

# The Kew Collection

*Exclusive to Malvern Garden Buildings*

Discover the stories behind the Kew Collection  
[malverngardenbuildings.co.uk/kew](http://malverngardenbuildings.co.uk/kew)

*Malvern*  
Garden Buildings

Greater London

Oxfordshire

Staffordshire

Wiltshire

Buckinghamshire



The

# ENGLISH HOME



*Kitchen design special*

*Celebrating the essence of English style*

March 2020 | Issue 181 | £4.50 | UK Edition

## FRESH APPROACH

Four lovely homes restored, reconfigured or redesigned



**INTERIOR  
ENHANCEMENT**

Kitchens  
Conservatories  
Hallways

*Chic cheats &*  
**WISE INVESTMENTS**

Shop smarter for flooring, furniture, lighting, textiles & more







# THE WHITE KITCHEN COMPANY

*Wooden Kitchens Handmade For You.*

## Beautiful Bespoke Kitchens

Hand-painted Solid Wood & Lacquered Oak Kitchen Furniture

To discover more about our exceptional value visit:

[www.thewhitekitchencompany.co.uk](http://www.thewhitekitchencompany.co.uk)

01604 821003









BEAUMONT  
& FLETCHER  
INTERIOR ATELIER

30  
YEARS OF  
EXCELLENCE

FURNITURE | FABRICS | MIRRORS | LIGHTS | ACCESSORIES

261 Fulham Road, London SW3 6HY +44 (0)20 7352 5594 [www.beaumontandfletcher.com](http://www.beaumontandfletcher.com)

*Calypso dining chairs with Wallis embroidery on Capri silk velvet - Aquamarine*



# CONTENTS

MARCH 2020



64



94



46

## Beautiful Buys

- 14 **HOME COMFORTS** Embracing the new season.
- 20 **OASIS OF CALM** Tranquil bedroom offerings.
- 22 **COUNTRY SPIRIT** Spring-inspired buys.

## English Homes

- 36 **ABUNDANT CHARM** Georgian features and playful decor come to life in a London period property.
- 46 **LIFE IN COLOUR** A Wiltshire family home is decorated with vibrant and quirky interiors.
- 56 **SENSE OF BALANCE** A chic South London cottage brings together elegance and grace.
- 64 **LASTING VALUES** Timeless interiors and clever configuration abound in this Yorkshire farmhouse.
- 74 **MY ENGLISH HOME** The Marchioness of Lansdowne on her home, Bowood House in Wiltshire. ▶





103



115



78

## Style inspiration

- 77 POWER OF PATTERN** Playing with scale and motifs.
- 78 WHERE TO SPEND & WHERE TO SAVE** Designers on where best to invest and innovate in the home.
- 88 THE ROLE OF ART IN INTERIORS** Designer Victoria Wormsley on combining art with interior decoration.
- 94 WELCOMING RECEPTION** Set the scene in the hallway with practical and inviting ideas.
- 103 DESIGNING AN INVITING KITCHEN** Blending functionality with a welcoming setting.
- 115 BRINGING THE OUTSIDE IN** Decorating a conservatory to create visual flow to the garden.
- 124 CRAFTED FOR LIFE** The story of Devon-based cabinetry company Barnes of Ashburton.

## Quintessentially

- 127 RHUBARB HARVEST** A delicious seasonal dessert.
- 128 SHAPING BRITAIN: LANDSCAPE LEGACY** The first in our series on Britain's important historical figures.
- 134 ESSENCE OF TRANQUILITY** Using water in the garden to create an oasis of calm.
- 146 MY DESIGN HERO** Interior designer Jane Churchill on the influential Nancy Lancaster.

## Regulars

- 8 A LETTER FROM HOME** A welcome from our Editor-in-Chief.
- 25 NOTEBOOK** Our monthly digest of notable people, places and pursuits, plus important diary dates.
- 34 THE LONDON EDIT** Interiors news from the capital.
- 35 SUBSCRIBE** Treat yourself or a loved one to a subscription to *The English Home*.
- 142 COMING NEXT MONTH** An insight into the delights to come in our April edition.



## ENJOY SINGLE ISSUES BY POST

To make life easier, you can now buy single editions or back issues of *The English Home* online and have them posted directly to your home address.

To order your copy, please visit  
[chelseamagazines.com/shop](http://chelseamagazines.com/shop)



# TRUNK





# A letter from home



Create an inviting setting in a conservatory or garden room (page 115).

## BEHIND THE SCENES...

### Visiting Bowood House and Gardens

I recently had the pleasure and privilege of interviewing the Marchioness of Lansdowne for *My English Home* (page 74). It was a delight to sit in her glorious sitting room, taking tea by the fire and then enjoy a tour of the private apartments. I've known and loved the gardens and woodlands since childhood but had always yearned to see the interiors, especially the use of Bowood Chintz. I hope I have been able to impart a sense of Bowood House's delights.

### Introducing a new series

Today's interiors, architecture and green spaces owe an enormous debt to historic names who safeguarded critical heritage and set a course for future design. In a new series – *Shaping Britain* – Features Editor Eve Middleton looks first at those who left a legacy in our landscapes (page 128).



How has 2020 started for you? I do hope just as you wish. The start of any new year, but especially a new decade, offers so much promise and opportunity. By the time we reach March, those dreams of transformative home projects are usually coming into sharp focus as firm resolutions are made and serious plans begin. With this in mind, this issue is devoted to implementing significant, life-enhancing home updates to help galvanise action.

If you are seeking to upgrade your kitchen, we hope the five beautiful case studies (page 103) will inspire you to be brave and bold with colour, characterful fittings and even kitchen location. Those seeking to achieve more light and space with a conservatory or garden room will find decorative guidance (page 115) on ways to make such spaces flow beautifully with the garden and outdoors beyond. And if your resolution is to have friends and family around more often, you may be considering redecorating your hall (page 94) so that it sets the perfect welcome for visitors.

No matter how large or small the budget, we all want to spend wisely on the fixtures and fittings that will repay the highest dividends. Inside this issue you'll discover some invaluable insights on where to spend and where to save (page 78) from top interior designers who have generously shared their knowledge on everything from flooring to textiles to bathroom design. I hope, like me, you find it makes for fascinating reading.

With warmest wishes,

Kerryn Harper-Cuss, Editor-in-Chief



Follow us on Twitter @englishhometeam

Pinterest at [pinterest.com/theenglishhome](https://pinterest.com/theenglishhome)

Facebook at [facebook.com/theenglishhome](https://facebook.com/theenglishhome)

Instagram at [instagram.com/englishhomemag](https://instagram.com/englishhomemag)





London

0208 675 4808

[www.indian-ocean.co.uk](http://www.indian-ocean.co.uk)

**INDIAN OCEAN**  
INSPIRATIONAL OUTDOOR FURNITURE



THE  
NATURAL  
WOOD FLOOR  
Co



Beautiful flooring, designed to last

Over 100 designs | Expert advice | 20,000m<sup>2</sup> of stock | Express delivery

SHOWROOM  
20 Smugglers Way, Wandsworth, London, SW18 1EG  
020 8871 9771

[www.naturalwoodfloor.co.uk](http://www.naturalwoodfloor.co.uk)

The  
ENGLISH  
HOME

CONTACT US

**Editorial** 0333 014 3215

The English Home, Cumberland House,  
Oriol Road, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, GL50 1BB

**Email** [theenglishhome@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:theenglishhome@chelseamagazines.com)

**Website** [theenglishhome.co.uk](http://theenglishhome.co.uk)

**Advertising/Publishing** 020 7349 3700

The Chelsea Magazine Company Ltd,  
Jubilee House, 2 Jubilee Place, London SW3 3TQ

**Email** [info@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:info@chelseamagazines.com)

EDITORIAL

**Editor-in-Chief** Kerryyn Harper-Cuss

**Executive Editor** Samantha Scott-Jeffries

**Managing Editor** Sarah Feeley

**Art Editor** Claire Hicks

**Contributing Art Editors** Matt Griffiths, Rebecca Stead

**Sub Editor** Lea Tacey

**Decorating Editor** Katy Mclean

**Features Editor** Eve Middleton

**Homes & Lifestyle Editor** Clair Wayman

**Editor-at-Large** Kate Freud

ADVERTISING

**Sales Director** Cameron Hay

020 7349 3712; [cameron.hay@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:cameron.hay@chelseamagazines.com)

**Head of Market** Freddy Halliday

020 7349 3744; [freddy.halliday@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:freddy.halliday@chelseamagazines.com)

**Advertisement Manager** William Bernard

020 7349 3749; [william.bernard@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:william.bernard@chelseamagazines.com)

**Advertisement Account Executive** Madeleine Burgess

020 7349 3711; [madeleine.burgess@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:madeleine.burgess@chelseamagazines.com)

**Advertisement Sales Executive** Jasmin Nissa Shaw

020 7349 3732; [jasmin.shaw@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:jasmin.shaw@chelseamagazines.com)

**Advertising Production** 01202 472781; [allpointsmedia.co.uk](http://allpointsmedia.co.uk)

PUBLISHING

**Chairman** Paul Dobson

**Chief Operating Officer** Kevin Petley

**Chief Financial Officer** Vicki Gavin

**Director of Media** James Dobson

**Managing Director Sales & Create** Steve Ross

**Publisher** Caroline Scott

**Circulation Manager** Daniel Webb

**EA to Chairman** Sarah Porter

ONLINE

**Digital Product Manager** Ben Iskander

**Email & Digital Creative Manager** Jenny Choo

PRODUCTION

**Reprographics Manager** Neil Puttnam

**Printing** William Gibbons Ltd

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE 4 MARCH 2020

THE ENGLISH HOME (UK EDITION) ISSN 1468-0238 (PRINT)

THE ENGLISH HOME (UK EDITION) ISSN 2397-7086 (ONLINE)

SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES  
01858 438 854

SUBSCRIPTION OFFICE

The English Home  
Tower House, Lathkill Street  
Market Harborough  
Leicestershire LE16 9EF  
Tel 01858 438 854  
Email [theenglishhome@subscription.co.uk](mailto:theenglishhome@subscription.co.uk)  
(UK and Rest of World)

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UK £72 (12 issues)  
Overseas £90 (12 issues)

NEWS DISTRIBUTION

Seymour Distribution Ltd  
2 East Poultry Avenue  
London EC1A 9PT  
Tel 020 7429 3667







- AWARD WINNING ORANGERIES & GARDEN ROOMS -

ORANGERIES | GARDEN ROOMS | CONSERVATORIES | OAK BUILDINGS

Call for our new brochure or book a home design consultation

01278 764444  
[davidssalisbury.com](http://davidssalisbury.com)



# ALBION

BATH COMPANY



Apollo bath in burnished bronze - 2 sizes manufactured

## What's unique about an Albion Bath?

Our special material, Iso-Enamel, keeps your bath hotter for longer, and is only a third of the weight of a cast iron bath.

See our range of baths from 1200mm to 2200mm long.

Request your brochure of our bath tubs, taps and bathroom furniture.

01255 831605

albionbathco.com

HAND MADE IN ENGLAND

For further inspiration  
on creating a  
quintessentially English  
home, visit our website  
[theenglishhome.co.uk](http://theenglishhome.co.uk)



## Including...

- + Room-by-room decorating advice
- + Interviews with top interior designers
- + Behind-the-scenes insights
- + Invaluable buyers' guides



Catch up when out and about at  
[theenglishhome.co.uk](http://theenglishhome.co.uk)

FOLLOW US ON...



Twitter @englishhometeam

Pinterest at [pinterest.com/theenglishhome](http://pinterest.com/theenglishhome)

Facebook at [facebook.com/theenglishhome](http://facebook.com/theenglishhome)

Instagram at [instagram.com/englishhomemag](http://instagram.com/englishhomemag)





curiousa & curiousa



Paradise Lost Wallpaper & Velvet Cushion by  
Blackpop - [www.blackpop.co.uk](http://www.blackpop.co.uk)

Antonio Hand Blown Glass Pendant by  
Curiousa & Curiousa - [www.curiousa.co.uk](http://www.curiousa.co.uk)





# HOME Comforts

Embrace the start of spring and  
add a breath of fresh air to interiors  
with our selection of buys





## OPPOSITE PAGE

### Chic utility

Embrace the opportunity to refresh and revive with pleasing storage and cleaning options.

*Laundry and storage collection, from £1.50 for a nail brush, all Garden Trading*

## CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

### Patchwork perfect

Howe's upholstery service now includes a patchwork option. Shown here on the brand's Dog Bed Settee. This provides the opportunity to mix and match Howe's in-house fabrics, including these latest striped additions from the 36 Bourne Street collection *Dog Bed Settee (suitable for humans and dogs), from £11,724 including upholstery; Ticking, from £78 a metre; fabric from £150 a metre, all Howe*

### Delicate ceramics

Carefully curated from niche international brands, online store Bonadea offers delicate homeware such as these Marie Daâge pieces created in an exclusive colourway for the website. *Dinner plate, £100; dessert plate, £90, both Cercle d'Ecaïlle by Marie Daâge for Bonadea; Swan salt cellar, £135, L'Objet, all Bonadea*

### Indian inspired

These simple florals inspired by traditional Indian motifs create a romantic touch on a large scale.

*Khilana Floral, Delft/Rose, £151 a roll, Schumacher at Turnell & Gigon* ►







#### CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

##### Spring walks

Create a corner in a hall or boot room to cast off layers after a breath of fresh air.

*Iron towel hooks, £20; Tartan Blue cushion with leather strap detail, £30, both A by Amara; leather lead, £55, Mutts & Hounds, all Amara*

##### Fashioned with style

This soft pink fabric with its playful swirls is one of four designs created in collaboration with fashion designer Duro Olowu and Soane Britain.

*Regency Swirl (Adam's Pink), £140 a metre, Duro Olowu for Soane Britain*

##### Artist's touch

Designed for individual clients' own specific tastes and interior schemes, these charming lampshades are hand-painted to order by artist Sarah Blomfield.

*Bespoke hand-painted lampshades (shown here in 6" base), from £80, Sarah Blomfield*

##### Botanical design

Marrying soft coral hues with fresh verdant tones, the bold and breezy forms of this new fabric design offer a stylish take on traditional fruit tree designs.

*Curtain in Espalier (Peach/Mint), £116 a metre, George Spencer Designs* ▶





# CHRISTOPHER PETERS

## INSPIRATIONAL KITCHENS & INTERIORS



[www.christopherpeters.com](http://www.christopherpeters.com)  
T: 01926 832511





#### CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT

##### Mirror mirror on the wall

Grouped together for maximum impact, the strong lines of Pooky's new mirrors draw the eye to create a striking focal point.

*Circle Link mirrors, Antique Gold, £87 each, Pooky*

##### Venetian wonder

The clever inset application of these chic tiles, inspired by a visit to a Venetian palazzo, highlights their elegant blue tones and stylish geometric form.

*Patterned tiles, Vaporetto Rialto Lagoon; plain tiles, Vaporetto Lagoon, both £29.92 a square metre, Claybrook*

##### Fabric update

The new fabric collection from Willow & Hall includes six new stain-resistant ranges for all upholstered furniture, including fresh spring shades such as this soft green linen-cotton blend.

*The Lover Sofa shown in Pistachio stain-resistant linen-cotton, from £1,085, Willow & Hall* ■





---

100% Bespoke kitchen & household furniture,  
sympathetically designed to work with your home's  
architecture and handmade to last a lifetime.

---



24A West Street, Ashburton, Newton Abbot, Devon TQ13 7DU  
Tel: 01364 653613 [www.barnesofashburton.co.uk](http://www.barnesofashburton.co.uk)

**AGA**  
AUTHORISED  
SHOWROOM





Paris jewellery box in Deep Shine Shell Pink Small Croc, £195, Aspinal of London



Kelpie table lamp with printed cotton shade, £115, Pooky



Butterfly alarm clock, £12.50, Beaumonde

Elysian Wardrobe with two doors, from £6,383, (shown here with hand-painted frame in Antique Pale Linen and panels in Dark Linen), Leporello



Glass-top table with floor-length cloth, from £230 plus four metres of fabric, The Dormy House



Medallions fabric in Cream/Gold, £109 a metre, Julia Brendel



Myolchina Blush long velvet cushion (65cm x 30cm), £45, Angel & Boho

## OASIS OF CALM

March affords the perfect excuse to refresh the bedroom with the advent of National Bed Month. Indulge in new furniture with elegant carved-wood details and co-ordinate with soft furnishings and accessories in pale hues to create a comforting, inviting scheme. Keep surfaces tidy to promote the sense of entering a relaxing space, with smaller items hidden away yet easily accessible.



Herba quilted bedspread, from £349 for a single (180cm x 240cm), Yves Delorme



Perfumed Pink Camelia Roses in Clear Glass by Côte Noir, £70, Amara



Avezzano dressing table, £725, Oka

Upholstered bed, from £1,995 (king size); and all other products, Susie Watson





AND SO TO BED  
LONDON

# LOUIS XV CANED BED

Selected  
sizes available  
in stock



Flexible  
finance



In-store  
sleep experts



Express delivery  
tailored for you



Eco-friendly  
disposal

[andsotobed.co.uk](https://andsotobed.co.uk) | 0808 144 4343

Bridport | Bristol | Bury St Edmunds | Chelmsford | Cheltenham | Glasgow | Handcross | Harrogate | Hartley Wintney | London, Chelsea  
London, Finchley Road | London, Richmond | London, West End | Manchester | Nottingham | Oxford | Tunbridge Wells | Weybridge

AIRELOOM.  
CALIFORNIA DESIGN • HANDMADE

VISPRING  
Luxury Beds - London 1901

J.MARSHALL  
BY VISPRING

TEMPUR





Hanki table runner in  
Linen/Olive, £36,  
Lapuan Kankurit  
[lapuankankurit.fi/en](http://lapuankankurit.fi/en)

Country Cottage Metro tiles in  
White Candle, Pistachio Green  
and Moss Green, £46.95 a  
square metre, Walls and Floors



Old Rose picnic rug,  
£124, Tolly McRae



Hand-printed linen tea cosy by  
Helen Round, £38.75,  
[Madebyhandonline.com](http://Madebyhandonline.com)



Bradleys gardening gloves, £26,  
The Wonderful Garden Company

## COUNTRY SPIRIT

As we head towards spring, it is timely to refresh interiors by taking inspiration from nature's uplifting palette. Look to natural oak dressers with dainty floral china displayed on the shelves or update kitchen walls with charmingly rustic tiles in soft green hues. With thoughts turning to the garden, a pair of smart gardening gloves and wellies adorned with a sweet motif will add to the pleasure of spending time outdoors.



Dog & Daisy apron, £24,  
Thornback & Peel



Retreat round dining  
table, £1,565,  
Sweetpea & Willow

Miniature oak dresser and  
rack in a natural finish (W91cm  
x H161cm x D37cm) £1,825,  
Titchmarsh & Goodwin



Wren Tea Pot, £22,  
I Like Birds  
[ilikebirds.co.uk](http://ilikebirds.co.uk)



Harriet sheep footstool,  
£495, Highgrove



Wellingtons, black,  
£110, Emily Bond for  
The Original Muck  
Boot Company





# VALE GARDEN HOUSES

FOR THE FINEST CONSERVATORIES, ORANGERIES AND ROOFLIGHTS

CONSERVATORY  
INTERIORS  
[www.interiorsbyvale.com](http://www.interiorsbyvale.com)

REQUEST A BROCHURE  
**+44(0)1476 564433**  
[www.valegardenhouses.com](http://www.valegardenhouses.com)

 **National Trust**  
Conservatory Collection





SALE  
NOW ON

TOM HOWLEY  
EXQUISITE BESPOKE KITCHENS

[tomhowley.co.uk](http://tomhowley.co.uk) call 0161 848 1200 for a free brochure

ALDERLEY EDGE ALTRINCHAM BEACONSFIELD BRENTWOOD BRISTOL CAMBRIDGE CHELSEA CHELTENHAM  
EDINBURGH ESHER GUILDFORD HARROGATE ISLINGTON LEAMINGTON SPA LONDON W1 TUNBRIDGE WELLS

BRITISH DESIGN & CRAFTSMANSHIP



THE ENGLISH HOME

# NOTEBOOK

Our monthly digest of inside information on people, places and pursuits  
by Managing Editor Sarah Feeley



PHOTOGRAPH © SEA WAVE/SHUTTERSTOCK

## PURSUIT

### Celebrating British Pie Week

Slicing into the bronzed crust of a generously filled, piping-hot, homemade pie, releasing its delicious aroma, is such a homely pleasure, especially given the variety offered by this humble treat.

Ancient Romans are believed to have been the first to enclose a filling inside a pastry-style mix of flour and oil, and the first published pie recipe saw rye dough filled with goat's cheese and honey.

The pies we know and love have their roots in Northern Europe when butter and lard were used to create a pastry that could be rolled and moulded.

The word 'pie' is said to derive from 'magpie' for the birds' habit of collecting random bits and bobs, as early pies contained parts of different animals.

In the twelfth century, pies became a popular, cheap alternative to taking live animals on sea voyages to provide food for the crew, who discarded the empty pastry crust encasing the meat. Pies were meat-filled until the late-sixteenth century when Queen Elizabeth I is said to have been served the first cherry pie.

British Pie Week (2–8 March) offers the perfect opportunity to get out the rolling

pin. For crisp, light pastry, handle the dough as little as possible, add just enough water to bind the ingredients, and to keep the dough from getting warm and melting the fat, run hot hands under a cold tap. Banish the dreaded 'soggy bottom' by using a thick, heavy pie dish or tin, the colour of which matters – black tins will absorb more heat than shiny, light-coloured tins.

To stop a wet filling making the pastry base soggy, place the pie on pre-heated baking tray. For a taste of sunshine, fill a pie with fruit frozen in summer. ►





## PURSUITS

### Diary – events worth noting

**RARE WONDERS** (right) Chatsworth's collection of drawings by Old Masters is second only to Her Majesty The Queen's. Now, 59 of them will go on show in a new exhibition, *Lines of Beauty: Master Drawings from Chatsworth*, at the Millennium Gallery in Sheffield. Featuring works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Carpaccio, Poussin and more, this is the largest exhibition of these rare wonders for more than 20 years. 14 February to 25 May; [museums-sheffield.org.uk](http://museums-sheffield.org.uk)

**GOLDEN ERA** (left) *Let's Misbehave: The 1920s at Blenheim Palace* celebrates the Duke and Duchess of Marlborough's lavish lifestyle in the Roaring Twenties with a series of tableaux within elegant State Rooms. Expect glamour, vintage cars, costumed characters, entertainment – and the unexpected. 15th February to 13 April; [blenheimpalace.com](http://blenheimpalace.com)

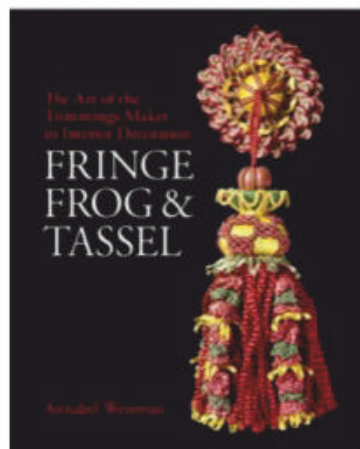
**TREASURE HUNT** (left & below right) Historic Wilton House in Salisbury will host its 43rd annual antiques fair, with over 40 exhibitors presenting clocks, carpets, furniture, fine art, jewellery, ceramics, silver and more. Prices will range from £50 to £50,000 and authenticity is assured by a specialist committee pre-vetting everything on sale. 6–8 March; [wiltonhouse.co.uk](http://wiltonhouse.co.uk)

**ARTISANAL DELIGHTS** (middle right) Marvel at handmade items by 100 artisans at Craft Fair, held at the Town Hall in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. With successful sister fairs in Cardiff and at Bovey Tracey, Devon and, Craft Fair events have gained a reputation as an important talent showcase, and especially fruitful for home adornments. 20–22 March; [craftfestival.co.uk/Cheltenham](http://craftfestival.co.uk/Cheltenham)



PHOTOGRAPHS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) PAINTING BY GIOVANNI BALDINI OF GLADYS DEACON, DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH, PHOTO BY ANDREW SMART; CHATSWORTH © SHOOTLIFESTYLE.CO.UK; SUE PRYKE CERAMICS © SUE PRYKE; HAYNES FINE ART: MOULIN DE LA GALETTE MONTMARTRE, PARIS BY MAURICE UTRILLO; SHAPIRO & CO: SAPPHIRE & AQUAMARINE 18CT GOLD BROOCH.

## A Good Read



**Fringe, Frog & Tassel: The Art Of The Trimmings-Maker** by Annabel Westman (Philip Wilson Publishers, £50)

Lavishly illustrated, with fascinating tales, this book traces the history of tassels, fringes, braids, gimps and cords in Britain and Ireland from 1320 to 1970. Such trimmings were sometimes more expensive than the rich fabrics they enhanced, and are often the only surviving evidence of a lost decorative scheme. Author Annabel Westman is an expert

textile historian who has worked with English Heritage, Historic Royal Palaces, the National Trust, and several esteemed bodies internationally. She paints a vivid picture of how trimmings evolved throughout different ages and styles, their historical context and the people involved in designing and making them. ▶





# Learn interior design from industry insiders

Interior and garden design courses taught with industry partners. KLC's outstanding teaching, welfare and careers support give the best value holistic learning experience.

Study at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour or Online from home.

- Short course
  - Certificate
  - Diploma
  - BA (Hons) Degree
- [search\\_KLC London](#)





## PEOPLE



### Lucian R Ercolani

*Founder of furniture brand Ercol*

Having moved to England from Italy with nothing as a boy, Lucian R Ercolani went on to found what is now one of England's flagship furniture companies, Ercol, which is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

Young Lucian struggled to learn English, and left school early, becoming a messenger boy. By chance, he spotted a poster for a furniture design course. He took drawing and design classes and City & Guilds exams in furniture theory and construction, and went on to work in design teams for what became Parker Knoll and G-Plan before founding his own furniture factory in 1920.

It thrived thanks to Lucian's innovative design ideas and shrewd business deals, like landing a lucrative Board of Trade contract in 1944 for 100,000 low-cost chairs. He was made Master of the Furniture Makers Guild in 1957 and awarded an OBE in 1964.

Lucian died in 1976 leaving a strong legacy – many of his family members have joined the company over the years, and today his grandson Edward Tadros is its chairman.

Ercol continues to prosper, with clients worldwide, iconic designs and an award-winning Buckinghamshire factory. To mark its 100th anniversary it has relaunched its Windsor Sideboard (*above right*), first launched in 1962 (*right*) and designed by founder Lucian R Ercolani himself. [ercol.com](http://ercol.com)



### Andy Guard

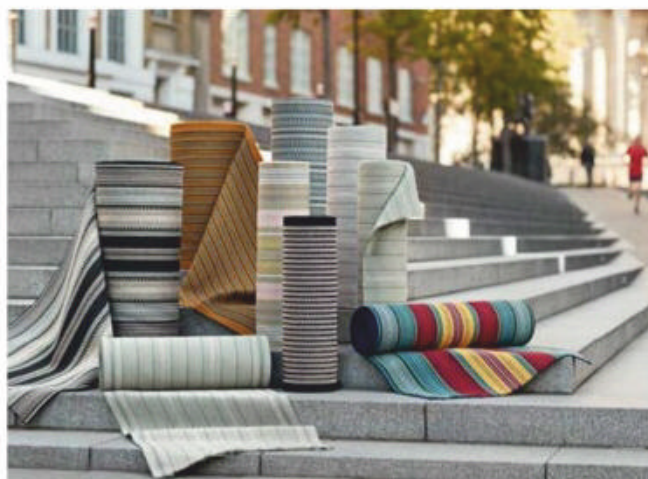
*Head of design, Roger Oates Design*

The mark of a truly iconic brand is instant recognition, and Roger Oates Design flooring is unmistakable at a glance.

