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EDITOR'S LETTER



Just ADD COLOUR

Stay in the pink this autumn thanks to the Fingal three-seater sofa in Raspberry, £POA from Sofa.com. Simple shapes and gentle patterns will make your living room sing.



I have a secret. I am actually relieved when the leaves start to change colour and the winter coats start appearing in the shops. After placating a frazzled black labrador all summer, I can enjoy crisper morning walks and choosing new cushions and throws to snuggle into. If a total renovation is on your to-do list, then be

inspired by the National Trust's project at Croome on p53. Or simply treat your bedroom to some delightful new linen from our fine selection on p95 and explore some classic decorating ideas on p10, p62 and p86.

Susan Dickerson

EDITOR

This month *Period Ideas* has been: **LOVING** the new **AW14** collections – purple, French navy and orange have never looked so good. **PREPARING FOR** London Design Week and rubbing shoulders with the great and the good at Decorex. **FEASTING** on blackberry and apple crumble, inspired by the Great British Bake-Off. **ADMIRING** the brilliant new Energy collection from Twyford Bathrooms.

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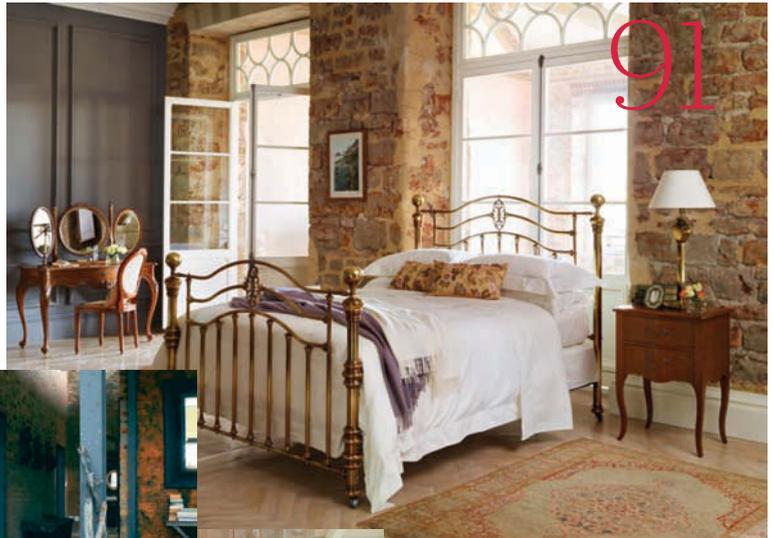


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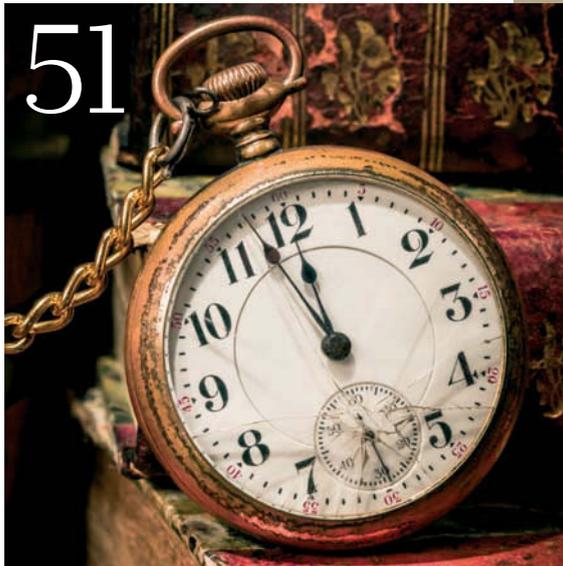
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Pay just £6 for your first three issues of *Period Ideas* with free delivery direct to your door. Classic inspiration for your home and garden all year long.

OCTOBER'S ESSENTIAL SHOPPING LIST

HOME STYLE

Keep up to date with the latest designs and happenings this month



TIME TO REFLECT

Sweetpea & Willow's Cherbourg collection is designed to make a real statement in any home, and this antiqued glass sideboard, £973, certainly lives up to that aim. Its sleek, clean lines are offset by just a touch of distressing to the edges, to give it an aged Parisian finish. **0845 257 2627, sweetpeaandwillow.com**

I GET AROUND

This stylish new Inlay fabric from Sian Elin combines Scandinavian chic with Eastern flair, and its delicate texture shows every fine detail. Priced at £75 per m, call **07725 259 029** or visit **sianelin.com** to find out more.



NORTHERN LIGHTS

Brighten up your home in more ways than one with this three galley shade cluster ceiling light, priced at £34.99, from the *Cosy Skandi* collection at Dunelm Mill. **0345 165 6565, dunelm-mill.co.uk**



PERFECT TIMING

Simple and elegant is always a winning combination and this block alarm clock, £55 from Naken Interiors, is as stylish as they come. It has fluorescent hands and can be lit at the touch of a button, and the practically silent movement will guarantee a peaceful night's sleep. **01986 788 128, naken.co.uk**



WHAT'S COOKING?

La Cornue has hand-built range cookers in France for over 100 years, and now there's a new addition to its extensive collection of finishes. This Château range cooker is shown here in Blanc de Blanc, a pure white enamel with a matt finish, which can be ordered on any of La Cornue's appliances. The Château 165 in Blanc de Blanc starts from £30,000. **0870 789 5107, lacornue.com**



LITE BITE

For a sleek, chic kitchen diner look this Luca walnut round table and four chairs is perfect. The set is priced at £449 from Furniture Village and the chairs are available in white or black.

0800 804 8879,
furniturevillage.co.uk

BEAN & GONE

For an array of vintage and retro collectables to make your home look unique, check out Raspberry Mash.

This beautiful French wooden coffee grinder, £38, is a great example of some of the stunning one-offs and vintage-style pieces available. Call **07583 836 988** or click on **raspberrymash.co.uk** to see more.



FLORAL FANCY

This season's new collection from Dickins & Jones features this delightful trio of pastel pieces. The blue jug costs £30, the yellow vase is £25 and the pink vase is £20. They're all available at House of Fraser.

0345 602 1073,
houseoffraser.co.uk

DIARY DATES

As well as the mainstay items such as decorative and painted furniture, textiles and traditional English wood furniture, this autumn's Decorative Antiques & Textiles Fair at Battersea Park, London, is bringing the fun with a focus on fairground and circus artefacts and art. From 30th September to 5th October you'll find carved carousel horses, circus posters and traditional fairground signs to bring a touch of whimsy into your interiors. Call **020 7616 9327** or visit **decorativefair.com** to find out more.



CHEF'S CHOICE

This Jamie Oliver dome60 wood fired oven from Garden House Design comes with everything you need to cook the perfect pizza, including thermometer, pizza paddle, a detailed handbook with recipes, brush, four detachable handles, flue, rain cover, and a starter kit of wax firelighter, kindling and wood. It's made from sustainable wood and costs £1,300. **01903 774 774,**
gardenhousedesign.co.uk

Decorating with...

WALLPAPER

We reveal the wonders of wall coverings and our experts share their secrets on using it in your home

Edited by **SEOANA SHERRY-BRENNAN**



Opera Bella Rose wallpaper, £10.99 per roll, Arthouse. 01706 230 077, arthouse.com

When a splash of paint isn't making the style statement you crave, wallpaper is a great alternative. From pretty florals to straightforward stripes, the right wallpaper can help to give a room character and it is guaranteed to express not only your taste but your personality too.

SIZE MATTERS

As well as being pleasing to the eye, wallpaper can alter the size and feel of any area of your home. For example, although your first inclination when decorating a small nook may be to opt for a smaller print, this will in fact emphasise the lack of space. To create the illusion of greater height and width, choose a large, bold print – an oversized design will make your walls seem much larger.

If low ceilings are your problem, take a look at the range of great ombre print wallpapers available. The dip-dye effect, which fades from intense shades to a neutral or white hue, will give the impression of much taller walls. Another designer trick to disguise limited space is to use two different wallpapers on adjacent walls. Just make sure the patterns blend well together; the easiest way to guarantee this is to choose two different prints from the same range or designer.

THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

When it comes to wallpapering, we tend to focus on bedrooms and sitting rooms, and neglect the spaces in our home that could do with some TLC. Landings and hallways get the most traffic but are often an afterthought when it comes to decorating. Introducing a wallpaper will add vibrancy and, as there are few pieces of furniture or furnishings to consider, you can choose anything you please.

If you've got a crafty disposition, then wallpaper is a cost-effective way to up-cycle tired items of furniture. Or, if your budget prevents you from repapering your entire boudoir in your favourite Laura Ashley print, a few framed sections will create a stylish focal point when hung in a cluster on the wall.

TREND REPORT

Our pick of the most popular patterns this season

Two-tone contrast

Keep it simple with a mixture of two hues for a bold statement

Rustic woodland

Nature prints bring the outdoors into your abode; another big trend this year

Soothing florals

Neutral shades are now being used to create a pared-back, calm look

Tactile textures

Papers mimicking slate, wood and brick will add an extra dimension to your room

Subtle metallics

Warm gold, brass and copper have made a comeback this year, look out for stylised flower and leaf designs

GOLDEN Rules

Hanging wallpaper for the first time can be a daunting task for anyone, luckily Carrina Richardson, Wallpaper Buyer at Homebase, is on hand to share her expert knowledge and top tips:

- To make sure you hang the wallpaper vertically straight, use a plumb bob and mark the wall with a pencil for guidance.
- When measuring how much wallpaper you need, always add on an overlap of two inches either end to avoid cutting the wrong length, as you can trim off excess paper once it has been hung.
- When applying paste to the paper, brush down the middle first and then off to the edge furthest away from you, then go off to the edge on your near side – this avoids getting paste on the table, and consequently on to the wallpaper.
- When hanging the paper, lift the top half up and let the bottom third rest on your foot. Apply the top half of the paper in line with the plumb bob line markings and let the bottom half drop – then run a hanging brush down the middle and sides of the paper to stick it smoothly to the wall.
- For lots more tips and advice on DIY and garden projects visit homebase.co.uk

Clementine wallpaper, from £43.56, Sanderson. 0845 123 6810, sanderson-uk.com



INDUSTRY INSIGHT



Carol Smillie, homes expert for British Heart Foundation Furniture & Electrical stores, shares her advice on using wallpaper in your home:

"You can give your home a whole new look and feel by using wallpaper. There are so many different wallpapers out there to choose from now, the options are endless. Focus on colour and texture and a room that will suit the new look; if you don't want to wallpaper the whole space, that's fine, a feature wall will also look great. Match and paint other walls with the core colour from the paper and you've got an instantly updated look. Or, if you're feeling brave, be bold and paper the whole space."

Geranium wallpaper mural, from £99, Digetex Home. 0161 873 8891, digetexhome.co.uk

Online Inspiration

For more ideas on how to use wallpaper in your home, visit our ideas board at [pinterest.com/periodideas](https://www.pinterest.com/periodideas)



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Site to see

Our go-to destination for outdoor inspiration, **fennelandfern.co.uk** is a fabulous organic gardening blog about growing your own fruit and vegetables, beautiful flowers, garden design and real gardens. Add it to your bookmarks now!

My Roebuck and My Deer cushions, £26.70 each, Rikki Tikki by Brorson, homeArama. 01993 867 075, homearama.co.uk



Bloom of the month
RUDBECKIA

Hayloft Plants' Lark Hanham gives us the low-down on Rudbeckia, also known as Black Eyed Susan
"So, 'Who was Susan?' I hear you ask. Legend tells that the name comes from the eighteenth-century ballad 'Black-Eyed Susan', written by John Gay. Rudbeckia fulgida deamii is an upright, long-

flowering, hardy perennial. Cheerful, daisy-like yellow flowers appear from summer through to first frosts. The blooms, which have a dark brown central cone, are held on strong solitary stems, making them excellent for cutting. An essential autumn garden flower, it favours moist well-drained soil."

READER OFFER

You can buy 6 Rudbeckia plants for just £8 (plus £5.99 UK P&P), saving £9.94 on the RRP. To claim this great offer, visit hayloftplants.co.uk/ROPI14 and enter code ROPI14-10YP06. Alternatively, call 01386 426 245 and quote the relevant code (for orders over £10 only).

