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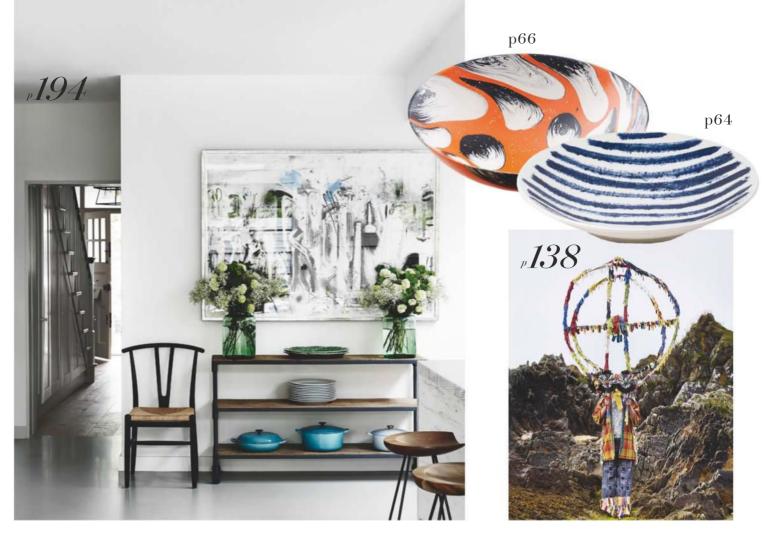




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159 Nature magnified From her studio in Chelsea, Sarah Graham creates magnificent pictures of exotic plants, flowers and insects. By Hugh St Clair ▷



ON THE COVER The sitting room of a Manhattan house decorated by Rita Konig (pages 180-187), photographed by Paul Massey. **Cover stories are in colour**

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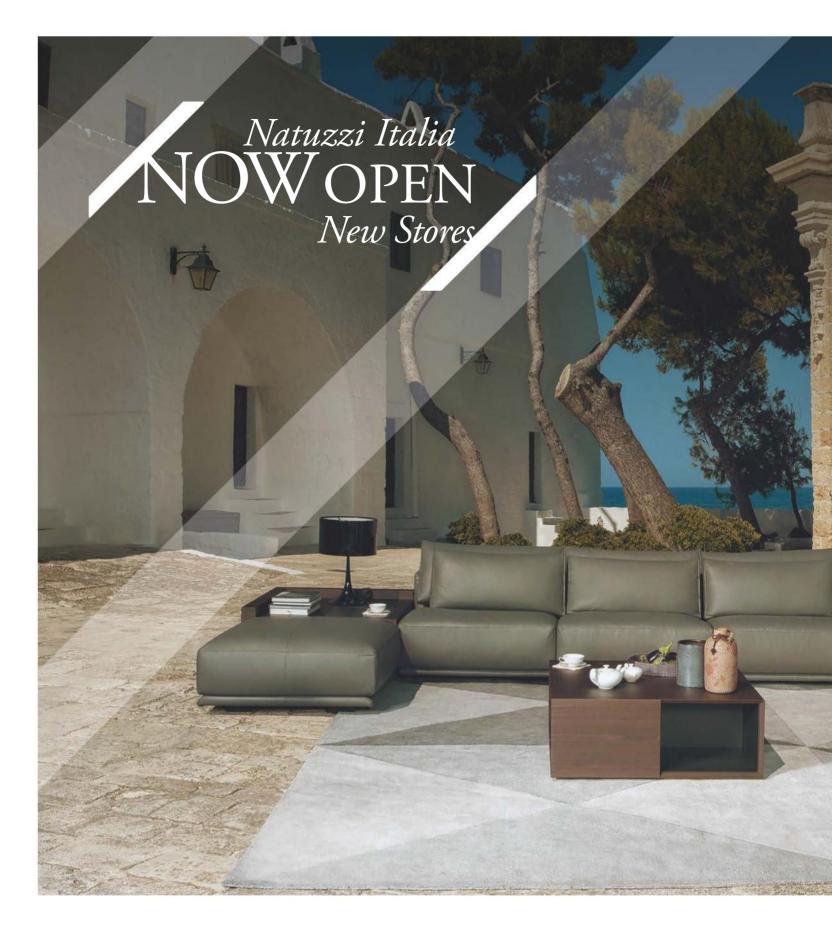
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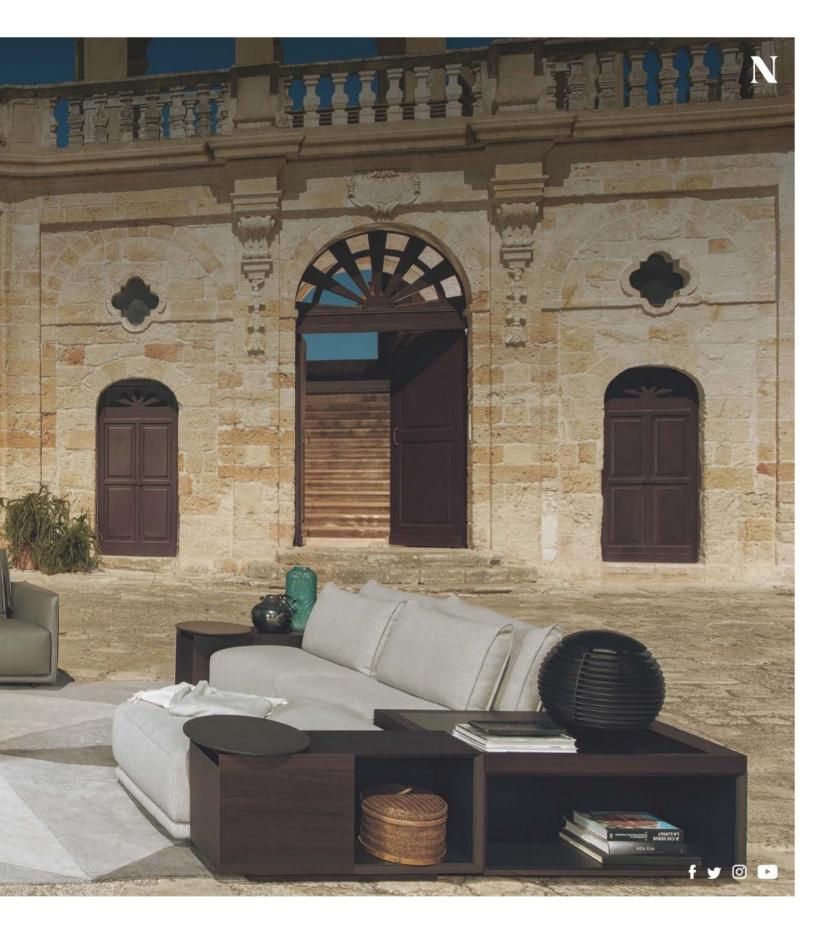
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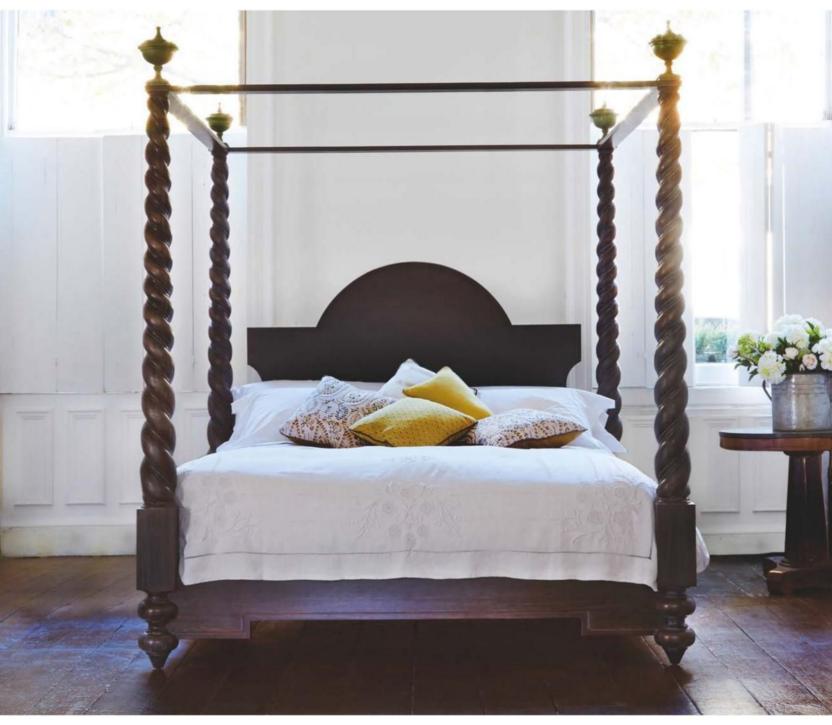
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PICTURED: Vadim cabinet with Ming lamp.





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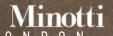
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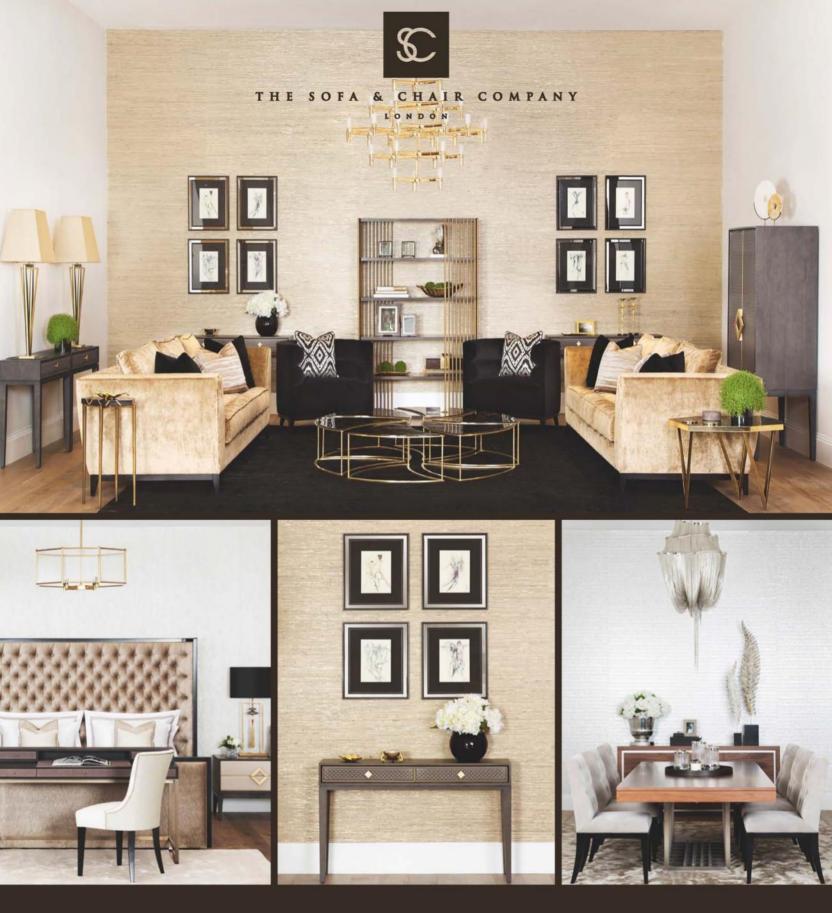
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CATHERINE FITZGERALD Landscape designer

'My own garden is an experiment; never knowingly started and with no end in sight,' explains Catherine FitzGerald. 'It is a continuing evolution; it's a slow burn of ideas where I can indulge my love of colour and form and plants that might not ordinarily go together.' Based between London and Ireland, Catherine takes a less lenient approach when working

on the gardens of others, however. And rightly so, with her projects including Clarendon Park in Wiltshire and Glenarm Castle in County Antrim. Her imaginative transformation of the formal pleasure grounds, walled kitchen garden and topiary at Glin Castle in west Ireland, her childhood home, is captured from page 208.

Which plant are you obsessed with at the moment?

Geranium palmatum. I love its exoticism: bright magenta flowers and glossy palmate leaves. It's a biennial and flowers for ages in early summer, seeding itself about the garden.



HUGH ST CLAIR Decorator and writer

Hugh St Clair's introduction to the interiors world came during his childhood, while he was attending antiques sales at Jolly's Auction Rooms in Bath, where his mother worked. 'Friends thought I had an eye for colour and decoration, and I didn't want to disappoint, so I started helping them with their houses,' he explains. Writing came later. 'It gave me permission to ask a lot of questions and learn from the answers.' From these early beginnings, his career took form at Sotheby's, followed by him decorating the houses of both friends and clients, while also advising on art and design for a roster of galleries and auction houses. For this issue, Hugh visited the artist Sarah Graham at her studio in Chelsea, which is filled with her large-scale botanical paintings (from page 159).

In another life, you would be... 'A car designer. I am obsessed with their look and recognise most European and US models from the past 50 years.'



BUNNY GUINNESS Landscape architect

'I realised that there was such a thing as a "landscape architect" towards the end of my horticulture degree at Reading University,' says Bunny Guinness. Pointed in the right direction by a lecturer, she studied for her postgraduate degree in landscape architecture part-time, while working for a firm in the same field in London. Today, she is as happy in the garden, be it her own in Cambridgeshire, with its kitchen garden and cattle (featured from page 214), or those of others. She is a columnist for The Sunday Telegraph and one of the voices behind BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time. 'I try out lots of different plants and techniques, so when I am asked guestions on the show, I have solid experience. I am often pushing my garden and myself to the limits.' If you could be granted one wish... 'I would have a better memory for plant names' \Box

WORDS: ARTA GHANBA



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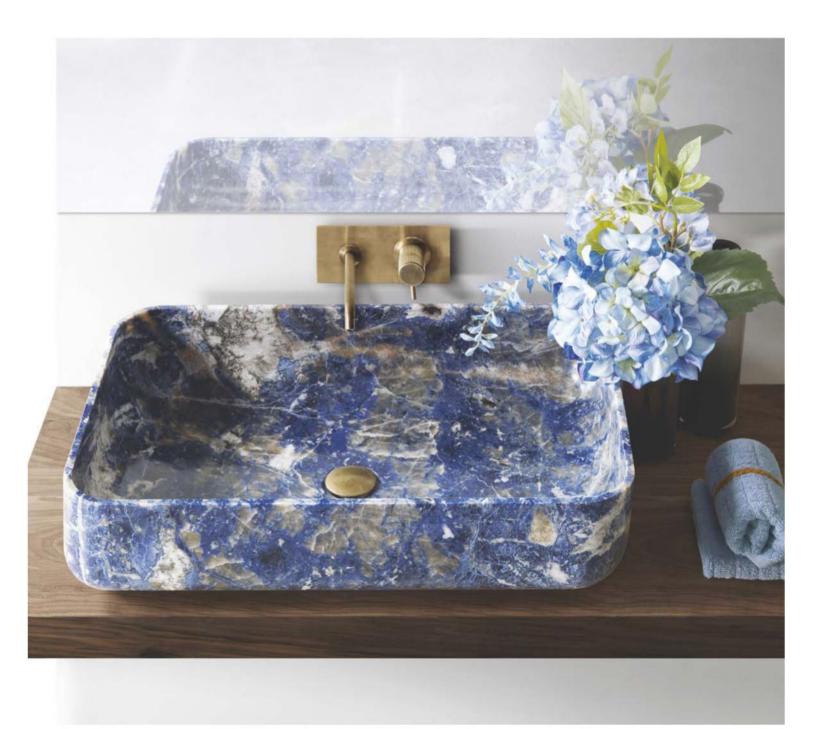


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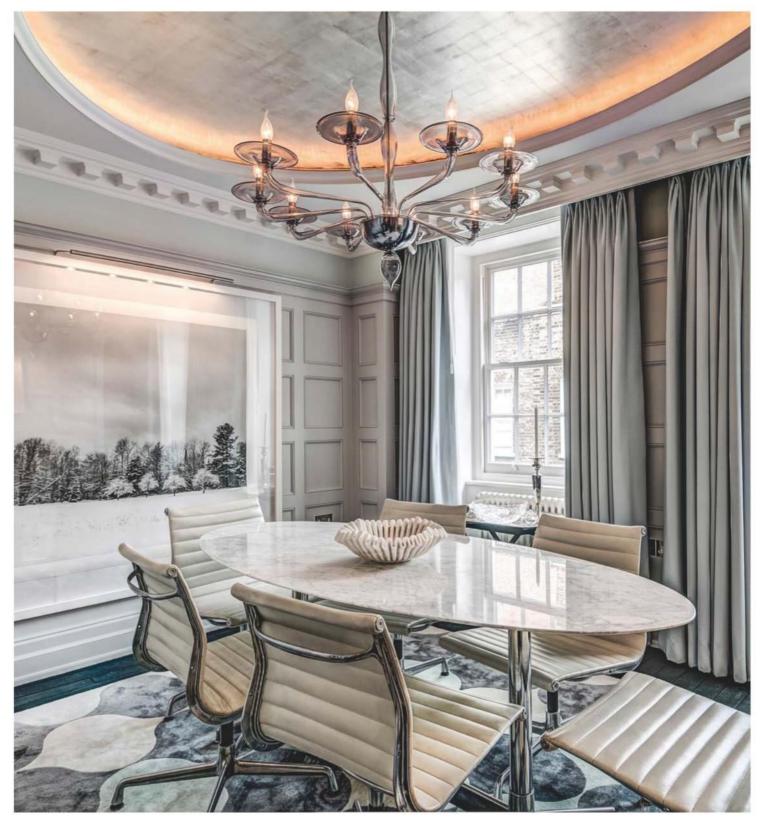
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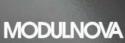
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AGNONA

Only the best designers including Celso de Lemos, Frette and Oyuna make it into Harrods' Luxury Linens department. With its use of natural fabrics and a muted colour palette, Agnona's lifestyle collection is the epitome of understated luxury. Founded in 1953, the company continues to use traditional looms and finish smaller details by hand. This season's Metropolitan Living range includes bathrobes and slippers made from cashmere and alpaca wool. Luxury Linens, Second Floor, Harrods



VISPRING

Sleep is serious business at Harrods. In The Bed Studio, experts are on hand to advise you on the best possible model to help you achieve those vital eight hours. Among the top brands available are Savoir Beds, Hästens and The Cornish Bed Company. British company Vispring is famed for its deep-filled mattresses stuffed to the brim with natural breathable fibres. Included in the range are three exclusive models: Chelsea, Belgravia and Knightsbridge, all enhanced with mohair, bamboo and Platinum Certified British fleece wool for sumptuous comfort. The Bed Studio, Third Floor, Harrods





PETITE FRITURE

From Tom Dixon to Vitra to Jonathan Adler, the Contemporary Furniture department at Harrods celebrates forerunners in modern design. The store is a platform for both established and prominent upcoming names including Petite Friture. The latest collaboration with designer Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance includes the Market Chair which features wooden slats inspired by street-market awnings. Contemporary Furniture, Third Floor, Harrods





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Vogue, Vogue Hommes International, AD, Glamour, Vogue Collections, GQ, AD Collector, Vanity Fair, Vogue Travel in France, GQ Le Manuel du Style, Glamour Style Vogue, L'Uomo Vogue, Vogue Bambini, Glamour, Vogue Sposa, AD, Condé Nast Traveller, GQ, Vanity Fair,

Wired, Vogue Accessory, La Cucina Italiana, CNLive Vogue, GQ, AD, Glamour, GQ Style, Myself, Wired

Vogue, GQ, Vogue Novias, Vogue Niños, Condé Nast Traveler, Vogue Colecciones Voque Belleza, Glamour, AD, Vanity Fair Vogue, GQ, Vogue Girl, Wired, Vogue Wedding

Vogue, GQ Voque Mexico and Latin America Glamour Mexico and Latin America, AD Mexico, GQ Mexico and Latin America, Vanity Fair Mexico Vogue, GQ, Condé Nast Traveller, AD

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BRAZIL Vogue, Casa Vogue, GQ, Glamour, GQ Style Vogue, GQ, AD, Glamour, GQ Style, Tatler, Condé Nast Traveller, Allure

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OCTOBER 2016

FROM THE EDITOR



When our decoration director Gabby Deeming announced that the setting for this year's fabric shoot to showcase the new collections was going to be in the far south-west of Scotland, I gulped. She reassured me that, in a week-long shoot, they could accommodate a bit of rain. But I could foresee days of rain. In reality, while down south we were all soaked and flash floods in London caused commuter chaos, further north she and her team had remarkably good weather; certainly judging by the photographs (from page 131), weather did not stop play. As is now expected of this yearly fabric extravaganza, these images are surprising, striking and amusing. I'm sure some of you are thinking, 'Can't they just show neat swatches that we can see properly?'. However, I like to think the imagination and ingenuity of our team in transforming these new fabrics into something quite other pays proper tribute to the creativity of the designers behind each individual fabric. They certainly herald the launching of the autumn collections with gravitas, wit and their own sort of glamour.

Creativity is celebrated in every issue of *House & Garden*, but none more so than our October edition, which coincides with the London Design Festival and the events, shows and launches that are part of this jamboree of design. From pages 71 to 78, we select some highlights, including artist Judith Ann Braun, known for her landscapes and abstract patterns using nothing but her fingers dipped in charcoal dust, who will be working in the window of Anthropologie's Regent Street store for four days. And in 'Notebook' on pages 59–66, Gabby takes her pick from the new collections being launched for autumn.

We also dip into the life of artist Sarah Graham and her rather wonderful, giant watercolour, charcoal and ink studies of flowers and insects (from page 159). We marvel at Henri Fitzwilliam-Lay's ability to turn what most of us would have considered a nightmare of a house into something bold and original, which is also a welcoming family home (from page 170). Elsewhere, Catherine FitzGerald, clearly equipped with the right amounts of creativity and enthusiasm, talks of taking on her family's garden in Ireland, steeped in history (from page 208). And Andrew Montgomery's atmospheric images chart the people and processes in Nepal behind the creation of rugs for The Rug Company, while David Nicholls looks closely at the working environment of the Nepalese weavers, so badly affected by the 2015 earthquakes (from page 202). It's a bumper issue. Enjoy \Box

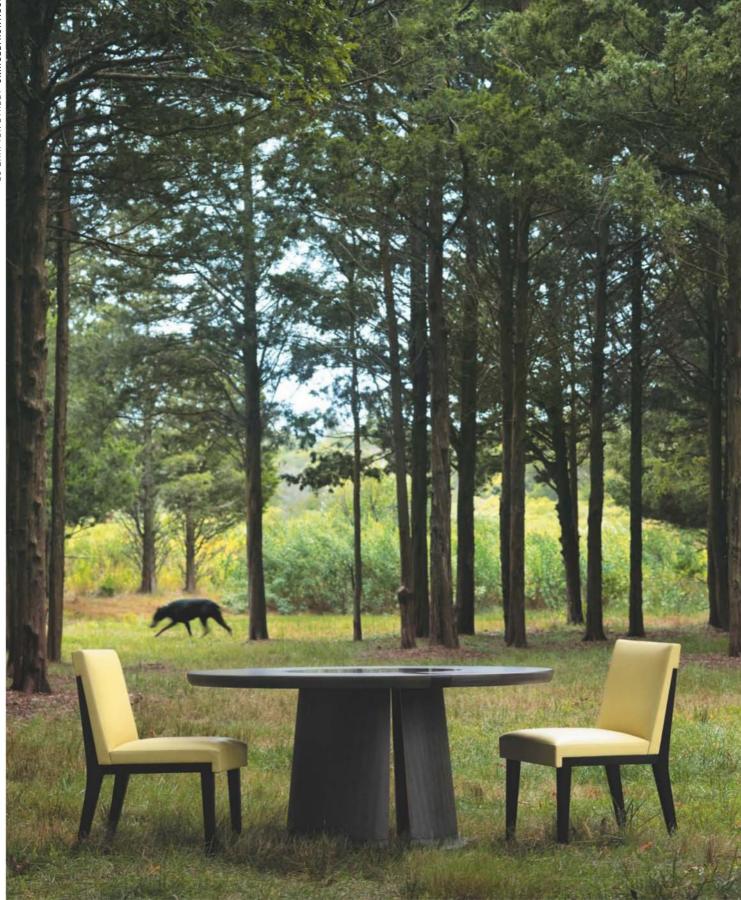
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Fabric background: 'Basilica', cotton, from Liberty



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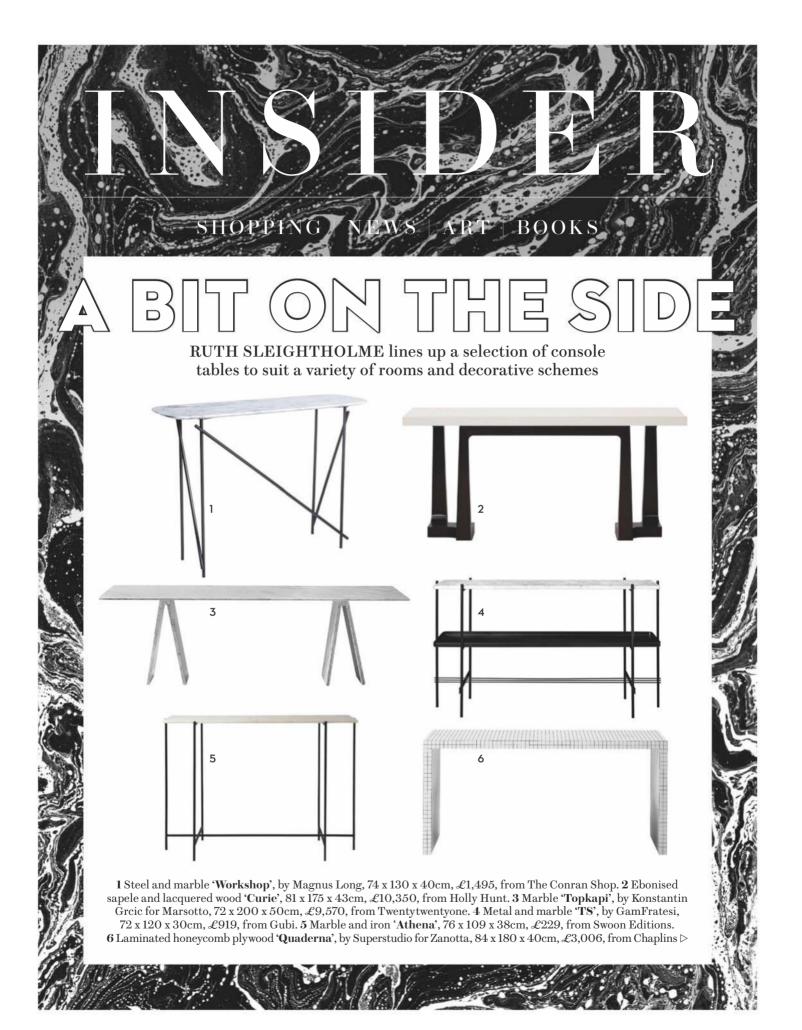
MY LIFE DESIGN STORIES

Bristol sofa, Home Hotel console, design Jean-Marie Massaud. Ipanema armchair, design Jean-Marie Massaud. Soori coffee table, design Soo Chan.



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l Walnut and limestone 'Lyle', 87 x 144.5 x 49.5cm, £2,215, from Pinch. 2 Mango wood and iron 'Parquet', 80 x 140 x 35cm, £360, from French Connection Home. 3 Lacquered oak and limestone 'Luc', by Mats Broberg & Johan Ridderstråle for Asplund, 81 x 100 x 40.5cm, £2,014, from Twentytwentyone. 4 Scagliola and bronze 'Charles', 80 x 120 x 35cm, £14,950, from Francis Sultana. 5 Steel '55', by Tolix, 73 x 90 x 43.5cm, £640, from Aria. 6 Greyed oak 'Allerdale', 85 x 123 x 41cm, £1,859, from William Yeoward. 7 Metal and oak 'Empire', 72 x 180 x 70cm, £6,102, from Porta Romana. 8 Marble and gold-plated metal 'Catlin', by Rodolfo Dordoni, 64 x 150 x 50cm, £4,950, from Minotti ▷

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Notebook

GABBY DEEMING shows us what's caught her eye this month

I Fabric, 'Mogul Flowers' (multi), linen, £145 a metre, from Iksel Decorative Arts. 2 Brass 'Percy Ceiling Mounted Pendant with Metal Shades', 50.8 x 129 x 40.6cm, £3,238, from Waterworks. 3 Fabric, 'Tamara' (navy/emerald), by Jane Churchill, cotton/viscose, £95 a metre, from Colefax and Fowler. 4 Stained ash, marble and brass console, 'Chantal M', 83 x 150 x 53cm, £1,919, from Porada. 5 Embroidered cotton cushion, 'Dhaari', by Injiri, 60cm square, £95, from Raj Tent Club. 6 Wool, linen and silk rug, 'Valençais', 170 x 250cm, £7,095.50, from La Manufacture Cogolin \triangleright

5

INSIDER SHOPPING

3

6



1 Fabric, 'Net Net' (01), by Dominique Kieffer, cotton/viscose, £155 a metre, from Rubelli. **2** Wallpaper, from left: 'Spot & Star' and 'Birds & Bees' (pea green), both 52cm wide, £140 a 10-metre roll, from Molly Mahon. **3** Ash and glass modular screen, 'Set', by Giuseppe Casarosa, 198 x 292cm, £10,226, from Ceccotti Collezioni; fabric, 'Imperialis' (celadon), by Manuel Canovas, cotton, £85 a metre, from Colefax and Fowler. **4** Wool armchair, 'Utrecht', by Bertjan Pot and Gerrit Thomas Rietveld, 70 x 64 x 85cm, £2,142, from Cassina. **5** MDF, marble and alder wood 'Marble Multileg Cabinet' (green), by Jaime Hayon, 80 x 300 x 50cm, from £9,744, from B D Barcelona Design. **6** Painted aluminium and acrylic lamp, 'Panthella Mini' (blue), by Louis Poulsen, 33.5 x 25cm diameter, £265, from Skandium \triangleright



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I Plywood screen with silkscreen decoration, by Maison Christian Lacroix for Roche Bobois, 190 x 135cm, from £3,062, from Roche Bobois. 2 Steel wall light, 'Phoenix', $35 \ge 20 \ge 12$ cm, £1,608, from Porta Romana. 3 Wallpaper, 'Makrana' (saffron/turquoise), by Matthew Williamson, 52cm wide, £64 a 10-metre roll, from Osborne & Little. 4 Wood and sheepskin 'The Tired Man Lounge Chair', by Flemming Lassen, 88 x 102 x 97cm, £5,499, from Skandium. 5 Bronze floor lamp, 'Farnham', 137 x 18 x 13.2cm base diameter, £684; linen shade (lily), 21cm diameter, £59; both from Vaughan. 6 Sawn marble floor, 'Paris', £4.32 for an 18 x 26cm sheet, from Artisans of Devizes. 7 Walnut, oiled ash and brass 'Desk Two', 76 x 150 x 74cm, £2,840, from Another Country \triangleright



FABRICS WALLPAPERS TRIMMINGS



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1 Fabric, 'Indian Flower' (red/blue), by Carolina Irving Textiles, linen, £175 a metre, from Redloh House Fabrics. 2 Steel and cotton-cord stools, 'Muddah' (from top: black, red), by Valérie Barkowski, 40 x 37.5cm diameter, €350 each, from No-Mad 97% India. 3 Wallpaper, 'Monkeys and Birds' (blue/deco green), by Sheila Robinson, 52cm wide, £66 a 10-metre roll, from St Jude's Fabrics & Papers. 4 Ceramic and brass 'Burolamp', by Piet Hein Eek, 55 x 19 x 12cm, £1,010, from SCP. 5 Ceramic tableware, 'Indigo Rain', by Faye Toogood, from £16 for the small bowl, from 1882. 6 Bronze, wood and tempered glass sideboard, 'Pandora Craquelé', 71 x 162 x 52cm, £5,790, from Gallotti & Radice ▷

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1 Acrylic and gypsum dish, 'Newton's Bucket' (orange), 36cm diameter, £540, from Silo Studio. 2 Wallpaper, 'Window' (03), 70cm wide, £149 an 8.5-metre roll, from Arte. 3 Fabric, 'Rain Dance' (Y101), by Mulberry Home, linen/acrylic, £135 a metre, from G P & J Baker. 4 Marble and nickel dining table, 'Peso', 75 x 198 x 122cm, £13,550, from Holly Hunt. 5 Glazed earthenware side table, 'Tabouret Ceramique' (green), 45 x 29cm diameter, £1,150, from Victoria Stainow. 3 Mohair-velvet sofa, 'Serpentine' (bottle green), 86 x 220 x 95cm, £12,000 as shown, from Rose Uniacke. For suppliers' details, see Stockists page \Box

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Oak **'Boundary'**, by Terence Conran, 80 x 58 x 45cm, £795, from Benchmark



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Oak **'Hither Hills Studio'**, 76 x 67 x 60cm, £2,450, from Ralph Lauren Home



Elm **'Cavaillon Dining Chair'**, 97 x 44 x 46cm, £148, from Oka



Birch **'Laeken Dining Chair'**, 107 x 55 x 50cm, £495, from India Jane



Mahogany **'Imperial Side Chair'**, 107 x 56 x 49cm, £1,400, from Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam



Poly-wicker **'French Bistro Chair'** (navy and ecru), 83 x 57 x 58cm, £99, from Rockett St George



Beech **'Jeanne'**, 82.5 x 43.5cm square, £75 for 2, from La Redoute



Rattan **'Cézanne'**, 102 x 63 x 62cm, £318, from Maison Drucker



Rattan **'The Croquet Chair'**, 89 x 56.5 x 57cm, £1,400, from Soane



Oak **'Oregan'**, 76 x 48 x 40cm, £150, from Habitat



Oak 'CH22', by Hans J Wegner for Carl Hansen & Son, 72.6 x 69.5 x 61.5cm, £1,768, from The Conran Shop \Box



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news and views Edited by DAVID NICHOLLS

THE BIGGER PICTURE

With the capital poised to celebrate the fourteenth edition of the London Design Festival, we pick our highlights from the schedule and from the satellite exhibitions and events around the city this month



A dab hand: artist Judith Ann Braun will be creating a piece in the windows of Anthropologie on Regent Street

t would be a hard task to name a celebration in the capital that better illustrates the diversity of its creative mix than the London Design Festival. There are over 300 events on the official schedule, from stalwart large-scale exhibitions such as Decorex, DesignJunction, Tent London and Focus/16, to bite-size pop-ups examining the weird and the wonderful. The V&A continues its collaboration with LDF, hosting a variety of unmissable events, talks and workshops. On top of this, there are a series of concurrent and complementary shows. The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair, for example, is just the spot to find something unusual for your house.

This wonderful sense of variety is as intoxicating as it can be overwhelming, but it is also why London has long been considered a truly global centre for creativity. LDF is not only a fantastically important platform for British talent, it is also a magnet for international designers and brands who bring with them their own inspirations and ideas. A cursory look at the festival's programme this year reveals the inclusion of exhibitors from every habitable continent on the planet. One of these participants is the New York-based artist Judith Ann Braun, who in her own country is known for her gloriously symmetrical and abstract charcoal drawings created with her fingers. Over four days she will work in the window of Anthropologie's Regent Street store, enlivening the space with her smudged black markings. As her motifs and patterns build up, they have a mesmerising effect.

Though she explains the importance of being regarded as a fine artist - 'I don't want to have anyone telling me what to do, and I don't want to work by committee' - Judith is also happy to consider the decorative potential of her work. At a time when the hunger for all things 'handmade' seems at its apogee, what could be more appealing than something that bears the very fingerprints of its creator? To coincide with the installation, Anthropologie will be selling small one-off decals of Judith's drawings which can be applied to surfaces, removed and then reapplied. These will be sold for $\pounds 100$.

We discuss how her work could have great potential for a range of tableware, and how her patterning might look on a rug. It wouldn't be surprising if an interior designer saw her working in Anthropologie's window and considered commissioning her to create a mural in one of their projects. Wallpaper of her designs would also be wonderful.

This is the kind of conversation that will be sparked countless times during LDF. Minds will meet, ideas will be shared, skills will be marvelled at. Inspiration will be sought, found and passed on again. What an enriching celebration for us to dip into. Welcome to House & Garden's highlights for what is happening this month, featuring the people who have intrigued us, the shows that have piqued our interest and the previews that have got us skipping with excitement. We hope you come away as inspired as we are. The London Design Festival is on September 17–25. Information about the events listed can be found at londondesignfestival.com unless otherwise stated. judithannbraun. com | anthropologie.com





Representing the best

One exciting new stand at DECOREX this year is that of gallerist JOANNA BIRD, which will bring an array of ceramics, furniture and lighting to Syon Park. The artists she represents are all masters of their individual crafts (including Halima Cassell, whose 'Entwine' porcelain vessel is pictured). decorex.com | joannabird.com >

FOR MORE HIGHLIGHTS OF LDF, VISIT HOUSEANDGARDEN.CO.UK/LDF

PLEASED TO MEET YOU

It is promising to be a month of discoveries in terms of designs – and designers. Here are five creatives that are on our radar



1/ TOM RAFFIELD

Tom Raffield's wooden lights are beautiful, organic forms that are as sculptural as they are functional. Made in Cornwall using ancient steam-bending techniques, his lights and furniture are favourites with interior designers. This is the first time Tom will be exhibiting at Decorex. The theme this year is 'The Roots of Design' - a very apt introduction to Tom, who explains that 'the shapes and curves in natural forms are our key influence and are where our ethos stems from: inspired by nature, shaped by hand.' tomraffield.com

2/ EMY GRAY

Having set up her shop Brixi back in 2011, Emy Gray was at the vanguard of Brixton's evolution into something of a hipster hangout. It stocks a beguiling mix of homeware, art and jewellery, much of which is by local designer-makers, and has been described as both 'a museum where you can touch stuff' and 'a toy shop for grown-ups'. 'I fill it with things I love made by people I like,' she says. Brixi is hosting an exhibition of work by Karolina Merska, who makes paper pajaki chandeliers, pictured top. brixi.co.uk

3/ NATHALIE DE LEVAL

Two years ago, furniture designer Nathalie de Leval created a shed for LDF. How mundane, you may think, but you would be wrong. Nathalie's elegant cube stood on a rotating base and was an instant hit. The project was partly run by Benchmark Furniture and the pairing proved such a happy union that this year she has designed a very smart range of dining chairs and bedroom storage for its furniture collection. This will be launched at Decorex. $deleval.co.uk \mid bench$ markfurniture.com

4/ AMY AND LUCY KENT

Talisman will showcase a collaboration between rug maker Amy Kent and her sister Lucy, an artist, on a collection of 10 rugs featuring Lucy's abstract paintings. The vibrant confection of hand-knotted rugs draws on patterns and textures found in nature. The exhibition, at Talisman's New King's Road showroom, will also feature Lucy's original paintings and a series of limited-edition prints that will be available to buy. amykent.co.uk lucy-kent.com | talisman london.com

5/ AMAN KHANNA

The clay artist Aman Khanna will be among 10 designers in This is India, a feature show at Tent London. While it may be tempting to consider his quirky 'Claymen' figurines as light-hearted decorative objects, it seems still waters run deep. He speaks of 'creating a silence' in his work, and bequeaths upon his finished pieces names like Misplaced *Pope* and also AnInflated Sense of Self Importance. 'Let the Claymen look at you, and use them to look at yourself,' Aman suggests. claymen-art. *tumblr.com* \triangleright

CHESNEY'S

LONDON NEW YORK SHANGHAI



Fireplace and stove dealers throughout the UK chesneys.co.uk

Discovering utopia

This year marks the inaugural LONDON DESIGN BIENNALE, which sees more than 30 countries tackling the theme of 'Utopia by Design'. Pavilions are being set up in and around Somerset House, which is celebrating the 500th anniversary of Thomas More's satirical work, *Utopia* - hence the Biennale's theme. Christopher Turner, director of the Biennale, says he hopes it will 'show design's integral part in creating a new world, not just the superficiality of decoration'. Thankfully, he promises it won't be a tiresomely worthy exercise. And how could it be when it includes a South African pavilion designed by someone called Porky Hefer, who plans to create a subterranean world filled with his hanging seats, such as the crocodile-shape one shown here. Other names and nations involved include Barber Osgerby for the UK, Konstantin Grcic for Germany and Annabel Karim Kassar for Lebanon. *Iondondesignbiennale.com*



RISING STARS

Lina Kanafani's shop **Mint** in the Brompton Design District is unparalleled when it comes to discovering and promoting new talent from around the world. This includes Dutch designer **Olivier Van Herpt**, who is one of 50 designers featured in Mint's *White Canvas* show, which looks at innovative and unique making processes. Olivier has developed a methodology that allows him to create large-scale 3D-printed clay vases, pictured below, with surfaces that seem more handtouched than high-tech. *mintshop. co.uk* | *oliviervanherpt.com*



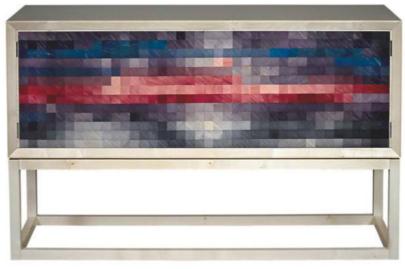


NEW LOCATION, NEW IDEAS

Design House Stockholm is one of 200 brands from around the world to set up stall in **Design Junction**, which this year moves to King's Cross. Design House Stockholm produces characterful homeware by up-and-coming and well-established Scandinavian designers: Caroline Wetterling is a young Swedish designer whose 14cm-high 'Grow' greenhouse is pictured left. *thedesignjunction.co.uk* | *designhousestockholm.com*

BLURRED LINES

The furniture designer-maker KEVIN STAMPER is among the 50 exhibitors taking part in new contemporary interiors show LUXURY MADE at west London's Olympia. The finish on Kevin's 'Morning Storm' sycamore cabinet, pictured right, is based on one of his watercolour paintings. The image was scanned and pixelated, creating a pattern that was stained into the wood – a hugely technical and time-consuming process; September 21–24. luxurymade.co.uk kevinstamperfurniture.com ▷





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BETTER WITH AGE...

