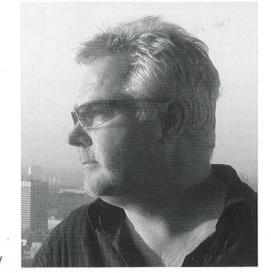
perspectives



Ken Mackay

Position

Senior partner, Mackay + Partners, London

Education

BA Arch, MA RCA, RIBA, FCSD

Notable projects

Nairobi 4 Star Hotel, Kenya (to be completed 2009); Trafalgar Hilton, Trafalgar Square hotel, London; CBS News Headquarters, Chiswick Park, London; Deloitte Consulting, Shoe Lane, London; M&C Saatchi, Golden Square Soho, London; Mandarina Duck, Conduit Street, London; Muji UK.

What do you consider to be your greatest professional achievement?

The Merck-Serono headquarters in Geneva (see "Heart of Glass," p. 172). This project brings together several stands of our work in corporate interiors, leisure/hospitality, branding, and product design.

What is the most fulfilling part of your job?

New challenges, briefs, and handing over a well-finished project that the client is proud of.

What is the best thing you've learned in the past 10 years?

Optimism. You have to keep away from trends. Interior design is not about this year's color or material.

What are the biggest challenges facing designers today?

Changing legislation and global differences/standards. It is no longer good enough to design as you do a home; you have to adopt and understand the local context and expectations.

What advice would you give to A&D students or those just starting out in the field?

Research, read and understand the market and visit international key projects.

What advice would you give to clients on how to create a successful project?

Work with your design team from day one and beyond the end of the job to jointly develop an evolving brief.

How do you foresee the future of design changing?

Green issues are very important—the design industry is just starting to take these on board seriously. As a profession, we need to look a more effective ways of prefabrication and quality install. Buildings should have the same quality as high-end cars, airplanes, or boats. We need to develop better ways of delivering a more quality end product. Design will become much more global.