



Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari

24 hours

with **NILOUFAR BAKHTIAR-BAKHTIARI**

The Persian/Swiss interior designer Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari allows Harper's Bazaar Interiors a glimpse into her daily London life, juggling the school run with her design projects

7:00 A.M. The first thing I do when I open my eyes is to say a little “thank you” to life and remind myself that this bright new day can bring something unexpected and is a chance for me to do good. It usually works, except when we are all late waking up and running around the breakfast table shouting to each other “did someone take the dog out?!” It takes me literally 10 mins to get ready in the morning; a quick shower then I dress in clothes prepared the day before, an old boarding school habit. My style is feminine but laid back. I am afraid I do not do trainers, too old and too short. I love coats and in London we get to wear them a lot. My favourite coat is a bright pop pink. Underneath I usually use darker tones, I don't like frilly things. Breakfast is tea, banana or avocado and a fresh juice. I live with my two children, Alexandre, 17, and Maxine, 12, in Chelsea, London. Home is on a quiet street, we hear birds chirping. It's my nest. It is a bit more colourful than my projects, but does reflect my style pretty well. There are some things that are very personal, for instance there are no mirrors in my bathroom, clients would not like that! **8:00A.M.** The studio is not far from home so it's a nice easy commute, I get an Uber there as I do not drive. I love arriving early at the office as I am alone for the first hour. I put the music on very loud, chill and get the marching orders for the day ready, with a coffee and a cigarette! Right now we are very near completion of a project here in London so it's a bit hectic as usual just before a delivery. It is a very exciting and enjoyable time as we get to see the project come to life with the finishing touches. We are three full time and very close, my team is like family to me. The dynamics change depending which project we have as a priority for a given day. I love working with music, if someone can't work with music then it's not going to work with us! A typical day starts at the office and then it depends on job site visits and meetings. I am also involved in arts so I do have meetings or studio or gallery visits. **1:00 P.M.** I rarely take the time to lunch, but when I can I love either visiting galleries or catching up with my friends. I love the South Kensington Club as it is a very chilled atmosphere and has healthy food. Also Daphne's in Chelsea is a favourite since I was child. The thing I love most about my job is the interaction with clients, getting to interpret who they are, making them a nest. I also love my builders and of course the joy of seeing a vision come real is always a blast for me. I studied law so quite different and learned my job by doing it. My design style is a classic base with a funky twist. ▶



The sitting room of Niloufar's peaceful home in Chelsea, London



Niloufar at her holiday home on the Greek island of Patmos

“THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT MY JOB IS THE INTERACTION WITH CLIENTS, GETTING TO INTERPRET WHO THEY ARE”

Niloufar Bakhtiar-Bakhtiari

I love working with colours, mixing classic and contemporary.

For furniture I like Ochre and Ascete, and also I love to source from Niloufar Gallery in Milan, they have an amazing collection. I'm an art addict and collect a lot of Persian contemporary, mainly on a 'coup de foudre' basis. I usually like meeting the artists and my collection is based on the heart. **4:00 P.M.** I try to leave work early so I can a bit of me time before the kids come home, to shower, change and read the news or a book, and get into 'mum mode'. **6:00 P.M.**

I have a very early dinner with the children, a ritual. We catch up, laugh and talk about what is going on in our world. We love watching old movies or TV series together, or playing cards. I haven't cooked in a while to be honest, I am very lucky to have help. We try have our veggies and fish but we also order last minute sushi or burgers. I entertain a lot, either organised or last minute, sometimes a dinner should be with eight friends and we end up being 20! I also love going to the theatre or I unwind with a walk in the park with my lovely dog or by reading a good book.

10:00 P.M. I try to go to bed early. My son sometimes goes to bed later than me and I love it when he comes to kiss me goodnight. It's the other way round as it has been for so many years. On my bedside table is an old Cartier alarm clock that belonged to my father. It is stopped, but I won't have it repaired as I love the fact that my bed is out of time. The last thing I do before turning out the light is remember that I am very lucky and that tomorrow will be a great day, a chance to start fresh. I used to be scared of the unknown but with age now I love it. And I actually think I have been old for too long, time to be young. ■



Niloufar in Patmos



The mirrorless bathroom of Niloufar's Chelsea home.