Three exhibitions focus on the enduring appeal of designs from previous generations

100 YEARS OF STIG LINDBERG

Skandium, Brompton Road, is celebrating 100 years since the birth of designer and illustrator Stig Lindberg, whose fun textiles and ceramics, such as these vases, will for many be more familiar than the name of their creator. skandium.com





BROWN BETTY: THE ARCHETYPAL TEAPOT

The Modernist shelving company Vitsoe is going left-field with an exhibition at its Duke Street shop on the 300-year history of the Brown Betty teapot, above. Why? Who knows, but the teapot certainly shares a timeless quality with the shelving systems. And who wouldn't want to celebrate a design that makes the perfect cup of tea? vitsoe.com

FINN JUHL BY ONECOLLECTION

Staffan Tollgard's Pimlico Design Store is the largest UK stockist of Finn Juhl's mid-twentieth-century furniture, so it is going big on the designer for LDF. Onecollection, which owns the rights to Juhl's archive, has relaunched the 'FJ136' chair, renamed as the 'France Chair', pictured below, which will be shown in the UK for the first time. *tollgard.co.uk*



Scoot over to the DESIGN CENTRE, CHELSEA HARBOUR for FOCUS/16, which will be bursting with designers showing off their latest collections, along with plenty of workshops and talks. Keep an eye out for Savoir Beds' new showroom and Porta Romana's glamorous new lighting range, Cosmos. dcch.co.uk



Retrospective: Piet Hein Eek

Those who favour a rough-aroundthe-edges look should head to **SCP** in the Shoreditch Design Triangle, which is holding a retrospective on the work of the Dutch designer **Piet Hein Eek**. While he will forever be known for his 'Scrapwood' furniture, pictured above, the show will flesh out his story. On September 21 at SCP on Curtain Road, Piet will be discussing the subject of 'design icons' with the Design Museum's director Deyan Sudjic. *scp.co.uk* | *pietheineek.nl*

TO WHITTLE, TO WOO

JULIAN WATTS is a young San Francisco-based woodworker and furniture maker who has had little exposure in Europe. The Cold Press gallery in Norfolk represents Julian in the $U\bar{K}$ and will be bringing a selection of his surreal yet familiar-looking forms to TENT LONDON at London Design Fair. It will be one of many stands worth visiting at this multi-exhibitor show in east London. the coldpress. $com \mid tentlondon.com \triangleright$



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Pleasing pleats

The Japanese fashion designer YOHJI YAMAMOTO has collaborated with French textile designer PIETRO SEMINELLI, pictured below, to create six interior fabrics each made with a different folding technique. Echoing Yohji's designs, Pietro inscribes, line by line, the patterns of the pleats onto the fabrics, which will be displayed throughout the Y's Yohji Yamamoto boutique on Conduit Street during LDF. *yohjiyamamoto.co.jp* | *seminelli.fr*



ALL AT SEA

One of the most captivating designer installations at the V&A this year is Liquid Marble, a sculpted piece of black marble by the French designer Mathieu Lehanneur. He is known for fusing design with science and technology, so it is of little surprise that this 4.5-metre-long sculpture was created using 3D software. The hand-polished piece mimics the rippling sea, while the marble gives it solidity. A selection of Mathieu's other new works will be on show at the Carpenters Workshop Gallery from September 6-30. vam.ac.uk carpentersworkshopgallery.com



COOL KIDS

This month the Helen Green Design Foundation launches the Green Ribbon Award. Aimed at children aged 12 to 18, the objective is to design 'the coolest kid's room in the world'. A £500 prize will be awarded to the winning entry in each of three age categories. The winner of the 16-18 group will also have the opportunity to do a week's work experience at the Helen Green Design studio. On the board of judges is Gabby Deeming, decoration director at House & Garden. 'Your bedroom is the first place where you can express yourself creatively,' she says. 'I'm hoping to see some really exciting and magical designs.' The competition launches on September 12 and the closing date for entries is November 12. For more information visit helengreendesign.com



IN WITH THE OLD

There really is something for everyone in London this month, and these two events will appeal to collectors and the curious alike. First up is the Lapada Art & Antiques Fair (September 13-18) with 100 dealers bringing everything from aboriginal art to modern design to the genteel surroundings of Berkeley Square. Keep an eye out for Richard Hoppé Fine Antiques, which will be showcasing pieces such as these earlytwentieth-century cockatoo and parrot tiles (1). After that, The Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair (September 27-October 2) sets up in Battersea Park, where 150 exhibitors from around the UK and Europe will bring along an eclectic mix of art and antiques. Pictured are pieces including a George III walnut chair from Guy Dennler and flower prints from Kate Thurlow (2). $lapadalondon.com \mid decorative fair.com \square$

COSMOS

PORTA ROMANA

PORTAROMANA.CO.UK



Outside Interests

CLARE FOSTER finds fresh gardening inspiration

From now until November, **Piet Oudolf's Millennium Garden** at Pensthorpe Natural Park in Norfolk is settling into a haze of autumnal colour. Huge drifts of grasses and richly coloured seed heads ensure that there is plenty of interest well into winter, while the surrounding parkland is teeming with wildlife throughout the year. Entry is £10.95 and the park is open daily from 10am to 5pm. *pensthorpe.com*



LIGHT UP THE NIGHT

As the nights draw in, light up your garden with this 'Globe' tea-light holder from Crocus. Made from narrow wire spokes, it has a small glass votive to hold the tea light, and comes in a pewter finish, as pictured, or bronze. It measures 36 x 23.5cm diameter and costs $\pounds 16.99$. crocus.co.uk



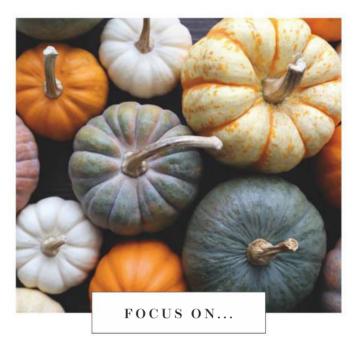
Compost bins needn't be ugly. These handmade '**Beehive**' composters are made from treated timber and can be painted in a choice of eight colours - including the sage, cornflower and bluebell pictured from left. Measuring 89 x 66cm square, they cost £155 each. *dovetailsonline.co.uk* ▷



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Winter squash

have always been mildly obsessed with growing pumpkins and squash, mainly due to their extraordinary shapes and colours. Winter squash are the tough-skinned varieties that are harvested in autumn and can be stored through the winter (as opposed to summer squash like courgettes and patty-pans). They come in a handful of varieties - from the striped and mottled 'Festival' to the classic 'Butternut'. They have firm, nutty flesh that can be roasted, puréed or made into soup, and are invaluable for the winter store cupboard.

VARIETIES

I have tried growing butternut squash, but in the last few years it has been a disaster as it needs a long, hot summer to mature properly. Instead, I would recommend 'Crown Prince', which has cropped extremely well for me. Producing large, grey-blue fruits, this variety has a tough skin, so it keeps for ages, and its orange flesh has a sweet, nutty flavour similar to butternut. With smaller fruits, the dark orange 'Potimarron' is also good. It's an old French variety and its name derives from potiron (pumpkin) and marron (chestnut).

If you are determined to keep trying butternut, 'Waltham' from Real Seeds (realseeds.co.uk) might be worth a go, as it is bred to crop earlier – giving the fruits more of a chance to ripen.

HOW TO GROW

Growing winter squash is easy, but you need to have enough space to let each plant spread out. Or you could grow some smaller-fruiting varieties up a trellis or over an arch. Plant seeds individually indoors and grow in 9cm pots until all danger of frost has passed. Plant out into a soil that has been improved with compost or manure, and ensure that the squash are watered regularly. Feed every couple of weeks with a high potash feed when the fruits have started to appear, and pinch out the growing shoots once four or five fruits have set to encourage the plant to put more energy into the fruit rather than the foliage. Ideally, the squash should ripen on the vine, so leave them to mature on the plant. Once harvested, they should be stored in a cool, frost-free place.

WHERE TO BUY

A wide variety of winter squash and pumpkins can be found at chilternseeds.co.uk. \triangleright

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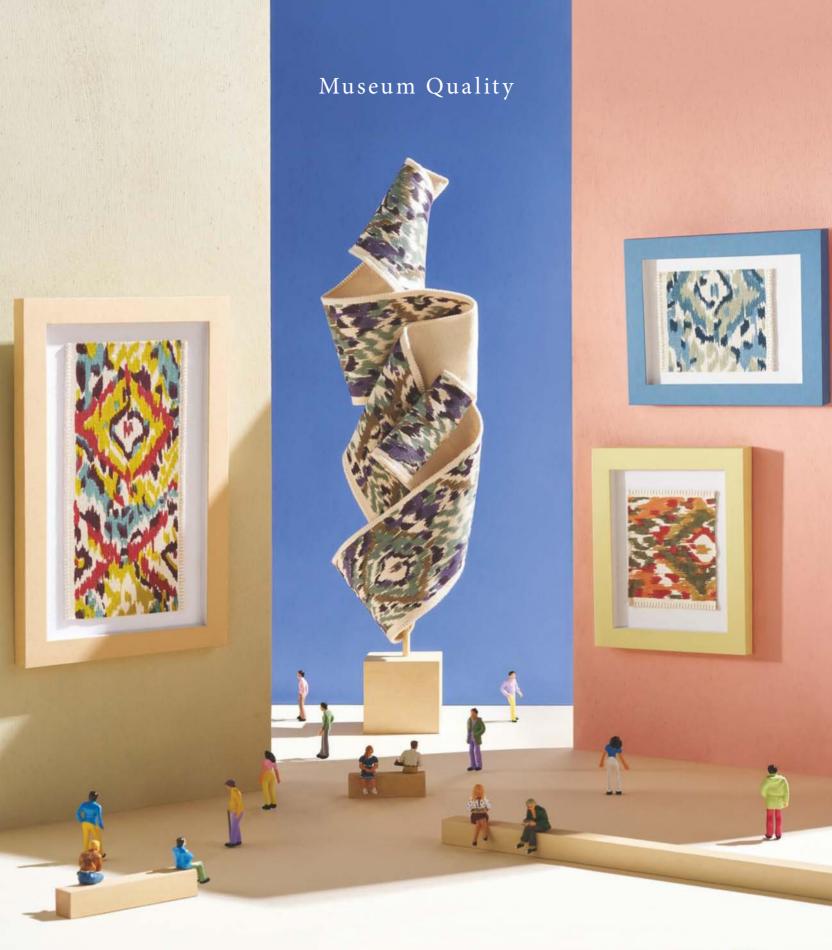
IF YOU HAVE APPLE TREES, YOU WILL NEED SOMEWHERE TO STORE YOUR PICKINGS. THE 10-DRAWER **'APPLE RACK'** FROM HIBBITT IS MADE FROM OAK AND CAN ALSO BE USED FOR STORING VEGETABLES OR GARDEN TOOLS. IT MEASURES 122 X 58 X 47CM AND COSTS £285. A BEECH VERSION IS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR £230. HIBBITT.CO.UK

JOYFUL COLOUR Order you tulips now and you'll be rewarded in spring. The lovely Harlequin Tulip Collection from

Peter Nyssen, a jewel-like mixture of pinks, oranges and reds, flowers in late April and early May and includes 'Irene Parrot', 'National Velvet', 'Sun Lover', 'Attila', 'Menton' and 'Jan Reus'; £9.90 for 30 bulbs. *peternyssen.com*

Violet Grey specialises in one-off vintage garden accessories sourced from all over Europe. From sun dials to seed boxes, and from English stone urns to French tables, there is a wealth of unusual items, such as this Fifties French iron jardiniere, which sold for £170. violetgrey.co.uk ▷







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FURTHER EDUCATION A round-up of some of the best garden-related courses this autumn, from growing cut flowers to making willow plant supports

THE CUTTING GARDEN OCTOBER 20

Join Sarah Raven at her home in East Sussex for a one-day course on growing cut flowers. She will talk about preparing a cut-flower patch, and give advice on sowing and growing the best annuals, biennials and bulbs for cutting. The day runs from 10.30am to 4.30pm and costs £175 including lunch. *sarahraven.com*

WILLOW PLANT SUPPORTS OCTOBER 27

Head to Special Plants Nursery near Bath to learn how to make willow hurdles, stem supports and wigwams for climbers, with Richard Kirwood from Windrush Willow. The day runs from 10am to 4pm and costs £90 including lunch. *specialplants.net*

DESIGNING FOR A SMALL GARDEN OCTOBER 8 & NOVEMBER 5

On this course taking place over two days at RHS Garden Wisley in Surrey and led by garden designer Andrew Wilson, you'll learn how to make a big impression in a small space. It costs £205 (for non-RHS members), including lunch, and runs from 10.30am-4pm. *rhs.org.uk*

GARDEN MAKERS DAY NOVEMBER 17

This popular annual lecture day at The English Gardening School in London includes Arne Maynard (above), Diarmuid Gavin and Isabel and Julian Bannerman as speakers. The day costs £95, including lunch, and runs from 10am-3.30pm. *englishgardeningschool.co.uk*

Pizza pronto Continue the al fresco cooking

into autumn with a woodfired pizza oven. Made from stainless steel, the 'Large Classic Pizza Oven' from Encompassco has a cement-lined dome that will reach cooking temperature in just 20 minutes and can turn out a pizza in 90 seconds. Shown here in the terracotta colourway, it's also available in grey, cream, aubergine and rustic. The oven is 80cm in diameter and costs \pounds 1.860. The wooden stand measures 102 x 84 x 93cm and costs $\pounds 489.60.$ encompassco.com





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OUT AND ABOUT

Latest launches... chic showrooms... hot buys... CAROLE ANNETT takes note

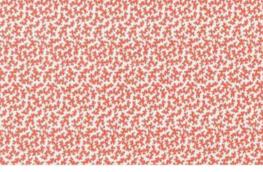
I LOVE CHILDREN'S WALLPAPERS THAT INSPIRE STORYTELLING. IDEAL FOR TALES OF JUNGLE JAPES, THIS ONE IS CALLED 'AESOP'. FROM THE FABLE COLLECTION BY LINWOOD, IT IS 70CM WIDE AND COSTS £130 FOR A 10-METRE ROLL. 01425-461176; LINWOODFABRIC.COM



FESTIVAL OF COLOUR

You can rely on **Matthew Williamson** for vibrant fabric. This chair is covered in 'Menagerie', linen/cotton, £78 a metre, and is available at Osborne & Little. 020-8812 3123; osborneandlittle.com

A beautiful **console** in a sophisticated dusky shade, Davidson's 'Mandarin' would make an eye-catching centrepiece against a wall. Made of sycamore, it measures 84 x 150 x 40cm and costs £9,010. 020-7751 5537; davidsonlondon.com



PETITE PATTERN

'Seafern' (red) is a pretty fabric with an **intricate design** – perfect for a small window seat, curtains or cushions. It is made of cotton and costs £45 a metre, from Colefax and Fowler. *020-8874 6484; colefax.com*

JOSHUA MONAGHAN; PIXELATE IMAGING

NEWS IN BRIEF Neptune has opened a new shop in a converted public house in Farnham, Surrey. You'll find designs for every room, including kitchen collections, a lighting gallery and a large accessories area. neptune.com >

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Look out for Jo Malone London's new Basil & Neroli fragrance – a sure-fire winner for everyday wear. As cologne, it costs £86 for 100ml. 0870-034 2411; jomalone.co.uk

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On the wall

Soane's 'Fez Stripe' fabric has been in such demand that founder and director Lulu Lytle has translated it into wallpaper. It comes in Indian yellow, indigo and red, as pictured above, measures 50cm wide and costs £360 for a 10-metre roll. 020-7730 6400; soane.co.uk

G P & J BAKER'S HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES COLLECTION INCLUDES THIS SUMPTUOUS 'ROYAL GARDEN VELVET', INSPIRED BY A PAINTING ON THE CEILING OF A BEDROOM AT HAMPTON COURT PALACE. MADE OF COTTON/VISCOSE, IT COSTS £129 A METRE. 020-7351 7760; GPANDJBAKER.COM

The 'Crystal Memphis Console' from Devon & Devon is a double-basin unit with a Fifties feel. Its brass frame can be finished in chrome, as pictured, light gold, polished nickel, transparent plexiglass or a new white powder coating, with basins in white or black. It measures 88 x 124.5 x 56cm and costs from £3,500. 020-7221 5137; devon-devon.com ▷

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Charles House, 4, Castlegate, Tickhill, Doncaster, DN11 9QU 01302 743978 nteriors@hor rks-tickhill.co.uk

GUIDE

DESIGNERS

SCOTLAND on Robi 47 Haggs Road, (next to Dollar Rae) Glasgow, G41 4AR 07733 104366 louise@louisebramhillinteriors.com

Mandors Fabric Store Fleming House, 134, Renfrew St Glasgow, G3 6ST 01413 327 716 fabric@mandors.co.uk

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01224 704 250 76, Moss Road, Tillicoultry,

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NEVAULAMIN (16 COLLECTIONS

DESIGNERS GUILD

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IN THE FOLD

A work of art, this hand-blown Venetian glass lamp by Donghia is multi-folded, so light catches the multiple angles. 'Prong' lamp in blue agate, 31.75 x 52cm diameter, £1,650, and 16in shade, £561. 020-7349 1590; rubelli.com



Igrew up in a house filled with **William Morris fabrics**, so am delighted by the new Pure Morris collection, a fresh interpretation comprising eight wallpapers and nine fabrics. Pictured is the 'Bachelors Button' wallpaper in stone/ linen, 140cm wide, £65 a metre. 01895-830000; william-morris.co.uk



READ THE LABEL

How sensible to have guidance on a **switch plate** – I am forever pressing the wrong ones in my house. This bespoke 'Engraved Invisible Plate' from Forbes & Lomax fits into standard UK wall boxes and is also available in antique bronze and unlacquered brass finishes. From £160.80 for the plate pictured. 020-7738 0202; forbesandlomax.com

NEWS IN BRIEF British interior designer and tastemaker Suzy Hoodless has designed the House & Garden VIP room at Decorex. decorex.com >

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COMPACT KIT

This simple 'Monograph' **basin unit** from the Laura Ashley Bathrooms Collection is ideal for a children's bathroom. This version, in a light clay finish with legs, measures 79 x 60 x 37.5cm, and costs £949. 01225-303929; lauraashleybath roomcollection.com



FEEL THE BURN

Much more enticing than the average firepit, this 'Petros' **burner** is the result of a collaboration between furniture designer Matthew Hilton and Paul Chesney of the eponymous chimneypiece and stove company. It is made from Portuguese limestone and supplied with a lighting rod and a lighter, and has a burn time of up to eight hours. It costs £2,950. *chesneys.co.uk* \triangleright



JANE CHURCHILL ATMOSPHER



111

In crowd

BE IN THE KNOW Follow us on Twitter and Instagram to keep up with the *House & Garden* team

READER EVENTS, EXCLUSIVE OFFERS, BE PART OF HOUSE & GARDEN



et ready for Christmas by joining -House & Garden at the Oka store in Froxfield, Wiltshire, on Wednesday, November 9, 11am-3pm for a day of inspiration - from festive table ideas to flower arranging and present wrapping. Co-founder Sue Jones will give a short talk about the company's history, including tales of travels overseas to source its collections, followed by a series of informal workshops including flower arranging using Oka's faux flowers. There is also the opportunity to shop with a 15 per cent discount. Tickets cost £25 each and include coffee, lunch with wine and a gift bag. To book, visit oka.com/blog/events-atoka and search for 'House & Garden reader event' (a £2.25 booking fee will apply).

FOCUS/16 LECTURE REMINDER

House & Garden is holding a panel discussion at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, hosted by decoration director Gabby Deeming with the interior designers **Max Rollitt, Ben Pentreath** and **Wendy Nicholls**. The title is 'How to achieve modern English country house style'. This special event is part of the Conversations in Design programme during Focus/16. *Tickets cost £10 each; to book, call 020-7352 1900, email tickets*@ *dcch.co.uk, or visit dcch.co.uk.*

The Spirit of Christmas Fair

takes place at Olympia from October 31 to November 6. Subscribers can apply for a free ticket online at spiritofchristmasfair. co.uk, or by calling the box office on 0844-412 4629*, quoting 'SPO1' and your subscriber reference number. There is one free ticket per subscription. See our 'Spirit of Christmas' feature for details on how to claim 25 per cent off extra tickets. *Calls cost 7p per minute plus network extras. A booking fee applies to extra tickets. Offers end at 11pm on October 30, 2016.

EVENT REMINDER

Join garden editor Clare Foster, pictured, at Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour on Wednesday, October 12,

10am–3pm, to enjoy a talk by garden designer **Richard Miers**, an interview with landscape architect **Huw Morgan** and a lesson in floral artistry by **Melissa Alexander** of JamJar Flowers. Tickets cost £15. Attendees can also enjoy a glass of prosecco in the Design Café, with lunch, either a two course for £20 or one course for £15. To book, visit dcch.co.uk, email tickets@dcch.co.uk, or call 020-7352 1900.



LINEN MASTERCLASS REMINDER *House & Garden* editor Hatta Byng will be in conversation with **Bernie de Le Cuona** about the linens and paisleys for which she is known, at her 150 Walton Street, SW3 showroom, on September 22, 10.30am–12pm. They'll be joined by **Rita Konig**, offering advice on using these fabrics. *To book, email amanda@delecuona.com*.

WIN A £3,000 BREAK AT LUCKNAM PARK

To celebrate the launch of our new *Country House* supplement, **Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa** – a Palladian mansion just outside Bath – is offering one reader two nights for two in a suite, including breakfast. Also included are dinners at the Michelin-starred The Park Restaurant and The Brasserie, both with sommelier-matched wines, plus two one-hour spa treatments and two one-hour horse rides (according to ability). To enter, go to houseandgarden.co.uk/lucknampark.*



LECTURE REMINDER This year's House & Garden lecture at Decorex, on Sunday September 18, 12–1pm, will see editor Hatta Byng in conversation with Christine Van Der Hurd (open to trade only). decorex.com >



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INSIDER | NEWS



The List, *House & Garden*'s extensive directory of design professionals, is an easy-to-use online resource of brilliant bespoke design services. Are you looking for an inspiring new fabric or wallpaper to update or enhance your space? Whether you want striking geometrics, timeless traditional themes or perhaps a pretty pastel hue, The List has all the experts in one directory.



Charlotte Gaisford, based in Northumberland, has a passion for repeat patterns and creates original fabric and wallpaper collections. The tablecloth here is in her 'Georgie Girl' cotton; £55 a metre. charlottegaisford.co.uk Cloth & Clover's fabrics have a timeless appeal as each print is based on an antique document. The collection is milled in Scotland in one of the last remaining working mills in the UK. The printed linens used for these cushions cost £89 a metre. *clothandclover.com*



Korla creates hand-printed cottons and linens in a variety of designs, which work well when used together. These duvet covers are in 'Inkat' with headboards in 'Quadria', both linen mix, £59 a metre. *korlahome.com*



Are you on The List? Be a part of it by registering at houseandgarden.co.uk/the-list. For more information, call 020-7152 3639, or email charlotte.richmond@condenast.co.uk □ BRENT DARBY; CORINA BANKHEAC

BESPOKE | PROMOTION

BATHROOM RETRO REVIVAL



Fusing the modern with the traditional, leading luxury bathroom company The Water Monopoly has created a range of cool, colourful fittings, from retro-inspired interchangeable ceramic taps and shower mixers to globe bath feet. A simple yet effective way to update a bathroom with an instant splash of colour. \triangleright



 $\begin{array}{c} \mbox{Colour match our fittings to your tiles and wallpaper or complement your favourite towels and accessories} \\ \mbox{with The Water Monopoly's new bespoke colour service, available from $\pounds756$.} \end{array}$

5TVLING: FLORENCE ROLE FUNDORRAMS: PIXELATE MAGING: LILAC:TOWEL, "HAMAY"; 22: SOAP, 85 OFTIGATE: MARVES, ES:50 FOR 75ML, ALL FROM COLOGNE& COTTOM. TOOTHBRENCE, ES:50 THREF, FROM NOT ON THE HIGH STREET DIPPEDIN. CINDERRO SE, E3:50 FOR TATTEMULSION, FROM FARCOM & BALL. NAILBRUSH E2:50 FROM THE STALEY STORE PEG, E3:50 FOR 74, TELLOW: SOAP, AS BEFORE. HOLRGLASS, 22: FROM HAX/DK. FOLDING RULER, 28:50, FROM LABOUR & WAIT. NUMBERED PUSH PIX. FROM FARCOM & BALL. PACK OF 12: FROM HAX/DK PANTBRUSH, E1:30 FROM FARCOM FARCOW: 29:20, FROM HAX/DK. FOLDING RULER, 28:50, FROM LABOUR & WAIT. RUIMBERED PUSH PIX. PARA FARCOM, 24: FROM HAX/DK FOLDING RULER, 28:50, FROM LABOUR & WAIT. NUMBERED PUSH PIX. PARA FARCOM FARCO



The 'Rockwell Bath' is a reproduction of a Twenties ceramic tub with a contemporary twist. Made from Vitrite[®] composite, which replicates the look and feel of the original without the weight, the bath and feet (shown in 'squash') are available in a range of colours; £6,056.40.



The 'Rockwell' range offers flexibility to be inventive with colour and inject some personality into the bathroom by mixing and matching a kaleidoscope of fittings to reflect your style. Shown above are the 'liquorice', 'willow', 'squash' and 'powder' colourways; 3-hole basin mixer set, from £768.

PLANNING ADVICE

FOUNDER & DIRECTOR OF THE WATER MONOPOLY JUSTIN HOMEWOOD 'We use colour and pattern to stamp our personality and taste pretty much everywhere in the house. However, the bathroom is often the most neglected room and the one where we play it safe. Not anymore! Perfect for adding a quick and stylish pop of colour, the new 'Bockwell' accents are designed to make boring bathrooms a thing of the



past. The first thing to do is decide the mood you wish to create and then choose your palette to suit. For example, a bright and breezy beach house might lend itself to a blue and white colour scheme, while for a calming luxurious main bathroom in a smart town house, the look could be very different. Start to put together a mood board (similar to the page opposite) and be as subtle or bold as you dare. Don't be afraid to try the unexpected – sherbet yellow with raspberry and aged brass, say, or lilac

with peppermint green. Try pairing a bold pattern on wallpaper or a tiled floor with a block of contrasting colour. Don't worry if you make a mistake: the beauty of the 'Rockwell' crosshead taps, shower mixers and bath feet is that the colours are all interchangeable.'



THE NEW 'ROCKWELL' COLOURS ARE PERFECT FOR ADDING A QUICK AND STYLISH POP OF COLOUR

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

As a House & Garden reader, when you buy a pair of 'Rockwell' taps, you will receive a complimentary set of crossheads from our existing range in the colour of your choice. Simply quote 'House & Garden Coloured Bathrooms' on ordering. Valid from September 1 to December 31, 2016. For more details, visit thewatermonopoly.com or the showroom at 10/14 Lonsdale Road, London, NW6 6RD



Spirit of Christmas

The Spirit of Christmas Fair, at Olympia London from October 31 to November 6, in association with *House & Garden*, is the home of Christmas shopping, with 750 boutiques offering presents, home accessories, clothing, food and wine. LAURA HOULDSWORTH selects some highlights



House & Garden readers can enjoy 25 per cent off tickets to the fair. To claim your discounted tickets, visit spiritofchristmasfair. co.uk or call the box office on 0844-412 4629* quoting 'SPO2'. *Calls cost 7p per minute plus network extras. 25 per cent off is based on the on-the-door price of £23 and excludes transaction fee of £2.50. Offer ends at 11pm on October 30 2016 ▷







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INSIDER | NEWS

Notebooks, from £9.50 each, from Esmie (stand G81)

> Candles, £25 for 12, from Charles Farris (stand E59)

Bone china **plates**, from £45 a pair, from Lollipop Designs (stand J68)

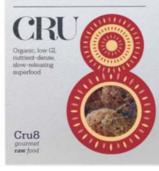
'Aluro' lampshade, 31cm diameter, £125, from Eva Sonaike (stand D70)

Raw macaroons, £6 a pack of 6, from Cru8 (stand GF20) \Box

> Cacao Macaroons

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IN THE LOOP

Interior design and fit-out specialist Loop3 offers practical design solutions for luxury residential projects, offices and retail spaces





THIS PAGE FROM TOP An Italian-crafted kitchen, the first of its kind in the UK. Antique crackle lacquer doors with bronze detailing were chosen for a project. In a bedroom, wardrobes discreetly conceal a media centre. **OPPOSITE FROM TOP** An elegant drawing room in Belgravia created in collaboration with Malcolm Girvan Associates. In a dining room, a Venetian mirrored wall incorporates air conditioning, wall lights and a secret door to the kitchen

high-end interior design and fit-out company based in London's Chelsea Harbour, Loop3 specialises in prestigious residential, commercial and retail projects. Whether it is designing the interiors of a Chelsea penthouse, sprucing up a tired office to create a

better working environment for staff or imagining a new showroom for Mulberry that reflects the brand's signature country-home feel, the team has the skills and experience to deliver complete solutions for luxury interiors.

Past residential projects include refurbishing an apartment along the Thames and revamping a £7.5 million home in Kensington. For both projects, the team offered a full-service, from sourcing the furnishings and lighting to fitting the underfloor heating and security systems (they have an invaluable, bulging black book of contacts for architects, designers, builders and specialists, ranging from Kelly Hoppen Design to Bulthaup and Lapicida). Professional and forward-thinking, Loop3 always remains in constant dialogue with clients throughout and holds progress meetings to ensure that briefs are achievable, cost effective and, crucially, practical to live with, while staying true to the original design. It also always adheres to tight deadlines to ensure maximum efficiency.

Established in 2000 by director and fit-out specialist Mark Hollis, the company also has a thorough technical understanding of the less glamorous but vital components of construction: structural engineering, acoustic and thermal insulation, waterproof tanking of bathrooms and kitchens, and fire safety. So it understands, for example, that a shower doesn't just have to look great but function properly, too, with enough power and water available and a temperature that can be accurately controlled. Once a project is completed, Loop3 is on hand for at least another 12 months to ensure clients understand how their new home, retail space or refurbished office works. A dedicated exceptional service then, from start to finish \Box

Loop3: 020-7376 5300; loop3.co.uk

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design by Antonio Citterio

art scene Edited by EMILY TOBIN



OBJECTS OF VALUE Louisa Elderton previews artist TOM ELLIS's new exhibition at The Wallace Collection

As autumn leaves outside shift into shades of orange and red, the artist Tom Ellis will exhibit his works at The Wallace Collection. With Tom elegantly interweaving his figurative painting and his handmade furniture, the show will reflect the holdings of The Wallace Collection itself, which comprises pictures and miniatures, ceramics, furniture, sculpture, and arms and armour. Spread across three spaces – the Front State Room, the exhibition galleries and the front lawn – the affinity between the objects will take centre stage. 'I am interested in the way in which their juxtaposition can open up and transform how we engage with any particular object,' says Tom.

With walls of deep-red silk damask, Tom's paintings will be placed on horizontal runners in front of the wallpaper itself. An image of a faceless, seated shoemaker recurs throughout his series of paintings, blankly staring down at the viewers as they move through each room. Reminiscent of

Rembrandt's figures and interiors, iterations will range from renderings rich with

ROB MURRA

Artist Tom Ellis in his studio with a work in progress for the commission by The Wallace Collection

deep shadows to sketches that appear rough but energised. On the lawn outside, the bronze and steel work *Lawn Sculpture* will greet passers-by with shining patinas. Elsewhere, a traditional hybrid chair-table will see a cedarwood chair folding into a table, creating a functional surface that is then covered in coloured fabric.

Tom's combination of painting and furniture activates a striking duality. 'The fact that they are object types of such a different order allows me to move freely between ostensibly art and non-art activities,' he says. 'The furniture serves in part to "depressurise" the painting practice by creating a more culturally blurred setting for its display – a painting above a sofa is a very different proposition to a painting isolated on a pristine gallery wall.' Tom says he feels that The Wallace Collection brings art closer to the 'unruly multiplicity of real life', and here we have life in all of its wild and wonderful facets. ▷

'The Middle – Tom Ellis at The Wallace Collection' runs from September 15 to November 27; wallacecollection.org



THE WORLD OF

Sheron Reynolds Director of Art Out



Loud, a three-day festival of talks by artists, curators and writers taking place at Chatsworth House

➤ I am lucky enough to live in a village near Chatsworth (pictured above), home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, both of whom are both passionate art collectors. I proposed that Chatsworth hold a literary festival but the Duke thought we could make our festival different and more interesting by focusing on art. He is the driving force behind Art Out Loud.

➤ This year, we have the inspirational head of The Whitworth in Manchester, Maria Balshaw. She's bound to shake up a few preconceptions with her talk: 'Not so Grim up North'. Sir Roy Strong and Nicholas Cullinan – both very young directors of the National Portrait Gallery – should be pretty revelatory. I also think it will be exciting to hear from Deyan Sudjic as the new Design Museum prepares to open its doors in November.

➤ The best thing so far has been securing Maggi Hambling as one of our speakers. I spotted her at a charity auction and was amazed to find myself accosting her there and then, and even more amazed to find that she was happy to accept the invitation.

➤ By my bed is We Go to the Gallery by Miriam Elia – essential reading if you're at risk of taking art too seriously. Art Out Loud is on September 23–25; chatsworth.org

EXHIBITIONS

FONTANA AND MELOTTI: ANGELIC SPACES AND INFINITE GEOMETRIES

This month, Mazzoleni will exhibit works by Italian painter, sculptor and ceramicist Lucio Fontana and his lifelong friend Fausto Melotti. The show will explore the close links between their work and the divergence in their conceptual outlook. September 23– November 19; mazzoleniart.com



ARDIZZONE: A RETROSPECTIVE

'Edward Ardizzone defined the field of illustration for his generation', says Colin McKenzie, director of the House of Illustration, where his work can be seen this month. He is perhaps best known for his illustrated children's books, in particular the *Little Tim* series, which began in 1936 and is still in print today. *September 23–January 15; houseofillustration.org.uk*

FROM TOP Fausto Melotti, *Tre Tempi*, brass. Illustration by Edward Ardizzone from *Little Tim and the Brave Sea Captain*. Hilaire-Germain-Edgar Degas, *A Study of a Girl's Head*, oil on canvas

FLESH

Bodies and flesh have long been subjected to scrutiny by artists. This new exhibition at the York Art Gallery will raise questions about ageing, race and gender and will feature works by Degas, Rembrandt and Rubens, alongside more contemporary pieces by Jenny Saville and Sarah Lucas. September 23–March 19; yorkartgallery.org.uk





DON'T MISS

This month, London bids farewell to the skeletal horse by Hans Haacke that currently resides on top of the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square. Replacing it will be David Shrigley's commission – a giant bronze hand in an elongated thumbs-up gesture entitled *Really Good* (left). This will be unveiled on September 29. *fourthplinth.co.uk* \triangleright

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In the frame

ROBIN STEWART, a specialist in modern and post-war British art at Sotheby's auction house in London, highlights four of the artists whose work is in his collection

OLIVER BEDEMAN

I am fascinated by figurative art and portraits in particular, and I think that Oliver Bedeman is one of the most exciting young figurative artists working in London at the moment. His paintings often have a theatrical, dreamlike quality to them, and his etchings are just as engaging, but are still relatively affordable. I particularly love this painting of his older brother, Tom, who has been the subject of his work since childhood. It is painted in oil on the reverse of a glass panel. bedeman.co.uk

GABRIELE KOCH

I first met German-born potter Gabriele Koch a few years ago, when I visited her terrace house in Archway for an open-studio preview. Upon entering, you are met with beautifully coloured, burnished earthenware vessels or, more recently, her black clay vases with inlaid porcelain. This 'dimpled' blue vessel, sits nestled on top of my bookcase. I love it and the dialogue that exists between this piece, an early work by Magdalene Odundo and a 2,300-year-old Gnathian skyphos (drinking vase). gabrielekoch.co.uk





GARY BUNT

I always tell collectors it is important to buy what you love and that you should get pleasure from the pictures you have on your walls. I'm getting married this year and rather than opt for a gift list or contributions towards the honeymoon, we wanted a work of art to remind us of the special day. We both love Gary's work - the wit and charm and wonderful stories that his paintings tell - and were so excited to get this small painting from his recent Portland Gallery show. We had pet geese when I was growing up and I remember how vicious they could be at feeding time. *portlandgallery.com*



JAMES TOWER

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Gabriele Koch, Vessel with Dimple, burnished and smoke fired earthenware. Gary Bunt, Feeding Time, oil on canvas. James Tower, Waving Reeds, glazed earthenware. Oliver Bedeman, Tom Bedeman, reverse oil on glass

James Tower is my absolute favourite twentieth-century ceramicist. His pieces, produced from the Fifties up until his death in 1988, are amazingly sculptural in their approach. I love his early pieces in particular, from when he was teaching alongside William Scott and Peter Lanyon at the Bath School of Art and Design. His works do appear frequently at auction; they also have great examples in the V&A and at Pallant House Gallery in Chichester. *waterman.co.uk* \Box

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WORDS AND PICTURES

SUSAN CREWE previews interior designer Ben Pentreath's latest book



ENGLISH HOUSES: INSPIRATIONAL INTERIORS FROM CITY APARTMENTS TO COUNTRY MANOR HOUSES Ben Pentreath (Ryland Peters & Small, £30)

If minimalism isn't your thing and you despair of much current interior design, which seemingly aims to replicate an expensive Docklands show flat – all monochrome shiny surfaces and mid-century credenzas – this is the book for you. Evocatively photographed by Jan Baldwin over some 200 pages, it is a portrait of 12 different English houses, divided into three sections: London, Country and Country House. Two of the homes belong to the author Ben Pentreath and his husband Charlie McCormick, the other 10 to friends of theirs. Ben, who, besides being a life-enhancing enthusiast is a highly regarded architectural and interior designer, shopkeeper and blogger, has an unmistakable aesthetic preference. The interiors in this book are visibly lived in; they house collected possessions rather than collections. The hearths host real fires; the old stone flags or oak boards are clothed in rugs; mugs and jugs overflow with garden flowers; comfortable

furniture is covered in faded, mismatched chintz; William Morris wallpaper, club fenders, Agas and clusters of candlesticks are recurring themes. In his introduction, Ben writes that 'some of the interiors are very old and have the settled, drowsy air that only centuries of unhurried occupation can bequeath'. Although elsewhere he states that 'there is no right or wrong in decoration', the Pentreath ideal is clearly one that's evolved over time, even if the room has only recently been put together. Readers will find much to inspire and enjoy, and although the picture captions (gathered together at the end of each chapter) are mostly general rather than specific, there is a useful Design Directory.







HERBARIUM Caz Hildebrand (Thames & Hudson, £16.95) This jolly compendium of 100 herbs explores their multiple uses. Each entry features a general overview of the herb's history and associations, and is beautifully illustrated with colourful graphic designs. There are also tips for growing in the garden, incorporating with food and using as healing aids.



NEW SMALL GARDEN: Contemporary principles, planting and practice Noel Kingsbury (Frances Lincoln, £20)
 Guidance on how to make the most of a small plot includes design tricks, layering plants, storage solutions and vertical planting.
 Real-life case studies conclude many chapters, while a comprehensive directory of 300 plants – including trees, perennials and shrubs – details their suitability for dinky gardens.

1	
CHAIRS	
BY ARCH	ITECTS
5 1	
Tana Anton	

CHAIRS BY ARCHITECTS Agata Toromanoff (Thames & Hudson, £16.95) Fifty-five iconic chairs designed by leading architects – from Eileen Gray to Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Thomas Heatherwick – feature. The profiles explore the stylistic relationship between their buildings and the comparable qualities of their chair designs □



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DECORATING

DESIGN IDEAS | NEW COLLECTIONS | RITA NOTES | PROFILE



Classic Victorian houses needn't be painted in muted tones, as this bold scheme shows. Harmonious shades of yellow and green create a flow between these two rooms, while the pink paint used for the lower wall and woodwork adds another colour into the mix. To recreate this scheme, try Paint & Paper Library's yellow 'Gamboge' and green 'Apple Smiles II' paints, both $\pounds 42.50$ for 2.5 litres of emulsion, and Farrow & Ball's pink 'Nancy's Blushes', $\pounds 39.50$ for 2.5 litres of emulsion. *paintandpaperlibrary.com* | *farrow-ball.com* \triangleright



This dining room is painted with a lime-based paint, a soft-finish option with a porosity that also makes it ideal for bathrooms. It was custommixed by Naismith Robertson as part of its bespoke decoration service. For excellent off-the-shelf lime-based paints, try Lime Earth Paints; from £26.50 for 4 litres. *naismithrobertson.co.uk* | *limeearthpaints.com*



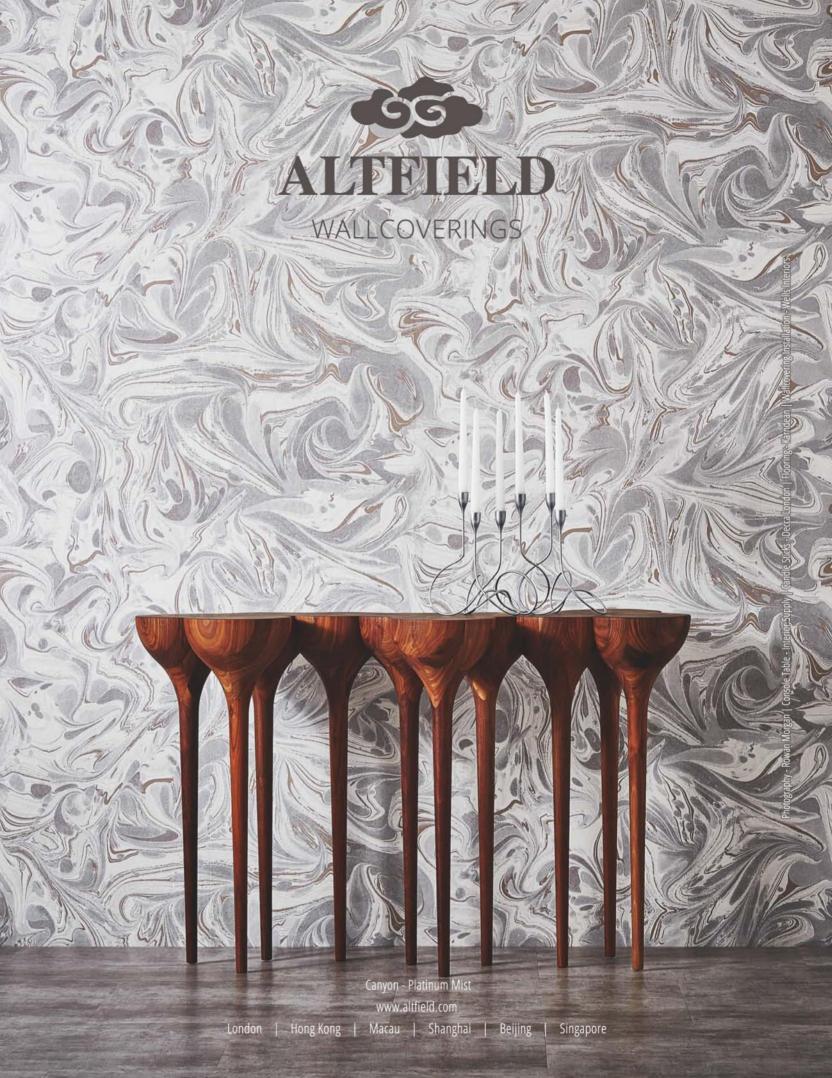
It can be daunting to paint every element of a room in one colour, but this hall, in Paint & Paper Library's 'Blue Blood' (£42.50 for a 2.5-litre pot), looks very smart. A matt finish has been used for all components, keeping the look clean. It is a good way of incorporating a minimalist aesthetic into a house with traditional architectural details. *paintandpaperlibrary.com*



In this kitchen, different shades of blue create a zingy scheme (from left: 'Regency Blue' and 'Pale Berlin', £38 for 2.5 litres of emulsion, from Little Greene). 'There is a strong light source to the left and almost no natural light to the right. The different hues maintain a balanced presence of colour,' says Andy Greenall, Little Greene's head of design. *littlegreene.com*



Designer Paolo Moschino commissioned painter Dawn Reader to create the stripes on the walls here. She custom-mixed the blue to match Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam's 'Melba Stripe' fabric in the blue on ecru colourway, but Edward Bulmer's 'Fair Blue' natural paint is similar; \pounds 41.50 for a 2.5-litre pot of emulsion. *nicholashaslam.com* | *edwardbulmerpaint.co.uk* \triangleright





Create your own pattern by pencilling it on the wall, taping off the areas you don't want to paint, then erasing the pencil lines. Choose surprising colours for maximum effect, such as this mix of pink, blues and greens. Dulux's 'Sorbet', 'Moss Blanket', 'Sapphire Salute', 'Atlantic Adventure' and 'Morning Meadow' are similar; £29.99 for a 2.5-litre pot of emulsion. *dulux.co.uk*



Dark colours can be tricky, but in this town house, designer Adam Bray has used rich tones from Paint and Paper Library to excellent effect. 'The moody, bruised shades look good at night,' he says. The two-colour door allows the hall, painted in 'Pure Grey 11', to flow into the 'Murrey Red' drawing room; £42.50 for 2.5 litres of emulsion. *adambray.info* | *paintandpaperlibrary.com*



Mixing paint finishes can produce striking effects, as these 'Spitalfields' cupboards by Plain English show. The cupboards are painted in Little Greene's 'Chocolate': the top half of the wall cupboard has an eggshell finish and the bottom part and wall cupboards have a smart gloss finish; from $\pounds 27$ for 1 litre. *littlegreene.com* | *plainenglishdesign.co.uk*



In this farmhouse, green ('Tree House') and red ('Fireside') Crown paints have been used in the hallway. Painted by specialist Alan Dodd, the trompe l'œil panelling is a playful take on a traditional interior. 'I saw the combination of colours in a Swedish manor house and thought they would lift a drab hallway,' says the owner, Tarquin Bilgen. *crownpaints.co.uk* | *alandodd.co.uk* ▷





Chimneypieces | Lighting | Furniture 020 7730 2122 | jamb.co.uk Farrow & Ball is renowned for its wide palette of charmingly named paints, and its new book *Farrow & Ball: How to Decorate* (Mitchell Beazley, £30), by colour consultant Joa Studholme and head of creative, Charlotte Cosby, is full of practical advice. Here are four clever ideas...





Farrow & Ball's 'Calamine' paint has been used to emphasise the unusual recess at the top of this dining room. The walls are painted in 'Pavilion Gray' to maximise the light from the french windows. This scheme would be far less effective if the doors were not painted in the same colour as the wall, as they virtually disappear into it with no distraction.



