

The rising stars of the interior design world open their portfolios and share the secrets of their success

WORDS AMELIA THORPE

# The Tomorrow People

## Rachel Beckett



After completing her surface art and design training at the London College of Printing, Beckett, now 35, went on to study textiles at the Chelsea School of Art. From there she headed straight for Richmond International, where she worked on hotel projects across the world, from Jordan to Switzerland. She then put in a stint at AJC Designs to work on residential developments in London. In 2003, Beckett and architect Richard Dines set up R Interiors, which specialises in interiors for luxury property developments, boutique hotels, restaurants and private houses. Its style often exhibits Beckett's taste for the clever, quirky and colourful.  
Tel: 020 7384 9284 [www.rinteriors.net](http://www.rinteriors.net)





**Roslyn Harries**

 Oxford-based Honeywood Interior Design was founded by Incbald graduate Roslyn Harries in 2004. After 10 years working as a management consultant, Harries completed a post-graduate diploma in architectural interiors in 2002. Of her style, she says: 'I like blending the old with the new.' Harries, 37, works on residential interiors and commercial bars and clubs. Recent projects include a 'Viennese Palace' style for a concert space and a bar for an Oxford college. **Tel: 01865 428338**  
[www.honeywoodinterior.com](http://www.honeywoodinterior.com)

**Samantha Johnson**

 Berkshire-based Samantha Johnson has been an interior designer for more than 12 years. With a background in hotel management and conferences, she retrained at the Interior Design School before setting up her own company, Samantha Johnson Design. Her business specialises in family houses,

holiday homes in the UK and abroad and small office and leisure spaces. Now 42, she describes her style as 'contemporary mixed with a classic look' and says that her designs are based on a simple principle: 'I believe family homes can, and should, be beautiful places.' **Tel: 01628 632517**  
[www.samanthajohnsondesign.com](http://www.samanthajohnsondesign.com)



**Rebecca Leivars**

 Rebecca Leivars swapped life as a human-resources manager in the insurance world for a new role. 'I decided to turn my hobby into my career,' she says, recalling the moment she embarked on the KLC diploma in interior design. Leivars, 33, graduated in 2007 as student of the year and received three other industry awards. Since then, she has combined design and project management at Tessuto Interiors with running her own small practice, saying she likes to 'turn design inside out to do something completely different'. **Tel: 07929 934511**  
[www.rebeccaleivarsdesigns.com](http://www.rebeccaleivarsdesigns.com)

**Sophie James**

 Fresh from completing the KLC certificate course in 2004, Sophie James spent 18 months as the in-house interior designer at Mufti before joining Todhunter Earle Interiors. She was promoted rapidly, becoming associate director in 2007, and is currently working on designs for a 58m sailing yacht, a chalet in Courchevel and a house in the Lake District. James, 32, describes her style as 'sophisticated, elegant and eclectic' and likes to mix old and new to create comfortable interiors that will stand the test of time. **Tel: 020 7349 9999**  
[www.todhunterearle.com](http://www.todhunterearle.com)

**Eve Mercier**

 Eve Mercier has worked in fashion at Shanghai Tang, art journalism at the French Art Newspaper and interior design at Candy & Candy. This wealth of experience stood her in good stead when she launched her own interior design practice, Eve Mercier Interiors, last year. Mercier is already busy designing interiors for two hotels in the south of France. She says her style has evolved from her experiences of growing up in France and periods spent living and working in Germany, Switzerland, London and Hong Kong. Mercier says her designs 'add Asian and European influences to French sophistication'. Mercier studied 20th-century art at Christie's and gained a KLC diploma in interior design in 2006. She is also a mother of four — something that brings an important emphasis on the practical to her designs. **Tel: 020 7368 6659**  
[www.evemercierinteriors.com](http://www.evemercierinteriors.com)