DIG IN

This summer has been a season of extremes; we've enjoyed heat waves at the seaside and endured torrential downpours.

The wet weather has brought more problems though, in the form of one little short-sighted creature - the mole. Extreme rain has forced earthworms closer to the surface and has also made the ground easier to dig through, meaning that these burrowing mammals are thriving. This isn't good news for your pristine, manicured lawns. If you don't want to welcome Mr and Mrs Mole into your backyard, dig a trench 8-12 inches wide and 24-36 inches deep around your garden. Or, if they've already visited, put down castor oil in any tunnels you come across - this will discourage them from hanging around.

Seasonal shopping Garden Journal

The latest news, inspirational ideas and expert advice for your great outdoors

WAR AND PEAS

Gardens and War, the latest exhibition at The Garden Museum, brings new insights into First World War. Using original correspondence, photographs, postcards and loans from The Imperial War Museum, curator Russell Clark reveals the untold stories of the horticultural efforts of soldiers during the war, including the Trench Gardens of the western front. There will also be a close look at the memorial gardens and parks created in response to the First World War, and how the loss of male gardeners led to gardening becoming an acceptable profession for women. The exhibition takes place from 24th September-5th January, call **020 7401 8865** or visit gardenmuseum.org.uk



CUT ABOVE

Learn how to distinguish between different cuts of meat with this fun and educational giftware from A Farmer's Daughter. The rural business is run by designer/maker Helen Thompstone from her family's Staffordshire farm, and is inspired by food, farming and the great British countryside. Browse the full range at afarmersdaughter.co.uk

RETAIL THERAPY

If you love wild animals, bring one of these cute critters into your home this season



GOING NUTS

This delightful cushion, designed by Thornback & Peel, helps to support the survival of red squirrels, with 15% of all sales going to The Red Squirrel Trust, £60, Annabel James. **0845 548 0210**, annabeljames.co.uk



PROPOSE A TOAST

Add a dash of country charm to your breakfast table with a fine china fox toast rack, £22.50, Cotswold Trading. **01386 853 331**, cotswoldtrading.com

COAST IS CLEAR

Set down your cuppa on one of these wonderful woodland coasters, £12.50 for four, Lil3birdy. **07877007591**, lil3birdy.com



OH DEER

This contemporary ceramic mug, with a striking deer design, comes in a gift box – perfect to stash away for Christmas stockings, £9, Berry Red. **01432 274 805**, berryred.co.uk



BRIGHT SIDE

This sophisticated stag table lamp will add a regal air to any room, £125, Alexander & Pearl. **0208 508 0411**, alexanderandpearl.co.uk

BRANCHING Out

Lucy Chamberlain shares her secrets for working in the garden as summer makes way for the season of abundance.



Mrs Lucy Chamberlain is the editor of *Grow your own*. For more growing tips and gardening ideas, pick up the next issue, on sale 5th September.

EXPERT ADVICE



"Autumn is a brilliant time on the plot – a time of gathering from the garden and boosting our stores for the leaner months. It's where you really do get to see the results of all your hard work, when the warm season chillies, sweet potatoes, figs and melons come tumbling onto the kitchen worktop; adding an extra touch of warmth to your culinary repertoire.

It's also important to turn your attention to the future. It's a bountiful time on the plot, so earmark plenty of time to gather, pick, bottle and freeze. This is also an important period for sowing and planting new crops to ensure continuity through the winter – so make sure to get your lettuces, spinach, carrots and

courgettes in the ground to guarantee a self-sufficient lifestyle. As autumn approaches, humidity rises yet temperatures remain high. This provides perfect conditions for downy mildew on lettuces. To prevent the spreading of this problem, increase spacings and grow resistant varieties such as 'Lettony' and 'Navara'.

As crop growth begins to slow down, you can reduce the volume of water you give your tubs, baskets and containers. Don't apply any feed at all at this late stage in the season. Move tender perennial herbs and potted potatoes undercover at the end of the month, and dig over your greenhouse borders and remove weeds as the earth becomes bare."



GARDEN GOSSIP

Laetitia Maklouf

The Nigella of the plant world shares her top autumnal advice and reveals her deliciously naughty apple recipe

This time of year is always met with excitement by me – not least because October heralds my birthday (yes, I do have a rather active inner child). When you garden though, this month becomes meaningful in a myriad of ways. For one, there are apples to be collected and either stored or made into something delicious. My favourite appley thing to do is to find small ones, spear them with a lolly stick or twig, and dip them in toffee, quickly adding a sprinkling with sea-salt before they dry. You have to make sure you've washed the apples very thoroughly to give the toffee some purchase and be prepared, if necessary, to double-dip.

When it comes to my garden during this time, it's simply a mellower, yellower version of the summer madness that preceded it. All my stalwart perennials (geranium, lychnis, gaura) are still flowering their little hearts out, joined by the glory of my much-loved

rudbeckia and, of course, the anemones which, in my opinion, you can never, ever have enough of. If I've been relatively active and had a clear-up then I try to make sure I mulch in October. It insulates the roots of my plants, feeds the soil and makes everything look gorgeously tidy in the process. If you can only stretch to a few bags or barrowfuls of compost or muck, then concentrate on putting it around the roots of your shrubs; everything else can wait until springtime.

Bulb-planting is as big or as small a job as you choose to make it. I generally plant new bulbs every other year, as I don't mind a second year of fewer, smaller flowers, but there's no doubt that taking the time to sink loads of fat, fresh bulbs into the ground is as rewarding as it gets come spring-time. I usually wait until November to plant tulips (the colder weather helps to prevent tulip-fire), but my alliums,

daffodils and exquisite *iris reticulata* always get planted around now. Bulbs should generally go in at twice their depth, and it really is a good idea to invest in a bulb-planter if you're planting any more than twenty. I do a lot of container bulb-planting too, for the terrace, and also to fill those mysterious gaps that appear in the borders with the arrival of spring; a terracotta pot filled with daffodils, plonked straight into a flowerbed is the perfect antidote to bare earth. One last word; don't be stingy – plant in sevens and nines, because in gardening (as in most things) abundance is everything.

*Laetitia Maklouf is the author of *The Virgin Gardener* (£14.99, Bloomsbury Publishing) and *Sweet Peas for Summer* (£20, Bloomsbury Publishing). She also has her own website where she blogs regularly, take a peek at laetitiamaklouf.com*



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Sea View

Bill and Jackye's home fuses Mediterranean beauty with New World nautical treasures

Words **HELEN JONES/GAP INTERIORS**

Photography **TRIA GIOVAN/GAP INTERIORS**



Above Unusual pieces look beautiful set against natural fabrics and simple patterns. Timeworn antique rugs, wicker pieces and simple cane furniture create a comfortable living space for all.

Think of some of the most relaxing places you've been on holiday. A sun-drenched week in a Tuscan villa, or a quiet break in the Greek islands perhaps. Now take a moment to imagine being whisked away there without having to step foot anywhere near an airport. For Atlanta couple, Bill and Jackye Lanham, this dream became a reality when they bought a beautiful ocean hideaway, just a few hours' drive away from in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

For Bill, an attorney, and Jackye, an interior designer, having a nearby retreat is absolutely essential in order to get away and unwind at regular intervals.

"We need a place that is completely stress-free, where we can go to forget everything," says Jackye. "Which is something we're always able to do here."

A SHORE THING

Jackye's love affair with the sea goes back to her youth, as she grew up with the Atlantic ocean on her doorstep, in the coastal city of Virginia Beach, Virginia. For decades, she and Bill would head east to the Florida coast for relaxing breaks in rented properties. But once they fell under the spell of this coastal house, with its stunning ocean views and laid-back atmosphere, they decided to make a more permanent investment.

With a penchant for all things nautical, keen collectors Jackye and Bill have built up an array of exciting and eclectic trinkets in their holiday hideaway. Unusual items and eye-catching pieces include bottled ships, globes, seashells, scrimshaw and even shark's teeth. "We really wanted this

REAL HOMES Coastal retreat



property to reflect us and our love of travelling,” explains Jackye. “And as the years have gone by, this place has progressed with more items and developed new themes. It’s where all our fantasies come to life.”

Despite the myriad of items on display, there’s nothing remotely kitschy about the home’s décor. With her own interior design business, Jacquelynne P Lanham Designs (jackyelanham.com), Jackye isn’t afraid of making changes. And a year ago, the Lanhams decided it was time for a major revamp. The couple wanted to update the exterior of the house, and add new architectural touches inside to make it feel more Mediterranean in style, not dissimilar to a chic Italian villa.

“I’ve never thought of this property as a typical American beach house,” says Jackye. “I think that because Bill and I have spent a lot of time in different countries – I’ve lived in Greece and we’ve both been going to Italy for years – the holiday feeling of freedom, an appreciation of different cultures and a sense of adventure is ingrained in us, and we really wanted

that to come to life in this home. As well as our love of the ocean, of course.”

Faced with a lengthy project and increasingly busy schedules, Jackye and Bill knew they wouldn’t be able to oversee everything without some professional help, so they hired the help of Atlanta architect, Yong Pak, and a local contractor to help make their dreams a reality.

ALL HANDS ON DECK

To begin the transformation, they laid a stone pathway to make the exterior more welcoming, and to create an alluring link between the property and the beach. They then added a trough-shaped footbath with fresh running water as a practical touch after a dip in the ocean. The inviting wraparound porch encases the blue-grey stuccoed walls, which are contrasted with black trim detail and a striking black iron balustrade. The pièce de résistance, however, is the luxury upstairs sundeck that goes round the house, offering

Above Gentle blue and green accents in the living room add charm and interest to this mellow room. The mixture of formal and informal furniture, straight lines and soft shapes makes for an inviting, cosy place to relax.







Above Make the most of a beloved collection of antiques by displaying it around a mirror, so you can enjoy your treasures everyday. Jackye's porcelain in soft, faded hues, is a joy to behold in this classic bedroom.

houses the well-stocked bar is now enclosed with smart French doors, while the glazed windows allow a sneaky glimpse inside.

A LIGHT TOUCH

Keeping the interior bright and breezy was essential for Jackye. "I wanted it to have a feeling of calm throughout," she says. "It needed the kind of laid-back and barefoot ambience that you crave when on holiday." Using an uplifting blue and white colour scheme was an easy choice, with a range of appealing tones from aqua and Aegean to classic creams and subtle greys. Every single detail helps with this, from the choice of painted furniture to the placement of cushions.

great views and a perfect place to relax.

Jackye was keen to give the beach house a feeling of age and rustic charm, so she added weathered wooden beams to the ceilings and replaced the modern doors with older designs. The alcove that

The Lanhams' furniture is as eclectic and varied as their collections, ranging from family heirlooms inherited from Jackye's grandfather to her own designs. Chunky wooden pieces sit happily alongside more grand, stand-alone gems like the sideboard in the foyer – an enigmatic fusion of marble, architectural fragment and iron legs. "I like to mix and match," says Jackye. "My only criteria for furniture is that everything has to fit comfortably." To give the rooms a touch of drama, she cleverly accessorised with black accents, including wrought-iron lamps, candlesticks, tables and chairs.

BEST IN SHOW

The arrangement throughout the house is artful yet effortless. Beautiful displays capturing the true beauty of the sea are waiting at every corner to draw you in to take a closer look. On the stairwell walls, framed palm-tree Polaroid transfers by Linda Broadfoot are broken up with pretty scallop shells, and this simple theme is continued in the foyer with a collection of 12 wall cases featuring mounted seashells.

In the romantic guest room, Jackye made a feature wall with lavender and white plates surrounding a distinctive iron mirror. The side table has been transformed with scrimshaw, including a cheerful carved whale that would probably have been used for hanging a pocket watch at night. Adding to its charm, the whale is inscribed with the name 'Capt R Heyden', whoever this mysterious captain might have been.

When asked to describe the style of the gorgeous abode, Jackye is a little stuck for words. "I must admit I never know what to say when people ask me," she smiles. "It has so many influences from our travels. There are elements of South Africa, Bermuda, and of course the Mediterranean. It really can change from day to day!"





