



## INTERIOR DESIGN

### **There is an on going debate over what it takes to transform a building into a 'home'.**

To some, the definition of 'home' is the provision of containment and shelter, for others its less tangible; a sense of familiarity acquired through years of experience and emotion.

To Hillcrest, 'home' is all of these things but, fundamentally, it's a place that facilitates living. It should intuitively respond to the needs of its occupants.

To advise on ergonomics and prepare for future interior trends, Hillcrest consulted Chris Horwell and his team at Interiors Knutsford, design experts with over forty years experience.

Chris influenced the design of the kitchen, bedrooms, 'statement' staircase, the size and style of the windows and fireplaces, interior lighting scheme and a dozen other tiny yet highly significant details that determine whether someone will love the home or be irritated by it.

"The way we live within our homes has evolved; a single space no longer serves one function, but many.

"The kitchen, for example, remains a place for nourishment but that nourishment is also acquired through social interaction, creativity, relaxation and enterprise. By mentally placing ourselves inside the property and anticipating how its occupants will use it we can establish the details that you only notice if we fail to do our job properly.

"We've anticipated your preferred route of passage between fridge, oven and sink, the view you expect to see when pouring coffee and the place you will instinctively reach to turn out a light. This cultivates a reassuring sense of familiarity between you and the property immediately making you feel 'at home'."

In ergonomics 'flow' is crucial. The layout of internal accommodation creates a feeling of being 'carried' around the property and Chris has enhanced this through clever design.

"Flow begins on arrival. Sleepy Hollow's oversized front door creates a sense of ceremony – for guests it's the ceremony of arrival, for family it's the ceremony of coming home.

"By predicting what people will require from a space, we can influence its structure and layout to best serve them"

"To invite people into this space, we used an oversized floor tile with a pale textured finish that recalls the external render. The tile runs the length of the hall guiding you in and emphasising the vastness of the space."

The focal point of the hall is the staircase. Its lower steps announce themselves to visitors before continuing around the corner. To safeguard the simplicity of the entrance hall and galleried landing, Chris recommended an engineered solution over a conventional staircase design.

"The staircase gives the impression of a floating walkway and the addition of a glass balustrade helps to retain the purity of the design and to conduct light around the space."

Another key aspect influenced by Chris was the lighting scheme. By understanding how people will use certain areas he was able to advise on the requirement of mood, task or full lighting provision. His knowledge of future interior trends also influenced the installation of state-of-the-art fittings and LED lighting sequences, ensuring they will endure fad, fashion and frequent use.

Chris Horwell  
Interiors Knutsford

