

## CREATIVE SPACES

# Jacqui Poncelet

Explore the live-work space of a London artist with a passion for colour and pattern, layered to stunning effect across walls, floors and furniture



**Above** Pictured here in her Peckham home/studio, Jacqui Poncelet is seen as one of the most innovative ceramicists to come out of the Royal College of Art in the Seventies. Time spent in the US and Denmark widened the scope of her work, some of which is on view in London's V&A Museum

**W**hen you walk through the non-descript door of Jacqui Poncelet's Victorian terraced house in Peckham, London, you're immediately transported into another world – a magical riot of pattern, colour-clash and craft. Acclaimed for her sculptural, avant-garde ceramics, Jacqui sees herself as more of a fine artist, and is currently designing intricately cut rubber screens (pictured right). She briefed architect Ken Taylor of local practice Quay2c to come up with a space in which she could both live and work, inspired by seeing his own home/studio. High ceilings and lots of light were vital – hence the unusually tall, open space which greets you on entry, and which functions as a studio and dining room. Jacqui's favourite design details are the wonderful skylight that catches the last of the evening sun, and the expansive sliding glass doors which lead into a wild and wonderful garden.

**Why did you choose your home/studio?** I had it built for me, and collaborated on the design with the architect. Light was incredibly important, hence the large windows, as was the feeling that the house and the garden were one. The height of the rooms, too, means you never feel enclosed here.

**Where do you get inspiration from?** London is a constant source. I love living in a multicultural society. You don't have to go far from home to experience other cultures.

**Do you live with your work around you?** I have past work and works-in-progress around me all the time. Being an artist isn't a nine-to-five job, so I like to be able to look at my pieces whenever I need to.

**Describe your interiors style.** Some people move all the time, I move things around in my home all the time. The only constants are pattern and colour.

**What type of atmosphere do you try to create in your space?** I like the atmosphere to change with the seasons. In summer I like it to feel open and I like it to be cosy in winter.

**What's your design philosophy?** Be brave and don't censor yourself.

**Who are your heroes?** Artist Bruce Nauman, fashion designer Vivienne Westwood and the late Italian design icon Ettore Sottsass.

**Which trends are you excited by?** I'm thrilled to see buildings going up around Britain with colour and pattern on them. The landscape of our cities is finally changing. ➔

Contact the architects at [www.quay2c.com](http://www.quay2c.com)



#### Living area and garden

Jacqui assembled the colourful, patchwork-style rug from various patterned carpets glued onto a backing. The orange two-seater sofa came from Designers Guild while the fabrics used throughout the house were sourced from overseas. A passion for plants manifests itself in the vibrant garden, while an interest in the environment led to the choice of a sedum roof





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**Live/work spaces**

Although Jacqui does have another studio, she chooses to work a lot from home, creating an environment which she sees as being in a state of continuous change. She says: "Working and making a home are one and the same thing for me. I don't differentiate." The vintage table and chairs found in the dining room are by post-war British manufacturer G-Plan and came from Jacqui's aunt's

house. An extensive ceramics collection includes Jacqui's own pieces and other works that she admires. The tablecloth and hanging bags and baskets hail from countries as diverse as Syria, India, France and Morocco.

**The bedroom** (pictured left) is a minute but practical space designed to 'float' above the dining and studio areas. It features an elaborate floor designed by Jacqui for a show at Camden Arts Centre **DECO**