

IN MY WORDS

MY INSPIRATION

Alix Lawson commends Tadao Ando as her greatest interior and architectural influence on her work and her newly founded studio

founded the Alix Lawson studio in the summer of last year after 15 years of running an award winning interior design studio. Our small studio of five is already working globally and in prime central London, delivering family homes to private clients, some commercial work and larger scale projects with developers. As a studio Alix Lawson represents contemporary minimalism, a blend of Scandinavian, Australian and Japanese design styles striving to bring tranquility and intelligent design into homes. Our design aesthetic is a move away from the noise of traditional 'luxury' and opulence and a reroute towards conscious minimalism.

Arguably the bastion of this movement is Tadao Ando, my greatest interior and architectural influence. The way Ando plays with light and simplicity has been hugely influential in my career and creative development. Ando brings nature into his work in such a seamless way, the 'outside-in' element resonates with me as a reminder of home in Australia, where using interiors and architecture to frame nature is so prevalent. Ando's Casa Wabi on the Mexican coast does exactly this, his graceful simplicity is the considered minimalist approach I bring to my work and his ability to bring an intense sense of calm to his design is something I strive to emulate.

More recently Ando completed a striking penthouse apartment in Manhattan that showcased how artistic minimalism is not exclusive to large-scale commercial projects but has a place in smaller residential settings, bringing with it great serenity to a living space. The penthouse features eucalyptus wood cabinetry and a stunning spiral staircase, it is these considered design choices, focusing on materials and the emotional impact of interiors that Ando does so well and that is at the core of my studio's purpose. We designed a private residential property in St. Johns Wood in London that reflects Ando's meticulous attention to materials. We are particularly passionate about the cinema room which really subverts expectations with a rejection of the dark aesthetic typically seen in cinema rooms, we are creating super light and contemporary interior using raw materials such as timber. This 'escape the noise' design mantra is at the core of several of our residential projects in London. These projects and Ando's aesthetic demonstrate what Alix Lawson strives for as a studio, innovative and intelligent design that is intricate in its simplicity.

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