While 'Shaded White' has been used on all the floorboards throughout this house, visual interest has been added to the staircase by painting the risers in 'Breakfast Room Green'. This is not only practical in defining the stairs, but can also disguise scuff marks. It is a bold statement that is decorative but not overwhelming; strong colour below the eye line is relatively easy to live with.



'Mouse's Back' has been used on the floor in the foreground, where its darker tone gives a solidity. The hall floor beyond is painted in 'Off White', to bounce light onto the walls in this darker central space. Although using one colour throughout a house will ensure continuity, two contrasting floor colours can define spaces very effectively when there is a single wall colour.



In a house that is decorated in almost entirely muted shades, it is nice to add a dose of colour. Here it takes the form of two simple blue stripes around the hearth. As well as drawing attention to the traditional floor tiles, they are a burst of something fun, adding a personal feel to the room. *Farrow* & Ball paints cost £39.50 for 2.5 litres of emulsion. farrow-ball.com \triangleright



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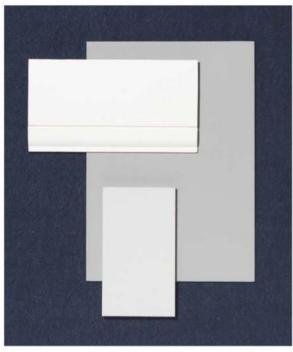
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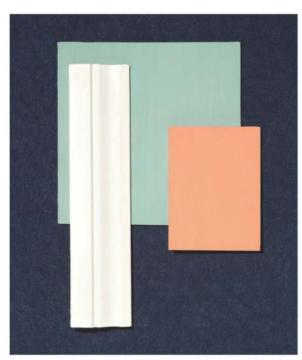
LITTLE GREENE From top: wall, 'Lead Colour'; cornice, 'Clockface'; both £38 for 2.5 litres of emulsion; woodwork, 'French Grey', £54.50 for 2.5 litres of eggshell. *littlegreene.com*



PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY From top: woodwork, 'Hornblende'; wall, 'Wattle V'; cornice, 'Wattle I'; all £42.50 for 2.5 litres of emulsion. *paintandpaperlibrary.com*



PAPERS AND PAINTS From top: **wall**, 'Fenching Blue'; **cornice**, 'Andrea's White'; **woodwork**, 'Quiet White'; all £37.50 for 2.5 litres of emulsion. *papers-paints.co.uk*



EDWARD BULMER NATURAL PAINT From top: wall, 'Aquatic'; cornice, 'Silver White'; woodwork, 'Brick'; all £41.50 for 2.5 litres of emulsion. edwardbulmerpaint.co.uk □





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Folk tales

Inspired by pagan costumes, GABBY DEEMING and RUTH SLEIGHTHOLME create a ritual of their own in rugged Kintyre to showcase the new fabric collections

LEFT DANCER Jacket, 'Shangri-La' (gold), by Martyn Lawrence Bullard, cotton, £164, from Tissus d'Hélène. **Trousers**, 'Azul' (rust, navy and nordic blue), viscose/cotton, £58, from Harlequin. MIDDLE DANCER Jacket, 'California Garden' (jade/brown multi), linen, £110, from Borderline Fabrics. **Trousers**, 'Obi' (nightwatch), by No9 Thompson, linen, £90, from Fox Linton. RIGHT DANCER Jacket, 'Fiji' (citrus), linen mix, £29, from Clarke & Clarke. **Trousers**, 'Queen's Sampler' (10650), linen, £135, from G P & J Baker. **Bag**, 'Misha' (blue), Sunbrella acrylic, £138, from Thibaut. **Trim on trousers** 'Onion Tassel Fringe' (canvas), linen mix, £95, from Samuel & Sons. **Jacket embellishments**, linen and rayon with beads, pom-poms or tassel dolls, from £55 each, from Jessica Light \triangleright



Front of dress, 'Pavilion Garden' (indigo), by Nina Campbell, linen, $\mathcal{L}78$, from Osborne & Little. Dress sides and sleeves, 'Splatterwear' (ink blot), by Pollack, cotton mix, $\mathcal{L}134$, from Altfield. Waistcoat, 'Poleng' (delft), by Raoul Textiles, linen, $\mathcal{L}316$, from George Smith. Muff, 'Field' (blue), by Studio Tord Boontje, linen, $\mathcal{L}135$, from Christopher Farr Cloth. China dinner plates, 'Blue Italian', $\mathcal{L}16.50$ each, from Spode. Bespoke painted cardboard mask, by John Booth \triangleright



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OPPOSITE PAGE TOP Face, 'Wallace Vine' (blue), by Jasper for Michael S Smith, linen, £222, from Jamb. Bib, from left: 'Oaken' (blue), linen, £65, from Colefax and Fowler; 'Wallace Vine' (blue), as before; 'Isabella' (original), by Jasper for Michael S Smith, hemp, £171.60, from Jamb. BOTTOM Face, 'Wildflower Vine', linen/cotton, £498, from Chelsea Textiles. Bib, from left: 'Swift' (pink/green), linen, £59 a metre, from Colefax and Fowler; 'Calimanco' (002), linen, £96, from Fermoie. Bespoke headdresses, by Felicity Irons, from £120 for similar, from Rush Matters. THIS PAGE Cloak, from top: 'Exotic Butterfly' (black), by Josef Frank, linen, £276; 'Full Circle' (jungle), cotton/linen, £175; both by Schumacher, from Turnell & Gigon. Bespoke painted cardboard stag's head, by John Booth ⊳



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THIS PAGE Face, 'Swiss Sprig', linen/ cotton, £279, from Chelsea Textiles. Bib, from left: 'Lindi Diamond' (185), linen, £136, from Bernard Thorp; 'Drippy', cotton, \$392, from Martyn Thompson Studio. Bespoke headdress, by Felicity Irons, from £120 for similar, from Rush Matters. OPPOSITE Jacket, 'Nigel's Tartan' (casaque), by Nigel Peake, wool, £244, from Hermès. Dungarees, 'Metho' (traditional), by Namay Samay, Eri silk, 60cm wide, £690 for a 3-metre panel, from Tissus d'Hélène. Panels, from left: 'Aikapur', 'Sharang Tara' and 'Mentsi Matha' (all traditional), by Namay Samay, Eri silk, 60cm wide, £690 for a 3-metre panel, from Tissus d'Hélène. 'Perseus' (red/aqua), linen mix, £64, from Colefax and Fowler. Handwoven Spanish esparto grass bulls' heads, £25-£150 each, from Brownrigg. Vintage agricultural tool, £75, from Garden Artefacts. Willow waste-paper basket with leather handle (burnt timber), by Annemarie O'Sullivan, £200, from The New Craftsmen \triangleright



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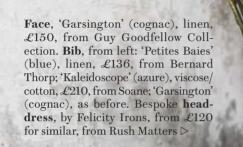
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Bag, 'Grafitto' (18), by Kelly Wearstler for Lee Jofa, cotton/linen, £95, from G P & J Baker. LEFT FIGURE **Boiler suit**, 'Sarafane' (ink), by Décors Barbares, cotton, £196, from Tissus d'Hélène. **Cloak**, 'Broken Heart' (ecru), by Métaphores, cotton mix, 300cm wide, £546.20, from Abbott & Boyd. **Shawl**, 'Decale', sorrel rope/cotton, €114, from CMO Fabrics. MIDDLE FIGURE **Boiler suit**, 'Nala' (charcoal), cotton mix, £47, from Clarke & Clarke. **Shawl**, 'Aurel' (original), by Décors Barbares, cotton/wool, £196, from Tissus d'Hélène. **Raffia plait**, 50cm long, £65, from Jessica Light. RIGHT FIGURE **Boiler suit**, 'Clockwork' (salt and pepper), by Pollack, recycled polyester/nylon, £152, from Altfield. **Cloak**, 'Mazan' (damavand), by Zak+Fox, jute mix, £304.38, from George Spencer Designs. **Shawl**, 'Theodora' (plum), linen, £145, from Susan Deliss. Crackle-glazed ceramic **masks**, by Yu Kobayashi, £425 each, from The Shop Floor Project \triangleright

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DECORATING | ADVICE

Rita Notes RITA KONIG reveals her favourite sources for stylish wall and pendant lights

PHOTOGRAPH CRAIG FORDHAM

all-light selection can feel like a daunting prospect at the beginning of a project. When your contractor is chasing the wires into the walls, it is important to know what furniture and pictures will be beside them and what type and size of wall light you are using so that you get the height of the back plate right. This

happens early on and so there is a risk it is before you may have finalised the actual lights.

If you want to have wall lights by your bed, make it a priority so that you do not find yourself rushing into something with the electrician breathing down your neck. I love seeing lights on the face of bookcases, either at the top or on the fronts with swing arms. Robert Kime (robertkime.com) has a very good selection, as does a company in Paris called Galerie des Lampes (galeriedeslampes.com). When I need to pair these with something a little lighter on the budget, I go to Circa Lighting (circa lighting.com), based in Savannah in the US. It has a tremendous selection – its 'Boston' range is one of my favourites, and it will wire for and ship to the UK.

On online antique sites, one has to wade through old ormolu candlestick wall lights or a glut of Fifties Italian articulated designs. I must say that I am a bit of a sucker for the latter. Many are in quite bad nick and plenty of others are of questionable age, but now and again there are really pretty ones that look terrific over a desk or a bed. Fiona McDonald in Fulham Palace Road (fionamcdonald.com) is a good source for this style. There are also lots of dealers in and around Church Street, NW8 that stock them, such as Bent Ply (bentply.com).

Dining rooms are an ideal place for wall lights and my absolute favourite comes from Soane (soane.co.uk). It is called 'Aten', a beaten brass dish with either a candle or electrified bulb in front of it. For a dining room, consider keeping it unwired and using candlelight instead for a prettier effect. Soane is a little more than reassuringly expensive, but it does have very beautifully made things and sometimes the splurge is worth it. It is always good to



look at its selection and mix it with other cheaper things throughout the house, such as my new find, 'Egg of Columbus' by Seletti. I hung these recycled egg carton pendant lights in my hall as a temporary measure until I found the right thing – turns out they look so great I am no longer looking to replace them. They cost $\pounds 25$ from Made in Design (madeindesign.co.uk), including delightful red flex.

Generally speaking, I prefer lamps to pendants, but there are situations where a hanging light is necessary. I love lanterns or bell lights in stairwells, entrance halls and over kitchen islands. One of my favourites is a glass bell with a rope attachment from Gordiola (gordiola.com), a 350-year-old company in Mallorca producing beautiful glass. The New Craftsmen (thenewcraftsmen.com) has a similar bell light made from glazed stoneware, also hung by rope - it is called 'Buoy' and is designed by Akiko Hirai. Norfolk Decorative Antiques (antique lighting.co.uk) and Dean Antiques (deanantiques. co.uk) always have beautiful copper lanterns, and Carlton Davidson on the King's Road (carlton davidson.co.uk) is a wonderful dealer with a huge selection of hanging lights. It has a good line of chandeliers and much more besides - as does Shane Meredith on Lillie Road.

For enamel shades, I have discovered the terrific website of Enamel Shades (enamelshades.co.uk). Its prices are unbeatable and it has a good selection of flex, particularly linen, which I love for these lights. The bonus of buying inexpensive shades is that you can spend the money you have saved on more expensive lightbulbs. Urban Cottage Industries (urbancottageindustries.com) is a great source for the squirrel-cage bulbs I like \square



Stoneware pendant, **'Buoy'**, by Akiko Hirai, 30cm diameter, £2,300, from The New Craftsmen



Polished brass sconce, 'Small Aten Light with Candle', 22.5cm diameter, £1,350, from Soane



Recycled card pendant, **'Egg of Columbus'**, by Seletti, 26.5cm diameter, £25, from Made in Design

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Lambert & Thurnherr

JENNIFER GOULDING talks to Charles Lambert and Michele Thurnherr about how they have brought individuality to a Victorian flat in west London

aised respectively in France and in Switzerland, the design duo Charles Lambert and Michele Thurnherr have five languages between them and have worked all over the world for Mlinaric, Henry and Zervudachi, giving their natural urbanity a distinctly international flavour.

They have also retained elements of the design philosophy of their alma mater. 'The style of our interiors is dictated by the particular building and client. That's an approach we took with us,' says Michele. 'What is important is the content and quality of our schemes.' Beyond the fact that their projects tend to be understated and unfussy, there is no common theme. 'Our job is to find individual solutions for the client,' explains Charles.

Their global influences are reflected in the diversity of their

DECORATING | PROFILE



'I was always keen on visiting historic places,' says Charles. 'I started reading interior-design books when I was about 10 and, by my teens, I was going to auction houses to observe the sales.

However, he elected to study economics, finance and history at the Ecole du Louvre and worked in finance before making his passion his profession and successfully applying for a job at Mlinaric, Henry and Zervudachi, 'Like Charles, I knew what I wanted to do from an early age,' says Michele. Unlike Charles however, Michele took a direct route by training in interior decoration in Zurich, then taking a

course at the Inchbald School of Design before joining MHZ at the same time as Charles. 'It gave

us the opportunity to work on diverse projects from modern houses to historic places, such as the National Gallery and Waddesdon Manor,' says Michele. After working at

MHZ for eight years, mainly under Hugh Henry, the pair set up Lambert & Thurnherr in 2011; they are based in London,

sources. 'We buy a lot of items abroad,' Charles says. 'For me, one of the real joys of our job is discovering an amazing new supplier and knowing how it will enrich our work. And clients like the idea of having, for example, a special wallpaper from Japan.'

This approach is evidenced by the textiles they have used in this two-bedroom Victorian flat in west London. 'The owner enjoys travelling, especially in Africa and India, and she likes the strongly coloured, ethnic fabrics from these parts of the world,' says Charles. Hence, a glorious ikat by Le Manach, which has been used for the drawing room curtains and the blind in the dining room, has inspired much of the decoration of the flat.

Neutral carpets and pale walls balance this rich fabric and answered the client's desire for a light, bright space. Parisian flea-market finds, such as the dining room pendant light and \triangleright



an Eiffel Tower-inspired side table in the drawing room, provide character and a sense of history. 'The owner didn't want anything too modern or slick: she wanted to have quirky pieces with a story,' explains Charles.

Flea-market finds can easily overwhelm a scheme. But here they are seamlessly combined with soft furnishings in classic designs that, together with an ultra-realistic gas fire, offer the sense of tradition and comfort the owner also craved.

Michele describes the project as 'a facelift', as there were no structural changes and many of the architectural features, such as the panelling, were already present. However, it did include reimagining the bathroom, for which they took the owner's collection of Indian watercolours as a starting point. The delicate shades of these pictures gave rise to the pretty celadon wall colour and iridescent Moroccan tiles in the shower. A bespoke vanity unit with timber fronts provides visual warmth and ample storage, and gives the room a smart, tailored focal point. Glamour and opulence have been brought in with French custom-made shagreen-framed mirrors and bronze wall lights.

The brief was for a fresher feel in the bedroom, so the designers created a simpler, more restful scheme. 'Patmos' by Carolina Irving – a white and blue linen with a subtle geometric pattern – was chosen for the blinds. 'The decoration evolved from there,' explains Charles. Although less decoratively layered than the rest of the flat, it has a similar blend of the traditional and the ethnic.

One of this project's great successes is how Charles and Michele have brought harmony to the divergent elements of the scheme. They have also imbued it with the sophistication that is characteristic of all their interiors. But what really sets these two apart is the respect and fondness they have for their clients. They know they are creating a home, not a showcase. In the world of interior design that can be rare, but incredibly valuable \Box

Lambert & Thurnherr: 020-7244 8664; ltinteriors.net

FROM TOP The drawing-room curtains are in Le Manach's 'Galigai' cotton, which dictates the colour palette of the space. The bathroom has a bespoke timber-fronted vanity unit with an upstand in tiles from Emery & Cie. Blue and white fabrics give the main bedroom a fresh feel



flea markets. The biggest and best is the Marché aux Puces de St-Ouen. Shopping there takes time; we needed several trips to find the right pieces for this flat. Our top tips are: remember to take cash and make sure you have a reliable shipper lined up.

Share a contact from your address book.

Brigitte Singh's Indian block-print fabrics, which are distributed by Aleta (aletaonline.com). In this flat, we used them for cushions, bedcovers and the bathroom blind.

Do you have any budget-saving advice?

Antiques do not have to be expensive. The antique shops on Lillie Road, SW6, for instance are a useful place to pick up great pieces at reasonable prices.



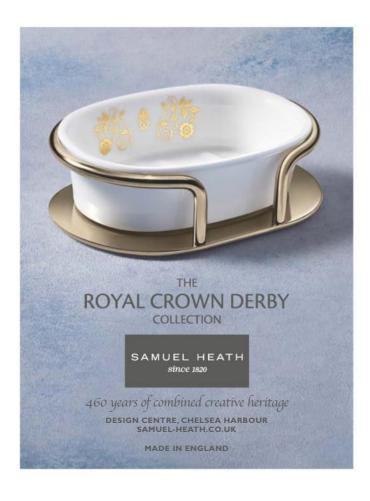


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LIFESTYLE

Nature magnified

From her studio in Chelsea, SARAH GRAHAM creates magnificent pictures of exotic plants, flowers and insects, which have been inspired by her lifelong fascination with the natural world

TEXT HUGH ST CLAIR | PHOTOGRAPHS GREG FUNNELL





t would upset me greatly if someone said my work was pretty,' declares painter Sarah Graham. If pretty is defined as fine and delicate, the adjective certainly does not apply. The works in her upcoming exhibition are nearly two metres wide and one metre high. They have a majestic, muscular quality, an almost abstract and surreal feel in their magnificence. These are not, as she is keen to stress, botanical paintings,

but expansive and personal interpretations of colourful specimens, such as lilies, orchids and artichokes.

She works from a nineteenth-century artist's studio in Chelsea, where light floods in from the two-metre windows onto an Arts and Crafts Puginesque table displaying her found objects: dried seed pods, fossils and animal skulls. A long dried amaryllis branch propped up against the turquoise-tiled chimneypiece seems almost triffidian. She is currently preparing for her first New York show, having had sell-out shows in Aspen. Colorado and at Sims Reed Gallery in London. 'Plants are my main subject, but I am very drawn to the forms of insects, too,' she says. In 2010, for the exhibition in Aspen, she tentatively submitted large-scale drawings of beetles, cicadas and butterflies among her flower pictures. 'I expected buyers to recoil, but to my surprise the insect pictures were snapped up immediately.' Thus emboldened, for a London show a year later, she submitted a giant leaf-eating mantid, a whip scorpion and a stag beetle, which also sold.

The natural world was very much part of Sarah's childhood. She recalls her mother's luxurious magnolias and her father's vivarium full of grass snakes and stag beetles. At Saltwood Castle in Kent, the home of her godmother Jane Clark, she saw the landscapes of artist Graham Sutherland. She found 'his dark and mysterious paraphrases of nature' compelling and was fascinated by the ambiguity between plant and animal forms. 'Sutherland always sits on my shoulder as a lodestar. If I feel lost with finding something to draw, I will turn to one of his images.'

Her other influence is early-twentieth-century German photographer Karl Blossfeldt, whose photographically enlarged plants highlight their structure and become \triangleright

THIS PAGE FROM TOP Sarah sits on a chaise longue surrounded by books on Georgia O'Keeffe, Albrecht Dürer and Shirley Sherwood; behind her hangs a three-metre charcoal 'warm-up' drawing on parcel paper. A selection of Sarah's paintbrushes and other tools. A detail of *Pirus*, an ink drawing for her upcoming New York show. A chimneypiece topped with boxes of butterflies from Deyrolle in Paris. OPPOSITE Sarah working on *Orchis* and *Taraxacum*, pieces for the show

LIFESTYLE

Ink is a merciless medium – once it's on the paper, it's there for good. But I love how it dries, often in uneven pools



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Sarah and her dealer, Lyndsey Ingram, oversee the hanging of *Royal Goliath* for her Aspen exhibition in 2015; the piece was inspired by three royal goliath beetles lent to her by the Natural History Museum (top right). Visiting the museum on a break from painting. Sarah and Max Barclay, collections manager of coleoptera and hemiptera, looking through the museum's entomology archives (also bottom left)



almost surreal. For the New York show, Sarah is drawing inspiration from eighteenth-century German papier mâché models of plants used to instruct botany students, which were lent to her by antique dealer Peter Petrou.

A lower second-class degree in fine art at Edinburgh in 1996 was a disappointment for Sarah. 'It depressed me so much, I decided to give up painting.' A garret lifestyle didn't appeal. 'I had majored in lithography, considered old fashioned by my contemporaries, most of whom had studied video and installation.' An advertisement in the Royal Geographical Society for someone to make a film about the Old Silk Road did however take her fancy. 'It was at times very risky, but surviving it gave me a certain confidence in my physical and emotional stamina.'

She returned to London to work with legendary Pimlico Road antique dealer John Hobbs. 'He was quite scary, but his enthusiasm and exuberance were infectious. He thought big and sold gigantic marble-top tables from Italy and breakfront bookcases from English country houses.' She found the lifestyle intoxicating and enjoyed the financial security, but her desire to paint remained. So, after three years, she quit the job to become a full-time artist, rented a studio in the freezing cold (now demolished) Great Western Studios in Paddington, donned a boiler suit and switched on Radio 4 to keep her company.

With no formal representation or gallery and only the encouragement of her boyfriend, the art dealer James Holland-Hibbert, 'it took a steely nerve to persist'. \triangleright



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After nine months of studio work, she borrowed from the bank and gambled all her chips by investing in a stand at a *House & Garden* fair, where she showed eight large charcoal drawings of sunflowers and artichokes. To her amazement and joy, Ken Bolan from Talisman bought the lot in the first five minutes.

Ten years and nine shows later, she is Mrs Holland-Hibbert, living in west London with two little girls, Daisy and Molly, surrounded by the couple's shared acquisitions. Furniture by father and son Chester and Toby Jones sits among Oceanic sculpture, contemporary drawings by Glenn Brown, period furniture and lighting by Serge Mouille. A shelf in the drawing room is crowded with glass boxes containing scorpions, tarantulas and a snake skeleton, all interspersed with photographs of the girls.

Every weekday, after Sarah has dropped off Daisy and Molly at school, she will race to the studio in Chelsea's Glebe Place to get back into the drawing she had to leave the previous evening. 'It is highly addictive and requires total absorption. Eight hours alone each day can be torture, but then there is that euphoric moment when something has worked. When it hasn't, you have to be tough on yourself and keep going.' Some days, she admits, she needs a break and goes to lunch at the Chelsea Arts Club with other artists.

Originally, Sarah worked with charcoal on brown paper: 'It was cheap and sold in large rolls, enabling compositions of unlimited scale.' Now she draws on handwoven calligraphy paper in graphite and ink from plants and ▷

THIS PAGE FROM TOP The sitting room of Sarah and James's London house. With daughters Daisy and Molly. The dining chairs are converted Fifties Miami car seats bought from Robert Kime. OPPOSITE A marble tabletop from Howe sits on top of a base by Chester and Toby Jones





LIFESTYLE

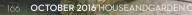
fish; the brown ink is from birch, the purple from elderberries and the green from a plant called dyer's broom (*Genista tinctoria*), which is extracted by artists' material supplier Pip Seymour in Yorkshire. 'The sepia, made from cuttlefish, has a distinctive smell,' Sarah explains. 'Ink is a merciless medium – once it's on the paper it's there for good. But I love how it dries, often in uneven pools. Both the mistakes and the variables become part of the work.'

Field work could be a trip to Hackney to visit the Viktor Wynd Museum of Curiosities, Fine Art & Natural History. Closer to the studio, Sarah spends hours looking through the entomology archives in the Natural History Museum, where approximately 10 million beetles are ranked in drawers beneath the arches of Alfred Waterhouse's neo-romanesque building.

Weekends are spent at the family's house in Wiltshire. 'I don't really garden. I am afraid I'm not naturally a nurturing person, although having children has made me more so,' says Sarah. The weekends are her chance to focus exclusively on Daisy and Molly. 'I endeavour to teach them as much about the natural world as my father taught me.' A treat is to accompany James to auction-house sales in New York and smaller private views in European cities. Museums, markets and book or print fairs are added attractions. 'I seek out any shop selling taxidermy and unusual objects when I travel. In Paris, I always make a beeline to Deyrolle on rue du Bac. On rue de l'Université, I once bought a full human skeleton of "unknown provenance",' she says with a laugh. 'I realise how lucky I am. I feel that painting makes me a better mother and having children makes me a better painter' \Box

Sarah Graham: grahamgallery.co.uk | 'Sarah Graham: New Works' will be at Lyndsey Ingram, 17 East 76th Street, New York on November 12–20; lyndseyingram.com

THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE The bathroom is furnished with an Italian vellum screen from Rose Uniacke, a side table from James Graham-Stewart and a rug from Shahbaz Afridi, who provided all the rugs in the house. Sarah having lunch at The Pig's Ear pub in Chelsea. Sarah's bike parked outside her studio





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The many knots on one of The Rug Company's designs are finished by hand at a mill in Nepal

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THIS PAGE When Henri and her husband viewed the house, it was an empty shell, but they were able to replicate many of its Victorian features based on old photographs of the interiors. The arrangement of tiles in the hall was digitally designed and then sent to India to be made. OPPOSITE A view of the house from the drive -

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TEXT ELFREDA POWNALL | PHOTOGRAPHS LUCAS ALLEN | LOCATIONS EDITOR LIZ ELLIOT

1



In the sitting room, the Phillip Jeffries linen on the walls provides a calm base for the green and blue palette. The chaise longue and cushions are in Christopher Farr Cloth 'Carnival' fabric, picking up the green on the Designers Guild fabric of the curtains; the three tall windows required 85 metres of fabric. The double doors lead into the kitchen, while the ones to the right lead into the drawing room

The Iconic Interior





e were looking for a house in the country and one thing we knew for sure was that we didn't want to live as far away as Shropshire,' says the interior designer Henri Fitzwilliam-Lay as she swoops up the tree-lined drive of her Shropshire home in her 4x4, while pheasants skitter into the bushes. 'We

often visited my husband Hugh's sister, who lives up here, so I knew just how far it is from London,' she says. This house was an unexpected choice for a couple whose work is London-based, but it changed their minds and their lives – as well as those of their four daughters. A handsome brick and stone mansion, with a belvedere tower, Dutch gables and large stone-mullioned windows, it was built in 1856 and rebuilt, after a fire in 1878, in the florid neo-Jacobean style that reminded the Victorians of 'Merrie England' and the romances of Sir Walter Scott.

But how would its strong Victorian identity sit with the cool midtwentieth-century style that Henri's clients have come to love? That was the least of the couple's problems. When the house was sold after the Second World War, all the lead was stripped from the roof and everything that could be moved was sold at auction. After decades of decay, the roof rotted, the staircase fell in and a tree grew in the hall. The house became a venue for raves and wild parties. 'I've met a few people since we moved in who have come up to me with a knowing smile, remembering the times they had here,' Henri says. A local developer took on the place in the early 2000s and did sterling work replastering walls, remaking the roof and even recasting the bricks for its 38 chimneys. 'It was so sad for him,' she says. 'Though his was a well-run business, the credit crunch provoked him to sell – and we got lucky.' Their luck consisted of buying a building with no doors, no staircase and plastic sheeting at many of the windows.

They bought the house in 2009 and, after supervising the works in Shropshire from their home in France (the family had moved there for a year), Henri made two seemingly contradictory decisions: she revived

BOTH PAGES Henri worked with Holloways of Ludlow to design the marble-topped kitchen units, painted in Farrow & Ball's 'Railings'. The white subway tiles and marble herringbone flooring give the room an industrial edge. In the dining room (bottom), Henri introduced a noise-reducing, tented apex roof using a striped Ralph Lauren fabric, with the walls covered in the same stripe. The table and chairs were bought on Ebay and sit below pendant lights from Amy Somerville the Victorian character of the rooms by remaking their elaborate woodwork and ribbed plasterwork ceilings; and then she took the interior decoration in a completely different direction. 'As an American, I had a vision in my head of the perfect English country house, but it came from films or from David Hicks' decoration books of the Sixties,' she says. 'I don't do period houses, and I don't want to live the life of a country squire.' As a result, the house – despite its four-metre ceilings and grand rooms – is never intimidating.

Walking into the lettuce-green vestibule, it is hard to imagine the dark woodwork, heavy drapes and gasoliers of its original owners. Henri has kept the tall central hall relatively empty, with mid-century sputnik lights, brass-framed Sixties mirrors and a set of prints by the artist Antony Gormley, who is Hugh's uncle. 'In the stables, we discovered three spindles from the original staircase, which we had copied,' says Henri. As they march up the stairs, their chunky barley-sugar twist is perfectly in proportion with this impressive space.

But even the grand proportions of the hall do not prepare one for the majestic scale of the kitchen, which leads directly off it. White tiles gleam on the walls and four black lights from Trainspotters hang over the marble-topped island. These proportions are matched by three heavy-duty catering stoves, which are the preserve of Hugh, a keen cook. The family hangs out in this room and the sitting room next door.

One of three interconnecting rooms across the front of the house, the sitting room has a strong mix of periods and styles. Here, a faux bamboo round table and chairs and two Chinese lions on either side of the chimneypiece meet a Seventies Perspex coffee table and a pair of nineteenth-century cast-iron garden tables. Somehow it all blends perfectly.

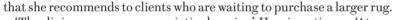
Henri was less than happy with the machine-sewn trim on the pelmets in the sitting room, so sitting on a ladder, she unpicked and sewed them back on by hand.

Next door, in the more formal drawing room, the tone is set by the warm ripe wheat colour of its hessian wallcovering. A collection of African masks blends with mid-century furniture and lamps. The carpet here, which came from Henri's London house, was too small for the room, so she has laid it over a larger one of inexpensive seagrass squares – a trick

The drawing room has a pair of bespoke sofas from Amy Somerville and a hammered brass Sixties coffee table from Odette Welvaars in Amsterdam in between them. The Beatles portraits in the adjacent sitting room are framed by the doorway







'The dining room was excruciatingly noisy,' Henri continues. 'At our first dinner party, you couldn't hear your neighbour.' So she tented the ceiling with Ralph Lauren fabric, filling the gap with chicken wire and insulation, covered the walls with the same striped fabric and hung huge brass lights just above the table. A fabric-covered jib door opens onto the dark and glamorous bar with a marble and brass cabinet, which is everyone's favourite room when she and Hugh entertain. But for sheer fun, even the bar cannot compete with her daughters' bedrooms: eight-yearold Edith has red-and-white-striped wallpaper, while Josephine, 16, enjoys a Fifties Riviera vibe, with tropical wallpaper, wasp-waisted straw lampshades and curvy, leopard-print headboards.

All is serene though in the main bedroom, which overlooks a ravishing landscape of unspoilt valleys and distant hills. Walls in a subtle grey green and curtains of the palest blue silk – the colour of a spring sky – make a backdrop for some beautiful things, including a gilded Chinese screen and sprays of brass leaves by Curtis Jeré. 'There's also a bit of a Thirties Japanese thing going on in here,' says Henri, opening the door to the glamorous main bathroom next door, its curvy cupboards covered in an oriental-style gold and white wallpaper.

When she and Hugh first met in New York, Henri was an art director in charge of fashion shoots. She had to be constantly aware of deadlines and of the need to plan but remain flexible – and to always have a plan B up her sleeve. She organised the decoration of the house with the same efficiency and acute eye for detail in design. This was a great help when, as the family moved into the unfinished house in October 2010, Hugh told her he had invited his entire family, all 27 of them, for Christmas. 'It was the nearest we got to the end of our marriage,' she says, laughing. But she got it done. 'And we had a great time' \Box

Henri Fitzwilliam-Lay: 07968-948053; henrifitzwilliamlay.com

THIS PAGE FROM TOP Bruno Triplet silk was used for the canopy bed in the main bedroom. Henri chose a Paul Smith for The Rug Company rug and had a cupboard covered in a Zuber paper to add warmth to the main bathroom. OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Josephine's room has panels of tropical Pierre Frey wallpaper, while Edith's room is papered in stripes by The Art of Wallpaper. A spare room. 'Pineapple' by Adelphi wallpaper from Claremont brightens up the cloakroom





MIDDLE GROUND

Finding a compromise between the minimalist tastes of its owner and her love of tactile fabrics and pattern, Rita Konig has subtly enhanced the airy interiors of this Manhattan house

TEXT LUCIE YOUNG | PHOTOGRAPHS PAUL MASSEY

BOTH PAGES Accessed through sliding pocket doors, the dining room has a Philippe Hurel table combined with chairs from Howe





The neutral palette of the walls, painted beams and Luke Irwin rug places the focus on the arched french windows, which open out onto the garden. Rita created a seating area by the chimneypiece with a compact sofa



In a corner of the dining room, a trunk from Guinevere provides storage space and doubles as an occasional table



The kitchen, with its glass-fronted cabinets revealing a display of glassware, is by Patti Seidman of Mullman Seidman Architects

t did not look like a match made in heaven: two people with diametrically opposed tastes. And how risky, when the two people are the owner of a house and the interior designer hired to work on it. 'Thank goodness I didn't have my website back then,'

says designer Rita Konig when discussing the house in New York. 'She might have taken a look and gone, "This isn't for me."' Rita is a self-professed lover of 'clutter and pattern', but the American owner, a documentary film-maker, describes herself as 'a clean-lined minimalist'. Her parents are Scottish and Danish and she grew up with elegantly spare Scandinavian furniture. 'Beautiful to look at, but not very comfortable,' she admits.

The pair first met through the English writer Plum Sykes, who was then working for American *Vogue*, before working together on the house bit by bit for nearly a decade. 'It is often more fun to work with someone whose style is completely different to your own,' says Rita. 'It's the people who say, "I love your style" who often don't really know what they want. Also, they probably don't really like your style and are just too embarrassed to say no.'

This owner found saying 'no' easy. She has very definite taste, but just did not have the time, patience, furniture or inclination to sort out the interior of her 420-squaremetre home in New York's Greenwich Village. She, her husband and their three children had relocated in 2007 from a smaller apartment nearby and she admits to having been totally flummoxed by the scale of her new place. 'I was very tempted to just fill it with a lot of spare leather furniture,' she jokes.

It was love at first sight when she saw the house - a classic 1899 four-storey brownstone that was only on the market for a day before she and her husband snapped it up. It is built like a giant layer cake with two bedroom floors (the children are at the top of the house and the adults a floor below) and two living floors (the high-ceilinged sitting room floor with its three giant windows and underneath that a spacious kitchen-living space that opens onto the garden at the back). For the owner, the important thing about the house is how it makes her feel - 'like living in a country house'. The sitting-room windows look out onto a verdant south-facing garden, which is 'very serene and quiet. You don't feel like you are in New York'.

The previous owners were French and had



Stairs lead directly from the sitting room up to the first floor. The Rug Company runner complements the dark wooden flooring



A chest of drawers from Long Island antique dealer Jonathan Burden is used as a drinks table. The slim lamp has a shade from Lucy Cope



Fortuny 'Persiano' cotton, now discontinued, was used to make the blinds for the three large windows in the sitting room. Having discovered Jacques Adnet through Rita, the owner now has a piece by the French designer in almost every room - here it is a pair of round tables. The Clifford Ross picture above the chimneypiece was bought at New York gallery Sonnabend



The main bedroom has walls painted with faux panelling. The French-style armchair is from Anthony Lawrence-Belfair



In the adjacent bathroom, similarly painted walls conceal storage and add to the country theme found throughout the house

impeccable – if somewhat formal – taste. The current owner, who grew up in France, admired their style and also the structural changes they had made, such as the slim spiralling staircase, arched windows and hand-painted beams in the kitchen-living space. In many areas, like the kitchen and the main bathroom, she did not feel the need to change much, if anything. But she knew that she needed help buying furniture and pulling the interior together.

When Rita arrived, she immediately found the interior plan verging on stark. The owner had warned her that she did not want pattern, but Rita thought this was negotiable. To soften up the austere main bedroom, with its grey faux panelling, she upholstered the bed in a delicate two-tone Italian fabric by Idarica Gazzoni. The pattern is then repeated on a sheer window blind. The owner was pleasantly surprised. Emboldened, Rita introduced a mauve-grey Luke Irwin rug, which she describes as 'like a sky with streaked clouds that were dragged by a comb'. But the rest of the room is monochrome. Rita upholstered the chairs in simple grey linen, because, she says, 'I had used up my pattern ration at that point'.

To Rita, the sitting room is full of 'creamy, light deliciousness'. The three big picture windows are fabulous and she worked to enhance their presence. The heavy drapes the previous owners left behind were removed and replaced with dappled blinds in a Fortuny fabric. Window seats were added and the owner's red leather Danish sofa – a family heirloom – is positioned in front of them.

In the dining room on the ground floor, Rita had a console table built to match the Philippe Hurel 'Datcha' table, used as an extension to accommodate larger parties. Over the years, she has also honed in on French designs the owner might enjoy, filling one wall with drawings by French cartoonist Jean-Jacques Sempé and introducing her to art-deco modernist Jacques Adnet. Now almost every room in the house has several of his lights or tables.

The most special moment for Rita was the day the owner turned to her and said, 'I want something frillier'. Before she could change her mind, Rita quickly introduced the idea of lace sheets. 'She is definitely in touch with her inner luxury now,' she grins. The owner agrees that they have found a middle ground - one suspects they thrive on the quirks of their eccentric pairing. And so the project continues. Last year, a basement was dug to accommodate a bedroom suite for the owner's teenage daughter and a roof terrace is planned. 'If a house keeps changing with you, you keep it alive,' Rita says, adding with a chuckle, 'but if I had gone to her with all this at the beginning, she might have fainted' \Box

Rita Konig: 020-3735 7280; ritakonig.com

For the owner, the important thing about the house is how it makes her feel – 'like living in a country house'

The bed is covered in Idarica Gazzoni's Mughal-inspired 'Day Screen' fabric and has bed linen from Monogrammed Linen Shop. The side table is by Christian Liaigre and the rug from Luke Irwin

LIGHT TOUCH

Having inherited this house in the South of France, Anne-Marie Midy has skilfully updated it, while retaining the charming feel she and her brother remembered from their childhood

TEXT HATTA BYNG | PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON UPTON

THIS PAGE Stone steps lead down from the house to the terrace garden, where Mexican textiles add colour to the seating area. The bronze donkey on the level above was bought by Anne-Marie's father. OPPOSITE Anne-Marie with her husband Jorge Almada, their sons Antoine and Olivier, and her brother Emmanuel and his family



ost of us – or those reading a magazine such as this – are itching to get our hands on a renovation project, and none more so, usually, than Anne-Marie Midy. She and her husband, Jorge Almada, are the talented

duo behind Casamidy, which produces distinctive furniture hand-crafted by Mexican artisans. They are certainly not shy of a project, having created numerous beautiful homes for themselves filled with bespoke pieces, in Paris (where Anne-Marie grew up), Brussels (featured in *House & Garden*'s December 2011 issue) and Mexico (where Jorge was born).

But for Anne-Marie, taking on this house in Saint-Paulde-Vence was slightly different. Lou Miedjou was built by her great-grandfather in the Twenties, on land bought from the Roux family, owners of La Colombe d'Or hotel and restaurant, and she and her brother, Emmanuel, inherited it from their father in 2008. It is bound up with memories of happy holidays throughout her childhood and teens, and of her beloved grandmother, who herself had a keen eye for beautiful things. 'I was scared to change it,' says Anne-Marie. 'I was nervous I would pull away its soul.' She talks nostalgically of the smell of orange blossom, lunches on the terrace and stone floor tiles damp from the August rain. hillside, Anne-Marie's great-grandfather did not want it to attract too much attention. But it has a grace, with its wonderful loggia, perched high above the cobbled street below and with spectacular views of the Mediterranean. It also has its charming quirks, such as the ingenious winch installed by Anne-Marie's great-grandfather and still used today to haul up luggage and groceries, so that you do not have to carry them up the many uneven stone steps that ascend to the house. Outdoor meals are eaten in the shade of bougainvillea at a table her father created by placing a sheet of glass on top of an old stone well.

In the end, some change was a necessity. Built with almost no foundations, the house was literally starting to slide down the hill, woodwork was rotting and the plumbing had been undermined by a tree. The house needed to be saved.

Old family albums were helpful, providing not only visual references but also reassurance. Anne-Marie could see the touches her grandmother had brought to the house when she inherited it – including adding bathrooms and changing wall colours. 'I realised it is OK to love the house in your own way,' she muses. While Anne-Marie and Emmanuel's aim was to tread lightly, restoring the structure to its original appearance, they were also able to bring the house up to date, to suit the way that they live now.

It is not a large house. As it was one of the earliest on the

THIS PAGE A view of the house from the bottom terrace. OPPOSITE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Anne-Marie's father made the table in the outdoor dining area. The main entrance. The curved plaster staircase, next to which sits the dining area (middle right). An elegant loose cover lifts a Provençal chair in the sitting room, which has a blue and red colour palette (also bottom centre and middle left). From here, doors open onto the loggia (bottom left)





































To make the most of the wonderful views and provide space for a barbecue, they created a larger paved terrace and seating area in front of the house. Iron benches were made by the Casamidy craftsmen specifically to take offthe-peg cushions Anne-Marie could buy locally and therefore replace regularly. 'This is a house where we have fun and relax; it needs to be practical and stress-free. The kids need to be able to sit down with wet trunks without us worrying.' At the bottom of the terraced garden is the pool, which Anne-Marie's grandmother added – here Anne-Marie turned a dining area into a covered seating area.

Internally, they were able to incorporate what had been the caretaker's apartment into the house, creating an extra bedroom and a television room. They also moved the dining table out of the sitting room and into the hall. And upstairs the twin beds found in every room were replaced with doubles – other than those in the bedroom of Olivier, 11, and Antoine, 10 – to make the house more comfortable.

Decoratively, Anne-Marie's touch was perhaps even lighter. As much as possible, she tried to match the wall colours to those that her grandmother had used, keeping the bedrooms the same subtle colours, but in some adding 'ribbons' of colour to outline the architecture and 'dress the room'. She bought little furniture for the house, instead working with the existing furniture. She re-covered the sofas in the sitting room and choose a blue Sunbrella fabric for the chairs in the loggia, recalling a specific blue that her grandmother had used. In the sitting room, she had elegant loose covers made to lift two Provençal chairs that had rather gloomy needlepoint seats. Her two sons sleep in the same 'squishy' beds of Anne-Marie's childhood, albeit re-covered.

Every cupboard is filled with collections of local artisanal ceramics, glass and linen collected by Anne-Marie's grandmother, which she continues to add to. 'I'm always buying things – it's a bad habit,' she admits. 'I often don't know how I'm going to use something and it can sit in the cupboard for ages, eventually gaining a new life.' Now, vividly coloured Mexican textiles mix comfortably with Provençal table linen and throws, adding a sense of fun to outdoor seating.