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TODD DOORS

Period Ideas celebrates the best in British interiors

Looking back at the history of Todd Doors, it's easy to see why the company has thrived since its humble beginnings in 1952. Charles Albert Todd – a shopfitter by trade – started selling off-cuts of timber and plywood left over from his day job. Setting up shop from the garage beside his bungalow in Northolt, West London, he soon realised the business' potential, and devoted all of his energy into developing it.

His son, John Todd, worked alongside him whilst training to be a carpenter, and after a few years he took over the business, shifting the focus to doors. The company expanded under his leadership, moving location twice to larger premises in Northholt.

Although John retired in 2004, Todd Doors is still proudly run by the Todd family, with John's son Matthew overseeing things. Despite many changes over the years, the brand is still synonymous with high-quality and good value, and is now the number one supplier of doors in the UK.

In recent years, the company has opened two new branches - one in Bournemouth and another in St Albans. Its showrooms are extensive and

well laid out, with a skilled team on hand to offer expert technical and design advice. There is a wide range of over 450 doors on show, both internal and external. Alternatively, you can browse the collection online at the brand new website, and have your doors delivered straight to you.

Todd Doors' latest collection is the classically styled Estates range, which comprises of eight solid and 11 complementary glazed period-style internal doors. They come in untreated American white oak as standard, which can be customised to suit your tastes in a range of stain and paint colours by the company's professional finishing service.

The Estates doors are classic designs that have been brought up-to-date in terms of thermal efficiency and sound proofing. You can match the doors to the style of your home or Todd Doors can produce bespoke designs if required, or if you need approval for a conservation area or listed building. The company stocks the largest range of reproduction period doors in the country, so you're sure to find the perfect design for your home, regardless of its age.

Three generations of the Todd family has seen Todd Doors rise from humble beginnings to the number one supplier of doors in the UK

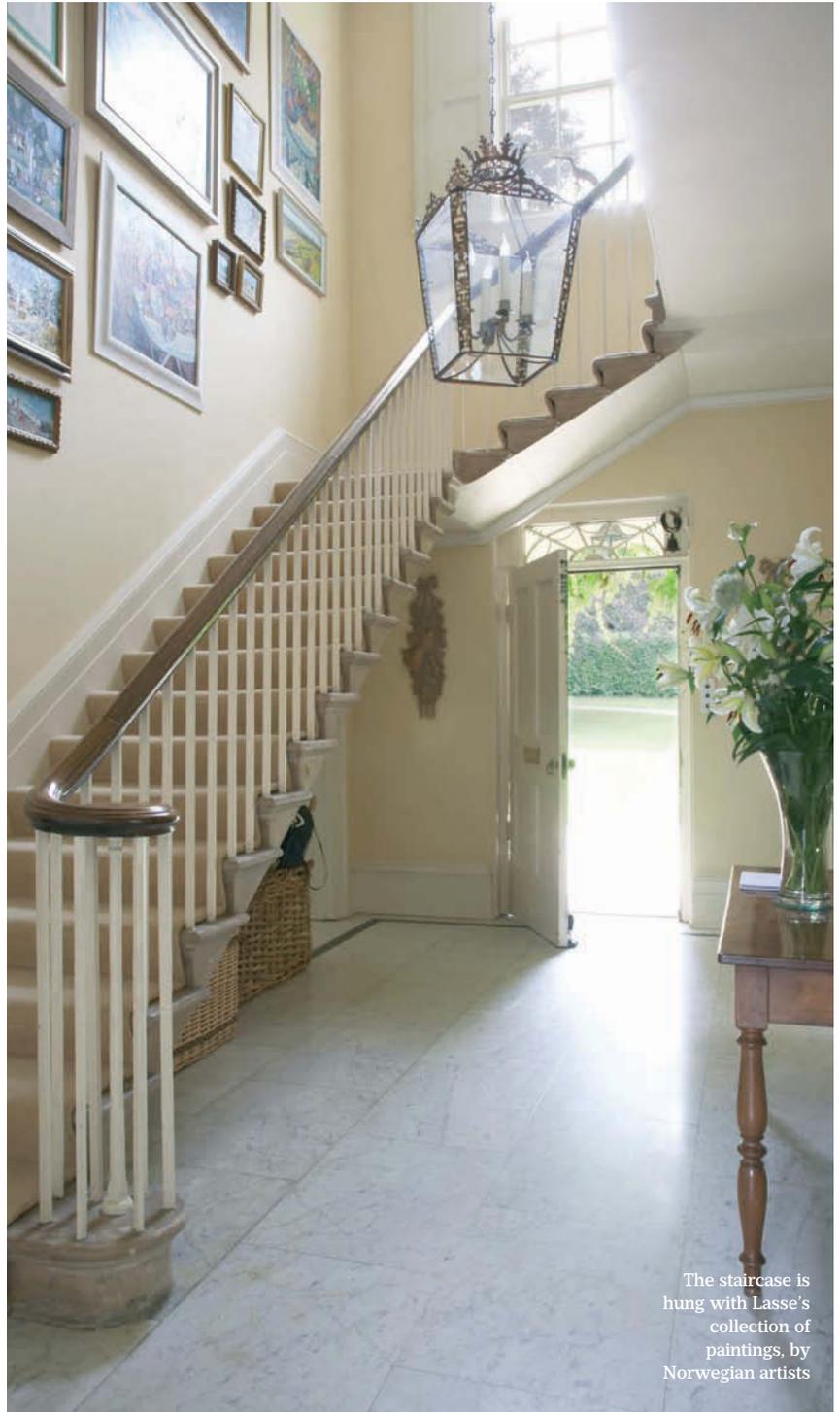


The recent addition to the property contains the recently renovated kitchen

SCENIC WESSEX VILLAGE

LET THERE

Anneliese and Lasse Gunnerud remodelled a 19th century



The staircase is hung with Lasse's collection of paintings, by Norwegian artists

BELIGHT

church building to become a light and spacious family home

Words **PAMANDA HARLING/GAP INTERIORS** Photography **NICK CARTER/GAP INTERIORS**

STYLE ADVICE

Incorporate a neutral scheme with bursts of bright colour, in the form of furniture and other home accessories. The pale tones of the linen blinds and curtains, limestone floor and walls in Annelise's kitchen are contrasted by the vivid blue and green shades of the painted chapel chairs and candles for a fresh and vibrant space to entertain friends and family.



Above The pair of French armchairs, now covered in a Designers Guild floral fabric, were a junk shop find

It's no surprise that rectories are so highly sought after thanks to their generous proportions and central location. Originally built and maintained by the church to accommodate the parish priest and his family, rectories are an integral part of English village life. Even home owners without religious inclinations can appreciate the historic value and classic architectural beauty of these buildings, which had to be big enough to host Church officials and members of the congregation regularly. Anneliese and Lasse Gunnerud were delighted by the spaciousness and stunning original features in their new home.

Situated in a scenic Wessex village, the house dates back to 1842. "It was built by the rector on the site of an earlier house which had burnt down," explains Anneliese. She and Lasse, who is originally from Norway, began married life living in London, but relocated to the country before their eldest child, Poppy, started school. After searching for their dream home for some time, Anneliese instinctively knew that

The Old Rectory was for them as soon as she set foot in the door. "By the time we'd viewed thirty-two houses Lasse had had enough, so I came to see this one on my own," she recalls. "As soon as the front door opened and I saw the cantilevered staircase, which rises from the hall to the galleried landing, I decided to make an offer."

EYE FOR DESIGN

Once the sale of the house had gone through, it was time for Anneliese and Lasse to consider updating the décor. Anneliese had strong views on this, thanks to her many years in design. After studying fashion at St Martin's School of Art, she established her own business designing evening and wedding dresses under her maiden name of Anneliese Sharp. When her daughter Poppy was born the business took a backseat, but Anneliese still had another passion to satisfy her thirst for design. Whilst running her own London-based business, she had also dabbled in the property market, moving herself up



Above The mirror hanging above the carved wood fireplace was bought at Lots Road Auctions



Far left The metal day bed is from Urban Rustics in Devizes
Above An off-white linen was chosen for the tablecloth and dining chairs, and Farrow & Ball's New White was used on the walls

REAL HOMES Rectory restoration



What I love about this house are the proportions and the way light pours in, so those are the features that I've emphasised



the ladder during the 1980s and '90s. "I'd buy a new flat or house every year, renovate it, sell it and start all over again. As a young child growing up in Cornwall we moved house frequently, so perhaps my restlessness stems from there," Anneliese explains.

But The Old Rectory provided Anneliese with her most ambitious renovation project to date, despite not needing much structural alteration. "With seven bedrooms and quite a few bathrooms to redecorate, it took a while to spruce up the house," Anneliese recalls. "The reception rooms needed redecorating and we decided to expand the original house with the addition of a self-contained flat, which is also home to the kitchen." This area had another dramatic overhaul last year, when Anneliese opened up the space to create more room for entertaining. "The children used to have a separate playroom and there was a utility room at the far end of the house, but I decided to demolish the internal walls and open up the ceiling to the rafters, creating a much more contemporary space. I wanted it to be the sort of room where the children, their friends and ours could hang out together. The old playroom became the sitting area and the back entrance hall became the utility room, with our washing and drying machines concealed behind folding doors."



Anneliese cannily retained the existing kitchen units, which had been made to her specification ten years previously. "The cream Aga stayed put as it fits in with any scheme, but painting the woodwork pale grey instead of cream made a huge difference, as did laying a new limestone floor and installing underfloor heating," says Anneliese. The newly enlarged kitchen now comfortably accommodates a refectory table long enough to seat ten, perfect for birthday celebrations and dinner parties with friends.

ROOM WITH A VIEW

The dual aspect drawing room is more formal, with three full height windows looking out over the garden. Anneliese maximised their impact by leaving them free of curtains. "What I love about this house are the proportions and the way that the light pours in, so those are the features that I've emphasised," she explains. "Many of the windows still had their original shutters, so we had them restored and only close them during the winter, to keep the warmth in. We're not overlooked so during the day the whole house is flooded with light."

The traditional furniture is in keeping with the rectory's original style, but the use of pale, neutral colours and a rug rather than fitted carpet gives the room a modern slant. The

sofa, which is a stylish focal point in the space, has undergone several incarnations since Anneliese first bought it. "I'd wanted that particular Conran sofa ever since I'd sat on one years ago, while I was waiting to see the wedding dress buyer at Liberty's. I promised myself that as soon as I could afford to, I'd buy one. Initially it was upholstered in black, then it was covered in cream damask during the swags and tails era and now it's natural linen," she says.

FUN & GAMES

The curtain-free look continues in the attic bedrooms, which would have originally been used as the servants' quarters. "It's great having that extra space; when we have friends to stay they have the whole floor to themselves which is lovely for them and for us. The rest of the time it's mainly used by the children, as it makes a great location for playing hide and seek!"

Anneliese's creative zeal extends beyond her own home. Having spent the last few months updating a friend's London flat, she is busy with plans for the renovation of a nearby cottage. "I've loved being at home with the children but now they're both at school all day I'm keen to get out of the house," she explains. "It's time to get back to the design world - the only difference is that these days it's houses rather than party dresses!"



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Life just gives you time and space, it's up to you to fill it

From climbing some of the world's highest mountains, to crossing the Sahara on horseback, Katharine Pooley is an intrepid explorer, who has visited over 250 countries. Travel is at the heart of her design philosophy, and her unique style draws inspiration from across the globe. Now based in Knightsbridge, Katharine has gained an international reputation for her refined and eclectic aesthetic. Get ready for the festive season with her stunning new table-top and decorative bauble range for Fortnum & Mason. The collection will be available to buy from the end of October.



My favourite room is...

my bedroom, as it provides a natural space in which to experiment with different decorating techniques. I recommend using lots of cushions and throws in your bedroom to create a warm, cosy feel, which is easy to update every season.

The thing I like best about my house is...

spending quality time with family and friends, ideally over a delicious home-cooked meal and great wine. The Great Hall in our home in Scotland provides the perfect backdrop for entertaining; my father bought Forter Castle as a ruin in 1988 and we have spent a great deal of time restoring it to its former glory.

