

Questions for Anne Lise Kjaer



[Photo Harald Julius Brekke – Anne Lise Kjaer Urban inspiration]

Anne Lise Kjaer is a leading Global Futurist, Visionary Thinker and CEO of kjaer global. Kjaer's client base numbers over 100 international commercial corporations including Nokia, IKEA, Unilever, Sony, Toyota, McKinsey, Esomar (www.kjaer-global.com).

The Financial Times wrote: *"Her unique world vision is as fertile as Dali's only she creates social prototypes...based on nascent trends."* She delivers an intelligent and inspiring outlook on the future. *'The future is not some place we go but one we create!'* Using holistic principles, combining scientific, social, emotional and with spiritual research, Anne Lise builds up a complete 4D multidimensional picture of the future issues she is investigating:

Her career began in fashion and later expanded into trends forecasting – via her native Denmark, Paris and Hamburg – and eventually led to London where her unique philosophy and method was further developed. Anne Lise Kjaer lives and works in [Highgate](#) and the local village is just 2 minutes walk from [Hampstead Heath](#) where she goes for walks as often as possible.

Last but not least Kjaer is an active Copenhagen Goodwill Ambassador and is often invited to discuss future issues with top Danish Politician and the Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Especially sustainability as Copenhagen will be hosting the global Climate Summit COP15 in 2009. Further she is a MD member of the Danish UK Chamber of Commerce. She also finds time to write columns for international magazines as a member of the recognised British Textile Colour Group, bi-annual colour forecasting keep Anne Lise in touch with her creative side.

After so many years in London, you're now a veteran. But is there any place that held a certain magic when you first arrived?

Yes, in fact in there are two. On my very first visit to London I stayed in Highgate Village near Hampstead Heath where I now live. I found it utterly charming that London has so many small village communities. London is really green despite being urban. Also the charm of the small coffee and tea shops left an impression with me that I shall never forget. On a clear day you can overlook all of London from Waterlow Park just next to Highgate Cemetery where Carl Max is buried – it's worth a walk and a guided tour.



[IMAGES Highgate Village]



[IMAGES Columbia Road Market]

When I moved to London in 1992 I was so fascinated by the East End that I decided to live in the old Bromley & May matchbox factory in Bow. Back then loft living had only just started in the UK. The East End was very different then from now – however it still has that certain energy you can only find in London. [Market Brick Lane](#) and [Columbia Road Flower](#) will always be one my favourite destinations London.

In Cheshire Street you can find shops like Labour & Wait (www.labourandwait.co.uk), MARMARCo (www.marmarco.com) Dragana Perisic (www.draganaperisic.com). Also you can buy everything from plants, clothing food to amazing furniture. In fact you become rather glocal in London - globalised and yet so local.



[IMAGES Cheshire Street of Brick Lane is very inspirational. Here you can find everything from clothes and gardening tools to books and art.]

Where do you go when you're feeling a bit indulgent? There is a place I always find to have the most fantastic food and that's [Otto Lenghi on 287 Upper Street in Islington N1 2TZ](#). He recently brought out his own [Otto Lenghi cookbook](#). It has all the recipes from the shop. Nearest tube is Angel Station. They also have a restaurant and shop in Notthing Hill Gate where I often go the food and the bars.



[IMAGES Otto Lenghi restaurant and shop – webshot]

What's the most extravagant meal you've had in London, and what was it like?
I must say that I still love to go to the [Nobu Restaurant](#) the 19 Old Park Lane, London, W1K 1LB at the Metropolitan hotel. Robert De Niro co-owns the restaurant in Park Lane with chefs Nobu. It's simply Sushi out of this world. It has to be Sushi experience that can't be described.



[IMAGES Nobu restaurant – from designers website]

Where do you go on a sunny day?

My garden when it's really hot. In London we do have Indian summers and then you really just want to head for the shade. Otherwise a walk on Hampstead heat across to [Hampstead Village](#) is great as it's only 40 minutes from door to door and you are on the high street, a lovely destination for shopping, socialising and meeting friends for lunch.



[IMAGE a walk on Hampstead Heath]



[IMAGE Jin Kichi in Hampstead]

What's your favourite local place that you wouldn't necessarily recommend to visitors?

The very tiny but intimate Jin Kichi in Hampstead NW3. The Sushi is just out of this world and it's as authentic as Japanese get's in London. Remember to book or you will never get a table.

Where do you go to buy a dress, when you want to be sure to have something really special?

Well, Selfridges is my absolute favourite comfort place as they just have everything your heart could ever desire. The other premium is their car park, which means you do a massive shopping spree and then put it all in the boot of your car rather than carry it around with you. However more recently I have discovered Upper Street in Islington and it has become my favourite shopping destination and it's nearby as it only takes 10 minutes by car or 20 minutes by bus from where I live. There are several shops from second hand to designer boutique style. Diverse 294 Upper Street Islington, London N1 2TU has all my favourite brands from Vanessa Bruno, Orla Keily to Marc Jacobs and many more.



[IMAGE www.urbanpath.com/london/boutiques/diverse.htm]

What's the most enjoyable high-brow cultural experience you've had in London?

I simply love the cultural offering in London and the opera is just amazing. At least once a week I go to a cultural event either art or a show. Earlier this year I went to see Tchaikovsky's opera Eugene Onegin in Covent Garden Royal Opera House. The scenography, the atmosphere and the performance was out of this world. I guess there is a certain magic connected to the experience of sitting so you can overlook the whole theatre, absorb the music and the voices - then all the people in the theatre being so focused - it just does it for me.



[IMAGE Royal Opera House]

If you were ever to leave this city, what place would you most miss?

This is a really big question – but I would really miss all the multi-cultural offerings and the energy that come with it. The [Tate Modern](#) is the most fantastic art gallery in the world's and also the most visited. It had 9 million people visiting within the first 18 months of opening.



[IMAGE Tate Modern dusk]