

#MonthlyMotivation: Celina Hankinson (class of 2014)



Celina's Art & Design Foundation course allowed her to find her passion for Interior Design.

What have you done since leaving school?

When I left Putney (after 14 wonderful years!), I went to Falmouth University in Cornwall and completed an Art and Design Foundation before staying a further three years to complete my Interior Design BA degree.

What was your course like?

The course focused on spacial and conceptual design within interiors as well as branded and commercial spaces. The strong architectural element of the degree meant that even if you chose the more decorative route, you still had a great understanding of the structural knowledge. With live projects and a mentor scheme, it prepared me well for the busy design industry. Learning the software programs currently used in the industry, freehand drawing and modelling skills were also key parts of the degree.

What was your first job when you graduated?

After graduating, I moved back to London and completed a variety of internships in interior design. Firstly, at [Th2 Designs](#) in Chelsea Harbour, followed by [Suzy Hoodless](#) in Notting Hill. I am now working at a small interior design company based in Battersea.

What does a normal day look like?

Every day is different, which is great! Some days I can be in the office liaising with suppliers to ensure all orders are placed and deliveries are on schedule, organising and updating the extensive sample library from which we create schemes. Other days, I will be out and about having on-site meetings with clients and builders, measuring up and making final decisions, or spending time installing the furniture etc. and styling for a client's final approval!

Did you always know that you wanted to become an Interior Designer?

I have always known that I would like to have a creative career and Interiors are something that has always interested me, especially spacial design. I did work experience at [Tessuto Interiors](#) in Fulham while at Putney High, as well as other creative work experiences, but interior design seemed the most appealing.

What have you found challenging?

In Sixth Form, I knew I wanted to follow a creative route, but wasn't entirely sure whether that was in fashion, interiors, fine art or textile design, as I was interested in all of them! So Putney suggesting that I do an Art Foundation course was extremely beneficial. It gave me a year to immerse myself in all aspects of what I love doing and to narrow my decision for my degree.

What would you say to someone wanting to start a career in Interior Design?

Putney encouraged me to do summer courses, which were very useful for trying out something more niche. I did one at Central Saint Martins, which was a great introduction into what a full time university Art course would entail and also the environment I would be in. I did both Art and Textiles A-levels at Putney, which did help when, for example, putting together a portfolio for applying to University, it also demonstrated the level of my interest in design. In terms of a career in Interior Design, having such a specific degree has really helped me get internships and jobs as employers know I am trained in exactly what they are looking for.

I was always encouraged at Putney to pursue what I love and truly enjoy – and I'm so glad I did!