

# Hospitality Interiors

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# NEWH UK – TopID Awards 2023

NEWH is a leading networking group for the hospitality industry, providing student scholarships, education, leadership growth, recognition of excellence, and business development opportunities. The NEWH UK Chapter celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022 with a jam-packed year of events designed to reconnect those working in the hospitality industry – and in doing so, supporting the next generation by raising scholarship funds for students studying interior design and architecture.

Words by Rita Bancroft

NEWH UK Chapter's TopID Awards has become a must attend event in the hospitality interiors calendar. Tickets were in high demand, as the event sold out weeks ahead of the awards night, which was kindly sponsored and hosted by Ulster Carpets. Proceeds from the night go towards scholarships for interior design students, so supports the future skills base in the UK hospitality design sector.

Kathryn Quinn, President of the NEWH UK Chapter said: "Each year the NEWH UK Chapter

honours the creative talents of chapter members who are aligned with our mission of supporting scholarship and education. I'm delighted that in celebrating the success of our chapter members, we are supporting the next generation of designers. I'd like to thank Ulster Carpets for being such fabulous sponsors and hosts, and to the team at CUBE for taking the photos at tonight's event."

The beautiful courtyard and glorious entrance carpet at Ulster's showroom in

Clerkenwell London created an Oscars vibe. Attendees enjoyed drinks, nibbles, and a chance to mingle before NEWH UK President, Kathryn Quinn and Ulster's Head of Projects & Sales Development, Mark Poulain invited Design Command and THDP Ltd to present their winning projects to a packed audience.

Design Command's Founder, Clare McDonald, shared the inspiration and design process behind creating the outstanding interiors in Michael Caines' Micekys Beach Bar and



Clare McDonald, Founder, Design Command, with Kathryn Quinn, President, NEWH UK



Nick Hicison, Founder, THDP, with Soles Director UK & Ireland, Ulster Carpets



Photography by CUBE



Design Command, Micekys Beach Bar - Michael Caines Collection

Restaurant. With stunning panoramic views across the Devon coastline and up through the Exe estuary, the venue sits in harmony with its surroundings. Inspired by the lively beach bars in Ibiza and Greece, Design Command have designed the interior as a place to relax and unwind by the coast, evoking an overall sense of escapism.

Due to the proximity to Exmouth beach and its recognition as a place of outstanding natural beauty, it was imperative that Micekys celebrated this notion through sustainable design choices. As such, environmentally low-impact products are used throughout. Located on the ground floor, Micekys Bar offers a casual dining and drinking affair. Here, the layout has been designed to give the impression of being in the open air. Outdoor chairs combined with soft seating that has been upholstered in comfortable outdoor fabrics feature throughout. Upstairs in the restaurant and adjacent terrace, the scene is bold and bright as the design looks to intertwine with the sweeping views across the bay. The seating layout maximises the views of the beach, as Design Command cleverly combine interior and exterior furniture to add extra comfort whilst dining beach-side.







THDP Ltd, Naples, Italy



Winners THDP  
Photography by Cuba

On receiving the coveted award, Clare McDonald said: "Design Command are delighted to have been selected as TopID firm for 2023. We are grateful for the support and recognition this award brings us; it really means a lot to be acknowledged for the creative work that we are doing in the hospitality sector."

What an honour to have been awarded by an organisation as prestigious and inspiring

as NEWH. For this to coincide with our 10th year makes it even more special, and we are very excited for the future!"

Winners for the second year in a row, were veterans to the TopID awards, THDP Ltd. Founders Nick Hickson and Manuela Mannino said: "Being selected as a winner for the UK Chapter of NEWH TopID 2023 for the second year consequently is a clear sign that we are going in the right direction. We are grateful



to be part of this community, that constantly inspires our work and development. Our mission is, and will continue to be, to create memorable experiences through a strong design narrative. This is our way to allow each interior and every hotel to express itself both authentically and creatively."

Having completed several beautiful projects across Europe, all perfectly attuned to their location, Nick Hickson presented

THDP's journey in revamping the four-star beachfront, Marriott RG Naxos hotel in Sicily. This exceptional project celebrates the best of the Mediterranean culture and history. The hotel was (and still is) one of the most important and famous hospitality buildings, which has hosted generations of tourists from across the world. Sitting at the foot of Mount Etna, detailed local research guided the narrative of the entire project. The project was far reaching, as THDP refurbished the main public areas, lobby and lobby bar, guest check in, restaurants Panarea & Sciara, and created a new pool terrace and Fluido bar.

The interior design concept was inspired by the natural beauty of the volcanic beaches, the sea, Mount Etna's presence and the features of the island of Sicily – the ambition was to bring them into the centre of the hotel. The addition of local decoration, artworks and colours enhances the deep sense of authenticity, and works in harmony with a refined resort-based palette of natural tones with touches of sea hues. The style is elegant with a Mediterranean influence, as colours from the sea and local Taormina's stone mold the indoor and outdoor colour palette.

The awards presentation was followed by some fantastic food where attendees were treated to an outdoor market stall that served a selection of tasty burgers and hotdogs before moving back inside and enjoying some drinks, music, and more networking.



Photography by Cuba

Mark Poulain reflected on the night: "As long-term supporters of the NEWH globally, we were thrilled to host and sponsor the NEWH UK TopID Awards. It's been a fabulous night, as we've enjoyed welcoming so many old and new friends to our London design studio. The atmosphere has been great, as everyone has enjoyed celebrating the outstanding works of THDP and Design Command."

If you are interested in becoming an NEWH member, or want to support their valuable

fundraising activity by sponsoring or attending an event, full details can be found on [www.newh.org/chapters/united-kingdom/](http://www.newh.org/chapters/united-kingdom/) or email [newhuk.marketing@gmail.com](mailto:newhuk.marketing@gmail.com) for more details.

Nominations for TopID 2024 awards will open on Tuesday, 14th March, all entries must be received by Thursday, 15th June 2023. Please apply online by visiting [www.newh.org/resources/top-interior-designers/topid-nominations/](http://www.newh.org/resources/top-interior-designers/topid-nominations/)



## HOW CAN YOU JOIN THE WORLD'S BIGGEST ORGANISATION FOR NETWORKING IN THE INTERNATIONAL HOSPITALITY DESIGN INDUSTRY?

NEWH continuously welcomes new members into its UK chapter – there are two options for joining:

**PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP £90 (ANNUALLY)**

Are you an individual looking to join? This is the membership for you, with an annual fee of £90.

**BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP £300 (ANNUALLY)**

This covers two people from a company, with the option of two more to join at a 50% discount.

For an application form, please contact the director of membership Kevin Swart at [kevin.swart@northern-lights.co.uk](mailto:kevin.swart@northern-lights.co.uk), or visit [www.newh.org](http://www.newh.org) to find out more.

YOU CAN ALSO STAY ABREAST OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NEWH-UK THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:

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