With renovations complete, Anne-Marie says she's now waiting for it all to grow old again. But for those of us who did not know it before, the Lou Miedjou of today feels perfectly timeless and at ease with itself, reminiscent of a different era without being staid or tired, with little touches that lift it and ensure it moves forward as every house should \Box

Casamidy: casamidy.com

OPPOSITE ANTICLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The pool and pool house. The hallway to the spare rooms. Framed images of Saint-Paul-de-Vence hangs in a bedroom. Casamidy's 'Hacienda' silver-leaf headboard provides a focal point in another bedroom. The curved main bedroom (also top right). The sons' room. 'Ribbons' of colour decorate the walls. Anne-Marie below the house (centre). THIS PAGE The barbecue terrace, with its view of the town

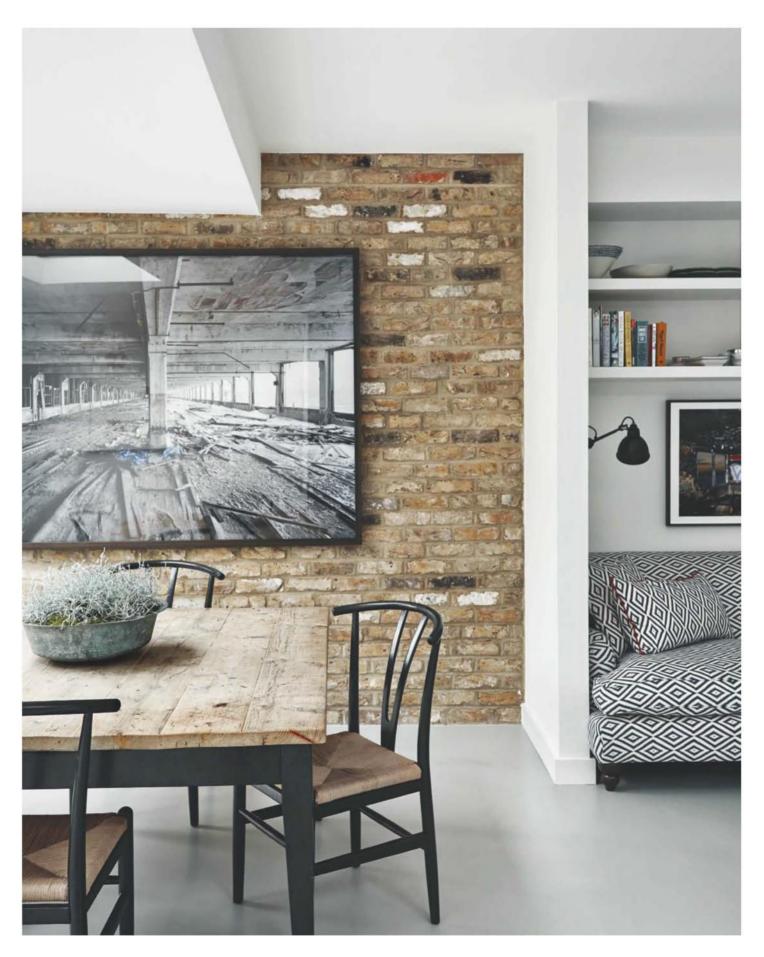


WHATLIES BENEATH

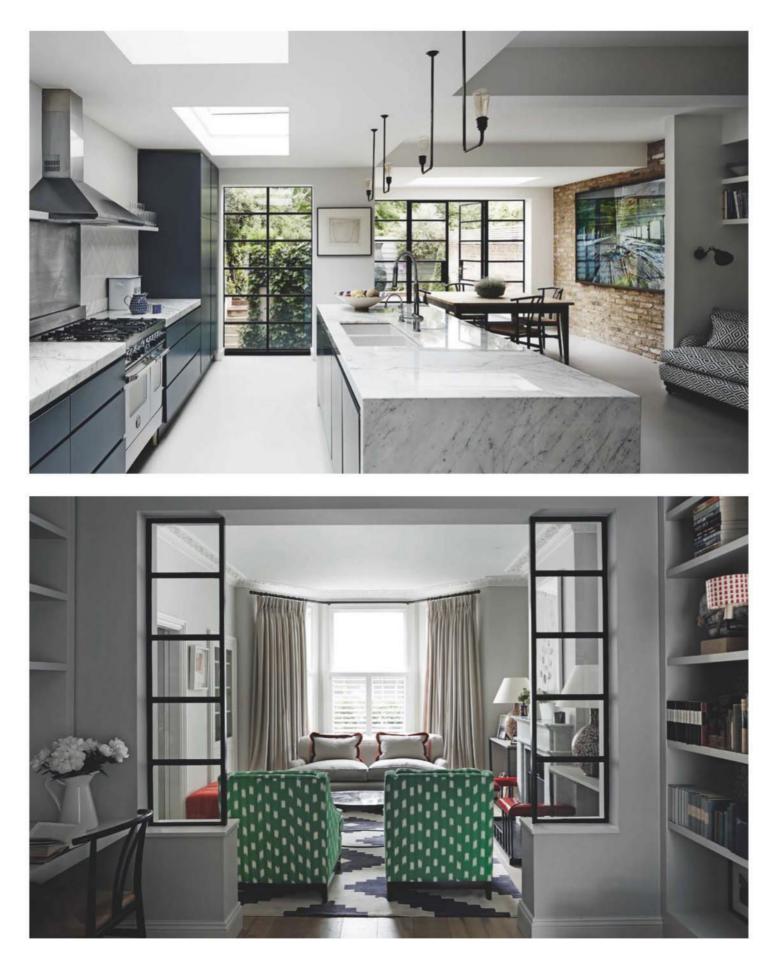
The addition of a large basement extension to this west London house has freed up space on the upper floors for bright and capacious rooms, and a more fluid layout ideal for family living

TEXT JENNIFER GOULDING | PHOTOGRAPHS SHARYN CAIRNS | LOCATIONS EDITOR LIZ ELLIOT



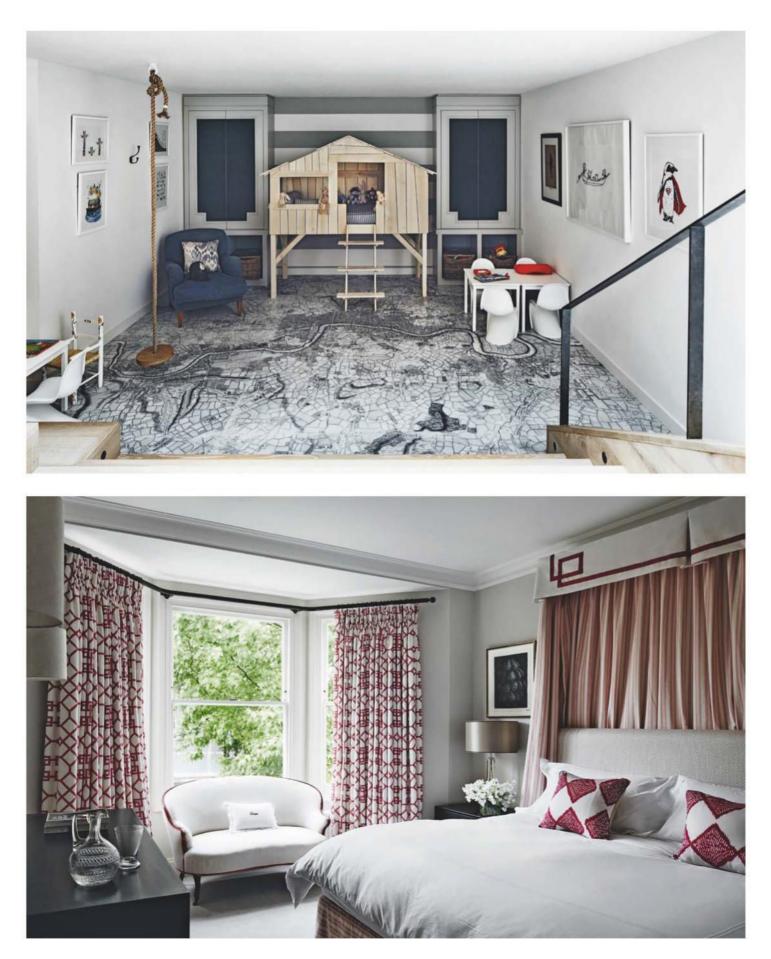


BOTH PAGES In the open-plan kitchen on the ground floor, natural finishes, including an exposed brick wall, a wooden table from A&L Antiques and wooden stools from Pearl River in the US, add warmth to the clean white walls and polished concrete floor. Large photographs decorate the space, including one by Yves Marchand (opposite) and Romain Meffre on the brick wall, while Bennison Fabrics' 'Little Aztec' linen on the sofa adds a dose of pattern to the room



THIS PAGE FROM TOP The lights above the marble kitchen island were sourced by Light House Designs. At the front of the house on the ground floor is the more formal of the two sitting rooms. OPPOSITE Slim Crittall windows and two matching monochrome rugs demarcate the two sitting areas, which in turn lead through to the kitchen. Artworks by Henry Brudenell-Bruce and David Hockney hang above the chimneypiece and beside the desk respectively





FROM TOP The playroom, in the new basement, has a lime-wood treehouse bed by François Lamazerolles, available from The Conran Shop. Kravet's 'XU Garden' linen in the orkid colourway has been used for the curtains in the main bedroom. OPPOSITE FROM TOP The garden. In Martha's bedroom, the ceiling has been painted to look like a circus tent, using Farrow & Ball's 'Rectory Red' and Paint and Paper Library's 'Slate I'. Built-in cupboards complement the bathroom's shutters CONJURING LARGE, LIGHT-FILLED SPACES FROM LONDON'S MODEST PERIOD HOUSES IS NOT ARCHITECTURE'S NEWEST TRICK. So approaching this semi-detached Edwardian house in Ladbroke Grove, I am fully prepared for something more than is promised by its pretty, red-brick façade. Nonetheless, once inside, I am astonished by the sheer scale of the interior. 'It is a real iceberg house,' says Natalie Benes of Stiff + Trevillion, the architects who returned the house from two flats into a single dwelling, extended the rear and added a basement. 'We have almost doubled the living space without changing the character of the house from the street.'

Much is owed to the capacious basement, the largest of the floors, which comprises a family room and imaginative playroom (complete with swing and slide), plus a utility room and nanny flat. 'It is the real triumph of the house – it doesn't feel subterranean,' says Claire Spencer-Churchill, who shares the house with her husband Dominic and their two children Martha, four, and Ivor, two. Claire admits that the possibility of spending a large part of their budget on a 'dark dungeon that no one wanted to use' did worry her. As did the idea of a cold, white box. 'My dad, Jamie Troughton, is an amazing architect, but his style is very minimalist. Growing up, our sitting room was a big, white room with Renzo Piano lights and two white sofas – very cool, but very stark.'

An elegant suspended timber staircase with iron balustrades helps to integrate the basement into the house and improve the flow between floors. 'It feels open and part of the ground floor, but also quite sculptural and visually light,' explains Natalie. With so many of the family's needs met by the new basement, Stiff + Trevillion could devote a substantial part of the ground floor to the kitchen. 'Our garden backs onto the gardens of Martha's school, so we have a lovely view of greenery. It is a cliché, but we wanted to bring the outside in,' notes Claire. Hence the Crittall doors and the exposed brick wall.

The rest of the ground floor is devoted to a two-part sitting room: one formal, for entertaining or reading by the fire; the other for relaxing in front of the television. Entering the house, the sitting rooms are on the left; to the right are the original stairs to the first floor and a hallway leading to the kitchen, with views all the way to the garden. The informal sitting room also has access to the kitchen, which gives the entire floor a pleasing circular flow. Martha and Ivor's bedrooms and a bathroom are on the first floor, with the main bedroom and bathroom and a spare room above.

Credit for the look of the house is shared with design duo Bunny Turner and Emma Pocock. As Natalie puts it, 'We designed the bones of the building and Turner Pocock gave them flesh.' Happily, they were involved early in the process, reviewing the floor plans and advising on modifications and joinery. The decoration is a cool blend of contemporary yet comfortable furnishings, bold fabrics in jewel-like colours with strong geometric patterns, enriched with the company's signature attention to detail. 'We can't let a sofa go without adding a contrasting piping, or a drinks cabinet without lining the inside with wallpaper. It adds interest and looks considered without feeling too put together,' says Bunny. There is also a sense of fun. 'We are never too serious, and this had to be a practical family house.'

Originally, Claire intended to do the decoration herself. 'Rather naively, I thought it would be enjoyable. To begin, I went to a Graham & Green warehouse sale somewhere on the A4O. It was a complete bun fight and I felt totally overwhelmed. I came back with one armchair that now lives in the playroom and said to Dom, "We are going to need help."' The couple could have turned to Dominic's mother, design doyenne Jane Churchill, but opted instead for friends Bunny and Emma. 'At that stage, Mum and Claire did not know each other that well and I did not want Claire to feel she had to go along with Mum's suggestions,' says Dominic. 'It was our first family home and I wanted it to be just about us.'

When asked whether she and Bunny felt intimidated, Emma's response is: 'Dom understands the value of interior design – and what other man would be happy with a pink bedroom?' 'Everyone was quite surprised that I jumped on the pink,' says Dominic. Claire also regards his confidence and hands-on approach to the house as a bonus. 'Dom would insist on extra meetings regarding the laundry room. He understands the importance of making rooms work in a way I'd never considered. As a result, I never felt any pressure.'

That's not to say the decisions were one-sided; Claire also has a discerning eye honed from her work in fashion. 'Dom and Claire shared objectives for the decoration and they have similar taste,' says Bunny. 'They didn't want the house to be conventional and were willing to make brave choices. They were very open to new ideas.' And what does the man who learnt at the knee of the great Jane Churchill think? 'Bunny and Emma have done an exceptional job and we'll stay here for years,' he says. Phew \Box







Stiff + Trevillion: 020-8960 5550; stiffandtrevillion.com Turner Pocock: 020-3463 2390; turnerpocock.co.uk

The KNOWLEDGE





1 FRINGE

The ottomans and pelmet in the sitting room of this house in Shropshire are edged with a hand-tied tassel fringe from Les Passementeries de l'île de France. Henri Fitzwilliam-Lay used the 'Samarkand' fringe in the bleu glacon colourway to pick up the other blues and greens in the room. It costs £97 a metre, from Turnell & Gigon. 020-7259 7280; turnellandgigon.com

2 CHAIR

Five original bentwood chairs by nineteenthcentury furniture designer Michael Thonet sit in the kitchen. Henri sourced them from Sigmar. Thonet's iconic designs are still made today and the '209 Bentwood Armchair', pictured, is available from Aram. The beech chair measuring 75 x 57 x 54cm is £734.020-77515801; sigmarlondon.com 020-7557 7557; aram.co.uk

3 STONE FLOOR Henri mapped out the design for the stone flooring in the hall and corridor by computer and had the tiles made in India. For a similar woven tile design, try Lapicida, which makes custom-cut stone floors. Pictured here is the 'Basket Weave' design, made from travertine, a pale-coloured form of limestone. It costs £590 a square metre. 020-30121000; lapicida.com





MIDDLE GROUND Pages 180-187

1 LIGHT The mouth-blown 'Word Pendant' is by US designer Alison Berger, who specialises in glass work. It illuminates the dining table in this Manhattan house. Made from clear crystal, the pendant is hand-etched with words from Leonardo da Vinci's theories. Measuring 32 x 28cm diameter, it costs £6,950, from Holly Hunt. 020-7399 3280; hollyhunt.com

2 RUG A Christopher Farr rug picks up the warmer tones in the sitting room. The hand-knotted 'Untitled - Conf 197' is made from handspun Anatolian wool and mohair in different colours and sizes. This one measures 300 x 200cm and costs £6,276.020-7349 0888; christopher farr.com

3 SOFA

The leather sofa in the sitting room is a 1962 design by the Danish furniture designer Børge Mogensen. The high-sided '2212' design is still made by Fredericia in a range of leathers. Pictured in black leather, it measures 80 x 158 x 81cm and costs £9,280, from Twentytwentyone. 020-7288 1996; twentytwentyone.com

Inspired by the houses in this issue, ELIZABETH METCALFE gives directions on how to achieve similar style



LIGHT TOUCH Pages 188-193

1_QUILT

Many of the beds in Anne-Marie Midy's Saint-Paul-de-Vence house are topped with pretty auilts, which add colour to the neutral palettes. For something similar, choose Oka's pale blue 'Sheherezade **Reversible Cotton** Quilt', which measures 260 x 215cm and costs £275.0844-815 7380: oka.com

2_BED

The upholstered antique French beds in Anne-Marie's sons' bedroom belonged to her grandmother. For a new version, choose Loaf's hand-carved oak 'Coco French Bed'. The headboard comes in over 140 fabrics, including cotton, linen, velvet and wool. The single, pictured with a natural cotton-linen headboard, measures 117 x 213 x 92cm and costs £625.0845-468 0698; loaf.com

3_PAINT

Anne-Marie had the soft paint colours mixed to match the wall colours previously in the house. She had a red border painted on the blue walls of the hallway. For similar colours, try Paint & Paper Library's powder blue 'Spur' and 'Very Well Read'. A 2.5-litre tin of architects' matt paint costs £50.0845-880 5844; paintandpaper library.com



WHAT LIES BENEATH Pages 194-199

1_FABRIC

Designers Bunny Turner and Emma Pocock upholstered the Ben Whistler armchair in the sitting room of this London house in Sanderson's geometric 'Ooti' cotton. The bold emerald colourway enlivens the space. The handwoven tiedved fabric comes in seven additional colours and costs £76 a metre. benwhistler.com 0844-543 4749; sanderson-uk.com

2 VASE **Owners Dominic** and Claire Spencer-Churchill chose a drystone slate vase by sculptor Joe Smith for their garden. Joe's vases use slate gathered in British guarries. All are one-offs, but you could commission a similar vase. This one measures 152 x 50cm diameter and costs £2,800, including installation. 01556-690632; joe-smith.co.uk

3 CLUB FENDER The club fender in the sitting room was made by Acres Farm, a Berkshire-based specialist. It is upholstered in Whistler Leather's 'Verbier' in the kings colourway, which costs £16.50 a square foot. This 'Curved Dip' fender is 152.5cm wide and costs £1,920. 0118-974 4305; acresfarm.co.uk 020-7352 4186: whistlerleather.com

This page: Wool being spun. Opposite: The creation of the unique Tibetan knot uses a temporary rod around which the yarn is looped and then cut

R

1

PAR BULLE DAT

the



DAVID NICHOLLS travels to Nepal, where he visits the carpet workshops used by The Rug Company, and discovers how the partnership between the UK-based firm and local weavers has fared since 2015's earthquakes





Designs are mapped out onto scale graph paper

1

Dyed yarns that have dried on the rooftops are collected

> Students from a school connected to one of the mills during a cultural performance

The pattern is cut into the pile of the rugs

The design is pin-pricked into wax paper and laid on top of the rug. The surface is covered in chalk dust, which creates a template

Dyed wool is inspected for consistency



ext to Kathmandu's Hyatt Regency hotel, the once-manicured lawns of a large park are now dusty and worn bare, covered with corrugated steel shelters. There are hundreds of them, housing thousands of people who fled some of the villages that were destroyed in Nepal's two earthquakes a year earlier. Nine thousand people died;

hundreds of thousands became homeless. To the visitor's eye, and no doubt to the families living here and at other sites like it, recovery and regeneration seem a long way off. It is difficult to imagine anyone in the area who has not been deeply affected.

I am here to visit some of the weaving mills The Rug Company works with to produce its designs. Ninety per cent of what The Rug Company sells is made in Nepal and, in terms of volume and value, it is the country's largest exporter of hand-knotted rugs. That sector, in turn, is Nepal's second largest export commodity and one of the largest sources of industrial employment in a country where the unemployment rate is nearly 50 per cent. If this industry were to take a hard knock, the implications would be vast.

Rewind to 1997, when The Rug Company founders Christopher and Suzanne Sharp visited the Kathmandu Valley in search of producers to create their designs. Although largely made by Nepali weavers, the rugs are commonly referred to as Tibetan because the industry was born with the arrival of Tibetan refugees fleeing





Chinese occupation in 1959. This traditional folk art earned many émigrés their livelihood, with the rugs selling initially to European and American tourists, and eventually to the global market.

'Some of the factories were really grim,' Christopher recalls of his first visit. Working conditions were often poor, child labour was rife and there were few regulations concerning environmental impact. 'We've always known we have a social responsibility,' he says. Add to this the fact that Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world and in its recent history has faced civil war, political turmoil, paralysing industrial action and fuel blockades, and one can see it is a country where doing business can be a challenge.

When first setting up the business, Christopher and Suzanne realised there were more immediate obstacles to overcome. One mill owner would not work with The Rug Company until he had first checked with his lama – a spiritual leader in Tibetan Buddhism. Another initially declared they would not be able to work together because The Rug Company's modern designs were simply 'too ugly' compared to the rugs he normally produced. Eventually he was persuaded to change his mind. This, of course, turned out to be Christopher and Suzanne's great skill – applying the area's weaving talent to Suzanne's designs and later those from a roll call of designers, from Paul Smith and Alexander McQueen to Kelly Wearstler and Thom Browne.

So why, throughout all this, and when low-cost and large-scale manufacturing in neighbouring countries began to lure away so many other businesses, did The Rug Company continue to produce its rugs in Nepal? The answer, says Christopher, is quality. The rugs are completely handmade, from spinning the wool and mixing the pigments for dyeing, to weaving, carving, trimming, washing and finishing. The 'Tibetan knot', where yarn is tied around two warp threads and a metal rod, is unique to the area and a particularly quick technique. Even so, a 274 x 183cm rug requires 777,600 individual knots and the work of 27 people over

'It is a business, and these people are incredibly skilled and work hard to create very special things'

a period of 90 days. The attention to detail is extraordinary and the results evidenced by the company's remarkable success.

Nepal is a deeply religious country, predominantly Hindu but with a significant Tibetan Buddhist community. In comparison with most Western countries, religion plays a far more immediate role in people's day-to-day lives. The circumambulation of shrines and almsgiving at temples is done regularly by young and old. Some Nepalese look back on the earthquakes in terms of the nation's great fortune rather than terrible luck: the fact that the first struck on a Saturday, the one day all schools were closed. meant an uncountable loss of children's lives was avoided. When describing the need for cooperation between management and weavers, two mill owners used a phrase based on a Zen Buddhist parable: 'It takes two hands to clap.' Tsering Dolkar, whose Tibetan refugee father founded one of the weaving houses with which The Rug Company works, explains, 'If you have compassion for your employees, you will have an environment that is more conducive to work.' Their large facility provides housing for all the weavers and has built an on-site school for their children.

The phrase makes me think of the relationship between The Rug Company and its manufacturing partners in Nepal, and the social responsibility that Christopher had mentioned. The company has been a licensee of GoodWeave, the non-profit organisation with the aim of stopping child labour in the carpet industry, since 2007. For the past seven years, The Rug Company's head of production Caroline Kent has sat on GoodWeave's standards committee for policy development. Five years ago, Caroline also put in place a free mobile medical clinic, run in conjunction with a hospital attached to a Buddhist monastery.

The weavers, who work in teams of two to four people on a loom, are paid by how much they weave and can be reluctant to take time out to seek medical attention. Respiratory problems are a common complaint, due to the chronic vehicle pollution linked to the Kathmandu Valley's rapid urbanisation. The doctor on duty the day I visited the clinic explained that anxiety disorder has become more prevalent since the earthquakes. In fact, mental health issues across Nepal have grown exponentially, not least because, for months, aftershocks made many afraid to sleep indoors.

There has been some criticism of the Nepali government's use of the estimated $\pounds 3$ billion of international pledges since the earthquake. At the time of writing this, it was reported that not a single house has been rebuilt by the government. Like many NGOs, as well as other foreign companies whose workforce is based in Nepal, The Rug Company played a proactive role in ensuring the safety of its partners. Christopher and Caroline were in London when they heard the news and frantically tried to reach their colleagues in Nepal. 'Our priority was to understand what they needed,' recalls Christopher.

On one level, of course, what was needed was money. The Rug Company donated through the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC), which contributed to the broader needs of the country. But it also sent money to each of the mills to buy food, water and cooking equipment for the weavers. None of these facilities was significantly damaged, but many of the weavers' families lived in



rural areas of the valley, which were badly hit. Funds were put aside to help some of them travel to these areas, not knowing what they would find. Others stayed in the city, and those who needed it were put up in tents on the grounds of the mills.

Just as important, however, was the company's assurance of loyalty to the weaving houses. 'When Christopher phoned, he told us not to worry and that they would do what they could to help,' says Dhan Bahadur Tamang, who owns one of the weaving houses. 'That allowed us to focus on what we had to do.' The four mills with which The Rug Company works ceased production and clients were told they would have to wait for their rugs. Production stopped for about a month while the dust, if not the earth, settled. Shortly after the earthquake, Christopher and Caroline arrived in Kathmandu to see how else they could help. However, Christopher is also quick to distance himself from any suggestion that The Rug Company is some sort of benevolent society. 'I want to move away from the idea that what we are doing in Nepal is some sort of charity,' he says. 'It is a business and these people are incredibly skilled and work hard to create very special things.'

Eleven months after Christopher and Caroline's visit, I accompany them to the same sites, where patterns are once again emerging from the thousands of knots made by teams of weavers. We visit the dyeing centre, where brilliant colours are created by the 'dye master', and the hilltop facility where finished rugs are washed and dried in the open air. Their next destination could be anywhere; The Rug Company has 23 showrooms on four continents. They will take with them a history of a craft, of exile and resilience, and the ongoing story of a country where the sound of two hands clapping is the beat to which the nation is being rebuilt. It is woren into each of these rugs, knot by knot by knot \Box

The Rug Company: therugcompany.com





capturing the astrong

Garden designer Catherine FitzGerald traces the history of the gardens at Glin Castle on Ireland's west coast, which has been in her family for centuries

PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREA JONES



The garden front of the castle in the evening sun, with the Shannon Estuary in the background. Bay trees clipped into Gothic points define the terrace and the giant *Pinus radiata*, planted in the 1890s, shields it from the estuary winds

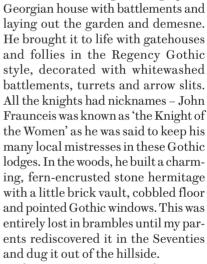
HOUSEANDGARDEN.CO.UK OCTOBER 2016 209

he Shannon Estuary is a formidable piece of water: tidal for 60 miles, it drains a huge proportion of Ireland's boggy interior. From October onwards, its mouth is open to the full force of the Atlantic; salt-laden winds blow up its length. Some 20 miles in from the open sea, on the southern shore, lies my family home, Glin Castle, which robustly faces the estuary. Bow-fronted, with cardboard cut-out castellations, it stands on a plain strip of parkland looking out to the rocky foreshore. On still and misty evenings, the cry of the curlew and lapwing conjure up all the wonderful loneliness of Ireland's west coast in winter.

On the inland side of the castle, tucked away and facing south, is an utterly different world. Here, a special microclimate prevails, provided by the sheltering trees, the façade of the castle and the effect of the Gulf Stream, which washes the nearby shores of the North Kerry coastline. Without heavy winter frosts, exotic plants thrive in the dense clay soil, which is enriched each winter with thick blankets of crumbly composted leaves.

The FitzGeralds settled at nearby Shanid Castle in the 1200s following the Norman invasion. By 1600, besieged by Elizabeth I's forces, who sailed up the Shannon and bombarded the original Glin Castle, we were on the run. The present castle was built in the 1780s by John Bateman FitzGerald, the 23rd Knight of Glin, when he married an heiress from Forde Abbey in Dorset. But quite soon they were bankrupt from high living and never quite finished the house, leaving it to his son John Fraunceis FitzGerald to revive the family fortunes.

He was imaginative and ambitious, castellating the large plain



The story continues in the 1890s with the marriage of Lady Rachel Wyndham-Quin of nearby Adare Manor to the Big Knight – the 27th Knight of Glin. Her father, the 4th

THIS PAGE: THE GRASS IS GREENER

The white lime-washed bathing lodge (top) is said to have housed one of the 24th knight's mistresses. Catherine and her mother Olda in front of a plywood mock-up of an obelisk made as a tribute to her father Desmond (centre). The formal garden, made by Catherine's grandmother Veronica (bottom)

OPPOSITE: BURSTS OF COLOUR A red admiral butterfly on an agastache flower (top left). Catherine and her dog Sooty in the kitchen garden (top right). Cosmos and aconitum in the herbaceous border on a misty October morning (centre left). The herbaceous border is

planted with sedum, aster, *Echium pininana* and swathes of pheasant grass (bottom)



Earl of Dunraven, was a politician, traveller and keen gardener. She planted William Lobb's introductions from Chile; the magnificent *Drimys winteri* with its shaggy canopies, which froth with waxy cream-coloured flowers each spring; the crinodendrons all decorated with scarlet Chinese lanterns in early summer; and the Chilean myrtle *Luma apiculata* with its ice-cool cinnamon bark. From North America came the seeds of the now giant stand of thuya and the Monterey pine, which shelters the house to the east.

My earliest memories are of my grandmother Veronica. She would set out purposefully to deadhead the rhododendrons and I would watch mesmerised by her elegant tapering fingers as she deftly snapped off their heads. In the Thirties, she had laid out the paths and lawns of the formal garden, which lie directly behind the house, centring them on a stone sundial surrounded by a clipped yew hedge. Behind it – the pivot of the whole plan – stands the most perfect vase-shape *Parrotia persica* tree. It starts to take on a rose-coloured tint in August – an early whiff of autumn and of the scarlet and orange to come. She built the low scooping Arts and Crafts wall that separates the formal garden from the meadowy hill. In spring, it lights up with a thousand delicate pale yellow daffodils sent by the Dorrien-Smiths of Tresco Abbey.

My father Desmond returned in the Seventies with my mother Olda, who fell in love with the kitchen garden and began to restore it with gardener Tom Wall's help. She found the old paths, created divisions from espaliered fruit trees and added topiary for structure. The plots were dug and planted with artichokes, asparagus, sea kale, 'Cut and Come' (another kind of kale, known

locally as 'Hungry Gap'), rhubarb, sweet peas, cornflowers, lovage and borage. The garden came alive with bees (Tom kept several hives) and the sound of birds nesting in the ivy on the wonky, licheny walls and in the eaves of the nearby stone farmyard.

My mother also put back the herbaceous border, with a vibrant mix of perennials, annuals and bulbs: her favourite cosmos, lupins, sweet williams, lilies. Later we embellished it with swathes of sedum and pheasant grass, and aconitums that flower into the autumn. Hundreds of red admirals hover over the giant blue echiums, which seed everywhere beneath the shelter of the wall. My father designed wooden Gothic temples for niches in the walls, which Tom built, using old telegraph poles for the columns.



My parents would rent out the main house in summer, while writing scholarly books and lecturing abroad. Later, they started a wonderful country-house hotel in the castle. Meanwhile, my two sisters and I roamed the place – making dens in the rhododendron bushes, climbing the Monterey pine and wading in the rushing, stony stream that skirts the garden.

The garden got under my skin and I caught the bug. Keen to create more interest in the main garden, I have planted feverishly. I found different coloured Japanese acers useful for lighting up shady areas, along with shuttlecock ferns and *Hydrangea* paniculata 'Limelight'. On the edges of lawns, there is now a flurry of magnolia – *M. kobus, soulangeana* 'Alba Superba', 'Merrill', 'Leonard Messel', 'Wada's Memory', and the wonderful pale yellow 'Elizabeth'. Dogwoods thrive here – *Cornus capitata* seeds itself around and I am adding to the collection with *C. kousa* var. *chinensis*, *C.* 'Porlock' and *C.* 'Norman Hadden'. The eucryphia flower spectacularly in August, along with my favourite hydrangeas: eye-popping cobalt 'Blaumeise' and the white mophead 'Mme Emile Mouillère', with its raspberry blotches.

We have planted pools of bulbs underneath the fern-encrusted

We have planted pools of bulbs underneath the branches of the Killarney oaks branches of the Killarney oaks: snake's head fritillaries, anemones, dog's tooth violets, trilliums and swathes of leucojums, which follow the wild garlic. We spend all our holidays at Glin and my husband and four children are

often dragooned into jobs such as clearing the brambles from the stream's edge and moving dormant chunks of engulfing gunnera.

Glin has always had a precarious existence. The hotel closed after the financial crisis of 2008 and my father, the 29th Knight, died in 2011. We found ourselves once again in rocky waters, with the future of the place unsure. Our hope now is to re-establish the house with rentals, events and garden tours. Perhaps one day my son Senan may become the 30th Knight of Glin. As the ancient Gaelic FitzGerald war cry goes: Shanid a Boo! Shanid forever! \Box

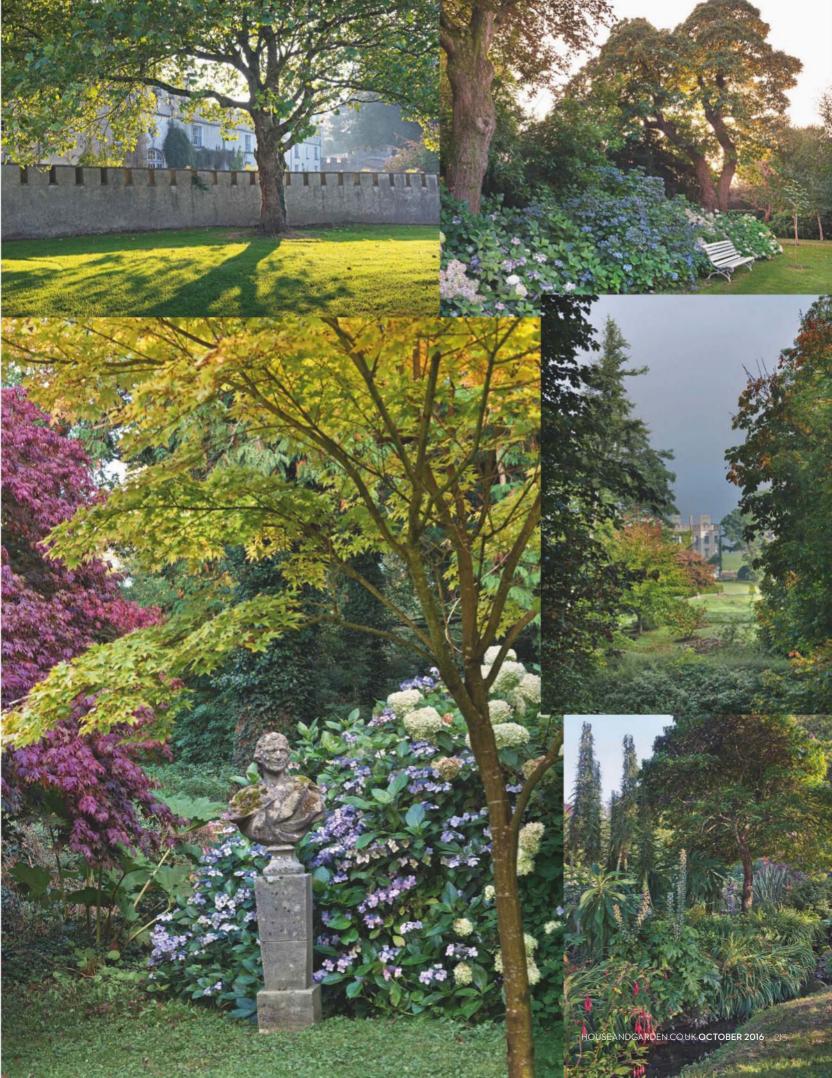
Catherine FitzGerald Landscape Design: catherinefitzgerald.co.uk

THIS PAGE: A QUIET SPOT TO SIT

A wooden Gothic temple designed by Catherine's father in the kitchen garden. It is flanked by *Taxus baccata* 'Standishii' and box hedges surround beds of *Rosa rugosa* 'Blanc Double de Coubert'. Local craftsman Leo Healy made the Chippendale-style seat.

OPPOSITE: IN THE SHADE OF TREES

A castellated wall separates the wing from the front of the house (top left). A white bench among a mass of hydrangeas (top right). A stone herm shaded by an *Acer palmatum* tree (bottom left). The house seen from the hill above the garden (centre right). *Echium pininana* seed themselves by the side of the stream and blend with fuchsia, montbretia, acanthus and arum lilies (bottom right)



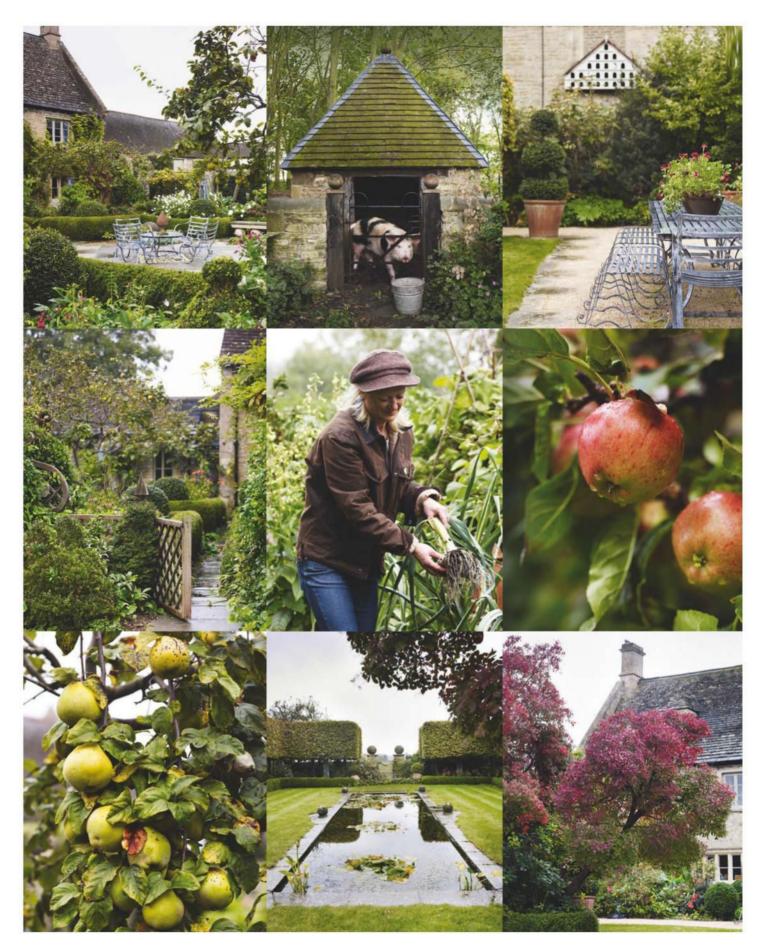


WORK IN PROGRESS

With the return of her series on designers' gardens, CLARE FOSTER visits Bunny Guinness in Cambridgeshire, where an elegant formal garden forms the nucleus of a productive smallholding

PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW MONTGOMERY





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The courtyard garden. Bunny designed this stone pigsty for her Oxford Sandy and Black pigs. A metal dining table at the back of the house. Apples in the orchard. This cotinus is unusually tall, at six metres in height. The long pool is bordered by double rows of pleached hornbeams. A pear tree in a courtyard border. A latticed wooden gate opens into the courtyard garden. Harvesting vegetables (centre). OPPOSITE Bunny feeds her herd of Dexter cattle

unny Guinness is known to many of us as one of the voices of the well-loved Radio 4 series *Gardeners' Question Time*. She writes a regular gardening column in *The Sunday Telegraph* and runs a busy landscape-architecture practice with her daughter Unity. She also finds time to grow her own fruit and vegetables, as well as look after a small herd of Dexter cattle, a flock of Soay sheep and several Oxford Sandy and Black pigs. 'We're as self-sufficient as we can be,' says Bunny. 'My husband farmed before he became an accountant, and we have always had livestock, so we have our own meat and eggs, and I grow a fair bit of what we need in the vegetable garden. We eat what's in season.'

Her garden, laid out around a charming stone-built house near Peterborough, is a model of well-ordered efficiency, with half an acre or so of formal garden around the house, and a further eight acres of orchard, woodland and pasture for the livestock. Bunny started making the garden in 1984, when there was nothing here but fields and concrete, beginning by dividing up the empty space and creating structure. 'It was an open, windy site, so the first thing I did was plant a shelter belt of trees and yew hedges across the field. I was on a budget, so many hedges were grown from cuttings.'

She also put in twin avenues of pleached hornbeam in the pool garden at the back of the house to frame the elegant geometric pond. They, too, were literally twigs when they first went in, but are now neatly trained overhead to create shady tunnels.

All around the garden, this network of hedges and topiary creates a strong framework that gives the garden plenty of interest in autumn and winter. Carefully structured around the house, the garden is designed to be glimpsed through windows and is set out in harmony with the building. 'I always like the garden and house to have a strong relationship,' says Bunny. 'A garden is seen from the house, so it needs to be planned with this in mind. Then it's all about creating different spaces, a sense of enclosure.'

Gradually, paths and terraces were added as budgets allowed, a mixture of setts, paving slabs and ammonites in ornamental patterns to bring texture and interest to the ground plane. One of the most intimate parts of the garden is the courtyard at the front of the house, enclosed on three sides by the house and outbuildings, and on the fourth side by a tall yew hedge inset with stone pillars. Here, jewel-like mixed borders and knee-high box hedges (rounded at the top rather than clipped into regimented lines) surround a central seating area paved in a chequerboard of setts with a central square of ammonites. Structures also form part of the hard landscaping of the garden – an ornate fruit cage, a thatched cobb summer house in the children's garden, and the classiest pigsty you have ever seen. It is this attention to detail and sense of fun that is the trademark of Bunny's design, whether for herself or her clients.

The kitchen garden, of course, is central. Rather than being banished to the far end of the property, it is exactly where a vegetable garden ought to be: right outside the kitchen. It is definitely more potager than vegetable plot, with stone and gravel paths, raised beds and espaliered apple trees giving it a decorative structure, and colourful flowers woven in and out of the vegetables throughout the summer. Bunny mixes crops up rather than following a strict rotation. 'I tend not to put all the similar things together, as you're supposed to do, so I'll grow a few runner beans here, a few there, and throw everything in together. It seems to work.' The kitchen garden and indeed all the rest of the garden is designed to be low maintenance, and is managed on one day each week by Bunny, with help from gardener Emmeline Thrower. 'Raised beds make everything so much easier, and I do little bits whenever I can. I might go out there in the evening with a glass of wine. For me, growing vegetables is as automatic as putting the washing in the machine; it's just something that gets done and I love it.'

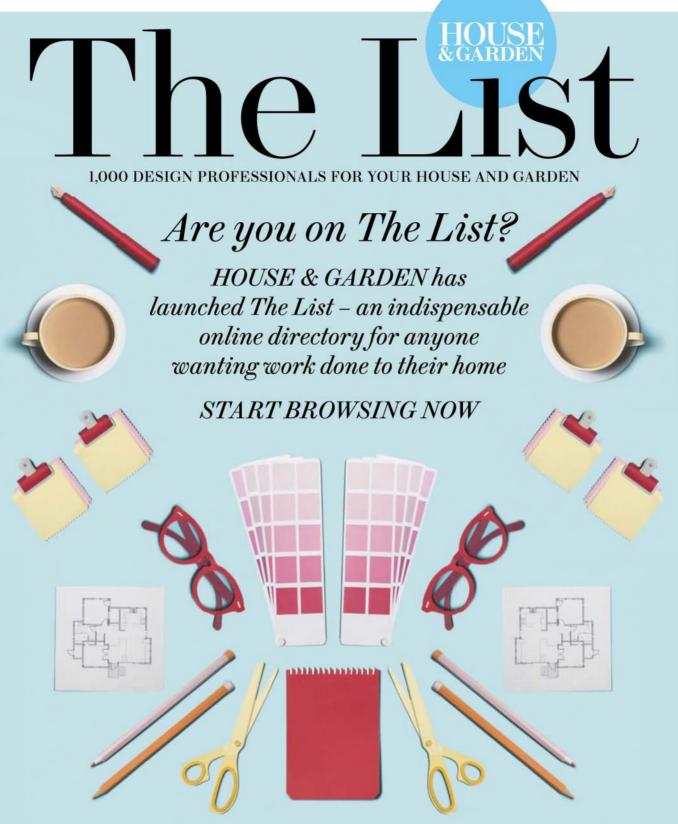
From the kitchen garden, it is only a few steps to the paddock, where Bunny's indulged Dexters jostle by the gate for carrot tops. The animals are very much part of the landscape. From the central breathing space of lawn, a ha-ha gives an unbroken view out into the fields, where the horned Soay sheep form a picturesque huddle in shades of coffee and cream. Chickens, dogs, cats and bees round off Bunny's much-loved menagerie, all forming part of her daily routine, and existing alongside humans and plants in happy harmony.

This garden is integral to Bunny's work as a landscape architect, a shop window for clients who come to see it and a place in which she experiments with planting and other design ideas. 'I change my plant combinations every year, so use a lot of annuals and dahlias, which I lift each winter. I love tender plants like salvias, which you can put out in later spring to add to the garden.'

