

• The INTERVIEW •

KATJA SCHUSTER

Katja Schuster was born in the beautiful north of Germany. On leaving school she decided to study for an Interior Design degree at “*FH Heiligendamm*”.

Katja's love of Berlin developed while working at Metropolis Architects during her studies. She has made Berlin her home since 1999. After working for *Dr. Wendisch* (at that time the President of the Berlin Association for architecture), Katja started her longest and most formative work experience period as Interior Designer for Anne Maria Jagdfeld.

She worked on projects such as Grand Hotel Heiligendamm and Adlon Day Spa Berlin. For projects like Restaurant Tim Raue Adlon and the Adlon presidential suite she led with her team the interior design and planning process, from initial concept to end-result. Katja's work at Bruzkus Batek architects completed and consolidated her knowledge of hotel design.

In 2013 she decided to create her own company for residential and commercial projects. Today she lives in Berlin with her husband and son.

TAKING DESIGN ONE STEP AT A TIME

KJUBIK was established in 2013 in Berlin, as a company for residential and commercial interior design. KJUBIK creates timeless interiors, strongly focussing on functionality, yet taking into account individual notes and references relating to the specific project location. Paying close attention to details, KJUBIK has a great understanding of aesthetics and a strong feeling for colour. With many years of professional experience in various fields of interior design, regardless of the client's preferred style, KJUBIK offers a wide range of consulting and planning options. Dolce Vita Diamond presents to you an interview with founder and creator of KJUBIK, Katja Schuster.

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KJUBIK WAS FOUNDED IN 2013. WHERE DID THE INSPIRATION COME FROM WHEN YOU CREATED YOUR OWN COMPANY?

• Until 2013, I had worked for 14 years in a number of different design firms. Having gained so much experience in many different projects, I felt ready to embark on my own endeavours.

WHAT DOES KJUBIK MEAN?

• KJUBIK is a play on words - a mixture of cubic (measurement) and cube. I also wanted to make it personal and to link it with my name. Had I realized how often I would have to spell “KJUBIK” on the phone, my decision might have been different.

However, now that KJUBIK is established as a proper name, I'm very happy with it.

YOU LIVE IN BERLIN, A CITY FULL OF HISTORICAL MEMORIES. HOW DO YOU THINK IT CAN HELP YOU FOR YOUR INSPIRATION?

• Berlin offers the opportunity to take a look at so many different, significant buildings. It is possible to get inspiration from several historical periods and an amazing variety of interior styles just by looking at one place. Let me give you an interesting example: to develop the design for the plastering for the presidential suite in the *Adlon Hotel*, I took inspiration from the *Museum of Communication*, which has a huge amount of detail in its plastering design.

YOU GRADUATED IN INTERIOR DESIGN AT THE FH HEILIGENDAMM, AND AFTER THAT, WORKED IN A LOT OF COMPANIES. WHEN DID YOU DECIDE THAT YOU WANTED TO CREATE YOUR OWN COMPANY?

• In 2013 there was a turning point in my life, and I felt that something had to change. I always say “*life is change*”, so there were only a few weeks between making my decision and actually starting my own business.

WHAT ARE YOUR BIGGEST STRENGTHS?

• I like to get to know my clients personally before working together. It is so important to get an idea of how people think and their way of living. Above all, I create interiors for my clients and not for me. At the heart of my work is my desire to

create timeless design so I can react to trends, clients' wishes and special requirements. It is really important for me to create a design which will last for a very long time.

WHAT TYPE OF MATERIAL DO YOU PREFER TO USE?

• Oh, that really depends on the project. I love all pure materials, for example, combining pure silk, velvet and cotton in a classic apartment, but using pure linen and real wool in a cosy alpine hut. By focussing on the type of project and the function of the space the materials follow you, not the other way round.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE PART OF THE INTERIOR DESIGN PROCESS?

• It's definitely the very first installation. You see sometimes there are so many months between coming up with the idea with all drafts on paper, and then the real start of things coming together. When I see the first completed element of my design, that is a really great moment.

WHAT ARE YOU CURRENTLY WORKING ON AND, HOW CAN PEOPLE INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE WORKS?

• I am currently working on various residential projects. I have a wide range of projects, from single rooms to villas with five floors. Along with these projects, KJUBIK also successfully completed interior designs for a dental practice. The work should be finished at the end of the year and expectations are high. If I had a wish for the future, it would be to create an interior for a hotel or a restaurant. It would be such a great experience.

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE INVEST IN ART? AND WHY IS ART AND SCULPTING SUCH A GOOD INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY?

• At the end of every project it is so important to bring a personal note. Not only through the room design and furnishings, but also by choosing the right accessories, sculptures, paintings and photographs. As well as giving the project a uniqueness, art never depreciates.

ARE THERE SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS TO EXECUTE AN ENQUIRY - MAYBE A MINIMUM DIMENSION?

• An enquiry doesn't

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depends on size. Clients can ask for a colour concept, a special unit for their flat, the complete interior design for a single room or even designs for the whole house. KJUBIK is a dependable partner for projects of all shapes and sizes.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF KJUBIK?

• When a client is involved in interior design with K, they are tapping into many years of expertise. We offer creativity and attention to detail, including the incorporation of any highly specialised specifications requested. Our skilled craftsmen love their work and aim to thoroughly fulfil any brief with professionalism and enthusiasm. Visit our website to be inspired by KJUBIK.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.KJUBIK.COM