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designer

FEMALE FRONTIERS

Meet the women who are pushing the creative boundaries

TOUCH POINTS

Innovation in surfaces for kitchens & bathrooms

Open Your Mind

Removing the barriers to create spaces for living

INSPIRING
PROJECT
CREATIVITY



NOOR CHARCHAFCHI

CEO & Founder, Celine Interior Design

What was your 'big break' or pivotal career moment so far?

The most pivotal career moment for me came when after a few years working as an aviation lawyer, I made the major decision to change career and become an interior designer. I'd worked on a few projects with my husband and realised that design and interiors were my real passion and what I wanted to focus on and develop into a career.

Now that I'm in the industry, there is very little I don't love about it and I really haven't looked back since. I do think my legal training and time spent working at large scale firms gave me a good business understanding and I've been able to bring that level of professionalism to my business, whilst also embracing my creative side so, for me, it's the best of both worlds.

Who or what has most inspired you creatively?

I'm inspired by different cultures, through travel and also fashion, which is my other passion in life. My team also inspire me on a daily basis, without their creativity and diverse skillsets I couldn't take on the incredible projects that Celine has become known for.

Please share your favourite, most important, or most recent project.

We have worked on so many wonderful projects but the most important and significant would have to be the renovation of our own family home in Fulham. We really changed each and every room and designed it around how we live as a family. We extended the house out, up and down, added a sixth bedroom in the loft and double the basement which is now home to our business, as well as a gym.

We wanted to create a large, open plan kitchen and living space that spans the entire ground floor, as this is where we spend most time together. I love combining my Middle Eastern heritage and my British upbringing in my designs, and you can really see this within our home, especially in the kitchen, where I added a touch of art deco Arabic glamour to the traditional shaker style kitchen with gold handles. As our children grow up, we're making changes to the house so that it can evolve with them. We've recently renovated my sons' bedroom and created a space that works as well for a teenager as it does for my younger son.

Based on your experiences, what advice can you offer to someone just starting out on a career in design?

As a designer, knowing the rules is a good tool to have – but having the courage to break them is the only rule you must follow.