More than anything else, though, the garden is an antidote to the pressures of a busy working life. 'I need my gardening days,' says Bunny. 'Gardening really takes your mind away from everything else, and it gives me the exercise and fresh air that I need. And there's always something new to try. You always think you're about to get to the stage when the garden feels finished, but it never is' \Box

Bunny Guinness: bunnyguinness.com





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FOOD & TRAVEL

RECIPES | TASTE NOTES | ZANZIBAR | CHINA | TULUM

Spelt with blackberries, beets, walnuts and buttermilk recipe on following page



Diana Henry shares six flavourful, fuss-free recipes from her new book *Simple*, which are made with delicious everyday ingredients

'Simple' is a word that we hear a lot. Most often we think simple cooking is 'quick cooking'. Sometimes it is – egg dishes, for example, are one of the quickest, and there's a world of things you can make with them. But I also like the kind of cooking where I do very little and the oven does a lot. What we need to turn the most ordinary foods into something special is good ideas. There has never been a better time – as our cupboards fill with unusual ingredients from other cultures – to find inspiration. ⊳



Spelt with blackberries, beets, walnuts and buttermilk

Serves 6–8 as a side dish I started out making a Scandinavian-influenced dish here, but because blackberries are so loved in Georgia, I went off on another tack, adding spices and heat. You can leave the spices out, or use more Scandi flavours depending on what you want to serve it with. It's surprisingly good with salmon and mackerel.

150g pearled spelt 2¹/2tbsp olive oil Juice ¹/2 lemon 1tsp white balsamic vinegar ¹/2 red onion, very finely sliced 1tsp ground coriander 1tsp cayenne pepper 35g walnut pieces 2 cooked beetroots, cut into matchsticks 150g blackberries 1tbsp dill fronds, chopped 1tbsp coriander leaves, chopped

For the dressing 200ml buttermilk ¹/2tsp Dijon mustard Pinch of caster sugar 1 garlic clove, crushed 2tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

◆ Cook the spelt in boiling water until tender, about 20-25 minutes, but check the packet instructions. Drain and run cold water through it. Shake off the excess water and put into a serving bowl with 2tbsp of the regular olive oil, the lemon juice and vinegar, and season with salt and freshly ground black pepper.

• Make the buttermilk dressing by mixing everything together. Season to taste.

 Heat the remaining regular olive oil and cook the onion until it has just softened, then add the coriander and pepper, and cook for another two minutes. Add this to the spelt, then toast the walnut pieces in the same pan for a minute or until they smell aromatic. Tip them into the bowl with all the other ingredients and toss together.
 Drizzle with some of the buttermilk dressing (offer the rest in a jug) and serve.



Salmon tartare and avocado on rye | Serves 2

A favourite spin on the avo-on-toast theme. If you want to be fancy, a dollop of sour cream and a spoonful of keta (salmon roe) looks lovely and tastes gorgeous, too. Since I'm a bit of a puritan, I only allow that at the weekend.

For the tartare

150g salmon fillet, skinned 1 small shallot, very finely chopped 1tbsp dill fronds, finely chopped ¹/2tbsp lemon juice 2tbsp extra-virgin olive oil (fruity rather than grassy)

For the toasts

2 slices rye bread 1 large, ripe avocado Lemon juice, to taste Avocado oil, to taste 2 crisp, fresh radishes, cut into matchsticks • Cut the salmon into small cubes, about 5mm square. Put this in a bowl with everything else for the tartare. Mix and taste, seasoning well.

◆ Toast the rye bread. Scoop out the flesh from the avocado and mash it roughly on the toasts. Squeeze on some lemon juice, season with salt and pepper and drizzle with avocado oil. Spoon some tartare on top and sprinkle with the radishes.

Baked sweet potato, chorizo, mushrooms and egg | Serves 2

You can leave the egg off, or use bacon lardons instead of chorizo, if you prefer. A great, gooey, savoury-sweet plateful.

2 sweet potatoes 3tbsp extra-virgin olive oil 150g chestnut mushrooms, cleaned, chopped into pieces 100g chorizo, sliced a little thicker than a £1 coin 2 large eggs Small handful of coriander leaves, optional Sprinkling of smoked paprika, optional To serve Baby leaves, such as spinach Heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Bake the sweet potatoes in a foil-lined tin for about 30 minutes (though I find cooking time varies according to the texture of the variety you are using).
When the potatoes are nearly cooked, heat 1tbsp of the oil in a frying pan and sauté the mushrooms briskly over a fairly high heat. Season. (Mushrooms give out a lot of moisture when they cook, so make sure these juices have evaporated.) Scrape into a bowl and keep warm. Add ¹/2tbsp more oil to the pan and brown the chorizo on both sides. Add to the mushrooms.

+ Heat the rest of the oil and fry the eggs, scooping hot oil up over the yolks to help them cook.

◆ Split each potato lengthways to open them up. Spoon the mushrooms and chorizo inside the potatoes and scatter with the coriander, if using. Top with the fried eggs, sprinkling on a little smoked paprika if you want, and serve with baby leaves, such as spinach. ▷



Slow-cooked lamb with pomegranates and honey | Serves 6

Easy, but rich and exotic - a real feast for a long, lazy weekend lunch or dinner. The lamb should be very soft, almost falling apart, so start checking it after four hours to see if it needs to cook longer.

For the lamb

2kg (4lb 8oz) bone-in shoulder of lamb 9 garlic cloves, roughly chopped Sea-salt flakes Leaves from a small bunch of mint, torn 4¹/2tbsp pomegranate molasses 4¹/2tbsp runny honey 4tbsp olive oil

Juice from 4 lemons

To serve 1 pomegranate or 225g pomegranate seeds Leaves from a small bunch of mint, torn 4 garlic cloves, crushed 400g Greek yogurt Flatbreads or cooked couscous Salad of watercress or spinach, coarse stalks removed

Pierce deep holes all over the lamb. In a mortar, make a marinade: crush the garlic to a paste with the salt, then add the other ingredients, starting with the mint, and pound some more.

Line a roasting tin with two large pieces of foil, making a cross, and place the lamb on top. Pull up the sides so none of the marinade will run out. Pour on the marinade, turning the lamb over to coat it. Cover and put in the fridge for about 12 hours.

◆ Return the lamb to room temperature and heat the oven to 200°C/fan oven 180°C/mark 6. Pull the foil over the lamb and seal to form a tent. Place in the oven and immediately reduce the temperature to 160°C/fan oven 140°C/gas mark 3. Cook for four to five hours, basting with the juices every so often. The lamb is cooked when you can pull the meat apart with a fork.

• Mix the pomegranate seeds with the mint, then add the garlic to the yogurt. Shred the lamb at the table and serve with the yogurt, pomegranate and mint, plus flatbreads or couscous and a salad.



Bitter flourless chocolate cake with coffee cream | Serves 8

I've made so many versions of this cake over the years. It's the little black dress of puddings: elegant and timeless. Do it a few times and it will become easy. You can serve it with a marmalade cream instead of this coffee version, or simply with summer berries or hot cherries with grappa.

For the cake

160g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing 320g dark chocolate (70 per cent cocoa solids), broken up 145g caster sugar 5 large eggs, separated 40g ground almonds For the cream

300ml double cream ^{1/}2tbsp instant espresso coffee dissolved in ^{1/}2tbsp boiling water 2tbsp whiskey, or to taste 3tbsp icing sugar, or to taste, plus extra for dusting the cake Heat the oven to 180°C/fan oven 160°C/mark 4. Butter a 20cm springform cake tin. Put the butter, chocolate and sugar into a heat-proof bowl set over a pan of simmering water (the water shouldn't touch the bowl). Melt the mixture, stirring a little. Remove the bowl, leaving it to cool for about 4 minutes. Stir in the egg yolks, one at a time.
Beat the egg whites with electric beaters until they form medium peaks (stiff but with the peaks drooping slightly). Using a big metal spoon, fold the ground almonds into the chocolate mixture along with half the egg whites, then fold in the rest of the whites.

◆ Scrape the batter into the prepared tin and bake for 35 minutes. Cool completely, carefully remove the ring and base, and put the cake on a serving plate. (It will deflate and crack as it cools.) Whip the cream until it is just holding its shape, then drizzle in the coffee and whiskey, still whipping. Add the icing sugar and taste for sweetness and booziness. Sift icing sugar over the cake and serve with the cream. ▷



Raspberry yogurt cake | Serves 10-12

I had a lovely yogurt and raspberry cake at The Field Kitchen, a café in Nettlebed near Henley, and could not get it out of my head. This is my version. You do have to eat it on the day it is baked, otherwise the raspberries in the icing will spoil.

For the cake

125g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing 225g caster sugar Finely grated zest of 2 unwaxed lemons ¹/2tsp vanilla extract 2 large eggs, at room temperature, lightly beaten 300g plain flour, sifted 2tsp baking powder 115g natural yogurt 200g raspberries For the icing 150g icing sugar, sifted 2tbsp lemon juice About 10 raspberries ◆ Heat the oven to 180°C/fan oven 160°C/mark 4. Butter a 22 x 12cm loaf tin and line the base with baking parchment. Beat the butter and sugar until pale and fluffy, then add the lemon zest and vanilla. Add the eggs a little at a time, beating well after each addition. Put 2tbsp of the flour in a bowl to toss with the raspberries later. Mix the remaining flour and baking powder together and fold this into the batter, alternating with spoonfuls of the yogurt.

• Toss the raspberries in the reserved flour. Put a third of the batter into the loaf tin and add half the raspberries, spreading them out evenly. Put another third of the batter on top, followed by the rest of the raspberries. Finish with the remaining batter.

Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes. A skewer inserted into the centre should come out clean. If the top colours too much during cooking, cover with foil. Cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out on to a wire rack.
To make the icing, mix the sugar with the lemon juice until smooth. Spread about two-thirds of this on the cake. Partly crush the raspberries and add them to the remaining icing to stain it.
Pour over the cake. This won't set firmly, but do leave it to set a little before serving

'Simple' by Diana Henry (Mitchell Beazley, £25) is available to buy from September 8

TASTE NOTES

News, reviews and tips for cooks and food lovers, by Blanche Vaughan



In the bag

Finally, fashion has met the demands of everyday necessity. The **'Rosalia'** bag by Meli Melo is a stylish shopping basket, yet it's made of soft leather, not coarse wicker, and doubles as a handbag. I use mine for all my daytime items, leaving space to pick up groceries on the way home. No need to pay for (or waste) a plastic bag. It comes in tan, as pictured, taupe, military or black, and costs £450 from melimelo.com.

Smoky sensation

Capreolus Fine Foods, the award-winning **artisan charcuterie** based in Dorset, has picked up on the current trend for 'nduja, the soft, spicy and spreadable Calabrian salami, and produced its own version, using rare-breed organic pork and a recipe that includes smoky ancho chillies. It is excellent spread on toast, added to tomatoes as a sauce for pasta or to enrich stews; $\pounds 4.50$ for 100g, from capreolusfinefoods.co.uk.



PIXELATE IMAGING; GETTY IMAGES

Autumn tipple

Briottet The Vert Hibiscus is a **liqueur** that combines two buzz flavours - hibiscus and green tea. Add a drop to Champagne for an exotic cocktail or, for a fruity version of a margarita, mix 2 parts tequila and 2 parts Briottet The Vert Hibiscus with 1 part lime juice, 1 part lemon juice and lots of ice. A bottle costs £16.95 for 70cl, from thewhiskyexchange.com.



Spelt correctly

To add to its sought-after range of spelt flours, the Sharpham Park estate is now growing **pearled spelt** to use as you would use rice in risottos, soups, stews and salads. The nutty-tasting grain is high in fibre, contains more nutrients than wheat and can be easier to digest. For a recipe idea, see Diana Henry's spelt with blackberries, beets, walnuts and buttermilk on the previous

pages, or try Sharpham Park's quick-make risottos. Pearled spelt, 500g, and risotto, 225g, both £2.99, from sharphampark.com.

GARDEN FLAVOURS

Chelsea Physic Garden is home to the **Tangerine Dream Café**, where plenty of outside seating overlooks beds full of flowers, and glasshouses with ferns and succulents. Food is well priced and seasonal – golden and purple beets with fresh horseradish accompany rare roast beef, or a selection of salads presents a lighter choice. Teatime treats include cakes and lavender scones with clotted cream and jam. The café is open Tuesday to Friday, Sunday and Bank Holidays, 11am–6pm, until October 31 2016, at 66 Royal Hospital Road, SW3. *chelseaphysicgarden.co.uk*

SEASONAL INGREDIENT: BLACKBERRIES

British hedgerows are adorned with wild blackberries at this time of year. Try to pick the ripest berries, preferably on a sunny day, which will fall into your fingers with no resistance. One of my favourite ways to use this (free) versatile, plump and juicy fruit is in blackberry ice cream...



BLACKBERRY ICE CREAM Serves 8-10 600ml double cream 400ml full-fat milk 1 vanilla pod 6 egg yolks 200g caster sugar 500g blackberries

Put the cream and milk in a saucepan. Scrape the seeds from the vanilla pod and add to the pan with the pod, too. Bring to the boil, then remove from the heat. Beat the yolks and sugar together in a bowl until pale and creamy. Strain the cream mixture into the yolks, whisking as you go. Return the mixture to the saucepan and heat, stirring, until it thickens into custard. Remove and cool. Blitz the blackberries and sieve to make a purée. Stir into the custard and taste for sweetness (the frozen mixture will not taste as sweet and some blackberries are sweeter than others). Churn in an ice-cream machine until just frozen, then chill in the freezer for at least half an hour before serving \Box

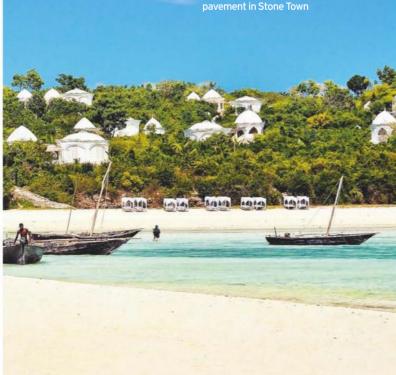


SPICE OF LIFE EMMA LOVE REVELS IN THE

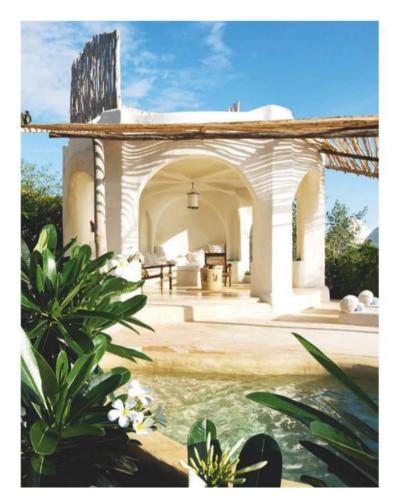
EMMA LOVE REVELS IN THE DIVERSITY OF THE EAST AFRICAN ARCHIPELAGO OF ZANZIBAR -COLONIAL BUILDINGS, TURQUOISE SEAS AND LUSH PLANTATIONS

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT The Rock restaurant and bar is accessed by boat during high tide. A dhow. At Kilindi (also opposite), 15 pavilions overlook the sea. Locals sit on a raised pavement in Stone Town





FOOD & TRAVEL | ZANZIBAR



s the sun sets on the west coast of Zanzibar and the sky blends from pale lemon to blush pink, fishermen set off in their wooden dhows, sails puffed out in perfect triangles. The results of their night's work can be seen in the rows of electric-blue sardines at the Darajani Market in Stone Town, or the fishing village of Mkokotoni, where boxes of huge red snapper and barracuda are weighed on scales at

the side of the road. Fishing has always been one of the main industries here, along with spice production and, increasingly, tourism. Since Zanzibar (an archipelago of islands, the main ones being Unguja and Pemba) is only 36 kilometres off the coast of Tanzania, many visitors combine a few days at the

beach with a mainland safari, but direct flights from Europe and the Middle East mean it's a stand-alone holiday destination in its own right.

I start my trip with two nights at Kilindi, a gorgeous hotel on the northern tip of Unguja, just round the headland from Kendwa beach - one of the best beaches on the island, which even in low season has a feel-good vibe. Hammocks are strung between palm trees, piles of fishing nets dry in the sun and there are games of volleyball in the sand. This is where the hotly anticipated Zuri Zanzibar resort opens next year. Water

sports - scuba diving, deepsea fishing, kayaking - are one of Zanzibar's main draws, so I head out to snorkel in the turquoise waters of the Mnemba Atoll marine park, spotting a pod of dolphins on the way. There are also excellent beaches on the quieter, less developed east coast, as I discover a few days later when I drive two hours south to the Michamvi Pingwe peninsula. Strong winds make it a great place for kitesurfing, but because of the reefs and tidal patterns of the Indian Ocean, swimming is in many places possible only at high tide. Instead, I clamber over tiny rock pools for refreshing mojitos at the renowned restaurant and bar The Rock, which is perched on a giant boulder about 50 metres from shore.

The island's interior deserves exploration, too. There's the Jozani forest, home to around 2,000 red colobus monkeys, and the 25-hectare spice farm, Kizimbani, where my tour involves smelling and identifying a variety of spices. I learn how locals use dried cloves to soothe toothache and how bananas are often boiled and seasoned with salt before being eaten. On the drive to Stone Town, the Unesco World Heritage section of the island's capital Zanzibar City, where I spend my final two nights at Kisiwa House, I pass sugar-cane plantations and traditional houses made from mud and coconut leaves. Cows pulling wooden carts piled high with cassava amble slowly along the roadside. Yet it is in the warren of narrow streets, filled with mosques and minarets, houses with brass-studded wooden doors and peeling painted façades, and shops selling colourful printed kanga fabrics, that the island's true character is revealed.

I go on a walking tour of the town, which takes in the site of the former slave market, where one of the first Anglican churches in East Africa now stands, and hear a potted version of the island's history from the days of Arab rule to independence in 1963. I eat and drink well: at the new Park Hyatt, which has the best ocean-front location in town; at Archipelago, where I tuck into prawn masala; and at the Tower Top restaurant at the Emerson On Hurumzi hotel, an exquisitely restored mansion where, sitting on mosaic-print floor cushions, I eat squid salad while listening to the afternoon call to prayer. This is the sound of Zanzibar, as intrinsic to life here as the rhythm of the sea.

WHERE TO STAY

KILINDI Next to Kendwa beach, 15 dome-shape white pavilions overlook the sea. Each has a small dipping pool, open-air upstairs bathroom and bedrooms with shutters that swing open to maximise the views. You'll have your own butler who can organise dinner whenever, wherever you want: ask for giant shrimps with lentil dhal and spiced potatoes on the beach by a crackling fire. The atmosphere is casual, the service spot on. *elewanacollection.com*

ZAWADI HOTEL The latest addition to the Zanzibar Collection is an adults-only hideaway on the south-east coast. Nine ocean-front villas with thatch roofs stand on either side of a blue mosaic-tiled swimming pool, a lounge bar and restaurant. The design is a real departure, with a pearl-

escent colour scheme, beaded chandeliers and shell-print cushions in the bedrooms. The location, right in front of a blue lagoon, means you can swim even during low tide. *zawadihotel.com*

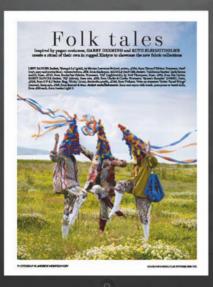
KISIWA HOUSE A family-owned hotel in the heart of Stone Town, a two-minute stroll from the ocean. Up the staircase there are 11 simple rooms, each with wooden four-poster beds, Persian rugs, antique furniture and old photos of Zanzibar on the walls. The breezy rooftop restaurant is ideal for breakfast. *kisiwahouse.com*

ways and means

Emma Love travelled as a guest of Audley Travel (01993-838000; audleytravel.com), which offers a 10-night trip from £2,980 per person in November 2016, including two nights at Kilindi, four nights at Zawadi Hotel, full-board with drinks, two nights at Kisiwa House, B&B, Emirates flights to Dar es Salaam and domestic flights to Zanzibar.



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EASTERN PROMISE

MARY LUSSIANA TAKES IN GRAND VISTAS, ANCIENT CULTURE AND POTS FOR TEA AS SHE IS DRIVEN ALONG CHINA'S UNSPOILT TEA HORSE ROAD TRADE ROUTE

ncient trade routes have always whispered an invitation to me, conjuring the tempting fragrance of danger, the sweat of pack horses, and the delights of exotic spices, silks and tea. And so, the recent arrival of the second Lux Resorts hotel on China's Tea Horse Road allowed me to fulfil a dream by way of Shangri-La.

I started in Lijiang, a major stop on the Tea Horse trade route, where Pu'er tea was brought from the mountains in southern Yunnan and pressed into dried cakes to travel north to Lhasa. Tibetans discovered the tea in the seventh century as they expanded into this part of China, developing a taste for its ability to reduce the oxidative stress experienced at high altitudes. In return, they provided the horses the Chinese needed to protect their northern frontiers, and the name Cha Ma Dao (Tea Horse Road) was born.

Lijiang is the cultural cradle of the Naxi people and brims with cobblestone lanes, stone footbridges and picturesque pagodas. Its not-to-be-missed sights include Black Dragon Pool, from where you can glimpse the soaring, white peaks of Jade Dragon Snow Mountain. Here, tucked into a corner of the enchanting old town, Lux opened its first Tea Horse Road hotel. Ten rooms overlook a tranquil courtyard, where images of bats, considered lucky by the Naxi, typically decorate the cobblestones.

I set off with a driver and guide under clear-blue mountain skies towards the high Tibetan Plateau. We travel through landscapes that shift from vast

peaks with villages caught in their shadowed folds to plains carpeted with pink azaleas. Clusters of stone houses border the roads, their roofs planks of wood held down by loose rocks; yaks graze in the meadows; prayer flags flutter in the breeze. We stop at Tiger Leaping Gorge and see, through the river's spray, the treacherous, narrow route carved into the mountains that the pack mules navigated all those years ago.

We enter Shangri-La, known as Zhongdian until 2001 when the Chinese claimed it as the inspiration for the paradise in James Hilton's novel *Lost Horizon*, and visit the giant, golden prayer wheel, which the locals use to send their requests heavenwards. We stop at Tangdui village, where traditional Tibetan blackware pottery has been made for over 2,000 years, and I buy a tiny teapot, which adds a smoky flavour to the Pu'er teal now so love.

We reach the new Lux Tea Horse Road hotel in Benzilan after five hours. Lying low on the valley floor, with the great Yangtze river curving round, it is a typical Tibetan house made from clay and earth. Its 30 rooms exude tranquillity, with wooden floors, whitewashed walls, copper basins and a daybed under the window with an earthenware tea set ready. Artefacts from the *caravanserai* (tea trail traders) that stopped to rest in Benzilan grace the walls. Above, at 3,000 metres, is the seventeenth-century Dong Zhu Lin monastery. Beautifully preserved, its sweeping, gilded roof crowns brightly painted wooden columns. Embracing it are the mountains through which once the muleteers journeyed, as today do I, following in their footsteps \Box

- ways and means

Mary Lussiana travelled as a guest of Cox & Kings (020-3642 0861; coxandkings.co.uk). A seven-night Tea Horse Road tour costs from £2,295 per person, B&B, based on two sharing, including flights and airport transfers, with three nights at Lux Tea Horse Road Lijiang and three nights at Lux Tea Horse Road Benzilan.

Inside track TULUM PAMELA GOODMAN SHARES THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS

PAMELA GOODMAN SHARES THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS FASHIONABLE DESTINATION ON THE CARIBBEAN COAST

ESENCIA Secluded hotel and spa

Strictly speaking, Esencia is not in Tulum: it's about half an hour to the north. Yes, there are plenty of hotels in Tulum itself, but none has quite the cachet or the finesse of Esencia. Hurtling down the highway from Cancún, past one mega resort after another, it's hard to imagine that an insignificant turn-off could lead to such a private, peaceful enclave. Once the home of an Italian duchess, Esencia has the kind of pedigree and style that lends itself to an easy transition from house to small hotel. It has 29 rooms, but only nine have sea views; of these, Room 2 with its large terrace is the most popular. The rest are jungle rooms, secreted within the extensive gardens. A cop-out you might think, but not at all. The same elegant white-on-white theme prevails and many guests prefer the tranquil seclusion of life among the trees, birds and butterflies.

> The big news for the winter is that Esencia recently took over the running of AI Cielo, a tiny hotel right next door, which will have 12 refurbished suites slap bang on the sandy crescent of Xpu-Ha beach. Guests come and go between the two properties, sharing their restaurants: Esencia's smart poolside palapa, the Garden restaurant and AI Cielo's scruffier, blue and white driftwood beach bar. Now owned by an ex-Hollywood TV mogul, who has thrown heart and soul into its regeneration, Esencia has no airs and graces. As Mayan Riviera hotels go, it's on the pricey side for sure, but it has charm and style and cosmopolitan barefoot glamour – and a rare, unspoilt location. *Esencia: hotelesencia.com; rooms from \$620, B&B. AI Cielo: alcielohotel.com; see website for prices*



THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT One of the beachside pools at Esencia. A brightly decorated seating area at the hotel. Hats on a souvenir stand. Tulum's beach. An iguana on the cliffs



FROM LEFT The Hartwood kitchen. Its chef and co-owner Eric Werner. Jewellery from Josa Tulum



Where to shop

Tulum essentially is one long, narrow road (some 10 kilometres long) with beach on one side and jungle on the other. Addresses are delineated according to distance, with the area round 7.5km being the heart of bohemian elegance. Here you will find stylish fashion and jewellery boutiques, including La Troupe, Josa Tulum and KM33.

HARTWOOD In-demand eco restaurant

Tiny, predominantly al fresco, sandy floored Hartwood is something of a local phenomenon, with an astonishing global reputation. So much so that securing a table is the foodie equivalent of finding the Holy Grail. The restaurant is open only in the evenings from Wednesday to Sunday. Email booking in advance is sometimes possible, but the easiest way to secure a table is to queue on the day. Sometimes (and always during the height of the season), a queue starts forming at around 3pm on the road outside.

So what's it all about? Certainly chef and creator Eric Werner has struck a popular chord, making genuine sustainability the restaurant's central ethos. All the food is cooked on a handmade, open wood oven and grill; all waste is composted; music and lighting is solar-powered; fish are spear-hunted rather than line caught and all produce is 100 per cent locally sourced and organic. Furthermore, bills can only be settled in cash, preferably Mexican pesos not US dollars, which makes it easier for the restaurant to pay suppliers direct. Crucially though, the food lives up to the hype, which is just as well for those who've been standing in line for several hours. The menu, spoken not written, is unpredictable depending on what's available each day, but you can guarantee the absolute freshest of ingredients with an emphasis on those three Mexican staples – avocado, chilli and lime. The slow-roasted pork ribs are the mouth-watering signature dish; cocktails, served in half-pint glasses, are de rigueur; and the whole breezy, ramshackle style oozes that sense of laid-back, hippy chic for which Tulum is so renowned. *hartwoodtulum.com; dinner for two costs about £120*

Don't miss

The ruins, of course. Chichen Itza is a bit of a long drive; Tulum is right there and very picturesque in its beachside location, but Coba has the advantage of offering one of the few Mayan pyramids you are still allowed to climb. Also essential is a swim in a cenote or sinkhole: the Yucatán is littered with these geological phenomena, revered by the ancient Mayans as gateways to the underworld. Some

cenotes are open air; the

more exciting ones are in

eerie underground caves.

Ways and means Pamela Goodman visited

Mexico as a guest of British Airways (ba.com), which flies from London Gatwick to Cancún three times a week. Return fares from £490.

 A view of the jungle from the top of Coba's ancient Mayan pyramid

ARABIAN DAYS LAURA HOULDSWORTH HIGHLIGHTS MIDDLE EASTERN DESTINATIONS THAT ARE

IDEAL FOR WINTER SUN, WITH SPECTACULAR SCENERY AND LUXURY HOTELS

BAHRAIN

The first Arab state to have its own Formula One Grand Prix, Bahrain is fast becoming the new Middle Eastern hot spot. Coinciding with this renaissance is the opening of a new One & Only resort in Seef on the north-western coast early next year. The resort will have private villas with direct access to the beach - ideal for families - in addition to 150 rooms and suites. Food lovers will enjoy the Hakkasan restaurant, overseen by Michelin-starred chef Ho Chee Boon, and there will be boutiques offering the world's leading fashion brands, a Givenchy Spa and a wide range of water sports on offer. *oneandonlyresorts.com*

OMAN

There is an abundance of natural beauty in Oman - from glorious mountains and windblown deserts to miles of pristine coastline, so make the most of your visit by staying in both the north and south of the country. There is a new Anantara resort opening in both areas. The Anantara AI Jabal AI Akhdar in the north east opens in October and is set 2,000 metres above sea level on the curving rim of a great canyon, while the AI Baleed Resort Salalah By Anantara in the southern province lies on a scenic beach and is near a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Anantara offers seven nights from £4,430 per person, B&B, based on two sharing a premier room, including three nights at Anantara AI Jabal AI Akhdar Resort and four nights at AI Baleed Resort Salalah By Anantara, transfers and selected activities and tours, but excluding flights. *anantara.com*

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dubai's lavish Burj Al Arab Jumeirah hotel, situated on a man-made island off Jumeirah Beach, is one of the city's most well-known landmarks and is the ideal place to soak up some winter sun. Its iconic sail-shape structure has a new addition – a 10,000-square-metre terrace that stretches out into the azure waters of the Persian gulf. It opened this summer and is home to a restaurant and bar, two pools, butler-serviced cabanas and a beach area. Elegant Resorts offers five nights from £5,595 per person, B&B, based on two people sharing a One Bedroom Deluxe Suite, including flights and transfers. Valid from November 7 to December 20, 2016. *elegantresorts.co.uk*

QATAR

Doha, the capital city, is set to eclipse Dubai as the Arabian Peninsula's most dynamic city with its heady mix of old and new. Futuristic skyscrapers sit comfortably next to the city's vibrant souks and markets, and there is a thriving contemporary art scene developing, too. Art and history buffs will enjoy visiting the Museum of Islamic Art, which houses an extensive collection from across the Muslim world. Destinology offers three nights from £1,145 per person, B&B, based on two people sharing a standard room at W Doha Hotel & Residences, including Qatar Airways flights. *destinology.co.uk* | *gatartourism.gov.ga*





From left: **BEACH BAG** 'Bucket Bag' (ananas indigo), £39.95, from Elizabeth Scarlett. *elizabethscarlett.com* **FACE MASK** Express Flower Gel Mask, by Sisley, £80 for 60ml, from Space NK. *spacenk.com* **SUN CARE** SPF50 Protective Face Base, £29.50 for 50ml, from Bobbi Brown. *bobbibrown.co.uk* **SWIMSUIT** 'Long Island Scallop Halter', £190, from Heidi Klein. *heidiklein.com* HOUSE Design, food & travel by HOUSE & GARDEN

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S

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SILVERSEA^{*} Discover Silver Muse at silvermuse.info

All renderings are intended as a general reference. Features, materials, finishes and layout may be different than shown.

BESPOKE | CRUISE

CRUISE

THE DANUBE | THE FAR EAST | ON BOARD SPAS | CHRISTMAS DESTINATIONS



'ADVENTUROUS LUXURY' IS THE NEW BUZZ PHRASE IN CRUISING, SO NOW IS THE TIME TO EXPLORE EXCITING FAR-FLUNG DESTINATIONS ON A RAFT OF BEAUTIFUL NEW SHIPS

ur wanderlust, combined with our ever-more discerning take on what 'luxury' really is, means it has never been a better time to book a highend cruise. Some of the most illustrious names in cruising - Silversea, Viking, Seabourn, Crystal - are now taking the experience even further with beautiful new ships and once-in-a-lifetime journeys to exciting destinations.

This year, Regent launched its most sumptuous ship yet, the all-suite, all-balcony *Seven Seas Explorer*, which carries 750 passengers and offers the fortunate person who can afford it a 4,000-square-foot suite with a private sauna and steam room. Next April, Silversea inaugurates a sparkling new vessel: the 596-passenger *Silver Muse*. And, looking further ahead to 2018, the ship that some view as the most game-changing on the horizon launches in August: the 200-passenger *Crystal Endeavor*. It will offer a James Bond-inspired take on cruising, with submarines, helicopters and seabobs to give passengers thrilling new experiences and more adventurous ways to discover remote landscapes.

Indeed, 'adventurous luxury', according to industry expert Edwina Lonsdale of cruise specialists Mundy Cruising, is the direction in which we're all sailing. The cultural sojourns around the Mediterranean and the cocktail-fuelled trajectories in the Caribbean are as popular as ever, but cruising is growing younger - in spirit, if not in age. The baby

boomers - aged 50 and over - are fitter and far more adventurous than their counterparts of 30 years ago, which has led to the explosion of interest in cruises to the polar regions in recent years. You can now also meet locals along the chilly reaches of the Northwest Passage, watch bears gambol across the tundra in the Kamchatka Peninsula in the Russian Far East, get close to the extraordinary landscapes of the Kimberley islands in Australia, and encounter the ancient tribal cultures of Papua New Guinea. 'Expedition cruises' - the name given to these sorts of far-flung forays - has its own particular bragging rights and reassures nervous first-time cruisers that they won't be spending their holiday overeating in a floating retirement home.

However, as anyone who has taken a cruise knows, because the itineraries pack in so many destinations in a short space of time, they can be quite exhausting - and that's where luxury and service come in. More so than ever, crews are becoming attuned to what we want. As Edwina puts it, 'People are demanding on board, and that's reflected in staff who can gauge individual reactions quickly. They are trained to evaluate whether you are high-maintenance, or wish to be left alone, and will deliver accordingly.' Beyond the heavenly spas, the Michelinstarred restaurants, the well-stocked libraries and famous lecturers, the other most notable improvement is space.

For sheer romance though, perhaps nothing beats the new tall ship from Star Clippers, launching at the end of next year. *Flying Clipper* will be the largest square-rigged sailing ship in the world, and is based on a ship commissioned in 1911. The stunningly beautiful vessel, which will offer

ABOVE National Geographic's Orion cruises past Australia's Kimberley islands all the luxuries of a modern ship, will switch off its engines as often as possible at sea to let its vast billowing sails do the hard work. If you want a cruise to really put the wind back in your sails, get booking now \Box



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WORLD TRAVELLER

Viking, the popular Norwegian line, launches its first round-the-world cruise next year. Its fourth ocean ship, *Viking Sun*, will have 465 balcony cabins, and her maiden voyage will cover five continents, 35 countries and 66 ports. The journey from Miami to London will take in Cuba and the Caribbean, the Panama Canal and the South Pacific, ports in Asia including Ho Chi Minh City, and the Arabian, Red and Mediterranean seas, before finishing in the North Atlantic. *The 141-night cruise departs Miami on December 15, 2017 and costs from £30,798pp, including business class flights and Wi-Fi. 0800-319 6660; vikingworldcruise.co.uk*





NATURAL SELECTION

Wildlife watching in the Galápagos Islands has proved so popular for Celebrity Cruises that it has announced two new additions to its Galápagos fleet for 2017. These will be smaller expedition vessels (carrying 16 and 48 passengers respectively) suited to exploring the islands where guests can see penguins, sea lions, albatrosses and giant tortoises. An 11-night Galápagos fly-cruise on Celebrity Xpedition, departing October 5, 2017, costs from £4, 159pp, including flights and pre- and post-cruise accommodation. 0800-4414054; celebritycruises.co.uk



NOSTALGIA TRIP

Many cruise lines claim to recreate 'a bygone era', but none more sincerely than Star Clippers, which offers romantic journeys on tall ships under billowing sails. The fleet is a replica of historic trading clippers but with modern engines and luxurious cabins. The line sails to Indonesia from May next year and promises a 'Robinson Crusoe adventure', calling at jungle islands with white-sand beaches. A nine-night cruise from Bali, with two nights in Seminyak and return flights to London, costs from £2,999pp. 0808-231 4798; starclippers.co.uk

WILD ADVENTURE

If you love wildlife, hiking, and kayaking, a new 15-night 'Safari Voyager' cruise from Mundy Adventures exploring Costa Rica and Panama will keep the adrenalin flowing. From £6,635pp, departing April 22 and November 17, including flights. 020-7399 7630; mundyadventures.co.uk





NORTHERN STAR Seabourn is returning to Alaska for the first time in 15 years. A team of expert scientists will be on board the *Seabourn Sojourn* for the 11-day trip along the Inside Passage which combines impressive natural wonders, such as glaciers and fjords, with aboriginal history. *From £5,299pp, departing June 1, 2017 from Vancouver, all-inclusive. 0843-373 200; seabourn.com* >

THE SUITE LIFE

WITH ITS LUXURY YACHTS AND FAR-FLUNG ITINERARIES, CRYSTAL YACHT CRUISES IS MAKING A SPLASH

> hroughout the world, there are groups of islands caressed by gentle winds and surrounded by white-sand beaches and clear blue water that should only be explored in style. The Seychelles is one such place and *Crystal Esprit* allows guests to do just that. Crystal Yacht Cruises' 62-guest all-suite luxury yacht, which will be voyaging through the archipelago of 115 islands from January to March next

year, offers guests an exclusive experience with the charm of a boutique hotel and the comforts of a much larger vessel. The cruise line has ingeniously translated the heady combination of indulgent services and the enriching discovery for which it is renowned into a much more intimate experience.

Crystal regulars will appreciate the signature elegance prevalent both on board and ashore - including butler service, an all-inclusive programme and luxuries like caviar and free-flowing Champagne - while newcomers will

marvel at the extensive facilities seamlessly absorbed into the sophisticated design of the yacht. Water skis, a wakeboard, ocean kayaks and jet skis are all available for complimentary first-come, first-served use off the

FROM TOP Crystal Esprit in the Seychelles. Crystal Mozart in Vienna

retractable marina. Dining options on board are vast and varied at any time of day or night, combining continental-inspired dishes with local flavours using fresh ingredients sourced directly from the destinations visited. Guests can also choose from several exciting Crystal Adventures, including deep-sea fishing off the coast of Desroches, zip lining in Mahé or a bird-watching trek on Cousin Island. Plus, on Seychelles itineraries *Crystal Esprit* can access places the big ships can't, so if exploring uninhabited islands or lazing on completely empty beaches is what really floats your boat, this is the cruise for you.

For more information on Crystal Yacht Cruises, call 020-7399 7603, and for Crystal River Cruises, call 020-7399 7604, or visit crystalcruises.co.uk

A NEW REIGN

Boasting world-class cuisine, spacious suites, a spa, an indoor pool, personal butlers, six-star service and the only full wrap-around promenade on a river cruise ship, *Crystal Mozart* hits all the right notes. She glides along the Danube, which Napoleon declared as the 'Queen of Europe's Rivers', stopping at some of the most stunning destinations in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia and Serbia.

Launched in July 2016, the 154-guest all-suite river yacht is the largest of all European river vessels. Most excursions are complimentary including evenings at The Belvedere in Vienna where guests can enjoy private access to the palace's collection of art (think: Gustav Klimt, Oskar Kokoschka and Egon Schiele) and meals at Michelin-starred restaurants in Budapest and the Austrian capital. Guests can also reserve electric bikes to explore at their own pace and Champagne boat tours are available for private cruising along Europe's narrower waterways. *Crystal Mozart* really is the jewel in Crystal River Cruises' illustrious crown \Box

READER OFFER House & Garden readers will receive \$200 per person of on board credit for any new 2017 Crystal Esprit bookings in the Seychelles. Quote 'HG16' at the time of booking. Offer valid from September 1 to October 1, 2016

BESPOKE | CRUISE NEWS

ROMANTIC MEKONG

Welcome the New Year on board a new cruise along the Mekong. The journey departs from Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam and calls at Cái Bè, Sa Dec and Tân Châu before crossing into Cambodia. The final stop, Siem Reap, includes a three-night stay at the Sofitel Angkor. The 15-day APT River cruise costs from £3,995pp, departing on April 7, 2017, including flights. 0800-046 3002; aptouring.co.uk/mekong



SPRING IN PARIS Uniworld launches a new ship next year, the 128-passenger *Joie de Vivre*. Its maiden voyage will follow the company's existing Paris and Normandy itinerary along the Seine, but will also take in a private tour of Versailles and offer golf excursions. An eight-day cruise from Paris, departing April 2017, costs from £2,099pp. 0808-168 9231; uniworld.com



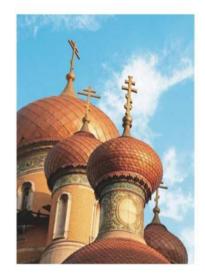


DOURO DELIGHTS

Wine buffs will love a leisurely 11-day round-trip from Porto along the Douro on Scenic's new 96-passenger ship, the *Azure*, which winds its way past lush terraced vineyards. As well as wine and port tastings at prestigious estates, the trip offers the chance to visit pretty villages such as Provesende, Salamanca across the border in Spain, and the archaeological museum in the Côa Valley. Plus, of course, the vibrant medieval city of Porto which tops and tails the trip. From £2,995pp, all-inclusive, departing July 19, 2017. 0808-278 7358; scenic.co.uk

GRAND TOUR

The 'Grand European Sojourn' is a new experience from Vantage Travel, an American line that launched in the UK this year and links two existing itineraries: Grand European Tour and Passage to Eastern Europe. It visits seven countries along the Rhine, the Main and Danube. City highlights include Amsterdam, Cologne and Bucharest. The 22-night cruise, departing May to October, costs from £2,099pp. 01954-232802; vantagetravel.com



RELAX ON THE RHINE

River cruise cabins tend to be smaller than their ocean-going counterparts, but Crystal, which launches four new ships next year, is offering roomier suites from 20 square metres with king-size beds, walk-in wardrobes, and his and her vanity areas in bathrooms. The 110-passenger *Crystal Bach* makes its inaugural sailing in the Rhine, from Amsterdam to Frankfurt. A 14-day Classic Rhine cruise costs from £5,115pp, departing June 18, 2017. 020-7399 7604; crystalcruises.co.uk \Box





CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT A sandy beach in Saint Lucia. Water lilies in the Amazon. Tropical birdlife. A view of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro



CARIBBEAN UNCOVERED

WITH ITINERARIES THAT TAP INTO THE MORE ADVENTUROUS SIDE OF THE AMERICAS, SEABOURN IS RAISING THE BAR FOR CARIBBEAN CRUISING

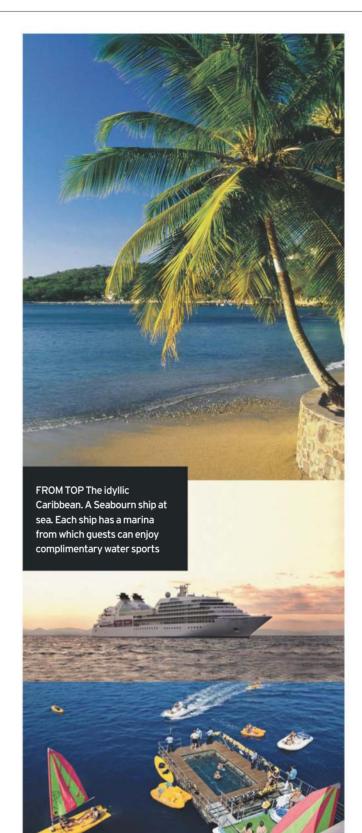
hen thinking of a Caribbean cruise, there are plenty of classic destinations that spring to mind. Yet there is another side to the Americas, too: a lesser-known, off-the-beatentrack Caribbean full of rich cultures and adventurous destinations waiting to be explored in six-star style on Seabourn's elegantly designed ships,

Seabourn Odyssey and Seabourn Quest.

Imaginative itineraries deliver a spectrum of experiences that include the colourful colonial cities of Mexico, Guatemala and Colombia, where landscapes range from coffee plantations to ancient Mayan ruins and enclaves of hip boutiques and cafés. There's the man-made, 48-mile Panama Canal, where ingeniously carved waterways cut across wilderness and the ruggedly charming former fishing community on Jost Van Dyke in the British Virgin Islands, where we stop to learn folk tales of a colourful past.

Whichever exotic routes these smart ships sail, what doesn't change are the modern luxurious suites - 90 per cent of which have their own verandas - and the impeccable service with a staff to guest ratio of nearly one to one. There's also the exquisite cuisine and choice of world-class wine labels that make being on board feel more akin to a contemporary boutique hotel at sea than a cruise ship. The intimate size means that Seabourn can cleverly reach those castaway deserted coves that larger vessels simply can't. Sit back and relax as the captain picks the best spot to drop anchor for a day of complimentary water sports, from kayaking to snorkelling and stand-up paddle-boarding.

