

## Biography: Colette van den Thillart

Colette van den Thillart is a visionary. She is an authority on the history of design and an astute businesswoman. In her position as Creative Director with London-based NH Design, van den Thillart is the key complement to founder Nicky Haslam. She is uniquely positioned to build on Haslam's aesthetic and transcend popular trends to express a confident maturity of taste and mastery of scale on a global level.

Born in Canada of Norwegian and Huron heritage, married to a Dutchman, Van den Thillart is the embodiment of multicultural awareness and is now firmly established on both the North American and European stage. An impressive portfolio honed over twenty years features high profile hotels and residences and offers a view of North American appreciation blended with traditional European elegance. She holds 'Residential Gold' as well as 'Loft Conversion Gold' awards from ARIDO for work done in Canada.

Van den Thillart moved to London in 2000 after obtaining an AAS Interior Design degree from The International Academy of Design in Toronto and completed a Masters of Art Degree in Decorative Arts at London's Wallace Collection. Further, she is an alumni of the Attingham Trust. In 2003 van den Thillart met Nicky Haslam and the synergy was immediate. Under their joint guidance, NH Design has taken great strides into modern design, mixing the deeply serious, grand and impressive with charm and wit, reinforcing what has become known as the NH Design aesthetic. And this aesthetic has secured clients in the English countryside and London, Toronto, New York, Montreal, Morocco, New Orleans, Denmark, Curacao, Barbados, St Jean Cap Ferrat and Monaco and Moscow.

Van den Thillart is a sought-after public speaker, having lectured at Chelsea Harbour in London as well as the 2010 Decorex and at numerous ARIDO (Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario) engagements. Her work has been featured on *CBC Television* in a segment titled '*Interior Designer to the Stars*' and she played a poignant role in the *BBC Television* documentary '*High Society*' on Nicky Haslam's life. Interior Design projects have been published in *Architectural Digest*, *Canadian House and Home*, *Style at Home*, *House and Garden*, *World of Interiors* and other international magazines.

She is involved in various philanthropic ventures including; The Soane Museum, Historic Royal Palaces, Strawberry Hill, a restoration program for the 18th Century Greenhouses at Luton Hoo, The Temple Appeal at Parkstead House, Maggie's Cancer Centers UK, Macmillan Cancer Research and ASAP (African Solutions for African Problems). Van den Thillart lives with her husband and two daughters and the family's two Pekinese dogs in London.

For more on Colette van den Thillart and NH Design, point your browser to [www.nh-design.co.uk](http://www.nh-design.co.uk) or visit the NH Design blog, where van den Thillart is a regular contributor, at [www.nh-design.co.uk/blog/](http://www.nh-design.co.uk/blog/).