

Designer style

Based in Ewell, husband and wife team **Jason Barnett** and **Jan Metcalfe-Barnett** have been running their successful interior design company, Fusion, for the past ten years. JANET DONIN went to meet this dedicated duo to pick up a few tips

HAVING met and married while they were both working for a residential furnishing company, Jason Barnett and Jan Metcalfe-Barnett decided to ditch the corporate lifestyle and form their own interior design business in Ewell Village.

It was a brave step, as at the same time, Jan discovered that she was pregnant with their daughter. Ten years on, however, their business is thriving and the couple, who are both in their forties, say they love every minute.

“We complement each other so well,” says Jason. “Jan does all the designing and I’m the back room guy making sure everything runs smoothly.”

It’s a winning combination, based on mutual trust and an unflinching sense of humour, which all helps to give their clients every confidence in the pair.

Getting connected

In fact, one of the things that really sets them apart from the competition is the importance they attach to getting to know their clients properly, right from the outset.

“I believe it’s important to develop a special relationship with my clients, which goes much further than just being professional – it has to be personal,” says Jan.

“To give them the best possible advice, I need to visualise their lifestyle, look at how they dress, assess their taste and above all make sure they are happy with my suggestions every step of the way.”



Name: Jason Barnett and Jan Metcalfe-Barnett

Company: Fusion Interior Design
Location: 15 Corner House Parade,
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It’s a successful strategy that’s brought them clients in all age groups, from young couples furnishing their first home to those who have decided to downsize for their retirement.

“Because there are only two of us, we’re very hands on, visiting the property frequently and ironing out any unforeseen hiccups,” continues Jason. “People seem to find this quite comforting.”

After an initial meeting, Jan shows her clients her treasured ‘style file’, which is full of inspiring images.

“I think we all have different perceptions of style and colour,” she says. “It’s only when you see an image that you know straightaway whether you like the look or not.”

Having gained a good insight into her client’s needs, the thorny subject of budget then has to be considered.

“You have to be realistic when it comes to costs, especially with new kitchens and bathrooms,” Jan says. “It’s pointless suggesting a £2,000 kitchen for a large impressive house because it won’t maintain the standard or add value to the property.”

Next come scaled drawings, planning

applications, dealing with architects, commissioning bespoke furniture and choosing colour schemes.

They’ll even go shopping for just the right accessories to make the home transformation complete.

Hot new trends

Jan tells me her favourite style of all is contemporary with a twist.

“I love wallpapers and although big, bold patterns are very popular at the moment, you don’t have to choose bold colours,” she says. “A design may look stunning in black and cream, if a little overpowering, but choose the same design in muted shades and it’s just as impressive yet much easier to live with.”

Colour-wise, she says the big trend at the moment is for strong turquoise. It’s a shade that Jan uses as an accent colour with softer neutral shades and punchy accessories in raspberry or aubergine.

“Everyone takes pride in their home and wants it to look inviting, comfortable and, yes, rather special,” adds Jan. “Our aim is to help make that a little easier for people.”