

THE INCHBALD SCHOOL OF DESIGN

In 1958, a visit to the UK by a group of distinguished American interior decorators highlighted a significant gap in the profession: the absence of formal design education and a recognised professional body for interior designers. Recognising the opportunity to elevate and transform the industry, Jacqueline Duncan founded the Inchbald School of Design from her home in Chelsea.

Supported by some of the most influential figures in design, including David Hicks, John Siddeley, Jon Bannenberg and her then-husband Michael Inchbald, she established a school with a bold and ambitious vision: to provide rigorous, professional training for aspiring designers.

The response was immediate. Inchbald quickly grew in stature, earning a reputation for excellence, innovation and industry relevance that endures today. The School also played a pivotal role in the professionalisation of interior design in the UK, helping to pave the way for the creation of the country's first professional association for interior designers, now known as the British Institute of Interior Design (BIID).

More than six decades later, Inchbald remains true to Jacqueline Duncan's pioneering vision, educating creative, confident and highly skilled designers who continue to shape the profession around the world.

Alan Hughes, Principal ISD, 2026