

DESIGNERTOOLKIT: PAUL MCANEARY

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THIS NEW REGULAR FEATURE INVITES DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS, AND OTHER DESIGN PROFESSIONALS TO SHARE THE VITAL TOOLS OF THEIR TRADE. WE SPEAK TO PAUL MCANEARY, RIBA CHARTERED ARCHITECT AT PAUL MCANEARY ARCHITECTS.

#designertoolkit



What are the vital components of your creative armoury that you simply could not do without?

I've always said, that as a designer, the best designs come with a cup of coffee in one hand and a pencil in the other. Freehand sketching is so incredibly important. When I studied architecture, we still used drawing boards. The tools we had to draw were the restriction. When we moved to computers, it was the tools within the packages that restricted our creativity. Although I must admit the uber fast undo/redo command, would be great on a pencil... Today, during the third pandemic lockdown, our way of working has evolved. Not having the ability to sit around our design table, sketching together, was initially restrictive.

We had a large iPad Pro with an Apple Pencil in the studio, and personally, I thought it was bit of a gimmick at first – but now my perception has radically changed. Having to use it on a day-to-day basis, I cannot get enough of it!

Hand markups over digital PDF's, live via video conference, is almost as good as being in the office, as I'm able to discuss each element of the sketch in real time, exactly as we do around the office design table.

With the range of tools it has, feeling just like a pencil and the massive additional bonus of the ability to zoom in and out of our drawings, us sketching simultaneously, at a range of different scales is incredible.

I'm definitely keeping this 'new normal' evolution when we get back to normality!

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