Having recently celebrated 30 years in business, the company has just launched The Anniversary Collection. The man behind it is Andy Guard, head of design at Roger Oates Design. Taking inspiration from the company's vast archive, Andy has reimagined a selection of original designs with new colourways and tonal adjustments.

Andy was the protégé of brand founders Roger and Fay Oates, who rediscovered and reinvented 100 per cent wool Venetian flatweave, and he worked with the couple for over 10 years co-designing collections.

Initially intending to pursue a career as an engineer or architect, the pull of the art world was too strong and he graduated from Central Saint Martins with a Textile Design degree, specialising in woven textiles. After



working briefly at the Roger Oates Design showroom in London, Andy consulted on the brand's new collections on a freelance basis before joining the company in 2014.

"For over 30 years the colour and design of our iconic flatweave collections has continually evolved, developing our distinctive handwriting and maintaining a contemporary edge," says Andy.

The brand's craftsmen weave and hand-finish British wool, spun and dyed in Yorkshire, at its Herefordshire base using traditional techniques. [rogeroates.com](http://rogeroates.com) ▶





# tetrad

Harris Tweed



FOR THE FULL TETRAD EXPERIENCE PLEASE CONTACT OUR PREMIER STOCKISTS LISTED BELOW

**Aberdeen** Archibalds • **Aberdeen** Gillies • **Aberdeen** Sterling Furniture • **Abingdon** Lee Longlands • **Accrington** Taskers of Accrington • **Banbury** Bennetts  
• **Banchory** Taylors • **Bangor** Caprice • **Barnstaple** Padfields • **Barrow-in-Furness** Stollers • **Bath** TR Hayes • **Battersea, London** Barker & Stonehouse  
• **Beverley** Alexander Ellis Furniture Emporium • **Birmingham** Lee Longlands • **Bo'ness** Belgica • **Boston** Sack Store • **Brighouse** Websters Furniture  
• **Burton upon Trent** Haynes Furnishings • **Cardiff** Arthur Llewellyn Jenkins • **Carlisle** Vaseys • **Chesterfield** Brampton House Furnishers • **Clitheroe**  
Shackletons Home & Garden • **Colchester** Hatfields of Colchester • **Crickhowell, Wales** Webbs of Crickhowell • **Darlington** Barker & Stonehouse •  
**Derby** Lee Longlands • **Doncaster** Ward Brothers • **Dundee** Gillies • **Dundee** Sterling • **Dunfermline** Thomsons World of Furniture • **Dumfries** Barbours  
• **Ealing, London** Brentham Furniture • **Edinburgh** Martin & Frost • **Elgin** Anderson & England • **Exeter** Stoneman & Bowker • **Gateshead** Barker &  
Stonehouse • **Glasgow** Forrest Furnishing • **Glasgow** Sterling Furniture • **Grimsby** AW Robinson Furniture • **Guernsey** Scope Furnishing • **Guildford** Barker  
& Stonehouse • **Harrogate** Smiths: The Rink • **Haverfordwest** Furniture Directory • **Hedge End** Bradbeers • **Hinckley** Paul Edwards Interiors • **Holt** Bakers  
and Larners • **Hove** Barker & Stonehouse • **Hull** Barker & Stonehouse • **Inverness** Gillies • **Inverness** Sterling Furniture • **Inverurie** Andersons • **Isle of**  
**Wight** Bayliss & Booth • **Kilmarnock** Tannahills • **Knaresborough** Barker & Stonehouse • **Leamington Spa** Whartons • **Leeds** Barker & Stonehouse •  
**Leicester** Langtons • **Lincoln** GH Shaw • **Liverpool** Taskers - Aintree • **Llanidloes** Hafren Furnishers • **Macclesfield** Arighi Bianchi • **Malvern** Rhubarb  
Home • **Market Harborough** Furniture Loft • **Montrose** Buicks • **Morecambe** LPC Furniture • **Nelson** Pendle Village Mill • **Newcastle** Barker & Stonehouse •  
**Northants, Heart of the Shires** Texture Interiors • **Norwich** Jarrolds • **Nottingham** Barker & Stonehouse • **Perth** Gillies • **Rainham** G Lukehurst • **Ringwood**  
Furlong Furniture • **Salisbury** Mylor & Mawes • **Sheffield** Ponsford • **Shrewsbury** Alan Ward • **Solihull** Whartons • **Southsea** Design House • **Stamford**  
Stamford Garden Centre • **Stratford-upon-Avon** Home of the Sofa • **Street and Weston-Super-Mare** Living Homes • **Swansea** Arthur Llewellyn Jenkins •  
**Teeside** Barker & Stonehouse • **Tewkesbury** Pavilion Broadway • **Tillicoultry** Sterling Furniture • **Tunbridge Wells** Hoopers • **Waltham Cross** Fishpools •  
**Winchester** Design House • **Windsor** WJ Daniel • **Worcester** Holloways Home & Garden Furniture • **Yeovil** The Old Creamery • **York** Browns

[www.tetrad.co.uk](http://www.tetrad.co.uk)



## PLACES

### Knebworth House

Romantic turrets, domes and gargoyles festoon the exterior of Knebworth House in Hertfordshire, which is set in 250 acres.

It was built in 1490 by Sir Robert Lytton, under treasurer to the household of King Henry VII, and has been home to the Lytton family ever since.

Its stately interiors double for Balmoral Castle on television series *The Crown* – just one of Knebworth's many starring roles in films like *The King's Speech*, *Nanny McPhee* and *Batman* and television series like *Poirot*.

Novelist and statesman Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton – who wrote the lines 'it was a dark and stormy night' and 'the pen is mightier than the sword' – had the original red Tudor-brick building clad in the Victorian High Gothic style.

Knebworth House, park and gardens will reopen on 21 March after their winter closure. [knebworthhouse.com](http://knebworthhouse.com)



### Midgley Green

Crafts and homewares shop Midgley Green fuses old-school values and craftsmanship with new talent and eco-consciousness.

Founders Katherine Midgley and Seamus Green met at university studying fine art, and after launching an online shop in 2015 from their spare bedroom, on a shoestring budget, its success prompted them to open a bricks-and-mortar shop two years later in the coastal town of Clevedon. "Our aim was to create a platform to sell crafted products

from British artisans," they say, "a place to find beautifully made gifts with as equally beautiful ethos and story behind them."

"Every penny that you spend with us supports independent, British makers, heritage crafts and locally-sourced sustainable materials. Your purchase keeps small studios working, good forestry methods in use and helps craftspeople earn a fair wage for their skilled practices." [midgleygreen.com](http://midgleygreen.com) ►





# EUROPE'S MOST INCLUSIVE LUXURY RIVER CRUISES

New Year Sale  
**NOW ON**

Save <sup>up to</sup> **40%**

Plus

*FREE Private Door-to-Door  
Chauffeur Transfers<sup>^</sup>*

Book by 10 March 2020

**SCENIC<sup>®</sup>**  
LUXURY CRUISES & TOURS

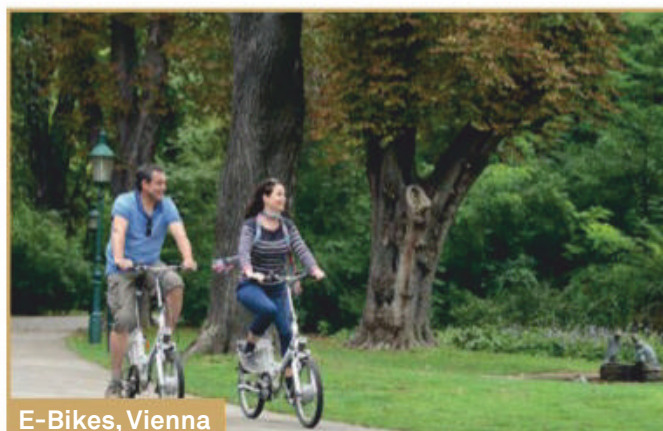
## The Scenic Difference is Clear

Make 2020 the year you see the Scenic Difference, and allow yourself to be elevated to a whole new level of all-inclusive luxury on board our fleet of opulent Space-Ships, sailing the rivers of Europe.

From the moment you embark on a Scenic river cruise, everything you could possibly need is included in the price. World-class accommodation, our unforgettable programme of on shore excursions, fine dining, premium branded beverages\*, and all flights, transfers and tips – you won't pay a penny extra.

Along with this, we offer some of the largest suites on the waterways, meaning you can cruise in complete comfort and style on a 5-star journey that's unlike anything else. A cruise with Scenic also offers you a host of incredible experiences including unprecedented access to some of Europe's most celebrated palaces, wine châteaux and fortresses as part of our Scenic Enrich program, where you'll attend classical music concerts, authentic feasts, and tastings with spectacular views. Inaccessible to the ordinary traveller, it's moments like these that will elevate your river cruise experience from ordinary to extraordinary.

Focus on what makes a truly exceptional experience with Scenic in 2020 and book your river cruise with Scenic today.



E-Bikes, Vienna



All-Inclusive dining & beverages



Scenic Enrich experiences

## All-Inclusive Highlights

- Return flights from up to 16 UK airports or travel via Eurostar\*
- 5-Star Scenic Space-Ships
- Balcony suites including a Scenic Sun Lounge
- Butler service for all guests
- Laundry concierge
- Complimentary beverages all day, every day†
- Up to five dining options – from casual to fine dining
- Complimentary mini-bar, fully restocked daily
- Cruise Directors to guide and assist
- Expert local guides
- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- Return airport transfers
- Scenic Enrich – handcrafted exclusive experiences to immerse you in the local art and culture

And all tipping and gratuities



ORDER A FREE BROCHURE ON 0808 252 3462 OR VISIT [SCENIC.CO.UK](http://SCENIC.CO.UK)

**Terms and Conditions:** Offers are available on new bookings made between 5 February 2020 and 10 March 2020. All prices stated are per person, twin share in GBP and based on the lowest cabin category available. <sup>^</sup>Private door-to-door chauffeur transfers are complimentary up to 75 miles to an airport where flights are available from, for guests outside of 75 miles, an additional supplement of £2 per mile will be charged. Prices shown include advertised discount and are correct at time of going to print (January 2020). \*All drinks included on board except for a small number of rare and fine wines, champagnes and spirits. \*Select itineraries only. Offers are not combinable with any other discount and can be withdrawn at any time. For full terms and conditions, visit [scenic.co.uk/terms-and-conditions](http://scenic.co.uk/terms-and-conditions)







## Burghley House

Known as 'England's greatest Elizabethan house', Burghley is one of the largest and grandest houses of the first Elizabethan Age. This Tudor country mansion in Lincolnshire was mostly designed and built between 1555 and 1587 by William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Queen Elizabeth I and one of Elizabethan England's most powerful figures (*pictured below left*). To mark the 500th anniversary of his birth, 2020 sees events and exhibitions staged at Burghley throughout the year.

The house's State Rooms are breathtaking thanks to two earls who were avid collectors: the 5th Earl of Exeter (1648–1700) made four extended Grand Tours of Italy, purchasing an astonishing quantity of fine art, and the 9th Earl of Exeter (1725–1793) added many more great treasures to complement those at Burghley.

Interiors highlights include the Heaven Room, the masterpiece of Italian painter Antonio Verrio, with scenes from ancient mythology adorning every wall and the entire ceiling. Verrio also painted the ceiling of the immersive and dramatic Hell Staircase (*left*).

Painted by French artist Louis Laguerre in 1697, the walls of the Bow Room (*below*) depict scenes from Roman history and the ceiling shows figures of Roman mythology. A collection of blue-and-white oriental porcelain fills the Blue Silk Dressing Room (*top left*). The state bed in Queen Elizabeth's Bedroom (*right*) dates from the mid-seventeenth century and the embroidery, brocades and braidwork are all original.

The historic parkland was laid out by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and is occupied by a herd of deer.

Burghley House and its gardens will reopen in March after their winter closure. [burghley.co.uk](http://burghley.co.uk) ■



PHOTOGRAPHS P28 (ROGER OATES CARPETS), © ROGER OATES DESIGN.  
P30 (TOP) © CHRIS ORANGE, P32 ALL © BURGHLEY, (TOP RIGHT) © JAMES WILLIS;  
(TOP LEFT) © BOB LAUGHTON.





LA CENERENTOLA  
ROSSINI



A MIDSUMMER  
NIGHT'S DREAM  
BRITTEN



MANON LESCAUT  
PUCCINI



DANCE@THEGRANGE  
ENYA MC GREGOR



MY FAIR LADY  
LERNER & LOEWE



THE MONSTER IN  
THE MAZE  
DOVE

*'the star of the Summer's country house offerings'*  
Music OMH

5 JUNE - 19 JULY 2020



+44 (0) 1962 791020  
[www.thegrangefestival.co.uk](http://www.thegrangefestival.co.uk)



## THE ENGLISH HOME

# THE LONDON EDIT

Editor-at-large Kate Freud's thoughts turn to spring and updating the home, both inside and out

### A PLACE IN THE GARDEN

Living in London has many selling points, but the size of the average garden has never been one of them. Companies such as A Place in the Garden have seen a huge rise in customers wishing to use their gardens as an extension of their homes, as an extra 'room' in which to relax and socialise, capitalising on all available living space. Yet, its chic range of zinc planters, water features, decorative objects and firepits is perfect for enhancing every size of plot and has broad appeal for homeowners in both town and country.

Since its launch at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show in 2010, the award-winning company, founded by Jane and Richard Clifford, has found a niche in the market for handmade pieces dipped in molten zinc, which creates such a natural finish it blends beautifully



within any garden, courtyard or even inside the house. Better still, the zinc finish develops a lovely patina which improves with age, ensuring the pieces garner admiration and enjoyment for many years to come. [aplaceinthegarden.co.uk](http://aplaceinthegarden.co.uk)

### BEAUMONT & FLETCHER

Growing up in London, the late John Crowell – founder of luxury furniture and fabric brand Beaumont & Fletcher – would cycle to the Portobello Road market to take inspiration from the wares of its



many furniture stallholders. It was here that he bought his first piece of furniture, a neglected, mildew-ravaged rosewood Regency daybed and, under the watchful eye of a retired master upholsterer, he returned it to its former glory, learning his trade whilst doing so.

Crowell set up Beaumont & Fletcher in 1989 – naming it after two successful seventeenth-century playwrights – and the company has gone from strength to strength.

Sadly, Crowell passed away in 2016, since when the company has been led by Jana Durisova, who had worked alongside him for 12 years. Her mantra is "anything is possible", which is clear to see in the complexity of some of the exquisite hand-embroidered couture fabrics and hand-built furniture, mirrors and lighting that Beaumont & Fletcher sells today.

Durisova finds inspiration for new designs everywhere from museum collections to her overseas travels. The brand's most recent 30th anniversary collection is a sight to behold.

[beaumontandfletcher.com](http://beaumontandfletcher.com)



### DRAGONS OF WALTON STREET

There is undoubtedly a sense of magic felt upon stepping inside Dragons of Walton Street's new shop in London's Knightsbridge. Its beautiful collection of hand-painted children's furniture brings to mind the kind of nostalgic memories that come from childhood story books.

At just under 2,000 square feet, it is an impressive space in which to showcase a wide variety of pieces, from bespoke furniture and personalised accessories to designer nursery sets for babies. The new shop also features a 'personalisation bar', where client dreams are captured in many of Dragons' traditional products, alongside impressive fairy princess and car beds for older children.

The brand was founded in 1979 by Rosie Fisher, selling hand-painted traditional furniture, and continues to be family-run to this day by her daughter Lucinda Croft, who leads the creative direction as well.

Dragons' new premises are also now home to its interior design service. The

expert project managers can host clients in the consultation room, with its extensive fabric and paint library and sophisticated computer-aided design (CAD) technology, carrying projects from conception through to installation.

[dragonsofwaltonstreet.com](http://dragonsofwaltonstreet.com) ■





# For everyone who loves beautiful homes



SUBSCRIBE to *The English Home* and receive  
**12 issues from only £40.95**

As a new subscriber you will receive a Noble Isle Fresh & Clean Bath & Shower Trio set worth £20 absolutely FREE\*.

This indulgent set contains three luxurious scents: Tea Rose, Rhubarb Rhubarb! and Willow Song and is the perfect introduction to the Noble Isle range. All packaging is 100% recyclable and these products have not been tested on animals.



\* Gift offer applies to Direct Debit orders only

Every issue brings Britain's prettiest homes to life through glorious photography and captivating stories. Discover elegant looks for your own home with decorating insights and valuable advice from leading interior designers.

Special benefits for *The English Home* subscribers:

- **SAVE** up to **22%** when you subscribe
- **FREE** postage to your home
- Indulgent **FREE** welcome gift worth £20\*

"The English Home is full of beautifully illustrated features which offer a real insight into how to recreate traditional English style."

Joanna Wood, Leading Interior Designer



## ORDER TODAY

 [www.chelseamagazines.com/CENHP203](http://www.chelseamagazines.com/CENHP203)

 **+44 (0)1858 438889** and quote CENHP203

NB: Prices and discounts based on the UK cover price of £4.50. Free gift is subject to availability and we reserve the right to exchange without notice. If for any reason you're not happy with your subscription, you may cancel within 28 days of placing your order.



In the inviting snug, a bespoke oak ottoman in Jocasta Red from Colefax and Fowler is teamed with a blind in Wild Thing by Lewis & Wood.

RIGHT Cabinetry has been built into the hallway to create useful storage and seating.







# Abundant CHARM

Simple Georgian features have been mixed with playful fabrics and colours to create a fresh take on tradition in this South West London period cottage

FEATURE CLAIR WAYMAN  
PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH





**ABOVE** The chair in the study is covered in Rajmata Tonal by Peter Dunham Textiles and the ottoman is covered in Luma by Penny Morrison. Both fabrics bring a subtle Indonesian feel to the room. The Swedish-style bookcase was made for the space.

**RIGHT** The David Seyfried armchairs in the formal sitting room are in Check Stripe by George Spencer Designs. Cushions are in Addis by Peter Dunham Textiles and Killi by Penny Morrison.

Back in 2017, newly-weds Soraya and Geoffrey van Hasselt were searching for their first home together and jumped at the opportunity to view a pretty, Grade II listed Georgian cottage in a quiet, tree-lined street in South West London. “I’ve long been an admirer of Georgian architecture and dreamt of owning a period house with a rich history,” says Soraya.

Stepping into the property for the first time, Soraya was drawn to the generous Georgian windows and plentiful light. “As soon as I saw the windows, I knew I wanted to live here. One of my favourite period features is the original window looking into the new extension [shown above],” she explains. “We also liked the idea of having both a cosy snug and more formal sitting room, perfect for entertaining or just relaxing.”

Built in 1828 and recently modernised by a developer, the house’s interior was bland when the couple first saw it. “However, we could see it had lovely bones, plus living in leafy South West London appealed to us,” says Soraya, who, whilst she and Geoffrey were going through the buying process, fortuitously discovered interior designer Lisette Voûte. ►





Lisette chose the bold Waltham Stripe from Colefax and Fowler for the David Seyfried sofa. The set of eight 1920s Swedish pressed botanicals, found in an antique shop, are a favourite of Soraya's.







A mix of open shelves, glazed wall cupboards and a big pantry to the left of the fireplace provides ample storage in the kitchen. The simple Georgian-style cabinetry is painted in Beach Glass by Benjamin Moore and the brass taps are from Perrin & Rowe. A cooker from Lacanche is the icing on the cake for keen cook Soraya.





*‘There isn’t a corner of the house that doesn’t spark some joy. The details and layers are all so pleasing, plus there’s a beautiful flow through the spaces’*

Before the couple had even officially bought the house, interior designer Lisette and her builder were able to have access to the property so they could draw up plans. Then, on the day Soraya and Geoffrey completed, in October 2017, they handed the keys to the builder who immediately started work, whilst they lived elsewhere.

“Soraya and Geoffrey really wanted to make specific changes to bring back the original charm and make it their own,” Lisette says. “Being a Grade II listed house, the front hallway had to be tiled, but the developer who had previously updated the property had chosen modern ceramic tiles.” Lisette soon replaced these with tumbled flagstone, more in keeping with the Georgian era of the property, and laid solid oak flooring throughout the rest of the house. “In a cottage, having two types of flooring helps to define zones and creates more of a sense of space,” she explains.

Lisette completely transformed the cottage with a classic, sophisticated approach, making the most of the space. “The front hallway was disproportionately vast for a cottage and I felt there was unused space, so I put in a big wall of cupboards with a little bench seat,” she explains. “To add character, I put simple Georgian-style wall panelling on the cupboard doors, which is echoed throughout the house to create consistency.”

To make the most of the space downstairs, Lisette had the ingenious idea of putting up a stud wall to create an internal study between the hallway and formal sitting room. “Open-plan layouts are a popular choice, but in this type of house, by dividing rooms, you actually create more space, making them more functional,” she explains.

The whole project took less than a year and was done in three distinct stages. The building work, including bathrooms, flooring and lighting, took three

**ABOVE** A bespoke Julian Chichester mirror is teamed with an Alderney fireplace from Chesneys in the dining room. The antique bobbin chairs are covered in Bukhara Oasis by Lewis & Wood. Lisette designed the dining table and had it made in oak. The walls are covered in silk. For similar, try James Hare.



# The English House

*Handmade light fittings*



[www.theenglishhouse.co.uk](http://www.theenglishhouse.co.uk)

tel: CHARLES MORRIS on 01502 478493





months, after which Soraya and Geoffrey moved in. They let most of their old furniture and accessories go, which meant Lisette could start with a clean slate. She sourced antiques and mixed them with bespoke furniture, made to the perfect dimensions, to maximise space and add character. All the new upholstery and furniture was installed in one day in spring 2018. “It was really wonderful coming home from work that day,” says Soraya. “I felt like I was walking into the house we’d dreamt up when the estate agent first showed us around. There is not one thing I would change.”

The third phase took place in late summer 2018, when a bespoke kitchen, with solid walnut interiors and a large built-in pantry cupboard, was made by Lisette’s specialist joiner. Every centimetre of space has been used. A pale blue colour scheme and beautiful brass highlights complete it.

Last but not least, Lisette believes styling a room is an important part of the process. “Layering accessories creates an inviting, lived in, cosy feel,” she says. With Soraya’s help, Lisette sourced ornaments, artwork, table lamps and even coffee table books. With Indonesian roots, Soraya was keen to infuse the interiors with a subtle Eastern influence. “For most of my life, my home has been Jakarta [capital of Java], even though I studied in the UK and work as a fund manager in London now,” she explains. “I wanted this house to be timeless, but also reflect all the ►

**ABOVE** In the master bedroom, the James Hare silk wallcovering is teamed with curtains in Lindon Old Blue by Colefax and Fowler. The bespoke headboard is covered in Vintage Dew fabric by Mark Alexander.

**LEFT** Lisette found the lamp base in Belgium and had the shade made using Soma fabric from Mark Alexander. The antique sailor boy painting has been teamed with a modern landscape painting by Paul Bailey. The brass wall light is Ralph Lauren.





many colours and textures that I grew up with, such as the silk wallpaper in my childhood home.” Many of the fabrics in the cottage have a Javanese influence, including batik and ikat patterns. A lot of the dark furniture in the house is inspired by Indonesian teak pieces. “I love the wood carvings and unique joinery in Javanese houses, which is probably why I’m all for details,” she continues.

The finished interiors encapsulate a fresh take on tradition. “We’ve chosen furniture with cleaner, simpler lines, that aren’t ornate, to suit the cottagey feel,” Lisette says. “Our aim was to respect the history of the house whilst bringing it into the 21st century with a high-quality renovation,” Soraya adds.

At the start of the process, Geoffrey needed more convincing than Soraya, but he’s now a huge advocate of Lisette’s work. “We’re expecting a baby this year and plan to buy a house in the country, keeping the cottage as a London pied-à-terre. The first thing Geoffrey said was ‘we should check if Lisette is free’,” laughs Soraya.

“Lisette didn’t just make the house look beautiful, she thought of every practical detail, even down to the electrical plans and light switches,” Soraya says. “There isn’t a corner of the house that doesn’t spark some joy. The details and layers are all so pleasing, plus there’s a beautiful flow through the spaces. Nothing feels forced, everything has its place, and even though it’s a little cottage, it feels spacious. Honestly, I pinch myself that this house is really ours.” ■



**ABOVE LEFT** Marble tiles by Mandarin Stone are used on the walls in the guest bathroom. The paint on the bath panel is Lead IV by Paint & Paper Library.

**ABOVE** The scalloped headboard is in Bukhara Sugar Almond by Lewis & Wood and the walls are in Powder Puff by Zoffany. The room seen beyond is a dressing room.

**LEFT** China Cloud trim by Samuel & Sons contrasts with pale pink Dorset curtain fabric by Hodsoll McKenzie. The portrait by an Indonesian artist was sourced from *1stdibs.co.uk* by Soraya.





# WAXED FLOORS

Waxed Floors Ltd

92 Battersea Rise • London SW11 1EJ

+44 (0)20 7738 1620 • [waxedfloors.co.uk](http://waxedfloors.co.uk)

Luxury, hand-crafted hardwood flooring

Delivered nationwide  
Order your free samples online now



The panelling is in Garden by Little Greene and the ceiling is in a shade of yellow by Paint & Paper Library. The portraits are of her sons, painted by Thomas Hoar. On the mantelpiece sits a bronze greyhound by Margot Dent and pottery by Ardmore. The buttoned stool is David Seyfried.





A photograph of a cozy interior room. The walls are painted a deep green and feature traditional paneling. On the left, a fireplace with a white mantel holds a small sculpture and a framed picture. A green leather tufted ottoman sits on a large, colorful patterned rug. To the right, a wooden chest of drawers and a floral curtain are visible. The text 'Life in COLOUR' is overlaid in a large, elegant script font.

# *Life in* COLOUR

Interior designer Louisa Greville William's vibrant, inviting home belies its humble start in life as a 1960s bungalow

FEATURE & STYLING SARA BIRD  
PHOTOGRAPHY DAN DUCHARS





When working with clients, interior designer Louisa Greville Williams is clear about the importance of good planning and a logical schedule.

However, when it came to her own home, she found she had to be more flexible as it not only needed structural work but also to be ready to live in as soon as possible for her and her two sons, George and Ned, now 21 and 19 respectively.

Having bought the Wiltshire property in 2011, Louisa has since reconfigured and extended it to create an elegant six-bedroom home with four bathrooms, three receptions, an open-plan kitchen and a boot room. “The original part of the building was a 1960s/70s bungalow which had been redeveloped in the 1990s. The developer was a joiner, so there was quite a lot of ‘built-in’,” she says. “The most recent owners had started the process of extending, but their design didn’t work for me, so I had to start over, including going back to the planning office.”

