

The Interior Designer

Bya Patzner, Brazilian-American interior designer and furniture store owner, is giving Shanghai abodes makeovers, one wall at a time.



Home

4:30 a.m. Wake up three hours early. Jetlag ...
4:31 Reluctantly decide on a ridiculously early start.
4:35 Eat some wheat toast and fruit while thinking about design ideas for a meeting later.
5:15 My husband, Rick, joins me in the kitchen, followed by my 3-year-old Alex. Seems I am not the only one with jetlag.
5:30 Make Alex his breakfast.
6:30 Put on Alex's favorite DVD, and join him in his ABCs.

6:40 Vanessa, 2, wakes up and joins us in the living room.
7:00 Hit the shower to get rid of my morning bed hair.
7:35 Throw on clothes and style my hair back into manufactured bed hair—the irony.
7:45 Get Vanessa and Alex ready and send them off to school, but not before promising to watch a Barney DVD after dinner.

Car

8:08 Leave for work, get stuck in traffic. Get first call of the day, a client wanting to change her curtain designs.
8:10 Read over store marketing materials in the car, get dizzy and give up.

Category of 1 at 233 Shanxi Rd.

9:45 Head straight for the office on the third floor, fixing store decor along the way.
9:50 Chat with co-designer Rebecca and go over design plans for client meeting this afternoon. Decide on using Sumptuous Peach for the kid's room.
10:00 Get a call. Seems that the new shipment of furniture is stuck at customs. Call Rick to discuss the issue.
10:35 Resolve the furniture crisis, and start thinking about how to rearrange store furniture to accommodate

new arrivals.

Car

11:35 Off to two client meetings near Xi Tian Di.
Client's Home
11:50 Arrive only to get stopped by an overzealous guard.
12:10 p.m. Finally get into the complex with paint fan and fabric samples in hand.
12:11 Meet client. She wants her

home to look more Zen.

1:30 Second client wants two antique chairs re-upholstered. We decide on red and gold.

Car

2:55 Head back to the office,

call Rick to remind him about dinner plans tomorrow at my fav Brazilian restaurant.

Office

3:00 Finally sit down to eat a chicken wrap.
3:05 See customers on the floor and go to greet them.
4:00 The couple leaves with a nice microfiber loveseat.
4:05 Go back to chicken wrap as I am about to faint from hunger.
4:37 Plan out schedule on PDA.
4:50 Meet with sales girl from interior design expo for exhibition in the spring.
5:32 Look over new fabric samples—I love them.
5:52 Start drawing some cabinet designs for client in the U.S.
6:00 Walk in customer wants to buy the faux display fruits. I decline, but she leaves with a couple of cushions instead.



6:15 Fight off the urge to sleep with an espresso. Urgent call from renovation site; the paint supplier mixed the wrong paints.
6:00 Meet Sohail, the rug supplier, to discuss the new shipment of Persian rugs.
6:23 Short meeting with staff.
6:45 Last minute client with decorating emergency. Three words: Too much gold.
7:20 Set up an early client meeting for the next morning to de-gold her rental apartment.

Car

7:25 Head home, but stop by supermarket first. Buy salad and soup ingredients for dinner.

Home

8:19 I'm mobbed at the door.
8:30 Prepare a healthy dinner.
9:05 Finish family dinner.
9:15 Tell my faux fruit story, but nobody laughs; I blame the jetlag.
9:35 Put the kids to bed, Barney will have to wait for another day.
9:45 Client calls to change her mind about curtains, for the third time. She says it is the last time, but I will let her sleep on it.
9:55 Log onto Ashley furniture website and start thinking about new pieces for spring. See a stunning bed set that would look great on my third floor.
10:30 Lights out.

Heart Decore

This Valentine's Day, log onto marthastewart.com for inspired home decorations. Bring romance into any room with Martha's handmade cockscomb wreath. Other ideas include heart soaps and bookmarks, tasty treats and rose stationary.