The house I grew up in was...

in rural Hertfordshire and surrounded by rolling fields and nature – which undoubtedly ignited my love of the great outdoors. I especially loved it at Christmas, when the whole house was filled with beautiful home-made decorations.

My favourite place in Britain is...

the National History Museum; it is such an inspiring building and I can't help but be blown away by the stunning architecture.

AT HOME WITH...

Katharine Pooley



Seoana Sherry-Brennan discovers how world travel inspires a major London talent

My favourite holiday location is...

Singapore; I love the culture, the weather, the people and, of course, the abundance of incredible design.

When I'm planning a room I always...

consider how the space will be used. If you ensure the practicalities of a room are right from the outset, the rest will fall into place and work seamlessly.

When designing I'm often drawn to...

travel and other cultures for inspiration. If I ever have a creative block, I look at photos of my past adventures and the interesting designs I have encountered and the ideas soon start flowing again.

The best advice I ever had was...

to make things happen for yourself and not to wait for others to make them happen for you.

My top tip is...

never neglect the details and finishing touches, as these elements will either make or break a scheme. Invest in unique, specialist finishes and skilled craftsmen, and live in a space for a while before making any dramatic changes, as it will soon become apparent what is (and isn't) going to work.

My motto is...

life just gives you time and space, it's up to you to fill it.

The current interiors trend I love most is...

metallics, such as copper and brass. They instantly give interiors a luxurious yet warm feel and complement most colour palettes.

I think the next interiors trend will be...

bringing the outdoors in and creating spaces that merge seamlessly. I always aim to create a flow between rooms in my interiors, and I think this also applies to outdoor spaces.

Take a look at some of Katharine's splendid schemes at katharinepooley.com



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HARBOUR VIEW

American classic

Explore a comfortable holiday home in New England which is brimming with colour and personality

Words **GAP INTERIORS/TRIA GIOVAN** Photography **GAP INTERIORS/TRIA GIOVAN**

As a native of Buffalo, New York, Ramey Caulkins always fancied herself more as an urban girl than an isolated island dweller, but then she found her soul mate of houses; a dilapidated, century-old Maine cottage with a harbour view and a celebrated past.

Ramey, an interiors and fashion designer, has long been inspired by the work of Sister Parish, (born Dorothy May Kinnicutt) who is famous for developing American country style.

As a socialite and interior designer, she really rocked the boat when she set up her own business in New York after the Depression. In fact, her husband was actually disinherited by his aunt, as she was so outraged that a relative was in trade.

The aunt's inheritance went to Eleanor Roosevelt, who redefined the role of First Lady, but Sister Parish's light-filled, colourful and welcoming style also took her to the White House, as an interior designer. Although her influence remains in some of the rooms, she was sacked by Jackie Kennedy for chiding little Caroline for putting her feet on the upholstery!

When Ramey discovered that the wonderfully spirited and intuitive Sister Parish had actually decorated the very house she was viewing as a holiday home for her family, she snapped it up. Now every summer, Ramey, her husband Max and their two children, Hayden, four and Eliza, two, leave their home in Denver to spend summer at the house, on an island in Maine's Penobscot Bay.

Sister Parish had a long association with the Maine area, her parents had property here, and this influenced her style. Much to the confusion of the US media, Mrs Henry Parish II, was known as 'Sister' purely because she was the only sister to four brothers. She was most certainly not a nun who had a talent for moving furniture around!

"The room where Sister Parish's touch was instantly apparent was the living room," Ramey explains. "I love colour, it comes naturally to me, and that is a big part of Sister Parish's design." Ramey also echoes Sister Parish in her own style, not only with colour, but by filling a room with seemingly mismatched pieces of furniture, patterned wallpaper and colours, to create a homely, stylish space.

WORK IT OUT

Once the Caulkins had decided that the rundown house was for them, they were keen to start using it and renovation work began fairly quickly. It is a three-story property built in 1902 overlooking Penobscot Bay, a magical place which sweeps from Nova Scotia to Boston. The house's exterior was part of the attraction – the sloping roofs and lovely white wooden weatherboards with black window shutters are a traditional style in the area. Their contractor was as keen as Ramey and Max to retain the original character of the building and this was key in the extension they added. They ensured that the roofline was seamlessly continued.

Right The traditional white wooden weatherboards, which are accented by the black window shutters, are in keeping with the traditional style of the area.





Sister Parish belived in permanence, comfort, and a feeling of continuity in interior design and decoration





STYLE ADVICE AMERICAN BEAUTY

- Although Sister Parish's rooms ooze comfort, be ruthless when editing pieces. She blitzed through her clients' homes eliminating bric a brac which she disliked.
- Embrace imperfection and place objects and pieces of furniture off-centre.
- Create depth as well as a feeling of warmth, so your space looks as if it has evolved naturally around your family over time.
- Paint or stain your floor to add colour and, even if you are layering your room, know when to stop. It should be brimming with charm but not overflowing!



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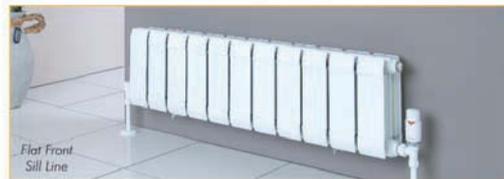
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SISTER ACT

Sister Parish influenced design in North America for six decades and had no formal training, though she was partial to understated English country house style.

She loved chintzes and patterns, painted floors and mixing opulent pieces with homely patchwork quilts and rag rugs. In 1962 she hired Albert Hadley and Parish-Hadley was born, influencing a generation of New York decorators. The basic premise was that rooms are for people and needed to be as comfortable and attractive as possible.



Left Ramey's colour choices are inspired by the nearby water, with bold greens and sea shades used throughout to create bright, vibrant rooms throughout the house.

The house needed a lot of work to bring it up-to-date. It has been totally rewired, insulated and all the plumbing replaced. Once the structural work was completed, Ramey focused on decorating. Having inherited some of her style icon's work, Ramey was keen to expand upon it, not destroy it. "This house already has a rich story, and it's one that we want to add to, not remove." The living room was the most exciting for Ramey, as this was the area where most of Sister Parish's work remained. Sadly, water damage had destroyed a lot of the wall coverings, so Ramey set about replacing and rebuilding the paneling, but ensured that she used the same bold coral colour she had found there.

LIGHT AND LIVABLE

This stunning holiday home now has a light, fresh and livable feel, just as Ramey intended. "I love anything with a patina," she says. Ramey enjoys the imperfections brought about by time, use and love of things. "I kept the old floors, they were imperfectly perfect for the house and I love to imagine who else has stepped on those boards," she smiles.

She has put down rugs where there were too many dents or scratches, but these just add to the colour, character and warmth of the rooms. Her colour choices



REAL HOMES **Maine attraction**



are simply inspired by the location and the greens and light aqua blues of the sea. However, the combinations are bold and bright, and create a strong style statement.

As you might expect, Ramey's fabric choices are sourced predominantly from Sister Parish Design, the company created by Sister Parish's daughter and granddaughter. "I love her ethos and design and this really is a lovely place to be with the family. We spend a lot of time in the kitchen as there are no restaurants on the island," explains Ramey. But, quite rightly, the family spends most of their time outdoors on their summer vacations here. "We pack up a picnic and go out on the water, everyday is an adventure." The family arrives earlier every year, hoping to spend as much time as they possibly can here.

Left Each of the bedrooms in the property has a distinct personality, created through the use of colour and pattern. The master bedroom features motifs from nature, paired with delicate prints and clean, white walls.

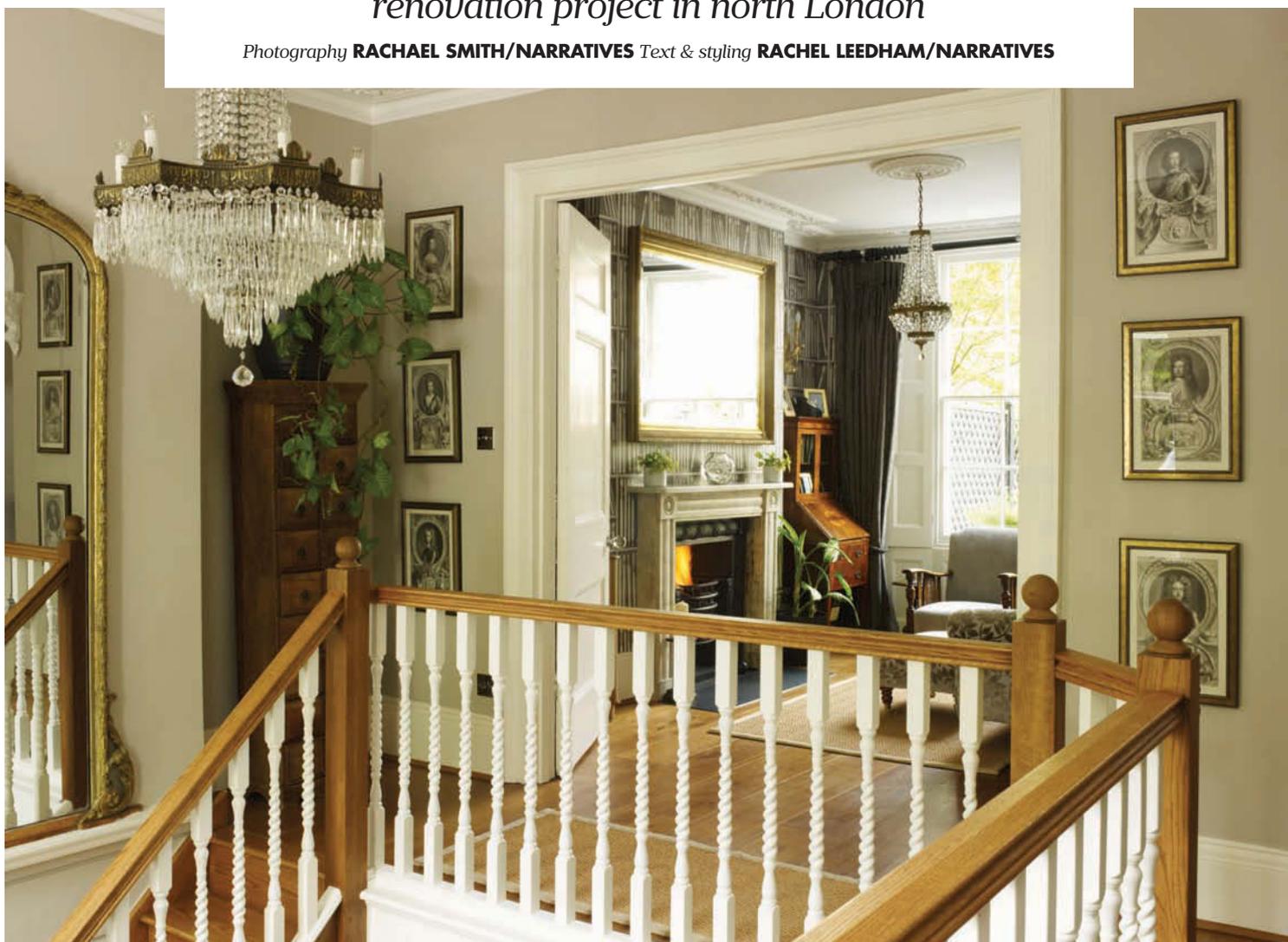
I kept the old floorboards, they were imperfectly perfect for the house and I love to imagine who else has stepped on those boards



STAIRWAY to heaven

How a splendid staircase set the tone in an epic renovation project in north London

Photography **RACHAEL SMITH/NARRATIVES** Text & styling **RACHEL LEEDHAM/NARRATIVES**



Affluent north London is spoilt for squares lined with handsome terraced houses. Many have been altered with glazed extensions to the rear, making them more relevant to modern living. But Susan Miller-Jones and her husband Haydn Jones probably have the only early Victorian house which has had a huge chunk of the upper ground floor removed to create a grand, galleried staircase. "This building has always attracted a lot of attention because it is so unusual," Susan admits. "When the lights are on at dusk, people will often stop outside to have a good look inside."