The new design included a two-storey extension which would add two extra bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs, and a sitting room below. Once this was

**ABOVE LEFT** Joyous colour continues in the boot room, painted Marine Blue by Little Greene. The vintage dog prints were Louisa’s grandfather’s.

**ABOVE RIGHT** The original 1960s/70s bungalow has been transformed beyond all recognition.

**LEFT** Louisa in the blush pink hallway. The double doors lead to the green sitting room.



The double-height hallway, painted in Setting Plaster by Farrow & Ball, adds a sense of grandeur to the house. The Skipper pendant light is by Tom Raffield and the scalloped rug is by Vanrenen GW Designs.







*'I'm always adding to the house... It's full of my treasures and I love its quirkiness and colourfulness'*

**ABOVE** The red sitting room is a favourite with the boys. Louisa mixed the shade of red herself. The armchair is covered in a Roger Oates stripe, the cushions are from Oka and the gold lamps are Vanrenen GW Designs.

done, Louisa picked her way through the remainder of the house, reconfiguring and decorating as time and budget allowed, and transforming what was a warren of white rooms into a vibrant and inviting home.

One of the early tasks was to change the layout of the master suite. "The bedroom was originally where my bathroom is now. It had a bed built into the window area, which was quite odd – in fact, all the bedrooms had built-in beds when I moved in," she says. "It just seemed crazy to me that the two big sash windows in my bedroom, providing the only good view of the garden, were hidden away in what was a dressing room."

Louisa looks to nature for inspiration and advocates being bold with colour. "My green sitting room works all the more for painting the ceiling yellow. I was

driving home from work one day when I saw a field of bright yellow rape next to a green field," she says. "It was such an amazing expanse of colour against the blue sky, I knew right there that I'd have to use it at home."

There is an intelligence to the way Louisa has used pattern and colour to link each space, creating an interplay through a series of rooms, whether that be green patterned wallpaper on a landing leading to a red bedroom, or a shock of bright blue in the boot room that imparts a flash of blue next to the dashing red of the sitting room and neutral of the dining room. "I love being able to look through at those colours together," she says.

Such boldness is an ethos Louisa shares with her business partner, Sarah Vanrenen, with whom she set up Vanrenen GW Designs two years ago. Both interior





**ABOVE** Louisa removed the built-in beds added by a previous owner in this ground-floor room, which is now the dining room, but kept the panelling. The lamps are by Pooky and the plates came from Marrakech.

**LEFT** The kitchen came with the house. Louisa has updated it using Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe on the walls and Slipper Satin on the cabinetry.





**ABOVE LEFT** The headboards in this twin bedroom are a wonderful focal point. Louisa came by one of them in a London designer's garage sale back in the 1990s and loved it so much she had it copied.

**ABOVE RIGHT** The landing is papered in Aspa in eau de Nil and green – a design by Louise's business partner Sarah Vanrenen.

**RIGHT** Encaustic tiles from Morocco add pattern underfoot in this classic bathroom.

designers, they had their own separate businesses and had worked on shared projects prior to deciding to join forces. "For us, it's all about being bold and creating elegant schemes that don't try too hard, and we set out to really fill a space," Louisa explains. "Lamps should always be bigger than you think they should be, shades should be bigger and sofas bigger."

Citing Robert Kime and American designers amongst her influences, Louisa says, "American designers tend to be brave with where they put furniture and in their colour choices. We [English] are probably quite traditional in many ways but have picked up on these influences, and that adds a great twist to English country style."

Much of the furniture in Louisa's home is inherited. "And if not, it is an auction find or something from a buying trip where we fill up a van," she explains. Her upholstered furniture is a collection of hand-me-downs and vintage finds that have been reupholstered. ►





Louisa's bedroom has a rich backdrop of Will O' The Wisp wallpaper by Knowles & Christou. The lampshades are by Vanrenen GW Designs. The sketch of lurchers on the right-hand-side of the bed is by Nick Johnson.







**ABOVE** In Louisa's en-suite bathroom, the bath now occupies the space where a built-in bed once stood. The walls are painted in Euphorbia by Paint & Paper Library – a perfect foil for her collection of pink lustrewear. The kilim is by The Rug Company.

**RIGHT** Louisa has reconfigured the master suite, switching the bedroom and bathroom to make more of the garden views. The staircase leads from her bedroom to the en-suite bathroom.

For fabrics, Louisa looks to the collections at Penny Morrison, as well as those by business partner Sarah Vanrenen, Morrison's daughter. Careful to mix and avoid too much matching, Louisa likes to add cushions in fabrics she has collected through the years. Her approach to art is similar, choosing things because she loves them and not being too precious about genres. Traditional botanical prints sit comfortably alongside bright Bollywood film posters in this house.

As with many renovation projects, there has been a tussle between channelling funds into structural repairs or the more fun, creative aspects. "The roof hadn't been done properly and the windows were rotten, so that took money. Of course, I would have preferred to spend on design and decorating," explains Louisa.

The house remains a work in progress and future plans include a new floor for the kitchen and dining room and deciding which vibrant shade to paint the panelling in the dining room. "I'm always adding to the house, there is always something to do and something I want to change," says Louisa. "But it does give me enormous pleasure when I walk through the door. It's full of my treasures and I love its quirkiness and colourfulness. It's very under-designed compared to how I approach my clients' projects. Here, I've basically thrown things in to see what works and there's a wonderful freedom and playfulness in that, which I love." ■





# HYPOALLERGENIC

*Wool is naturally hypoallergenic, without the need for chemicals or washing.*

# SUSTAINABLE

*Our British Wool is renewable, fully biodegradable, totally recyclable and supports British farmers.*

# COMFORTABLE

*Wool's natural temperature regulating properties ensure you're never too hot or too cold.*



BEDS | BEDDING | MATTRESSES | CHILDREN'S | HOMEWARES

**woolroom**

THIS IS WHAT HAPPY FEELS LIKE

[www.thewoolroom.com](http://www.thewoolroom.com)  
01780 461217 [info@thewoolroom.com](mailto:info@thewoolroom.com)



Delicate, pale Roman blinds set the mood in the sitting room, with a George Smith sofa and Swedish chairs. Portraits and paintings line the walls and every object has a personal association.







# *Sense of* BALANCE

Former ballet dancer Gail Monahan has created an elegant home that combines personality with poise

FEATURE & STYLING JO LEEVERS PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH



The ornate mirror in the living room is a French antique, bought in the 1970s. Paintings and pretty details are brought together into a restful scheme in a corner of the sitting room.







That the rooms in former ballet dancer Gail Monahan's home are arranged in exceptionally balanced and graceful compositions, feels very fitting. They are spaces where everything from delicate ceramics to family portraits feels deeply personal and comes with a lovely story attached. "My house is the result of my passions, which include art, ballet, music, travel, family and friendship," she explains.

Gail came to England aged 16 to study at The Royal Ballet School, after being talent-spotted in her native New Zealand. She joined The Royal Ballet Company (where she often shared a stage with Fonteyn and Nureyev) and became a *coryphée* – a leading dancer in a *corps de ballet*). She left to have a family and later was on the dance panel for the Olivier Awards and a governor of The Royal Ballet Company. Today, she is a contributor and proofreader for *Dancing Times* magazine.

She moved to her nineteenth-century cottage in South London when she was downsizing from a larger home. "My children are now grown up with

families of their own, so there was no need for the extra space," she says. "Although the rooms are smaller here, I immediately loved the flow of light and the proportions. As soon as I walked in I thought, 'Yes, this feels like home'."

Gail has decorated the house in chalky paint shades from the pale end of the colour spectrum. She prefers to use these hues as a backdrop and add brighter colours in the form of art, ceramics and decorative fabrics. "I do love colour, but in a smaller space I think it works better this way," she says.

The furniture and art throughout evoke many happy memories. The mirror over the sitting room sofa, for example, was bought in the 1970s by Gail and her late husband, James. "We spotted it in a shop on the King's Road but it cost £70, which was a lot of money back then," she remembers. James's solution was to return with a cheque as a deposit – plus a neat pile of post-dated cheques to cover the remainder. "In those days, if you sounded and looked like a gentleman, you were trusted," she says. The mirror was duly delivered. ►

**ABOVE LEFT** Gail's natural poise and elegance imbues her home's interiors, too.

**ABOVE RIGHT** An unattributed nineteenth-century portrait of Gail's late husband James's great-grandfather, a chief justice of Ireland, hangs in the music room. The writing desk is a Swedish antique and the painting above is by Kirsty Wither. The Coalport porcelain oil lamp on the desk is a much-loved gift from James.





*‘My house is the result of my passions, which include art, ballet, music, travel, family and friendship’*

**ABOVE** The kitchen and dining areas are in a glazed-roof extension that leads into the garden. Open shelving provides storage for ceramics, old and new, including vintage Wedgwood by Eric Ravilious. A collection of Quimper pottery is displayed on a shelf above the French windows.

Gail and James met whilst she was with The Royal Ballet Company and he was *The Guardian*’s dance critic, a job he did for more than 25 years in tandem with being the controller of world programmes for the BBC’s External Services. He later became director of The Royal Ballet School. Together they had two children, Mark and Daisy, and Gail now has three grandchildren.

Another piece that has sentimental value is a small Coalport porcelain oil lamp. “James and I saw it in an antiques shop, where I admired it but forgot all about it,” remembers Gail. “Then, on my birthday, James and the children brought me breakfast in bed – and there was the lamp, lit up and glowing at the centre of the tray. It was the happiest birthday present.”

In her kitchen, Gail has a small collection of Wedgwood designed by Eric Ravilious, much of it given to her by her stepson, Jerome. Quimper and

Rye pottery is lined up on her kitchen shelves, along with paintings by the late Pat Albeck, a good friend. A drawing that hangs above the kitchen sink is a reminder of a much-loved view in Bassano del Grappa in the Veneto, an area of Italy she and the family know well, having visited many times. “It’s by Brian Lemesle Adams, but everyone knew him as ‘Beak’,” she says. “I spotted this at one of his exhibitions and had to have it.”

Other pieces of porcelain and pottery were bought on trips to Italy and Sardinia, but Gail also has a keen eye for charity shop finds. “When I visit New Zealand I do like to look around what they call ‘op shops’,” she says with a smile. On a visit there last year, she found a beautiful, hand-painted Limoges pot.

In a similar vein, two pieces of seventeenth-century, Italian embroidery hang either side of her bed. “Initially, I borrowed them from an antique-textile ►





**ABOVE** A French farmhouse table is the characterful centrepiece of the dining area and is partnered with an antique Swedish bench and chairs. The painting to the left of the mirror is an unattributed Suffolk landscape and the print on the right is by Mary Fedden.

**LEFT** A nook in the kitchen provides space for a gallery wall, with a mix of art, prints and family photographs.

**RIGHT** The house's exterior with its pretty pink front door.





**ABOVE** A romantic Gustavian canopy and two pieces of seventeenth-century Italian needlework decorate the master bedroom. The bed was custom-made in Sweden.

**RIGHT** Gail chose a powdery pink linen for her bedroom curtains and a soft grey paint shade for her dressing table and storage. For similar furniture, try Chelsea Textiles.

dealer to see how they would look here. Rather predictably, they ended up staying," she says.

Evocative ballet ephemera is also displayed throughout Gail's home, from her own signed contract with The Royal Ballet Company to a photograph of Dame Margot Fonteyn taken by Cecil Beaton.

Then there is her love of music. Gail treated herself to a grand piano a few years ago and tries to practise every day. "I used to play as a child, but then ballet took over and I didn't have time to do both," she explains. She is currently mastering two Mozart sonatas, and enjoys seeing her grandchildren at the piano, too. Meanwhile, her granddaughter may have inherited the dancing gene. "It's very early days but she is very musical and instinctively holds herself in the right way. That's something that can't be taught," says Gail. "She also has very pretty feet, so we'll see."

Gail will always have a deep love for the world of dance and music, but she has also poured her creativity into this house, producing a home that is full of personality and elegance. ■





SALE<sup>\*</sup>  
NOW ON

uniquely yours...

NEVILLE JOHNSON  
HANDCRAFTED BESPOKE FURNITURE

for our latest brochure  
[nevillejohnson.co.uk](http://nevillejohnson.co.uk) | 0161 873 8333

STUDIES

BEDROOMS

LOUNGES

LIBRARIES

\* Sale discount applies to orders placed between 23/12/19 and 24/2/20. Minimum order value £3,000 +VAT.



The 'top' sitting room is a light, relaxing room, enhanced with *trompe l'oeil* painted panelling. A footstool upholstered in an Andrew Martin fabric adds a hint of strong colour to the otherwise neutral palette.





# *Lasting* VALUES

Timeless decor, practical thinking and clever reconfiguration transformed a series of flats back into a characterful farmhouse

FEATURE & STYLING ANNABELLE GRUNDY  
PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE







Meg designed the kitchen's user-friendly layout, incorporating a bespoke island to make the best use of the space. The cabinets are painted in Wimborne White and the walls in Smoked Trout, both by Farrow & Ball.





Set at the end of a quiet valley, some four miles from the main road, Meg and Matthew Cunningham's Yorkshire farmhouse enjoys a breathtakingly peaceful and unspoiled location. The property sits against a rocky outcrop and is surrounded by green slopes dotted with sheep, oyster-catchers and curlews flying across the vast sky above. The majority of the building is Victorian, but some parts are much older. Historical documents reveal that a dramatic battle took place here in 1617, when the owner tried to seize the premises from his tenants.

To accommodate its position in the side of a hill, the house has two split-level wings branching off from the central living area. When Meg first saw it 20 years ago, nothing had been touched for decades, but as an experienced interior designer with her own business – Meg Treherne Designs – she was confident that she had the skills and drive to bring it back to life. ►

**ABOVE** A series of old drawings found in an antique shop hang on the chimney breast in the dining room. Blue velvet chairs from Oka surround the circular table. The stone stairs lead into one of the two wings.

**RIGHT** The conservatory has rattan furniture from Oka and Habitat. The checked curtain fabric came from Chelsea Textiles.







**ABOVE** The drawing room's large, grey Dudgeon sofa is one of many long-held investment pieces, gathered over the years. The tall wooden twisted lamps are vintage Mulberry Home items, whilst the old Louis Vuitton trunk and tapestry came from Meg's family.

**RIGHT** The house sits in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, surrounded by unspoilt countryside

The couple settled in one of the estate cottages for about a year whilst their new home underwent an extensive renovation programme. Calling on her professional expertise, Meg aimed to convert the house, which had been divided into a chaotic series of small, run-down flats, back into a family home. Complete reconfiguration was required, together with modern wiring and plumbing. "Initially I just put plain cream blackout blinds in all the bedrooms, and painted all the interior walls in HC19, which is a warm, neutral shade from Papers and Paints," she says. "I firmly believe you should get to know a house for at least six months before you invest in expensive improvements. You need to see how the different seasons alter the feel and light in the rooms."

The property's unconventional design posed initial challenges and Meg took time to work out how best to assign the space. The large front door now opens

directly into a spacious and sociable kitchen-dining room. Stairs lead off to the two separate wings, each of which contains a reception room, and bedrooms above. "I tried using one of the reception rooms for formal dining, as there wasn't an obvious place for entertaining, but, being located up a steep set of stone steps, it wasn't very practical," she says. "Creating a kitchen-dining room was a successful solution. We now have a relaxed, informal space, which I hope sets the tone for the whole house."

The kitchen is testament to Meg's clear vision and thoughtful decorating choices, as it has barely been altered since it was first installed 20 years ago. With its neutral colour scheme and classic, graphite Aga, it was solidly built and deliberately designed to be both timeless and functional. "I wanted an unobtrusive look. I've updated it over the years by changing the colour of the walls and cabinets, and fitting different







**ABOVE** The drawing room walls are painted in Invisible Green by Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. "I love its strength and warmth, and it's a wonderful backdrop for artwork and gilt frames," says Meg.

**RIGHT** Fringed curtains, in a Bennison Fabrics linen, dress the drawing room windows. A Charleston-style painted lamp in shades of grey and mustard builds on the lively ambiance. The decorative console table is a Nicky Haslam for Oka piece (no longer available).







## Woolbeding Gardens

### Sussex's best-kept secret

A horticultural masterpiece in West Sussex, open selected days between 23 April and 25 September 2020. Be inspired by the colourful borders, carefully planted with bulbs, perennials and roses in the formal gardens providing colour from spring until early autumn. Wander past the magnificent Cedar tree to the Ruined Abbey and discover the River God sat in his Grotto, overlooking the lake and many follies.

To visit, book online or call us on 0344 249 1895.

[nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens](https://nationaltrust.org.uk/woolbeding-gardens)



 GENERATIONS  
HAND PLANED OAK BOARDS

Outstanding oak flooring, handcrafted, lovingly aged  
polished to look and feel like a beautiful, faithfully cared-for original  
Fully compatible with 21st century life, and comforts like under-floor heating  
01509 263422 [WWW.CHARLESLOWE.CO.UK](http://WWW.CHARLESLOWE.CO.UK)





*‘I often pick up little bits and bobs. I love shells, flowers, anything with a natural feel’*

handles,” she says, “I’m keen on reinventing what I have as I’m still more than happy with everything.”

An old range was removed from the original fireplace in the dining area to make way for a large wood-burning stove, a practical addition as it can be lit and left to burn slowly all day. As the kitchen and dining areas are in the centre of the house, Meg kept to restful neutrals here, breaking them up with elements of blue in the curtains, dining chairs and individual, painted furniture pieces.

In one of the wings, the drawing room demonstrates Meg’s eclectic personal style and adventurous approach to colour and pattern. Mainly used for entertaining and brimming with vivid tones, tactile surfaces and distinctive accessories, this is one of the farmhouse’s most striking and unusual spaces. A large fireplace forms a focal point, and a glazed door leads out to the front lawn. Comfortable furniture, eye-catching artwork, antique textiles and decorative items stand out against vibrant green walls. “I love using strong, punchy colours, too, and I try to build a relaxed, ►

**ABOVE** The elegant bed canopy in the master bedroom was created using a scalloped, embroidered tapestry pelmet, from which Meg took shades of pink and eau de Nil to complete the scheme. The wall lights either side of the bed are from Vaughan. Sumptuous Italian strung curtains highlight the large sash windows.

**RIGHT** Meg spotted this quaint, shell-covered trinket box at local auction house, Tennants.







**ABOVE** The guest bedroom is furnished in muted olive greens and rich reds. The headboard is covered with crewelwork fabric by Chelsea Textiles and the wallpaper is by Robert Kime. "This room had a vaulted ceiling, so we put in a false one, which lowered it and made it feel so much cosier," says Meg.

**RIGHT** A comfortably spacious en-suite bathroom leads off the master bedroom. Meg has blended the white sanitaryware with warm, sand-coloured tiles and a Peggy Angus wallpaper design by Blithfield.

harmonious atmosphere, with a few surprises," says Meg. "There's an art to capturing that sense of a home having evolved effortlessly, with nothing looking too stiff or new. This is a very practical house."

Elsewhere, due to Yorkshire's greyish natural light, soft creams and muted tones have proved more effective than crisp, clean whites, and Meg has used her skills with paint finishes to enhance furniture and walls. To create depth and character to the smaller reception room, known as the 'top' sitting room, she added faux wall panelling, which she highlighted with a combed paint effect (which sweeps away bits of the top paint color, leaving a pattern in the paint finish). "This room hasn't changed in 20 years, but it still looks fresh and I enjoy it as much now as I did back then," she says. Upstairs, the bedrooms and bathroom feature pale wallpapers to add subtle interest.

Meg and Matthew have raised their two children, Cecily and Caspar here and their home has readily adapted itself to numerous changes over the years. "Moving here was always more about the location than the house, but we feel we have got the best out of it," says Meg. "It's warm, welcoming and deeply practical. We get some extreme weather conditions up here, but there's nothing more rewarding than returning home from the wild surrounding countryside to a roaring fire." ■







# DS Decorative Periods



ds\_decorative\_periods



07712281831



dsdecorativeperiods.co.uk



pooky

art deco style at  
home décor prices

decorative lighting from pooky.com



MY ENGLISH HOME

# *The Marchioness of Lansdowne*

Fireside suppers, picnics in the  
woodland garden and chintz are all  
important ingredients of a home for  
the chatelaine of Bowood House





**T**he Marchioness of Lansdowne resides at Bowood House in Wiltshire with her husband Charlie, the 9th Marquis. The beautiful Georgian house is set in 2,000 acres of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown parkland and Bowood has been home to the Lansdowne family since 1754. In 1955, the former 'Big House' gave way to the 'Little House' for the Bowood House of today to emerge. Lady Lansdowne is a professional interior designer and set up her studio, Fiona Shelburne, over 32 years ago. Inchbald-trained, she worked first for Charles Hammond, then for Imogen Taylor at Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler.

#### **Who do you share your home with?**

My husband and three dogs: two working cockers and one labrador – Tinker, Tulip and Maud. We have 10 grandchildren living within a mile of us, so we are at the heart of a much wider family.

#### **Can you tell us about Bowood House?**

My father-in-law inherited it in 1944, unexpectedly. Pre-war it was incredibly busy, with 22 indoor staff, and regularly used for political entertaining and so on. After the war it was in a really bad state: parts of it had been used as a hospital, a school, a troop station and then a grain store. He made the decision in the 1950s to pull down the 'Big House'. It was riddled with dry rot. Life had changed; people weren't going to be able to live the way they had lived before, and probably rightly so.

#### **What happened next?**

My father-in-law had to reinvent the 'Little House'. The back courtyard consisted of derelict stable blocks, offices, stores and so forth. He instated the front door, a new entrance courtyard, turned the original family dining room into a hall, putting in a beautiful cantilevered stone staircase (*left*), put a kitchen in, and made the dining room next door. What is left is only one room thick. If you squished them together there are not actually that many rooms (although there are a lot of passageways).

It looks like a big house but it's quite liveable in for the 21st century, although it's not the warmest house in the world – the bedrooms have plug-in radiators.

#### **When did Bowood become home?**

When his father moved to Scotland, my husband and his first wife, Frances, moved in, in 1972. There was so much work to do still, some 20 years after the demolition of the 'Big House'. My husband opened it to the public, which is when he built the exhibition rooms and made the sculpture gallery, for this house to pay its way.

Charlie and I were married in 1987 and soon decided we needed other revenue streams. First came the golf course in 1992, then, in three phases, the club house, the hotel and the Kerry Suite [part of the hotel].

#### **What does being custodian entail?**

It is a big responsibility. We are a passing generation trying to sustain the house for future generations. Being open to the public is lovely because you feel you are sharing something very beautiful with lots of people. People visit mostly for the gardens, the arboreteum, the adventure playground and for picnics by the lake. We get wonderful letters and that makes it all worthwhile.

#### **How do you view your private quarters?**

Very much as a sanctuary. There is so much going on around us all the time, we do try to keep the private side very private. It is very English, very cosy and quite relaxed but we've got some marvellous things in it.

Our sitting room features a Cole & Son wallpaper design which dates exactly to 1720. I had the [golden yellow] colour specially made, because the room faces East. The minute the sun's gone around, it actually doesn't get much sunlight, so I wanted it to have a glow to it.

#### **Who most influenced your interior style?**

I learnt everything I know about interiors from Imogen Taylor and she learnt from John Fowler. So I assimilated his ethos second-hand from the best person in the world. She has been like a fairy godmother and taught all her team the really good design rules over the years. More than anything, she highlighted how important it is to use the very best craftsmen you can find, that you can make the most beautiful curtains from army blankets if you have the right seamstress and that you don't need to use the most expensive materials.

#### **What evolutions have you brought to Bowood's interiors in more recent years?**

I've done this house very slowly: as a stepmother and when taking on a historic house, you don't want to come in and change things overnight. I'm longing to redo the drawing room but it was last done in 1958 by John Fowler and I can't do better than he did. My curtain maker, Andrew Christie, learnt from John Mason whose father worked for John Fowler and Andrew has the original 'measure books', so we have this extraordinary link.

#### **Is the famous Bowood chintz still in use?**

Yes, in two bedrooms. One, a smaller single room, has the blue/pink chintz on the walls, the curtains... everything. The grey/green version is in a bedroom at the far end of the house. I found loose covers for garden furniture in some old trunks, and discovered that the chintz was originally pink and green. Over time, in the sun, the green fades to blue.

There is actually a second Bowood chintz – the Charles Hammond chintz. It is used for all the curtains on the nursery passage and features roses and ribbons in blue and pink. But sadly the design is gone, as Hammonds no longer exists.

#### **Which is your favourite room?**

Definitely the sitting room. We have our supper here on a table by the fire. We don't have a huge, 'state-of-the-art' kitchen but I love my Aga and love to cook. I also love my bathroom/dressing room. I have a desk in it. It is somewhere to escape to. My husband would probably choose the sitting room, too, but he is in his element in the woodland garden. Rain or shine we have a picnic there every Saturday.

#### **Finally, what should no English home be without?**

An open fire. I'd find it very hard to live in a home that didn't have one. And a dog.

*Bowood House & Gardens is open from 1 April to 1 November 2020. An exhibition – 'Bowood Revisited: Decline & Revival' – marks the 65th anniversary of the demolition of the 'Big House' and the emergence of Bowood as it is today. The Woodland Garden opens for six weeks from late April. For further information, visit [bowood.org](http://bowood.org) ■*





HURLINGHAM  
The Bath Company

[www.hurlinghambaths.co.uk](http://www.hurlinghambaths.co.uk)

T: 01400 263310

E: [sales@hurlinghambaths.co.uk](mailto:sales@hurlinghambaths.co.uk)



Order your free fabric samples at  
[thefootstoolworkshop.co.uk](http://thefootstoolworkshop.co.uk)  
01443 831 981

Beautiful.  
Practical.  
Customisable.



