

# interior designer

BRITAIN'S OLDEST MAGAZINE FOR PROFESSIONAL INTERIOR DESIGNERS

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# ASK THE DESIGNER

HOW HAS TECHNOLOGY ALLOWED YOU TO CONTINUE WORKING, CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE WITHIN YOUR STUDIO FOR THE FUTURE?



**DAVID HOLT**  
Founder, 74

Keeping a handle on who was doing what during the pandemic was vital to the smooth running of the studio. 'Microsoft To Do' turned out to be our perfect reporting mechanism, with the team filling out all actions daily. We also kicked off each morning with a full-team Zoom, quickly developing a way to mimic studio project critiques with a 'review folder' on each scheme, where everyone posted comments for debate. This ended up being so successful, with people knowing more than ever before about other live projects, that we've kept it going. Ironic but true that our communications actually evolved during the pandemic!

**www.weare74.com**  
**T: @weare\_74**  
**I: @we\_are\_74**



**GURVINDER KHURANA**  
Director, align

Only a few years ago, the pandemic would have been much more devastating in its effect on businesses. Creative agencies in particular need visual collaboration to work effectively and the easy communications enabled by software such as Teams and Zoom during this period have been crucial. The increasing sophistication of cloud storage has also been brilliant. Systems that were once clunky are now much more mainstream and accessible – particularly Box and Slack. The greatest positive change tech has brought about has been increased flexibility in time and location management, which has particularly encouraged women's career progress, platforms and opportunities.

**www.aligngb.com**  
**T: @aligngb**  
**I: @align\_interior\_architecture**



**BARRY MILLAR**  
Founding Director, Verve Concepts

Technology in construction has been historically under-utilised and the past 18 months has really focused our management teams on working better remotely to continue works on site. We have developed in-house systems to collaborate better with design teams and clients whilst working on site, so that jobs run a lot smoother without as many on-site meetings, project teams can be better informed around the ongoing works and intricate details that need to be signed off. With the majority of our works in prime London areas, our staff have the ability to work remotely without losing the grasp of projects. This has given them a positive change in working environment and reduced travel time, meaning our productivity and efficiency as a company has been improved. Tech has also had a huge impact on our sustainability strategy; we have significantly reduced paper, as all our drawings are managed through our system online and handover documents produced via USB sticks.

**www.verveconcepts.co.uk**  
**I: @verve.concepts**



**SAMUEL PYE**  
Creative Manager, Echlin

Whilst the arrival of the pandemic confined me to working from my home, I have come out the other side feeling more connected to what is happening globally than ever before. We are all so busy professionally or personally that the global drive to move things virtual has meant I feel I can experience design and events in Copenhagen, New York, Milan or Melbourne just as easily as I can in London where I can't attend or see everything I would like to. Our clients are international so we have always had to occasionally work virtually but this feels normal rather than a hurdle as it might have done before.

**www.echlinlondon.com**  
**I: @echlin\_studio**  
*Photo by Annick Wolfers*