The story goes that in the 1960s, the house was owned by an architect who treated the house as a laboratory for his somewhat unconventional spatial ideas. "Apparently, his mentor had a bet with him that he wouldn't be able to create the perfect staircase so, one weekend, he decided to take the floor out," says Susan. "Rumour has it that this was the last straw for his marriage."

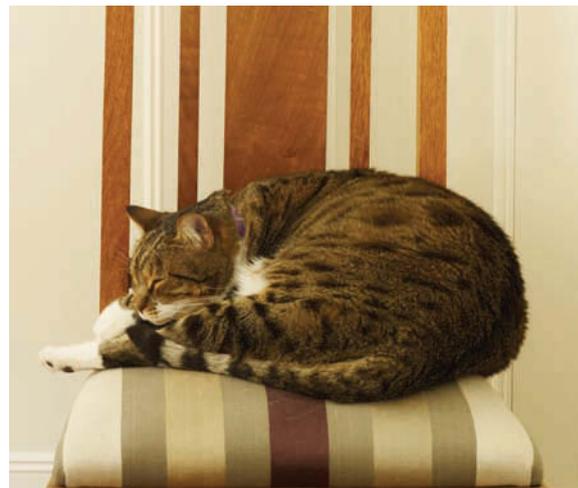
Ironically, as Susan points out, his finished design was far from perfect. "The bannisters were metal and they were so wide a child could easily get their head through them," she notes. "We lived here for a year before we started the



Left Glazed folding doors and a huge roof light ensure that the new extension and adjoining courtyard are bright and welcoming. The handcrafted cabinets are painted a relaxing green-grey hue.



REAL HOMES **Victorian vision**



refurbishment and our cats would slip through the bars and walk the tightrope along the inside edge – I had my heart in my mouth most of the time.”

There were plenty of problems with the Grade II-listed house, most notably on the dark lower ground floor, where severe damp meant that the couple were regularly removing fungi from the skirting boards. “We knew when we bought the house that we would have to do everything to it, including damp proofing, a new extension, rewiring and replumbing,” says Susan. “In the end, we moved out for a full year.”

During the renovation, Susan fell pregnant with their son Barnaby, now two, and also changed jobs (she heads an HR function in the City, while Haydn works in banking). “I think that’s why the colours in the house are so relaxing,” she laughs. “Life was so stressful that I’m sure I gravitated to soothing shades.” In every spare moment, she meticulously planned the details of the house, working with the architect and builders to fine-tune the drawings, and helped to source everything from taps to sprinkler systems for the window boxes. “I love interiors and I am fastidious,” she admits. “I spent months and months deliberating over certain choices,







Above A striking faux library wallpaper lends a sense of gravitas to this space and complements the couples' handsome antiques.

such as the paint colour for the walls. With the galleried staircase, there is no point where I could stop with one paint colour and start with another. As a result, I had to find a shade that would work with every room."

GOING GREY

Her final choice, a gentle pale grey, was chosen for its versatility – it goes with both silver and gold beautifully – and also because it complements the wallpapers that Susan has used in the dining area, the drawing room and the master bedroom. "I love wallpaper as it feels more permanent than paint – it says, 'I'm staying'. I'm unfaithful to paint colours but there are papers that I would use again and again," Susan notes. She chose a timeless leafy pattern for the dining area because, "it works for every season. In autumn and winter you really see the leaf shapes while in spring and summer it feels light and pretty." In the drawing room above, a smart faux library wallpaper strikes just the right note of opulence in

this more formal space, ideal for grown-up entertaining and relaxation. Many a late-night conversation has been had around the fireplace.

Subtly glamorous touches abound in the house, from sparkling chandeliers to gilded mirrors, which help give a sense of space to these modest-sized rooms. Susan worked with her architect to define the dining and family areas. The former features panelled cupboards made to fit around Haydn's piano; the latter is situated by the French doors to make the most of the natural light.

Glazed folding doors and a huge roof light ensure that the new kitchen extension and adjoining courtyard are bright and welcoming. The handcrafted cabinets by Roundhouse are painted a relaxing green-grey hue. Upstairs in the master suite marble tiles, mirrored walls and a glittering chandelier ensure that this space is elegant. A mirrored TV screen is recessed above the bath – an idea the couple took from a stay in Hong Kong, in a suite at The Peninsula.

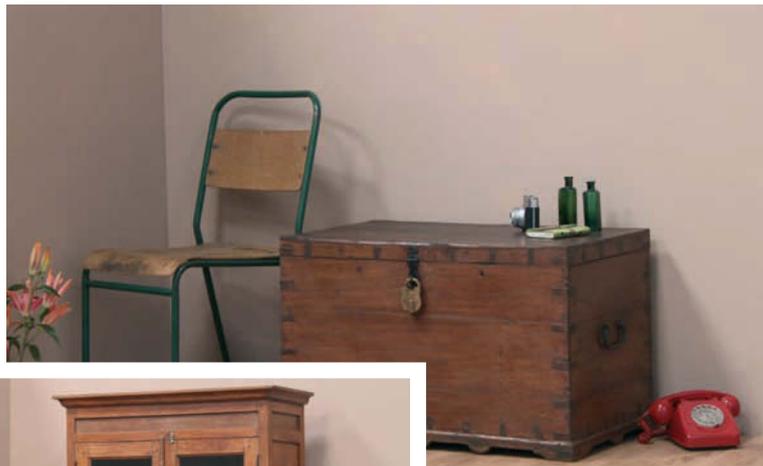


LIGHT FANTASTIC

The most impressive chandelier hangs above the galleried staircase; ever practical, Susan had it fitted with a remote controlled winch to make changing a light bulb a breeze. "I'll never forget the day it was installed, it was towards the end of the refurbishment when every little detail really seemed to matter," she recalls. "I got a call from Haydn saying he had a surprise for me so I rushed home in a cab and he had left the chandelier lit so that I could see it from the street. There was an elderly couple standing outside looking at the house, so I asked them, 'Do you love it or hate it?'"

"The man told me that he had walked past every day with his dog and had noticed that the owners were putting everything back in – all the traditional cornicing and antique radiators. He said that he had gone home and told his wife that she had to come and see the house." And did they love it? "Oh yes, they did, and they said they thought the wallpaper was wonderful," recalls Susan. "So I quietly confessed that I lived there."

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Discovering
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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Three prizes are set for a colonial teak cupboard (worth £1,500), a hardwood storage chest (worth £500) and an antique wedding chest (worth £500). The prizes are only available for British residents. The prize includes delivery. No cash alternative is available and products cannot be changed or upgraded. The decision of the judge is final.

CLOSING DATE:
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TIMED TO PERFECTION

Collectables

Margaret Powling investigates the intriguing story behind the invention of timepieces

You'll be hard-pressed to find someone who, come October, doesn't relish the moment the clocks go back, and an extra hour (spent snoozing, for most) is gained. This practice, which many are familiar with but few really know the origins of, was first proposed in Britain more than 100 years ago. Keen horseman, William Willett, was exasperated at the waste of useful daylight first thing in the morning during the summer months. Though the sun had been up for hours during his rides through the local woods, most people were still in bed.

William's idea – which came to be known as Daylight Saving Time – of altering the clocks according to the season was laudable; and prevented the waste of valuable daylight hours, which in turn meant that any work for which light was necessary could be extended. But it wasn't until 1916 (during the First World War) that the practice was adopted across Britain, a year after William passed away, having spent his life campaigning to get his time-shifting scheme accepted by the government.

KEEP THE BEAT

Of course, changing digital watches and clocks today simply involves pressing a button. This wasn't the case in 1916, when many clocks and watches risked being damaged by their owners turning the hands backwards in the autumn. This could, and often did, break the mechanism. In order to prevent this, it was necessary (and still is on antique clocks) to move the hands forward by 11 hours when Summer Time ends.

So why do we still bother with a clock or watch that needs such careful attention when we can so easily check the time on our smart phones? Perhaps because we are attracted to

the idea that these timekeepers work just as well today as when they were first made some 200 or 300 years ago. It might also be the noise they make, the gentle ticking and the sonorous strike, the very sound that our ancestors heard. "An antique mechanical clock can be thought of as the heartbeat of the home," says James Stratton, Head of the Clock Department at Bonhams.

The first mechanical clock (derived from the Latin word for bell 'clocca') was invented in the Middle Ages, although the precise date and maker of it remains unknown. Historians have deduced that it was around the end of the 13th century, and was installed in a monastery to summon monks to prayer. The real breakthrough in clockmaking came in 1657 when Christiaan Huygens,

a Dutch scientist, built the first clock based on Galileo's recent discovery of the pendulum. The Dutch pendulum clocks were forerunners of English bracket clocks (so-named because some originally sat on wall brackets) although from the early 18th century, many bracket clocks sold in Holland had a London movement inside a Dutch case.

SMOOTH MOVES

So what should you look for when purchasing an antique clock? "A good clock for the first-time buyer is the longcase clock," says Mr Clock, a specialist dealer. "They are extremely reliable and there is something grand and decadent about having a beautiful, well-crafted antique longcase in your home."



The earliest longcase clocks were architectural in style, with a pedimented hood. Walnut veneer was used from the early 1670s, and between 1680 and 1720 marquetry decoration was popular. Mahogany was used after 1720 and mahogany country clocks are generally broader and more elaborate than their London counterparts. It is also worth noting that the more slender clocks usually command the highest prices.

As with most antiques, rarity alone does not necessarily mean high value, but a pioneer design is desirable. Bear in mind that clocks are judged predominantly on the quality of both their movement and case. The main period for serious British clock collecting is between 1660–1720; this was the era of the bracket clock, which is characterised by a square dial and arched top. Interest then widens to include Georgian and Victorian clocks, which both make attractive items of furniture.

Further reading

Collectable Clocks 1840–1940 by Alan and Rita Shenton (ACC)

Marble Clocks by Peter Wotton and Brian Oliver (Shire Books)



DIARY DATES

● London Decorative Antiques and Textiles Fair, Battersea Park, 30th September-5th October

Discerning decorators, don't miss out on this thrice-yearly specialist event, where you'll discover a range of unusual English and European antiques. The huge collection includes original 20th century designs as well as works of art from all periods. From opulent show-stoppers to useful furniture, approximately 140 exhibitors offer a broad range of both fine quality and affordable pieces for inspired interiors. Tickets £10. 020 7616 9327, antiques-atlas.com

● Peterborough Festival of Antiques, Peterborough Arena, 3rd-4th October

Buyers and sellers from all over Europe will be looking for a real deal at the largest showground Antiques Fair in the country, when it returns for the second time this year. If you're searching for a bargain, over 1,700 stalls will offer something for everyone - with a spectacular array of antiques and collectables. Opens for early trade from 7-10am on Friday (£15) and to the general public from 10am on Friday and from 9am on Saturday (£5). 01664 812 627, bobevansfairs.co.uk

● Newark International Antiques & Collectors Fair, Newark and Nottinghamshire Showground, 9th-10th October

World-renowned for being the largest event of its kind in Europe, the Newark fair is the ultimate treasure hunting ground for collectors and antique lovers. Located only two hours away from London and less than an hour away from East Midlands airport, the fair features up to 2,500 stands and attracts thousands of dealers and buyers from across the globe. Thursday tickets (allows entry on both days) £20, open from 9am-6pm. Friday tickets £5, open from 8am-4pm. 01636 702 326, iacf.co.uk

● The Esher Hall Antiques & Fine Art Fair, Sandown Park Racecourse, 10th-12th October

Now in its 7th year, The Esher Hall Antiques & Fine Art Fair is back! Surrey's most established event features 30 specialist dealers and is set to showcase a stunning range of gems, comprising of furniture, sculpture, ceramics and jewellery, all of which has been vetted to the highest standard. This year sees five new exhibitors take to the stands, including Strachan Fine Art from Kensington. Tickets £5 (includes catalogue). 01797 25 2030, esherhallfair.com



Margaret's Excellent Advice

Always buy from a reputable dealer who will have had the clock fully checked and maintained before its sale. The British Antique Dealers Association will, for a fee, check out and authenticate a clock for you.

Ensure that the clock - whether bracket, carriage, mantle, or longcase - is on a level surface and out of direct sunlight and other sources of heat. A level clock will have an even 'tick' with an even and regular time lapse between ticks.

