

habitat

THE ART OF LIVING

*Inside - Focus:
Kitchens & Bathrooms
Walls & Windows*

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SEAN COCHRANE

HABITAT'S NEWLY APPOINTED UK CORRESPONDENT HAD AN UNUSUAL ROUTE TO INTERIOR DESIGN AND ARCHITECTURE. IN HIS 20S HE DEVELOPED A LOVE OF MARTIAL ARTS. HE USED THIS NOT ONLY TO BECOME A KICKBOXING CHAMPION BUT AS A ROUTE INTO ATHLETIC MODELING, LAUNCHING DIESEL JEANS WORLDWIDE AND RUSSELL ATHLETIC IN EUROPE.



He says: 'My first business was a tree surgery practice. This introduced me into the world of landscape designers and architects.'

His knowledge and appreciation of how external space can enhance living is evident in many of his current projects.

He recalls: 'In 2000 I founded the White Apartment Company, the intention being to specialise in simple and cost-effective renovations of flats in London.'

This proved extremely successful and was to provide Sean Cochrane with 10 years of experience working with planners, contractors, architects and other building professionals. This detailed understanding of project logistics and a vast database of professional contacts distinguishes him from other London-based designers.

Cochrane Design began in 2004, the company being the culmination of this designer's professional experience and knowledge as well as his creative flair. His projects are known for their innovative use of space and light and a modern, fresh approach to colour and texture.

Sean Cochrane infuses his work with influences from his travels, introducing inspiration from South Africa – where he lived for two years – and Asia in particular. Today, home is an elegant London townhouse that he shares with his wife Millie and their three children.

Over the past half decade Cochrane Design has been quietly building recognition and a high profile client list. In 2010 there were more public plaudits: an industry IDFX award as well as sustained press acclaim.

The designer adds: 'Design is constantly evolving. There

may be varied décor in different spaces but there should be a common element linking the areas together, allowing a comfortable flow to be established.

'I enjoy reworking classic concepts into modern interiors by opening spaces in such a way as to appear that they have always been that way. We work with a lot of multi-level Victorian and Georgian homes in London, which I really enjoy.'

'They encourage the integration of levels by cutting out sections or rooms between floors, while hiding structural beams in walls and ceilings, and using indigenous materials where possible so as to not discard what might have been. Then – by adapting ceiling styles, installing specialist lighting, floor coverings and finally furniture – we redefine areas to incorporating the whole into a lived-in space.'

'My pet hate is people who buy a large property and only live in 50 percent of it. If you can afford such a space you can probably afford someone to design it so you can enjoy living in all of it.'

Sean Cochrane is expanding his commercial division and is currently working on a Knightsbridge night club and a Central London hotel. He is also collaborating in the design of a collection of wallpapers, furniture and soft furnishings for Liberty of London. He has a number of projects in South Africa commencing in the first quarter and 10 further projects in and around London on the drawing board.

For further information visit: www.cochrannedesign.com or tel: +44 020 7062 1064