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LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

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LIGHT BULB MOMENTS

15 Nov 2011



JANE PRICE-STEPHENS, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Thomas Edison once said:

"Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration."

Inspiration is at the absolute heart of the design process - there's perspiration, yes (and lots of it), but designers thrive on inspiration. It's the spark that ignites the flame. It's the key ingredient. It's the

Critical Success Factor (or CSF for the corporate types). It's the Simon Cowell on the X Factor (for the Saturday night prime time televisual types)... I could go on with this, but you get the idea.

The purpose of this blog is to highlight just how important everyday inspiration is to all designers and, more importantly, to illustrate that you can find inspiration and design concepts absolutely everywhere...

Let's start with the basics. The starting point in the development of any interior design scheme is a concept. Concepts are a fundamental element of the design process as they form the basis for the colour schemes and the feel of the overall design. Across all disciplines of design, from fashion designers to graphic designers to garden designers, we all use concepts to provide us with that initial spark of inspiration.

The concept helps to convey the feeling and mood that the proposed scheme will create. It is also the overarching anchor for the project. For me personally, it is absolutely critical as a colour reference; More often than not, I will take the original concept for my design with me when sourcing to keep me on the 'straight and narrow' when selecting fabrics and finishes.

Concepts can be taken from anything - paintings (old and new, created by the great, the ordinary or your two year old child), pictures of other interiors (often taken from magazines and, importantly for legal reasons, not plagiarised), innocuous photographs (of food for example) or, as is the case for me at the moment, high fashion.

Many designers are also inspired by some of the great artists; For example, Matisse (due to his extraordinary sense of colour) has inspired everyone from Tricia Gould to Paul Smith. Have you ever noticed the strong correlation between the Paul Smith signature lines and 'The Snail' by Matisse? (I suspect that Matisse came up with the original concept and then Sir Paul added the naked ladies!)



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A strong concept image can be hugely beneficial when designing a scheme to the point where, if it is a powerful and compelling enough image, the scheme can actually design itself. (Not literally of course and I should point out that this does not diminish the need for the hugely cost-effective services of a top interior designer. Nobody in particular springs to mind...)

As I mentioned earlier, I have been using high fashion imagery as concepts for many of my projects. More specifically, I have used the images as the inspiration for the colours in the schemes that I have been using in each of the rooms that I have been designing.

In the images below I wanted to illustrate how effective this can be as a relatively straightforward principle. I have paired high fashion images with interiors to demonstrate how a designer can use an image as the inspiration for their design:



(Images from Greige and The Style Files)



(Images from Girl of the Sun by Sigrid Agren & Patrick Demarcheier and Ruby Rhino)

G44 in Hall 1 – open to both exhibitors and visitors.

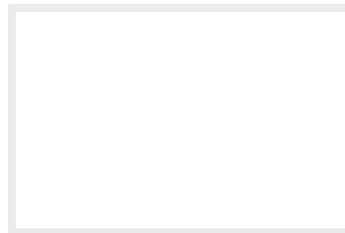
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Tall chest by Tortie Hoare and Natalie Brady

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(Images from Grieg and Plastolux via The Diversion Project)



(Images from Style Bust by Chris Benz and Fresh Home)

Let's finish with an inspirational closing statement from Mr Edison:

"Hell, there are no rules here - we're trying to accomplish something."

Not a bad missive to bear in mind when seeking out your source of inspiration.

Jane Price-Stephens runs her own Interior Design business. To find out more, visit: www.janepricestephens.com, <http://janepricestephens.blogspot.com>, follow Jane on twitter @jpricestephens or call 07970 547433.

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INSPIRATION GALLERY



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 Mon 21 Jan 09:00-18:00
 Tues 22 Jan 09:00-18:00
 Wed 23 Jan 09:00-17:00

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