



CHARLOTTE FINDLATER

Charlotte Findlater

BUSINESS: Founder, Charlotte Findlater Design

WEBSITE: charlottefindlater.co.uk

Q What was the inspiration for setting up your business?

A I've always thought that design can have equal importance to that of architecture. Traditionally, things can be very dogmatic – you do the architecture, someone else does the interiors, someone else does the furniture, the fabric, the landscaping etc. But I believe design is all-encompassing. This was the inspiration for the business, our turnkey design approach enables clients to have a single point of contact throughout their project, from initial concept through to completion and handover. My ethos sits at the core of the business, schemes are high-end, bespoke and focused on craftsmanship.

Pure and raw materials are used to create luxurious, natural, and sustainable

Marking *International Women's Day*, we meet some of Cheshire's most innovative female business leaders

spaces that boost wellbeing. Historically architecture and interiors may have been clearly separated as services, with interiors being the 'decoration' of a project, but throughout my career I have always embraced the overlap over where these two meet, and this was the catalyst for Charlotte Findlater Design.

Q What is your dream project?

A My ultimate goal is to develop a small collection of stunning luxury houses, all with renewable infrastructure and ideally off grid. These homes would challenge the status quo, all be crafted from natural materials entirely sourced from the UK. I would love to have the opportunity to design a true wellness retreat, either in the UK or abroad. I dream of the day when we've truly accomplished a 100-percent circular and carbon-negative project through design excellence.

Q What inspires you?

A Something different every day. It can go from people that are close to me to new people I encounter and their stories. Travel memories are something I always go back to for inspiration. The sights, food, art, and music that you get exposed to when travelling build up as a continuous reference library.

Q What advice would you give to your younger self as you embarked on your career?

A Slow down, find balance, and really appreciate where you are and be present in that moment and

opportunity. Dream big and go for it. Don't be afraid of failure – out of failure comes learning and resilience. Those two things have really helped me to become a stronger person and leader.

Q How do you switch off?

A Family time is a big one for me. I love being out in nature, breathing in the fresh air, listening to the sounds of nature and going on long walks in the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales with our dog. Running and meditation are also really important parts of my life that help me unwind.

Q What comes next?

A As luxury architectural interior designers, we are proud to be encouraging those we work and collaborate with to share their sustainability goals. In addition to ensuring clarity and purpose in their supply chain, we are looking to partner with a number of charities to ensure that any unwanted items from a project can be re-purposed and re-used before being considered for recycling. We are also on our B-Corp journey. B-Corp Certification is a designation that a business is meeting high standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency on factors from employee benefits and charitable giving to supply chain practices and input materials.

I believe in the power for businesses to be a force for good and that we the leaders of our businesses have the ability and responsibility to balance the needs of people, planet and profit.