It is recommended that a clock is professionally maintained approximately every three years; during maintenance it will be cleaned and the movement itself will be checked.

Remember that, while antique clocks are pieces of furniture, they are also scientific instruments and they will not work properly without careful maintenance. If you need to move the hands of a clock (such as during the time change) only move the minute hand clockwise, never anti-clockwise. You will also need to wait for each strike to occur.



Far left
17th century gold and enamel pocket watch case (later dial and movement), circa 1680, bonhams.com

Top right
18th century quarter repeating ebony table clock, circa 1704, Thomas Tompion and Edward Banger, London, bonhams.com

Right middle
Visit Salisbury Cathedral to take a look at the oldest working clock in the world, dating all the way back to 1386, salisburycathedral.org.uk

Right bottom
18th century Scottish walnut longcase clock with elaborate moon phase and age indication, Archibald Laurie, Edinburgh, bonhams.com

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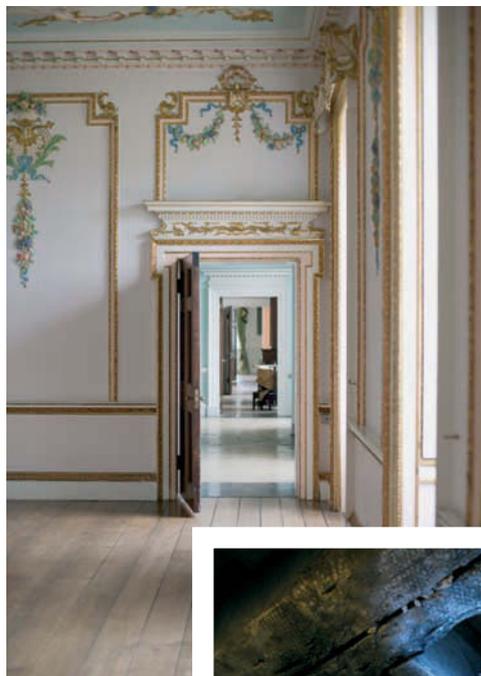
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Top Green and gold decoration in the salon at Croome Court. In the dining room, you can see how the plasterwork was picked out in delicate colours when the house was used as a Hare Krishna centre. **Right** Amy explores behind the scenes as her team prepare for the grand re-opening of Croome in 2016,



Open house

Amy Forster-Smith reveals how Croome Court is changing our perceptions of the stately home

Words **SUSAN DICKERSON**

Photography **NTPL/ANDREW BUTLER/LAYTON THOMPSON/AMHEL DE SERRA**

Croome Court is a great example of Neo-Palladian architecture, and was a cutting-edge building project

Expect the unexpected is the order of the day at Croome Park, deep in the Cotswolds. The visitor centre is the remains of a secret wartime airbase, where thousands of people lived and worked in the 1940s, and the house itself is set in the heart of 'Capability' Brown's first piece of landscaping. Over the past 17 years, the National Trust has painstakingly restored a lost and overgrown

parkland into a piece of living history. Croome Court itself, the former home of the Earls of Coventry, is preparing for a sensational transformation in 2016 and you can see one of the UK's most exciting restoration projects in process. Croome Court is a great example of Neo-Palladian architecture, and was a cutting-edge building project. Today it is famous for being designed by Capability Brown, with assistance from Sanderson Miller, so it is his first architectural project in his first landscape design, setting the standard for so many English stately homes. The plain exterior and four corner towers with pyramidal roofs are key features. Robert Adams' first ceiling is in the Long Gallery, which was installed between 1761 and 1766, and inspired by the Roman ruins of Palmyra. He also made one of his first four-poster beds for the house.



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Croome with a view
 This autumn explore Croome's Hidden Heritage trail to discover the strange and wonderful at Croome. Find out what the house team has brought from the collection and get a taste of the past. For details, telephone **01905 371 006** or visit **nationaltrust.org.uk**

We are keen to share all the stories in the house and open up all four floors to visitors. We want to show the collection in a new and exciting way



Above The south front of the house.
Right Stature of Sabrina in the grotto at Croome Park.
Below Maud van den Broecke, shoemaker hard at work in the basement, as part of the splendid 'Sole To Sole' exhibition.

PARK LIFE

The park boasts a man-made lake with a sprinkling of grottoes and follies, as Capability Brown honed his technique of framing country houses in harmonious surroundings to enchant the eye. The house no longer dominated the landscape but became a seamless part of it; echoing the subtle readjustments of the English squirearchy itself, especially the nouveaux riches who wanted to give the impression that their homes and wealth had existed for centuries.

Amy Forster-Smith, house and visitor experience manager says, "The house was built between 1751-2 and it has been a boys' school, a Hare Krishna centre as well as a 17-bedroom family home. I've been at the property for eight and a half years, working my way up from being a visitor reception assistant. My husband is the general manager and we got married at Croome, so it is a really special place for me.

"I love showing visitors the contrasts in the house. It was owned by a property developer in the late 1990s and you can see the master suite he used to have with double basins, a huge bath and walk-in wardrobes. It is quite



brush with striped wallpaper and a huge bath and reminds me of the décor in *Footballers Wives*! The ground floor remains intact from the 18th century and the scale is so impressive.

DYNAMIC EXPERIENCE

"We are keen to share all the stories in the house and open up all four floors to visitors, and once the collection returns to the house in a couple of years we want to display it in a dynamic way so it won't be filled up with furniture tucked away behind corded ropes. Instead we want to focus on star items and bring back pieces which are in storage or on display in Kelmarsh Hall in Northamptonshire."

Croome is already delighting visitors with its moving 'Soul To Sole' exhibition. Creative director Tom Bennett has reclaimed the shoe-rack room in the basement, where the boarders once kept their shoes and outdoor kit, with a beautifully simple idea. Key players in Croome's history are reflected through pairs of shoes and local designers have been commissioned to make appropriate footwear to go in the 144 open wooden lockers.

"We have a creative workspace in the room next door so people can see the shoes being made, run competitions for adults and children to design shoes and tried to make the exhibition as interactive as possible," says Amy. "50% of our regular visitors live within two or three miles of us and there's a news story in the paper every week. We want to strengthen our connection with Croome as a venue and a group space."





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BUILDING BLOCKS

Linda Barker explores how her favourite structures have shaped her thinking and her passion for design

Buildings have the power to shift our mood, they can either delight or appal us. They can blend in with a landscape or thrust themselves, quite literally, right out of it.

As a child I loved the city of York, my home county's capital, which positively groans with restored medieval buildings constructed within the old walls. The Mansion House and the Guildhall as well as the Minster itself are all buildings that I've loved and admired. My home town of Bradford is often poorly portrayed in the

cathedral inside. I was totally in love with it. This huge contemporary arch was constructed as part of a commission to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the French Revolution.

I think this building is absolutely outstanding. The elegance of its simple shape, in perfect unison with two other grand arches along its long axis – the Arc du



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media, but its architectural heritage is deep-rooted in the industrial revolution and it still retains a huge number of stunning buildings, built with ambition and, of course, the great wealth that textile production brought to the region. Huge mills such as Leisters Mill and Salts Mill in Saltaire are buildings that raise my spirits when they loom on the horizon.

As I began to explore further afield, I was aware of other styles of architecture that fuelled my passion for design. My honeymoon in New York showed me how beautiful a small soaring city like Manhattan really was, away from the picture books. The vibrancy of the city made a deep impact on me and its energy was always palpable.

During a visit to Paris a good while back when my daughter was tiny and fractious from the city heat, I insisted on a sweltering metro journey to the semi-outskirts of the city centre – a potentially unnecessary trip into the heart of the unprepossessing business district, as I wasn't sure quite I was seeking. Then we were suddenly confronted with the monumental Grande Arche; a glistening cube of gigantic proportions with a gap at its centre that is big enough to hide a

Carrousel and the Arc de Triump. From the viewing platform, the symmetry of the arches in perfect alignment is beautiful.

The Grande Arch dwarfs the other two as it is twice the size, and it still sets my heart racing. It has pretty much stayed my favourite building since my first visit all those years ago. I have compared it with the Gherkin, the Shard, the Chrysler Building and the Petronas Towers and I love the unique feel that the Arch generates.

Today, the buildings that touch my heart are much simpler structures, some that seemingly have no bearing on the land they occupy at all. I enjoy dwellings in forests for example, which merge with the landscape so you wonder if they are there at all.

Buildings that are totally sympathetic with the earth around them interest me most of all. These buildings seem to collaborate with nature rather than strive against it and their architects understand that we need to respect our planet. Perhaps it's a more feminine approach, more yogic perhaps? For me, it's one where Nature's supremacy is the determining force. I believe rugged, elemental buildings will shelter, protect and provide for us.

As a child I loved the city of York. It positively groans with restored medieval buildings. The Mansion House, the Guildhall and the Minster have all touched my heart.



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If you need some style inspiration, take a trip to the new design district in Queens Park and visit the Rupert Bevan showroom and studio on Lonsdale Road. You'll find examples of the company's fine furniture, as well as a vast

sample library which showcases the various materials and finishes available, many of which are developed exclusively within the company. Talk to the team about your project and be inspired by some of the talented artisans at work on the finishing process.

SPOILT FOR CHOICE

Rupert Bevan, the man behind the brand, has a background in the restoration and finishing of fine furniture. While he has long since moved away from this area, his expertise gives the company a rich understanding of a multitude of styles, materials and finishes, which in turn offers you a wealth of choice. You'll feel safe in the knowledge that the end result will display exceptional craftsmanship, whatever design elements you choose. Specialities include cabinet making, metalwork, gilding and gesso and decorative paintwork, and the company is also known for its wall-panelling and antiqued mirror glass.

WORK OF ART

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Rupert Bevan has worked with numerous designers, architects and private clients, creating stunning and unique work. One item he is particularly proud of is a TV cabinet (shown top left) with a gloss lacquered exterior inlaid with patinated brass patterning. He is also fond of his ebonised beech-framed dining chairs (shown left), which were inspired by French designer Paul Dupré-Lafon and are upholstered in cream leather. With expertise across numerous materials and interior styles, Rupert Bevan can help you to achieve your dream look.



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Aquarel rug in orange, from £1,124, Kelaty



EDITOR'S CHOICE

Cable knit cushion, £22, Next



Ginger check blanket, £25; printed fleece throw, £18; chunky knit throw, £50; floral quilted throw, from £80; country rustic patchwork throw, from £70; Snuggle Up check cotton cushion, £12; patchwork cushion, £14; chunky natural knit cushion, £16, all Next



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Vivien three-drawer chest, £1,099, Marks & Spencer

Embroidered flower cushion, £12; cut velvet stripe orange cushion, £14; autumn floral cushion, £10; bold hand-painted floral curtains, £70, all Tesco

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3 Zig zag chenille striped cushion, from £15, Marks & Spencer. 0333 014 8000, marksandspencer.com

4 Bone tile jewellery box, £45, Oliver Bonas. 020 8974 0110, oliverbonas.com

5 Bohemian set of four large bowls, £35, Berry Red. 01432 274 805, berryred.co.uk

6 Mondrian rug, from £99, Frith Rugs. 0845 490 0600, frithrugs.co.uk

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PERFECT VIEW

Seoana Sherry-Brennan reveals how to accentuate your apertures with the latest design trends

The saying goes that the eyes are the window to the soul, but for home-owners with a smidgeon of design flair, windows are far more than just a viewing platform. As well as the front door and hallway, windows are one of the first things that people see when they visit your property, and how they look can convey all manner of things about not just your home, but you too.

Just as furniture and furnishings are dictated by interiors trends, window dressings are also influenced by what's in style. Vibrant hues and bold prints are popular this season, with a rainbow of statement colours and patterns appearing on blinds and curtains. For more traditional tastes, pretty florals are the ideal option, or lovers of contemporary designs can invest in graphic, geometric patterns to breathe new life into their window space.



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Workshop. 01344 868
668, sashwindow.com

I'm impressed by the vast range of brightly coloured blinds and shutters on offer at California Shutters (click on the website at californiashutters.co.uk). You can even create custom shutters by picking the perfect colour and finish to match your existing décor scheme.

