



9 to 5

Charu Gandhi

*Interior design studio Elicyon designed a number of key spaces in Chelsea Barracks, including the first ever show apartment. Meet the founder, Charu Gandhi*



**I SET UP ELICYON NEARLY SIX YEARS AGO.** We create exquisite interior couture, bringing a strong architectural and spatial approach, combined with a creative and tailored interior design eye. We work across a range of projects around the world, from private houses and family estates to large-scale residential developments and boutique hotels.

**KEY TRENDS** to look out for are a strong focus on wellness, working from home, champagne gold accents and eco materials. Clients travel more and experience different aesthetics, which makes the design collaboration really enjoyable. Many have come to us with images from their trips and we have woven references, materials and patterns into their project.

**CHELSEA BARRACKS** is such a landmark development and important part of the local fabric. It was a great milestone to be invited to design the lobbies, meeting rooms and spa areas plus some show apartments. The brief was to celebrate its vision, architecture and spaces.

**THE APARTMENT** features delicate military details, inspired by infantry uniforms and artillery, which we wove into the design to honour the heritage of the former barracks. Set against an ivory base, we worked with a colour palette of various shades of blue – from pale midnight to shades inspired by the Chelsea Pensioners’ navy undress uniform.

**THE LOCAL AREA** also played into our design of the residence. Blackened bronze accents add an unexpected industrial twist to the space, complemented by bespoke joinery with intricate rivet detailing inspired by the nearby Chelsea Bridge.

**OUR DESIGNS** of the communal spaces were again inspired heavily by the history of the site and its links to two key materials – chalk and clay.



We chose a neutral palette with natural and luxurious textures. The artwork and accessories have a strong reference to craft, inspired by the annual Collect show.

**MY FAMILY** all live around Chelsea, so it is very much my village and home – I have lived here for 23 years. The area south of King’s Road leading to Cheyne Walk, where I live, has such a lovely labyrinth of streets with interesting architecture and hidden restaurants.

**CHELSEA HAS ALWAYS HAD** a bohemian, artist undertone. We love visiting the various exhibitions at the Saatchi Gallery and are members

ELICYON DESIGNED SHOW APARTMENTS AT CHELSEA BARRACKS, TAKING INSPIRATION FROM ITS HISTORY – INCLUDING THE UNIFORMS OF THE CHELSEA PENSIONERS – AND LOCAL AREA

of the Chelsea Physic Garden.

**A TYPICAL WEEKEND** would entail a pop into whatever exhibition is on at the Saatchi Gallery, always with a quick browse at John Sandoe Books. I love the long-standing shops and institutions such as Green & Stone for art supplies and Andreas for groceries. A perfect day would end with a great show at the Cadogan Hall or Royal Court Theatre.

**I ALWAYS SAY** my favourite project is my next one.

