

SUSAN LLEWELLYN ASSOCIATES

INTERIOR DESIGN

60 SECONDS WITH SUSAN LLEWELLYN

How would you describe your approach?

Thorough but unique to each client. Over three decades I have been committed to creating stylish but relaxing interiors, each one reflecting the client and agreed in a detailed brief. I have worked on both residential and commercial properties, from large estates to studio flats and terraced properties, historic houses and contemporary developments, large and small, each one different, but consistently thorough.

What or who inspires you?

Henri Matisse, Syri Maugham, Eileen Gray are among those who have inspired me with their style and daring. A childhood in India gave me an appreciation of colour and a strong instinct for creating a home as our family often moved around the country. My love of colour comes through in all my work and I enjoy working in the field of Colour Trend Forecasting for an international paint company.

Do your designs stand the test of time?

To make sure my designs continue to look contemporary for several years, I look at trends and I forecast what will be fashionable in the years ahead. This gives my recommendations longevity. My ability to turn vague aspirations into clear choices for colours, fabrics and furniture brings clients back to me when it is time to update. Among those I've worked with more than once is Estée Lauder, for whom I worked over many years on many UK salons and office buildings, not least the designs for her trademark Blue Room at her headquarters in Mayfair.

How important to you is teaching design?

I feel passionate about sharing knowledge and practical experience. I am a founder member of the British Institute of Interior Design and have led tours representing them. I also teach weekly and run regular workshops. ([Find out more about workshops here.](#))



What would you say are your career highlights?

Working abroad is definitely a highlight and you will find my designs in Jordan, Beirut, Malta and Thailand. I enjoy all my commissions, from the smallest to the most challenging. The ones which stand out in my memory are:

- The Clothworkers' Hall in the City
- The King's Observatory in the Old Deer Park, Richmond
- Dickens House Museum
- Opera Holland Park
- Amporn Palace, Bangkok

Any tips?

Don't believe what you are told about interior designers! We help our clients spend their money wisely, work around what they already have and we advise on practicalities. If you want any more advice, why not come along to one of my workshops!

And the future? What does that hold?

I so often see people's lives transformed by changing the space around them. This continues to reward and inspire me. As for future design trends, I am predicting a return of Gothic style, inspired by the opening of the Victoria and Albert Museum's Medieval Galleries and the jewel colours of stained glass.