

# Martin Brudnizki

THE HEAVER INTERVIEW

When it comes to giving restaurants pizzazz, Martin Brudnizki knows a thing or two.

The Swedish-born interior designer who now calls Parson's Green his home, has created the 'minimalist deluxe' interiors of some of London's favourite haunts. Dean Street Townhouse, Scott's, J Sheekey's oyster bar, The Club at the Ivy and more locally, Jamie Oliver's Recipease - not to mention a whole string of international glamour spots like Cecconi's in LA and the soon-to-open Soho House Miami - have all come to life under his magic touch. We caught up with the man of the moment at Corrigan's in Mayfair, (yes, you guessed it, yet another one of his latest projects).

**3 words that sum up the secret of your success?** 'Make it work.' To every problem, there is a solution.

**Who sparked off your love of design?** My mother. She is the chickest person I know and taught me that beauty lies in the details.

**What's your idea of design heaven?** Cecconi's in West Hollywood. Simple, chic, elegant and fun.

**And your design hell?** Quantas 1<sup>st</sup> Class.

**We've had minimalism, shabby chic, mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century modern... what's going to be the next big thing in interiors?** I don't subscribe to the "next best thing" philosophy. For me, it is about being classic as opposed to the big idea.

*Right, Martin relaxes in style at Corrigan's in Mayfair.*

JET-SETTING INTERIOR DESIGN GURU MARTIN BRUDNIZKI TALKS PRIZED POSSESSIONS, PET PEEVES AND BLISSFUL DAYS OFF IN PARSON'S GREEN.

**Fancy sharing some tricks on how to give our homes the wow-factor?** Colour is very important. There is nothing worse than an all-beige or all-grey room. Add small splashes of colour from cushions, blankets and artwork.

**What are your top three local interiors shops?** Fiona McDonald (97 Munster Road, London SW6; [www.fionamcdonald.com](http://www.fionamcdonald.com)), Gallery 25 (26 Pimlico Road, London SW1; [www.gallery25.co.uk](http://www.gallery25.co.uk)) and A&L Antiques (284 Lillie Road, London SW6; [www.aandlantiques.co.uk](http://www.aandlantiques.co.uk)).

**Who (or what) makes you go weak at the knees?** After a leg workout in the gym.

*What makes me go weak at the knees? A leg workout in the gym.*

**If you could only eat in one restaurant for the rest of your life, which one would it be?** Cote in Parson's Green. Great grub! (45-47 Parson's Green Lane, London SW6; [www.cote-restaurants.co.uk](http://www.cote-restaurants.co.uk))

**You can magically invite the world's most exciting people to your dinner party... who would be on your wishlist?** I would only want to invite my friends.

**What's your party trick?** Leaving well before you are the most famous person in the room.

**What's your perfectly blissful way to spend 24hrs in SW London?** Saturday lunch with a dear friend at The Pig's Ear in Chelsea (35 Old Church St, SW3; [www.thepigsear.info](http://www.thepigsear.info)), followed by some shopping, a film and a drink in the garden.

**Who's your local hero?** Suzanne Trocme, my godson's mother. The ultimate heroine! Anyone who can juggle four children and a successful career is heroic.

**What's your guiltiest pleasure?** The E! Channel. It is a divine way to turn off from a hard day's work.

**What's your pet peeve?** Interiors that are over-worked and over-designed.

**If you weren't an interior designer, what would you be?** Happy!

**What cultural highlights are you looking forward to this summer?** Soho House organizes a great outdoor event called House Festival. ([www.sohohouse.com](http://www.sohohouse.com))

**What's your most prized possession?** I collect work by the artist Andrew Norrey. He is a fantastic artist who designs beautiful abstract creations. (Andrew Norrey Studio, Tel: 020 7598 0234)

**Which outstanding interior do you wish you'd designed?** I like the work of Carlo Scarpa.

**What's your most frequently occurring thought?** Oj vey!

**If you could be a fly on the wall, who would you spy on?** No one. I am not a nosy parker.

**In a nutshell, what's your life philosophy?** Keep it simple. Life is what it is.

**And finally, what's south-west London's best kept secret?** For the freshest produce and vegetables, Elizabeth King delicatessen on New King's Road is my favourite spot. ([www.elizabethking.com](http://www.elizabethking.com))

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PHOTOGRAPH BY SUZANNE MITCHELL

