

# DECADE of DESIGN



We talk to the eponymous founder of *Claire Garner Interiors* about a special anniversary, stand out projects and a love for Aldbury

**Q** *What was your first professional job in the industry and what important things did you learn from the early years?*

**A** My first professional role in the industry was at Designers Guild, where I initially worked in their Product Development department. While this experience provided valuable insights, I discovered that my true passion lay in working directly with clients to transform their living spaces. Recognising this, I transitioned to a position as a design assistant for an interior designer, where I had the opportunity to immerse myself in various





projects and gain first-hand experience in client-focused design. Through this role, I learned the importance of effective communication, attention to detail, and the art of translating a client's vision into a personalised, harmonious design.

**Q** *Did you face any challenges when you first launched your own studio?*

**A** There were numerous challenges I encountered when launching my own studio. One significant hurdle was establishing trade accounts without the

backing of any trade references, which initially seemed daunting. However, I was fortunate to have built valuable relationships with representatives over the years, and their support proved instrumental in navigating this process.

Every aspect of starting a design studio presented a learning curve and boy did I learn fast! Embracing a mindset of continuous learning and seizing every opportunity that came my way became essential. It was about diving headfirst into every task and having the confidence that I would find solutions along the way.

**Q** *What was your first project and how do you look back on it?*

**A** My first project was a fantastic opportunity to collaborate with a local hotel on a consultancy basis. They tasked me with transforming an old chapel into a captivating wedding venue. Simultaneously, I embarked on two other exciting projects: renovating a historic property and designing bespoke interiors for a family who had moved out of London into an expansive new-build space. I feel incredibly fortunate to have encountered such varied and enriching experiences in my initial year in business.





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**Q Since then, can you pick out projects that really stand out for you and why?**

**A** One stand out project was the renovation and redesign of a holiday home on the Isle of Wight for a local client. Managing the entire project, we even carried out the week-long installation with my newborn son just four weeks old (as the building schedule ran over!). From furnishing to cutlery in the drawers, we ensured every detail was meticulously addressed. Handing over the keys to our clients was an immensely proud moment.

Another memorable project involved collaborating with a returning client on the extension and reconfiguration of their home's downstairs space. Teaming up with exceptional suppliers, we designed and crafted a stunning outcome. Some of our most loved imagery is from this Park Avenue project, in particular, the garden room, featuring a breathtaking pitched ceiling and panoramic garden views.

Presently, we are working on a project in York, overseeing a full house renovation for our clients. From conceptualisation to execution, we have meticulously designed every aspect of the space. What sets this project apart is the unwavering trust our clients have placed in us. Surprisingly, they've not made any amendments, a

rarity for such an extensive project. As the designs gradually materialise on-site, we can't wait to get to install and hand over the home to our lovely clients.

**Q Today, what services do you offer?**

**A** We pride ourselves on offering a diverse range of services tailored to meet the unique needs of each client. From comprehensive turnkey design services for entire house renovations and new builds, to flexible consultancy services available by the hour, we accommodate various project scopes and budgets.

Our expertise spans across joinery design, lighting concepts, and meticulous space planning, ensuring every aspect of your project is thoughtfully considered and executed to perfection. For clients who are not local to our studio, we offer convenient virtual and hybrid design packages, enabling seamless collaboration regardless of location. Whether you are based nationally or internationally, we warmly welcome discussions for projects of all sizes and complexities.

Our goal is to provide unparalleled service and expertise, guiding you through every step of the design process to create a space that is both functional and reflective of your unique style and preferences.

**Q What do you love about Aldbury?**

**A** We feel incredibly fortunate to be based in Aldbury, nestled amidst such natural beauty. Surrounded by sprawling fields and breathtaking views overlooking Ashridge monument, our studio is housed in a recently renovated old stable block, reflecting the charm and character of the area. It's a space that truly embodies our ethos as a design studio – warm, inviting, and filled with inspiration. Both our clients and suppliers thoroughly enjoy visiting us here.

**Q What's next for you?**

**A** We're gearing up for a busy year ahead, filled with a variety of projects which we are extremely grateful for. One particularly exciting prospect is the impending launch of new products meticulously designed by myself and the team. These pieces, made to order by our trusted artisans, reflect our dedication to quality and craftsmanship nurtured through long-standing relationships. The business also celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, so we are planning some celebratory events for the summer. We are excited to see what else this year has in store for us! 🎉

[clairegarnerinteriors.com](http://clairegarnerinteriors.com)