If the heavy drapes and sumptuous fabrics of bygone eras are more to your taste, luxe up your casements by opting for opulent materials. Silk, velvet and suede are perfect for lovers of luxury, and will instantly add an air of sophistication to any room. To browse a vast collection of luxury fabrics, take a peek at The Curtain Room (thecurtainroom.com), which has a wealth of options that can be made bespoke to fit any window size. The Yorkshire-based company specialise in the production of hand made curtains, blinds, drapes and pelmets, all hand seamed and finished to ensure the perfect look.

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Above Sanderson Tounier, The Curtain Room. **01347 86 86 86, thecurtainroom.com**

Below Duette blind in Liberty fabric 9338, Luxaflex. **0161 442 9500, luxaflex.co.uk**

PLAY A BLINDER

As homeowners have become cost-conscious, energy efficient options designed to reduce heat loss and, as a result, save money, are becoming increasingly popular. Luxaflex's Duette energy saving blinds have a unique honeycomb structure that diffuses light and helps to insulate your windows – keeping your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. With a wide range of fabrics and finishes to choose from, finding something to match your tastes won't be a problem. The Duette website (duette.co.uk) also offers a fantastic service where you can calculate how much you could save by investing in these nifty blinds, which is great if you're worried that your original windows are costing you money.

Finally, always remember to bear a few key style rules in mind when it comes to dressing your windows. Ensure that curtains sit flush with the floor, so that they'll look neat open or closed. If you've opted for blinds – don't assume you can't have curtains too. As long as they are in a complementary colour or pattern, they'll frame your window and make it the focal point of your room. Last but not least – grimy panes will spoil even the most beautiful dressings, so make yours sparkle by buffing with newspaper and a combination of white vinegar and water.



Expert Advice

The Sash Window Workshop's Richard Dollar offers his tips for making sure your windows are looking their best.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

A CLEAN SLATE

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Knock on wood

My husband and I both like the natural look of wooden bathroom furniture. Is it easy caring for materials like teak and oak?

Very! Solid teak contains its own natural oil and is often used on yachts or for outdoor furniture, as it is very hard wearing. We recommend that the surface is wiped after use, but any marks can be easily removed with soapy water or, if necessary, a fine-grade sandpaper. For added protection from water marks and staining, apply natural teak oil or go for one of our four optional oiled finishes. Our solid oak bathroom furniture is equally well suited for this area and is protected with a choice of eight oiled finishes. This not only waterproofs the wood but complements almost any bathroom colour scheme, too.

Hazel Lancashire, Finwood Designs

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Off the wall

We're creating a new en suite and we want tiles that look stylish and unique, what do you suggest?

The simplest way for an en suite to exude style is to pay close attention to the finishing pieces and use decoration where appropriate. There are more and more tile ranges coming out with a full set of edge finishing pieces such as dado borders and corner fittings. There is a myriad of tile designs to choose from, so if you're keeping the décor of the adjoining room, choose something complementary to avoid a conflict in styles when the door is left open. A high-quality finish will stand the test of time and the great thing about good quality is that it never goes out of style.

Nigel Brimacombe, Reed Harris
0843 289 6059, reedharris.co.uk



Rock solid

Natural stone flooring is too heavy for our bathroom. Is porcelain a suitable alternative?

Porcelain tiles are a perfect solution, especially with the wide selection of styles and fixing methods available. Planning the tile layout is key to a successful project, and with textured or smooth designs, it is important to check if the tiles need sealing. Otherwise, you can pick the right tile for your family needs, whether it's stone, terracotta or even wood-effect, there are numerous styles that will replicate a natural look for the perfect flooring. You can also use underfloor heating for comfort and convenience.

Chris Perrett, Marlborough Tiles
01672 512 422, marlboroughtiles.com



Clear waters

My idea of a soothing bathroom is for it to be as minimal as possible. How can I achieve this?

This can be a fine balancing act, depending on the size of the room. You want to avoid clutter, so you need storage space, but too many cabinets can make your room feel much smaller. If you can store anything elsewhere, do so. Otherwise, opt for wall-mounted sanitaryware and furniture, and sleek, clean lines. If you're installing a shower, choose a glass enclosure. Also, consider a radiator or heated towel rail that runs vertically up the wall rather than horizontally, where it might appear to take up more wall space.

Sharon Doogan, Hudson Reed
01282 418 000, hudsonreed.co.uk



Space race

Our large family requires a lot of storage in our bathroom. How can we manage this without making it look cramped?

There are plenty of great storage choices available. You can opt for a cabinet under the basin, and utilise the often-unused wall space higher up with tall units. Alternatively, you can get low units running along the bottom of a wall, and allocate each family member their own drawer. You can even get drawers with dividers inside to keep everything neat and tidy. Fitting a bath or shower in the corner, or siting them in an alcove, will create extra space for you as well.

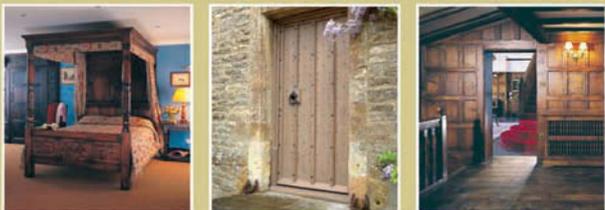
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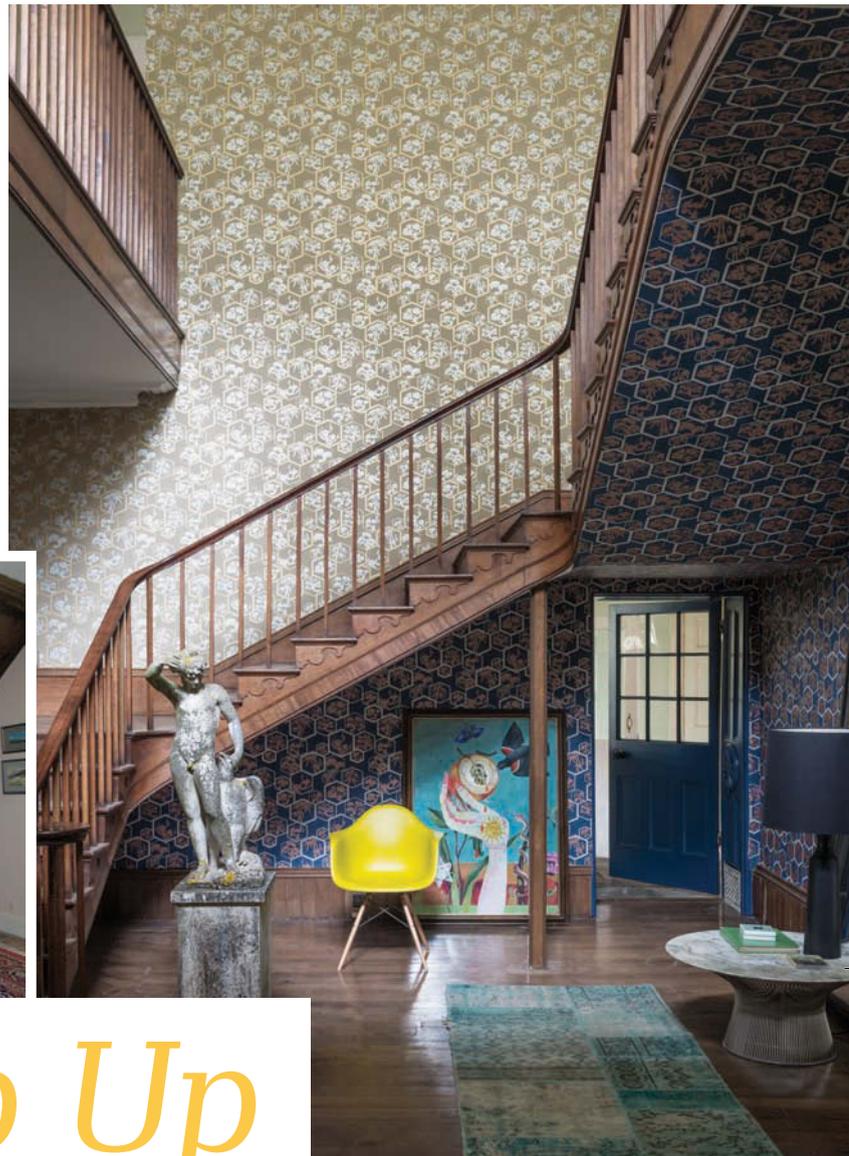


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Step Up

Have your home reach new heights by sprucing up your staircase

When it comes to redecorating, it's easy to focus on the main living spaces, and neglect the areas of our home that we don't spend much time in. For instance, when did you last give your staircase a makeover? Perhaps you redecorated the hallway or laid new carpet in the landing, and the stairs became an extension of that, but it's unlikely that you focused exclusively on this area. However, there are many ways to make your staircase a standout feature in your home, so that it becomes more than just a route.

AIM HIGH

Seeking a dramatic impact? You could replace the whole thing. If your current staircase is creaky and worn, or perhaps just simple and uninspiring in design, then a specialist company can create something that is full of grand period charm. Deacon & Sandys (01580 243 331, deaconandsandys.co.uk), for example, offers bespoke stairs and balustrades with hand-crafted woodwork that can be integrated beautifully into your home. You can choose everything from the shade of oak and the basic shape to the fine details of hand carving, spindles and more. But if changing your entire staircase seems unnecessary, new balustrading can also bring a tired design to life.

Spiral staircases are wonderful things to look at and can free up a lot of floor space, but they're not very practical in terms of moving

furniture between floors. However, if you've got a large house with more than one staircase, then this is an option you can consider.

ON THE RUN

If you're happy with the design of your stairs, then there are other ways to give them a lift. A stylish runner with some gorgeous stair rods will make an instant impact, and restaining the stairs to complement it will give you a winning combination in no time at all.

Alternatively, you can get creative with paint. Companies like Farrow & Ball have some inspiring ideas such as painting your own border or stripes, or using a palette of colours on the riser of each stair to create a stylish new statement.

If your staircase runs up the side of the house, then you may have a large wall space that's crying out to be used. Try a new paint colour or wallpaper, add some grand mirrors, paintings or tapestries or choose some period wall mouldings to really show off your staircase and its surroundings.

Giving your staircase some love, even if it's just a quick facelift, can make a big difference, especially if yours is in the entrance of your home. But it's not just for guests to see, it's for you and your family to use and enjoy many times every single day. So take the next step, and make your staircase shine.

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CABINET RESHUFFLE

Susan Dickerson reveals how to conquer your next kitchen project

The best kept secret in the world of interiors is how to prevent a dream kitchen from turning into a nightmare. But with a little bit of forward planning, you can make anything kitchen-related much easier. The Kitchen Bathroom Bedroom Specialists Association's website (kbsa.org.uk) is a good first port of call so you can find accredited local dealers. Some KBSA members are also TrustMark approved (trustmark.org.uk) which means that they work to government endorsed standards, and give you the opportunity to buy a warranty which covers you against certain problems if the firm goes out of business.

Taking the time to consider the individual components of your kitchen is also a great help before getting started on your next kitchen project. It is easy to be seduced by flashy appliances and many a kitchen showroom

Bespoke acrylic and wooden furniture. Kitchens priced from £30,000, at Woodstock Furniture, **020 8876 0131**, woodstockfurniture.co.uk



Pull-out larders and generous drawers are essential. Try the Timeless range from Funktional Kitchens. **020 8341 2020**, funktionalkitchens.co.uk



Radiant red retro fridge, £475, at Husky Retail. **01455 555 397**, husky-retail.com

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manager tells me that whilst the lady of the house tends to make the final decision when choosing a kitchen, her partner is often very excited about having a built-in espresso machine as part of the new scheme.

Functionality is at the heart of a happy kitchen, so before you get carried away by a steam oven which is pre-programmed to cook family favourites, be honest about how you use your kitchen and how many people usually occupy it. This is where ergonomics (the study of the human body in relation to technology) comes in handy, especially regarding the height you set the sink or the size of the fridge.

