



Individual wallpaper design by Annika Reed for her father in law, Lord Harewood



Designed for a client who puts comfort and storage high on the essentials list!

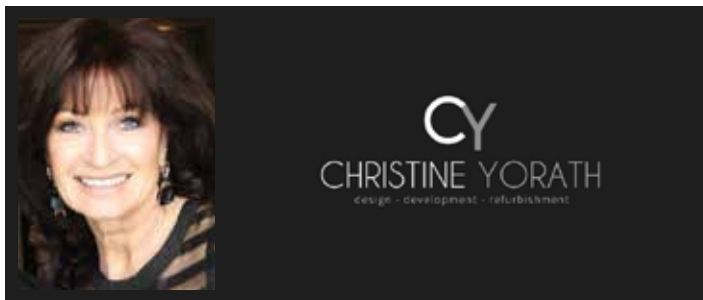


For the brave with personality a wallcovering from the Graduate Collection supporting emerging talent



Modern retro style refurbishment designed to suit the personality of the owner.

PROPERTY GURU AND CITY DWELLER MAGAZINE COLUMNIST CHRISTINE YORATH DARES YOU TO BE DIFFERENT



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CHRISTINE YORATH
design - development - refurbishment

Interior Design can be individual.

In 1976 I had just had my third child and furnished my third family home when we moved to Coventry.

Once again I was starting on a complete house revamp but this time I had already had my first three children and they were all under school age and I was in a city I had never been in before in my life so I had no contacts or useful "tried and tested" tradesmen.

The house wasn't fabulous but the location and address were very good. We bought the house from our club chairman, Jimmy Hill, readers' parents and grandparents will probably remember him! They may also remember Norman Wisdom who had at one time rented the bungalow that was in our garden.

I changed every room in the house without any regard for what was popular at the time, in fact I'm not sure what the trends were back then.

The dining room had a lovely bay window and a large stone Inglebrook fireplace but the walls

were painted Magnolia and the woodwork was white with a dusky pink patterned carpet. I found a great father and son decorating team and after he had finished the dining room the dad did tell me that he had said to his wife that he was working for a young woman (I was 26) who had some really weird ideas but when it was finished he loved it so much he brought his wife to see it.

It was 1976 and I had the walls and ceiling and all the woodwork painted a very dark grey. We had a large dining table in a highly polished rosewood which I loved so much that when we got married in 1971 it was the only thing we bought on HP. At the time just about everybody I knew who got married had a modern teak dining suite (Which would've been half the price) but when I saw our table in a shop in Leeds called Maples I loved it so much it was worth spreading the payments for! (I can't imagine today's Premiership footballers buying a dining suite on HP can you?) At the bay window I had a plain, padded pelmet and heavy floorlength curtains made out of a lovely off-white, woven fabric

which look like a heavy, soft linen and I had the dining chair seats recovered in a similar fabric. I found a great light fitting as a centrepiece and had the room carpeted in white shagpile carpet. I have always preferred original art so until I could afford work by a commercial artist I had all of our friends do doodles in various colours onto very large sheets of white art paper then I had them framed with a coloured mount and a stainless steel box frame. I could live with that dining room today.

One day I went to collect my girls from their school friends' house where they had been on a play date and where the mum was a full-time school headteacher. When I went into her house it had the most familiar feeling to it! There were carpets and furniture and wallpaper and colour schemes I had used in my own home. I can't remember the comment I made but it was probably along the lines of feeling at home! Maureen, the lady of the house, told me that she was so busy she didn't have time to look around and choose things for her own home and found it was just easier to copy what ever she saw when she came to our house. On the basis that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery I really didn't mind.

Many people are so concerned with following trends they never let their own personality show through. It happens with fashion in clothes as well as in homes.

As a designer I don't have one particular style recognisable in my interiors and that is because

I spend time talking to my clients to try and find out what appeals to them and how they live. I try to make sure that their scheme includes lots of comfort and storage and then beyond that that it suits what their aspirations are. I do my best to source products and furnishings that fit what appeals to them.

Quality does matter and unless you are a proficient decorator I would always encourage you to hire a professional. Bespoke window dressings usually look better than ready made and the decorator will charge the same amount to hang a roll of cheap wallpaper as a more expensive one but it just might be worth spending the money on the more expensive one to get something that really fits your aspirations.

If you are about to re-do one of your rooms or even your whole apartment or home I hope that this will be the decade you take the chance to create something truly individual and that we can start to create homes that reflect the personality of the occupants.

*Enjoy and Create
something individual.
Christine x*

**For more advice go to
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