

The Luxury of DESIGN

Kris Turnbull is a well known name in the world of interior design and we recently popped along to his magnificent design studio on the Lisburn Road in Belfast to find out more.



studio in Belfast in 2007. Initially, I wasn't sure if I was ready to go out on my own, but during my time away previous clients were in constant contact and I realised the opportunity was there and I just needed to have confidence in myself and make it happen,' Kris explains.

From opening his first studio on the Ravenhill Road in Belfast, Kris has never looked back and even during the financial downturn in 2008, things continued to flourish with Kris working for clients at home, and indeed away, with projects in the UK, Europe and the Middle East.

'Whilst I have lots of clients throughout Ireland, I also get the opportunity to work on luxurious homes for private clients and property developers all over the world. I really have been fortunate to work on some amazing homes to date, including two royal residences on Avenue Foch in Paris and The Bishops Avenue in London.'

Just as Kris's portfolio of clients has expanded over the years, the showroom has grown as well. In 2013 he purchased his current design studio, a stunning Grade B listed converted church on Belfast's Lisburn Road, which he has beautifully restored. '2013 was a busy time, whilst renovating the new studio, I also decided to bring our production elements in-house, ensuring all of our design work is carried out by a talented team who I know will deliver a high quality finish that will



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translate throughout the years for our clients,' adds Kris.

The studio itself boasts a spectacular showroom on the ground floor, exhibiting a variety of exclusive furnishings from world renowned brands including Minotti, Fendi Casa, Christopher Guy, Armani Textiles, Hermès and Julian Chichester.



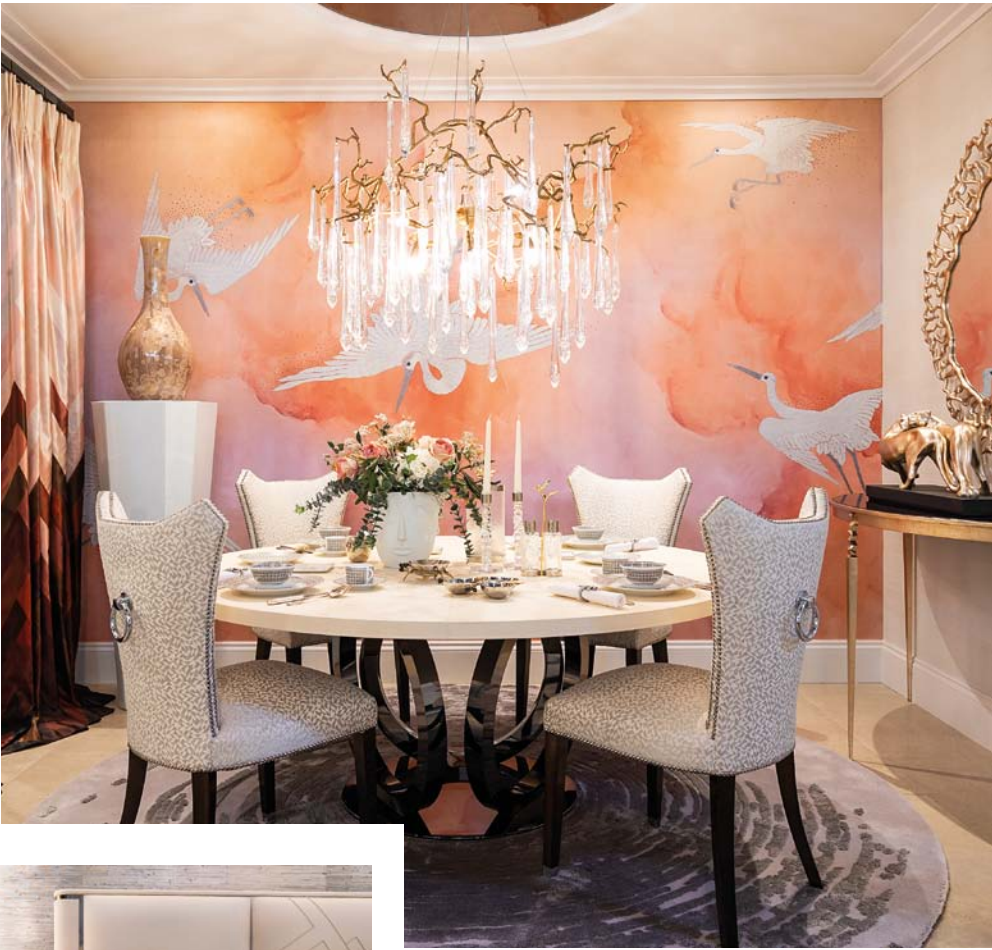
Kris Turnbull launched his own design studio in Belfast in 2007 and today the business has grown into a highly acclaimed architectural and luxury design studio that is highly regarded here on the island of Ireland and internationally.

