

good form

The Dive chair by Kati Meyer for Brühl is designed to support your back and envelop your body. The teardrop shape, winged armrests and round base make it a modern piece of statement furniture, www.bruehl.com



designer living

Creative comfort

His colourful, eclectic and at times eccentric interiors have earned Alex Papachristidis numerous awards. He has completed design projects in Switzerland, the UK and Saudi Arabia

Where do you live and how long have you lived there?

I was born, raised and have lived most of my life in Manhattan's beautiful Upper East Side. I still live in the neighbourhood and am currently gutting and renovating a new apartment. I plan to move there when it's ready.

What made you choose the property?

Convenience, space and light are the three factors that always dictate my choice of where to live.

What does your home say about you?

The things a person surrounds themselves with always say a great deal about them and my home is no different. It houses my collections of books, furniture and artwork, which are very personal and dear to me. It also shows my particular taste for a mix of patterns and prints. Lastly, it is a warm, welcoming, lush environment designed for entertaining – one of my great loves.

Is there anything you would change about it, or anything you wish you had done differently?

I see my upcoming move as an update rather than a change. I'm bringing in new fabrics and updating the style, while bringing all my things along.

What is the key to creating a happy home?

In my case, it's friends, family and our Yorkshire terrier, Teddy. I think that a happy home is well stocked and properly maintained with every convenience – not only beautiful to look at but comfortable to be in.

Which items would no home of yours be without?

No question, my personal collections and comfortable surroundings. My home is a place where I enjoy spending time, surrounded by things that inspire me and bring me joy.

Where do you like to shop for pieces for your home?

John Rosselli, HM Luther, Louis Bofferdin, Liz O'Brien, Christie's, Sotheby's, Parisian antiques dealers and the Chinese Porcelain Company.

Do you incorporate elements of your work into your home, or do you like to keep your domestic environment separate?

Absolutely. My home is like a laboratory, where my creativity can run wild.

Are there any particular projects or



"My home shows my taste for a mix of patterns and prints," Alex says. Roger Davies / The Interior Archive



Vintage Beatles posters hang above an 18th century French desk to create a small, vibrant study area. Roger Davies / The Interior Archive



Alex and Teddy. Photo by Phillip Ennis

A happy home is not only beautiful to look at but comfortable to be in

products of which you are especially proud?

I am proud of all my projects – that's like asking a parent if they have a favourite child. I love them all in different ways, as you will see in my upcoming book published by Rizzoli next fall.

What are you working on right now?

I am currently finishing a grand Georgian manor in Southampton with a continuous mix of luxe and boho grandeur. I'm working on a sophisticated country manor in Millbrook with an exciting layered

palette of English and French styles, a suite of rooms for a spectacular home in Connecticut, a beautiful duplex on a Fifth Avenue maisonette for a classic New York couple, and a town house for a young family on the Upper East Side in a classical, modern style.

Other projects include a combining of multiple apartments in a West Side pre-war 1912 building, where we're creating our interpretation of an arts and crafts interior. Outside New York, I have two projects: a commercial building in Aspen with a penthouse apart-

ment for a young client to live in and enjoy, and a stone home in New Hampshire in a private club with an American flair for casual living.

What inspires your work?

I get a lot of inspiration from art, fashion, museums and, of course, travelling. These are the areas where I can see how people create and appreciate beauty across time and space.

Who are your favourite designers?

Renzo Mongiardino, Henri

Samuel, Geoffrey Bennison, Syrie Maugham, Elsie de Wolfe, Mario Buatta and Sister Parish.

How would you describe your interior style?

Grand, classic decorating with a modern sensibility.

If you could live anywhere else in the world, where would it be?

I would love to live in Paris, a magical, beautiful city.

How do you like to relax?

New York is a fast city and I

wouldn't have it any other way, but sometimes there's no greater indulgence than staying home and watching old, classic movies and TV on demand. I also love playing cards with family and friends.

What is the best way to simply and instantly update a room?

Re-accessorise. Bring in fresh flowers and plants, new pillows, lampshades and area rugs.

* Alex Papachristidis was speaking to Matt Hamilton

trendspotting



The Disco Chair by Kiwi & Pom is strung with electroluminescent wire that can be programmed to pulse for a disco globe effect. Photo by Matthew Donaldson

High-tech light fuses with design

Over the past few months society has been breaking out, ignoring the rules and exploring new ideas of identity and community. As we move towards a digital existence where boundaries are pushed and the rules have yet to be defined, there is a sense of obscured reality. It is an age of no limitations.

Light has become an increasing source of inspiration for artists, designers and product developers, who are harnessing cutting-edge scientific and technological developments to produce amazing results. At Milan Design Week last year, projectors cast moving images over an architectural structure for *Neoreal: Prism Liquid*, Canon's installation in collaboration with the

video artist Takahashi Kyoto. Complex projection software also has been used to transform the look of the Sydney Opera House.

GKD's LED-embedded Mediamesh steel "fabric" was used to transform the notoriously ugly Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York with a facade of high-resolution graphics. Illuminated by impressive projections and digital media, these buildings have been given new lives as light sculptures.

This focus on digital details will likely continue as a new generation of light artists creates an innovative visual language. The fusion of design with light and technology results in a high-tech look that works across disciplines. Expect

to see light projections that look like textiles stitched into the wall, an idea brought to life by Philips's Luminous Textile system, which integrates LED modules within acoustic textile panels.

The company Meystyle is also incorporating LED technology into its wallpapers to create a strong and vibrant backdrop. And furniture designers are creating exciting pieces out of CDs: Belen Hermosa's Panda chair, Manfred Kielnhofer's Interlux chair and Kiwi & Pom's Disco chair. The designer Beau McClellan is making waves with his Nomad chandelier, now hanging at the 5th The Art of Living showroom on Sheikh Zayed Road. This piece was spellbinding both during the Lon-

don Design Festival and Dubai's Festival of Interior Design.

This column has previously highlighted the trend for glacial hues and transparent, glow effects as well as the ideas of delicacy, invisibility and barely there tints. The digital trend is marked by a dark, modern palette: cold steel, electric green, laser blue and a dynamic violet with neon pink and yellow accents. There is a maturity and an intelligent sophistication in the dark colours and dense, precise cuts of coloured light.

* Shelley Pond is the creative director of Scarlet Opus. For more information visit www.trendsblog.co.uk and www.twitter.com/scarletopus