



An innovative approach to interiors

Chris Bicknell of Bicknell Interiors in conversation with Gill Perkins

Entrepreneur Richard Branson once said: "A business has to be involving, it has to be fun, and it has to exercise your creative instincts." He could easily have been talking about Bicknell Interiors, a business that works hard for clients, loves the buzz of interior design and is always looking for new ways to do things.

With more than 25 years of experience in the property business, Chris & Barbara Bicknell have been running the business since 2003 and have put together a creative, professional team that offers a different perspective on the business of extending, renovating and decorating homes.

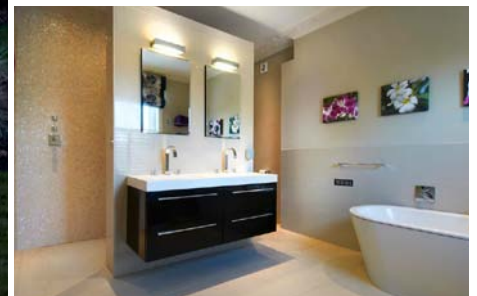
"We discovered that there were very few companies offering both architectural and interior design services, even though these go hand-in-hand so well. We developed these skills and discovered that clients were really enthusiastic about working with a business that could offer a full solution – from full architectural drawings and help with planning permissions to the final selection of furniture and fabrics," says Chris Bicknell.

The business has enjoyed much success in

the private client residential sector, working on anything from garden room extensions to full property renovations. "We love the variety of work," says Nicola Humphrey, RIBA Architect. "Clients come to us with dreams and we help to make them a reality – every project is incredibly satisfying because we've worked hard to get all the details right, making a house into a home." Now, the company has diversified further by launching the Bicknell Collection, a hand-picked selection of individual pieces including furniture, soft furnishings and



lighting. "We wanted to cater for those people who were looking for one or two design pieces in their home rather than a complete make-over," says Andrea Palmer, Senior Interior Designer. "The Bicknell Collection includes pieces from well-known names such as the Designers Guild, Andrew Martin and Sahco, and we have a dedicated



website for homeowners to browse." But, in true entrepreneur style, Bicknell Interiors isn't standing still. "We are introducing a property pre-purchase service," says Chris. "We have already worked with several homebuyers who want to make sure their plans and budget for extension or re-building are achievable before they make an offer on a property. We give them a full design advice service so that they can be confident of creating the home they want."

One of the most innovative residential design companies around, it's worth keeping an eye on Bicknell Interiors to see what their next move will be. ■

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