Growing up Kris always had a passion for art and music, but he never thought that a successful career could go hand in hand with creative passions. 'At school I always excelled at art but I never really knew where it could take me. After school I went on to art college in Belfast and from here I moved to the US for 18 months where my creative design and spatial planning skills were really developed. Returning home to Belfast I started working with an interior design company, where I held the position of Design Director before leaving to accept a position in Chelsea, London. I was only in London for a short time before I returned home to set up my own design





Whether a Georgian country house or a weekend retreat; a renovation or a new build, Kris and his team bring the same energy and commitment to every project they are involved in.



These aspirational room sets, which are refreshed and updated every 12 months, clearly showcase the quality you can expect from Kris Turnbull Studios and as well as the exclusive brand names, you will also be able to see their own bespoke designs including sophisticated cabinetry and elegant textiles.

‘As well as working exclusively with many leading interior brands, over the years we began to produce our own designs,’ comments Kris. ‘We really can turn our hand to anything from textiles to joinery. We have a skilled team of cabinet makers who make bespoke furnishings for every room of the house, including the kitchen and bathroom. This allows us to deliver a specifically tailored service, ensuring every client ends up with a truly unique design, whether a modern or period home. Whatever their taste, the same design principles are applied and a high quality finish is always achieved.’

Kris loves to travel and gets a lot of his inspiration from the Far East, India and Africa and these influences can be seen in his own designs. ‘I get so much inspiration for our bespoke designs from my travels. For example, just before lockdown I was in India and returned with so many fresh ideas that I can just see translating beautifully on to bespoke textile designs and gracing the floors and furnishings of clients’ homes. I am also influenced by architectural shapes; beautiful arches for example, which might work for one of my projects.’

Sharing his inspiration with the wider team of over 20, Kris offers clients a comprehensive design service that includes architecture, interior architecture, interior design and project management.

‘To offer my clients an unrivalled attention to detail, it made sense to expand the business into the technical side as well. Whilst we still work with many independent architects, since 2014 we have added two senior architects to our in-house team, allowing us to take our clients

on a design journey right from the initial idea to turnkey completion, resulting in high end architectural and luxuriously designed homes.

‘Being able to offer this service means that as a team we can all work together to give the client exactly what they want as seamlessly as possible, taking into account their taste, budget and timescale. Even if we are working with a client and an independent architect, we can’t stress enough how important it is to bring the interior designer onboard right from the outset of the build to avoid disappointment further down the line.’

Kris is known for his love of luxury furnishings.

‘Yes, I like nice things, who doesn’t? I am also a great believer in getting what you pay for. We work with trusted manufacturers and suppliers. All of our brands are known for their quality and offer timeless designs. We have sofas that cost £4,000 and those that cost £24,000 and whether working with clients on £200,000 or million pound projects we always stress that it is important to be crystal clear on the available budget right from the off-set. In fact, this applies to both parties; the client and the interior designer, so that expectations and aspirations can be properly managed. I will always aim to give every client the very best working within their budget, and this seems to work because I have clients who come back time and time again.’

However as Kris adds, ‘I know a lot of people don’t see the value in paying for the services of an interior designer, but in the long run it is a cost-effective investment. People waste so much money on changing interior schemes that have never worked instead of



consulting a professional who can give them something special. Not only does a reputable interior designer help their client achieve the look they are after, but he or she will focus on spatial planning, lighting plans, furniture layouts and so much more to achieve an end result that works the way everyone living in the space needs it to. This is what good design is all about, creating a home that functions as well as it looks.

‘We have clients who can visualise exactly what they are after, we have others who don’t know what they want or can’t see what can be achieved. Either way, working

together, we always deliver and ensure they get exactly what they need, even if they don’t know what this is until it’s done! Here in Ireland there are so many Georgian houses and while the exterior facade is still relevant today, the same can’t be said for the interiors of these period properties. We work with clients on properties like this to reconfigure the interior space, knocking down walls and opening up rooms to ensure the house works for them and the way we live today.’

Whether a Georgian country house or a weekend retreat; a renovation or a new build, Kris and his team bring the same energy and commitment to every project they are involved in. ‘I’m fortunate that I really do love what I do and I’m surrounded by a highly skilled design team. I have been doing this job for over 20 years, but I’m always learning, embracing new challenges and pushing the boundaries of design for my clients.’