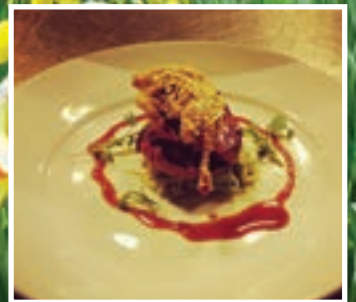


OX

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MARCH 2015



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Welcome

My son is in his final year at university and seems to have experienced an epiphany.

From being someone who has drifted in and out of love for his degree course and become expert at changing the subject whenever the future word came up, he now has a plan. In fact he seems to have a few.

What has caused this epiphany is his determination to become mindful. To seize the day and not worry that the past couple of years have been spent avoiding the fact that eventually a day will arrive when he has to make a decision.

His mother however, seems to be unable to practise the same thing.

I have spent sleepless nights worrying about whether or not I have made the right decision, how can I change it, should I change it? This decision is in fact, taking over my life.

This decision is whether or not I have made the correct choice of tiles for my bathroom.

You may laugh and wonder whether I am aware of just what is going on in the world that deserves such time and effort and that in essence a tile is just a tile and should it matter?

It is this seemingly small decision that has led me to realise just how much admiration I have for those people that are taking on major projects, and also how necessary a sound second opinion or advisor is.

The thought of building or renovating my own home is one, like many people, that excites me greatly. The thought of the decision making involved in this fills me with dread. Consequently for those of you who are looking at such projects we are lucky enough to have some amazing talent inside this issue. From architects, interior designers, garden designers who can achieve your dreams to talented craftsmen and artisans who can work alongside you and bring your dreams to life. And how amazing these people are!



And on the subject of amazing...

... our wonderful March issue is also filled with fashion ideas, the incredible CADA antiques fair taking place soon at Blenheim Palace, theatre, travel and of course lots of opportunities to utilise Oxfordshire's many and varied eateries.

Throw in new car launches and ticket giveaways and there is enough decision making material inside to keep me awake for a week!

Luckily my lesson has been learnt. I shall in future simply leave the decisions to someone else and bask in the results - or would if I could without worrying that their decision would be the wrong one!

Anyone got a number for a mindfulness course?



Jill Rayner

Also in this issue

WIN TICKETS TO ATTEND:

The National Homebuilding and Renovating Show

With a larger than ever pool of hands-on property specialists to inspire you.
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London Excel, 2 - 10 May 2015



INSPIRING DESIGNS

Allister Godfrey Architects Ltd

The old saying used to be that there is a book inside all of us. Well, these days, it also seems like everybody has an ideal home design project in mind too!



Hot from his appearance at Henley Design Day, Allister Godfrey from Allister Godfrey Architects Ltd. shares with us his passion for design and talks to us about getting your grand design project underway. The old saying used to be that there is a book inside all of us. Well, these days, it also seems like everybody has an ideal home design project in mind too! Hot from his appearance at Henley Design Day, Allister Godfrey from Allister Godfrey Architects Ltd. shares with us his passion for design and talks to us about getting your grand design project underway.

Whether you are extending, renovating or building your ideal home from scratch, a lot can depend upon your relationship with your architect. Not only are you looking for somebody with a good eye for design, you also need somebody who listens to your needs and most importantly, is passionate about buildings.

Allister Godfrey Architects LTD was established in 2005 and has worked on bespoke buildings throughout England. For Allister himself though, his passion for building design started much, much earlier. "I distinctly remember, at the age of seven, telling my mother that I wanted to be an architect." Allister told OX. "It was possibly whilst making a house out of Lego!" You know when somebody has a 'favourite building' that you are dealing with somebody who has a passion for design. And Allister

certainly travelled a long way to see the love of his architectural life! "The Johnson Wax Headquarters by Frank Lloyd Wright in Racine, USA is a building especially close to my heart. A distinct influence on my career; I visited it in 1995 with a friend from university. We had driven all day across Wisconsin and arrived just too late for the last tour of the day. After a bit of 'we've come all the way from England' and fluttering of eyelids, a very kind lady took us on a tour of the building, and we weren't disappointed!"

Although Allister is clear on what he likes in a design, he still insists that in his own work, customer satisfaction is the mark of success.

"We are proud of the majority of the projects we have worked on, but ultimately it is client satisfaction that defines our success with projects."

We have a number of clients who have returned to us over the years, and we take pride in the enduring relationships we have with them.

To be invited to dine with these clients in their new homes is a testament to that success."

When Grand Designs took to our screens in 1999, it inspired many homeowners to consider less conventional designs. For

Allister, this has seen his work take on some interesting projects with some great results. "We designed a small extension to a Listed Farmhouse in Botley about eighteen months ago. We were recommended by the Vale of White Horse District Council's Conservation Officer as a previous design by another practice was not deemed to be suitable. The site was particularly challenging as the extension was to replace a north facing conservatory.

The only direct sunlight to this area of the site was either early morning or late evening. In order to capture as much natural light as possible we designed an inverted 'butterfly' roof to catch as much light as possible. The Conservation Officer was very pleased with the result and planning and listed building consent was obtained without fuss. The working drawings are complete and we are looking forward to the build getting underway sometime soon."

But if you already have an idea for your project, is it still important to get a good architect? Allister has some good advice for those wanting to start on their own grand design. "This may seem like self-promotion, but your choice of Architect is crucial. Your Architect should be capable of listening to your needs and desires very carefully, and translating concepts into spaces that will not only delight, but meet the demands of your living patterns for yourself and your family. Needless to say you should look for Architects with design flair, be willing to listen and have a



friendly approachable manner. But ultimately your Architect should have a proven track record and the requisite experience whether it is for a modest extension or the ultimate one-off 'Grand Design'."

To find out more, visit
www.allistergodfrey.com



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Allister Godfrey Architects

01235 760 693 | info@allistergodfrey.com | www.allistergodfrey.com