

**LATINALICIOUS**  
BREAST-FEEDING  
WITH SALMA HAYEK

**HOLE LOTTA  
TROUBLE**  
AA GILL ON HIS SON'S  
NEW FACE PIERCING

**ALCOHOL ANGST**  
THE PLEASURE  
AND PAIN  
OF DRINKING  
TOO MUCH

*get  
fresh*  
WITH FASHION'S  
HOTTEST NEW LOOKS

**style**

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# Q & A ILSE CRAWFORD

Creative director Ilse Crawford is one of the biggest stars of the interiors world, having launched *Elle Decoration* in 1989. She left the title in 1998 to work for Donna Karan and started projects such as designing the interior of Cecconi's restaurant. Her London office, Studioilse, has its fingers in every creative pie, designing chairs for Poltrona Frau and the interior of the new Soho Beach House Miami. For her latest project, she has redesigned the London restaurant Kettners.

**Are you high maintenance?** No. I have fended for myself since I was very young. But I sometimes wish I was! Once, by mistake, I arrived on site in New York wearing perilously high Sergio Rossi heels. All of a sudden, I had men carrying furniture left, right and centre for me.

**Are you a Christmas person?** I used to think Christmas was kind of cheesy, but now I can see that it is important to have those fixed points in life where people come together. I am married to a Colombian, so there's no hope of organising the extended family unless there are some sacrosanct dates. The commercial side of it, however, is another story.

**Who is your significant other?** My husband, Oscar Peña. He's definitely the more practical of the two of us, and he's also an amazing cook, which is a bonus. It's like being married to a chef.

**What is your best trait?** Curiosity gets me up in the morning. I am fascinated by people and ideas.

**What is your worst trait?** Lateness. I get too absorbed in things and lose all sense of time.

**What have you yet to achieve?** Punctuality.

**What causes you sleepless nights?** Our projects and how to make them better, and finances. Small companies often have to bankroll big projects — it's scary.

**Is it better to give or to receive?** We like giving people beautiful buildings, but we like receiving cheques, too.

**Which comes first for you: sex or love?**

Sex, definitely. I am very physical and have never been able to play that holding-back game. It either works or it doesn't.

**Do you believe in monogamy?**

I don't think it's particularly natural, but commitment is an important state of mind. It brings freedom to get on with the important things in life.

**iPhone or landline?** iPhone. I am always on the move — it's a marvel.

**What was your big break?** Soho House New York. As well as a designer, I'm a former magazine editor, so I know how to bring elements together to make a coherent story. That said, it was a risk for Nick Jones, founder of the Soho House group. This was their leap into the unknown — before that, there was just the club in Soho, which was pretty basic, and Bqbington House, which we had also done. What we did in New York defined the boho-luxe we know Soho House for today.

**What was the last book you read?** *Sense of the City: An Alternate Approach to Urbanism*. It's all about how cities no longer smell, sound and feel like anything any more.

**And the last film you saw?** *Man on Wire*, an account of a Frenchman who broke into the Twin Towers and walked a tightrope between the two buildings. It shows how a passionate group of enthusiasts can trump the system.

**What is your all-time favourite shop?**

Neal's Yard. The church of cheese! Everyone who works there is so enthusiastic you feel lucky to shop there.

**What is your favourite place?** Rosendal's Garden — biodynamic greenhouses with a cafe in Stockholm. It is romantic, authentic, delicious. Paradise.

**Favourite hotel?** I am not so keen on hotels. I prefer upscale B&Bs such as Boulevard Leopold in Antwerp, Agua in Cartagena or Gerloczy in Budapest.

**What defines 'contemporary living' in your view?**

It is to be creative, responsible and humane. Sustainability is an essential part of this — not as a retail gimmick, but in the sense of being aware of where things come from and where they go. □

Going Soho Crillon chair, £4,400, by Soane Britain; soane.co.uk. Side table, £315, by Knoll Platner; spacecraftint.com

studioilse.com; kettners.com

