

WestSide

April 2011
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Bush Hall

W12's *other* music venue celebrates a decade of welcoming stars onto its stage

On her bike

Hammersmith-based interior designer and intrepid adventurer Suzi Searle

TOBY YOUNG

Talks Acton, education and his new West London Free School

Sweet tooth

A peek behind the scenes at the Prestat factory in Park Royal

ALSO THIS MONTH

LOCAL LIFE

Out and about in west London

HEALTH & BEAUTY

Tracey Malone, founder of Lubatti

FASHION

New columnist Henry Conway





Projects that Suzi has worked on



<<<< “Yes, definitely and fabric and wall coverings company Sanderson recently launched a bold collection inspired by their prints of the 1950s. In days gone by, many rooms were pattern overkill but today, it’s great to have bold accents of colour among the more simple shades of taupe and grey.”

When she’s on the hunt for a new statement piece of furniture, Suzi heads to Chiswick’s Old Cinema antiques centre where you can find “all manner of styles”, and since taking on her first client in 1992, has built up a hefty contacts book, always able to find the right person for the right job.

“I have ‘pet people’ that I work with: builders; electricians and those with other specialist skills, and know that though they might not be the cheapest, they will be the best. I always make sure the job finishes on time, and above all, on budget.”

And if you’re thinking of selling your house, where, would Suzi say, was the best place to start?

“Estate agents all agree that improving your kitchen and bathroom



will really help to sell your home and can create the wow factor. When a potential buyer walks in and sees a new kitchen with fantastic appliances or a beautiful bathroom, it can really make them think they’d like to live there. This is especially true if all the other rooms are empty.”

But while an empty room may fill some of us with dread, for Suzi, it’s just the opportunity to start afresh and turn your house into something you can really live in, not just inhabit.

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SLEEP WELL...

Bedroom blues? Follow Suzi’s tips to liven up your sleeping quarters

- Treat yourself to some new bed linen in the sales – an easy way to a simple facelift
- Lighting can improve any room – why not use a lamp to highlight a structural feature you particularly like?
- De-clutter – Look around you and ask yourself ‘why do I have this?’ If you don’t know, sell it on eBay or recycle it