

Christy Mainingot

...by custom design

By Carol Quash

Christy Mainingot admits to lacking confidence in social settings, but when it comes to work she is the epitome of self-confidence. The 27-year-old interior designer has a natural flair for art and over the years has garnered a wealth theoretical and practical experience in residential and commercial interior design.

"I've always been drawn to art and craft. From childhood I was constantly doing things with my hands. I always had a pair of scissors, cutting and making stuff." It was a passion that eventually transitioned into a formal education and CMID, her design company.

Christy holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in Interior Design from the International Academy of Design and Technology, in Florida, and a Master of Design Studies with a concentration in Sustainable Design from Boston Architectural College. She is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Accredited Professional (LEED AP) with speciality in Interior Design and Construction, as well as an associate member of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).

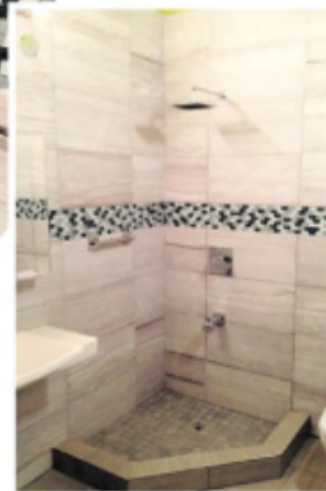
"Interior designing is different from interior decorating," she establishes at the start of her interview with Business Day. "You need a degree to be an interior designer. It is one step away from Architecture." And although she is qualified in her field, she is well aware that she has to keep on learning in order to stay on top of her game. "My speciality is in Interior Design and Construction, which means I always have to know what is going on in the industry. Styles and colours are constantly changing so I have to keep up with the trends."



On the road to interior designing she may have taken a detour or two along the way. "I studied Art at secondary school and after that I began studying Business at Roytec. I didn't like it. I did some research and decided I wanted to go to Florida to study, so I did a full presentation for my parents to convince them to let me go." They were a bit skeptical but supported her dream.

Among the services CMID provides are comprehensive interior design services; space planning, floor plans and CAD drawings; 2D and 3D renderings; furniture, décor and finish selections; bath and kitchen design; custom furniture design; window treatment design and pre-construction consulting.

"I am qualified to do full gut and retrofit. I can deal with electrical and plumbing plans, but I don't



touch anything that has to do with structure. For that I always bring in an engineer. The pretty things (interior decorating) comes at the end of the project."

Christy says her work is always centred on what the client wants. "Every clients is different. Some may want to be totally involved, others may leave it up to me. But the goal is always to create designs that are reflective of the unique personality and lifestyle of the client. My selection of fixtures, furnishings and equipment for any

project centres around the client." All projects always start with a meeting with her client, during which the scope of work is established. "We determine exactly what they want and then I will do a preliminary draft and present it to the client." Once the client approves they come up with an estimated budget. "I then bring

in my crew, we do a technical review and analysis. Then I present a final budget to the client and once they sign off on it work begins."

She highlights that project management is a huge part of her profession. "I have to stay on budget, I have to deal with people with all different types of personalities. I have to get the job done within a time frame so I have to be on top of things. Personally I like to be on the job site a few days per week to ensure that things are running smoothly, especially when there are major installations going on. Simultaneously I am shopping for furniture etc. I import most of the things; other things I have them custom made."

And as it regards the quality of the workmanship, Christy is just as meticulous. "When it comes to people's money I am very serious. For example, if a tile isn't laid

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No room for error

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straight I will let the workmen take it up and fix it. Just like I like value for my money, I ensure that my clients get the same. Everything I do comes back to project management. There is no room for error."

But her knack for detail and creativity is not limited to interior designing. Christy also does event planning and co-ordinating. "I do weddings, birthdays parties etc. When it comes to weddings, though, I choose which ones I take on. Brides can be extremely difficult," she chuckles. And as a mas lover who customises her own costumes, could there be a new Monday Wear line or a section in a mas band on the horizon?

I guess we will have to wait and see.