

ESSENTIAL DESIGNER INTERVIEW



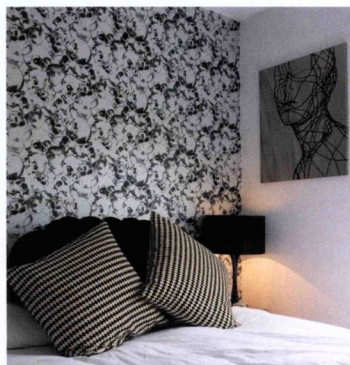
MEG MATHEWS

This rock star muse and designer to the A-list shares her glistening success story.



Above The Ligne Roset Toga sofa and the Jamie Reid God Save the Queen pictures have followed Meg all over the world.

Right The S&M wallpaper range will be launched around Easter. Think Ralph Lauren or Hermes with a rock 'n' roll edge! The skulls print is popular with all of Meg's celebrity pals.



PHOTOS GRAHAM JEPSON

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Meg Mathews is an interior decorator and wallpaper designer, also known as the first wife of Oasis's Noel Gallagher, with whom she has a ten-year-old daughter, Anais.

After tackling the interiors of a series of homes she shared with Gallagher, including Supernova Heights, she started advising her celebrity friends including Kate Moss and Victoria Beckham and launched a wallpaper range, now on sale in Liberty. She also sells made-to-order furniture, upholsters old pieces of furniture using her distinctively rock 'n' roll prints and has a range of scarves.

Born in Guernsey, her father is a carpenter from Liverpool; her mother worked for the National Coal Board in London before the family moved to South Africa.

Meg had a brief spell at art college before hitch-hiking to London and meeting Gallagher just as Definitely Maybe, Oasis's debut album, was turning them into huge stars.

Did you study interior design?

I always wanted to be a window dresser and that's what I do now I suppose: dress rooms. I know nothing about supporting walls but I have a good eye. When I started making wallpaper and walked back into the factory, I felt at home immediately; the guys there were blown away by my understanding of how it worked.

Did you design all your homes?

Yes: Supernova Heights; Ibiza, which was all Ralph Lauren Santa Fe and the big house in Regents Park, which was very opulent.

What do you attribute to your bright and sunny style?

I lived on a wine farm in Stellenbosch until I was 13 and travelled to Namibia, Angola and Botswana, soaking up the light and the amazing scenery.

What was your house like in South Africa?

It was a simple worker's cottage with a corrugated iron roof. We rented the cheapest property on the farm. It was very difficult going

on to a posh school in Oxfordshire, where everyone had a trust fund. Luckily, I was very good at sports and was games captain every year!

How did you get started?

Victoria Beckham called me up after seeing my Regents Park house in a magazine. She wanted me to help her with her place. After that I called myself 'Wonderwall', after the song Noel had written for me. Within four months I was selling my designs in Liberty in London!

Tell us about your house?

It's 1960s minimal, open-plan, I bought it because I wanted that loft atmosphere. I call it the pop box because it is pink and fun. I wanted it all white at first; but it didn't last long with dogs and kids!

What's your kitchen like?

I want to knock it through to make one huge room on the ground floor. I want a sleek white design which can be hidden away, the Miami Palm leaf wallpaper will be up in no time.

And the bathroom?

It has limestone floors with lots of bottles of perfume and jewellery and lace hanging around. Anais has leopard-skin towels!

Is your bedroom a no-go zone?

Quite the opposite. On Friday nights we have a munchie movie night where we all climb into the bed together. My peach and silver snakeskin wallpaper is over the ceiling, walls and back of the door and I have lots of mirrored furniture including the Harrods hulster walk-in wardrobe.

Who else are you working with?

I've done stuff with Kate Moss and recently Mylene Klass, who had the liberty skulls. Davina McCall had the pineapples. Russell Brand and Katy Perry and Tyler from Aerosmith have the look book at the moment. My clients have left me to it though. I don't know what I would do if a client had a specific request for a Parisian 1932 lamp!

INTERVIEW SUSAN ROZSNYAI

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