

MY 9-TO-5

Interior designer and judge on hit BBC show Scotland's Home of the Year, Anna Campbell-Jones, talks us through a day in her life.



Anna Campbell-Jones

Interior designer and TV judge

Image by Andrew Jackson
@cursetheseeyes

WHERE DO YOU CALL HOME?

I live in a main door tenement flat with an epic 10m long hall in the heart of Glasgow's West End, it's been my home for 22 years and I absolutely would not live anywhere else, in any case my sons have forbidden me from ever moving! The wonderful thing about a Glasgow tenement is that they have such great bones, you can really do anything with the interiors. Mine has gradually morphed from minimalist monochrome to maximalist colour explosion. I love being so close to the River Kelvin as well as to the bars, shops and restaurants on my doorstep.

MY DAY STARTS WITH...

My alarm goes off just before 7, I make a cup of tea and start contacting the brilliant tradespeople I work with. I'm not a stalker! This is the best time to speak to them before they are up ladders or under floors, so we can see what they need and plan the day. Then breakfast and it's time to start communicating with clients and suppliers or working on the latest design scheme.



Image by Steven McLaren

MY MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES ARE...

I work on my own so I do everything from design consultation, detailed design drawings and specification and where applicable project management, although I have been doing less of that recently due to filming commitments.

A TYPICAL WORKING DAY INVOLVES...

One day I might be designing a bespoke kitchen, the next I might be on site checking progress on an extension or talking to a newly launched textile designer about their products. I now conduct design consultations via Zoom which has worked incredibly well. In amongst this I have regular communication with TV folk, it's certainly never boring. We are currently planning and casting homes for a

Ltd nearly 6 years ago. Then I was contacted by a production company to be a judge on Scotland's Home of the Year!

THE BEST PART OF MY JOB IS...

I love all aspects of my job but I'm never happier than when drawing up designs for construction, that moment when much discussed concepts start to become realised is always exciting.

MY MOST MEMORABLE CAREER MOMENT IS...

Every job feels like an achievement. I suppose my most memorable career moment would be having reached a point after 30 years in the business where I could be an interior design judge on a TV show.

AFTER WORK I...

Unsurprisingly I am quite a homebody, I love nothing better than cooking for my partner, friends and family and all of us sitting at the table talking 'til the wee small hours. After a long day at work I love to snuggle up with my cat and my tapestry work. My designs are based on photos I have taken of accidentally beautiful urban decay.

IF I WASN'T AN INTERIOR DESIGNER, I'D HAVE BEEN...

When I was a child I really wanted to be an actor, I did get the lead role in a David Puttnam film that was broadcast on Channel 4 but I soon found out it wasn't as glam as I thought it would be and decided aged 13 that I wanted to go to art school and become a designer instead.

WHAT'S THE BEST PIECE OF CAREER ADVICE YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN?

The best piece of advice I was given was by my tutor at Hounslow College who suggested I apply to Glasgow School of Art, everything wonderful that has happened in my life since then started with that decision.

For more from Anna, visit habitus.design.

SHOTY Christmas special which is ridiculously exciting.

I GOT MY JOB...

I left school in 1987 and did a foundation course in London that helped me to confirm my passion for interior design, I then went to Glasgow School of Art to do a degree in the subject. After I graduated I moved back down to London to work for various commercial interior design practices for 10 years, designing everything from chains of shops to underground trains. When my first boy was born we moved back to Glasgow and I started teaching part time at the old alma mater as well as starting my residential interior design business. This has taken various forms over the years, I set up as Habitus Design