# STYLE INSPIRATION

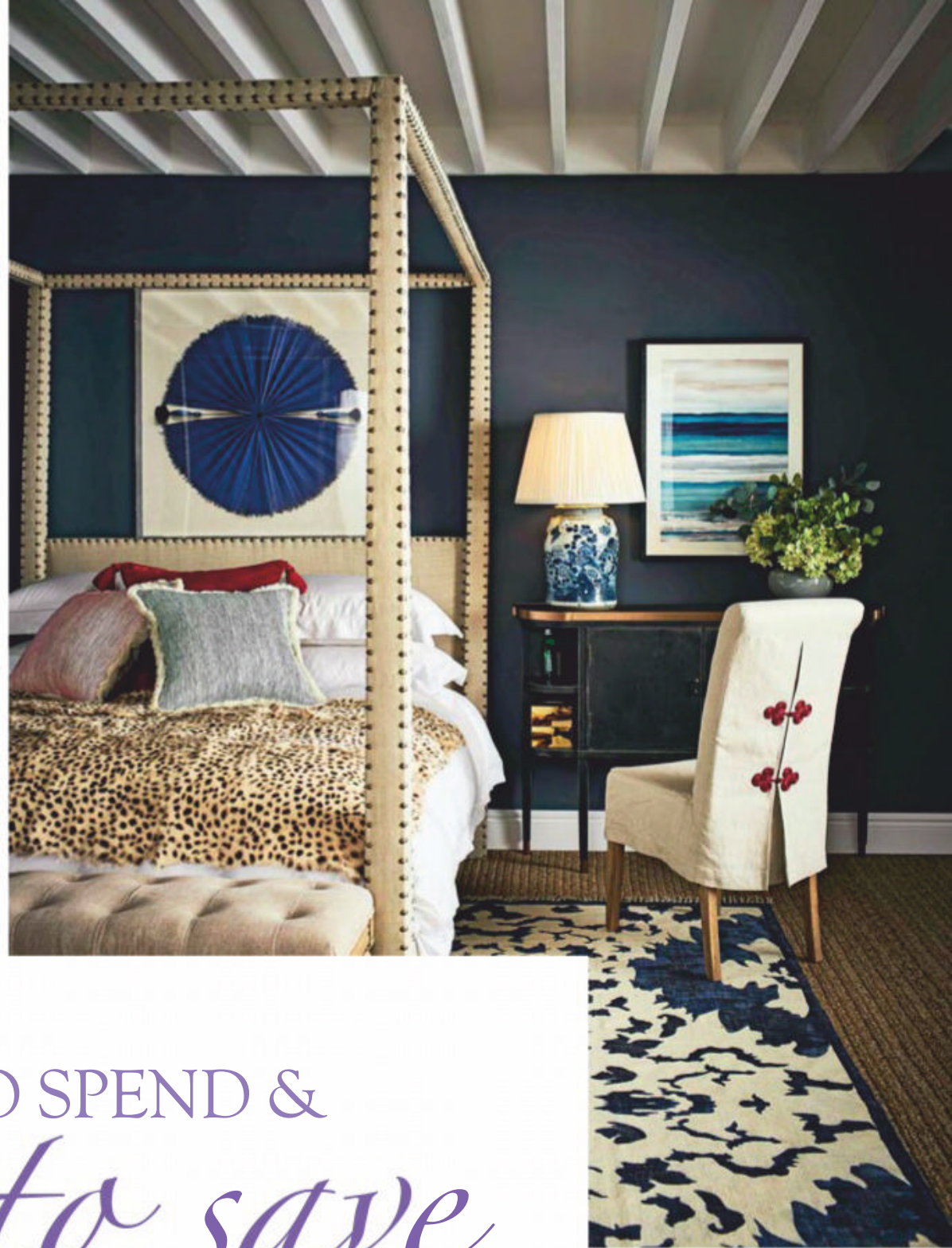
Our special section dedicated to design and decorating inspiration begins here ➤

## POWER OF PATTERN

Confidence in using a large-scale, boldly coloured pattern does not necessarily mean using it all over walls. Judicious use can allow pattern to create a transformative impact upon a room. This smart, colourful room, with a considered mix of patterns on the sofa, is further enlivened with the striking embroidery on the Roman blind. A relatively small, but perfectly placed use of vibrant pattern. Blind, Daula, £79 a metre, and all other fabrics, from the new Caspian collection, Sanderson

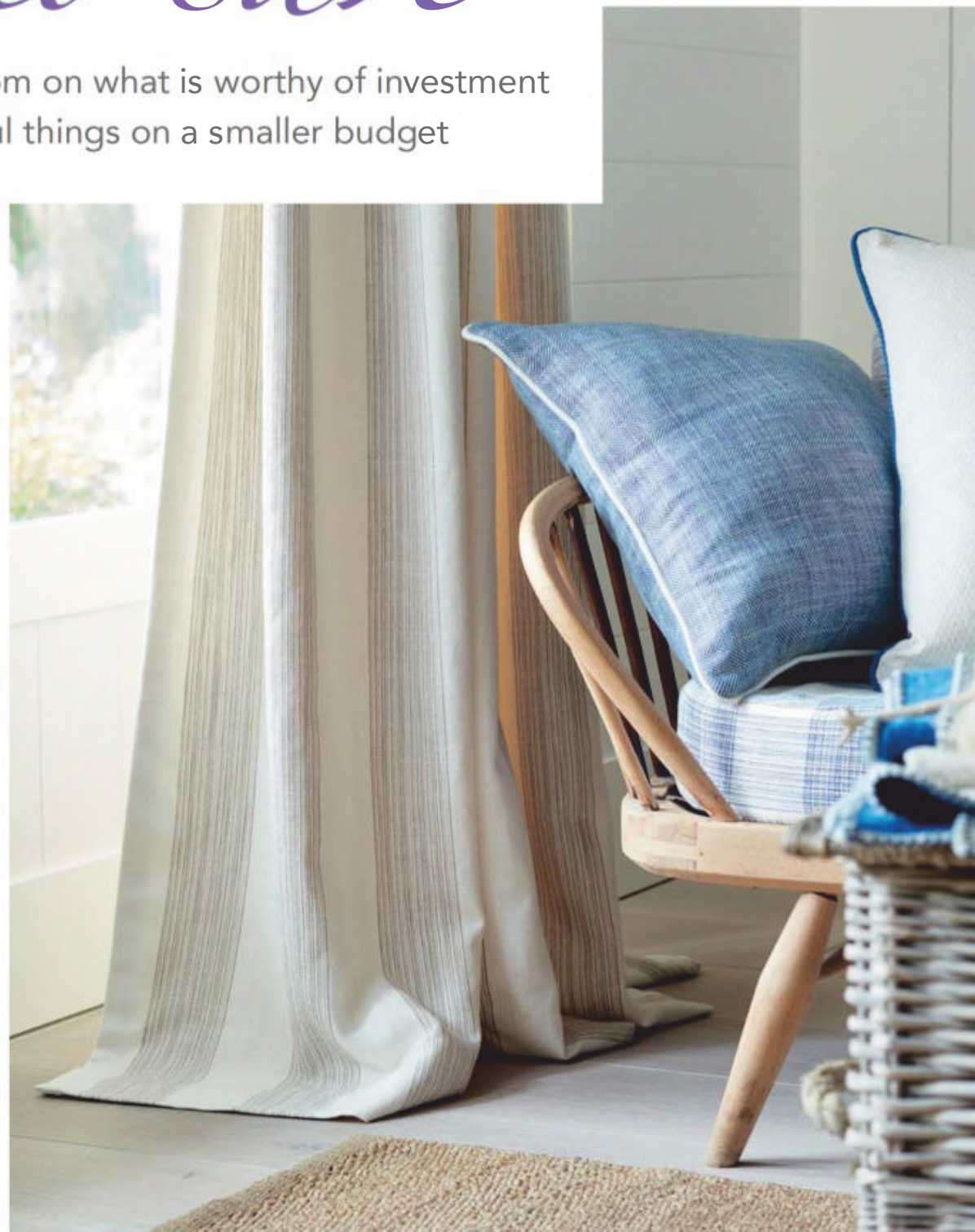






# WHERE TO SPEND & *where to save*

Interior designers offer their wisdom on what is worthy of investment and how to achieve beautiful things on a smaller budget





Setting a budget for a house or room redesign and keeping to it is an essential element of every interior designer's expertise. Their clues to budget control are invaluable in explaining how and why to be decisive in making choices. "Every project involves making economies and the point is always about quality, whatever an item has cost," says Nicky Mudie, director at Violet & George Interior Design.

## FLOORS

Most interior designers opt for wood or stone when considering flooring for ground-floor rooms. Guy Goodfellow, director at Guy Goodfellow Interiors and Architectural Design, says these are worth the spend as they are both hard-wearing and long-lasting. He looks to stone from Landford Stone for his projects. Emma Deterding, founder of Kelling Designs, agrees, but also suggests Mandarin Stone for its great choice at achievable prices.

Designer Victoria Meale, who heads Victoria Meale Design, says the floor is such a large surface area in a house it needs particular consideration. "Installing sustainably sourced European timber flooring with a wet underfloor heating system throughout is expensive," she says, "but it pays off, as it's sustainable in terms of heating efficiency and because wood is natural, non-toxic and durable." One of Britain's leading interior designers, Joanna Wood also rates the present generation of excellent vinyls from companies such as Amtico and Karndean as an alternative to wood and stone for hard-working areas.

Designers agree that hard floors need rugs and Bunny Turner, of Turner Pocock Interior Design, always suggests clients allow a generous budget for them. "Think paintings on the floor," she says. "A patterned rug may contribute the main impact and focus in a room and we find exceptional quality and design at Vanderhurd, Luke Irwin and Stark." Interior designer Penny Morrison agrees that rugs can anchor a room scheme. "I look at Francesca Gentilli, whose Moroccan rugs offer a wonderful mix of colours," Morrison says.

Nicole Salvesen of Salvesen Graham prefers flatweaves and finds hand-crafted, bespoke styles for many of her projects at Jennifer Manners. Henry Prideaux at Henry Prideaux Design also recommends Jennifer Manners and says: "Commissioning a custom-made rug is an exciting part of designing a project, like commissioning a piece of art." Meanwhile, Joanna Wood finds rug designs she likes across the price spectrum, with Oka a particular favourite, but adds: "One of our tricks is to fabricate our own rugs by buying carpet off the roll in any width from two-metres to five-metres wide, and having it cut into rugs and bound in linen. Many reputable fitters will do this." When a budget is tight Nicky Mudie finds well-priced vintage rugs for her schemes, including Aubusson and Heriz, on the Etsy website. ►

### OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Wood flooring is a solid investment because of its longevity. This oak chevron option is from The Natural Wood Floor Company. A rug can be an affordable or investment flooring choice. The Nesbitt rug by Oka has a strong design personality with its striking pattern. Plains and stripes, such as these from Ian Mankin, offer great value as well as being high-quality textiles.

Use a plain fabric for upholstery and spend on more expensive designs for cushions to balance the budget and still have a strong decorative impact. Cushion fabrics from the Glasshouse collection by Sanderson.



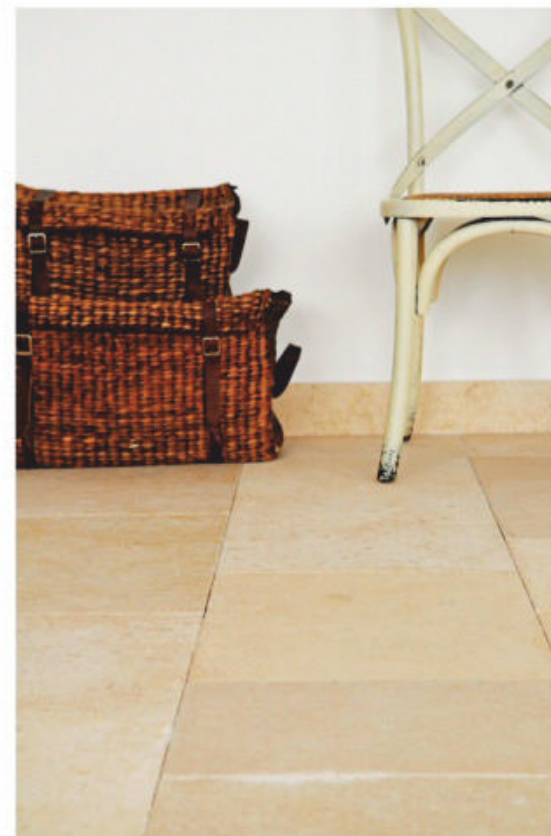
### SPEND OR SAVE?

- Long-lasting hard floors are worth the spend
- Luxury vinyls are an affordable alternative
- Invest in rugs for decorative effect

**ABOVE** Luxury vinyl flooring achieves designer status to match its practicality. Shown here is Signature Stucco by Amtico in Stucco Putty, Flax and Clay and laid in the Aspekt pattern.

**RIGHT** Interior designer Guy Goodfellow cites Landford Stone as a source for quality stone flooring options.

**BELOW** Many designers agree that rugs are worthy of a generous spend to create impact in a scheme. This Malibu rug by Jennifer Manners is hand-crafted in India from recycled plastic bottles.





## WALLS

“Paint is astonishingly good value in any situation,” declares Bunny Turner, “and the cost of an impactful colour is the same as for a muted neutral.” Many Penny Morrison room schemes are also based around painted walls, for effect rather than economy, with Papers and Paints HC43 Fenching Blue a particular favourite. “It’s an extraordinary dirty blue that seems to adapt to whatever you put with it,” she says.

When Nicole Salvesen has a large budget, she may choose the luxury of walling a room in a de Gournay fabric. “But I never paper a feature wall; it can look rather mean,” she says. “Instead, we often paint a room and add a trim round the edge for a well-finished effect.” Henry Prideaux suggests the downstairs loo as a great place to get high-impact pattern and colour from less product. “Even expensive wallpaper won’t break the budget as one roll may well be enough. Visitors will enjoy the benefit as well,” he explains.

### SPEND OR SAVE?

- Use paint for affordable impact
- Save expensive wallpapers for smaller rooms
- If budget allows, invest in luxury wall treatments



**ABOVE** Penny Morrison uses painted walls for economy and particularly likes the properties of Fenching Blue by Papers and Paints, as seen in this inviting dining room.







#### SPEND OR SAVE?

- Invest in sofas, chairs and beds for daily use
- Find affordable pieces at antique fairs and auctions
- Spend on quality upholstery with an affordable plain fabric

#### FURNITURE

Sofas and chairs are core pieces of furniture that should be allocated a sizeable share of the budget. “If a sofa has a hardwood mortice-and-tenon frame and hand-tied coil springs it will last well beyond the fabric covering it,” explains Emma Sims-Hilditch, founder and creative director of Sims Hilditch. “Sofas with serpentine springs are likely to last from five to 10 years, and those with stapled frames, webbing and no springs will have a limited life-span. My 40-year old George Smith sofa has been recovered three times and that’s all part of the current move towards sustainability.”

Joanna Wood agrees and uses Lawson Wood for upholstery. “Buying to last is fast becoming the mantra that is on all our minds,” she says. Penny Morrison regards quality upholstery as money well-spent and finds it at Lorforfs. “There are plenty of plain and semi-plain fabrics with high-performance ratings to control the budget for covering them,” Morrison says. Emma Deterding sources upholstery at Robert Langford, and advises that sofa designs with a sprung back use less fabric.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP** Running a trim at the top and bottom of a painted wall adds detail and a luxurious touch in this bedroom design by Salvesen Graham.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, BOTTOM RIGHT** Turner Pocock specified a bespoke red by Papers and Paints as a striking backdrop to a display of hats and artefacts.

Nicky Mudie is amongst several designers who mention renewed interest in brown furniture. “It is generally inexpensive and I have used a good deal of 1970s and 1980s furniture in projects with an excellent quality-for-price ratio,” she explains. Emma Sims-Hilditch is another enthusiast: “There are so many amazing bargains in auctions, antiques shops and fairs. Put one piece of brown furniture in a room with contemporary pieces and it will ground the scheme and give it substance. People can be uncertain, but old furniture is usually well made and can also be painted for a quite different look.” Remember to check the value of a piece before accidentally taking a paintbrush to a priceless antique.

Interior designers are unanimous about the need to spend on a good bed. “A pocket-sprung bed is a core essential, even if its cost means an orange box as a bedside table,” says Joanna Wood. “Think about it – you only have one back.”

Emma Deterding adds: “A statement headboard plus bedside tables and lamps will give the room its focal point. Pretty antique bedside tables often found at auctions and antiques fairs tune into the current mood for recycling.” ►

**ABOVE LEFT** Good upholstery creates a strong foundation for a gorgeous display of cushions, here in fabrics from The Fabric Collective at Penny Morrison.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Contain a budget by choosing a robust, well-priced plain or stripe to cover a quality piece such as The Kingston sofa from Lorforfs, which has hand-tied coil springs and down-filled cushions





## TEXTILES

“Fabric is an area where it’s possible to juggle the spend,” explains Emma Sims-Hilditch. “I’m a fan of GP & J Baker’s well-priced plains, but I never skimp on the curtain-making. Handmade curtains with quality lining and interlining are an investment. They will last for years. That makes the choice of a classic fabric that won’t date significant – it can always be updated with a fringe or border in years to come.”

Penny Morrison says the same. “Good curtain-making is essential. I’d rather see a simple calico well-made than an expensive fabric badly made and skimpy. I have hung curtains in Indian tablecloths that were incredibly inexpensive, and a ticking stripe for curtains or covering for chairs is inexpensive and always looks smart. Or fit blinds in an expensive fabric and save a huge amount over curtains.” Roman blinds are also the budget-conscious choice for Emma Deterding. “If you add a pelmet above, curtains can be added later.”

Bunny Turner will often put the most expensive fabric in a room on cushions, where its impact can make a statement as significant as if the same fabric were to be used at windows. She then chooses less expensive fabrics for curtains and upholstery. “It is easy to find good-value quality plains from companies such as Romo, but not so easy to find a distinctive pattern that a client falls in love with.”

All designers have companies for well-priced yet quality fabrics. “I often use the small prints from Nile & York, plains from Ian Mankin,” says Nicky Mudie, “and The Cloth Shop on London’s Berwick Street delivers some astonishing bargains.” Nicole Salvesen loves the many colours in Designers Guild’s linen range and rates Linwood’s plains. European linen is Victoria Meale’s choice for all window treatments and upholstery. “Linen is 100 per cent natural, without need for any chemical treatments,” she says.

**ABOVE** Here Turner Pocock have used good value, quality fabrics for curtains and sofas, with more expensive patterns on cushions and the armchairs.

**RIGHT** If budget does not allow for a much-desired fabric to be used as curtains, consider a more affordable blind. The pattern will still have the joy upon viewing for a fraction of the price. This charming design is from Colefax & Fowler.



## SPEND OR SAVE?

- Spend on expensive fabrics for cushions
- Never skimp on curtain-making and upholstery
- Choose quality plains and stripes over low-cost patterns



## LIGHTING

Organising lighting comes near the top of Joanna Wood's priorities. "Get the wiring in the right places, even if the cost of doing that means hanging a bare bulb with the chandelier or pendant coming a year later," she advises.

"Many of our clients don't want overhead lighting in drawing rooms so we fit wall lights and table lamps," says Nicole Salvesen. "Vaughan has a good range in both style and price." Vaughan is also a respected resource for Penny Morrison.

Several designers mention Pooky Lighting, among them Bunny Turner. "This company has good lamp bases for less so that fun can be had choosing the shades," Turner says.

Emma Sims-Hilditch waxes lyrical about Penny Morrison's lampshades made from sari silks. "They are almost like buying an antique of the future," she says. "They are expensive, so try matching them with a base found on the high street or at an antiques fair like Kempton or Ardingly."

Guy Goodfellow also cites Pooky as a cost-effective way to get clever lighting that rivals more expensive brands. "Its extending arm wall light is one example," he says. "I also go to Jim Lawrence for its Raydon bathroom wall lights, perfect for either side of a mirror above a handbasin. The Suva from Mullan Lighting is a cost-effective pendant amongst the fittings I choose." ▶

### SPEND OR SAVE

- Invest in wall or table lights rather than overhead models
- Ensure wiring is in the right places
- Seek affordable bases and spend on interesting shades



**ABOVE** Extending swing-arm wall lights are versatile on bedside walls and also at chair level for easy reading. Lacey wall light by Pooky.

**RIGHT** Investing in beautiful wall lights can make a decorative as well as functional feature out of lighting. Nicole Salvesen admires choices from Vaughan, such as the Haldon wall light seen here.

**LEFT** Penny Morrison's one-off and bespoke lampshades in vintage silk sari fabric, lined with off-white silk, are a favourite with interior designers,





## KITCHEN

Today the kitchen is more than a place to cook. It is often the primary living space, so it is worth appointing a specialist kitchen company or interior designer and making a considerable investment to ensure the end result is right, both aesthetically and practically. The design and planning expertise offered by such professionals can help to stay within budget and make the most of every centimetre of space.

Nicky Mudie generally uses a kitchen specialist to design and build kitchens in her projects, but her team will also design a kitchen themselves. “We use Howden carcasses and have bespoke doors made,” she says.

Guy Goodfellow works with Pewsey Vale Cabinet Makers on the design of all the bespoke handmade kitchens and fitted furniture for his projects, and Joanna Wood mentions Neptune as a company to note, adding, “I would always invest in quality appliances. Choose well-known brands and make sure they have a service department that covers your area of the country.”

If budget is tight, Emma Deterding suggests choosing less expensive cabinets and adding a quality worktop and splashback.

Henry Prideaux highlights another area for his spend. “The items that we touch and feel the most are the ones I always persuade clients are worth spending on,” he says. “In the kitchen that’s the taps I find at Waterworks and cabinet handles from Beardmore. There is pleasure in feeling the quality every day. The functional aspects of the home are constants and worth enjoying.”



### SPEND OR SAVE

- Bespoke cabinetry is worth the spend for difficult spaces
- Invest in taps and cabinet handles
- The expertise of a professional will add value for money



**ABOVE** The kitchen in this period house is embedded in the overall room scheme and built by local cabinetmakers to a design by Violet & George Interiors. A marble worktop has been invested in, to give a luxurious finishing touch.

**LEFT** Available finishes as well as storage solutions are points to consider in choosing a kitchen. Henley kitchen in solid oak or a painted finish by Neptune.





**LEFT** Interior designer, Joanna Wood cites CP Hart for good-quality fittings and bathroom furniture. Here, the Cambridge bath has an opulent finish with golden feet to coordinate with luxurious golden touches elsewhere.

**BELOW** Interior designers are in agreement that taps and shower fittings are worthwhile investing in since they are used every day. Here the Astonian Original bath/shower mixer from Aston Matthews is in an attractive aged brass finish.

## BATHROOM

“If there’s a good budget for a bathroom, I might specify a cast-iron bath, otherwise I shop for steel baths, never plastic,” says Penny Morrison. “I find Victoria Plumb is a good source for fittings. We often use ceramic tiles on bathroom and shower walls. There are panels that look like marble at a quarter of the price. Walton Ceramics is a favourite source for these, and for stone and cement-style floor tiles. And Amtico’s high-grade vinyl that really does look like limed oak is an effective alternative flooring.”

Guy Goodfellow gets excited about fittings such as the Connaught range of taps and shower fittings by Lefroy Brooks. “They are worth the spend as they will please you every time you brush your teeth,” he says. Nicky Mudie agrees about taps. “These are products we interact with, so it’s not only about the cost but the quality. My bathroom tiles cost £100 but I have fitted very expensive taps.”

Joanna Wood suggests bathrooms are an area where unnecessary expenditure is sometimes seen. “Choose fittings from well-known makes. I like CP Hart’s good-value own brand,” she explains. Victoria Meale likes to use reclaimed tiles. “They add a fabulous patina to a scheme,” she says. ►

### SPEND OR SAVE?

- Spend on taps, that are used every day
- Consider tiles that emulate stone when budget is tight







Accessories and flowers add a finishing touch to a room, so be sure to set budget aside for smaller pieces. Butler's tray and vase by Sophie Conran.

## ACCESSORIES

"I always save a proportion of a budget for accessories," Penny Morrison says. "No room looks alive without flowers, so I visit vintage and antiques fairs to collect vases and jugs, and I look online for vintage flower paintings or buy inexpensive prints and put them in old picture frames, painting them if necessary." Nicole Salvesen looks to Etalage, a website that features a variety of artwork, and will reframe a picture to give it a new look. Auctions also offer good-value accessories from rugs and decorative china to collectible paintings and prints.

Emma Sims-Hilditch likes to seek out artwork by young artists. "It can be more affordable and, you never know, that artist may be acclaimed in the future," she says. She also likes to invest

### SPEND OR SAVE?

- A statement piece is worth investing in
- Browse antique fairs and vintage shops for bargains

in a statement piece for her own home, as well as her clients'. "I recently purchased a hand-embroidered cushion from Chelsea Textiles with a design based on an eighteenth-century English panel. It was very expensive but I love it and it holds attention in the room." Buy once and buy well is advice designers promote, and take to heart themselves. ■



# ACRES FARM

## Club Fenders

Made to measure in Berkshire since 1980  
Measuring Service. Brochure Available.  
[www.acresfarm.co.uk](http://www.acresfarm.co.uk) Tel: 01189744305

## JUST FABRICS

### WINTER SALE

ENDS 29<sup>th</sup> FEB

Made to measure curtains & blinds  
[www.justfabrics.co.uk](http://www.justfabrics.co.uk)

Our customers love us  
★★★★★  
★ Trustpilot

## deVOL Kitchens

Leicestershire • London • New York

## SITTING SPIRITUALLY

— Of Lyme Regis —

We Make the Seats  
You Make the Memories

See our full range at [sittingspiritually.co.uk](http://sittingspiritually.co.uk)  
or call us on 01297 443084

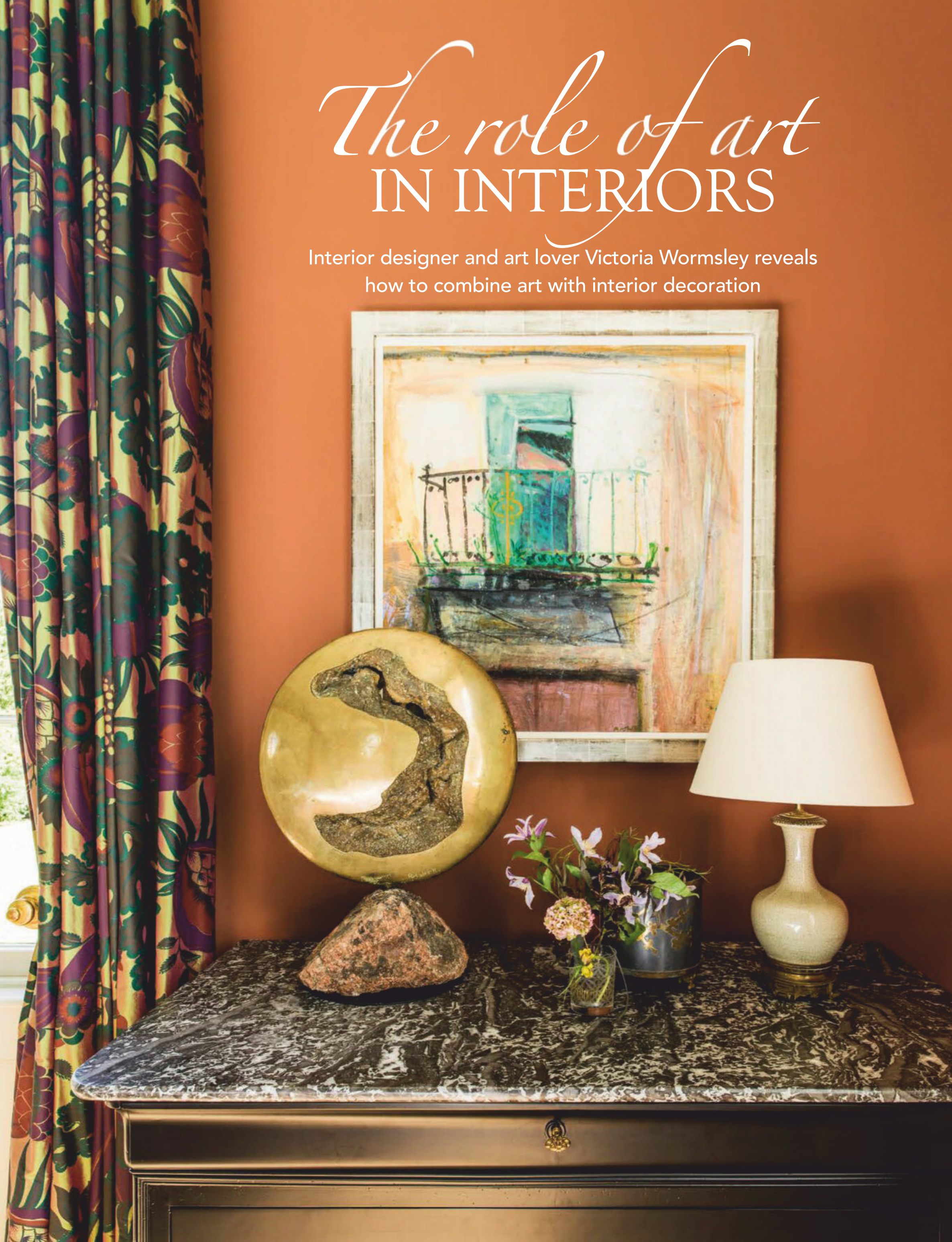
 **RHS**  
Inspiring everyone to grow

The only bespoke swing and bench maker licensed by the RHS  
© The Royal Horticultural Society 2018. Endorsed by the Royal Horticultural Society Registered Charity No 222879/SC038262 [rhs.org.uk](http://rhs.org.uk)



# *The role of art* IN INTERIORS

Interior designer and art lover Victoria Wormsley reveals  
how to combine art with interior decoration







**D**etails make or break an interior and art is perhaps the most important detail of all. Interior designer Victoria Wormsley of French-Brooks interiors is passionate about incorporating just the right pieces to add character and express the homeowner's interests and personality. Here, she reveals what to choose, how and where to place it and other important factors for making artwork sit to best effect in well-considered interiors.

