



Ballito's INCREDIBLE INTERIOR GURU'S

In this feature, we get to know four talented Interior Designers in Ballito. With their individual styles, personalities and zest for all-things-design, you're in for a real stylish treat!



Schané Anderson co-owner at Olala Interiors.

Q Describe a day in your life as an Interior Designer?

Contrary to popular belief, we work extremely hard and a 10 – 12-hour day is the norm. My baby son (who is now in matric) always used to be the 1st child at school in the mornings since crèche, only because I get most done in the early hours before the phones start ringing. This is still the case, and my son is now very relieved to be driving himself to school at a more civilised hour! I also still work most weekends – and of course our retail business is open 7 days a week! We effectively run 3 businesses, a retail showroom, a design and décor business and a factory. All of them have their individual challenges and required set of skills, and being women in business is as challenging as it is rewarding. Paradoxes underscore our business. We need to be creative, rational, with a good clear head, empathic towards clients and staff, extremely detail orientated big picture thinkers and opinionated subservient service providers who are ballsy enough to try new things!

Q Do you have a signature style and what makes that style unique?

Apparently so! I am blessed with discerning colour, tone and scale differentiating talents. An apt style description would probably read somewhere between an interesting yet clean contemporary twist sprinkled with baroque and confused monotones infused with sculptural drama spiced with some exuberance underscored by classic symmetry mingled with goth touches finished with textured tones and opulent fibres. Or we can

just say lu-ve-ly! Hmm, what makes my style unique... Besides my hair? Horst Schultze said "you are passionately defined by what you do" so what makes us unique is combination of four things: one...The fact that we have one of the biggest fabric, wallpaper and materials sourcing libraries in the country and two... our own factory. This means we control the specification, manufacturing and installation process, which puts us in a very envious position. We can design anything and make it! Which means we don't need to do copy and paste – every interior will have its unique signature. Three...our dedicated team of design professionals and craftsmen. Our furniture, designs and cabinetry are world-class and our craftsmen and supply chain are fabulous! And four... our can-do attitude coupled with approachability and reliability..



Q In what ways do you keep current with new trends?

I travel extensively –and I don't mean digital safaris. Since last year I've probably done over 70 flights and visited interior design as well as kitchen & bathroom design fairs in Chicago, Las Vegas, Cologne, Paris, India, China and I've just got back from Milan where I met with designers, manufacturers and exporters. Our clients travel first class and are used to the very best. We need to at least match, if not exceed their expectations and offer them world-class product and style.

Q What do you love most about being an Interior Designer?

Everything – there is nothing else I'd rather do. Jim Collins said, "True creatives stay in their game." This job elates and maddens me and at the same time it allows my creativity to soar with instant gratification at the end of every installation. It is one of the few careers where one can dream wildly and see concepts become a reality daily. It is also one of the few careers where age and experience counts in your favour – creatives are known to be at their best after 50... so I'm in the right time warp now.

Q What has been the biggest highlight of your designing career thus far?

Oh, that's a dangerous question – well definitely the fact that the business survived 25 years to date and it still going strong thanks to our fabulous clients! In our industry that is no small feat! This year so far, I've had 2 Habitat front pages and a lot of my interiors have been published since 1994. My daily highlight is old clients calling. What I love most is old clients returning for more. This means we did something right and are being trusted to do even bigger and greater things... or sometimes just something small to assist or finish off. But I've had a few pivotal projects, all with old clients giving me free creative reign within their taste spectrums. I love selecting art and sculpture, starting libraries and watching collections grow. I'd like to think that I've introduced my clients to something new and wonderful. All of our projects are client-centred. They must love their homes, I don't live there, I just facilitate that "I'm so happy to be home" feeling.

Q Do you prefer working in teams or on your own?

Always have been a team player – I love people and love having people around me. Clever people intrigue me and fresh ideas thrill me. We are constantly crazy with anxiety and stress when designing new product, specifying and quoting and checking and doing the technical working drawings and checking, and placing the orders, and following up and checking for the umpteenth time and figuring out the logistics etc and if there is no-one to bounce ideas off or someone having your back it becomes a very daunting process. Collaboration is key to success. We have purposely created capacity in our business so that we can serve and deliver, and that's what we do best.

Q Tell us your life's motto or tell us something inspirational!

"Come to work to be excellent." Of course I can also make mistakes, but I try not to repeat them. I am fiercely proud of our product. I am totally committed. I really try to do better every time even when faced with budgetary constraints. "Emotion dictates behaviour" Dr Brene Brown – I have an unquenchable love for this business.

SCHANÉ'S 5 FAVOURITE DESIGN TRENDS:

- 1 Sculptural functional lighting
- 2 Green product
- 3 Overscaled Art
- 4 Authenticity
- 5 Generosity

CALL | 032 940 0399

WEB | www.olalainteriors.com