Ciara. Her fresh, unfussy aesthetic combines bespoke joinery, contemporary art and a mix of new and antique furniture. So far, most of her work has been in London, where her style sits well in modern and period houses alike. 'I'd really like to do a country house,' says Ciara. fentimandesign.com

She says 'I am really interested in the more architectural side of interiors, such as joinery design, as well as selecting colour schemes and art.'

They say 'Ciara is instinctively creative and has a passion for design. Her attention to detail is incredible' – Kate Earle of Todhunter Earle.

We say 'Ciara's interiors are fun and contemporary. She isn't daunted if she needs to completely gut a place.'



PROJECT

This three-bedroom flat in Fulham is split over two levels. The top floor, which houses the kitchen and sitting and dining areas, previously had a clunky layout with a poky kitchen, so Ciara took down the stud walls and created an open-plan space. A large floral pastel by Joanna Kirk sets the tone in the dining area (above left), and walls elsewhere are dotted with artworks, such as in the spare bedroom (top right), where posters sit above a sofa upholstered in a Fermoie fabric. Ciara added smart storage along one wall of the study (middle), and tweaked the size of the tiled main bathroom (bottom) to make the space work better □