

ASK THE DESIGNER

How do you source architectural ironmongery pieces that will stand the test of time and offer stylish finishes to your projects?



EMILY DAVIES
Designer, John Evans
Interior Architecture
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Ironmongery can vary from project to project depending on whether it is a commercial project or a residential project. When selecting ironmongery consider the architecture of the property and the overall design. Once you have an idea on the style, whether this is traditional or more contemporary, you can then start to source items. Requesting samples or going to a showroom can be a very useful tool, this allows you to determine and hone down the selection process.

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ALIX LAWSON
Founder, Alix Lawson

When it comes to sourcing ironmongery we tend to shy away from the finishes that seem to be in 'fashion' because those will date quite quickly. Our studio's mantra is that there is beauty in simplicity and we are focused on creating timeless interiors. We also design ironmongery for projects, so that it can marry the sometimes conflicting ideas of attention to detail and simplicity. What's essential in ironmongery, particularly door handles is for them to feel heavy, so that you can feel the quality craftsmanship as opposed to that mass produced feeling. We prefer darker finishes, like darker metals and bronzes because they are more timeless and they show less wear and tear like finger smudges over time that can diminish the effect of the ironmongery.

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MARIE-VERONIQUE SWANNELL

Founder, Haute Deco

There are two key aspects to consider when selecting architectural ironmongery that will stand the test of time. Firstly, my advice is to choose door handles that reflect your chosen style, your client's personality and personal history. For me, this would mean opting for what I would define as relaxed elegance with a dash of understated glamour. Secondly, to outlast fashions, authenticity of design is key. Look out for handles with a contemporary-classic feel to achieve a fresh look that will not date. The other key component to ageing well is quality of craftsmanship and using the very best materials. And finally consider the sense of touch so that using your handles remains a pleasurable experience day after day.

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ROSELIND WILSON
Owner and Creative Director,
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As interior designers, we always consider the architecture of a property when developing a design scheme. This is particularly important as internal architectural features such as corning, fireplaces, doors and stairs play a significant role in effectively implementing a cohesive scheme. For instance, in a more classic setting, the consideration may be to marry the architectural ironmongery with the architectural style and in a more contemporary setting the architectural ironmongery may contrast with the style. Personally, I tend to opt for either bronze or antique brass finishes and in some cases, we specify products that allow the patination to wear over time to create a more lived-in and timeless look.

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