

## CHRISTINE YORATH - YOUR OWN INTERIOR DESIGNER?



**Interior designer, property guru and City Dweller Magazine columnist, Christine Yorath, tells us what it's really like to work with a professional Interior Designer.**

**To many people the idea of using professional help to create the interior of their aspirations is a scary prospect and can be one of those tasks you just don't know where to start.**

Thousands of pounds can be spent on trying to create a wonderful interior with disappointing results.

I have no experience as a car mechanic so I would never try to service my own car and yet the majority of people wanting a beautiful home will try to do it themselves.

Perhaps it's the fear of runaway expenses or of someone creating an interior they love but you may not?

When I start working with a new client my first action is to get to know the client, how they live and how they want to live. I want to know what's important to them and what styles appeal to them, what their budget and their timescale is. If it's not realistic I will say so, there's no point misleading someone and if they try to do the job themselves on an unrealistic budget they are just setting themselves up for a disappointment. I have a few little tactics for finding out what really appeals to my clients and I make sure I follow their taste guide and not try impose mine on them.

Of course I will explain why something a client requests may not be practical or even suitable and although the client has the ultimate decision it's normal once something is explained for me to hear "oh, I never thought about that".

I make my pricing very transparent and even explain it on my website, that way I avoid uncomfortable situations with clients at a later date. If you appoint a professional in any area of life it is a sensible thing to ask for a price first and

to understand what your commitment is as much as you will have expectations of the designer.

Whether you are looking to invest in a new scheme for just one room or a whole house or apartment you should do your research first. You may be pleased to find that you can engage the help of a professional and ultimately not spend any more than if you were trying to do the job yourself. A good designer will be able to source materials and products competitively and will have access to reliable tradesmen whereas you might have to rely on the Yellow Pages and have to start from scratch with a tradesman who does not have any loyalty to you.

When you look at various websites of designers you may feel some have a specific style which you may or may not like but at least you are becoming discerning about the designer you want to engage.

Have a look at the images of interiors of some of the big names in the industry and you will surely find that you do have a style you lean towards. Keeping an ideas book is a great idea and an app like Houzz makes that so easy to do.

The initial consultation with many designers is free of charge or charged but refundable against the commission of the job. If you aspire to have a lovely home but just don't know how to achieve it maybe its time to call a designer in?

**For more information go to [www.christineyorath.com](http://www.christineyorath.com) or get in touch by emailing [christine@yorathgroup.com](mailto:christine@yorathgroup.com) or ringing 07836 737300.**

*Till next time,  
Christine*



KELLY HOPPEN DESIGN



MARTIN KEMP DESIGN



PHILIPPE STARCK YOO DESIGN