

interior designer

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Photo courtesy of Eric Laignel

my ICON

KATIE EARL

CO-FOUNDER, NO12

REVEALS HER DESIGN ICON



Image courtesy of Tina Hillier

My Icon **Katie Earl**

No.12 was founded in 2015 by Emma Rayner and Katie Earl (pictured left and right) with a simple mission: to provide an elegant, holistic, fresh approach to interior design. Here, Katie explains how her 'icon' has affected her work over the years.

WHO IS YOUR DESIGN ICON?

Without a doubt it is Carlo Scarpa, the wonderful Italian, Venetian Architect. 1906 - 1978.

WHAT IS HE MOST FAMOUS FOR?

Scarpa is most famously known for some of his amazingly enigmatic work in and around Venice. The Olivetti Showroom is a place of pilgrimage for many designers. Scarpa was renowned for his skill in the decoration and detail in architecture. He is revered for his ability to carve respectfully into old buildings and yet also subtly offer modern insertions with the most intricate of details.

HOW IS HIS WORK VIEWED AND WHAT KIND OF IMPACT HAS HE HAD ON THE DESIGN INDUSTRY?

He is a great example of how the details are as important as the big design moves when designing spaces. It was his effortless style that truly captured my attention. His ability to implement the most intricate of details without being fussy or contrived is something few other designers have been able to achieve. His work is revered across a number of design sectors. Including product design, having worked at MVM Cappellin glassworks, experimenting with Murano glass prior to training as an architect. I loved his ability to transition between architecture, interiors and product design in his work.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN SCARPA AS YOUR ICON?

From when I first started studying interior architecture, his work has been a huge part of my design inspiration. I visited the Venice Biennale, where we were first introduced to his work and it was love at first sight. Since then his work has always resonated with my approach to design. I have always been fascinated in the detail and ensuring that my work has a sense of purpose. Something that No.12 now ensures in all of our work. Like Scarpa, I also enjoy drawing inspiration from the existing building or site as context for No.12's concepts to amalgamate the old with the new. No.12 also holds craftsmanship in high regard, combining warm materials with clean lines, textural palettes and fine detailing. All things Scarpa did exquisitely.

WHICH PROJECTS FROM YOUR OWN PORTFOLIO DEMONSTRATE A NOD TO YOUR ICON'S WORK?

Project Apollo completed earlier this year is a lovely example of working with a refined palette and the most exquisite of raw materials. Being true to the material is very important to us, allowing all of the design details breath. Everything in this project was designed bespoke from scratch, from the joinery panelling trims to the coat hooks. This is something Scarpa would have been sure to consider in executing his own projects.

IF YOU COULD BE REMEMBERED FOR ONE ELEMENT OF YOUR DESIGN, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

If not my lifelong passion and drive to do what I love best (interior design), I would hope to be remembered for my ability to design intelligent and beautiful spaces, all the way down to the finest of details.

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