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A week in the  
life of Mark  
Howorth

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**Mark Howorth moved to the UK from California in the early 1990s and, after a spell running a London art gallery, began his own interior design practice Callender Howorth. For more than 12 years, the practice has worked on a wide range of projects from country houses and London apartments to retail and office projects**

#### **Monday**

Mondays usually kick off first with a team meeting in London. This week is a fun one, as a large ski chalet is due for completion in Villars, France. The project is a culmination of two years' work. The chalet itself was designed by Sir Richard Rogers and we have completed all of the interior design and styling. As I write, we have three enormous lorries clearing customs in Switzerland, which we will meet at the chalet tonight.

#### **Tuesday**

D Day at the chalet – it's been interesting. The lorries actually could not get up the final narrow roads to the chalet, so we have had to rent three small vans with an army of helpers to offload, reload and get all of the goods to the chalet. This problem aside, there is still a real buzz in the air as all the new furniture and art arrives. The client is due in tomorrow so we have 24 hours to get everything installed and styled to perfection prior to their arrival, so lots to do! We also have an army of builders to supervise as they finish final joinery issues.



### Wednesday

After an all-nighter and lots of coffee and Swiss chocolate, we are finished 20 minutes before our client arrives. We have managed to get all the log fires burning, stunning flower displays everywhere and the champagne ready – it really is looking great. I am very pleased, relieved and exhausted. The chalet is at such a high altitude that the clouds have come in, and today they are actually resting beneath the chalet so there is a real sense of calm and serenity to the place. Clients arrived and were thrilled with how it all looks.

### Thursday

Back in London, and an early meeting with a developer in Chelsea. We are working on a large project for them to design and build four houses and 12 apartments. A great meeting, and then we were treated to lunch by the client. Back to the studio to meet with the contractors who are building our new studio space. We have found a great loft space in the old Morelands Gin factory in Clerkenwell. As we often entertain clients at the studio, we have designed a fantastic bar and dining area which we will put to good effect!

All pictures: chalet in Villars

### Friday

Off to Nice on the first flight out (ugh). Meeting a long-standing client who we are now designing a villa for, in the hills above Nice. We do lots of projects in the south of France and, being a complete Francophile, I really love working there. The French have a great way of getting things done whilst having a great lunch! Sadly I am not happy with the quality of the new build team and have had to really assert – in professional French – that the standards are just not ▼





▲ good enough. We managed to find an agreement, but will really need to watch the progress on site and the quality issues.

Staying down for the weekend at my 300-year-old apartment on the flower market in Vieux Nice. I love the space as it is a rambling, fresco- and beam-filled grotto! There are views across the bay of Nice and it feels a bit like you are on a plane coming to land at Nice airport in the distance. Eight people for dinner tonight so having to dash to the local market as I will be making tartiflette (a very rich, creamy, cheese potato dish). Yum. 7pm: first glass of Sancerre. Great week. ▼







▲  
**Saturday**

Lazy start. Meet some friends for coffee at my local café and discuss the upcoming election. The French love to debate, and it always makes me smile at how passionate they become with words and hand gestures! After coffee I am off sourcing and head to several of my favourite furniture places – always an adventure as one never knows

what one will find. There is an exceptional chandelier shop run by a Parisian called Bernard on a tiny back street in Antibes. He finds items from all over France and I am lucky to see and agree on this occasion on some amazing Baccarat chandeliers for a client in St Tropez.

**Sunday**

Middy flight back to London from Nice –

always sad to leave. But I need to meet with my creative director to review a pitch for a large country house that we are presenting first thing Monday morning. Back to studio by 4pm and I'm greeted by the largest bouquet of flowers I have ever seen – a thank you from our client in Villars. I am really touched by this as they are clearly pleased with the final result and I realise that I truly do have a great job.