At remote beaches such as Carambola on St Kitts, guests can enjoy a 'Caviar in the Surf' beach party as crew members stand in the turquoise water to serve champagne and caviar (just one of the many touches that make Seabourn so unique), while in the port cities of Santarem on the Amazon River and Vitória in Brazil, there are vibrant cultural sights and plenty of spectacular views to discover. A sophisticated way to see a new side to the Caribbean \Box



WAYS AND MEANS Seabourn offers worldwide destinations for 2017, from the Mediterranean, Greek Isles and Baltic Cities through to the Caribbean and Panama Canal, Asia, Australasia and even the white continent of Antarctica. To find out more and to request a brochure, call 0843-373 2000 or visit seabourn.co.uk



An Emerald Waterways cruise on the Danube river in Budapest

RIVER RUNS THROUGH

A DELIGHTFULLY RELAXED CRUISE ALONG THE DANUBE OFFERS PLENTY OF TIME TO EXPLORE ON LAND

s I headed to the dance floor for the opening strains of Gloria Gaynor, it occurred to me that the reason I had resisted a cruise, until my 50th birthday, was to avoid this sort of cheesy nonsense. Admittedly, I could have chosen alternative post-dinner entertainment, either watching the latest James Bond (the swimming pool

area is converted into a cosy cinema in the evenings), or relaxing in my modern, spotlessly clean cabin. The reason Gloria won through was

that 20 of us from the 120 or so on board were slightly demob-happy after a 30-kilometre cycling ride from Melk to Dürnstein which had given my travelling partner and I a chance to bond with our fellow passengers.

We had boarded our river cruise, the *Emerald Sun*, at Passau on the Austrian border, an hour's

hop from Munich airport. Passau sits at the confluence of three rivers: the Danube, Inn and IIz, and our trip was taking us along the former for seven nights, finishing in Budapest. I was pleasantly surprised that a river cruise allowed for plenty of time on land - you simply walk down the gangplank and often you are a five minute walk from the centre of town. In Passau, the old town is the draw, re-built after a devastating fire by Italian masters in the seventeenth century with Baroque flourishes in its many churches and a magnificent gothic Town Hall. The world's largest cathedral organ, with over 17,000 pipes, can be found in St Stephen's, which dominates the skyline with its three green onion-shape domes. That afternoon we relaxed on deck as the boat meandered towards Linz, Austria's third-largest city. It's a fascinating amalgam of old and new, and a creative hub for designers and performance artists. Don't miss the outdoor graffiti gallery in the harbour.

Day four was our cycle ride through the wine-growing region of Melk, but not before we had visited a 900-year-old Benedictine abbey and walked through the pretty town back to the boat. After a delicious lunch

> on board, 20 of us hardy souls set off and while I don't think Sir Bradley need fear for his world records, octogenarian John, who admitted he couldn't remember the last time he had ridden, was well deserved of a gold medal after nearly four hours of fairly strenuous pedalling.

We awoke the next morning in Vienna, the city of Strauss and Mozart, Lipizzaner horses and Sigmund Freud.

The day began with a 40-minute coach tour – a quick gulp of the city before more measured time at sites of choice. On our final morning, the goodbyes were surprisingly perky considering the generous pace at which staff had been pouring wines at the gala dinner the night before. And even a few new faces, so there must have been some guests on board who had left their dancing shoes at home.

An eight-day Danube Explorer river cruise, departing May 5, 2017, costs from £1,595pp. 0808-115 6269; emeraldwaterways.co.uk

Take comfy walking shoes and a rain coat. There are heaters on parts of the deck but extra layers are useful for when the weather is chilly. If you want to breakfast quietly, head to the bar for fruit, yoghurt and croissants in a more peaceful setting than the main restaurant.

B Head straight to the Spanish Riding School in Vienna if you want to see Lipizzaner horses in their daily exercise. The queue starts early. The only additional excursion we paid for was a classical music concert in Vienna, which cost €75. Highly recommended.

There is plenty of guided sightseeing should you wish to join, with two walking groups so elderly guests can go at a slower pace \Box

I was pleasantly surprised that a river cruise allowed for plenty of time on land



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Our Star-Ships are more like boutique hotels than river cruise vessels. Each one features stylishly appointed suites with an ingenious indoor balcony system, a chic Horizon Bar & Lounge, panoramic Sun Deck for soaking up the endless scenery and a heated pool* which transforms into an evening cinema.



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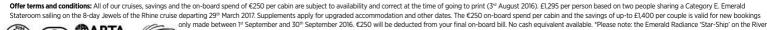
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- All tips included saving up to £235 per couple



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Douro does not have an indoor pool/cinema instead, there is a Serenity Pool on the Sun Deck. Flights are subject to availability and may incur a supplement. The necessary deposit at the time of booking is £250 per person, with full payment required within 90 days of departure. There will be an additional 1.5% charge made on bookings paid by credit card (1.95% for Am Ex). For full terms and conditions,

97%



please refer to our 2017 European River Cruise brochure or visit our website www.emeraldwaterways.co.uk. E&OE.



BESPOKE | CRUISE

ASIAN FUSION

EXCELLENT GUIDES AND CULTURAL EXCURSIONS STANDOUT ON AN EPIC JOURNEY FROM SINGAPORE

anjang umurnya, panjang umurnya, panjang umurnya-Serta mulia, serta mu-li-a, serta mu-li-a.' The last thing l expected to have on the brain after a 14-night cruise around the coast of Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam was the Indonesian version of 'Happy Birthday'. Staff aboard Holland America Line's 1,450-guest *MS Volendam* were of many nationalities, but the Indonesians stood out for their infectious *joie de vivre* as they gathered to sing to guests.

Although far from Indonesia, we still had a lot of sea to cover: 2,761 nautical miles from Singapore to Hong Kong. Cruising this vast geography would be an effective introduction to the region, and especially to Vietnam, as we were to drop anchor in four ports along its 1,000-mile coastline, revealing dynamic variations of climate and culture.

We set out, Singapore Sling in hand, on this splendid navy-blue-painted ship - an older one of the fleet having been launched in 1999 - in which some of its cabins had seen better days. But with its gleaming brasses, teak decks, art-deco theatre, striking art installations, colourful two-storey restaurant and loyal clientele of professional cruisers, mainly from the US and Australia, it conjured the glory days of travel.

We headed north for Koh Samui to spend a morning swimming under a waterfall. This was one of many excursions on offer, and with each one came local guides with impressive English. In Bangkok, I took the river cruise in a wooden junk which pitched and rolled along the busy tidal waterway between stilted houses and psychedelic temples. Where Bangkok was confident, Cambodia felt scarred from the Khmer years. Some passengers took the two-day side trip to Angkor Wat; we visited Sihanoukville's pungent market, a Buddhist temple and Ochheuteal beach, disconcertingly trailed by limbless survivors.



ABOVE Boats in Halong Bay, RIGHT A local transports vibrant flowers on a bicycle

And so to Vietnam, where our guide in Ho Chi Minh City (called Saigon by locals) spoke eloquently about life in the here and now, referring to the war in factual, rather than emotional terms. Despite communism, Tranh was an entrepreneurial type, who led us expertly round the former Presidential, now Reunification Palace, made famous when a North Vietnamese tank crashed through its gates in 1975. We saw tree-lined squares, elegant colonial French architecture, and a busy city of under-30s, almost all out on motorcycles. Next stop, Nha Trang, behind a sensational beach, where the welcome to tourists was as warm as the weather; Danang, 295 miles north, was a more industrial port: gateway to the treasure trove of Hoi An. Another 283 miles north, our final stop was the extraordinary Halong Bay, with its 3,000 ghostly limestone crags and spectacular caves.

Everywhere you could barter for Thai jade or Vietnamese lacquerware, embroidery, silk lanterns or clothes, but the schedules were too tight to delve. For now, it was enough to view this corner of Asia, through the filter of a comfortable ship, as a kaleidoscope of shifting impressions, to be coloured in later.

A 14-night 'Far East Discovery' cruise on MS Volendam costs from £999pp based on two sharing an inside stateroom on a full-board basis, departing February 14, 2017. 0843-374 2300; hollandamerica.com Singapore Airlines flies four times a day from London Heathrow and daily from Manchester to Singapore. From £735 pp. 020-8961 6993; singaporeair.com



HIGHLIGHTS

 The brilliant on board cast of singers and dancers, and the in-house band, Sanne and the HalCats. Bangkok market, where flowers and panniers of garlic and ginger spill onto the street, the air smells of frying noodles and women sit weaving roses, orchids, lotus and marigolds into decorations for the temples. A bicycle rickshaw in Nha Trang. It's a novel and surprisingly comfortable way to see the town and beach. Be Be Tailors in Hoi An, where you can get a made-to-measure silk dress in three hours. While you wait, have lunch at Vy's Market restaurant and cooking school, a fun, open-plan restaurant where delicious specialties infused with chilli and lemongrass are cooked in front of you. Tours with any of the young, charming, knowledgeable Vietnamese guides who conveyed such positivity

about the future \Box



FULL OF FLAVOUR

HOLLAND AMERICA LINE'S MOUTH-WATERING DINING OPTIONS ARE AN UNFORGETTABLE ELEMENT OF LIFE AT SEA ABOARD ONE OF ITS CRUISES

> hen Holland America Line's new ship, *MS Koningsdam* launched earlier this year, it joined a fleet of elegant, mid-size ships offering a wide range of five-star cuisine to reflect the worldwide destinations on its itineraries. From simple to gourmet, regional

recipes to traditional favourites, each dish is prepared with the highest quality ingredients. Guests can enjoy delicious five-course dinners in the main dining room; feast on food inspired by the Pacific Northwest at the Pinnacle Grill (think: king salmon from Alaska and responsibly raised beef from Washington); and try garlic and shrimp ravioli or lemon and thyme white sea bass in the authentic Italian restaurant, Canaletto.

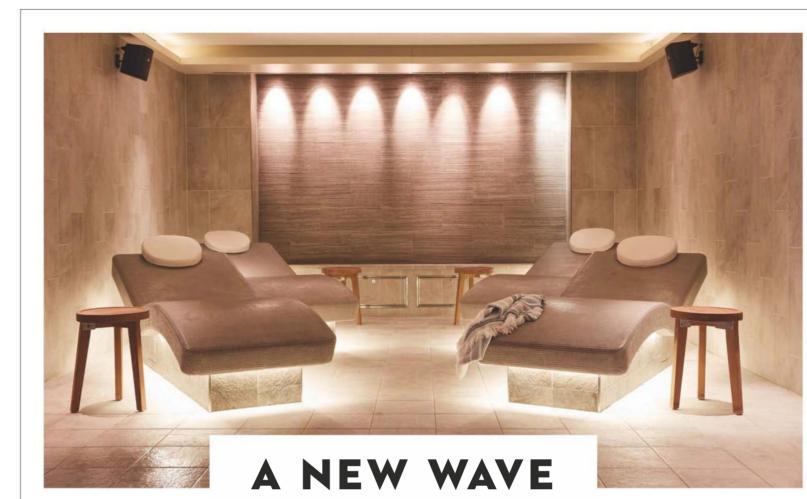
Perhaps the biggest foodie flavours are at Tamarind, which focuses on the culinary traditions of Southeast Asia, China and Japan. A collaboration with renowned Japanese-born sushi chef Andy Matsuda from the Sushi Chef Institute in Los Angeles means that four of his CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT The dining room on *MS Koningsdam.* Sushi is served with style. The Culinary Arts Centre. Delectable desserts



signature rolls are on the dinner menu, including a tempura lobster roll with lobster tail, unagi sauce, avocado and asparagus, and nigiri tuna zuke with yuzu-flavoured tuna and guacamole sauce.

There's also a Culinary Arts Centre with a show kitchen for handson cooking classes and demonstrations by visiting guest chefs and, on *MS Koningsdam*, the chance to sit down for a farm-to-table dinner experience. Other exclusive concepts include the intimate French seafood brasserie Sel de Mer, the Grand Dutch Café, which is inspired by the company's Dutch heritage, and Blend, where guests can blend their own wine in association with Chateau Ste. Michelle, the oldest winery in the state of Washington. Pair all these superb dining and wine options with spot-on service and it's a recipe for success □

WAYS AND MEANS To book your holiday with Holland America Line, visit your travel agent, call 0843-374 2300 or visit hollandamerica.com





FOR A SOPHISTICATED SPA EXPERIENCE AFLOAT, VIKING'S NEW OCEAN SHIPS RULE THE WAVES, BOASTING NORDIC RITUALS IN A MODERN SETTING

magine watching the sun set over the Mediterranean as you relax in the warm water of a glass-backed infinity pool. Or feeling snowflakes gently falling from the ceiling in the invigorating snow grotto as you cruise around the Caribbean. Or relaxing with a fresh-air yoga session on the top deck of a ship after a day of gambolling in Scandinavia. Such an enlightened approach to on board well-being, paired with immersive experiences in the world's most desirable destinations, was unimaginable in the cruising days of old

but now, thanks to the masterminds at Viking Cruises, it is a welcome reality.

In her debut season last year, buoyed by the company's impressive credentials as a river cruise operator, *Viking Star* sailed past the competition to establish herself as one of the most inspiring names in contemporary ocean cruising. Earlier this year, *Viking Sea* joined the fleet and *Viking Sky* and *Viking Sun* are set to follow in 2017. Each ship carries 930 passengers - fewer than most ships her size so she feels very spacious - and brings both a Scandinavian aesthetic and the spirit of river cruising onto the high seas. Journeys remain destination focused with port-intensive itineraries and frequent overnight stays. On board facilities are vast, varied and carefully crafted to maximise guests' experience of each destination.





BESPOKE | PROMOTION





And the best bit? Almost everything from 24-hour room service to excursions and Wi-Fi and use of the spa facilities, is included in the original price.

Designed by Swedish spa company Raison

d'Etre, the innovative on board spa experience draws upon the holistic wellness philosophy of Nordic culture. Body and soul are simultaneously relaxed and rejuvenated via the centuries-old Scandinavian bathing ritual of alternating the extremes of hot and cold. The snow grotto, a room made of real-life snow, is the first of its kind at sea and while most guests are familiar with saunas, hot tubs, Jacuzzis and plunge pools - albeit perhaps not in such settings - the spa team has introduced special sauna evenings to help reveal the full benefits of the process (for a small fee). Traditionalists, fear not, the ship also provides all the pampering and pummeling one would expect of a modern spa. There are massages, scrubs, facials and manicures as well as a state-of-the-art fitness area, Kinesis and TRX equipment and a studio for yoga, pilates and Zumba. Combining past expertise with techniques of the future, there has never been a better time to explore the world's oceans with the inventive team at Viking \Box

WAYS AND MEANS To find out more and to request a brochure, call 0800-652 2469 or visit vikingcruises.co.uk

BOTH PAGES CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT Heated beds, a hydrotherapy pool, Snow Grotto and pool-side lounge area are all in the LivNordic Spa. The Wintergarden, Manfredi's restaurant, and a lounge are all features of the Viking Star





CRUISE SHOW OFFER

DISCOVER THE BIGGEST COLLECTION OF SPECIALIST AND MAJOR CRUISE LINES ALL UNDER ONE ROOF AT THE CRUISE SHOW IN BIRMINGHAM, GLASGOW AND LONDON

> rom a meandering river boat trip along the remote Ganges to sailing on an intimate ultra-luxury ship around the Mediterranean or an expedition in Antarctica, there are endless exciting destinations and cruise styles to suit all tastes. Which is why a visit to The Cruise Show, Europe's leading event dedicated to exploring the world of sea-faring voyages, held in Birmingham,

Glasgow and London, is a must. With informative free talks, essential expert advice that you won't find in the brochures and helpful tips about the latest exhilarating excursions for 2017 and beyond, this is the place to find your dream cruise holiday.

Experienced cruisers will be inspired by news of cutting-edge ocean vessels taking to the water this year with groundbreaking on board features and new river boats reaching parts of the world only accessible by water. Plus, there are exclusive money-saving offers and upgrades to take advantage of. Meanwhile, those thinking of holidaying on board for the first time can address those

all-important questions directly to the cruise lines and attend a useful 'Cruising for Newcomers' talk (held twice per day in the Ask the Experts Theatre) to get a flavour of what life at sea is all about. Whether you're looking for a relaxing cultural river cruise or a tropical all-inclusive family getaway with entertainment for all ages, you're bound to find it here. For more details, visit cruisingshow.com



FROM TOP *Tiger Blue*, a traditional timber phinisi, sails around Eastern Indonesia. AmaWaterways' *Zambezi Queen* houseboat on the Chobe river. A zodiac on a Silversea polar expedition

READER OFFER TWO FREE EARLYBIRD TICKETS

House & Garden readers can get two FREE* tickets to The Cruise Show at Birmingham, Glasgow or London, worth £20, when booked in advance. To find out more about the exhibitors and talk timetables, visit cruisingshow.com



THE CRUISE SHOW DATES

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SECC, GLASGOW October 8-9, 2016

OLYMPIA, LONDON February 18-19, 2017

BOOK NOW

Simply quote 'HOUSE&GARDEN' when booking online at **cruisingshow.com** or when calling 0871-620 4024.

TERMS & CONDITIONS *£2.50 booking fee applies. Calls cost 10p per minute plus network extras. Ticket offer ends 24 hours prior to each event.

SPAS AT SEA

SPAS ARE NOW AN INTEGRAL PART OF FIVE-STAR CRUISES, PROVING THAT MAKING TIME FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IS AS IMPORTANT AT SEA AS IT IS ON LAND



CRYSTAL SPA: FENG SHUI FOCUS

Crystal takes well-being so seriously that all the spas on board their ships *Symphony*, *Serenity* and *Esprit* are specially designed to soothe and relax using feng shui principles of space, balance and energy. Here, you will find more than just the usual pampering and relaxing rituals, with an added full-service Medi-Spa offering fillers to soften lines and wrinkles, as well as those to help plump out lips. Other options include teeth whitening, an in-depth skin analysis, nutritional consultations and metabolism tests. *One to try: The Japanese Silk Booster Facial which leaves skin feeling wonderful and positively glowing.* 020-7399 7601; crystalcruises.co.uk



CUNARD'S QUEEN MARY 2: DESERT MEETS OCEAN

The QM2 is united with an equally iconic name for its on board spa: Canyon Ranch. Once described as 'the world's greatest health resort', it brings its famed well-being practices to cruising. Sporting one of the largest spas at sea with 24 treatment rooms, there is a plethora of pampering treatments on offer, plus experts who can advise on everything from weight loss to body composition analysis. At its heart is the lavish Aqua Therapy Centre, a sophisticated water park of saunas, steam rooms and hydrotherapy pools. One to try: The Canyon Stone massage uses volcanic stones from the desert. 0843-374 2224; cunard.co.uk



* Constant of the second secon



VIKING STAR: CHILL ZONE

Viking's first spa at sea, LivNordic on the *Viking Star*, is a celebration of healthy living inspired by northern climes using the age-old traditions of heat and cold. The elegant space has eight treatment rooms decorated in soothing shades of taupe and silver. There is a comprehensive menu of treatments but the real delight is the bathing area: a mélange of saunas, Jacuzzis, plunge pools, and the pièce de résistance - the Snow Grotto, where you can gambol in real snow, made the same way as on the pistes during shortfalls. *One to try: The Snow Grotto - with or without the birch twig extra.* 0800-298 9700; vikingcruises.co.uk

SEABOURN SPAS: GOLD STAR TREATMENT

Uber luxury is at hand in Seabourn's Penthouse Spa Suites (on board its ships Odyssey, *Quest* and the new *Encore*), which are ideal for those who want to make serious use of the spa facilities. All have private verandahs, a mini bar stocked with healthy drinks and snacks, and access to the spa via your own spiral staircase. The suites can be booked for two hours or more for treatments. The spa menu offers seaweed wraps and scrubs, massages and manicures, as well as Elemis Biotec facials and the newly introduced SkinCeutical line. *One to try: Go for gold, literally, with Seabourn's 24-carat gold facial. It will help tighten the skin and soften the appearance of wrinkles.* 0843-373 2000; seabourn.com

REGENT SEVEN SEAS: A WORLD OF BEAUTY

Scouring the seven seas for wellness treatments and therapies has meant that the spas on board the Regent ships have some of the most extensive menus available. Allied to Canyon Ranch, treatments merge the best of the New World with the Orient. Choose from a desert stone massage, acupuncture, reiki, Ayurveda, shiatsu and Thai massage. Even in the dining room, you'll find a 'Canyon Ranch Balanced Selection' at each meal for those who want to extend their healthy living ethos beyond the spa. *One to try: The ever reviving Feet So Soft pedicure, in which warm paraffin*

wax plus a massage equals nearly new feet. 02380-682 280; rssc.com

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*Booking fee of £2.50 per ticket applies. Advance box office closes 11pm 2 November 2016

66 Our cruise ship was docked in the harbour for the first of two days in St Petersburg, and who could turn down a night at the ballet? From the moment the conductor appeared to a ripple of applause, to the striking up of the orchestra and then the curtain rising, I was entranced. The grace and athletic skill of the dancers was mesmerising – they seemed to defy gravity as they leapt into the air. For the interval Saga had arranged our drinks – locally-produced Russian 'champagne' – so we didn't have to queue. It was because of their care and attention we were made to feel like a VIP that night. A fantastic evening, I loved it. SS

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CHRISTMAS AFLOAT

ESCAPE THE STRESS OF CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINING AND SET SAIL ON THESE FIVE CRUISES WHICH PUT THE FOCUS BACK ON FAMILY TIME ABOARD LUXURIOUS OCEAN SHIPS AND FLEGANT RIVER BOATS.

ummer is barely over but already the nights are drawing in, which means that Christmas must be around the corner. Swap the traditional hassles of cooking, cleaning and washing up for a big family meal for a stress-free ocean or river cruise. Most ships spend

Christmas Day at sea but for something a bit different, pick a trip that docks in port so you can explore a new destination between the turkey and carol singing. Whether you opt for a European river jaunt down the beautiful Danube or Rhine, or for a sunny spot in the Seychelles, these cruises offer a real break from the festive norm.

BACK TO BURMA

Tales of daring-do await on an unlikely Christmas Day outing to Minhla Fort where, in 1885, the British beat the Burmese for control of the area. This journey on the Irrawaddy River with Pandaw sails from Yangon to Mandalay, stopping at tiny villages and towns to visit colourful markets and monasteries. and ride in trishaws and horse carts. In Magwe, visit the Myat Thalon Pagoda, built with gold bricks. In Bagan, watch the sun set over thousands of temples. From £4,550pp, full-board for 14 nights, including flights, departing December 18. 020-8326 5620; pandaw.com

RHINE READY

Wake to a leisurely Christmas Day cruise to Breisach in the Black Forest on AmaWaterways' festive trip along the Rhine. There's time for presents before

an afternoon excursion to medieval Riquewihr, nestled in the Alsace vineyards. The voyage, from Amsterdam to Basel, passes beneath fairy tale castles in the Rhine Gorge. In Strasbourg on Christmas Eve, imbibe a warming glühwein at the festive market by the Gothic cathedral.

From £2,299pp, full-board for seven nights, including flights, departing December 19. 0808-256 8422; amawaterways.co.uk

CARIBBEAN COOL

Hiking, snorkelling, sailing or swimming? The only problem with Azamara Club Cruises' island-hopping jaunt through the Caribbean, from Miami to San Juan in Puerto Rico, is deciding how to spend the day itself. You'll be in Nevis, a tiny island with an exclusive feel to

> match your ship, the homely Azamara Quest. In Saint Thomas, spend the evening at the island's fun Caribbean carnival.

> From £2,596pp, full-board for eight nights, including flights, departing December 19. 0844-493 4016: azamara clubcruises.co.uk

ISLAND FLING

Swap turkey for turtles on Silversea's journey through the Indian Ocean, spending Christmas Day in the coral island of Desroches in the Seychelles. There's no Santa or tinsel - just sun, sand and sea as you sail from Malé in the Maldives to Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania on the luxury expedition ship Silver Discoverer. You'll see giant tortoises in the remote Aldabra islands and mangrove forests in exotic Mozambique.

17 days, cruise only, departing December 17. 0844-251 0837; silversea.com

DOWN WITH DANUBE

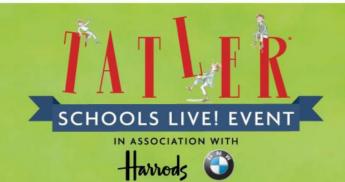
The hills are alive with the sound of Christmas on this festive Danube voyage that not only spends the big day in Salzburg, where scenes from the Sound of Music were filmed, but rings in the New Year at a gala dinner dance in Budapest. This Uniworld river cruise sails from Passau to the Hungarian capital and includes two days in Vienna with a complimentary Mozart and Strauss concert in an opulent palace.

From £3,534pp, full-board for 10 nights, cruise only, departing December 23, 0808-168 9231; uniworld.com

From £11,950 pp, full-board for

WORDS: JANE ARCHER

FROM TOP The grand staircase inside the Azamara Quest. Silversea's ship, the Silver Discoverer. A pagoda in Bagan (centre left). The Belvedere Palace in Vienna



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STOCKISTS

Merchandise from these companies is featured editorially in this issue. Information is checked at the time of going to press, but *House & Garden* cannot guarantee that prices will not change or items will be in stock at the time of publication.

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DECOREX PREVIEW

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CHLOE ALBERRY, STAND A46 Specialising in door and cabinet fittings. Her latest collections employ the use of semi-precious materials such as Petrified Woods, Mother of Pearl and pictured here Fossilised Corals. Visit her shop based on London's Notting Hill. Call 020 7727 0707 or www.chloealberry.com



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Rebecca Scott is the specialist artisan urniture maker that uniquely blends classical design with a contemporary twist by combining

complimentary materials and finishes. Their clients include the world's leading designers, working on homes, hotels and yachts around the world. Rebecca Scott are the recognised distributors for Fine Art Lamps and Tribu Outdoor Furniture in England. Showroom: 103 Lots Road, London, SW10 ORN. Visit www.rebeccascott.co.uk or

call 020 7352 3979.



KANCHI BY SHOBHNA AND KUNAL MEHTA, STAND D22 Established in 1999, as part of a larger manufacturing base, Kanchi was founded by Mother and Son duo – Shobhna

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and Kunal Mehta, as an experiment to create a destination for extreme design. The designers uniquely blend furnishings with design and fashion to create exclusive bespoke creations for interior spaces, be it residential, commercial or hospitality. Visit www.kanchidesigns.com or call +91 98 21 030112.



ATLANTICO RUGS, **STAND A77**

Atlantico Rugs create exclusive handmade tapestry rugs in pure wool. Designs range from traditional classic florals to modern contemporary linear patterns. For more information, contact anne@atlanticorugs.com visit www.atlanticorugs.com or call 020 8780 5288



JULIAN CHICHESTER, STAND E33

By adding a contemporary touch to classic designs from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, Julian Chichester creates beautiful furniture that champions the essence of English eclectic elegance.Visit www.iulianchichester.com or call 020 7622 2928.



MARBLE HILL FIREPLACES, STAND H18 They will be showcasing one of the stunning range Bell balanced flue fires at Decorex this year. These fires offer up to 85% efficiency from 2-10kw heat without the need for a chimney.View their collection online at www.marblehill.co.uk contact them on 020 8892 1488 or email info@marblehill.co.uk



naturally aged woods with the finest

contemporary finishes, fabrics and their

bold use of colour. Each piece is designed

to be cherished for years to come. Drop

in for a chat to find out how they can

SIR WILLIAM BENTLEY BILLIARDS, STAND G39

This stunning Continental pool table is an example of the bespoke design and high quality craftsmanship that makes them the choice of interior designers. Their website features many of their beautiful tables, matching accessories and lighting. Handmade in England, delivered and installed worldwide. Visit www.billiards.co.uk or call 01264 731210.



RAPTURE & WRIGHT, **STAND F37**

Studio Rapture & Wright adapt age old hand print techniques to produce beautiful fabric and wallpaper collections with bespoke colour options. Visit www.raptureandwright.co.uk or call call 01608 652442.



ALTERNATIVE FLOORING, STAND C21

It's a first! Iconic British patterns in British-made carpet. Alternative Flooring with Liberty Fabrics is a collection of enchanting carpets and bespoke rugs woven in heritage garden, meadows, shell and exotic paisley designs. See them at the stand, call 01264 335111 or visit www.alternativeflooring.com



BENCHMARK STAND, H34 Benchmark introduce the Holworth Dining Chair by new designer Nathalie de Leval and the Wedmore Extending Table designed by Steven Owens, alongside designs by Daniel Schofield & Terence Conran. These timeless pieces are handmade in Benchmark's Dorset & Berkshire workshops using traditional craft techniques.

Visit www.benchmarkfurniture.com or call 01488 608020.

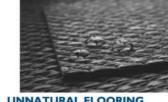


TIGERMOTH LIGHTING, **STAND B43**

Tigermoth Lighting uses beautiful materials in simple, elegant designs to create stunning contemporary lighting. Launching this year at Decorex: their new Small Stem Chandelier and Lattice Wall Light. To be the first to see them, visit stand B43 or online at www.tigermothlighting.com alternatively call them on 0845 658 9059.



residential projects and with flexibility over measurements and finish, the Fiona McDonald Makes collection provides a truly bespoke service. Visit www.fionamcdonald.com or call 020 7731 3234.



UNNATURAL FLOORING, **STAND K52**

Waterproof, high performance, practical flooring for bathrooms, kitchens, offices, hotels and busy homes - easy to clean and incredibly hard wearing. Can be fitted or available in standard or bespoke rugs. Suitable for use with underfloor heating, indoors and outdoors. Prices for rugs from £85.

Visit www.unnaturalflooring.com



SHUTTER SHOP, STAND D26 The Shutter Shop is firmly established as the UK's leading supplier in interior window shutters. With

over 30 years' experience supplying the finest quality, bespoke shutters. Specialising in a full service, from measuring to fitting the most comprehensive stylish shutter range available. Call 020 7751 0937 or visit www.shuttershop.co.uk

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1. The Daphne Signature by **DU MAURIER WATCHES**. British designer Ned du Maurier Browning has created a timeless classic in honour of his grandmother, Daphne du Maurier. This slim, elegant piece features a gently domed dial and sapphire crystal on a stunning gold mesh bracelet, or choose from a selection of coloured straps. RRP £440-£475. See the full collection at www.dumaurierwatches.com or call 01460 220720.

2. BIKEPARKA. The new BikeParka XL has been upsized to safely cover larger bikes, and bikes with wider handlebars or child seats. For more information, visit www.bikeparka.com

3. BLUE VELVET, the home of contemporary and luxury footwear, direct from the heart of Europe. Always one step ahead, they have established themselves on their quality and first-rate service. Buy online at www.bluevelvetshoes.com visit them at 174 Kings Road, London, SW3 4UP or call 020 7376 7442 to find out more.

4. HARRIET GUBBINS is a modern day couturier and is celebrating 30 years creating her fabulous individually designed clothes. After an initial consultation Harriet will design an original outfit for you. All her clothes are made from a couture pattern made from your measurements, so the fit is fantastic, hugely flattering, and anything is possible. To find out more, visit www.harrietgubbins.co.uk or call 07711 706305.

5. JILLY CARRINGTON creates bespoke, miniature dogs hand-crafted from raw wool. The average size is circa 15cm long. Jilly undertakes commissions and works from supplied photographs. Visit www.jillycarrington.com or call 01672 810996 for more information.

6. Vintage watch movement cufflinks by **PRETTY ECCENTRIC**. Crafted from 1920s-1950s watch movements, set with their original ruby jewels, mounted as cufflinks and presented in a vintage inspired box £49. To find out more, visit www.prettyeccentric.co.uk or call 01273 238342.

 LIZ TYLER DESIGNS. Award winning designer jeweller Liz Tyler delights in making your dreams a reality. Liz will be exhibiting at Craft in Focus Exhibition at Sevenoaks School 21-23 October 2016. For details, visit www.liztyler.com or contact Liz on 01258 820222.

8. Showcasing the finest gianduja products from Turin, Italy, BONIERI's traditional recipe chocolates and stylish 'Bella' selection boxes combine exquisite taste with Italian passion and style. Recently awarded 3 Great Taste gold stars, Bonieri's range includes dairy and gluten free pralines, crumbly nougat, luxury spreads and much more. Stockists include Selfridges and Harrods. Discover more online at www.bonieri.com or call 08444 148588. Use code HG20 for 20% off your first order.

9. VARCA's Autumn/Winter collection has arrived, including these beautiful Spanish boots. See their full range available in various styles. For more Mediterranean inspired fashion, footwear and accessories, visit www.varca.com or call 01903 746677.

10. THE CANDLE COMPANY produces luxury fragranced products in a range of beautiful perfumes. Creating premium scented candles, diffusers and room spray colognes, of the highest quality. They also make bespoke own label branded products, (white label) in short runs. For more information, visit www.candleco.co.uk call 01981 570777 or email info@candleco.co.uk

11. COMFY CLOGS are handmade in Sweden and available in a range of the latest fun and funky styles and colours. Sizes for women and children. Perfect and practical for pregnant women and useful in the house and garden! Real skin Clogs available in a variety of styles. Call Cecilia on 07815 750340 or 020 8780 9767 for a brochure. Visit them at www.comfyclogs.net

12. TUTTABANKEM offer a range of stunning cotton kaftans, tops and cool cotton nighties – the perfect gift for yourself or your loved one. Visit them at www.tuttabankem.com or call them for a free catalogue on 01572 717332.

13. DIANA PORTER CONTEMPORARY JEWELLERY. British jewellery

designer, Diana Porter, specialises in beautifully handcrafted, unique pieces. Diana works to commission, creating one off designs, hand etching customers own words onto the jewellery and re-working clients existing pieces. Call 01179 090225, email web@dianaporter.co.uk or visit www.dianaporter.co.uk for more information.

14. ONYOURBED is the new name in luxury dog beds and throws, they offer contemporary styling, sumptuous comfort for your dog and uncompromising quality and practicality. Nuzzle up to the full range at www.onyourbed.co.uk or email info@onyourbed.co.uk

15. MANDARINA SHOES: Fun, fabulous and practical – Mandarina's brand new suede and Harris Tweed Chelsea boot collection is now online in 10 great colours, £129. Visit www.mandarinshoes.com or call 01307 819488.

16. COMFY CLOGS Swedish samibracelets have finally arrived in London! The incredibly popular bracelets you can see on many stars today, are made of reindeer leather with silver and pewter thread with an antler button. Sizes for children, women and men. Visit www.comfyclogs.net or call Cecilia on 07815 750340 or 020 8780 9767 to find out more.



1. This Autumn the POOKY people have added a fabulous new range of colourful lamp shades and a large selection of beautiful new lamps, pendants, wall lights and desk lights at affordable prices. Everything is easily browsed at www.pooky.com and delivered free. Email hello@pooky.com or call them on 020 7351 3003 and their customer services team will help however they can.

2. CURATED LIVING is an exciting new home and gifts brand, with a wide range of unique products. With a passion for quality and stylish design, Curated Living is your one-stop destination for inspired gifts, accessories and furniture, as well as luxury bath and body products, and intriguing finds. Take a look at www.curatedliving.co.uk email contact@curatedliving.co.uk or visit their beautiful Haslemere showroom.

3. VILLAVERDE creates handcrafted lighting, made in Italy for interiors worldwide. The Arezzo Contemporary lantern in nickel finish as shown, designed by Claudio Marco, is available in custom colour finishes and various shade options. Villaverde offer a lighting consultancy service, enquire at their London showroom -618-620 Kings Road, London SW6 2DU, call 020 7610 9797 or visit their website www.villaverde.london to find out more.

4. SAMARKAND DESIGN produces interior accessories made from textiles sourced from India and around the world, including handmade lampshades in vintage silk sarees and their new range of contemporary hand-blocked and tie dyed silk. Visit www.samarkanddesign.com or call 07973 922943 for enquiries.

5. Take a look at PUNICA's gorgeous range of beautiful homewares. With the utmost commitment to quality workmanship and lasting appeal, their collection enables you to experience luxurious textures and beautiful patterns which are reminiscent of exotic places, sunshine and pleasurable times that enrich the comforts of home. Visit www.punica.co.uk email info@punica.co.uk or call 07979 523832 for more information.

6. RAINBOW LONDON. Rainbow is the place to discover timeless Italian artwork and the unique tradition of Maestri glassmaking from Venice. The spectacular variety of Murano crystal combined with traditional Italian hand-crafted metal work results in eternally stylish custom-made treasures. Find them at 329 Lillie Road London SW6 7NR. Call 020 7385 1323 or 07453 297552, email info@rainbowlondon.com or visit www.rainbowlondon.com to find out more.

7. W SITCH & CO. Working in the trade since 1776, the Sitch family moved to their current premises in the 1870s from where they continue to specialise in the reproduction and renovation of antique lighting, be it the repair, rewiring or renovation of your own light fitting, or by offering you one from their selection of thousands of antiques or one of their reproductions which are made on the premises following traditional techniques. For further information, visit them at 48 Berwick Street, London W1F 8JD, call 020 7437 3776, or browse www.wsitch.co.uk

8. This beautiful silvered metal chandelier (CL212-9) from TINDLE is adorned with silver leaves, sparkly crystals and nine flower shaped glass lamp holders. Perfect for rooms with lower ceilings, it is 100cm wide and 50cm high. List price is £3276 +VAT. For more information, visit www.tindle-lighting.co.uk or call 020 7384 1485.

9. Every Havlock Copper Pendant from BREAM UNIQUE LIGHTING is designed and hand-crafted in Australia offering a truly bespoke piece to add to your interior. Subtle design variations are available to suit your individual project. View full range of sizes and colours available in this new range of lighting online at www.breamuniquelighting.com.au or email info@breamuniquelighting.com.au for custom enquiry.

Artistic Moments...





















1. LORRAINE CHRISTIE's fine works in oil appeal to the emotions. Whether strikingly masculine or intensely feminine, her works are an international success. Her mysterious titles leave one questioning. Illustrated is 'Reservation' 36x24 inches. Price upon request. Visit www.lorrainechristie.com or call internationally +770 401 0370 for more information.

2. GHIZLAN EL GLAOUI. Make an impression with innovative art! These beautiful artworks are cleverly illuminated, allowing you to remotely change the colour and the light intensity depending on your mood or the time of day, resulting in a stunning look that's reminiscent of glittering Byzantine mosaics. To find out more, visit www.ghizlanelglaoui.com or call 07917 015112.

3. Figurative artist, NATALIE PAPAMICHAEL's drawings and paintings are inspired by feminist art history and personal experience. Focusing on portraiture and working from photographs, she re-interprets classical paintings from a contemporary perspective, using the techniques of the old masters. Natalie also undertakes commissions for acrylic portraits and has limited edition prints available. Visit www.nataliepapamichael.com or email nataliepapamichael@gmail.com for more information.

4. A colourist, inspired by flowers and gardens, **ANNE TOASE** produces textural and vibrant images. Working mainly in acrylic, her work has been acquired by interior designers for clients, and is in European and Asian collections. Visit www.annetoase.co.uk for more information.

5. JOHN CARTER is an innovative artist working in South Shropshire. "XS Packaging" is a collection of unique and colourful wall art, incorporating bright acrylic colours and redundant packaging. To see the gallery, visit www.pacart.co.uk or call 07779 311792.

6. ANNA MAZZOTTA RCA, is a Royal Academy graduate and a previous winner of the prestigious Jerwood Prize and Society of Women Artists Great Art prize winner 2015. Annie's art is featured in prominent private and corporate collections, UK wide and Internationally. Her work is ideal for those looking to invest in quality with character. For originals, commissions, prints or further information, visit www.annamazzotta.co.uk or call 0770 822 9871.

7. EMMA HAGGAS' lively oil-based paintings are inspired by the beautiful surroundings of her Wiltshire home and the stunning seascapes of the North Cornish coast. She also paints vibrant still life and flowers. Emma is now showing regularly in London and the South West. Visit her new website,

www.emmahaggas.com to view more examples of her work and exhibitions.

8. KATHLEEN WOODWARD chooses to focus on the positive, on the joy in life. She paints what she lives, sifted through her experience. To her, the landscapes of nature pulse with the vibrancy of life and colour. Mountains and rivers; rocks and streams, sunsets and moonlight, her palette celebrates their unexpected riot of hue and motion. To be



inspired, visit www.kathleenwoodward.com or call +1 206 719 1036.

9. T.S. HARRIS presents a dazzling aqueous vision that merges the past with the present. Inspired by snapshots and film stills from the mid-century, the paintings depict fleeting moments captured almost a lifetime ago. Her work has been featured in museums and galleries nationwide, book covers and magazines, and a movie, The Face of Love. For further information on her art and exhibits, visit www.tsylvesterharris.com or email tracey@tsylvesterharris.com

10. Brighton - based GERARD BYRNE is an internationally acclaimed contemporary Irish artist and 2nd prize winner at this year's Pintar Rapido London, the UK's biggest plein air painting festival, competition and exhibition. His collection features vibrant figurative works, modern impressionist plein air landscapes and evocative floral pieces. Illustrated is the extraordinary triptych 'A Journey to Abstract' 186x200cm. Visit www.gerardbyrneartist.com email gerard@gerardbyrneartist.com or call 07477 555584 to find out more.

11. AMANDA IDOWU creates prints that are abstract and intense in colour – perfect for the modern home. Visit www.saatchiart.com/IDOWU or email amanda.idowu@gmail.com for further details.

12. DUTCH PAINTINGS. Culinary and still life oil paintings by Dutch artist Tanja Möderscheim (London). Classical, 17th century techniques. Paintings for kitchens, dining rooms, hallways, libraries. Exhibitions include Mall Galleries and the BBC Food and Farming Awards, celebrating culinary heritage. For more information, visit www.dutchoils.com call 07909 646317 or email artist@dutchoils.com

13. SUE MALKIN is an established, award-winning painter, whose images of horses in motion are known for their energy and colour. Her bold compositions in oils depict the speed, power and tension that she observes in the subject-matter of horse and rider. Visit suemalkin.co.uk or e-mail suecmalkin@gmail.com for more information.







14. CAMASSIA BRUCE re-imagines the charm of Scottish Landscapes. Fife-based, and focused on local scenes in combination with the remote, she incorporates lone buildings as places of solace in seemingly uninhabited areas. Visit www.artbycamassia.com email camassiabruce@gmail.com or call 07340 661198 for more information.

15. ROB HAIN's 'Festival City' is a celebration of Edinburgh. The culmination of the international festival is a spectacular firework display, painted here from Calton Hill. Rob's studio is open to the public on 1st and 2nd of October and he is available for private commissions. Visit www.robhain.com or call 07984 552735 for more information.

16. NYC based artist, **DIANE GREEN** was chosen to be featured on Saatchi Online's "In the Studio". Raphael Rubinstein, a former editor of Art in America, wrote about her work as having "shimmering colour and virtuosic brushwork". Visit www.dianegreenpaintings.com for more information.

17. POTTERS' YARD HOUSE

PORTRAITS. Liz Mathews makes house portraits in clay, creati ng architectural miniatures to celebrate special places from cottages to castles. Each unique artwork combines meticulously accurate detail with a sensitive evocation of spirit of place. Commissions cost from £300 to £3000 and free quotations from photos are available. To find out more, visit www.pottersyardhouseportraits.com call 020 7697 0881 or email studio@pottersyard.co.uk

Indian Summer...

1. WILVERLEY. The absolute king of swing! Made for the British summer, the Idler swingseat from Wilverley is a traditionally upholstered swinging garden sofa. Marine canvas, spring cushions and a 100% stainless steel frame make the Idler not just a fair weather friend. Wilverley can ship internationally, £1945. Call 01843 603462 or visit www.wilverley.com for more information.

2. SPA LIVING: for everything you will find in a spa, for your home. The Joe Cacoon arm chair is one of specially selected range from the spa experts at Spa Living. Find relaxation chairs, beautiful wall art, sculpture, mirrors, luxurious spa bathrobes and now you can book a spa break in a SPAShell™. To find out more, visit www.spaliving.co.uk or call them to chat about your Home Spa project on 0118 9471857.

3. For antique garden ornaments like these 19th Century pier finials visit **LICHEN GARDEN ANTIQUES.** Amongst their stock of beautiful antiques Lichen has garden urns, statuary, gates and decorative ornaments, as well as supplying prestigious reclaimed York and limestone flooring for landscaping projects. Visit www.lichengardenantiques.com or call 01608 678890.

