

# Toks Aruoture

Founder & Nursery Interior Designer  
The Baby Cot Shop, Chelsea  
INDUSTRY: DESIGN



### What is the best part of your job?

As a nursery Interior Designer, the part of my job I most enjoy is seeing my ideas come to life. I love interviewing my clients to extract as much information about them as possible and then converting that information into a nursery design that suits their lifestyle, one that they will be proud to show off.

### Biggest learning moment of your career?

Nothing stays the same forever. Going through the financial downturn in 2008 and digging deep into myself for resources and strength was monumental. I learned that inside us is the ability to press through any obstacle. Even if we do not see any signs of hope, hope shows up when we start pushing forward. I learned, too, that there are people assigned to assist us on our journeys; being considerate to all people regardless of race, religion, or creed will open up opportunities for us to progress.

### What does Black history month mean to you?

Sadly, the history that is taught in schools does not include the full picture of being black in Britain, or the western world generally. Black History Month presents an opportunity for those who do not know who we are and what we are capable of, to learn how prodigious black people are, and that we are equal to the rest of the world.

### What advice would you give to your 16-year-old Self?

You are enough. Don't try to subtract from who you are. Don't embellish your personality either. You are enough.

### Why is being a positive role model important to you?

We each have a responsibility to create an environment that fosters learning and growth. Having positive role models brings a wholesome environment to children who are not exposed to one. Role Models help to raise the ceiling in the minds of young people of what is possible for them. I believe a role model must be authentic because it is only through real-life stories that real people can learn.

### What is your top tip to success?

Believe that you were created with everything you need to be successful. Spend time in introspection, in getting to know who you are. It is only through this that you can resist the pressure to become what is popular; you do not want to be a counterfeit version of someone else. Be yourself.

### What is your greatest achievement?

My four sons. I am privileged to be a mother to four amazing boys- five if you include my husband. Watching them grow and listening to them as they converse, demonstrating a mind of their own fills me with joy.

What are you listening to?

*How I Built This*  
by Guy Raz



Favourite food to boost your mood?

Strawberry Gateau

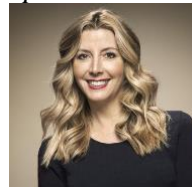


Biggest change since lockdown?

My new Podcast



Ideal Mentor?  
Sara Blakely of Spanx



Role Model growing up?

My parents