#### Why is art so important in an interior?

"Art adds soul to a room – even the most stunning interior can give an impression of emptiness without it. It is innately subjective and brings a sense of personality, it enlivens a space. For example, the gallery wall of framed Matisse prints transformed this sitting room (left), adding a sense of playfulness to quite a traditional scheme. Another example might be adding a majestic stone head sculpture at the end of a hallway to make a strong focal point to draw you through a corridor."

#### At what point in the process do you add art?

##### Presumably some clients have collections to work around, whilst others ask you to source for them?

"Absolutely. It's usually a combination of the two. Most people have collected something on their journey through life, so I usually help them work out what they would like to include and how to display it within the interior design as a whole. Some clients have quite specific collections that require careful consideration, for instance, glass, which benefits from being backlit,

and small items, which need to be displayed so the detail can be seen close-up. Probably the strangest piece I've had to accommodate was a large plaster ear that needed to be plastered into the wall. Others need help finding art that they love and which sits well in the interiors we're working on together."

#### If sourcing on behalf of a client, where do you go and what considerations come into play with choice?

"I always like to get to know my clients' tastes, habits and their outlook on life, and, equally importantly, their spending priorities. Then I make suggestions, which are often quite instinctive: I try to visualise what will appeal to them. As art is so personal, sometimes it's a matter of suggesting art galleries and websites rather than being too prescriptive."

#### Does the genre or choice of media, colour palette or subject matter of a piece of art inspire or dictate a scheme or, indeed, limit it?

"There are no hard and fast rules about combining art with interior decoration. Whilst in the past people may have felt that a room's architecture, decoration and art needed to be of the same period, now most clients are open to a more eclectic approach, mixing up different periods and styles. However, colour, scale and proportion are still important considerations: whilst art which 'matches' the decorative scheme would be horribly trite, the colours need to sit comfortably together. If the colours are harmonious and the art is a good size in relation to the scale of the room and the ►

**OPPOSITE** The bronze and terracotta tones in the 1970s Brazilian sculpture and painting by John Brown RSW (framing by Brien & Brown) are echoed in the curtains and paint on the walls for a cohesive scheme.

**ABOVE LEFT** Victoria Wormsley, founder of French-Brooks Interiors, has been an interior designer for 15 years and has had a lifelong passion for art and antiques.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Hanging a neat row of antique naval flag lithographs c1840, sourced and framed by Etalage, above the beds brings further focus and character to this bedroom.



proportions of the furniture, pieces from very different eras and places can be combined successfully. For example, in a dining room in a Regency house with period detailing I juxtaposed traditional curtains and antique furniture with a contemporary painting and a mid-twentieth-century Brazilian sculpture (see page 92, middle image). The painting's colours picked up on the colours in the curtains, its frame toned with the ebonised chest and the sculpture was a good size for the height of the chest and connected with other brass elements in the room. Combining art and decoration from contrasting periods and cultures can be more exciting and unexpected as their characteristics are thrown into relief."

### From an aesthetic point of view, what are the important considerations when it comes to where art is hung?

"Proportion is one of the most important considerations, that is, making sure that the art fits well into the proportions of the room, and ensuring that it has sufficient impact. One way to do this is to group smaller pieces together: a large painting can be balanced on a big wall by a pair of smaller drawings or prints to one side, or smaller paintings can be hung one above the other. Gallery walls can be created either by hanging identically framed works in a rectangular group on a wall or, if the components have different sizes, shapes and frames, by making an asymmetrical grouping. This can look interesting and impressive, even if the individual components are not particularly special.

"It's also worth considering hanging art with more impact – for instance with strong colour, large proportions, unsettling subject matter – in high-traffic areas such as halls, where it will make an impression on people passing through. More subtle works can be hung in rooms where people relax and can take time to appreciate them. It is also good to consider hanging works with lots of detail in areas where one can stand close-up, for instance in a corridor, not over the fireplace.

"Finally, the way that art is lit can transform the way it appears in a scheme. I often advise people to use LED lighting, which has the correct colour rendering – avoiding that clinical white look – and which is subtle enough to incorporate into period houses, through the use of downlights, track lighting or traditional picture lights."

### What are the most common errors made by inexperienced eyes when hanging art in a scheme?

"One of the most common errors is to spread small pictures thinly around the room rather than group them, so it looks like they've fallen out with one another. Another is to hang works of art too high, which can make the room feel very unrelaxed." ►

**TOP RIGHT** Prints protected behind glass are the best choice for the more moist conditions of a bathroom. Humidity control is wise. For similar early twentieth-century watercolours, try Harry Moore-Gwynn Fine Art.

**BELOW RIGHT** Here an agate stone sculpture by Emily Young on a column acts as a dramatic focal point to draw the eye down a corridor.

**FAR RIGHT** A contemporary piece, *Firwood Ride* by Ivon Hitchens, adds the perfect finishing touch in the master bedroom in Victoria's own home. Hitchens was known for his panoramic landscape paintings created from blocks of colour.







## VICTORIA RECOMMENDS: ART RESOURCES, GALLERIES & DEALERS

- **GODSON & COLES** for modern British art. London SW7 [godsonandcoles.co.uk](http://godsonandcoles.co.uk)
- **DUNCAN R MILLER FINE ARTS** for The Scottish Colourists and others. London SW1 [duncanmiller.com](http://duncanmiller.com)
- **THOMPSON'S GALLERIES** for modern & contemporary British art. London W1 & Suffolk [thompsonsgallery.co.uk](http://thompsonsgallery.co.uk)
- **JOSIE EASTWOOD FINE ART** for contemporary figurative British art. Hampshire [josieeastwood.com](http://josieeastwood.com)
- **RAMSAY PRINTS** for framed antique prints. London SW1 [ramsayonline.com](http://ramsayonline.com)
- **HARRY MOORE-GWYN FINE ART** for late-Victorian to mid-twentieth-century British art. London & Oxfordshire [mooregwynfineart.co.uk](http://mooregwynfineart.co.uk)
- **ETALAGE** for affordable, framed antique and vintage prints & artwork. Gloucestershire [etalage.co.uk](http://etalage.co.uk)





#### What practical considerations are key?

“Art should ideally be protected from UV light. In the case of works on paper, this means using UV glass which will filter it out, whilst other works can be protected by applying UV film to windows or fitting Holland (roller) blinds to filter the light when the room is not in use. In humid areas, such as bathrooms, it’s safer to hang works on paper, such as prints, that may be less valuable [than paintings] and can be protected from moisture by (but not touching) glass\*. Works on acid-free paper are also less likely to deteriorate.”

#### What impact does the choice of frame and mount play in how art looks in a scheme? And should art be reframed if it isn’t working?

“Mounts and frames make an enormous difference. I would always recommend reframing if the existing frame looks dated or has the wrong proportions for the piece. Reframing can make you appreciate a work of art in a completely different way, accentuating particular colours, giving the piece more ‘room to breathe’ and enabling it to fit into the decorative scheme more effectively. I often take the paint colour or wallpaper of the room to the framer so we can take it into account. However, if the frame was selected by the artist, I would consider it part of the original artwork and would always recommend retaining it.”

#### Finally – how would you help or direct clients seeking to start or expand an art collection?

“If a client already has an art collection, they will already have an idea of what they like. I would work with them to see what pieces might be added that would fit into the interior design of their house, as well the collection as a whole. If the client was looking to start an art collection or just find lovely pieces to go in their new house, for instance, I would suggest that we visit a few art fairs as this is a very easy and enjoyable way to see a huge range of art in one place, meet some of the dealers and get one’s eye in. I have relationships with many galleries and dealers where they are happy to lend works out so people can see how something will look in situ, which gives great peace of mind. When we find the perfect piece for a room, it gives me such a buzz.” ■

*\*Safety is key when protecting art with glass in a bathroom. Be sure it is fastened securely to avoid an accident.*

**ABOVE** Sculptural wall hangings offer an elegant alternative to paintings. This bedroom features a piece by Curtis Jeré.

**BELOW** A symmetrical hanging of a pair of vintage botanical prints from Etalage magnifies the sense of calm in this bedroom design.



#### VICTORIA RECOMMENDS: FRAMERS

- **CHRISTINA LEDER FRAMING & GILDING** for gilt frames, hand-coloured finishes and restoration of antique giltwood. London [christinaledergilding.com](http://christinaledergilding.com)
- **GRAHAM HARRISON FRAMING** is a specialist in contemporary and twentieth-century works. London [ghframing.com](http://ghframing.com)
- **PR ELLETSON & CO** for framing, gilding and restoration. Wiltshire. [prelletson.co.uk](http://prelletson.co.uk)



# CLARE MOSLEY



[WWW.CLAREMOSLEY.COM](http://WWW.CLAREMOSLEY.COM)

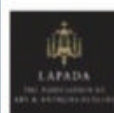
# LENNOX CATO

ANTIQUES & WORKS OF ART

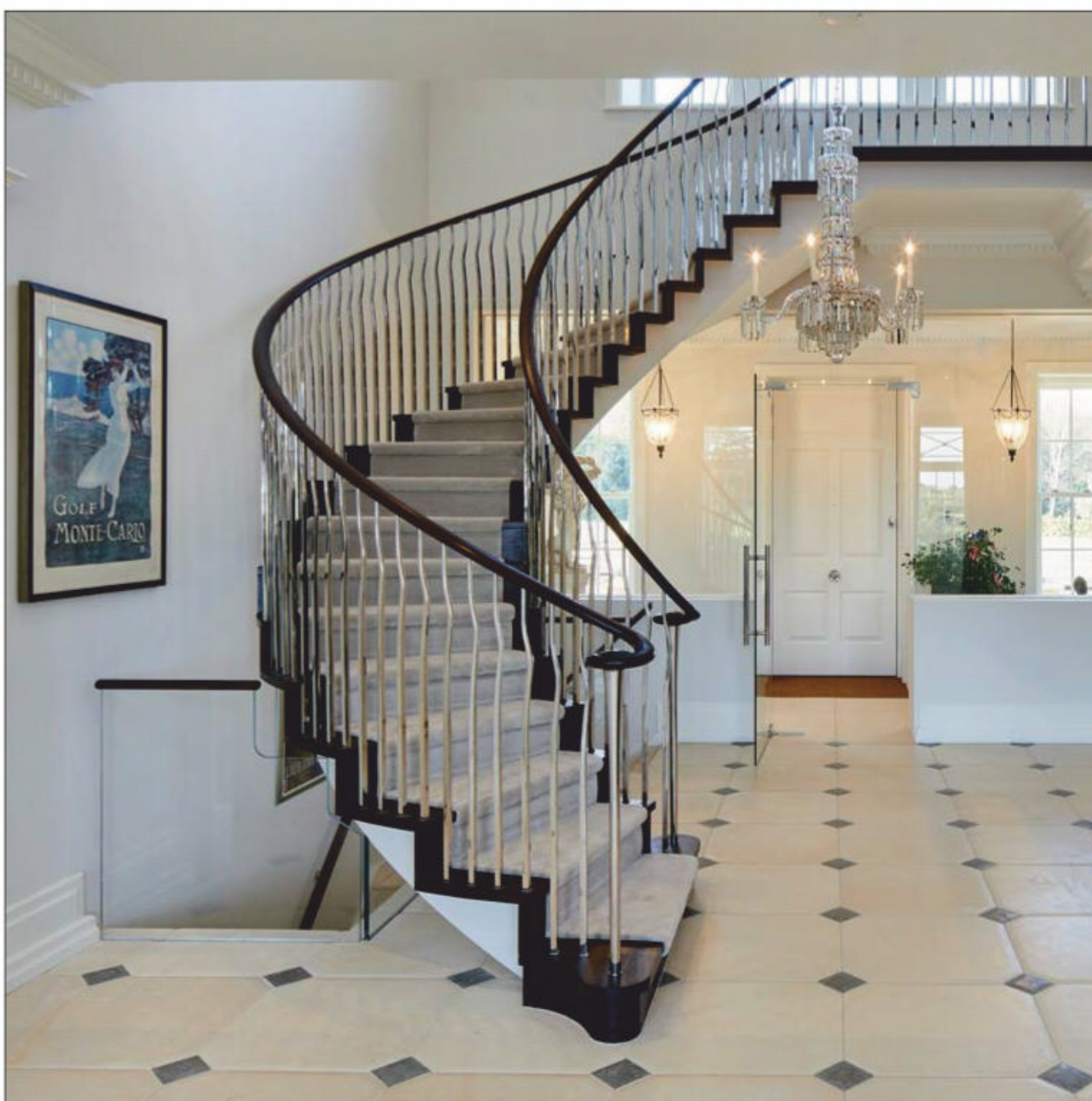
Est. 1978



1 The Square, Church Street, Edenbridge, Kent TN8 5BD  
T: +44 (0)1732 865988 M: +44 (0)7836233473



[www.lennoxcato.com](http://www.lennoxcato.com)



# BISCA

Bespoke Staircases  
& Balustrades

[www.bisca.co.uk](http://www.bisca.co.uk)

T: +44 (0) 1439 771702  
E: [staircase@bisca.co.uk](mailto:staircase@bisca.co.uk)



# *Welcoming* RECEPTION

From staircases to lighting, we look at how to create a stylish first impression with a carefully considered hallway, whether modest or grand







**ABOVE** Traditional glass lanterns provide a generous amount of light overhead.

*Cheyne lantern (nickel), £3,289, Vaughan Designs*

**RIGHT** A flatweave runner in 100 per cent wool is a durable choice for high-traffic areas.

*Kyoto Blossom runner, £129 a metre, Roger Oates*

**OPPOSITE** Relaxed-looking armchairs add a layer of comfort and texture in a grand hallway.

*Apse round dining table with metal inlay, £2,350; Stanhope armchairs, £855 each, both Oka*



**M**arrying form and function is the key to success in any hallway, and creating a stylish, usable space is all about addressing those practicalities – from staircases to lighting – required by this hard-working area of the home. So, for a hallway that works on every level, look to plan the space with an eye to the practical, aesthetic and architectural.

### STYLISH STAIRCASES

More often than not, the staircase is a key feature of any hall and whilst most tend to simply update what is already in situ, others may wish (or need) to opt for a complete replacement. ‘Off-the-shelf’ options are readily available, but a bespoke design will ensure a look that is in proportion and aesthetically sympathetic to the home.

Whilst there are designs catering to both simple and ornate tastes, choices should be guided by the period of a property. If seeking something bespoke, companies such as Bisca or Hetherington Newman provide individually tailored solutions. “Consider the space as a whole, along with the direction of traffic and how the staircase will be approached,” advises Richard McLane, design director of Bisca. Structurally speaking, “replacing a staircase is similar to knocking down a structural wall, and will be subject to building regulations,” he adds.

Alternatively, it is possible to modify existing timber designs. Replacement balustrades, spindles and rails from specialists such as Neville Johnson are available to those looking to update existing structures. Traditional carved timber balustrades and treads that chime with Georgian and Victorian architecture are a popular choice for bringing elegance to the settings, whilst stone lends gravitas to a larger entrance. In hallways where space is at a premium, consider designs that allow for handy under-stair storage.

Where daylight is an issue, cantilevered designs do away with support structures to create dramatic open spaces and McLane suggests, “open treads are a great way to let light into the hallway.” Modern glass staircases and balustrades can instantly transform dark, gloomy hallways by borrowing light from above. Always take into account any landing windows and consider adding skylights or a roof lantern from the likes of Vale Garden Houses to flood light-starved areas with natural light. ►





**ABOVE** To create an inviting atmosphere, add table lamps for a heartwarming glow. Multicoloured Giant Chinese Double Gourd ceramic lampbase, £750; Peach Flower pleated silk lampshade with Mint Trim, £273.60, both Penny Morrison

**RIGHT** Blind in Apples & Pears (Damson, Kale, Winter); Herringbone Stair Runner (Rose), £80 a metre, all Vanessa Arbuthnott

#### ARCHITECTURAL ENHANCEMENTS

With staircases still in mind, McLane says that “reassessing and rearranging layouts can often add valuable square metres to a home’s entrance”. A specialist designer should be able to consider all the viable options and structural implications, which, continues McLane, “can include changing the direction of the staircase to create better flow of traffic and using available space more efficiently.”

In more compact spaces, consider widening connecting doorways to aid flow and a feeling of space, and retaining openings under existing stairs to visually enhance narrower areas. However, do bear in mind the storage implications of doing this and be sure to compensate accordingly.

Reworking dead space at the end of a long corridor by partitioning off a cloakroom or storage space can significantly aid proportion, as can the introduction of a traditional glazed interior lobby. Prioritising natural







daylight will immediately inject any hallway with an airy feel, so make the most of windows and consider fanlights or glazed door inserts to supplement poor light sources or transform dark corners.

In terms of architectural and period features, the addition of a classic fireplace in grander settings will provide a focal point and full-height timber or painted panelling by the likes of Stuart Interiors or The English Panelling Company will inject further character. In narrower hallways, consider half-height panelling such as tongue-and-groove. Dado and picture rails afford the opportunity to break up larger expanses of wall or areas with high ceilings, whilst plasterwork, including cornices and corbels by the likes of Stevenson of Norwich, can add interest to both grand receptions or tall narrow corridors, by acting as a framework and drawing guests in.

If considering structural work on historic or listed properties, be sure to consult an experienced

conservation and residential refurbishment company, such as Broseley, or check RIBA for specialist conservation architects, such as Hackett Holland or Yiangou Architects. If restoration is required, be aware that “architectural detailing will require the expertise of skilled craftsmen,” says interior architect and designer Roselind Wilson.

#### FOCUS ON FLOORING

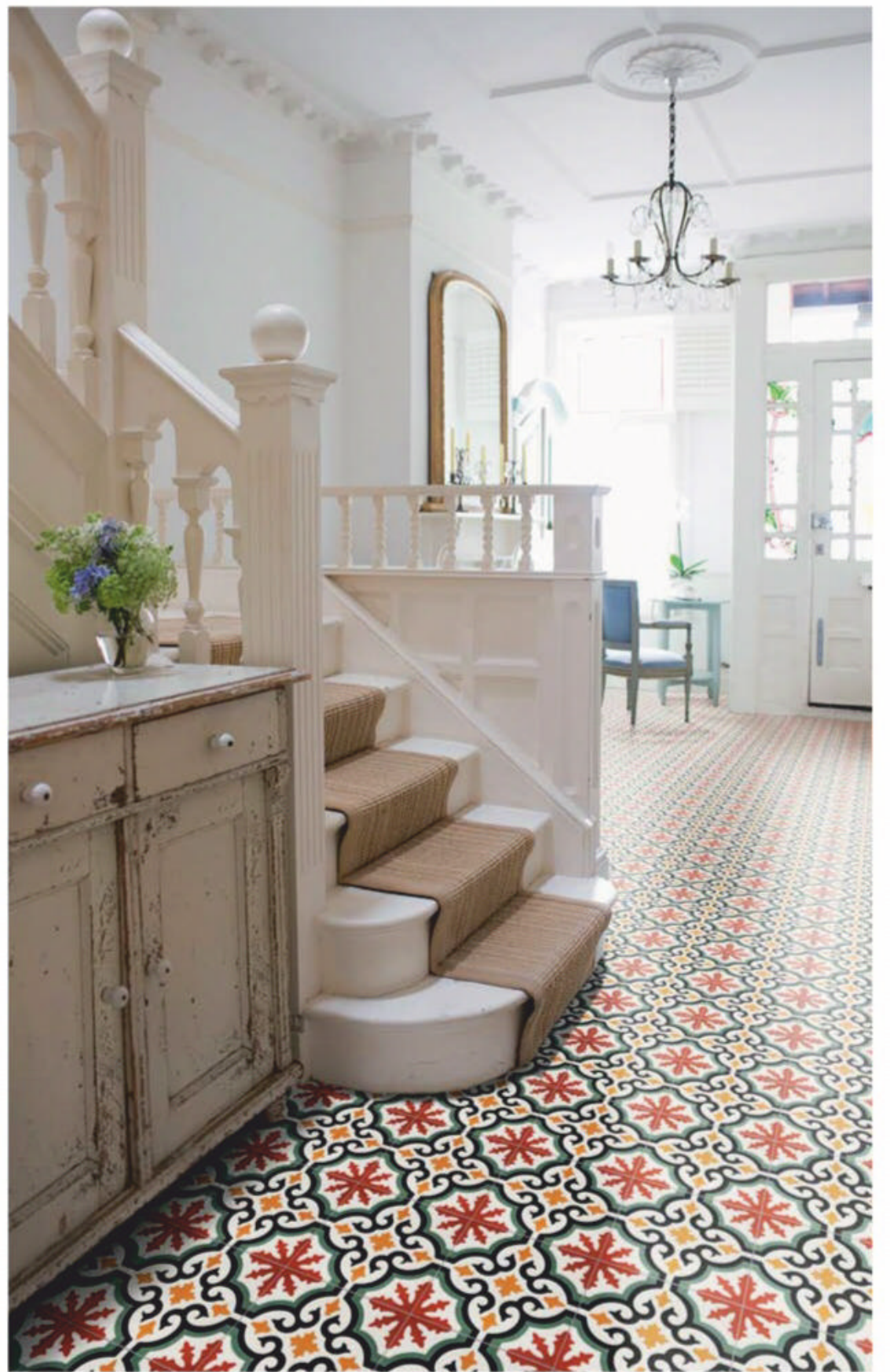
When it comes to flooring, the most practical solution for this high-traffic area has to be a robust, hard surface. Decorative, resilient stone tends to be an enduring classic as, once sealed, “its hard-wearing nature can sustain frequent foot fall,” says David Mahyari, CEO at Solid Nature, who lists “marble and travertine as popular choices”.

To add pattern and colour underfoot, look to encaustic tiles – both Maitland & Poate and Bert & May offer reclaimed, antique and their own ►

**ABOVE LEFT** Grey polished plaster highlights the architectural features in this hallway. The marble-effect porcelain tiles, with bronze inlay, add practicality and glamour. Interior design by Roselind Wilson Design.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Here, the azure hue in the tiled flooring is echoed on the walls. *Walls, Blue's Blue, £55 for 2.5l Architects' Matt, Paint & Paper Library*





**ABOVE** A neat jib door maintains symmetry in a hallway. Interior design by Barlow & Barlow.

**ABOVE RIGHT** These handmade encaustic tiles provide an attractive yet resilient surface underfoot. *Salisbury encaustic tiles, £99 a square metre, Artisan of Devizes*

**RIGHT** Renovate an existing staircase with new balustrades to transform the look of a hallway. *Staircase renovations, from £2,400, Neville Johnson*

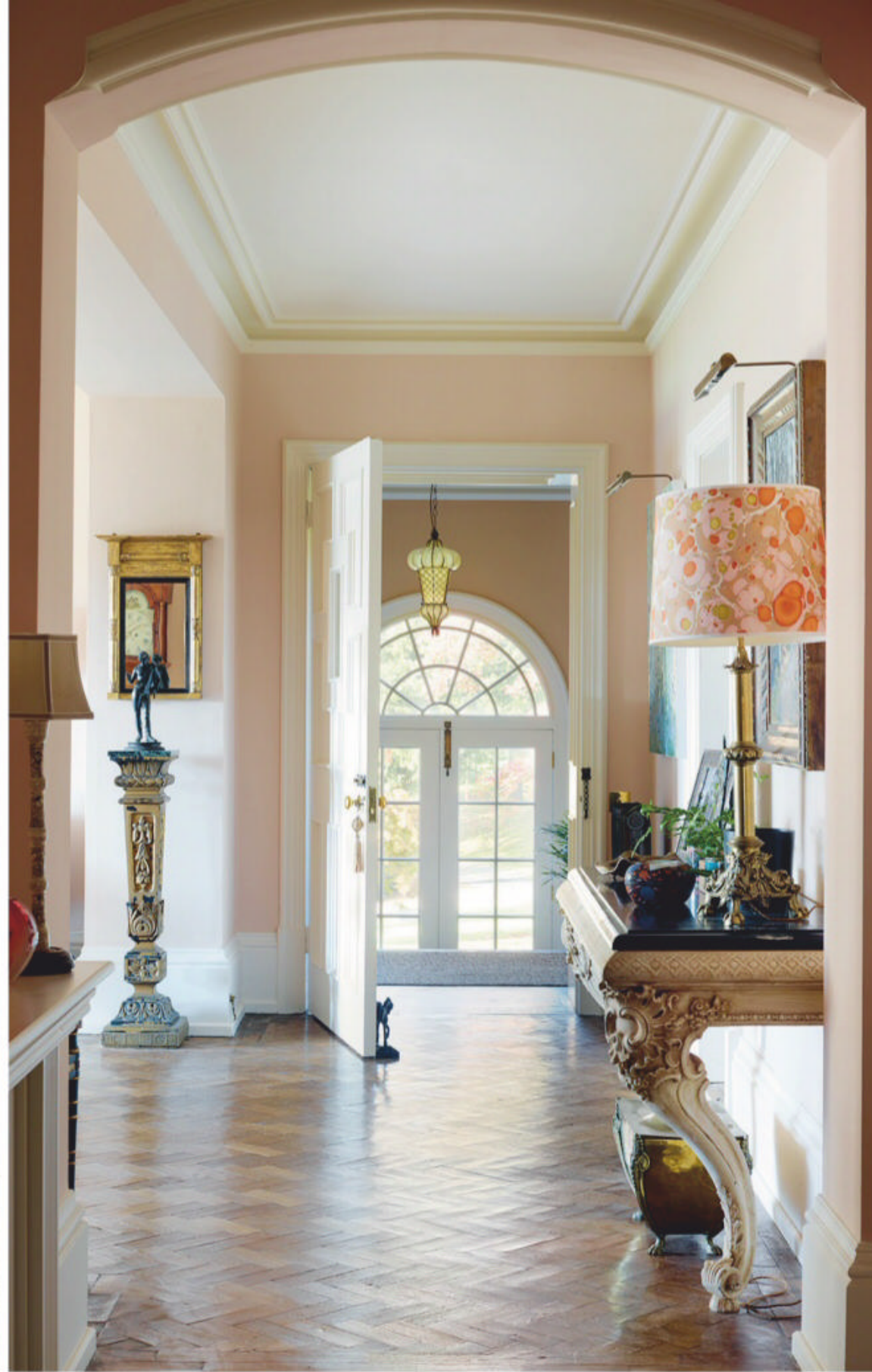
handmade, artisan designs. Alternatively, plain, patterned and faux-wood or -stone ceramic and porcelain tiles offer a low-maintenance option.