4. CLARE BIGGER's beautiful bespoke sculptures of dynamic figures, animals and birds are a celebration of life and the spontaneity of movement. Her work has featured in several RHS Chelsea show gardens and notable collections. For commissions or further information, contact Clare on 07773 846635 or visit www.clarebigger.com

5. KASAKOSA's stunning Indian Summer garden parasols will brighten up any garden this Summer and their collection of ethically sourced luxury homeware will make your home sing with the joy of individualistic expression. Shop their online emporium at www.kasakosa.com or visit their Lincolnshire showroom. Call 07931 307810 or follow @kasakosa for further information.

6. A PLACE IN THE GARDEN is proud to introduce the brand new London Wall Lamps. Simple and elegant, these hold an Edison-style filament bulb, creating a showcase for the luminescent beauty of early electrical lighting. The London Lamp is available in two sizes with the price starting at £249. To find out more, visit

www.aplaceinthegarden.co.uk or call 01403 864866.

7. MUD KITCHEN LONDON create kitchens that let children's imaginations run wild, they are beautifully crafted and provide a practical area for children to get back to nature. Built from treated timber, their kitchens are painted and personalised to your order and can be delivered within the UK with all utensils. Visit their website www.mudkitchens.co.uk or call them on 07779 597067.

8. PLAYAHEAD DESIGN make and install a fantastic range of bespoke treehouses and climbing frames. Check out their new website for galleries of the huge number of unique projects they have completed at www.playahead.org.uk call Jerry direct on 07854 084958 or email him at jerry@playahead.org.uk to find out more.









Decadent Designs...

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1. CASA BOTELHO present the Diana Drinks Trolley. The unqualified beauty, strong character, and unquestionable femininity of Diana, Goddess of the moon, inspired this collection. Round in shape and made in small proportions, it certainly has the wow factor; offering a unique entertaining experience and a real conversation piece. Striking yet functional, it is a must have item and offers a winning combination for everyone. The trolley is custom-made and available in a choice of two materials in different finishes, steel and brass with multiple choices of marble. Visit www.casabotelho.com to find out more.

2. PATRICK IRELAND MIRRORS. The Arundel console table with antique mirror panels has been designed to complement the Newick mirror, finished in black with nickel stud detail, and several other mirrors in the range. Made to order, size and finishes are flexible. To view the online Framed Mirror Catalogue, visit

www.patrickirelandmirrors.com call 01435 813158 or email pi@pimirrors.com

3. THE DOUGLAS WATSON STUDIO offers high quality handmade and hand painted tiles using traditional techniques and a wide range of glazes, colours and styles, from historical and classical sources to original and contemporary designs. Panels and installations, for kitchens, bathrooms and fireplaces, are custom made for each client. For more information, call 01491 629960 or visit www.douglaswatsonstudio.co.uk

4. Handmade Persian Gabbeh, £410 from ORIENTAL RUGS OF BATH. With prices starting from only £60 and a wide range of designs and sizes, there's bound to be a rug for everyone! For showroom details, more information and to order, visit www.orientalrugsofbath.co.uk or

call 01761 451764.

5. Made from the very finest quality wood, MULTIYORK's furniture collections are handfinished to the highest standard. From stylish occasional tables and storage solutions to stunning dining tables and upholstered dining chairs, Multiyork have chosen pieces that work with their sofas and armchairs to create a beautifully coherent look. Call 0333 358 3325 or visit www.multiyork.co.uk to find out more.

6. SOMETHING DIFFERENT is a true treasure trove. It's full of eclectic and unique pieces sourced from around the world; one-off pieces of furniture, beautiful and colourful textiles, cushions made from vintage saris, unusual artefacts, wonderful jewellery

and much more. Product shown is a wooden carved white parrot lamp with a Mariska Meijers latest season lampshade, £357. Go to www.something-different.uk.com call 01730 858151 or visit their Midhurst shop to find out more.

7. IRIS & BEE creates bold, unexpected and contemporary floral prints and cushions. Growing up in Barbados with a background in textile design, Karen transforms her vibrant acrylic paintings by digitally printing them onto faux suede fabric cushion covers, and Fine Art Giclée prints. All prints are museum quality and printed onto sustainable bamboo paper. Discover more at www.irisandbee.co.uk

8. **DEVOL KITCHENS** – Designers and makers of handmade English kitch en cupboards. They offer a selection of classic Georgian and Shaker painted furniture and the Air kitchen, a retro classic of the future. Their most recent addition, the highly acclaimed Sebastian Cox Kitchen by deVOL, is a unique urban rustic design. All deVOL furniture is made in

their workshops in Leicestershire and can be viewed at Cotes Mill, a beautifully renovated watermill, or their new London showroom in Clerkenwell. Visit www.devolkitchens.co.uk or call 01509 261000 for more information.

9. MONTPELLIER's California fireplace featured here with the Bellfires Derby inset High Efficiency gas fire is in the new Desert Cream marble, available in selected showrooms nationwide. For a colour brochure or details of your nearest stockist, call 01242 582 777 or visit www.montpellier.co.uk You can also follow MontpellierNS on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and Instagram.

10. CAVENDISH STONE present this Classical stone temple with a composite lead dome, flowing inlaid scrolled frieze and lead plaque inlays, available in one or two-tier step options. 360cm (11'8") high, 227cm (7'5") wide. The Temple can be made to special sizes. All products have been sculpted, manufactured an hand-aged in Somerset, United Kingdom. Call 01747 842214, email info@cavendishstone.com or visit www.cavendishstone.com









11. Large yet lightweight, these beautifully striped and stylish **OTTOMANIA** hammam towels dry quickly and are easy to fold, making them perfect to pack in any bag or suitcase. Whether you are at the beach, swimming pool, sports club or on a boat, make sure you take one with you. They are also suitable for daily use in your bathroom at home. For more information, see www.ottomania.nl or call +31 237 370 426. Also available wholesale.

12. BERRYDESIGN are contemporary furniture designers and makers. They create the most stunning, fine quality, solid oak and walnut dining tables, dining chairs, sideboards, libraries, as well as bespoke designs for private clients worldwide. Their collection of extending tables is possibly the largest that you will see anywhere. Uniquely designed pieces combine clean lines with high functionality for modern lifestyles. View www.berrydesign.co.uk or call Newbury 01635 255352 to visit their showroom.

13. ROBERT LANGFORD's divine new "Baldwin" collection pays homage to design god Billy Baldwin. This "in-stock" cocktail and lamp table just oozes glamour. Available in 2 finishes. Visit their King's Road showroom to see why they are proud to be trusted by the world's best designers. View the full collection at www.stock.robertlangford.co.uk or call 020 7352 1876.

14. PAD LIFESTYLE is an online lifestyle collective offering many unique and inspiring home and fashion brands from across the world. With so many chic, curious and eclectic pieces to find it's definitely worth a look. This gorgeous hand woven wool rug from Berlin design house The Knots, is perfect for a cosy interior. Shaggy and chic in a classic Berber style, it features a distinctive geometric pattern rendered in charcoal hues, set against an ivory field. Visit www.padlifestyle.com to shop this look or call 0131 225 9012 to find out more.

15. BOWLEY & JACKSON is the home of a carefully sourced collection of interiors and home-wares, selected for their individuality and style. Pictured is the beautiful Italian, linen oilcloth. Durable and washable and available in 16 designs, it gives the elegant appearance of a linen tablecloth with a matt, wipeable finish. For more information, visit www.bowleyandjackson.co.uk or call 01653 697400.

16. Sourced from all over the world, MRS STONE STORE stocks a wide variety of natural stone tiles including beautiful contemporary limestone, traditional sandstone and versatile Brazilian slate. Discover the collection online with free samples at www.mrs-stone-store.com or call 01283 730388 to find out more.

17. HOWARD CHAIRS are internationally renowned as makers of beautiful upholstered furniture. Each piece is painstakingly hand-sprung and stitched in their own workshop, using traditional methods and the best raw materials. Established in 1825, the fine attention-to-detail and craftsmanship will last for generations. Clients can select from their collection or they can make to your own specification. They also provide a soft furnishings service including drapes and walling. Call 020 7482 2156 or visit their showroom at 30-31 Lyme Street, London NW1 0EE. View their website at www.howardchairs.com

18. BUTTON & SPRUNG's stylish, handmade bed frames are perfectly complemented by their superior pocket sprung mattresses, with 100% natural fillings. All products come with a 10-year guarantee and 100 nights free returns, so you can sleep easy. Explore their range at www.buttonandsprung.com or call their showroom on 03333 201 801.

19. LINDA FENWICK SHELL DESIGN. A wide range of shelled interior accessories and bespoke commissions for tables, mirrors, lamps, lanterns, trays, candle holders and all interior accessories. Also larger commissions for shell houses, follies, framed panels, interior walls, bathrooms, pool houses, alcoves, pediments, orangeries, pavilions, bars and summerhouses. Linda is able to personalise and engrave centre stones. To see more of the high-end exquisite collection, visit www.lindafenwickshelldesign.com or call 01653 648470.

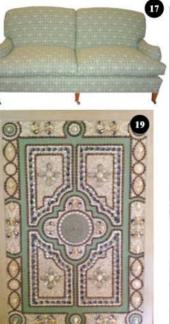














HOUSE & GARDEN ADVERTISING FEATURE

Decadent Designs... Continued





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20. TRUNK BESPOKE DOORS. Made-tomeasure: external doors and internal fire rated doors, in a variety of classic and modern styles. They provide a beautiful range of architrave to complete your joinery requirements. Doors start from $\pounds135 + \text{vat.}$ Call 0800 470 3351 or visit www.trunkdoors.com to find out more.

21. Set the scene for elegant dining with **GLAZEBROOK & CO's** classic Fiddle collection – mirror finish Stainless Steel with dishwasher safe cream "square handle" knives. Special offer price: was £350, now £325 for a set for 6 people, that's 6 x 7 piece

place se tting (pictured) and 2 tablespoons, includes UK delivery. To see this design and more, visit www.glazebrook.com and click "Special Offer", or to order, call 020 7731 7135.

> 22. OMNIS is a lifestyle store based in South London selling a range of design-led pieces for your home. Visit their store in Brixton or see their collection of unique ceramics, art, soft furnishings, candles, rugs and much more online at www.omnisstore.com Call Sophie on 020 3302 9989 to find out more.

23. Every **REVIVAL BED** is handmade in the UK by master craftsmen. There are 15 bed designs available, as well as a full collection of furniture and luxury mattresses. All beds come with FREE delivery and installation and a 10 year guarantee. Request your free brochure today at www.revivalbeds.co.uk or call 01777 869669 to find out more.

24. BUTTERFLY DOMES. Butterflies in glass domes. Choose the butterflies for your dome or select from a range on the website. Visit www.butterflydomes.co.uk or call 07951 110147 to find out more.

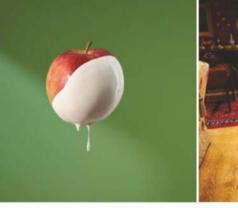
25. HADDONSTONE is the UK's leading manufacturer of fine garden ornaments in traditional, classical and contemporary styles. Launching at Decorex is the Berenice bust, £299. This fine replica has been taken from an 1889 bronze by the renowned Naples studios of Sabatino de Angelis. Inspirational catalogue available. Visit www.haddonstone.com or call 01604 770711.

26. SOFASOFA[®] has been manufacturing Great British sofas since 1981. Sofas are made to order and delivered direct from their factory to your home, cutting out the retailer. All products come with a no risk, 21 day money back trial period and a 5 year frame warranty. Sofa prices start at £299. Call 01495 244226 for a free brochure or visit www.sofasofa.co.uk to find out more.

27. A beautiful collection of paints made using only natural pigments and ingredients by interior designer EDWARD BULMER. Discover their unrivalled colour, extraordinary depth and response to light – which synthetic paint simply cannot replicate. Their paints are healthy for you, your home and the environment. They declare all their ingredients. Colour with a conscience – why compromise? Be inspired by www.edwardbulmerpaint.co.uk

28. William Emmett, lead designer at EMMETT & WHITE, seamlessly blends his passion for interior design, with his love of antiques, to deliver simply stunning, beautiful interiors. His natural talent, combined with his unique approach to interior design, is sure to delight you. To find out more, visit www.emmettandwhite.com or contact William at william@emmettandwhite.com or call 01323 870595.

29. SOFAS & STUFF offer an elegant, supremely comfortable collection of very beautiful British handmade sofas, chairs and sofa beds that look far more expensive than their price tag. Traditional hardwood frames and sprung upholstery are guaranteed for life, delivery is 8 to 10 weeks and a no-quibble returns policy is reassuring. Be guided through a cornucopia of fabric options with friendly, expert advisers in rural barn showrooms and new city-centre locations. Buy online at www.sofasandstuff.com or call 0808 1783211. Shown here is the Alwinton large sofa in Walloon Stripe Red.





30. ALEXANDER & PEARL's online

boutique offers a range of industrial chic and modern furniture, lighting and accessories. Whether you are looking for a statement piece or stunning lights to illuminate your home, they have pieces to suit stylish tastes. Pictured is a 1948 Porsche 356 Roadster framed print, £325. Visit www.alexanderandpearl.co.uk email mail@alexanderandpearl.co.uk or call 020 8508 0411 for more information.



31. ADAM WILLIAMS DESIGN patinated bronze furniture. This Greenwich table and matching mirror are hand gilded in bitumen on brown finish, and are both available in bespoke dimensions. These stunning bespoke tables and mirrors would be a desirable acquisition to either traditional or contemporary interiors. Call 01749 830505 email

info@adamwilliamsdesign.co.uk or visit www.adamwilliamsdesign.co.uk to view the complete collection.

32. FELT's unique collection of 100% wool felt rugs and cushions are handmade by the nomadic peoples of Kyrgyzstan. From dazzling and bright to elegant and subtle, they suit both traditional and contemporary interiors. Viewing by appointment in London SW12. Call 020 8772 0358 or visit www.feltrugs.co.uk

33. For more than 40 years **JAMES MAYOR FURNITURE** have designed and produced bespoke fitted, painted furniture for the entire home. They can bring your design ideas to life, creating interior cabinetry that includes wardrobes, TV units and bookcases, kitchens and wall panelling as well as one-off freestanding pieces. Their work is renowned for its clean lines and quality craftsmanship and their reputation has been built upon reliability and value for money. An on-site survey and consultancy service is available for larger jobs. Call 01213 281643 or visit www.jamesmayor.co.uk for more details.

34. BALMAIN & BALMAIN are makers of upholstered sofas, chairs, armchairs and stools that specialise in unusual and bespoke pieces. Each piece is handmade to order by craftsmen using the best skills and materials. The sofas and chairs can be seen at their showroom near Hungerford in the Wiltshire Downs or by visiting the website www.balmainandbalmain.com Call Balmain and Balmain on 01672 870414 for more information.

35. LAKELAND FURNITURE pride

themselves on their beautifully designed and affordable reproductions of modern classics. They carry an extensive range of excellent value beds, bar stools, office and dining chairs. For more information, visit www.lakeland-furniture.co.uk or call 0161 694 2790. Use the discount code H&GOCT for 10% off all beds before 3rd November 2016.

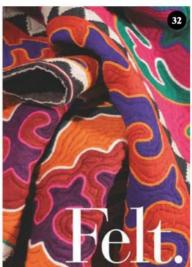
36. A SWEDISH HOME specialises in handwoven recycled cotton rugs such as Styrsö, shown here in a very traditional Swedish pattern, available in 6 sizes. They also stock beautiful linens from Ekelund Sweden and a small range of Swedish gifts. Visit www.aswedishhome.co.uk or call 01473 430460.

37. HICKS & HICKS's fantastic granite top kitchen island is as attractive as it is useful. Made from recycled Fir wood with an inset black granite top, it has four slatted box drawers, a full width slatted bottom shelf and locking castors, and is priced at £1,435. For a copy of their new furniture brochure, call 01872 530761 or email info@hicksandhicks.com Visit www.hicksandhicks.com for more information.

38. EDWARD HARPLEY are specialists in bespoke production of fine curtain poles, matching accessories and hand turned profile rings. They also have a unique collection of over 28 beautiful pelmets, from Chippendale and Hepplewhite, to modern interpretations of classical ideas for elegant homes. Pictured is a "Bowood" Pelmet with curved corners and decorative centrepiece in distressed gilding.

in distressed gilding. Available in any finish and to any size. Visit www.edwardharpley.com or call 01449 737999.











34



HOUSE & GARDEN ADVERTISING FEATURE

Decadent Designs... Continued







39. PERCEVAL DESIGNS specialises in

individual pieces of furniture, all made in the UK. Pictured is their Television Stand which can be produced to any size and colour your room requires. For more information, visit www.percevaldesigns.co.uk or call 01449 740935.

40. Give your living room a fresh look for autumn with a bespoke sofa from MULTIYORK. With over 50 styles to choose from, each piece is handmade in Norfolk and is available in a wide choice of interchangeable fabrics,

including designer ranges from Linwood and Sanderson as well as Multiyork's in-house Studio Collection. Many of Multiyork's stylish sofas and chairs also feature removable covers, allowing you to update your upholstery with ease from season to season. Call 0333 358 3325 or visit www.multiyork.co.uk to find out more.







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41. ARTISAN POSTBOXES & SIGNS. Handcrafted from

heavy duty cast aluminium by artisans in Northamptonshire. The Rockbox Mailbox has fantastic capacity and can be fully personalised, from £325. Built-into wall and pillar design postboxes and a range of cast signs also available from their foundry. Browse for inspiration and buy online at www.rockartisansigns.co.uk or call 01327 351561 for a brochure.

42. PULLMAN EDITIONS designs, commissions and publishes striking original posters which capture the enduring appeal of Art Deco. Their newly commissioned posters feature winter sports, glamorous resorts around the world, and the world's

greatest historic automobiles. All £395 each. Call 020 7730 0547 or view and buy online at www.pullmaneditions.com

43. THE DINING CHAIR COMPANY's stunning Gabrielle Bar Stools with ebony stained legs upholstered with dog applique. Visit www.diningchair.co.uk or call 020 7259 0422 to find out more.

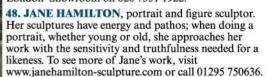
44. CAROLINE FOOKS DESIGN has a down-to-earth, flexible and considerate approach to decorating. They also offer a service of styling and room arranging, including photo shoots for private clients and estate agents, adding value to properties. To find out more, visit www.carolinefooksdesign.com or call 020 7386 5772.

45. Kadai Firebowls are pleased to present the WILSTONE Kadai,

handcrafted using thick steel to form a robust and versatile Fire Bowl BBQ. Special Summer offer on the Wilstone Kadai Firebowl - including high and low Gothic stands, grills, tongs, brush, tripod and cooking bowl from £275, call them and quote HG16JU. To find out more, visit www.kadai.com or call 01694 771800.

46. COSYANDDOZY.COM. The Cat Shelf Chill is the perfect cosy vantage point from which your cat can survey the house. She'll love its soft pillow and oval shape (containing your cat for safer napping), and you'll love its sleek, unique design. Style and function! Visit www.cosyanddozy.com for 20% discount; enter COSY20 at checkout. Offer ends 30/09/16.

47. JONATHAN CHARLES FINE FURNITURE presents the contemporary iron framed, antiqued gilded finish Kidney Shaped Desk 494214-G, with a clear glass writing surface, accompanied by the Empire Angel Armchair 494590, an impressive walnut and gilt armchair with finely carved golden wings to the arms and further carved gilt detail to the legs and seat rails. To find out more, visit www.jonathancharles.com or call the Sheffield Showroom on 01142 452777 or the London Showroom on 020 7351 1922.



49. ANIMALS IN WIRE. Commission a bespoke life-sized wire portrait of your favourite animal, beloved pet or fantastical beast. Handmade in Walthamstow, London these sturdy, rustproof sculptures are ideal outdoors or inside. Call Barry on 07951 039663 or visit www.animalsinwire.co.uk to find out more.





53

50. GEORGIANA HODSOLL offers a pair of 1970's brass lamps with Hodsoll cotton floral shades. Available online at www.georgianahodsolldesign.com and instore at Hodsoll, 363 Portobello Road, London W10 5SG. For more details, email georgie@hodsoll.com or call 020 7243 2457.

51. MAROC TRIBAL offers gorgeous mid-century Moroccan Berber carpets, vintage Beni Ouarain rugs, and hand woven kilims. They source carpets that are beautiful, rare, and original. Over the last decade they have built a reputation for authentic carpets and kilims that are woven with great skill and the lively spirit of Berber art. View all their rugs at www.maroctribal.com email

info@maroctribal.com or call 01621 782090 to find out more.

52. VOLGA LINEN is a family run, British company that sells an exquisite collection of pure linen from Europe and Russia. The collection consists of fabric by the metre, table linen, bed linen and ready to hang curtains. In addition there are two new upholstery linen styles and they have recently launched an exclusive collection of prints taken from a 19th century Russian archive. For more information, visit www.volgalinen.co.uk or call 01728 635020. Viewing by appointment in London, SW6 2AD.

53. CROWN COTTAGE SOMERSET. Hand-picked characterful antique and vintage furniture, hand painted in the unique style best suited for each piece – Scandinavian, French, rustic, country etc. Using their aging technique, they turn each item into a beautiful, unique piece of art. Visit

www.crowncottagesomerset.co.uk or call 07766 567065 to find out more.

54. STRING has transformed something as simple and humble as this little dainty light shelf, with its thin side panels, into one of the twentieth century's foremost design icons. Shown here is String pocket, the smallest member in the String shelving family, in blue. Visit www.string.se for more information.

55. ART REBELLION proudly presents Mini car furniture. Single/double seaters, Mini bars, Mini beds and Mini theatres created by award-winning UK artist George Ioannou. For their extensive range of furniture and artworks, visit www.artrebellion.co.uk or call 020 8668 0007 to find out more.

56. HAWKHILL HOTWORKS' stunningly original British made statement pieces feature artisan wrought iron set with skilled fused glass, brass and woods. The collection includes beautifully designed coffee tables, distinctive seating, glass framed mirrors and gorgeous lighting, all hand crafted. Bespoke orders welcomed. See more at www.hawkhillhotworks.co.uk or call 01241 830720 to find

www.hawkhillhotworks.co.uk c out more.

57. Completely chemical-free and environmentally-friendly, we adore these hand-poured candles and diffusers by **HARLEY & LOLA**. Fill your home with all natural spice and floral fragrances and experience utter relaxation. Perfect as a gift or an indulgent treat. To see more collections, visit www.harleyandlola.co.uk and get 10% off using discount code H&G1, valid until 31/10/2016.

58. ATLANTIC WOOL is home to the most beautiful rugs in the world! For more information, visit www.atlanticwool.com or call +298 214500.

59. Created from a desire to travel and a love of beautiful objects, **WANDERLUST WARES** helps you to bring a little bit of the exotic from around the world to your home. View their homeware collection online at www.wanderlustwares.co.uk or call Wendy on 07780 450163 to find out more.

60. CHARLOTTE BRISCOE INTERIORS offer a bespoke, luxury, soft furnishings service to suit the modern country home. Sourcing beautiful fabrics from many leading designers, her services include roman blinds, curtains, cushions and accessories. For more information, visit www.charlottebriscoeinteriors.co.uk or call 07872 347291.

61. CHAIRMAKER are a 100% British manufacturer and the holders of the Keys to the 'Chair vault'. The vault contains thousands of designs accumulated by 3 generations of chair makers. Chairmaker chairs are made to order in any fabric or leather you desire. Choose your wood, finish and upholstery detail for a personalised result. Chairmaker chairs are made by their artisans by hand not on a production line. They work with the trade or by private commission. Visit www.chairmaker.co.uk or call 01903 200663 to find out more.

62. TITCHMARSH & GOODWIN hand-makes bespoke fine furniture for private clients and interior designers all over the world. The company has a design office that can translate your or your client's ideas into reality. The pieces are then made in their Suffolk workshops, which boast some of the best craftsmen and women in the country. Call 01473 252158 for a brochure or visit www.titchmarsh-goodwin.co.uk to find out more.

63. OLD BOOT SOFAS, English

handcrafted leather sofas. Chesterfields from only £1090 available in various styles, colours and sizes, extremely comfy, exclusive leather with free UK delivery. To receive £50 discount on your first order, visit www.oldbootsofas.com or call 020 7736 3738 and use code GH50. 59











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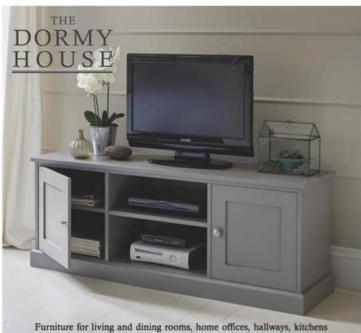


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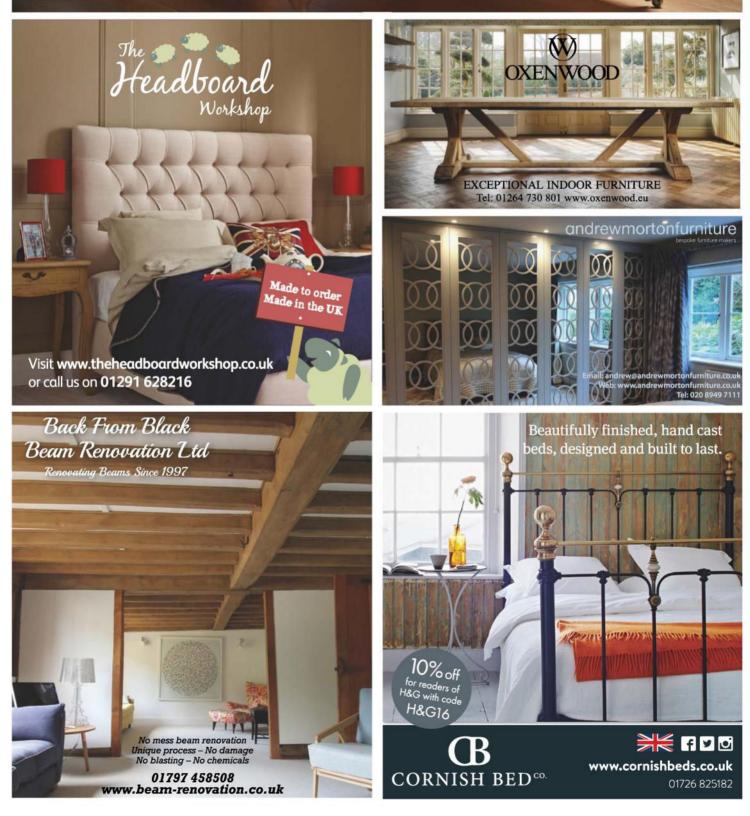


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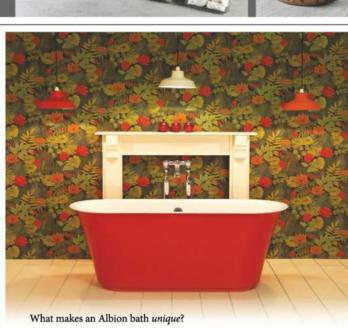
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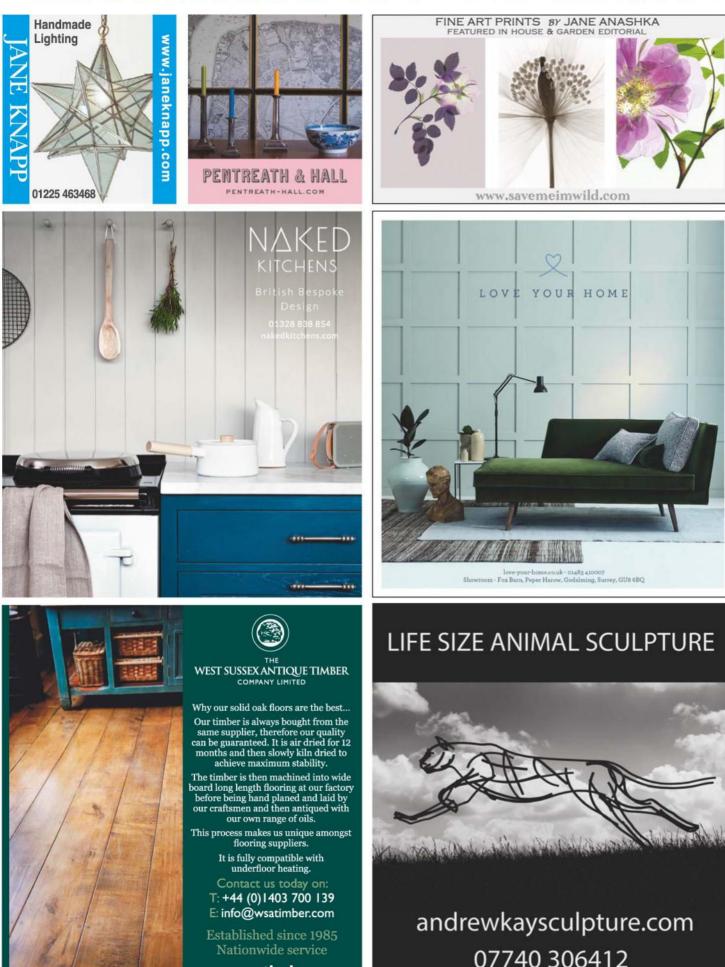
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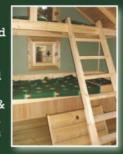
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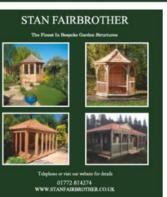
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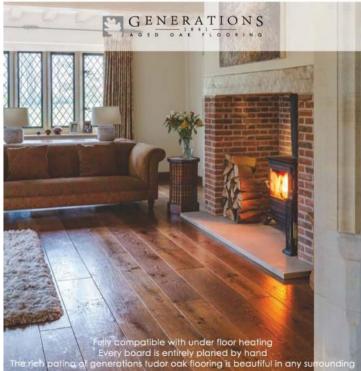


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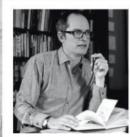
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DRAWING on the past

Architect Francis Terry tells Rosemary Brooke why everyone wants a new-build country house. And we pick some of the best around the UK

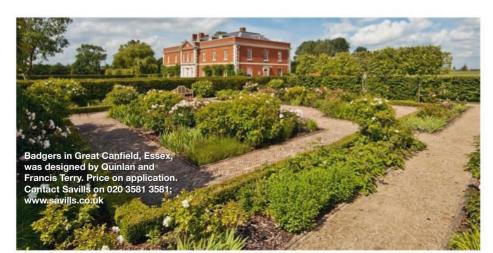


Architect **Francis Terry** is a specialist at designing modern country houses

he romance and grandeur of the English country house is something that has captured the hearts and minds of generations. Julian Fellowes called the country house 'an icon of British culture' and from *Brideshead Revisited* to *Downton Abbey*, there's a stately pile at the heart of some of Britain's most beloved stories. However, while owning a historic building might sound delightful, it's all too easy to overlook the practical implications. Repairs are staggeringly expensive, heating bills are

astronomical and the internal configuration is often completely unsuited to modern living, when nobody wants a kitchen that's half a mile from the dining room.

Little wonder that new-build country houses are becoming increasingly popular. Francis Terry, the son of the architect Quinlan Terry, is an expert at designing and building a country house from scratch. 'A good country house looks great both inside and out,' he says. 'What I love about this style of building is that it has a way of being both modest and noble at the same time.'



Over the years, Terry has worked alongside his father to become the leading exponents of the 'new classicism' style, taking on commissions that have included the State Rooms at 10 Downing Street and a new infirmary at Royal Hospital Chelsea. He recently set up his own practice, and is currently working on a variety of projects from houses in Wiltshire and France to redeveloping the historic centre of Twickenham.

P

Detail o

'When I start a project, I do a lot of hand drawings, as this is the quickest and most effective way of trying out ideas,' says Terry, who uses both traditional and contemporary working methods. 'Once the clients are happy with the design, we redraw the scheme in CAD for ease of use during the construction phase. At this stage, I often paint watercolour views of the house to show the client what it will look like when complete.'

It's a sensitive way of designing houses that's in keeping with the past yet makes the most of modern technology. And the result? His award-winning buildings have the aesthetic charm of an old house without any of the drawbacks – surely that's a winning combination.

For more information contact Francis Terry & Associates on 01206 580528; www.ftanda.co.uk

PROPERTY SECTION

Skyers Farm

Set on the Hampshire Downs, this redbrick house is being built in the Georgian style. Due for completion in 2017, the rooms will have high ceilings, plaster cornicing, sash windows and period chimneypieces. Both the interiors and exteriors reference Palladian architecture, but this modern manor will be kitted out with underfloor heating and an excellent security system. The 16-acre property comes with a Grade II-listed barn, stable block and swimming pool. Guide price: £6,000,000. *Contact Knight Frank on 020 7861 1080; www.knightfrank.co.uk*



Greenside

If you're looking for a palatial property of manageable proportions, this striking residence on the Wentworth Estate might be the one for you. At 8,000 square foot, Greenside is still pretty roomy and encompasses a library, sauna and indoor swimming pool complex. Price $\pounds 6,750,000$. *Contact Barton Wyatt on 01344 843000; www.bartonwyatt.co.uk*





Saltmarsh House

If you fancy a modern take on a country retreat, how about Saltmarsh House in Burnham Market? Floor-to-ceiling windows let in plenty of light and provide spectacular views of the North Norfolk coast and the surrounding countryside. Guide price £4,000,000. Contact Jackson Stops on 01328 801333; www.jackson-stops.co.uk





FREEHOLD



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Power-haus Potsdam

One of the most desirable homes in the exclusive residential area of Potsdam, just outside of Berlin, has come on to the market. Jessie Hewitson investigates



Berlin was identified last year by the accountancy company PwC as the best property investment prospect in Europe. Its annual 'Emerging Trends in Real Estate' report notes that buyers are "swarming" to the German capital, attracted by relatively inexpensive prices and a booming tech industry.

This activity has extended to the suburbs too, in particular the affluent city of Potsdam, which directly borders Berlin. Potsdam is where, pre First World War, the Prussian nobility lived, in ornate palaces surrounded by parkland. In the 1910s and 1920s, bankers as well as movie stars followed, building mansions in idyllic lakeside settings. Then, in 1961, with the near-instant construction of the Berlin Wall, everything changed, as the city found itself cut off behind the East German border.

Now Potsdam has come full circle. Once again it is home to some of Germany's wealthiest people, who have been lured by the big houses, the sound of birdsong and a centre that resembles West London's Notting Hill, with the added bonus of being surrounded by five imperial palaces.

One of the most desirable addresses in Potsdam is Villa Kampffmeyer, a substantial neo-baroque property that has recently come on the market through Savills estate agency. Built in 1923-1924 for the biggest mill owner in Germany, Kurt Kampffmeyer, it overlooks a lake, two castles and the notorious Glienicke Bridge, also known as the Bridge of Spies, where captured spies would be exchanged during the Cold War.

This property stands out for three main reasons. First, its size: designed to echo the royal palaces that surround the property, it measures 15,000 square foot, set within two acres of parkland and an extensive lake frontage. Second, its history: its architectural grandness there are baroque, classical and rococo influences - reflects a time of economic prosperity in keeping with Potsdam's imperial past. The property later found itself on the front line of the East-West demarcation, with the Berlin Wall running through the garden. And third, its location: at the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, yet a mere 30-minute drive from central Berlin and its two main airports - a rare thing indeed.

The house has been subject to an extensive renovation project that has lasted more than 10 years, which has seen the alterations made during the Russian years painstakingly removed and the property restored to its original glory. Now the interior design includes wood panelling, silk wallpaper and parquet flooring.

"It is extremely rare for these ultra-prime properties to come on to the market in Germany, as they tend to stay in the same family for generations," explains Jelena Cvjetkovic,



PROPERTY PROMOTION

associate director of international property at Savills. "This home would suit someone who is after extraordinary entertaining space and who needs to be close to a city with a thriving property market."

Villa Kampffmeyer is on the market with Savills. Price on application. For further details contact Jelena Cujetkovic on 020 7016 3754 or jcujetkovic@savills.com struttandparker.com

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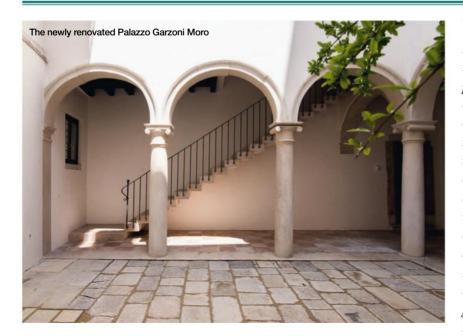
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WHAT'S YOUR PLEASURE?

Next question: what's your budget? Claire Pilton looks at second homes abroad that flutter price tags from $\pounds 400,000$ up to $\pounds 45$ million



uxury is about those rare experiences you don't have every day. For prosperous urbanites, that may be sleeping under the stars," says Sonu Shivdasani, who introduced his 'No news, no shoes' mantra to the Maldives in 1995 with the first of his castaway villa-hotels, Soneva Fushi. These days, the world may be our oyster, but invariably we hanker after whatever's new or in limited supply. For Alpine addicts that may be a second home in Switzerland. For the culturally inclined, a 'key ready' retreat is a rarity in Venice where re-development poses a logistical challenge. Which one of these suits you?



VERITABLY VENETIAN

Imagine waking up to a view of the Doge's Palace. Built in 1908 and refurbished by the present owner, Villa Bianca has seven bedrooms, a garden and outstanding views over the whole of Venice to the Alps and to the Adriatic; five minutes' walk from the Lido beach and 35 minutes by boat to the airport, this family retreat costs €12 million. Alternatively, five minutes from San Marco in the centre of Venice, the newly renovated 15th-century Palazzo Garzoni Moro offers eight key-ready one and two-bedroom apartments with optional soft furnishings by Rubelli. Priced from $\notin 480,000$ to $\notin 2.2$ million, all have windows on Rio de ca Garzoni, a gondola's paddle from the Grand Canal. Visit www.venicesothebysrealty.com

HIGH SOCIETY

Elite ski schools, snow polo and the Cresta Run, Michelin-starred restaurants and world-class boutiques... non-Swiss residents who aspire to a trophy-status second home on Europe's highest shopping avenue should check out Grace St Moritz. Moments from the pistes, with views of the lake and valley, its 'amenities' will include a Martini and cigar bar, restaurants and spa. Serviced by Grace Hotels, the 17 freehold apartments offer 'revenue opportunity' by renting back to hotel guests. It's due for completion in 2018, and prices range from CHF960,000 to CHF9.9 million for a fourbedroom penthouse. www.gracestmoritzapartments.com





FISCAL AND FUN

St Antoine Private Residence will be amongst the first Property Development Scheme to be realised in Mauritius. Combining an offshore investment opportunity with a lock-up-and-go holiday home, the 100 apartments benefit from a fully managed boatyard, clubhouse, kids' club, deli, bar and spa. Prices start from around \pounds 440,000 for a two-bedroom apartment through *Sphere Estates (020 3617 1360)*.



STAR-GAZING IN THE MALDIVES

This month sees the opening of Soneva Jani on one of five otherwise uninhabited islands in Medhufaru lagoon. The Maldives' lowest density resort sports a spa, dive centre, observatory, children's den, eco centre, outdoor cinema and five dining areas. Island villas start from US\$3 million, and feature a retractable roof (with a rain-detector) in the master bedroom. *Visit www.soneva.com/residences*



ALL DUBAI'S A STAGE

The UAE's Opera District made its London debut at Harrods this summer, where millions of window-shoppers saw Dubai developer Emaar's display. Neighbouring the new cultural hub and Burj Khalifa, The Address Residences Dubai Opera is also designed by Skidmore Owings & Merrill; one-bedroom apartments in this twin-tower scheme start from £400,000 through *Harrods Estates (020 7225 5867)*.



MORPHING IN MONACO

The London design-house behind Ross Beattie's Thirty-Nine club in Monte Carlo has created a contemporary architectural concept for a protected Belle Epoque villa on nearby Rue des Giroflees. The four-bedroom, four-storey villa has planning consent to build up two floors and maximise the protected views of the Med with a rooftop terrace, Jacuzzi and swimming pool. It's available through Knight Frank (020 7629 8171) for \notin 45 million; you'll need a further \notin 10 million to implement the designs of *Morpheus London (020 7610 7170)* and procure the smartest private pad in the principality.

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Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy

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PISTE SIDE

With the ski season fast approaching, there are plenty of advantages in owning an Alpine retreat. Les Balcons Etoilés is a new development in Champagny en Vanoise, located in La Plagne ski area and close to the Vanoise National Park. Built in wood and stone in a vernacular French style, the two buildings will house 47 apartments and are scheduled for completion in winter 2017. *From €215,000. 020 3327 7671; www.mgmfrenchproperties.com*





For a pied-à-terre at the heart of London, Temple House on the Strand is perfectly positioned for the City and has the West End on its doorstep. Part of the colonnaded 190 Strand development on Arundel Street, it features 22 apartments, many with Thames views. Its redbrick exterior and swish interiors were inspired by the nearby Savoy hotel, and the apartments range from 678 to 1,851 square feet. Residents will have access to a private cinema, gym, pool and spa, as well as a business lounge. Temple House is scheduled to complete in 2017; prices from \pounds 1,595,000. 020 3051 1022; www.190strand.co.uk

NOTEBOOK

Rosemary Brooke showcases some of this month's highlights, from the Alps to the Midlands

Sixties vibe

Holland Park's Melbury Road has long been a creative enclave. Many of the houses were originally occupied by artists, and the street is currently home to Robbie Williams and Jimmy Page. Ilchester Estates owns and manages a number of properties in Holland



Park, among them 43 Melbury Road. This 1960s three-storey house has been professionally decorated, combining contemporary comfort with mid-century accents. *For further information, email Paula.Brockway@ilchester-estates.co.uk.*

PAST MASTER

Situated in the historic English town of Warwick, Northgate Street comprises 18 elegant houses. The overall effect is so charming that it's been called 'the most handsome Georgian street in the Midlands'. It's currently being restored and refurbished as individual homes, having spent the last century as offices. Constructed in 1698, Number 10 sits in the middle of the terrace and is now the show home of the development. With five bedrooms and grand reception areas, it's modern luxury with a lot of history. Prices from £750,000; www.londonrea.com

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I mark 1











DECORATING. ACCORDING TO



Penny Morrison

1 Lacquered teak bedside table with brass pulls, £988, from Chelsea Textiles, 2 Penny added french windows in this dining room. 3 Silk Zhuang cushions, from £140 each, from Penny Worrall. 4 A large picture in a drawing room decorated by Penny. 5 'The Elmstead' sofa, £3,780, from Lorfords. 6 A high bed with a quilt from Chelsea Textiles

5

The designer is known for her effortless layering of pattern and her fabric collection. She co-founded decorative accessories company Irving & Morrison

Dark lacguered walls are incredibly chic. Pictures stand out very well against them. • I hate small bedside tables with tiny lamps. They should be as big as possible, with plenty of space for books and flowers. (1) • If you have built-in cupboards in your bedroom, clad the doors with antique mirrors. These will look smart and reflect the light, while making the room appear twice the size. • Try to make your garden, terrace or courtyard an extension of the house. I do this by putting in great big french windows. (2) • Cushions should be big, soft and never positioned on their point. Cover them in vintage fabrics and they'll look much more interesting. Penny Worrall's brightly coloured Chinese

silks are rather wonderful; they were originally used as dowry textiles in south-west China. (3) • Keep curtains simple - either unlined or with a thin interlining - or use light blinds instead. Heavy, lined curtains are a hangover from the days of no heating. • Pictures should be big, or there should be lots of them. There's nothing worse than a painting the size of a postage stamp on a vast wall. (4) Don't clutter a room with too many chairs. Club fenders, ottomans and small cubes that can be pushed under a table

are useful for extra seating. • Search out treasure troves for antigues. Every time I design a house I go to Lorfords in Tetbury and Guinevere in London (5). • Where possible, raise the tops of doorways. This will give you light and space while maintaining the definition between rooms. • I think the dining room is the most boring room in the house. It tends to look rather dead without people in it. Double it up as a library - fill it with books and flowers and it will come to life. • Spend your money on upholstered furniture and beds. Scale and comfort are so important. Invest in a good, deep sofa and a nice high bed. (6) • Americans do upholstery much better than us. Loose chair covers with flat seams are much easier to wash and also look very elegant. *pennymorrison.com*

Cushions should be big, soft and never positioned on their point. Cover them in interesting old fabrics



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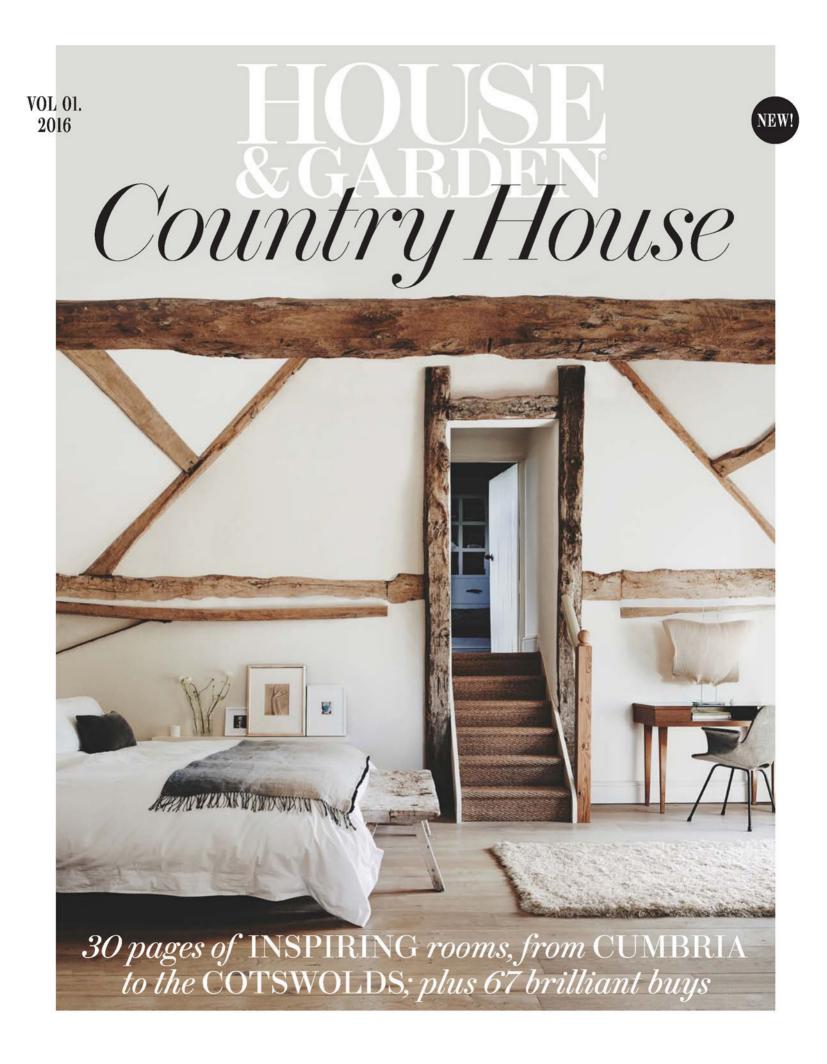
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was reading a novel by the writer A S Byatt when we began working on *Country House*, and I paused when I came across a particular line: 'She grew up in the ordinary paradise of the English countryside.' This phrase to match any by England's greatest pastoral writers, but it also captures an image of the countryside that seems very much a part of Britain's collective consciousness: our own Eden, which is both yearned for and within reach.

