



INNER BEAUTY

OS Designs

"I LOVE THE fact that interior design and interior architecture can make such a dramatic difference," says Oz Lancaster. "I can walk around a home and see immediately what does and doesn't work."

Oz – the founder and Design Director of OS Designs – brings a professionalism and integrity to commissions that has seen the company's portfolio grow to include everything from landmark luxury penthouses, to commercial and residential commissions, to home, aviation and yacht design across the UK, the continent and the Middle East. As she explains: "I don't just do this nine to five – this is my life. I deliver."

When Oz, who was born in Cyprus, told her father she wanted to be an interior architect, he insisted she start by working for a construction company. "I think he wanted to put me off," she says, "but I loved it." Now an affiliate member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), a member of the British Institute of Interior Design (BIID) and with an MA in furniture design, she approaches each commission with an understanding of its full potential, based on her extensive technical and practical experience. "Working on listed properties, such as Hyde Park Gardens, requires planning permission, structural work, complex lighting and project management," she says.

Keeping to schedule is a cornerstone of Oz's reputation and requires the designer to maintain a hands-on presence at every stage, from planning and design to the final interior fitting.

"I always have a strong view of what a project will look like, but I am here to reflect my client's taste," she says. "It's not my home, it's theirs,

whether that means helping them buy a Picasso or picking out a rug in a flea market."

Oz understands that communication is the best way to ensure a project runs smoothly and meets the demands of a client's lifestyle, and she builds close relationships with them accordingly. Her interiors are decidedly luxurious, yet also practical.

Offering a comprehensive build and design service requires an extended team of professionals who share Oz's vision. "You might be the best designer in the world," she explains. "but to make your ideas a reality, you need to surround yourself with a strong team that you can trust and who understand your aesthetic and vision."

The Platinum Penthouse in east London, completed in 2017, showcases the company's custom creations in rooms lined with silk, paved with dark marble and furnished in elegant silver, grey and taupe. "We ended up designing our own bespoke fixtures and homeware in order to fit the specific dimensions of the space," says Oz.

Reflecting the scope of OS Design's expertise, another of her favourite projects is the conversion of a 14th-century villa in Cyprus. The age of the building and complexity of the site presented just the kind of challenge that she savours. "Challenges keep me on my toes," she says.

From blueprint to site inspections to tailor-made joinery, Oz follows each client brief through to its stress-free and elegantly executed conclusion. "I take clients on a journey; the best possible journey. I am their designer and I deliver. For me, that is everything."

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