For a warmer, tactile finish underfoot, look to hard-wearing, FSC-certified timber, which will also improve with age. When looking at the options available, bear in mind that hardwoods, such as oak, will withstand knocks and bumps better than softwoods, such as pine. Engineered timber, which consists of layers of wood glued together, is deemed more practical than solid wood due to its resistance to humidity. “The multi-layer core of an engineered board creates an incredibly robust and stable surface,” says Peter Keane, director of The Natural Wood Floor Company. Those wishing to benefit from a fuss-free hard-floor alternative that mimics natural materials might like to consider a luxury vinyl.

For a softer yet still durable feel underfoot, plant-fibre floorings, such as coir and sisal, have long been a staple of the hallway, especially on stairs. Meanwhile, runners, both plant-fibre and wool, combine comfort with hard flooring. “Wool is a surprisingly resilient







and practical option,” says Andy Guard, head of design at Roger Oates, “as it naturally repels dust and dirt and has both noise-reducing and insulating qualities.” Alternatively, in a household with children and dogs, synthetic carpets can offer greater stain-resistance, and hard-wearing wool blends combine the best of both worlds. Opt for tight or flat weaves, plus hardy twist piles, and do ask about protective finishes.

#### ILLUMINATING IDEAS

Hallways are often regarded as difficult areas to light, however, for Roselind Wilson success lies in establishing “a flexible [lighting] scheme that serves both a practical function and is a mood-enhancer when welcoming guests”.

Interior designer Penny Morrison recommends introducing “several lighting sources in order to create different levels of light”. These may include wall lights, table lamps and pendants, all of which can be used in various configurations to create a combination of ambient, task and general light to create varying moods and atmosphere as required. Fitting dimmer ►

**ABOVE LEFT** Add interest with bold, patterned textiles. Blind and scatter cushion, Lotus, Azure; seat cushion, Setterfield Stripe, Campari, both £210 a metre, Guy Goodfellow

**ABOVE RIGHT** Soft pink walls add to the refined character of this hallway. Walls, Jonquil, £49.50 for 2.5l Emulsion, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint

**LEFT** Opt for multifunctional storage solutions to maximise space. Hanson hallway storage bench, £298, Rowen & Wren





**ABOVE** The shape and style of this made-to-measure design were created to align with the Georgian-inspired property. *Bespoke staircase, from £22,000, Bisca*

**RIGHT** An elegant arch through to a reception room allows more light to flow into the hallway of this London townhouse. Interior design by Stephenson Wright.

switches will also allow for low-level lighting in the evening, and brighter lighting on busy mornings. Remember to position switches at both ends of the hallway and near the stairs to eliminate the need to wander around looking for one in the dark.

Large pendants and chandeliers should provide a focal point in their own right, as well as putting an end to any dark shadows that make a hallway feel smaller. Bear in mind that all lighting designs should remain in proportion with the space, and that any table or wall lights, as well as providing soft, welcoming pools of light, can also be used to play with hallway proportions. “Smaller wall lights are best in narrower passageways,” says Morrison. Wall sconces lend themselves to areas with lower ceilings, downlighters widen a narrow area and uplighters highlight architectural features and add interest.

Finally, do not neglect stairs which, due to the fact they are often built around awkward angles, will require individual, focused lighting to ensure safety. Long-drop pendants and wall lights are a staircase staple. Alternatively, consider setting spotlights into the floor or skirting along dark passageways or up stair treads, as these also wash floors with a decorative, enticing glow. ■



FEATURE PAULA WOODS PHOTOGRAPHS P97 (ROSELYN WILSON) © MEL YATES; (PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY) © PAUL RAESIDE; P99 (GUY GOODFELLOW) © ASTRID TEMPLER; (EDWARD BULMER NATURAL PAINT) © RACHAEL SMITH; P100 (BISCA) © JAKE FITZJONES; (STEPHENSON WRIGHT) © TOM SULLAM



# A beautiful home... DESERVES PROPER PROTECTION

Having spent precious time creating your beautiful home, it is important to ensure that you have the right insurance cover in place to safeguard your house, valuables and lifestyle



Now, as a reader of *The English Home*, you can benefit from special rates on home and contents cover placed through leading insurance advisers Smith Greenfield.

This carefully researched insurance opportunity has been specially created for high net worth individuals and is available to homeowners whose properties are valued at over £250,000

or whose home contents is worth more than £75,000.

It comes with many benefits that standard high-street policies do not offer, and readers of *The English Home* will access products only available through expert independent advisers.

Equally importantly, claims will be settled promptly and without fuss.

## Special benefits can include:

- Warranty-free policies – your property is still covered even if you fail to set your alarm
- The cost of alternative accommodation if your home becomes uninhabitable
- Cover for garden furniture, statues and equipment
- Family travel insurance, including for children travelling on their own



# Extraordinary (industrial) kitchens



Whether its traditional or classic, fitted or freestanding, our kitchens are refreshingly different, and with a unique range of painted, timber, distressed, vintage and industrial finishes, we've a kitchen style that's perfect for your home.

If you're looking for a truly bespoke kitchen to reflect your individual style, visit our showroom at Moreton in Marsh in the heart of the Cotswolds or register online for a brochure.

Comprehensive design service and home consultations arranged countrywide. Commissions fulfilled throughout UK, Europe and worldwide.

unfitted

High Street  
Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 0LH

[www.unfitted.co.uk](http://www.unfitted.co.uk)  
01608 650065



## COOKS AS GOOD AS IT LOOKS

The ESSE 990's matt black exterior encapsulates a contemporary electric range cooker that takes your cookery to the next dimension.

Patented surround heat oven elements develop a gentle, radiant heat that flows evenly into the food for succulent slow roasts and outstanding baking ability.

ESSE range cookers heat up quickly from energy-efficient slumber mode and can be installed almost anywhere. And if the matt black finish isn't for you, choose from another 19 vibrant colours.

**ESSE**  
MADE IN BRITAIN



Open shelving, tongue-and-groove panelling and a reclaimed wooden worktop add period style to this basement kitchen by Plain English (see page 106).

## DESIGNING AN INVITING *kitchen*

Experienced designers reveal important considerations in balancing style and practicality

**W**hilst a kitchen plays an important utilitarian role in any home, not all homeowners want it to look overtly practical. Indeed, many prefer the functionality of the space to be underplayed in terms of the design aesthetic, seeking instead to create a space that is inviting and characterful. This allows it to serve as a welcoming backdrop for entertaining or daily dining as well as for having areas for preparing meals and the inevitable clearing up.

Our kitchen special showcases truly beautiful and carefully considered schemes from interior and kitchen designers who generously share some of their design insights and processes. Professional designers know how to incorporate unexpected colour and pattern into a scheme, how to maximise the impact of architectural features or reinstate period charm, look at fresh ways to inject character and individuality and tailor a kitchen to suit a lifestyle so that it delivers on both form and function. ►



## Emma Sherlock on adding unexpected colour & pattern



Hampshire-based interior designer Emma Sherlock has a sensitive touch for a quintessentially English style but always with an imaginative, original twist. Here, she reveals how she approached the design of a modestly sized kitchen in a townhouse flat in London.

### *The brief*

“Kitchens have to be practical but that doesn’t mean they can’t be beautiful at the same time. I try to place emphasis on them also being comfortable spaces that give us as much enjoyment as a good sitting room. The brief for this London kitchen was to create an entertaining space for a girl about town. My client wanted her kitchen to feel uplifting and unexpected in her relatively small flat.”

### *Form & function*

“Each project you work on is different, but as a general rule I have a complete aversion to shoulder-height cupboards. If at all possible, I prefer not to put them in, so all the cupboards in this kitchen are either below waist height or floor to ceiling. Because the kitchen was devised as somewhere to be a wonderful entertaining space, we concealed the mechanics of the kitchen – the fridge and freezer are contained in pull-out drawers below the work surfaces and the boiler and dishwasher are concealed in cupboards. This also allowed us to put in the high marble splashbacks with a matching marble shelf running along the top. Brass taps and cupboard handles are used throughout, which I think always adds charm to a kitchen or bathroom.”

### *Colour & pattern*

“I wouldn’t suggest putting wallpaper in a family kitchen filled with children and dogs, however, in this instance, it was a chance to give the room real character and make it more playful. Soane Britain’s Scrolling Fern design accentuates the ceiling height in the kitchen and the colour feels fresh and upbeat. I used the matching fabric on the Roman blind to continue the pattern around the room. Brilliantly, my client was enthusiastic about my bold colour suggestions (her sitting room is painted a deep yellow) and, therefore, we painted the majority of the cupboards in emerald green whilst leaving the central display cupboard in cream to break up the room.” ►



**ABOVE & OPPOSITE** Pairing bold emerald green cabinetry, Scrolling Fern wallpaper and matching fabric from Soane Britain and sleek Carrara marble worktops against a scrubbed-pine table top and cream-painted dresser creates a delightfully informal kitchen suited to entertaining, even in a modest space.



*Case Study One*







**ABOVE** A chic dining area with an extendable table creates an inviting central focal point. Irish Hunt table, £18,650; Salon dining chair, £3,201, both Howe London; chairs upholstered in Knurl Linen, £120 a metre, 36 Bourne Street  
**RIGHT** The dresser cupboard shelves are lined with Little F wallpaper in Tutti, £120 a roll, 36 Bourne Street



## Designing a single-wall period-style kitchen

Christopher Howe, antique dealer and owner of Howe London, is much-respected for his innate style, knowledge of craftsmanship, eye for heritage and reclaimed pieces and sensitivity to period details. This kitchen, created in the basement of Howe London's showroom, is used daily by staff and for client entertaining. Christopher worked with Katie Fontana, creative director of Plain English, to design a setting echoing a Georgian aesthetic and based on a practical single-run of cabinetry to integrate the workings of the kitchen rather than dominate the space.



### Katie Fontana

"At the initial meeting in the proposed space, Christopher shared his idea about what fun it would be to have one long run of cupboards that started in the main room and ran through to the scullery at the back. I had been waiting for years to do an enormous dresser the size of the one at

Petworth House in West Sussex and this was it. Christopher chose a Wolf range cooker and a Sub-Zero freestanding fridge but we concealed the dishwasher under the dresser. I wanted to make it as traditional and authentic as possible so we chose painted interiors with unlacquered oak drawer interiors and a reclaimed pitch pine worktop and reclaimed sink and taps."



### Christopher Howe

"I wanted to retain the way the super-sized dresser works, because as often as it has been reinvented, it's never actually been improved. There is a perfect balance between what you do see and what is stored out of sight. Katie and I agreed on adhering faithfully to characteristic

Georgian detail, such as continuing the timber of the cupboards all the way to the floor and not having a kick-board – people are unnerved by this, which is a good thing.

"Another of my favourite details is the odd taps, plumbed at different heights, because this represents the historic process of modernising. To begin with, kitchens like this had only one cold-water tap, then as hot water became a commodity, new taps were plumbed in that weren't part of the original design." ►



## Case Study Two



**ABOVE** The enormous dresser features a range cooker at one end and a sink at the other with reclaimed taps in different sizes to add further character. Kitchens from £35,000, Plain English; cabinetry painted in Oyster White Light, from £60 for 2.5l Water Based Eggshell, Sanderson

**LEFT** A utility area is given a rustic period feel with brick-mounted reclaimed porcelain sink.

**FAR LEFT** The Wolf range cooker is neatly fitted into the single run of units. Opaline glass Coolie shades with crinkled edge, £220, Howe London



## Case Study Three

### Emily Todhunter on retaining character & charm



Interior designer Emily Todhunter of Todhunter Earle Interiors has a global clientele. When redesigning her own kitchen (right), her chief aim was to ensure a sense of continuity for the family and maintain a powerful sense of home.

#### *The brief*

“There are no rules for designing a kitchen, every one is different. This kitchen is ours in the country. We have three children, dogs, cats, ponies...the lot, so for us what is important would be less important in a London kitchen. It really matters to me that mud doesn't show on the floor and it really mattered to our children that, when this kitchen was updated last year, it looked the same as it always had done. Probably the most important thing for everyone was that it felt cosy and warm; literally felt warm, which it does thanks to the Aga, but it also has a warm atmosphere.”

#### *Sensitive redesign*

“The Aga and flooring are original but we replaced the old oak cabinets with new ones, beautifully made by Orwells, and with deep drawers for all the plates. I chose worktops in honed granite because it looks much more ‘country’ and I think it's more practical than the shiny alternative which shows smears and marks very quickly.

“There used to be more window seats in the room but I lost one in favour of a dishwasher. I do love a window seat. Ours has a view of dovecotes in the garden and the chickens, who like to perch on the windowsill outside. A lightweight fabric blind adds softness. The fabric is from the Eco textile range at MM Design Textiles.

“We live, and nearly always eat, in the kitchen. I can change the atmosphere with the lighting, but I can also achieve a completely new colour scheme and atmosphere by changing the tablecloth.

“We have two tables, which works really well as I never know how many we're going to be until the last minute. If they're pushed together, we can seat up to 14, which is a bit of a squash, but it makes it cosy! When you're trying to create an inviting kitchen, the key thing is not to try too hard. Be relaxed when designing it and the end result will be relaxed, too.” ►



**TOP** New oak kitchen units by Orwells in Ipswich are teamed with honed granite worktops as part of a sensitive refit by interior designer Emily Todhunter in her own home.

**ABOVE** Careful choice of lighting, use of fabrics and the ability to use two tables together makes this kitchen a flexible family-focused heart of the home.



# DAVONPORT

KITCHEN & HOME



FOR THOSE WHO APPRECIATE THE DIFFERENCE

BERKSHIRE • ESSEX • HERTFORDSHIRE • LONDON • SURREY • SUSSEX • DORSET

0845 468 0025 [davenport.com](http://davenport.com)



## THE ELECTRIC RANGE

MODERN EFFICIENCY,  
CLASSIC GOOD LOOKS.

With six widths available and a choice of great colours we're confident we have just the right EVERHOT for you.

NOW  
AVAILABLE  
IN MARINE  
BLUE

01453 890018  
[www.everhot.co.uk](http://www.everhot.co.uk)



## Case Study Four



### Flora Soames on creating a look to suit a lifestyle



Flora Soames (spotlighted as ‘One To Watch’ in *The English Home*’s New Year Honours Awards 2020) creates interiors with a lovely modern twist on English style. Here, she reveals how she balanced clever aesthetic and practical considerations in this townhouse kitchen.

#### The brief

“The main task of this project was to relocate the kitchen from the lower ground floor of this terraced Victorian house and incorporate it into the high-ceilinged, grander ground floor living rooms, which overlook a communal garden. With a family of six, the client was fed up with being shut away in the basement so much of the time and wanted a dynamic yet functional kitchen in which to live and entertain informally. The client’s personality and taste is playful and diverse and therefore an open approach to the scheme was possible, which is always a joy.”

#### Enhancing a sense of flow

“My approach to a kitchen is not to come at it primarily as a functional space. The kitchen is nearly always the heart of the house these days, and its design should be led by the client in terms of how they wish to live in it. Pattern and colour are vital tools for injecting character into an otherwise practical space and integrating it into the feel of a house as a whole. In this instance, the emphasis on bold colour and pattern, as well as texture, enabled this room to run fluidly into the adjoining living space. The curtains and geometric tiles give character to an inevitably large expanse of joinery and hard surfaces.”

#### Considering storage

“These days the breadth of possibilities with storage are endless. Make the most of cupboard depth to employ useful internal layouts for storage, whether for a built-in larder or utensils and crockery. If working with an entire room as a whole, use all areas of the room for storage and think of glassware, drinks and cookery books perhaps being stored elsewhere and in a different manner. If built-in joinery is used for the majority of the kitchen, break this up with a different task space, such as this freestanding stainless-steel marble-topped table (*above*) which gives the room more space to breathe.” ▶

**ABOVE** A playful mix of patterns and colours makes this townhouse kitchen feel inviting and uplifting rather than purely functional, helping it flow with the rest of the home. The kitchen tiles are by Popham Design and the curtain fabric is Samarkand Original by Clarence House. The bespoke kitchen is by Quartet Interiors.



Truly British. Truly Bespoke.



# NAKED KITCHENS

[nakedkitchens.com](http://nakedkitchens.com) | 01328 838 854



## Case Study Five



### Making the most of architectural features



Complementing the original architectural features of a period home was pivotal to the design of this kitchen. Charlie Draper, designer at Sustainable Kitchens, reveals the key steps to doing so.

#### The brief

"This kitchen is in the basement of a Georgian house

in Bath, so it was important to keep the space as light and informal as possible. The client was passionate about making the room feel relaxed and lived-in, so we chose Farrow & Ball's Green Smoke and Cornforth White to keep it calm and light and also because it complements and works well with the Bath stone flooring and chimney arches."

#### Careful planning & layout

"We used low cabinetry along the edge nearest to the windows, placing the sink in the centre of the window and all appliances hidden behind the simple run of cabinets. On the adjacent wall, we designed cabinetry to fit in the coves of the original chimney arches. The far cove was much smaller, and to make the most of the space, we designed a bespoke cabinet to display the client's glass and china cup collection. The cabinets



were all scribed [made to perfectly fit uneven surfaces] into the stone floor and walls. To incorporate more storage, we included a ceiling-height dresser and half a larder, we designed a cupboard under the stairs to include the fridge-freezer, a wine fridge, additional shelves and a space for the vacuum cleaner and mop.

"If you have architectural features and character in your home, it is important to choose a company that will design bespoke and really make the most of the features rather than hide them away. The beauty with bespoke kitchen manufacturers is that they will build cabinets to fit your kitchen, rather than using standard-sized units, and will work with you throughout the design process to get the most from your space, taking into account how you use your kitchen and what you will require, whilst also recommending colours that will complement your home." ■

**ABOVE** Mixing freestanding pieces and bespoke fitted cabinetry makes the most of unusual and eye-catching period features whilst ensuring plenty of practical storage.



## Expert resources when shopping for a new kitchen

Below are a few suggestions of reputable kitchen companies to consider when looking to redesign and refit the heart of the home



### BARNES OF ASHBURTON

Founded in 1980 to create bespoke hand-built kitchens using traditional joinery techniques for both classic and modern designs. Tel 01364 653613 [barnesofashburton.co.uk](http://barnesofashburton.co.uk)

### CHARLIE KINGHAM

Handmade kitchens, tailored to fit, in classic and contemporary Shaker styles. Also offering a 'turnkey' service as well as cabinetry for libraries, playrooms and more. Tel 01483 338888 [charliekingham.co.uk](http://charliekingham.co.uk)

### CHRISTOPHER PETERS

Specialising in designs for period properties, the team draws on over 30 years of working with antique furniture and its "extensive knowledge of early eighteenth- and nineteenth-century furniture design". Tel 01926 832511 [christopherpeters.com](http://christopherpeters.com)

### DAVONPORT

From quaint to contemporary, Davonport prides itself on offering a complete design service including colour schemes, lighting, flooring, technology/media, soft furnishings, seating and tableware. Tel 0845 468 0025 [davonport.com](http://davonport.com)

### DEVOL

Creating classic, rustic and softly contemporary kitchens that can be customised by the decorative

painting team. The brand also has its own range of tiles, handles, hanging rails and more made by a resident potter and metalsmith. Showrooms in the UK & USA Tel 01509 261000 [devolkitchens.co.uk](http://devolkitchens.co.uk)

### HARVEY JONES

Hand-built kitchens in five beautiful ranges: Shaker, Arbor Original, Linear and Linear Edge designs, hand-painted in any hue. The Shaker design is also available in natural oak or walnut. Tel 0800 389 6938 [harveyjones.com](http://harveyjones.com)

### HUMPHREY MUNSON

Elegant kitchens with symmetry and proportion central to the design aesthetic. Also creates tailor-made cabinetry for boot rooms, pantries and more. Tel 01371 821300 [humphreymunson.co.uk](http://humphreymunson.co.uk)

### MCCARRON AND COMPANY

Driven by "the desire to pioneer new designs and techniques, to work with new materials, to create future classics", McCarron and Company designs kitchen, bedroom and other cabinetry at its Wiltshire-based workshop. Tel 01380 859299 [mccarronandco.com](http://mccarronandco.com)

### NAKED KITCHENS

Proudly made in Norfolk, this very British brand's classic Georgian kitchens are the starting point for

any new design. The team builds upon this to create bespoke designs for all tastes and lifestyles. The brand's ethos is that "a kitchen should be measured to your home, in the finest materials crafted to millimetre tolerances". Tel 01328 838854 [nakedkitchens.com](http://nakedkitchens.com)

### ORWELLS

Originally a specialist cabinet-making firm, restoring and manufacturing mainly wooden furniture for more than 25 years, Orwells now also creates bespoke furniture and interiors from consultation to installation. Tel 01473 680091 [orwellsfurniture.co.uk](http://orwellsfurniture.co.uk)

### PLAIN ENGLISH

Known for its sensitive Georgian-inspired design aesthetic, the team at Plain English regards itself as traditionalist, making kitchens and interiors in time-honoured ways. Showrooms in the UK & USA Tel 020 7486 2674 [plainenglishdesign.co.uk](http://plainenglishdesign.co.uk)

### SIMON TAYLOR

Focusing on projects in the Home Counties and London, Simon Taylor offers "full interior project management solutions for every room in the home", including kitchens and bathrooms, all fully installed by the in-house fitting team. Tel 01296 488207 [simon-taylor.co.uk](http://simon-taylor.co.uk)

### SMALLBONE OF DEVIZES

Maker of bespoke luxury fitted cabinetry, made in fine timbers such as sustainable European oak, rosewood, mahogany, American walnut and maple for homes from Long Island to Venice to London. Tel 020 7589 5998 [smallbone.co.uk](http://smallbone.co.uk)

### THE WHITE KITCHEN COMPANY

Bespoke hand-painted, solid wood and lacquered oak kitchen furniture in period and Shaker styles, including both fitted and freestanding pieces. Tel 01604 821003 [thewhitekitchencompany.com](http://thewhitekitchencompany.com)

### TOM HOWLEY

Every designer from the 19 showrooms nationwide is personally trained by the owner and design director of this eponymous business to meet his exacting standards in the design of elegant, well-considered kitchens. Tel 0161 848 1200 [tomhowley.co.uk](http://tomhowley.co.uk)

### UNFITTED

Specialising in freestanding, handmade kitchens in both timber and painted finishes, Unfitted constructs each run of cabinets as a single piece of furniture (just like a traditional sideboard), and these can be delivered fully finished ready for final installation on site. Tel 01608 650065 [unfitted.co.uk](http://unfitted.co.uk) ■





**03444 171 400**

Garden Rooms - Annexes - Orangeries - Garages - Conservatories



[sales@juliusbahn.co.uk](mailto:sales@juliusbahn.co.uk)

[www.juliusbahn.co.uk](http://www.juliusbahn.co.uk)

Request Our Brochure - Arrange A Show Site Viewing - Book A Complimentary Home Design Visit



Clever use of a glazed gable, full-height glazing, roof light and French doors creates flow to the garden and offers all the benefits of dining al fresco without risk of rain.

# *Bringing the* OUTSIDE IN

Create a green room within the home and discover the benefits of living close to nature





Glass walls, mirrored panels, a cool neutral colour scheme and versatile furniture allow this garden room extension by Louise Bradley to be used as a shady space for quiet reflection or a pretty dining room with a green outlook.

**TOP RIGHT** This project's two-tone paint finish helps it blend in seamlessly with the house. Prices from £40,000, David Salisbury

**RIGHT** Elegant woven dining chairs set the right tone for a garden room. Joe dining chair with oak base, £420, Vincent Sheppard

**FAR RIGHT** The pyramid-shaped roof of this structure lets in ample daylight, creating a bright and airy ambience. Prices from £3,600 a square metre, Marston & Langinger







**B**iophilia – the life-affirming effect of being close to nature that energises and engenders positivity – is fast entering the vocabulary of interior designers to bring characteristics of the natural world into the home. By definition conservatories, orangeries and garden rooms are ideally suited to this harmonious style of living. Here, we look at structural considerations w- such as ventilation, lighting and flooring – and decorative elements from wallpaper and paint to furniture and accessories.

### IN HARMONY WITH NATURE

Rooms designed to biophilic principles are light and airy, decorated in colours and patterns seen in nature, maximise natural materials and textures in their furnishings and, crucially, are places where plants flourish. Whilst these principles can be introduced to any room in the house, conservatories, orangeries and garden rooms are a straightforward place to start. They overlook the garden, admit a high level of daylight and quality examples made from timber or metal are long-lasting and sustainable.

When planning a garden room designed to be shared by plants and people, aim to accommodate the needs of both. Good daylight, a practical living space and comfortable environment are all priorities, meaning that the style of structure will have a bearing.

According to manufacturer David Salisbury, the difference between a conservatory, orangery and garden room extension is determined largely by the roof structure: a conservatory has a fully or majority glazed roof, allowing maximum natural light; an orangery has a central roof lantern surrounded by a flat roof; whilst a garden room extension has a flat roof and relies on glazed doors and windows to admit light.

The ideal choice will be a structure that is visually pleasing both inside and out. It should be well integrated with the building it is attached to in order to complement its style, with well thought-out interior space to be used and enjoyed throughout the year. ►





## FIRST THOUGHTS

Getting the basics right is fundamental to the design of any living area – aspects that relate directly to the structure such as ventilation, lighting and flooring should be decided at an early stage.

In a garden room where greenery will be a major feature, there are special considerations. Plants give off moisture in a process known as transpiration and, as anyone who has visited the palm house in a botanical garden will be aware, a leafy environment can become very moist. Providing adequate ventilation is key to maintaining a comfortable level of humidity, air circulation and an even temperature.

Vale Garden Houses offers alternative options: “Creating a through draft is essential, so coupled with side windows, our garden buildings are fitted with roof vents which can be opened and closed in the traditional way simply by turning a handle,” says director Lisa Morton, “or you can choose an electrical sensor-operated mechanism which opens the vents automatically to keep heat and humidity in check even when you are not at home.”



Powder blue shutters contrast with the greenery indoors and out.  
*Shutters, Buxton Blue, from £43 for 0.94l  
Aura Grand Entrance Gloss, Benjamin Moore*







Floors must be plant-friendly too, and in garden rooms where there will be large mature houseplants or container-grown trees, a material that can withstand the constant weight of heavy pots and occasional water spillage is a prerequisite. Encaustic tiles were the flooring of choice in Victorian glasshouses, providing a robust surface, colour and pattern. This type of tile is still available, and an appropriate choice for period homes decorated in traditional style.

