

TimeOut

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Spiritual home

High-profile interior designer **Kelly Hoppen** has just launched her collection in Harvey Nichols. *Time Out* goes in search of some Zen home tips...

You recently designed 'Rhodes W1', the new Gary Rhodes restaurant in London...

His brief was French-English so it's very eclectic. The chairs have his recipes graffitied on them, and there are also Swarovski crystal chandeliers hanging from the ceiling and luxurious mirrors wrapped in velvet. After the opening, he offered me the restaurant for the night. I invited 45 of my friends to dinner; it was brilliant.

You're good friends with celebrities like Victoria Beckham and used to date footballer Sol Campbell.

What's it like hanging out with the rich and famous?

You become public property. The problem is people's perception of celebrities isn't real. Most of what they write in the newspapers are lies. I've sued papers before but by the time the story has run, they've made far more than it'll cost to pay for the damage caused. A year ago, I did a big piece for *Tatler* magazine and put everything straight. But even that got taken out of context and spread all over Britain. I will do my autobiography in a few years so people will know what my life has really been like!

Where did the Kelly Hoppen brand begin?

I've always been fascinated by people's homes. I used to drive my mother mad. She'd go out for the evening and come home to find me on all fours pushing a cabinet across the room. The whole East meets West fusion came about after I found an old Chinese trunk in a shop on Portobello Road. I started reading about Japan, Thailand and China and became fascinated. Plus, my husband at the time was dealing in contemporary Chinese art.

So you set interior trends?

I was the first designer to do the whole East meets West fusion thing. Now, I write all the trend reports for the papers and magazines in Britain. I don't actually like trends – there aren't any rules anymore.



How do you keep your interiors timeless?

My style is eclectic – it's very Zen, soft and peaceful. For years, I've worked with neutral colours like taupe and colourful accents like red and lime green. Also, I change my flowers every single week. It's important that you have flexible interiors – items that can move from room to room. Often, I won't hang art as when you move it around, it takes on a new life. This way, you'll never get bored.

Advice for people who collect clutter?

Too much in a home is just confusing. It's like wearing too much jewellery – less is always more. Also, a lot of people tend to rush out and buy stuff they've seen in magazines without actually planning how it's going to work in their home. I bet when they get dressed, they think about how they'll look. I try to use that analogy in my work.

How do you feel about being copied?

You can't do books and be as high profile as I am and not be copied. It got to the point where people did such bad copies, I decided to copy myself and brought out this range with (UK chain store) BHS, which is now available in 130 stores across Britain. So if people want a Kelly copy, they can go there.

The second home you worked on belonged to 1982 Formula One world champion Keke Rosberg...

He won the world championship the year I did his house. I was only 17 years old at



the time. I still remember driving down the motorway to his house in the country. He still writes to me.

Tell us the secret to a great dinner party...

Firstly, you've got to have great music – soul, jazz, funk. A *Café Del Mar* album always does the trick. Then create the scene with candles and a beautiful runner display decorated with scented flowers. Most importantly, don't ever sit there with your address book wondering who will get along. Just invite anyone you like, that's the secret to a dynamic party. My collection for Wedgewood is available at Harvey Nichols – it's guaranteed to impress guests!

What about the secrets to a successful brand?

The strongest brands in the world are instantly recognisable. They have their core, their signature, and you can pick them a mile away. Take Ralph Lauren for example; he's remained at the top because his values and philosophies never change. I don't get involved in what other people are doing – my work is always fresh and true to my original style.

Where was the last place you visited?

I went on an African safari to Royal Malewane. Travel is my biggest inspiration.

Kelly Hoppen, Harvey Nichols, Mall Of The Emirates (04 409 8888).

Style philosophy

Jane Carr Scarf designer



What's a typical summer look for you?

Summer is about being relaxed. I wear a lot of pale cottons and accentuate them with colour. I never think of summer as a strict wardrobe – it's about combining vintage pieces with jeans and statement accessories.

You're leading the current scarf revival in fashion. How do we style your pieces?

A silk foulard for me is reminiscent of the French Riviera in its heyday. It's a simple accessory that creates a chic, elegant look. Each piece in the collec-

tion has its own time of day. In the morning, I like to wear a classic skinny scarf slung over jeans while in the afternoon I tend to go for a foulard worn wrapped around the head. In the evening, I love a chiffon wrap around the shoulders.

Where do you shop in Dubai?

Boutique 1. It has such a strong sense of what's hot. You can find the latest pieces from top international designers.

What do you always buy when you're travelling?

Chanel nail varnish. The colours are so plastic – I love them.

Tell us about your new collection...

It's based on the romance and glamour of life in the Italian circus. I was inspired by the movement and colours – like the lights splashing across acro-

bats in mid air. I've included circus tigers, giant inflatable toys and candy sticks. Also, I've created characters in vibrant colours such as Sundance and Harlequin. I love creating fantasy, a place where one can escape.

Do you wear a lot of colour?

Yes I do, but it's always balanced out with a neutral like denim or black. I have a lot of colour around me in my life, there's a neon artwork of my signature in my studio that gives off the most sumptuous pink glow.

The new Jane Carr collection is available at Boutique 1 in Emirates Towers (04 330 4555). For more information on Jane's work, visit www.jane-carr.com.

