

Get Appy

Words REBECCA HOH

The thousands of software applications now available for iPhones and other handheld devices aim to enhance our lives but how can this technology help the interior designer? We talk to some exponents and sort the indispensable apps from the irrelevant

The iPhone and iPad seem to split opinion — devoted Apple fans can't wait for the next model to hit the shelves while others believe we simply don't need any more technology in our lives. But with Morgan Stanley analysts predicting that iPad sales will hit 16 million by the end of the product's first year (to add to the more than 17 million iPhones that have already been bought), it seems the handheld devices are here to stay. When it comes to apps, the number downloaded on to each device averages 53 and not all of these can be Fruit Ninja or Angry Birds — some must be useful to our working lives. It's a tricky subject for interior designers: iPhones and iPads have obvious design applications and, while some people feel such technology is taking the heart and soul out of the creative process, others are embracing its potential. So just what apps are available to interior designers and who is using them?



Andrew Duff, Incbald School of Design

'The iPhone is a wonderful device for me as a designer because it enables me to keep everything in one place. I'm always leaving something at home when I go to meet a client. It's often the camera, which is so bulky to carry around, so I find the Camera app great. Contractors are always talking in feet and inches and I'm a metric man so I'm always using Convert Units. iHandy Level saves me carrying around a spirit level and the Ruler app is similarly useful.'

Kirsty McMorrison, Absolute Abode

'I wouldn't be without my iPhone and all its apps; it makes life so much easier! I especially like the Compass — it is essential to understand the natural light and location of north in every project we work on. Having a compass on the iPhone makes this so easy. This ensures that we maximise the benefits of daylight and the sun (when we are lucky enough to see it) in our spatial planning and designs. And, of course, no Londoner should be without Tube Deluxe for planning Underground journeys and getting the latest travel news.'



There's an app for that! These design-themed applications for your virtual toolbox are available on iTunes or from the companies' websites

Louis Poulsen

The app from the Danish lighting manufacturer is a pocket-sized catalogue of the entire product range, including images, technical drawings and info, with the option to have the information sent directly to your mail via the application. www.louispoulsen.com

de Le Cuona

Fabric house de Le Cuona has developed an iPhone and iPad app that contains a catalogue of all the company's accessories and fabrics. Designers will be able to take their phone directly into a client meeting, browse all the products and order samples directly — useful if they do not have time to visit the showroom. www.delecuona.co.uk

Gorenje

The European appliance manufacturer has integrated the Apple lifestyle into its kitchen designs. The iPod