Stone flooring, which is infinitely versatile and comes in every form from smooth and polished to rustic, will also perform well, its colour and texture blending happily with the plants and any signs of wear adding to its charm. Choosing a stone that can be laid in a continuous sweep from garden room to the terrace outdoors will blur the distinction between indoors and out, encouraging the feeling of living with nature. Porcelain tiles with the appearance of

stone or timber are a man-made alternative, and, like the real thing, come in varieties suitable for use indoors and out.

Whilst daylight is the primary source of illumination in a garden room, well-designed electric lighting will ensure the space can be used in the evenings and on grey winter days. Combine ambient and accent lighting for practicality, atmosphere and to enhance plants and objects, but take care to avoid glare from reflective glazing. “My favourite way to add dramatic lighting in a conservatory is to conceal uplights behind plants,” says Sally Storey, design director at John Cullen Lighting. “This not only throws the fronds or trunks into silhouette, but creates wonderful patterns on the ceiling and wall. A particular problem of conservatories is that after dark the glazing becomes like a mirror. By simply lighting something in the garden beyond the glass the reflections disappear.” ►

**ABOVE** Creating an elegant link between the main house and a new extension, this orangery also serves as an airy, light dining room.

*Prices from £40,000, Vale Garden Houses*

**LEFT** This garden room by David Salisbury features interior woodwork painted in Pennant Stone from the company's own paint palette.

*Prices from £40,000, David Salisbury*





Specialists in beautiful original and historic wallpaper designs

[hamiltonweston.com](http://hamiltonweston.com)

[info@hamiltonweston.com](mailto:info@hamiltonweston.com) | +44 (0) 20 8940 4850

15% OFF  
& FREE delivery  
Exclusive to  
English Home Readers!  
Quote ENGLISH HOME



NOSTALGIA

EST 1976

Antique Fireplaces & Interiors



[nostalgia-uk.com](http://nostalgia-uk.com) | 01614777706 | @nostalgiaukltd



Shepherd Huts | Workshops | Garages | Sheds | Shepherd Hut Studios |  
Offices | Beach Hut | Summer Houses | Bespoke Timber Buildings

At Appletree Bespoke Timber Buildings Limited we specialise in creating high quality bespoke shepherd huts, alongside other timber buildings. Our family run business focuses on giving customers a friendly, bespoke service resulting in high quality, bespoke buildings which will stand the test of time.

**Appletree Bespoke Timber Buildings**

01953 850072 | [info@appletreebespoke.co.uk](mailto:info@appletreebespoke.co.uk)

[www.appletreebespoke.co.uk](http://www.appletreebespoke.co.uk)



EST. 1977

WINE RACKS  
UK

Manufactured By A & W Moore



A & W MOORE Wine Racks manufacture the largest range of wine storage solutions in the UK.

We produce tailor-made storage units for any space.

Call Now for a Quote Tel: 01159441434

[information@wineracks.co.uk](mailto:information@wineracks.co.uk) or visit [wineracks.co.uk](http://wineracks.co.uk)



Wine Racks & Storage by [Wineracks.co.uk](http://Wineracks.co.uk)





**LEFT** Intensify the allure of a garden room by adding tropical motifs and vibrant greens. Blinds, Manila Embroidery (236774), £69 a metre, and all other fabrics, The Glasshouse collection, Sanderson



## DECORATIVE DEVICES

When designing a garden room with biophilic principles in mind, the aim is to use colour and pattern to complement the plants growing within and the view outside, as well as making the space feel at one with nature.

Wallpaper can echo an outdoor setting – and designs exist to conjure settings of every kind, from the delicate ivy trails of Sandberg’s Aralia design to Zoffany’s Richmond Park and the tropical groves depicted in Cole & Son’s Palm Jungle. Murals such as those by Designers Guild offer another way to set a natural scene in traditional conservatories where single unglazed walls can form a focal point for the design.

Where plants or soft furnishings provide sufficient visual stimulation, plain wall colours offer a tranquil contrast alongside foliage. Edward Bulmer of Edward Bulmer Natural Paint, an expert in the art and science of paint and colour, says: “There are no more beautiful shades of green than those in nature, so I would not usually choose green to offset plants. Rather I would use off-whites and pale monochromatic shades to bounce the light around and enhance their forms.”

When positive colour is needed, Bulmer broadens the possibilities to include “hues that resonate in our memories of the colour-washed walls surrounding plants outdoors. Think of the soft earth tones seen in Tuscany and ultramarine shades of Morocco.” ►

**TOP** Bamboo furniture adds a lightness of touch. Hampstead all-weather bamboo side table with resin top, £150, Garden Trading

**ABOVE** These beautiful tiles are inspired by reclaimed cement tiles seen in the streets of Naples. Viola tiles, £71.69 a square metre, from Fired Earth





**ABOVE LEFT** Graceful arching foliage and floral fronds add an exotic touch to this sophisticated scheme. *Paisley Leaf, Sienna/Tomato, £89 a metre, Colefax and Fowler*

**ABOVE RIGHT** Consider alternative ways to display plants, such as this characterful tea cart. *Tea cart, £255, Sophie Conran*

**RIGHT** Comfortable seating is a must if using a garden room as somewhere to relax with a book. *Polperro Woven armchair, £432; Handwoven Kapok floor cushion in Stripe, £112, both Rowen & Wren*

## ELEMENTS OF STYLE

Furniture that sits well alongside greenery and adds to the room's natural feel is easy to find. Pieces made from textural materials such as bamboo, rattan and wood are appropriate, especially when the wood is reclaimed, rustic or oiled, and feels as good as it looks.

Consider garden furniture that moves easily from indoors to the terrace and back again – such flexibility will be invaluable when there are extra guests to accommodate, whilst the styles are purpose-designed to have an affinity with nature.

Seating must always be comfortable, and whilst rattan chairs have an attractive lightness of form, seat cushions are a must. Conventional sofas and chairs are a better buy for garden rooms that double as a second sitting room – select covers that are made from linen or cotton in tactile weaves and natural tones or botanically inspired prints.

Natural texture can be introduced further in the smaller details. Jute, sisal or seagrass rugs have tactility and beautifully mellow colours, whilst light shades woven from the same materials combine delicacy with a simple handmade aesthetic.

Roof and window blinds made from natural grasses or wood strips have a practical purpose in shading the interior from strong sun whilst contributing more texture and adding integrity to the overall sense of being at one with nature. ■



FEATURE MAGGIE STEVENSON PHOTOGRAPHS P116 (LOUISE BRADLEY) © RAY MAIN; P118 © WILLIAM ECKERSLEY



# LIFE SIZE ANIMAL SCULPTURE

Free UK delivery



[www.andrewkaysculpture.co.uk](http://www.andrewkaysculpture.co.uk)

07740 306412



[www.arcticcabins.co.uk](http://www.arcticcabins.co.uk)



- Available in a range of sizes
- BBQ all year round
- Finance options available
- Installed throughout the UK

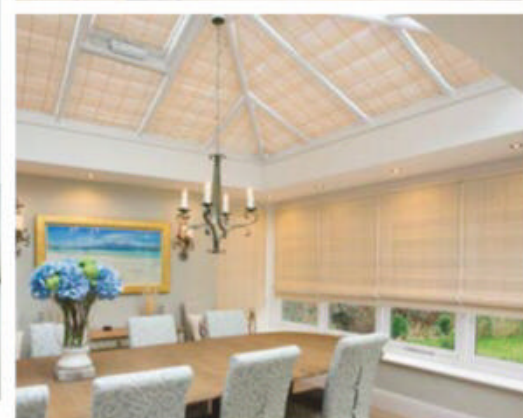
**10 Year**  
Guarantee

0115 932 8888

Finance Subject to status, terms and conditions apply. See website for details.  
\*Planning permission rarely required if you have permitted development rights at your property.



up to **25% OFF**  
our most popular blinds



## Bright ideas for shading your home

Beautiful bespoke blinds for conservatories, orangeries, roof lanterns, gables and bi-folding doors

[www.conservatoryblinds.co.uk](http://www.conservatoryblinds.co.uk) **0800 071 88 88**

conservatory  
**BLINDS** limited

Britain's favourite family-owned specialists





## THE STORY OF BARNES OF ASHBURTON

# CRAFTED FOR LIFE

**A commitment to traditional joinery techniques and cabinet-making at Barnes of Ashburton's workshop in Devon ensures its designs endure for generations to come**

When furniture designer Patrick Gunning decided to turn his hand to creating handmade, bespoke kitchens in 1980, he was unwavering in his vision for the business. He had two priorities: to use traditional joinery techniques and make the highest-quality cabinetry – both of which remain at the heart of his company, Barnes of Ashburton, 40 years on.

Gunning is still involved in the business, but 10 years ago he decided to step back and focus on his passion for music. He knew, however, that he would be leaving the day-to-day running of the company in safe hands – the team now in charge have all worked there for many years and the brand's ethos is as strong as ever.

Kim Whinnett, director, says, "At Barnes of Ashburton it has always been about the craftsmanship. In today's world the demand for things to be made quickly and cheaply means kitchens can lack the quality and longevity of a more traditional approach. We offer a lifetime guarantee because we have complete confidence our kitchens will last." This confidence comes from using the strongest wood-joining technique – the traditional, hand-crafted mortice-and-tenon joint. This is where one piece of wood is inserted into a corresponding hole in another piece of wood at 90 degrees.

Today, like other purveyors of fine kitchen craftsmanship, Barnes of Ashburton has moved into making cabinetry for other areas of the home – from living rooms and bedrooms to studies and boot rooms – with the same attention to detail.

Over the years, the company has designed, built and installed kitchens and other cabinetry in a staggering array of properties, from luxurious seaside developments to historic buildings. "We pride ourselves on making kitchens that enhance your

home. We are as happy working within the irregularities of an old period building as the dramatic designs of modern architecture," Whinnett says.

All the kitchens and cabinetry are made from scratch in the company's Devon workshop. Typically, the process begins with a site visit so the designers can get a feel for the client's home, before budget, timescale, style and specific needs are discussed. The spaces are measured meticulously, taking into account everything from irregular walls and ceiling beams to uneven floors.

"A new kitchen is a major investment, but because the kitchens are made by hand, we have absolute control of costs and can tweak the design so we always stay within your budget," says Whinnett. "In most houses these days, the kitchen is the heart of the home, so it is vital that the space really works for the family. It's all about ensuring there is ample storage and the best use of space. Kitchens are for so much more than cooking these days, so need to work as a place to relax and entertain, too."

Though craftsmanship is at the core of what Barnes of Ashburton does, the company knows that alongside the bespoke, hand-crafted elements of the kitchen, customers these days also want all the mod cons. It has strong relationships with leading appliance manufacturers as well as worktop and lighting suppliers.

With so much of its business coming through word of mouth, it is the personal touch that seems to set Barnes of Ashburton apart. It is proud of its history and encourages all its customers to visit its workshop in Devon to really see the heart of the business and the attention to detail that goes into every aspect of a new kitchen. The company's successful traditional approach seems to demonstrate that sometimes the old ways are the best. ■





**ABOVE** Classic-style kitchen, hand-painted in Farrow & Ball's Light Blue and Porphyry Pink, from £36,000.

**FAR LEFT** Boot room with solid oak pull-out boot and shoe storage, from £24,000.

**LEFT** Secret door and passageway to the kitchen, from £5,400.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT TO RIGHT** Dog bed incorporated within cabinetry, from £960.

Window seat with internal storage, from £1,800.

Classic-style bedroom furniture, with solid oak dressing table top and internals, from £15,000.



# BEDSTEADS

Antique Bed Specialists  
In Brass, Iron, Wood & Upholstered Wood



*Large stock of beds in all styles and sizes.  
Handmade mattresses and bases.  
Restoration and widening service available.*

Chelvey Court Barn, Backwell BS48 4AA 01275 464 114  
enquiries@bedsteads-uk.co.uk www.bedsteads-uk.co.uk

## KENTCHURCH BUTLERS



An ideal present that will last forever. Hand painted and crafted in Devon, these delightful wooden side-tables are fun pieces of furniture to rest your drinks etc on. Standing 38" high, their sturdy trays are 25" above ground, an ideal height to place your favourite tippie when resting on your sofa after a hard day eventing.

Perfect for that birthday, wedding, anniversary or retirement present. Jockeys can be painted in your own silks and soldiers in your regiments.

USA customers should allow 10 days for delivery.

To see over 50 models and to order, visit our website below.

**Kentchurch Butlers**

**07774 959561**

**www.kentchurchbutlers.co.uk**

## REVIVAL BEDS

— Handcrafted for you in Nottinghamshire —

Gold  
Trusted  
Service  
★★★★★  
feefo



The Ambassador Four Poster Bed

FREE DELIVERY & INSTALLATION | 10 YEAR GUARANTEE

**Request your free brochure and wood samples**  
01777 869 669 | revivalbeds.co.uk

## DUNSLEY AVANCE WOODBURNING STOVE 500



- Manufactured from cast iron and high grade plate steel
- Interchangeable top or rear flue outlet
- Superior Air Wash System for cleaner glass
- One control for combustion and air wash woodburning model
- Nominal Heat output 5kW
- Efficiency 81.2%
- Energy label A+
- Wood burning as standard, Smokeless fuel insert grate available on request
- BSI ISO 9001 quality system
- Handmade in Yorkshire, England



www.dunsleyheat.co.uk

T: 01484 682635

**DunsleyHeat**  
WOODBURNING & MULTIFUEL STOVES



# QUINTESSENTIALLY

Inspiration for seasonal pastimes and making the most of life at home starts here ➤

## RHUBARB HARVEST


The arrival of the rhubarb season this month provides the perfect opportunity to indulge in a freshly baked golden crumble, spooned into dishes and enjoyed alongside the sharp chill of ice cream. Though the main ingredient is delicious in its own right, for a characterful twist on this most classic of recipes pair it with orange zest or crystallised ginger. To try a rhubarb, almond and ginger crumble recipe, visit [deliaonline.com](http://deliaonline.com)











The rolling hills around Esthwaite Water in the Lake District exemplify the beauty of the landscape, itself an area of inspiration and the focal point for Octavia Hill's work leading to the foundation of the National Trust in 1895.

# *Shaping Britain* LANDSCAPE LEGACY

In our new series we consider some of the historically important figures who have shaped the look of the nation. Part one focuses on those whose work influenced the evolution of Britain's much-loved landscapes





**ABOVE** Bowood House in Wiltshire has been home to the Lansdowne family since 1754, and its gardens are considered to be one of eighteenth-century landscape architect Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's seminal works. The parkland he created features a flowing mix of plantations and sweeping lawns leading down to a mile-long lake. (Turn to page 74 to see our interview with *The Marchioness of Lansdowne*.)

**T**he beauty and breadth of Britain's landscapes are unparalleled. The allure of the wild Lake District's undulating forms sends the heart soaring and elsewhere gently rolling slopes and carefully created parklands provide panacea for the soul with soothing vistas and floral displays. The history and evolution of these spaces, meanwhile, offer an equally entrancing insight into the country's make-up, thanks in large part to the named figures responsible for their creation.

#### **SWEEPING VISTAS & WATER FEATURES**

England's green and pleasant land is testament to both its history and its people – one of the most formative arguably being Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the eighteenth-century landscape architect, much of whose work, typified by swathes of parkland, is still in existence today.

Brown began his career working under architect and designer William Kent at Stowe in Buckinghamshire. Kent's work in landscape design saw him and royal horticulturalist colleague Charles Bridgeman credited as the fathers of the English landscape garden. Kent and Bridgeman created 'natural' layouts in contrast to the more formal structured gardens of the preceding century, and in addition to Stowe, they collaborated on works at Chiswick House in West London and Rousham House in Oxfordshire.

Brown became head gardener at Stowe in 1748 and soon went on to work on properties including Chatsworth in Derbyshire, Croome in Worcestershire, Bowood in Wiltshire and Petworth in West Sussex. He was prolific in his output and created an estimated 170 landscapes so deceptively simple and understated in their execution that nature herself often looks to have been the artist at work.

The early nineteenth century saw landscape architect William Andrews Nesfield come to the fore. Recognised for projects including revising elements of London's Regent's Park and Kew Gardens – where the Pagoda Vista bears his hallmark – he also worked on Holkham Hall in North Norfolk and Castle Howard in Yorkshire.

Nesfield's background, initially as a soldier and then as an acclaimed painter, gave him a respect for structure coupled with an appreciation for the beauty of nature. This was found in both his cascade and waterfall compositions, lauded by renowned philanthropist and art critic John Ruskin, and also in his prominent use of more ornate, sculptural water features.

#### **SPOTLIGHT ON CONSERVATION**

Where the Georgian era saw the birth of awe-inspiring backdrops to the great estates of England, the late-Victorian era saw a burgeoning interest in the ►



# WHAT IS AVAXHOME?



# AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,  
providing you various content:  
brand new books, trending movies,  
fresh magazines, hot games,  
recent software, latest music releases.

Unlimited satisfaction one low price

Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

Safer, than torrent-trackers

18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



# AVXLIVE ICU

AvaxHome - Your End Place

We have everything for all of your needs. Just open <https://avxlive.icu>





**ABOVE** Lancelot 'Capability' Brown created landscapes that dismantled notions of botanical formality. *Lancelot Brown* (1769) by Nathaniel Dance.

**RIGHT** An 1835 engraving of Petworth illustrating Brown's work.



**LEFT** The eighteenth-century walled garden at Rousham in Oxfordshire is one of the property's many delights designed by William Kent and horticulturalist Charles Bridgeman.

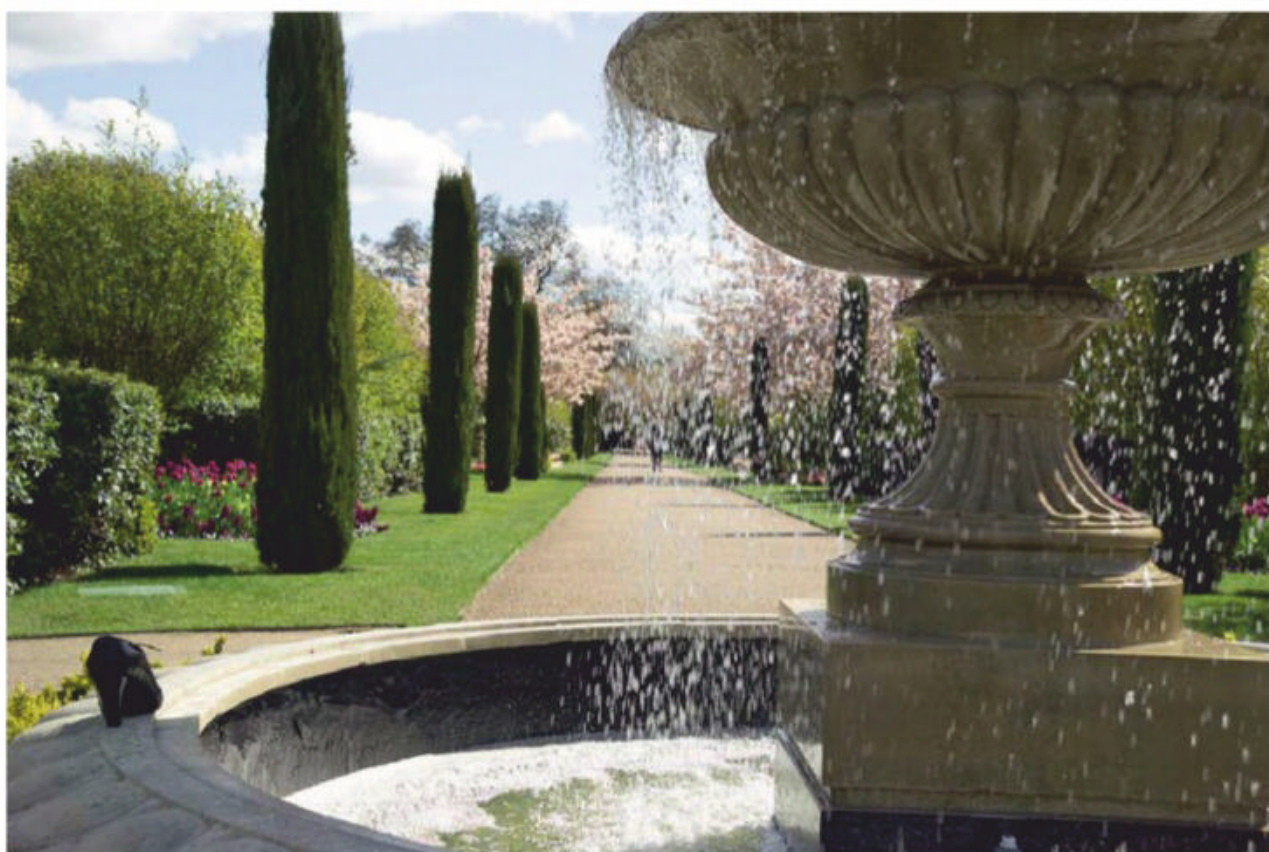
**RIGHT** William Kent, who is credited as being one of the fathers of the English landscape garden. *William Kent* (circa 1736) by Bartholomew Dandridge.

**FAR RIGHT** Octavia Hill, whose work saw her co-found the National Trust in 1895. *Octavia Hill* (1876), by Reginald Grenville Eves



**ABOVE** The Pagoda Vista at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in West London is a fine example of work by Victorian garden designer Willam Andrews Nesfield.

**LEFT** Avenue Gardens in Regent's Park showcases Willam Andrews Nesfield's work based around straight vistas and axes. The structure and colourful flowers were put in place to lend variety and interest for those walking through a public space, in a city where the sight of beautiful blooms would often solely be the preserve of wealthy private gardens.

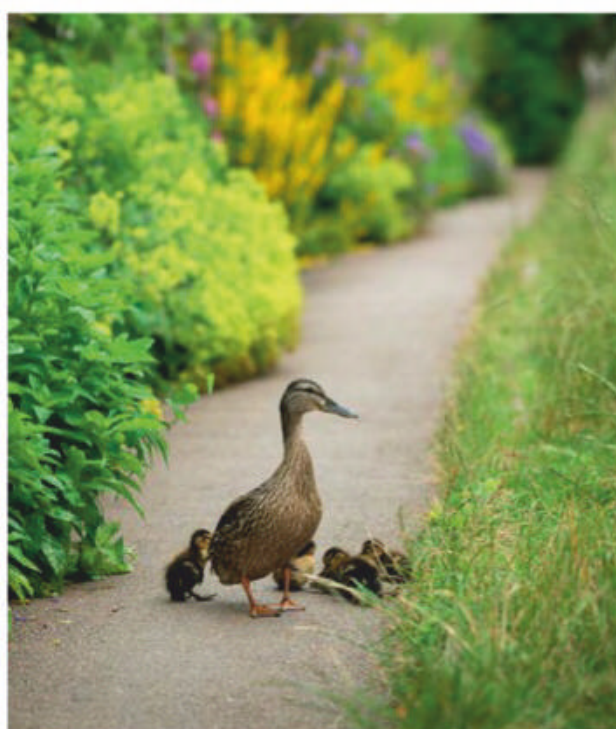




**RIGHT** Beatrix Potter's Hill Top farmhouse near Sawrey in Cumbria, now in the care of the National Trust.

**BELOW LEFT** One of the author's sketches on display at the Beatrix Potter Gallery in Hawkshead.

**BELOW RIGHT** Real-life inspiration at Hill Top.



**ABOVE** Beatrix Potter in *Old Age* (1896) by Delmar Harmood Banner.

**RIGHT** View of Tarn Hows, part of the Monk Coniston Estate owned by Beatrix Potter and later bequeathed by her to the National Trust.



preservation of wilder landscapes, with the likes of Ruskin producing authoritative writings on the care and conservation of the countryside.

This development in thinking resulted in Octavia Hill, Hardwicke Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter creating the National Trust at the end of the nineteenth century. Social reformer Hill believed that access to open spaces was crucial for well-being. "She said that 'the need of quiet, the sight of sky and of things growing, seem human needs, common to all men'," explains Hilary McGrady, director general of the National Trust. Along with clergyman Rawnsley and solicitor Hunter, Hill founded the National Trust in 1895 as an association to preserve lands and buildings, to be open to and benefit all strata of society. "She transformed public access to our landscapes, and ensured that access to green space became a right for everyone, not just a privilege for a few," says McGrady.

There was an inextricable link between the three founders – Rawnsley and Hill had campaigned to save parts of the Lake District from the railways, with Ruskin's support, whilst Hunter had been Hill's legal advisor – along with the connection to the Lake District, home to both Rawnsley and Ruskin for large parts of their lives.

## BEATRIX POTTER'S LEGACY

This link to location extended to author and illustrator Beatrix Potter, whose inspiration came as a result of childhood holidays in the Lake District, where she met Rawnsley. He encouraged her creativity, and a lifelong friendship ensued, borne of a mutual interest in nature and the countryside.

Potter used funds from her success as an author to purchase land and farms in the Lakeland Fells, including Hill Top and the Monk Coniston Estate. She also pursued a career as prize-winning breeder of the indigenous Herdwick fell sheep. Upon her death she bequeathed to the National Trust 4,000 acres and numerous farms, continuing the preservation of the Lakeland Fells, its way of life and its artisanal crafts. ■

FEATURE EVE MIDDLETON PHOTOGRAPHS P128 © NATIONAL TRUST/PAUL HARRIS; P130 © BOWOOD/ANNA STOWE; P131 (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) © GEOFFHOTOS/ALAMY; © THE PRINT COLLECTOR/ALAMY; © NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/JOHN HAMMOND; © GRANGER HISTORICAL PICTURE ARCHIVE/ALAMY; © KEW/ANDREW MCROBB; © THE ROYAL PARKS/GREYWOLF; © HARPUR GARDEN IMAGES; P132 (TOP) © NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES/JAMES DOBSON; (DUCKS & TARN HOWS) © NATIONAL TRUST/PAUL HARRIS; (DRAWING & PORTRAIT) © NATIONAL TRUST/ROBERT THRIFT



NEW

# DECORATING GUIDE 2020



BUY  
YOUR COPY  
ONLINE  
WITH FREE  
POSTAGE  
ONLY £7.99

Interior Design is the ultimate guide dedicated to helping readers create their perfect English home. From the publishers of **The English Home** magazine, it features invaluable advice from some of Britain's finest designers and interiors experts on success with colour, pattern, design details, focal points & more.

Order online with free postage or purchase your copy at WHSmith and other good retailers

Visit [chelseamagazines.com/interiors](https://chelseamagazines.com/interiors)





# *Essence of* TRANQUILITY

Water has been used for centuries to transform  
gardens into oases of calm that revive the spirit





The 'black water' at Westwell Manor in Oxfordshire is a large formal pool filling an area previously occupied by a tennis court. Created by noted garden designer the late Anthea Gibson, it is only 3ft deep but a harmless black pond dye (which prevents algae and improves reflections) makes it seem much deeper.



**T**he Romans who came to Britain used their knowledge of piped water and fountain-making in the gardens they made during their four centuries of occupation. Indeed, the word 'fountain' itself is derived from the Latin '*fons*' referring either to a natural spring or artificially channelled and spurting water. Fountains go back even further, though, to the early Bronze Age in Greece and also the Indus Valley, providing people with fresh water from springs or aqueducts, the manipulation of water being fundamental across world civilizations and especially eloquently celebrated in hot and dry climates.

