



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 strands 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 at 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.