



# Feast for the senses

How Jestico & Whiles put decoration on the menu

**PRIOR STUDY**

Jestico & Whiles Interior Design tapped into the creative side for IPC's new HQ

**POINT OF VIEW**

Jeremy Myerson on how youthful interiors often fail older workers

**MASTERCLASS**

RFK Architects advises Nick Cross Associates how to get the inside jobs

**REVISIT**

Boujis nightclub is still the life of the party 18 months on from its refit

## Meet the designers

Sureeporn Chuatirarak and Charlotta Eriksson,  
interior designers

### How are ID projects run within the practice?

CE: We lead a team each. We each have designers and one member of staff specialising in sourcing materials and products. But there's no line. If one of us has an idea we think might suit Sureeporn's project, we'll let her know.

SC: A lot of architects get quite inspired by us. If they're doing a school, it might have a chill-out area, and they'll ask for our opinion on colours. Often, the budget will be low, but you can do something.

### Coming from Thailand and Sweden, how does working in London compare?

CE: The best thing is the variety of projects, and the fact that from here you can work all over the world — I've worked in Croatia, Berlin, Prague and Abu Dhabi.

SC: It's a centre where you can find any kind of material. And the pound is quite strong, so things become affordable.

### What are the keynotes of a Jestico & Whiles interior?

CE: We try to use recycled materials a lot, and also found objects. For instance in converting an old textile mill in Lodz to a hotel, we found four or five huge fans.

SC: In Berlin, we're converting an abandoned Aldo Rossi building into a hotel. There's a lot of spray paint graffiti in the area, so that's inspired some of the pattern in the interior.



Inspiring architects.

### What's your favourite project?

CE: The casino in Nottingham. The brief was to be groundbreaking, and it's got some fun features — the doors to the toilets look like a bank vault, then you go through into a black tunnel. Often those are the ideas that get knocked out as the design progresses, but here we managed to build them.

### Do you do much field research?

SC: We like to go to events, shows and exhibitions. About once a month we'll go to a bar or hotel just to see what the designer's done. The Milan Fair was inspirational, we tried to squeeze in as much as we could. We liked the Dolce and Gabbana gold restaurant, it was incredibly glittery.



### Millie Warner Interior designer



The MO Bar in the Mandarin Hotel in Hong Kong, by Tihany Design of New York. I went with friends and our trip was really hectic — then we had a drink in this lovely oasis. They'd based the bar on the concept of water, with a pool-like design on the front of the bar. Most of all, the lighting was really effective, they could change the whole mood from day to night.

### Portia Dunmore Interior designer



I've seen lots of photos of Calvin Tsao's private residence in California — he's half of interior design firm Tsao & McKown. He uses a lot of stone and timber, and mixes the modern and traditional, and raw forms, with beautiful details and lovely antiques, such as decorative panels of Oriental fabrics with tones of gold. It looks striking against the stone floor.

### Stefano Manuelli Architect



I found the Puerto America hotel in Madrid really inspiring, you could experience so many different spaces in one building, and there was no budget to speak of. I stayed in the Foster room: he uses slick materials like marble and leather, but the detailing is quite simple. I also liked Marc Newson's bar, he created some great organic shapes.

## Teams get a chance to meet and mix

At Jestico & Whiles, the interior designers and architects all take half a day off each month to explore extra-curricular activities. Staff are divided into groups of around 12 that cut across their usual working teams, giving everyone a chance to meet and mix. The sessions are divided between activities in the office and trips to interesting buildings or sites in London — but always end with a communal lunch.

### Facilitating creativity

Office-based activities vary between providing training and skills for the day job, and facilitating staff's creativity. Groups study one art form — a piece of music or a poem — and use it as the inspirational launch pad for their own models or sculpture.

Beyond NW1, staff have visited the contrasting areas of glossy More London and gritty Kingsland Road, Hackney. The ID team also invited colleagues to the design centre at London's Chelsea Harbour, a cross between a product showroom and a social club for air-kissing interior design types. "Architects would never normally go there!" laughs Charlotta Eriksson. "But I think they had quite a good time."

### City breaks

Staff also explore further afield with visits to European cities, combining study tours of local buildings with placements at local practices. ID staff have visited Paris-based designers Christian Liaigre and Andre Puttman.

For longer trips of up to a month — destinations have included Australia and the US — staff put together a proposal and funding request. But for shorter breaks, the practice loves to spring a surprise on unsuspecting staff. "We swear wives and partners to secrecy!" says John Whiles.