With the spread of Christianity in the British Isles, medieval monks chose with great care the places to site their abbeys. Frequently they settled for glorious locations beside running water, which provided obvious usefulness, but also spiritual refreshment.

Water can be enchanting and mood-enhancing, stimulating or contemplative. At Fountains Abbey in North Yorkshire – ruined, of course, in the time of Henry VIII – one of England's largest Cistercian monasteries was set up beside the lively, splashy waters of the River Skell (that name itself derived from the Viking word '*skjallr*', 'resounding').

That most articulate of twentieth-century garden designers, Russell Page, commented: "If water is a necessity for the cultivation of plants it has other and less easily described functions. 'White' water, breaking waves, waterfalls, cascades and fountain jets are known to produce negative ions, which 'clear the air' and make people feel well."

#### WOOLBEDING HOUSE, WEST SUSSEX

The River Rother of West Sussex makes a picturesque and lazy journey from west to east through the rolling arable lands and fertile meadows of several great estates. Along the way, its great meanders help shape and drain the ancient place of Woolbeding, a hamlet down a quiet lane near the attractive town of Midhurst.

Woolbeding House has had many owners, but in the mid-1950s, when it came to the National Trust in lieu of death duties (but without the sort of endowment funding routinely expected today), its farmland was of primary interest to the trust; the house was let. In 1973, however, Simon Sainsbury (1930–2006), collector, philanthropist, and scion of the famous grocery dynasty, took over the lease and, with his life partner Stewart Grimshaw, set about meticulously restoring the fine Georgian house and making a garden to complement it.

First sight of the garden is actually (and generously) open for all to see from the road, for a straight drive from the wrought-iron gates to the house leads past a pair of magnificent mixed borders, each one margined by a broad carpet of turf. This area west of the house was the first to be tackled by Sainsbury and Grimshaw, who called on the advice of the fashionable designer of the day, the Anglophile American landscape architect Lanning Roper.

Famed for his love of tasteful pastels, particularly combinations of white, pink and grey, Roper focused on the white flowers and silver foliage that look so good in English gardens in the freshness of May and June.

Around the turn of the millennium, the design duo Julian and Isabel Bannerman began working on a theatrical water garden at the lowest area, found at the end of a walk across sheep pastures. Its big rockwork, follies and waterfalls are accessed via ►

**RIGHT** A plunge pool positioned near the public entrance to the gardens at Woolbeding House in West Sussex (opened by the National Trust), cheering a rather low-key entrance with bright herbaceous perennials and pale stonework.









# A style guide to the *outside*

Industry expert and founder of Out and Out Original, Daniel Fairburn, brings you this season's best deals on designer furniture.

Visit [www.outandout.com](http://www.outandout.com) or call **02037 728 752** for more exciting deals and discounts.



## Murcia - 5 Seater Lounge Set

This chic garden lounge set is made from high quality artificial resin which makes it virtually maintenance free. Comfortable and stylish made easy, the Murcia includes a 3-seater sofa, 2 armchairs all with seat and back cushions and a coffee table finished with a clear tempered glass top creating a functional centre piece, perfect for drinks and snacks in the garden. Includes a 12 month warranty. Normally £699, this modern set is now available at an incredible **£499\***. To receive your £200 discount quote code **EHFEB20** at checkout.



## Marbella - 5-Seater Corner Lounge Set

The ideal addition to your outdoor space, this stunning outdoor lounge set offers comfort and style at an affordable price. Normally £599, it's now available for **just £399\*** when you quote **discount code EHFEB20**. Bang on trend in gorgeous shades of grey, this set is designed with a contemporary feel. It's hardwearing, woven in strong polyrattan on a galvanised steel frame. The comfy cushion covers can be removed and hand washed with care. The sofa and armchair seats 5 easily, and includes a tempered, glass-topped coffee table so you can entertain outside with ease. Virtually maintenance-free it's the perfect choice at a fantastic price.

## Santorini - Lounge Set with Cushions

This sleek modular looking lounge is truly versatile and can be arranged in several different ways. Consisting of one left hand and one right hand sofa, two ottomans and a compact coffee table, a simple re-arrangement of the pieces enables you to turn it into 2 chaise longues, 2 day beds or keep all 4 pieces separate for a more sociable outdoor lounge space. Also available in blue and includes a 12 month warranty. Normally £699, it's now available at an amazing **£499\***. To receive your £200 discount quote code **EHFEB20** at checkout.



To receive your **Early Bird Discount** on any of these products quote discount code **EHFEB20** at [www.outandout.com](http://www.outandout.com) or call **02037 728 752** before 04.03.2020.

\*Excludes delivery





a 'Gothic ruin' folly. Hidden among the ferns, a water god leans on an overturned urn spilling 'springwater' down some steps, and elsewhere a thatched, rustic hut with pebble mosaic floor and twiggy walls suggests late eighteenth-century Picturesque tastes.

More recently, the Bannermans have created another, more modern use of water, back at the garden's public entrance, where zesty perennial planting in rich reds, violet and orange surrounds a blue plunge pool beside the old farm buildings.

One last and unforgettable water feature, however, is installed in the main garden near the house. When an ailing cedar of Lebanon

was condemned in 2008, Grimshaw commissioned the fountain designer William Pye to commemorate the venerable cedar with a striking new work where its trunk had stood. The result is *Cedra*, a huge polished steel vessel shaped just like the sort of champagne coupe popular in the 1960s.

When *Cedra* is switched on, water spills evenly over the brim, coating the shiny exterior in an interesting way; when switched off, its mirror finish ensures fascinating, distorted views (including upside-down ones) of the garden, casting yet another light on this interesting, energetic, and still evolving garden. ►

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** A characterful fountain at Sezincote in Gloucestershire; an attractive natural stream garden at Dallam Tower in Cumbria where the banks are brightened with Japanese candelabra primulas and ferns; fountains in a disciplined framework of stone-edged

pools and box 'boxes' in the gardens at Badminton House in Gloucestershire, designed by François Goffinet; with a surface like glass, the restored Cow Pond in Windsor Great Park in Berkshire, where water lilies flourish.



A Monet-worthy scene at Stanbridge Mill in Dorset. The lush plants at the waterside include hostas, Rodgersia and yellow flag iris.



### STANBRIDGE MILL, DORSET

The fragile habitats of Dorset's freshwater streams are being cared for in an interesting garden that is arranged around an old mill.

England's chalk rivers and streams are famous around the world, not least for their fly-fishing opportunities, in idyllic landscapes. They occur only in very specific locations, having filtered through the chalk hills, producing water that is very pure and clear, but rich in minerals and fairly even in temperature year-round. It is good habitat for aquatic plants and many invertebrates. Fish species such as brown trout, bullhead and brook lamprey love to breed in the gravelly riverbeds, but they have for long had to share their waters with the activities of people.

Of the 200 chalk rivers known globally, 85 per cent of them are found in southern and eastern England. Yet they face many challenges – in the past from busy mills, but these days chiefly from unsustainable use by water companies and agricultural chemicals leaching into the waters. These exceedingly fragile habitats require constant monitoring and conservation, not just for the streams but their associated landscapes of floodplain and grazing marsh.

In 1992, the Australian newspaperman James Fairfax (1933–2017) acquired 55 acres of land on both sides of the River Allen, a lovely choice for his English country home. It came with its own network of 'working water' – Stanbridge Mill, its headrace, tailrace, spill pool and associated channels that had been created to power earlier mills. He engaged the interior designer John Stefanidis to refurbish the millhouse, and landscape architect Arabella Lennox-Boyd to design new gardens around the house, a project on which the two worked together for several years and during which Stefanidis designed several small buildings within the gardens. Lennox-Boyd's design takes the carriage drive in a sweeping arc

through a wildflower meadow (grazed periodically by Dorset Horn sheep), to meet an avenue of black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), followed by a stretch of common walnut (*Juglans regia*) – trees that thrive in soil where the water table can get high at times.

Around the extended millhouse are formal but not overdone gardens, where the essence of the place is more important than extreme horticulture. The mill's southwest-facing front is festooned with wisterias, below which the tailrace of water bubbles out, to flow away under tresses of weeping willow. It is a scene that would have moved Monet to paint a series of canvases.

East of the house where the land rises, a progression of straight hedges cut across, starting low with box, then yew, then beech, flanking a flight of steps that lead to an open lawn framed by a double row of pleached lime trees with clear trunks. This walled rectangle, at one time a kitchen garden, gives a glimpse of the enclosed swimming pool garden. From it, one route leads through a succession of rose-and-wisteria-draped arches out and down a long vista to the countryside, beyond a ha-ha.

The most easterly enclosure conceals a working kitchen garden with central glasshouse. The gardens take up some 10 acres, but the other 45 or so are devoted to conserving the water meadows and streams as a private nature reserve. The landscaping is elegant and respectful. ■



This is an extract from the book *English Gardens: From The Archives Of Country Life Magazine* by Kathryn Bradley-Hole, £55, published by Rizzoli





Blenheim Palace



Highclere Castle

# SPECIAL *HOUSES*

**Book now** to secure a place on this exceptional four-day house tour, which includes a visit to Highclere Castle, the set of *Downton Abbey*, and other stately homes that have taken centre stage on television and cinema screens

**This four-day tour, £695, running from 12–15 July 2020, is a very English experience.** Guests will be treated to an itinerary that includes a number of England's important stately residences which have also been used as film locations. A knowledgeable tour guide, meals and comfortable accommodation are included so that the tour can be fully enjoyed as all of the planning is taken care of.

## Highclere Castle, Berkshire

Visit iconic Highclere Castle, the principal film location for ITV's *Downton Abbey*, and explore many of the sumptuous state rooms and bedrooms that appeared in the series. Take in the fascinating Egyptian Exhibition which tells the story of the 5th Earl of Carnarvon and Howard Carter's thrilling archaeological discoveries.

To complete the *Downton Abbey* experience, guests will also travel to Bampton, a pretty village in Oxfordshire, to see where many of the outdoor scenes were filmed and a few of the recognisable landmarks from the series, such as the church where Lady Edith was jilted at the altar.

## Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

One of England's 10 Treasure Houses, Blenheim is a UNESCO World Heritage Site boasting over 300 years of history. It was the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and has served as the location for a number of films, including *Harry Potter: Order of the Phoenix* and *Spectre*, the 24th James Bond film.

Discover the seventeenth-century architecture in the English Baroque style by Sir John Vanbrugh with its ornate ceilings and striking stonework. Enjoy Blenheim's sumptuous interiors – from the Great Hall to the gilded State Rooms, all decorated with exquisite collections of art and antiques.

## Basildon Park, Berkshire

This eighteenth-century Palladian mansion, set in 400 acres of parkland, was the setting for Netherfield Park in the 2005 adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen.

The property was saved from near demolition by Lord and Lady Illiffe in the 1950s and the tour will reveal the extraordinary vision with which they

revived it. Explore the collection of fine furnishings and Old Masters that grace the home they created and in which they hosted many glamorous parties.

## Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire

Built in the late 1800s in the Neo-Renaissance style of a French chateau, Waddesdon is recognisable as Haxby Park in the second series of *Downton Abbey*.

Originally built as a weekend residence for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, today the property is home to the internationally important Rothschild collections. Sèvres porcelain, a magnificent silver dinner service made for George III and paintings by Gainsborough and Reynolds are amongst the collection of 15,000 works of art and objects on display.

## Additional locations:

Enjoy a trip to Wiltshire to visit the picturesque village of Lacock, the setting for BBC's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Cranford*, with Lacock Abbey at its heart, and the romantic, award-winning gardens of Iford Manor designed by Harold Peto. The historic city of Bath is also a highlight of this itinerary.

## BOOKING DETAILS

The tour price of **£695** includes all house entry fees, guided tours, coach travel, accommodation and the services of a tour manager. The tour is administered and managed on behalf of *The English Home* by Brightwater Holidays, an award-winning specialist tour operator which has been offering quality house and garden tours for over 25 years. To book a place on the Special Houses tour, please visit [www.brightwaterholidays.com/EH](http://www.brightwaterholidays.com/EH) or call 01334 766079 and quote the code March 2020 – GD/CS. A non-refundable low deposit of £50 (was £100) per person is required to confirm the reservation. Brightwater Holidays, Eden Park House, Cupar KY15 4HS



# COMING NEXT MONTH



## *The* ENGLISH HOME

APRIL EDITION

### Fabrics & wallpapers special

- Our favourites from the new spring collections
- Bedroom style inspiration & design advice
- How to add character with decorative antiques
- Four beautiful English homes

ON SALE 4 MARCH

[theenglishhome.co.uk](http://theenglishhome.co.uk)



PHOTOGRAPHS (TOP LEFT) © COLIN POOLE; (TOP RIGHT) © RACHAEL SMITH; (BOTTOM RIGHT) PHOTOGRAPH © CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD; INTERIOR DESIGN GARRY MEAKINS; (BOTTOM LEFT) WALLPAPER, ANDHARA ROSE/CREAM; SANDERSON



Follow us on Twitter @englishhometeam  
Pinterest at [pinterest.com/theenglishhome](https://pinterest.com/theenglishhome)  
Facebook at [facebook.com/theenglishhome](https://facebook.com/theenglishhome)  
Instagram at [instagram.com/englishhomemag](https://instagram.com/englishhomemag)



The  
ENGLISH  
HOME  
Directory

To advertise call +44 (0) 207 349 3700  
or email: [info@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:info@chelseamagazines.com)

FURNISHINGS

SAMARKAND DESIGN



SAMARKAND DESIGN sources vintage textiles from around the world to create beautiful and distinctive home accessories. Unique lampshades crafted from exquisite vintage silk sarees, hand block-printed voiles and shibori dyed silk.

Call 07973 922943 or visit  
[www.samarkanddesign.com](http://www.samarkanddesign.com) to see full range

To advertise in the  
English Home  
please call  
+44 (0) 20 7349 3700  
or email: [info@chelseamagazines.com](mailto:info@chelseamagazines.com)  
or visit our website  
[www.theenglishhome.co.uk](http://www.theenglishhome.co.uk)

SHUTTERS

AMERICAN  
SHUTTERS LTD

Tel: 02392 597967  
[www.americanshutters.co.uk](http://www.americanshutters.co.uk)

Renowned for bespoke, top quality products, service and attention to detail



Solid Tulipwood shutters painted any colour free of charge / any shape / Solid Shaker, Edwardian / Georgian / Louvered / Waterproof shutters / hardwood venetians / blackout blinds / Free site survey / in-house carpenters. 25 years experience.

Call or email us today with your dimensions for an estimate:

Tel: 02392 597967

Email: [sales@americanshutters.co.uk](mailto:sales@americanshutters.co.uk)



ANTIQUES

SALISBURY  
ANTIQUES  
CENTRE

[www.salisburyantiquescentre.com](http://www.salisburyantiquescentre.com)  
94 Wilton Road, Salisbury, SP2 7JJ  
Tel + 44 (0) 1722 410 634

For more information visit us at [www.theenglishhome.co.uk](http://www.theenglishhome.co.uk) When calling the UK from North America, dial the country code '011 44' and drop the first '0' in the UK phone number



## FURNISHINGS



## THE HANDMADE SOFA COMPANY

All of our furniture is hand built to order in the UK using the finest quality fabrics and leathers. Choose from an extensive range of standard contemporary and traditional models, including different Chesterfield styles and chaise longues.

All models can be made-to-measure to suit individual requirements using one of the UK's widest choice of leather and fabric. All standard furniture is normally delivered to UK mainland within 4-8 weeks from order time.



**TEL: 01258 841414**  
**[www.handmadesofacompany.co.uk](http://www.handmadesofacompany.co.uk)**

The Handmade Sofa Company, Unit 4, Manor Farm Business Centre,  
 Gussage St Michael, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 5HT.

## IRONMONGER



THE PERIOD  
IRONMONGER

### Amazing Front Doors

Beautiful hand crafted, British  
door furniture from Croft

Call Us

**01630 64 77 48**

[w.theperiodironmonger.co.uk](http://w.theperiodironmonger.co.uk)

## GIFTS

*Greige*  
LIFESTYLE BOUTIQUE

COME AND SEE US OR  
BROWSE ONLINE

[WWW.GREIGE.CO.UK](http://WWW.GREIGE.CO.UK)



@greige\_lifestyle  
(FOLLOW US)

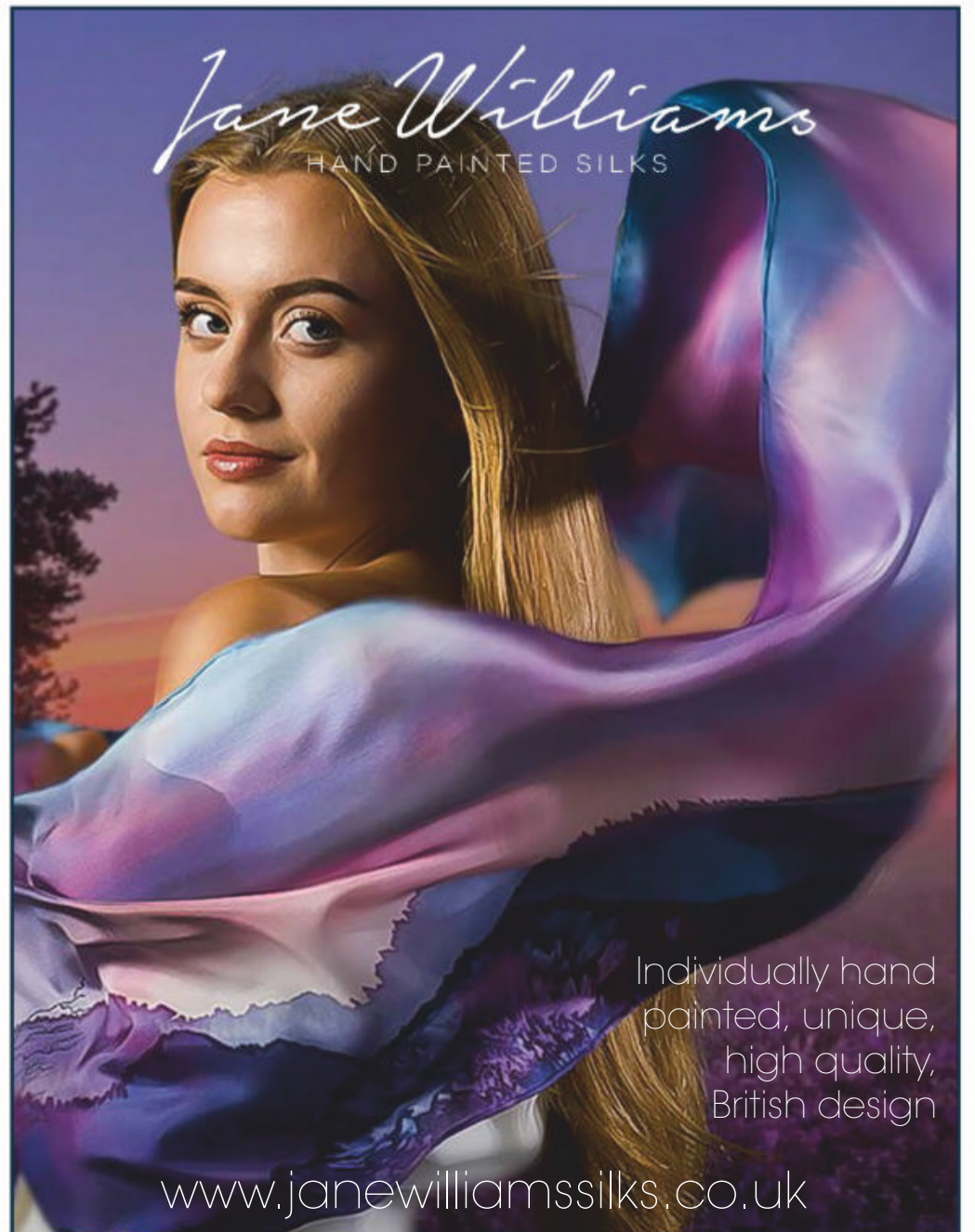
1 BEDFORD CORNER  
SOUTH PARADE  
CHISWICK W4 1LD

TEL: 020 3141 9030

[HELLO@GREIGE.CO.UK](mailto:HELLO@GREIGE.CO.UK)

[WWW.GREIGE.CO.UK](http://WWW.GREIGE.CO.UK)

## CLOTHING



*Jane Williams*  
HAND PAINTED SILKS

Individually hand  
painted, unique,  
high quality,  
British design

[www.janewilliamssilks.co.uk](http://www.janewilliamssilks.co.uk)

For more information visit us at [www.theenglishhome.co.uk](http://www.theenglishhome.co.uk) When calling the UK from North America,  
dial the country code '011 44' and drop the first '0' in the UK phone number



## HARDWARE AND IRONMONGERY



BASED IN THE BEAUTIFUL SHROPSHIRE  
HILLS IN THE TOWN OF CHURCH STRETTON  
WE ARE A PERIOD HARDWARE AND  
TRADITIONAL IRONMONGERY COMPANY  
SUPPLYING THE PUBLIC AND TRADE.

WE COVER ALL TYPES OF BLACKSMITHING, STAINED  
GLASS AND WOODWORK KEEPING THE OLD TRADITIONS  
ALIVE, ALONG WITH OUR OWN UNIQUE DESIGNS.



THE DOOR KNOCKER COMPANY  
HIGH STREET, CHURCH STRETTON, SHROPSHIRE  
[WWW.THEDOORKNOCKERCOMPANY.CO.UK](http://WWW.THEDOORKNOCKERCOMPANY.CO.UK)



## ANTIQUES

# Hingstons Of Wilton

Purveyors of Antiques and decorative items (est.1976)



T: 01722 742263 E: [nick@hingstons-antiques.co.uk](mailto:nick@hingstons-antiques.co.uk)  
The Old Bell House, 2 Shaftesbury Road, Wilton, Salisbury, SP20DR

[www.hingstons-antiques.co.uk](http://www.hingstons-antiques.co.uk)

## GIFTS

### Practical Storage



Beautiful hand made jewellery books that hold  
earrings, necklaces or rings.

Designed to sit elegantly on top of a dressing  
table or easily pop into a suitcase for travelling.

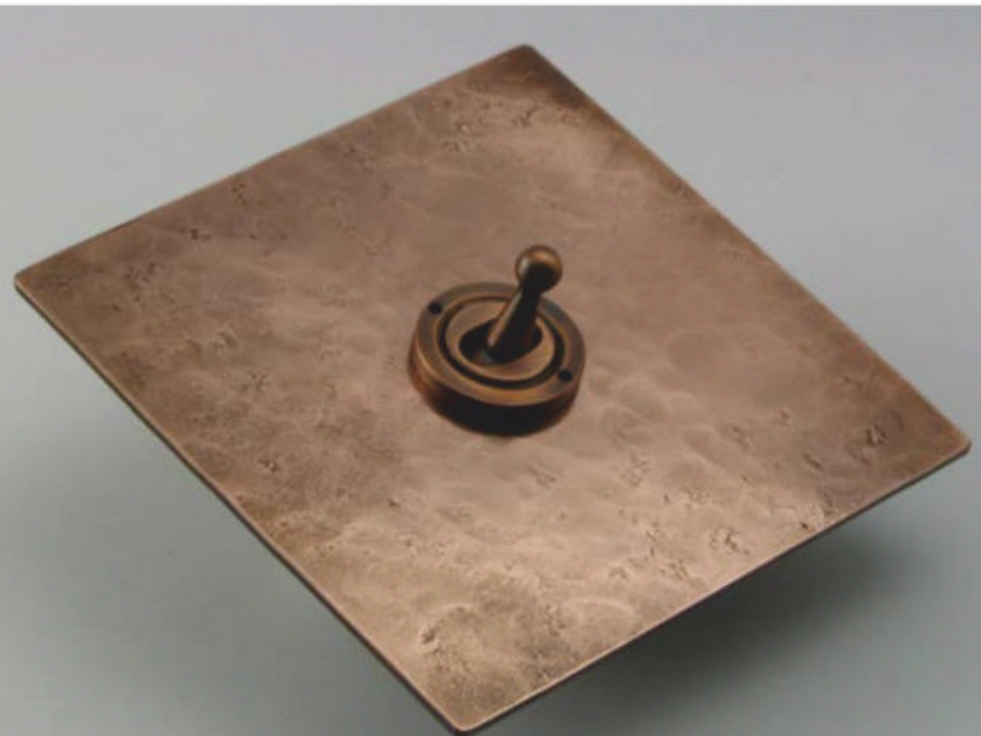
To see our full range, large palette of colours  
available and for details of stockists visit our  
website.

[www.littleshopof.co.uk](http://www.littleshopof.co.uk)  
020 3371 1522

## SWITCHES AND SOCKETS

# Bromleighs

*Anything else is a compromise*



**Bespoke Electrical Switches & Sockets**

**01208 79490**

**[www.bromleighs.com](http://www.bromleighs.com)**

For more information visit us at [www.theenglishhome.co.uk](http://www.theenglishhome.co.uk) When calling the UK from North America,  
dial the country code '011 44' and drop the first '0' in the UK phone number



# MY. design HERO

Interior designer Jane Churchill  
on the influential Nancy Lancaster



**“N**ancy was my great-aunt, so I knew her all my life. My sister and I would stay at her beautiful house, Haseley Court, in the

holidays. It was extremely comfortable and wonderfully pretty. The guest room, where I stayed, had a single white four-poster bed with walls in a tobacco-colour Dufour & Cie painted wallpaper. It was bliss.

My first job was as an assistant at Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler in the 1960s. Soon after, I started a gift shop called Treasure Island, which then morphed into my interior design business. Starting out, I didn’t consciously emulate Nancy’s style, but she had obviously inspired me, so I wasn’t daunted. She saw and liked some of the rooms I created; she wasn’t the sort to make one feel nervous. I learned from her that comfort matters and that everything should be of correct proportions, and if in doubt, one should scale up. If I hang four pictures on the wall, for example, I don’t spread them out like postage stamps, instead I group them together.

Nancy had phenomenal taste, but people also loved her self-deprecating charm. She was American, so it’s ironic she became known as the arbiter of ‘English country house’ style. She started the trend for bathrooms to look like drawing rooms. Like her, I designed grown-up bedrooms for my children, as a result, they kept their rooms tidy and appreciated them.

She liked all the rooms she created to contain special details. I still have a red wooden pear she gave me and its sharp colour enlivens whichever room it occupies. She designed the rooms of ‘yesterday’, I design rooms for ‘today’, but for me, her influence remains strong. She loved to fuse modernity with classic comfort, and that is what I do, too.” ■



**ABOVE** American interior designer Nancy Lancaster (1897–1994).

**RIGHT** In 1957, Nancy took on a set of rooms above Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler at 39 Brook Street. Fowler persuaded her to paint the drawing room a startling, glossy yellow. The iconic space became known as the Yellow Room.

**BELOW** Nancy’s influence can be felt in this dining room by Jane Churchill. The symmetrically arranged china and scaled-up chandelier balance the proportions of the room.



**ABOVE** In this house in Chelsea, designed by Jane Churchill, the dressing table perfectly demonstrates her love of correct proportions and the importance of grouping art together.



# MODERN

— KITCHENS —

## Beautiful Bespoke Kitchens

Contemporary Lacquered Oak Kitchen Furniture

To discover more about our exceptional value visit:

[www.modernkitchens.co.uk](http://www.modernkitchens.co.uk)

01604 821003