Though *House & Garden* has always been a broad church in terms of the styles of interiors that it features, it will come as no surprise that the country house has proved the lifeblood of the magazine ever since it was first published in 1947.

Some are once-crumbling piles that have been restored to their former glory; others are tiny thatched cottages requiring dexterous moves to avoid heads being bumped on lintels. We have unearthed creative conversions of neglected barns, as well as beautiful newbuilds that sit sympathetically within and blend seamlessly into their bucolic settings.

Country House is a compendium of some of the very best examples of these houses. More importantly, it is also a resource for decorating inspiration and ideas. It includes over 50 rooms to pore over, style tips from leading interior designers and pages packed with things to buy. I hope you enjoy the magazine as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

DAVID NICHOLLS COUNTRY HOUSE EDITOR

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WIN A £3,000 MINI BREAK AT LUCKNAM PARK HOTEL AND SPA

Lucknam Park Hotel & Spa is offering one reader the chance to win a two-night stay for two. The Palladian mansion, set in 500 acres of parkland, has a Michelin-starred restaurant, spa and equestrian centre, all of which the winner will experience. Find out more about the prize and how to enter in the October issue's 'Out and about'

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Enduring style

Ros Byam Shaw considers the hallmarks and history of the English country house look

f all the styles of decoration that have flourished over the past 50 years, none has been as enduring as that associated with the English country house. Though 'English country house style' has never been exclusively English, was perfected by an American, and pops up in Clapham nearly as often as in the Cotswolds, its decorative tropes are instantly recognisable: a mix of antique furnishings, at least one capacious sofa with a generous serving of cushions, rugs, table lamps with fabric shades, and flowers both fresh and recreated in prints and paintings. Antique textiles, a dash of modernity, a flourish of the oriental, and a couple of dogs can be added for extra flavour.

Part of the success of this style is its tolerance and flexibility. Unlike minimalism, which demands straight-edged perfection, or rough luxe with its ban on prettiness, English country house style embraces wear and tear, and doesn't take itself too seriously. Shabby can be chic, and a bit of silliness – sunglasses perched on the nose of a marble bust – is allowed, even welcomed.

Nancy Lancaster, the American credited with crystalising, if not exactly inventing, the look after buying Colefax and Fowler in the Forties, and teaming up with John Fowler, introduced American luxury to the small stately homes she decorated for herself – heating, carpeted bathrooms – ensuring that comfort became another characteristic. She famously advocated having 'something a little bit ugly' in every room, and described decorating as 'a bit like mixing a salad', recognising that a degree of informality promotes relaxation – no one enjoys feeling that their presence is a blot on the immaculate landscape. As a new century progresses, English country house style is as popular as ever, and evolving. At the grander, more traditional end is Robert Kime, who has worked on many houses of historical importance, including Clarence House for Prince Charles, and who is a master at creating rooms with that layered, timeless look. Decorators such as David Mlinaric and Hugh Henry also have the understanding of period architecture that is important for a style that often seems a natural choice for an old house.

The best practitioners, from Wendy Nicholls, Emma Burns and Roger Jones of Sybil Colefax & John Fowler - still going strong - to Nicky Haslam with his glitzy, witty take on it, to Paolo Moschino and Caroline Holdaway, have their own particular version of the style, while being equally adept at interpreting the wishes of their clients. Max Rollitt, Edward Hurst and Ben Pentreath lead a younger generation who are adding strong colour into the mix, and creating rooms with a more graphic, architectural feel. Tellingly, the first two are also antique dealers. Buying and selling antiques is how Robert Kime began his decorating career, and is a welltrodden path for many working in a style of which antiques are such a key element.

Contemporary English country house style features less in the way of blousy chintz, sprigged wallpapers and draped tables. Instead there are stripes and suzani cushions, matt emulsion on the walls and exposed furniture legs. Minimalism has left its mark and helped to control the clutter. Rough luxe has encouraged scrubbed floorboards and the stripping of later layers of paint and paper back to mottled sub-strata with the texture of history and use. This is a style that can flex with fashion and fit around lifestyles. It doesn't seem likely to fade away any time soon \Box

Fabric background: a detail from 'Duc de Berry', by Robert Kime, hand-embroidered linen/cotton, from Chelsea Textiles



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The large entrance hall in this eighteenthcentury Oxfordshire house allows one to stand back and take in the expansive nineteenthcentury landscape painting. Smaller artworks – perhaps hung in a cluster – are easier to read in narrower spaces.

A GREAT MANY DEMANDS ARE PLACED ON THE ENTRANCE HALL OF A COUNTRY HOUSE. First impressions count, so ideally it will be a warm, welcoming and good-looking space, but it must also be able to contend with wet and wear. \triangleright

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FOCUS ON

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HALLS



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Halls don't always benefit from lots of natural daylight, but you can make the most of what is available by going big with glazing on the door. In this Gloucestershire house, the top two thirds of the door is glazed – a good idea for newbuilds.



Visitors to this house in Suffolk, featured in *Romantic English Homes* (Cico Books, £29.99) are greeted by a hand-painted mural on a zingy yellow backdrop. It is a bold statement that can be recreated using wallpaper by companies that produce large repeat scenes, such as de Gournay. *degournay.com*

NOTES FROM A DESIGNER • The thing I like most of all is to come through the front door and be able to see right through to the other side of the house and the garden beyond. There would be lots of natural light and, if possible, a fireplace. Of course, not every house allows for this, but if you are building one or doing huge amounts of work, then it is something to aim for. I do love stone floors - of any sort but would avoid putting rugs on them, which can look grannyish. There are so many nice lanterns available, but they don't look right in many rooms; there must be so many frustrated decorators looking for a place to put a Jamb lantern – they should try hanging one in a hall. I like wall lights, too, which are good if you don't have space for a console table with lamps. Flower arrangements can make a hall look like a hotel; I'd rather have a pelargonium from the greenhouse in a fun pot, giving off a lovely lemony scent. They look countryish without being contrived. Penny Morrison: pennymorrison.com

STYLE



Do the groundwork It is essential to get the flooring right. Wood and stone are far more practical than carpets and, for instant character. search out reclaimed flagstones. A regular vacuum and mop will usually keep them looking their best. Avoid harsh cleaning agents, and take the advice of your supplier on whether you need to use a sealant – often you will find you don't. ⊳



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An atrium offers the potential for something large-scale and striking in a hallway. This one in Hampshire has a Mary Poppins-esque umbrella light installation by Rolf Sachs. *rolfsachs.com*



CIRCULAR STYLE The round table is a signature piece for larger halls, directing the flow of people walking around the room. Top with pretty displays to stop it becoming a dumping ground for keys and post.



BRIGHT THINGS Treat your hall with the same decorative eye as you would any other room in the house. Potted plants, patterned rugs and pretty lampshades bring this delightful example to life.



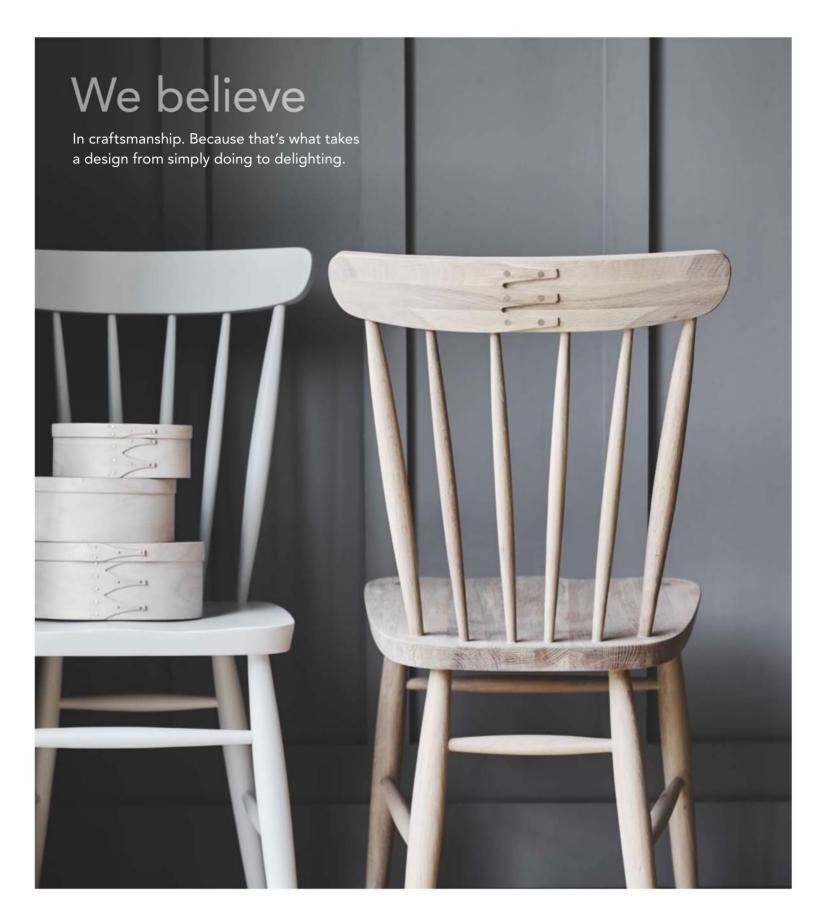
I Mango wood 'Cercle Console Table', 76 x 145 x 45cm, £565, from Oka (oka.com).
2 Bronze 'Georgian Style Lamp', 56 x 15cm base diameter, £520; 'Handpainted Chinoiserie Shade', 20.5 x 35.5cm diameter, £315; both from Besselink & Jones (besselink.com).
3 Lantern pendant, 'Browning', 46 x 52cm square, £425, from Neptune (neptune.com).
4 Wool 'Yallameh Runner', 84 x 186cm, £1,575, from Liberty (liberty.co.uk).
5 'Blue and White Delft Vase', 24 x 17cm diameter, £580, from Max Rollitt (maxrollitt. com). 6 Mahogany table, 'Juniper', 65 x 65cm diameter, £2,774, from Christopher Guy (christopherguy.com) □

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kitchen ideas A peg hook, above, is Neptune's newest addition to the list of kitchen essentials – ideal for storing and displaying hanging utensils, mugs and garlands of fresh herbs. Keep the length short to avoid it dominating the space, and arrange pots on top for added charm. In small spaces, opt for a petite wine rack that can fit wherever there is a nook for it, below.









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ELEGANCE, TASTE AND COMFORT ARE THE TRUE HALLMARKS OF COUNTRY HOUSE STYLE, and the sitting rooms that follow are some of the very best examples in the land – whether you are charmed by chintz or seek streamlined and symmetrical. \triangleright



in Hampsnire. The room blends classic and contemporary, with Howard armchairs covered in a tomato-coloured linen, an avant-garde glass and aluminium table by Fredrikson Stallard, and a custom-made rug by C B Parsua in Paris. *fionashelburne.co.uk*





IF WALLS COULD TALK

An exposed brick or stone wall does not just add texture to an interior – it can also firmly position the building within its surrounding landscape. The converted barn pictured above has a backdrop that speaks of its agricultural history, while allowing modern pieces such as the John Minshaw-designed cast-bronze lamp and Paolo Buffa table to stand out.



The silk-damask wallcovering of this Cotswold house is brought to life by a mass hanging of drawings by the English Impressionist Dame Laura Knight, which have been set into matching gold frames. The nineteenth-century chandelier is from Denton Antiques. *denton-antiques.co.uk*





The drawing room of Holker Hall in Cumbria has a layered look built up over generations. While time is an invaluable ally of this aesthetic, a considered approach to buying furniture and decorative accessories can speed up the process. This room features nineteenth-century Cantonese watercolours, suzani textiles and chintz, silk damasks and gloriously ornate eighteenth-century plant stands. *holker.co.uk*



Central focus

The furniture arrangement in this sitting room couldn't be better for encouraging convivial gatherings. Robert Kime is a friend of the owner and helped him decorate this house near Dartmoor. While the colours veer towards the neutral end of the spectrum, the bold red ottoman is a strong centrepiece. *robertkime.com*



TWO'S COMPANY

The owner of this West Country house has imposed a sense of symmetry with a judicious arrangement of pairs of furnishings, including chintz-covered sofas, dainty occasional chairs and matching oval mirrors on either side of the chimney breast. The walls are clad in MDF panelling in a Georgian style to create an elegant backdrop. ▷



DAVID SEYFRIED LTD CLASSIC UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE MADE IN ENGLAND



On the wall of this Devon house is a portrait by Harrington Mann, a member of the Glasgow Boys painters active in the 1880s. By using a similar colour palette for the sofa, the owners have a look that blends historic and modern.

Beneath the beams

WHILE IT IS OFTEN ADVISED TO KEEP BEAMY. LOW-CEILINGED ROOMS LIGHT AND BRIGHT TO PREVENT A FEELING OF CLAUSTROPHOBIA, DESIGNER PAOLO MOSCHINO OF NICHOLAS HASLAM EMBRACED THE IDEA OF A COSY SITTING ROOM IN HIS OWN WEST SUSSEX HOUSE. APART FROM THE WHITE CEILING, THE COLOURS ARE RICH, THE WALLS DENSELY HUNG AND PATTERNS ABOUND. NICHOLASHASLAM.COM



A SENSE OF DRAMA

Veere Grenney's Suffolk retreat started life as a seventeenth-century fishing lodge. Today, it has what Ben Pentreath describes in his new book English Houses: Inspirational Interiors from City Apartments to Country Manor Houses (Ryland Peters & Small, £30) as 'a sense of Englishness that is distilled and strengthened to create a perfect microcosm of classic decoration'. It is a theatrical space, the formality of which has been downplayed with Veere's furniture and fabric choices. Luxuriantly ruched Austrian blinds adorn the windows and Veere's partner, the paint specialist David Oliver, created the shade of pink for the walls as he regards it as flattering against different skin tones. \triangleright





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1 'English Garden Framed Prints', 36 x 28cm each, £155 for set of 9, from Oka (oka.com). 2 Nineteenthcentury marble fireplace, 106.7 x 163.5cm, £24,000, from Jamb (jamb.co.uk). **3** Composite marble **'Achilleon Urn'**, 50 x 35cm diameter, £340, from India Jane (indiajane.co.uk). 4 Wool, silk and linen '18th Century (Indiajane.co.ik). 4 Wool, slik and inten '18th Century Aubusson Verdure Tapestry', 218 x 270cm, £14,000, from Julia Boston Antiques (juliaboston.com).
 5 'Brooke Sofa', covered in 'Wicklow' (maize), viscose mix, 85 x 183 x 98cm, £7,615, from Beaumont & Fletcher (beaumontandfletcher.com). 6 'Buttoned Box
 Stack with Eximps', 41 x 192 x 75 cm, £1270, from David

Stool with Fringe', 41 x 122 x 76cm, £1,270, from David

Seyfried (davidseyfried.com). 7 Fabric 'Hydrangeas' (white, blue, purple), 84 cm high, £17 each, from Neptune (neptune.com). 8 Reclaimed wood 'Andreas Bookcase', 230 x 127 x 60 cm, £2,350, from India Jane □









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CUS ON





TABLE MANNERS No tablecloth on this round 'Gosford Dining Table' means the focus is on the exquisite tableware. The rug introduces another element of colour to the room and anchors the scheme

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SHOP THE LOOK

1 'Alyth Candle Holder', 24cm high, £34; 'Eteri Claret Jug', £54; 'Square-Based Crystal Glasses', large, £155 for 4; small (just seen), £135 for 4. 2 Wood 'Winchelsea Chandelier', 70 x 80cm diameter, £1,625. 3 'Antoine Mirror', 110 x 70cm, £298.
4 Porcelain 'Isphahan Dinner Plate', 26cm diameter, £185 for 4. 5 Velvet-covered 'Stafford Dining Chair' (air force blue), 92 x 45 x 59cm, £255. 6 Wood 'Arendal Sideboard' (washed grey), 90 x 200 x 46cm, £2,245. All from OKA (oka.com) □



NOTES FROM LUCINDA The brief for this dining room was to create a light and welcoming room that can be used for a relaxed weekend

STYLE

breakfast as well as a formal dinner party. For the walls, I chose a warm grey, which coordinates with the painted sideboard. A feature mirror. together with the crystal candlesticks and glassware, bounces light around the room, while a chandelier hung centrally over the table creates a more intimate feel at night. A pair of oversize urn lamps brings a sense of symmetry and the Persian plates add colour and interest to the otherwise blank wall panels. The upholstered velvet dining chairs are both smart and, crucially, comfortable." Lucinda Waterhouse. OKA co-founder

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OKA'S DUNTRY **T**S

1 Leather 'Aberdare Magazine Basket', 50 x 42 x 39cm, £255. 2 Wool and cotton velvet 'Lowndes Throw', 180 x 140cm, £99. 3 Mirrored glass 'Triomphe Side Table', 62 x 60 x 40cm, £435; Glass 'Lisieux Table Lamp' (emerald), 42cm high, £3455, Silk '45cm Tenganan Pleated Lampshade', £99; 'Clandon 2.5-Seater Sofa' (stonewashed indigo cover), 106 x 173 x 85cm, £1,960; wool and cotton **'Shalimar Rug**', 365 x 275cm, £3,845. 4 Linen-upholstered **'Chester Three-Seater Sofa'**, 76 x 230 x 98cm, £1,285.5 Stone and resin 'Sleeping Greyhound', 16 x 21 x 85cm, £75. 6 Cotton velvet 'Carlotta Cushion Cover' (evergreen), 51cm square, £75. 7 Cotton velvet 'Roundel Cushion Cover (alchemilla), 51cm square, £99. All from OKA (oka.com) \square

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Plain English

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THESE ROOMS HAVE VERY STRAIGHTFORWARD ROLES AS PLACES IN WHICH TO COOK AND EAT. But the best examples go above and beyond the call of duty, either by brilliantly multitasking or by simply providing an extra bit of loveliness to an interior. And that is when they really become the 'heart of the home'. \triangleright



HAVE A SEAT

Kitchens are increasingly social spaces, so it's nice to have somewhere comfortable to sit. If you have the room, a sofa or armchair fitted with washable slip covers, as seen below, is ideal. But take note of an alternative idea above, where a simple cushion-topped bench, painted to match the Plain English 'Spitalfields' kitchen, provides a place to perch while keeping the cook company. *plainenglishdesign.co.uk*



NOTES FROM A DESIGNER nstead of the idea of escaping the city for a cottage in the country, better transport and the internet mean people live in the country full time, and some country kitchens feel more like those in towns and cities. The kitchen is where everybody seems to live these days, so we want a more comfortable space with a dining area and a soft seating area. And slowly, farmhouse tables are being replaced with islands, which give you more space for cupboards and appliances. It can be a challenge – <u>clients</u> will want an Aga but they also want to turn it off in the summer and have an electric cooker, Of course, a walk-in larder is a wonderful place to hide things like microwaves, which rather ruin the look of a country kitchen. Larders also mean you don't need wall cupboards, which can close in a space. I've noticed that brass taps have made a comeback, which even a few years ago many people wouldn't have liked. I think they work with modern kitchens, bringing back a bit of warmth." Katie Fontana, Plain English

STYLE



LIKE THESE LIGHTS? They are Tom Dixon's 'Beat Stout' pendants, which cost £725 each. tomdixon.net There can be something incredibly appealing about a combination of distinctly different styles. This Victorian orangery in Somerset is used as a summer kitchen by its owners. While this means it doesn't have quite the same pressures on it as the main kitchen in the house, it is perfectly equipped for preparing a meal. The unit is ultra modern (it is made by Bulthaup), but it still sits in perfect harmony within the old stone and glass structure. *bulthaup.com*



A wall of glossy black tiles (try 'Metro' from Homebase for similar) allows the repurposed stone sink to stand out, while the range cooker is nearly camouflaged. *homebase.co.uk*



This room appears in Ben Pentreath's book *English Houses*. He explains that 'upon inheriting the house, the owner moved the kitchen – previously banished to a service wing – into the light-filled great hall, the ancient Aga quite at home amongst the bolection panelling and sash windows'. Ben hits on an interesting point: for many, the formal divisions of the English country house play less of a role now. The kitchen isn't a behind-the-scenes area, but a place to gather. ▷

Going for gold The window dressing, complete with luxuriant double swag and tail pelmet, sets a formal tone in the dining room of this eighteenth-century manor house in West Sussex. The room is beautifully decorated with hits of golden yellow, drawing the eye around the room. The walls are painted in 'Elephant's Breath' by Farrow & Ball – a good foil for the bright yellow. *farrow-ball.com*

LIKE THIS FABRIC? It is 'Pienza Cardo' in the yellow-natural colourway, by C & C Milano. It costs £208 a metre. cec-milano.com



Dressed to impress The humble dresser, which so perfectly balances the functions of storage and display, is a signature of the country kitchen. This mid-nineteenth century painted wood example is from Max Rollitt. It measures $250 \times 264 \times 52$ cm and costs £4,600. maxrollitt.com





The owner of this house says designer Hugh St Clair has 'perfect taste in colour'. Here, he had some units painted duckegg blue, with the island and cupboard in custard yellow. *hughstclair.com*



COOKING AND DINING AREAS AT WARWICKSHIRE'S ASTLEY CASTLE ARE SEPARATED WITH A SHIFT FROM TILED FLOORING TO WOOD. LANDMARKTRUST.ORG.UK



Emma Burns of Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler laid flagstones in her kitchendining area to match those in the hall. Ronson Reclaim is a good source for flags. *sibylcolefax.com* | *ronsonreclaim.com* \triangleright

1 Tiles, 'Dove House', by DeVol and Floors of Stone, 12cm square, £8 each, from Floors of Stone
(floorsofstone.com). 2 Wood chair, 'Stickback Double Bow', 103 x 52 x 42cm, £552, from Sitting Firm
(sittingfirm.co.uk). 3 Painted wood cabinet, 'French Library', 145 x 120 x 38cm, £3,500, from Paolo
Moschino for Nicholas Haslam (nicholashaslam.com).
4 Pendant 'French Ceramic Rise & Fall' (natural), 115 x 33cm shade diameter, £198, from Hector Finch (hectorfinch.com). 5 Wood 'Conisbrough Dining Table', 75 x 260 x 100cm, £2,175, from Oka
(oka.com). 6 Teak 'Chair with Curved High Back', 104 x 50cm square, £657, from Chelsea Textiles
(chelseatextiles.com). 7 Glazed stoneware 'Whichford Teapot', 14.5cm high, £75, from Soho Home (sohohome.com). 8 Wood 'Chichester Island'
(limestone), 92 x 142 x 82cm, £2,295, from Neptune
(neptune.com). 9 Electric '2-Oven Aga' (aqua), 85 x 99 x 70cm, from £6,995, from Aga (agaliving.com) □ 5

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Suffolk kitchen by Neptune. Arundel oak dining table, from £1,400. Keats pendant light, from £74.

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LAYER BY LAYER, ACCESSORIES ADD FLAIR TO A ROOM AND HELP SET THE AESTHETIC TONE. Neptune's new autumn/winter collection boasts a vast and varied, yet carefully curated, selection of pieces that will add personality to any setting. >







Use contrast to create a sense of drama and interest. These moody, monochromatic photographs, with white mounts and black frames, stand out against the dark, textured walls.



ADD WARMTH, AS WELL AS LIGHT, TO A DARK SPOT WITH AN ARRANGEMENT OF TABLE AND FLOOR LAMPS IN A VARIETY OF SHAPES AND SIZES.

Neptune's blankets really are rather clever. Its blends include cashmere, wool, cotton and even alpaca. Natural temperatureregulating qualities are seamlessly woven into the design, so they are cosy in winter but cool enough to use at a summer picnic.





Candles of different heights and widths clustered together make a striking display. Add creeping greenery for a sense of drama. Turn over for details of how to 'Shop the look' from these pages \triangleright

SHOP THE LOOK 1'Caspar' armchair, 85 x 74 x 87cm, £1,610. 2'Badminton' print, 47cm square, £82.

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2 'Badminton' print, 47cm square, £82.
3 'Fitzroy' lampstand with 'Oliver' (flint) shade,
68 x 20cm, £182. 4 'William' armchair, upholstered in Emma Dove 83 x 75 x 86cm, £770. 5 'Tamsin'
cushion with 'Hugo Mustard' cover, 45cm square, £67.
6 'Dulwich' vase (medium), 26.5 x 22cm diameter, £37. 7 'Aldwych' tall side table, 65 x 52 x 42cm, £375.
8 'Mayfield' pebble mugs (large), 10.9cm high, £8 each. 9 'Sefton' cobble throw, 140 x 220cm, £170. 10 'Blyton' 3-wick mustard candle, 15 x 7cm diameter, £6. All from Neptune (neptune.com) □

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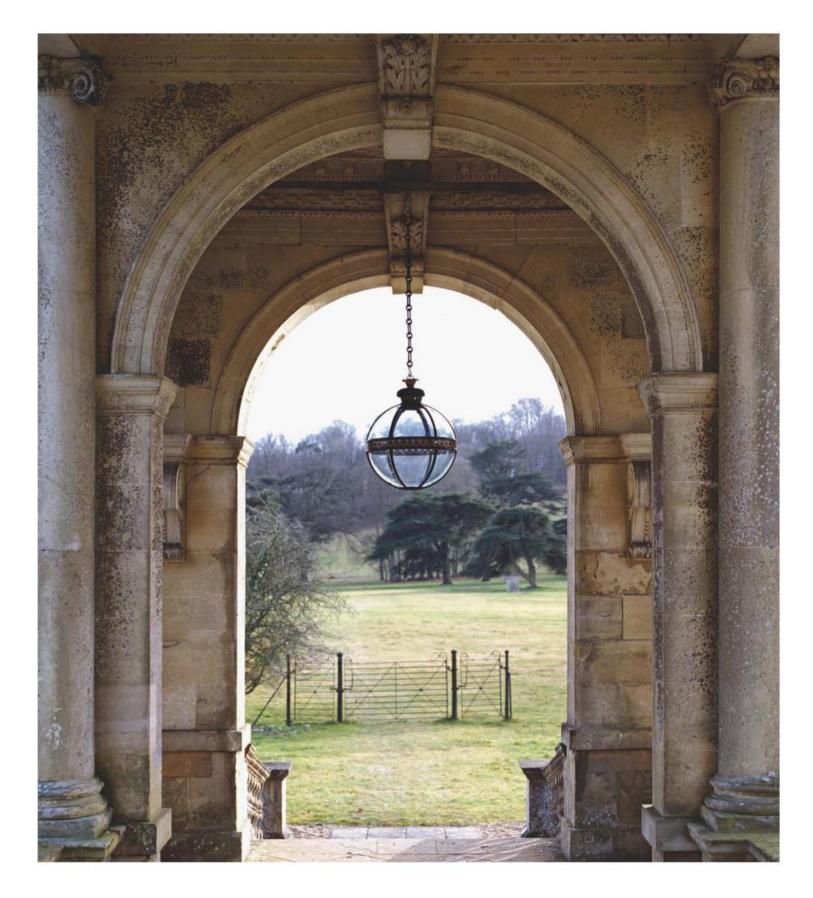


Here we see two classic silhouettes: the 19th-century swoop-arm and the slipper chair. But we played with proportions, pleating and piping. And we introduced them to new-era fabrics that tip them into modernity, slightly. This is a lesson in how to age oh-so gracefully.

Amelia armchair, from £630, shown in Emma Floral Dove. Madeleine chair, from £390, shown in Isla Finch.

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neptune.com Stores nationwide





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MUDDY WELLIES, WET COATS AND MUCKY DOGS CAN BE THE UNDOING OF AN ELEGANT HOUSE. That's why the boot room is one of the most important – and often the most well-used – spaces in a country house. But it needn't take much to transform these functional areas into rooms that are as handsome as they are useful. \triangleright



Designer Fiona Shelburne thoughtfully positioned a radiator under the bench in this boot room to keep bottoms toasty while the owners pull on their shoes. *fionashelburne.co.uk*



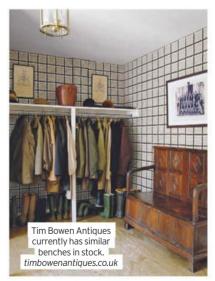
AIR HOLES HAVE BEEN DRILLED INTO CUPBOARD DOORS HERE TO STOP CLOTHES GETTING MUSTY. BRASS NAME-CARD HOLDERS DESIGNATE SPACE FOR INDIVIDUAL FAMILY MEMBERS AND GUESTS.

NOTES FROM A DESIGNER) oot rooms are Jultimately all about mud. dirt and wetness, so they have to be robust. I like using tongue and groove, particularly on the walls. It's hardwearing and adds texture, but it must be painted with an eggshell finish never emulsion - so that it can be wiped down. I don't recommend using limestone or slate on the floors, because they can show mud so much more than something with a mid tone. We do a lot of family boot rooms and it's nice for everyone to have their own drawer and shelf for hats, scarves and gloves. You can make use of baskets to hide clutter. <u>A place to sit wh</u>ile you remove your boots is a good idea, especially a bench, which can have storage under the seat. Of course, not everyone has a boot room – they are a luxury – so if you have a hall that can fit a console with a shelf underneath. you can line up your wellies there. That's what I do at home. Emma Sims Hilditch See above right for an example of tongue and groove in a boot room designed by Emma

STYLE



Details, details Height-adjustable oak shelves and redbrick flooring – chosen to mask mud and dirt – are just two of the ingredients that make this Cotswold mud room by Emma Sims Hilditch such a smart and flexible space. simshilditch.com



CHECK IT OUT

A handsome checked wallpaper ('Astrid' by Sandberg is similar) strikes a bold note in this Grade I-listed Tudor house. Designer Gavin Houghton also chose an antique monks bench for useful additional storage. gavinhoughton. co.uk | sandbergwallpaper.com



Clean lines Seth Stein Architects gave this modern house in Cornwall an equally modern mud room, with clean-lined oak cabinets and slate flooring. It is concealed behind the kitchen, meaning mess is kept out of sight. Old baskets are easy to update with brightly coloured emulsion or spray paint. sethstein.com



This multi-purpose utility room, in a newbuild Oxfordshire house by Craig Hamilton Architects, has plenty of space to perch and take your shoes off, store them neatly under the window, and do a bit of flower arranging without trailing a mess inside the house. *craighamiltonarchitects.com*



I Ash chair, Comb-Back Windsor, 100 x 54.5 x 68.7cm, £1,120, from Howe (howelondon. com). 2 Brass pendant light, 'Gothic Helmet', 26cm high, £990, from Robert Kime.
3 Polished brass handles, 'Beehive', £312 a pair, from Charles Edwards (charlesedwards.com). 4 Wooden console, 'Edinburgh', 84 x 168 x 45cm, £1,020, from Neptune (neptune.com). 5 Beech and birch cupboard, by Sebastian Cox, 210 x 110 x 46cm, £3,650, from deVol (devolkitchens.co.uk). 6 & 7 Willow foraging bag, £440, and kindling basket, £310, both by Annemarie O'Sullivan, from The New Craftsmen (thenewcraftsmen.com). 8 Ceramic sink, 'Domsjö', 83cm wide, £175, from Ikea □





LAURA ASHLEY'S NEW AMBLESIDE COLLECTION IS BASED ON AN ICONIC ARCHIVAL FLORAL DESIGN. Originally from the 1800s, the pretty floral 'Wisteria' motif has been recoloured in soft shades of duck egg and pistachio – a beautiful addition to a country scheme.

Mix different patterns, textures and styles in a cohesive way. Stripes and florals work surprisingly well together – just work with one colour palette and keep furniture plain so the room doesn't feel too busy.



Elegant curtains In this hallway, a floor-length curtain adds pretty texture and a feeling of warmth to an often neglected space. It's practical too, keeping out any draughts in the winter months.



A quiet corner Create a relaxing reading corner by positioning an armchair beside the window. A low-hanging lamp provides a comforting glow in the evening and a nearby blanket is handy if it gets chilly.

SHOP THE LOOK

l Brass 'Vienna Antique Floor Lamp', 155 x 30cm diameter, £230. 2 Linen 'Swan Cushion', 40 x 30cm, £32. 3 Polyester and viscose 'Wisteria Floral Embroidered Duck Egg Cushion', 50 x 40cm, £50. 4 Woven velvet upholstered 'Lynden Grande Sofa', 93 x 223 x 108cm, £2,000. 5 Printed jewellery box (amethyst), £45. 6 Wool 'Thornbury Throw' (duck egg), 170 x 130cm, £100. 7 'Fleur Glass Vase', 20.5cm high, £30. All from Laura Ashley (lauraashley.com) □







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PAUL MASSEY



Room at the top Attic conversions in cities and towns are often small spaces ideal for children or guests. The top of a barn conversion, on the other hand, can be a fabulously spacious main bedroom removed from the hubbub of daily life – as seen in these two examples in the Cotswolds. Light colours and scrubbed or limewashed beams keep them bright.









DELICATE CANOPIES 'MISTLETOE' MUSLIN FROM SIMON PLAYLE FORMS A CANOPY OVER THE TWIN BEDS IN THIS HOUSE IN HAMPSHIRE, WHILE AQUA CURTAINS IN 'DELPHOS' BY JANE CHURCHILL ADD A DASH OF COLOUR. *SIMON PLAYLE.COM* | *COLEFAX.COM*



The Pink Room of Bradwell Lodge in Essex is boldly decorated in Bernard Thorp's large-scale 'Brimble' fabric, which costs \pounds 142 a metre. *bernardthorp.co.uk*



Somewhere to sit For bedrooms that have the space, a comfortable sofa placed at the end of the bed will make the room feel like somewhere to retreat to – day and night. This room is in a seventeenth-century Cotswold house designed by Robert Hardwick. *roberthardwick.co.uk*



IN THIS NEWBUILD NEAR PADSTOW, DESIGNER MARION LICHTIG CREATED PAINTED WOOD HEADBOARDS THAT PICK UP THE BLACK OF THE HARLEQUIN ARMOIRE. *MARIONLICHTIG.COM* ▷

the power of print

This bedroom in a Wiltshire manor house illustrates how the bold and extravagant use of pattern can have a transformative impact on a room. Chintz, with its lustrous glazed finish and often florid patterning, is a country-house classic. This particular Colefax and Fowler design has now been discontinued, but the company produces many similar styles. *colefax.com*



STYLE NOTES FROM A DESIGNER

n his introduction to 1923's The Chintz Book Maclver Percival wrote that 'an old English house without a chintz room is rather like *Hamlet* with the Prince of Denmark omitted'. Interior designer Paolo Moschino of Nicholas Haslam could hardly agree more. <u>'I use chintz</u> in every country house I work on it would be like a house without a soul otherwise. I like to mix it with contemporary pieces of furniture. Or, if there is a chintz with a nice old-fashioned pattern, to have it reprinted in monochrome, which makes it look quite contemporary. Ramm, Son & Crocker, Pierre Frey and Colefax and Fowler [see left] all do very good chintzes. I use floral patterns, but I would never use a bird-print fabric indoors – it would feel like having them in a cage. The most important thing is to go for it. Don't be mean and use chintz on one little slipper chair. If you're going to use it, really use it. Paolo Moschino: nicholas haslam.com



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PHOTOGRAPHS: PAUL MASSEY; SARAH HOGAN; SIMON BROWN; MICHAEL SINCLAIR; SHARYN CAIRNS; NGOC MINH NGO; DAVIDE LOVATTI; LUCAS ALLEN



SHOP THE LOOK

I Fabric, 'Vintage Floral' (rose/green), by Mulberry Home, linen, £95 a metre, from G P & J Baker (gpjbaker. com). 2 Framed print, 'Cottage and Bike', by Ron Lawson, 45 x 52cm, £80, from John Lewis (johnlewis. com). 3 Wood 'Larsson Bedside Table' (antique salt), 72 x 39 x 43cm, £300, from Neptune (neptune.com). 4 Birch-framed 'King Size Madeleine Bed', 123 x 230 x 164cm, £2,890, from Oka (oka.com). 5 'A8 Small George III Chippendale Oval Mirror', 76 x 44.3cm, £2,364, from English Georgian (englishgeorgian.com). 6 Ceramic table-lamp base, 'Carciofo', 36 x 24cm

diameter, £774, from Richard Taylor Designs (richardtaylordesigns.co.uk). **7 'Dotted Nilda Standard Pillowcases'** (from top: blue, black & white), 51 x 66cm, £58 for two, from Anthropologie (anthropologie.com). **8** Wood-framed **'Clemence Footstool'** (green), 40 x 125 x 72cm, £575, from India Jane (indiajane.co.uk) □

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Drawing of St Dunstan-in-the-West by SPAB Scholar Ptolomy

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At Holker Hall in Cumbria, a single-ended roll-top bath is placed against the wall, allowing the bather to lie back and enjoy a wall hung with pretty botanical pictures. *holker.co.uk*



SIMON BROWN; SIMON UPTON; MICHAEL SINCLAIR

THIS BATHROOM, OVERLOOKING THE GARDENS OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE HOUSE, IS BIG ENOUGH TO TAKE A LARGE-SCALE FLORAL WALLPAPER: 'MADRAS VIOLET', A NINETEENTH-CENTURY DESIGN BY COLE & SON. *COLE-AND-SON.COM*

STYLE NOTES FROM A DESIGNER

s with any room, you should always start with what the house can give you. If it's a seventeenth- or eighteenth-century timber-and-brick construction, strip it back to expose some interior detail of its origin – whether that is a cross beam. an A-frame or a high, sloping window. Bathrooms don't have to have plumb walls, clean lines or overly neat junctions, as long as what you do is beautifully done. Roll-top baths are a classic component, but I'd advise against positioning one up against a painted or wallpapered wall. If you splish and splash, the water will permeate the wall and cause problems, and you'll end up having to repaint or repaper every 18 months. Instead, if you have the space, place the bath closer to the middle of the room. Underfloor heating and bath mats will protect the floor. If you want modern touches such as speakers, you can get them plastered into the ceiling so that they don't stand out in a bathroom with a classic style." Sarah Stewart-Smith: sarah stewartsmith.com



Light and breezy A crisp, white space instantly gives a modern feel, even in older houses. Gentle colour pops, such as this duck-egg-blue bath, keep it from feeling too austere. Catchpole & Rye's 'Le Piaf' bath is similar. catchpoleandrye.com

TAKE A SEAT

A neat window seat with a mix of cushions provides a concession to comfort in this minimalist West Country bathroom. Drummonds' 'Usk' bateau bath, from $\pounds 2,975$, is similar to this one. drummonds-uk.com \triangleright



The owners of this eighteenth-century house in Dorset enjoy the luxury of their own bathtubs, vanities and mirrors. The vanities are in fact Regency chests of drawers that have been updated with basins and marble tops – ask a local carpenter if you are keen to recreate the look.





Picture perfect 'It's mostly junk,' says designer Harriet Anstruther of the bits and bobs in her Sussex farmhouse. But her paintings and objets give the otherwise all-white space a lived-in feel. *harrietanstruther.com*



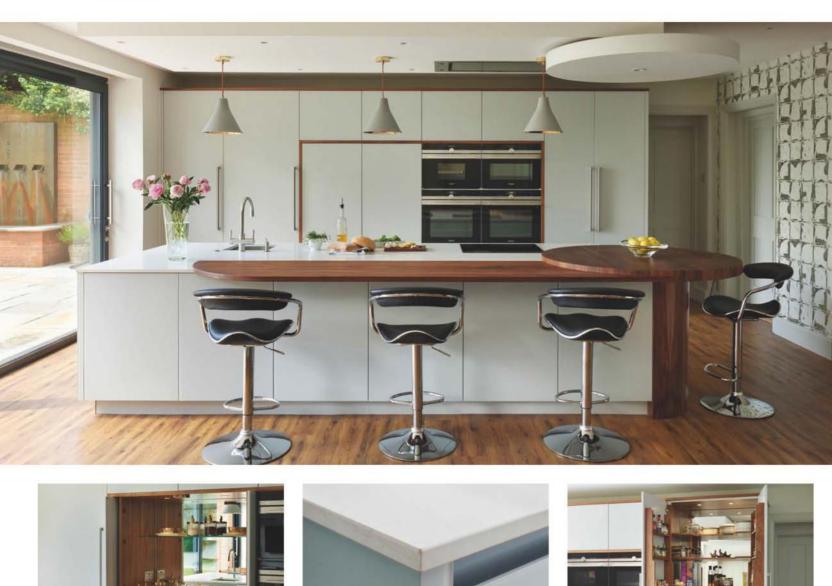
Line them up The vertical lines of the panelling in this Welsh farmhouse by Hackett Holland add height to the awkwardly shaped room, while the window gives bathers a view of the sky. *hackettholland.co.uk* LIOUGK I Elm chair, 'Cavaillon', 97 x 44 x 46cm, £148, from Oka (okadirect.com). 2 Fabric, 'Nantes' (indigo), cotton, £108 a metre, from Lewis & Wood (lewisandwood. co.uk). 3 Cast iron and wood bath, 'Delafon', 70 x 162 x 74cm, £6,128, from The Water Monopoly (thewatermonopoly.com). 4 Brass tap, 'White Lever', £195, from Neptune (neptune.com). 5 Ceramic tiles 'Delft Flowers', £21.60 each, from Douglas Watson Studio (douglaswatsonstudio.co.uk). 6 Silver nickel 'Classic Opal Tubular Wall Light', 24.5cm high, £240, from Lefroy Brooks (uk.lefroybrooks.com) □

2





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