



STYLISH SPACES

Philip Mitchell Design Inc. has become the go-to firm for classic interior decoration, unique furniture, and architectural design

The interior designer Philip Mitchell is ardent about what constitutes a successful interior. “Good design should be classic, timeless, and, most of all, comfortable,” he says. “Let’s not forget that the best spaces are for relaxation.” Whether it’s a new contemporary penthouse or a historic home restoration project, Philip’s interior design firm always enters into a close working relationship with its clients. “That’s always the key to creating elegant interiors with personality and style,” he says.

Using the client’s personal style and their project requirements as design seeds, Philip Mitchell Design Inc. takes a fresh approach to each design project, introducing clients to new ideas to expand their taste, and creating an interior that’s tailored to them. “Life is ultimately an exploration in the evolution of one’s personal style,” says Philip. “My job is to enrich that journey by contributing to it using my design experience and extending clients’ individual tastes.”

As well as decorating, Philip Mitchell Design provides architectural design services, overseeing projects from initial design concept to landscaping and even designing bespoke furniture. “I believe that my portfolio doesn’t necessarily demonstrate a certain look,” says Philip, “rather I prefer to collaborate with our clients to develop and express theirs.”

Getting to know you

The Philip Mitchell Design team specializes in curating interiors to express a client in their unique way. The importance of getting to know

the client is paramount, and Philip’s initial meeting is to determine the parameters of a project. As well as the homeowner’s personality, Philip and his team think carefully about primary function—whether the space is a private retreat or a social hub for sharing with friends and family.

“Once a client’s wish list has been assembled we can then expand into the architectural details,” he says. “We introduce the comfort element with textiles and furnishing, and help explore the client’s taste with decoration and art.”

Philip also considers a more permanent element to a property’s interior: its geography. The Philip Mitchell Design team researches the locale’s history and design aesthetic as well as the climate to provide practical suggestions appropriate to the project location.

“Often a client will have an antique piece of furniture, an heirloom carpet, or an important art collection,” says Philip. “What I love to do is curate their collections using my experience and design skills. I catalogue existing pieces, assess what’s missing, and advise on how to introduce new items to best incorporate them in their home.”

Furniture design

The bespoke nature of Philip’s work influenced the need for unlimited design, inspiring his own range of furniture. “This evolved with the interest to be able to supply something unique,” he says, “rather than rely solely on customizing other designers’ pieces.”

Each piece, contemporary or classic, is custom designed by Philip Mitchell and utilizes the finest craftspeople to make future heritage pieces. “I’m passionate about art, design, and the process of creating” says Philip. “Every ‘maker’—from furniture designer to



woodworker to painter to chef—has his or her own way of getting to that final result. Mine is an organic one; I archive photos and sketches of moments, people, or aesthetics that make me feel something.” During the design process, Philip gets to know clients and finds concepts and sketches from his vast archive that match each client’s own needs.

“It’s amazing to be able to nurture the trades, and also be able to draw something for a bespoke space and see it realized in three dimensions,” he says. “For a truly personal space, we can mix these museum-quality pieces with elements of other materials, eras, and design traditions. This results in an all-encompassing look that best reflects a client’s unique taste.”

Architecture and beyond

In addition to encouraging residential clients to broaden their tastes and knowledge, guiding them toward shifting the boundaries of their comfort zones, the boutique design firm also enjoys working on projects that present new challenges of scale and function.

“Our design is primarily residentially focused, but we’ve also worked on unique non-residential spaces, such as the office of a hedge fund manager, and the rooms of a boutique inn,” says Philip. “My firm specializes in spaces that are residential in nature, but also works on smaller-scale hospitality and corporate projects for clients that don’t compromise the collaborative design aspects and appreciate the level creativity and experience that my firm brings to the projects.”

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With its own in-house architectural service, full-scale new-build and renovation and restoration projects have now become a specialism of Philip Mitchell Design Inc. “We also collaborate with local architects and landscape designers,” says Philip. “This allows us to be involved in all aspects of the architectural design process.”

Working on projects such as Grade-I listed buildings in England, an Art Deco property in Milan, and prewar apartments in New York has also sparked Philip’s passion for restoration and historical projects. “I love it, because every day I’m learning something new,” he says. “I’m embarking on the rebuilding of a property in Chester, Nova Scotia, built around 1795, and the challenge is balancing a sympathetic restoration with the recognition that we don’t live the same way as we did 200 years ago.”

Philip Mitchell Design, which has offices in Toronto and New York, has built a global presence thanks to Philip’s reputation as a collaborator with a passion and his love for curated spaces. His interiors are full of warmth, historical references, comfort, and style, which is essentially the heart of the firm’s success.

Embracing the sophisticated, unique and sometimes eclectic needs of each client means that Philip Mitchell Design Inc. is capable of mediating between personal style and the language of design, creating interiors that truly are a space of one’s own.

www.philipmitchelldesign.com

