

MY ICON

DOROTHEE JUNKIN, DJDS, REVEALS HER DESIGN ICON

Dorothee Junkin is the creative force of DJDS, creating unique designs with her keen eye and intuitive sense of style. Dorothee was very early on fascinated by the idea of becoming an architect and designer. In 2003 she completed her Part 1 in Architecture in Germany before moving to New York to gain her first professional experience on commercial projects at KPF Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates. In 2004 Dorothee continued with her studies in Switzerland and finished her Part 2 in 2006 with a Master's degree of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, ETH Zurich. Shortly after, she joined acclaimed international architects Foster + Partners in London. In 2009, Dorothee formed her first design studio "Architecta Interiors", "architecta" being the Latin word for a female architect. She then worked on a number of large private residential projects in London. In 2012 Dorothee relocated to New York and continued her design work with DJDS.

WHO IS YOUR DESIGN ICON?

Coco Chanel

WHAT ARE THEY MOST FAMOUS FOR?

Coco Chanel was one of the few female design pioneers of the 20th century and to this day her legacy thrives in the house of Chanel.

HOW WAS HER WORK RECEIVED HER HEYDAY?

Coco Chanel was ahead of her time with her unusually elegant but practical and comfortable designs and went from strength to strength building a fashion and design empire. Today, Chanel is known for its sophisticated timeless designs with a contemporary edge.

WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN COCO CHANEL AS YOUR 'ICON'?

Coco Chanel has been an inspiration for many women in fashion and design over the last few decades. She was determined and uncompromising when it came to her work and confidently broke with conventions of her time: "In order to be irreplaceable one must always be different." I admire her sense of style and the willingness to take a risk by not following current trends of fashion, but creating her own. Given how much trends influence design, her bold statement "I don't do fashion, I AM fashion" is extremely refreshing.

WHICH PROJECTS FROM YOUR OWN PORTFOLIO DEMONSTRATE A NOD TO COCO CHANEL'S WORK?

I love creating new custom designs, which have not been seen before and try to not let current trends influence the design of these too much. The creation of signature pieces is a very specific process and always based on a close dialogue with the respective client considering the client's preferences and aspirations as well as the context of the property. Considering all the effort that goes into every signature piece, it should be timeless and still exude a sense of style years from now. For a recent project, a Vero Beach oceanfront residence, large custom lighting installations bring in this element of the new and unexpected. Such signature pieces create a uniqueness for every project and every client walks away with something very special.

IF YOU COULD BE REMEMBERED FOR ONE ELEMENT OF YOUR DESIGN, WHAT WOULD YOU HOPE IT WOULD BE?

My hope would be that the designs by DJDS would be looked upon favorably years from now. While we are always influenced by the context of our time, it would be wonderful, if our designs would be looked at with Coco's words in mind: "Fashion fades, but style endures."

