

One last thing...



With over 40 years of interior design experience under her belt, Kelly Hoppen reveals what people really want in their homes, and how she curated her signature style

Words: **Yvette Murrell**

What have you been up to lately?

For many years I have been designing for private homes, but not long ago Brintons approached me to do a commercial carpet range for hotel spaces. It was quite different to anything I had done before. I'm so used to designing luxury carpets for homes, where you can use silks and other textures which you can't use in high foot-fall areas – but the more challenging it became the more I enjoyed it. Just as in the home, it's all about trying to create an ambience, a place where people will feel comfortable. The designs are still very much in my signature style, and there is something for everyone – from edgy looks to calm neutrals.

Is there a general trend of hotel-chic finding its way into people's homes?

No, actually. I think what happens is people staying in hotels are either working or on holiday. If they're working, it's always the shower – they only want the power of it in their own home. And when you're on holiday you have a conception of what you want – luxury, comfort – but in reality your life is very different when you get home. I think people tend to look at a hotel room and say 'oh, I love



this'. But when you dissect it, there's probably only one small thing they actually love. It's the same with other areas of the home. People will often be having a drink at the bar of a hotel and it is the vibe they like, as opposed to the bar itself. So how to you transport that feeling into their living room? That's what I try to do.

Any other interior projects you can tell us about?

Recently I created a fireplace collection exclusively for Chesneys. The fireplace has long been simply a fixture in the home, and we have designed a range of pieces around it. I wanted to reignite the love of the fireplace and its accessories, to make it the room's focus and be seen as a work of art.

How did you get into design?

I had always known that I wanted to work in design in some capacity and have been fascinated with interiors for as long as I can remember. When I was 16, I had the opportunity to design a family friend's kitchen. Looking back, it was quite a risk – I was extremely young with no experience – but I was always confident in my ability and never

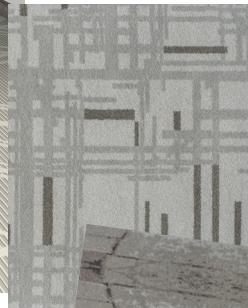
10 second round-up

What is your favourite colour?
Taupe.

Personal style in three words?
Purist. Harmonious. Timeless.

Best way to unwind?
With a TV box set.

Favourite place to shop?
Couldn't possibly answer – there are so many!



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doubted that I could get the job done. Since then, I have designed countless homes and commercial spaces. Both have given me insight into what people really like and I enjoy translating those ideas into reality.

How would you describe your own home's style?

Sensual, timeless, and luxurious. It's distinctly me, it's the Kelly Hoppen look. I always start with a neutral base and build upon that, adding interest with layers and textures. In my current home I started with the wall panels, and the staircase in the main space. It's filled with bespoke as well as vintage pieces and my own personal art collection.

kellyhoppen.com
brintons.net
chesneys.co.uk

1 The Kelly Hoppen Collection by Brintons commercial carpet designs.

2 Butler fireplace, £2340, with Eva bronze urn, £2340, Chesneys.