

ANOUSKA HEMPEL

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Five Minutes With... Anouska Hempel

Anouska Hempel is a British designer known for her hotel and restaurant design, starting with the iconic Blakes Hotel in London in the 1970s. Today her portfolio comprises some of the world's most incredible private residences, luxury stores, iconic gardens and superyachts. "I suppose I am at heart an intellectual Romantic. I don't really want to be in the picture that I'm painting," she says. "I get the most enjoyment from painting that picture for others."

Billionaire sat down for five minutes with Anouska Hempel.

If you could be transported to one hotel in the world right now, which would you choose?

I would go right now to Marrakech to La Mamounia. I would sit in the little private courtyard and hide here from the sun and get lost taking in the views of the snow-capped Atlas Mountains. In the evenings I would come back to sit by the roaring fire.

What was the last gift you gave?

It was a backgammon set from William & Sons, which went to a great friend, with a box of chocolate truffles from Pierre Hermé. A perfect combination.

What gift would you love to receive?

I would really love to receive a whole lot of extra time and a pair of long legs!

What was the last book you read?

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift.

What are your grooming essentials that you couldn't live without?

Simply soap and water; it is a daily routine and keeps things pure.

If your house was on fire, what one thing would you rescue?

I would take the aquarium with me with all the Koi in it.

Whom would you love to sit next to at a dinner party?

I would enjoy the company of Boris Johnson on one side and Albert Einstein on the other.