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Movers, shakers and innovations. Edited by LIZ ELLIOT



DESIGNER Q&A

Rose Uniacke studied philosophy before training as a furniture restorer. She runs her interior-design business from the Pimlico antiques shop she shares with her mother, Hilary Batstone, and lives in west London with her partner and teenage children

Which period of design do you admire? I love buildings in which you are aware of space and light. I'm attracted to the simplicity of much Georgian architecture, but I also love industrial design, so am just as easily inspired by a fabulous New York loft.

Which school of art appeals to you, if you were seeking something for yourself? There is so much - I would buy a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci if I could. At the moment I am focused on twentieth-century art. I'm also trying to buy one of the velvety graphite drawings of contemporary artist Banks Violette, and have just purchased a vintage photograph by André Kertész.

How do you like to entertain? I enjoy cooking and informal entertaining. I make whatever I feel like, anything from rustic Italian to Asian food.

How do you relax? Cinema, reading, walking, travelling and yoga. I might visit a gallery or go to the theatre at the weekend.

If you weren't a designer, what would you be? I'd be an architect.

How do you deal with the TV? It depends on the nature of the project, the design of the house

and the budget. The nicest ways to conceal a television, such as using a drop-down screen, are often expensive, but I am happy to use a flat-screen television mounted on an arm or a wall.

Do you like symmetry? Yes. Some rooms are beautiful if furnished in a symmetrical way, but it's not essential. Balance, however, is.

How do you hang pictures? I suspend them from simple steel rods, hooked on to the picture rail.

Music or silence? I love all kinds of music, from hip-hop to classical. I'm also a big Jimi Hendrix fan, but not when working. I get the most peace at my office in the shop.

What car do you drive? A Mercedes. It always starts and it goes fast.

Do you like reading? I love to read. The book *Independent People* by Halldór Laxness stays in my mind. I have also just read *The History of Love* by Nicole Krauss, which was beautiful.

Where is it essential to spend money, and where can you save it? Floors, fabric and furniture are all important. If I were forced to economize, I'd probably choose blinds rather than curtains so as to save on material.

What one thing could you live without? Modern patterned fabrics.

What was your first interiors-related purchase? I bought several pairs of vintage silk curtains for my first house, when I was in my early twenties. I have used them again and again in various homes. **JUDITH WILSON**

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Rose Uniacke (top) is inspired by both Georgian architecture and industrial design; her work emphasizes light, space and proportion (above)