BUYERS BEWARE

Remember that something is never a bargain unless you need it. Researching a new purchase, whether it is an island unit or a kitchen sink, should require much more than a few clicks online when it comes to a kitchen. You need to consider the look and feel of worktops, hear the clunks and clicks of oven doors and check that you can actually operate the controls with ease, so do go on some showroom visits.

Always double-check measurements of both your kitchen and the space you are working with, if you are looking to replace white goods or commission some bespoke cabinetry. Make sure you think about the depth of every piece as well as the width and height, so you don't get caught out.

A good declutter of your existing kitchen is worth doing before making a major purchase. You may well be surprised by what is lurking in your cupboards. Lost passports, pencil cases and socks may come to light and it might be time to pass on small appliances which haven't been used in the past year. If you haven't used it, let it go, and you can then better organise your possessions so that everyone knows where the emergency tin opener lives.

Painted cream furniture. Kitchens priced from £30,000, at Woodstock Furniture, 020 3876 0131, woodstockfurniture.co.uk



Matrix CR25 ceramic sink, £369, with Gresham Monobloc tap, £219, both at Abode. 01226 283 434, abodedesigns.co.uk



Large island unit with reclaimed pine top, handpainted in your Farrow & Ball colour of choice, £2,099, at John Willies Country Kitchens. 01425 403 320, john-willies.com

SPACE INVADERS

You may find that you can actually lose a unit or two, and the space can be better served by a small island, or that you have enough room for a statement oven. If you've always like the idea of a range cooker then have a look at Sandyford.co.uk's collection, as Sandyford cookers can run the central heating and hot water systems in your home without having the oven on. A condensing boiler version is available with a minimum of 95% efficiency (01332 833 000, sandyford.co.uk).

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Country style

Save 15% on all orders over £20 at Country & Home

As a special treat, this issue we have teamed up with brand new lifestyle brand Country & Home to offer all of our lovely readers an exclusive 15% discount on all orders placed online over £20. With a strong focus on the beautiful British countryside, the burgeoning company captures the heart of rural living and translates it into a wide array of products for men, women and the home.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

Owned by Adam and Tina Fox-Edwards, Country and Home has evolved from a small idea into a huge success. When the couple inherited the Devon-based Arundell Arms Hotel in 2009, their first thought was to expand the hotel's customer base, and entice a new audience into the establishment. Whilst holidaying in Norfolk, Tina discovered a shop selling a few fishing and country items, and she decided to compile a similar offering for the hotel. Interest grew quickly and so The Arundell Arms Shop, as it was named, launched online in 2010.

Sales continued to go through the roof and, combined with Tina's ability to source highly desirable and well made products, the shop quickly achieved the support of many loyal customers. The online shop diversified its range to keep up with demand and very quickly branched into the home and gifts market. Tina soon realised she had paved the way for creating a new brand of her own and so the idea for Country and Home was born.

RURAL ROOTS

Country and Home aims to take the essence of the countryside and blend this with a range of affordable, quality products that will grace the home of country lovers. As well as offering items from innovative, up-and-coming designers, there are also many well-

established brands that fans of the great outdoors will be familiar with.

When it comes to sourcing the quirky stock for the shop, Tina has a simple recipe for success.

"I have a common-sense approach to my buying strategy; I buy a product because I like it and work on the basis that my customers will like it too," she says. "We have a strong brand identity and the countryside theme is consistent throughout.

We know our purpose and our customers appreciate this as it matches their values."

The burgeoning company captures the heart of rural living and translates it into a wide array of products

Take a peek at the recently launched Country & Home website and browse the full range by visiting countryandhome.co.uk

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Left Geometric yellow wallpaper, £40 per panel, Digetex Home. 0161 873 8891, digetexhome.co.uk

Right Warwick blind, £85, Lorna Syson. 020 8465 9819, lornasyson.co.uk

Below Giant geometric duvet set, £60, Aspace. 0845 872 2400, aspace.co.uk



Geometric patterns are a simple way to bring life and energy into a space this season

Graphic prints may be futuristic in appearance, but they are one of the longest surviving motifs of the design world. Prominent throughout history, both the Ancient Greeks and Moroccans used bold, geometric patterns as part of their architectural and interior design. The style has once again made its way into the world of décor, with geometrics appearing on furniture, furnishings and home accessories, as a bright and playful counterpoint to the changeable British weather.

It's easy to pigeonhole a bold, geometrical look as a purely modern aesthetic, but just as many designer-makers interpret these patterns

in their own way, you can incorporate it with elements of more traditional styling. For example, Art Deco style is characterised by the use of rich colours and bold, geometric shapes, so fans of classic fuss-free style often turn to this era for inspiration.

As well as drawing influence from the architectural designs of the 1920s, geometric patterns also take inspiration from other sources. UK designers have adopted distinctive patterns like batik print and ikat for some truly eye-catching designs. They have also been inspired by Mother Nature, finding fabulous organic designs like honeycomb and replicating them on man-made objects.

Geometric patterns are a simple way to bring life and energy into a space, and can invigorate even the most tired of areas. If you fancy freshening up your living area, all it takes is a bold, graphic rug or a few brightly patterned cushions. Or, if you want a more dramatic impact, an accent wall decorated with a striking wallpaper will instantly create a brand new focal point.

If crazy patterns and an abundance of colour aren't for you, then a subtler approach is to use neutral hues with just a few hints of brighter tones. Or, scatter geometric printed accessories among plain white pieces, to balance the look.

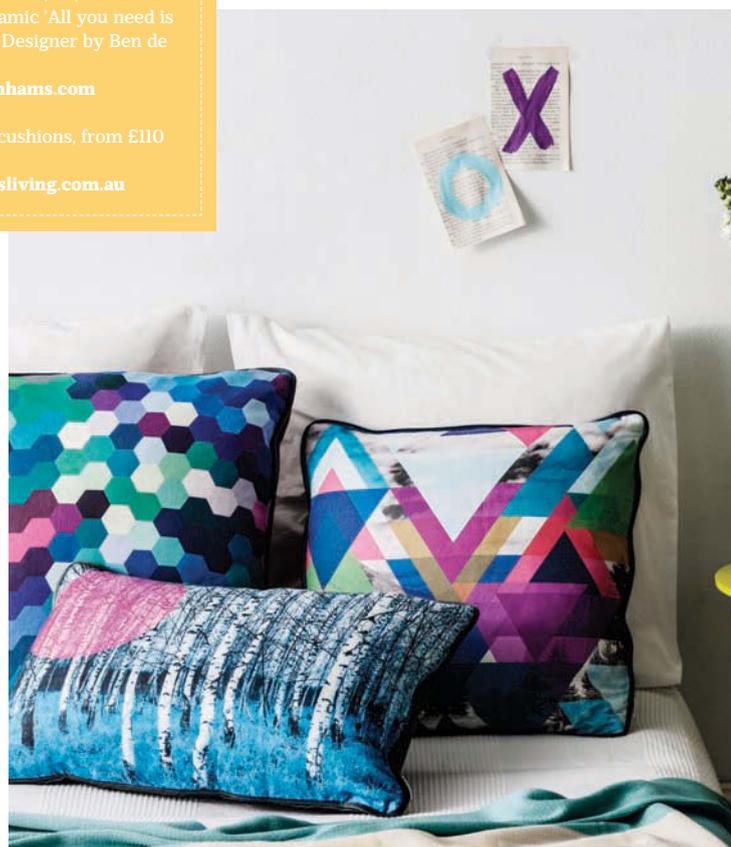


Left Stitch cushions, £55 each, Patternbooth, patternbooth.com

Right Voltaire extra large classic back sofa in Poiret Jet and Borghese Velvet Jet Piping with Cantata Silk Sunshine scatter cushions, £3,060, John Sankey, 0115 946 2121, johnsankey.co.uk

Bottom Left Lime green sketched dog motif cushion, £28; wooden 'O' wall unit, £35; 'You wash, I'll dry' tea towel, £7; black wire utensil holder, £12; ceramic 'All you need is tea' storage jar, £14, all Designer by Ben de Lisi at Debenhams, 0844 800 8877, debenhams.com

Bottom Right Printed cushions, from £110 each, Cumulus Living, 0450 241 531, cumulusliving.com.au





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PAINTED PERFECTION

Don't tell anyone but a shortcut to a classic bedroom is investing in some simple painted furniture. We're fans of Dooleys' Windsor collection, pictured, which has a superb range of units so all your boudoir essentials can be stored in style. Expect to pay from £125 for a bedside cabinet. **0844 800 3968,** **dooleysfurniture.co.uk**

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An antique French bed, EPOA, is set off beautifully by crisp white linen, Swans of Oakham **01572 724 364, swansofoakham.co.uk**



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A delicate four-poster is a great addition to a period bedroom, EPOA, Divine Dreams, **01691 777 622, divinedreams.co.uk**

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Above left And So To Bed, 0808 141 5838, andsotobed.co.uk

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Below left The Headboard Workshop, 01291 628 216, theheadboardworkshop.co.uk

Below right Bedsteads of Bath & Bristol, 01275 464 114, bedsteads-uk.co.uk

REST EASY

Get the perfect night's sleep in the bed of your dreams with our handy buyer's guide

Whether you're out of bed at the first sound of the alarm or spend all morning tapping the snooze button ("just five more minutes!"), we all know how important sleep is. So choosing the right bed should not be taken lightly.

You probably have a good idea of what styles you like and what materials and finishes will best suit your décor. Getting the right size should be fairly straightforward too. In most cases, bigger is better. Sleeping in a bed that's too small is never fun, so measure the space accurately and get as big a bed as possible without it becoming an obstacle in the room.

OLD OR NEW

It's hard to top an antique bed. Buying something that is historical and possibly unique instantly creates a stunning centrepiece. Specialists will be able to ensure that each piece is brought up to scratch before you buy, however, some old beds don't match up with modern sizes, so buying the mattress may require some research and shopping around.

If that seems like too much of a fuss,



reproduction furniture may be the answer. "The three main benefits are the quality and finish of a newly crafted item, the choice available and the affordability," says Ruth Whittaker of Lock, Stock & Barrel (01531 633 333, lockstockandbarrel-uk.com). "We supply a wide range of reproductions including four-poster and French-style beds such as the Brodsworth (shown above), which was inspired by a Louis Philippe lit bateau in Brodsworth Hall, South Yorkshire. Reproduction pieces can often be customised in a variety of finishes so you can get exactly what you want. We also offer a bespoke service, so if you're struggling to find an antique piece we can have a replica made for you just like the original."

SPRING INTO ACTION

It's well worth setting aside plenty of time to buy the mattress. If the bed is for you and your partner, shop together, as it has to be right for both of you. A word of warning – this process isn't for the self-conscious. Most places recommend lying on a mattress for 10-15 minutes to test them out, so don't be shy. It might last you 10 years, so you need to make yourself at home to try them properly. Just don't get too comfortable, falling asleep in store can be quite inconvenient.

OPEN SPACES

Look at the after-sales service too. Check for things like a guarantee, and whether the company will deliver and assemble your bed, or take away the old one.

The initial thrill of buying a new bed is always finding a design that you've fallen in love with. But given that we spend a large portion of our lives in bed, it's worth putting the effort into getting one that's perfect in every way. That way you can feel happy with your investment every single night.

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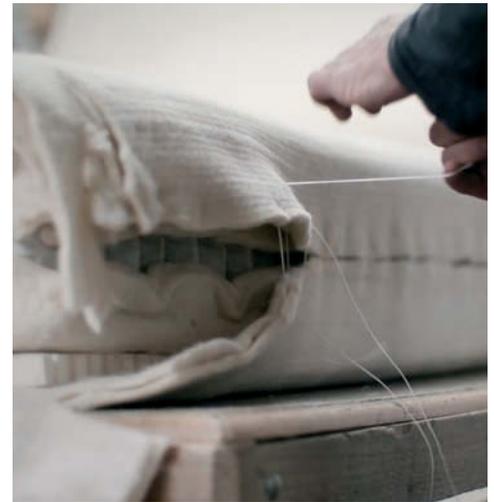
Curling up in bed with a good book and a cup of tea, is one of life's simple pleasures. Now you can make yourself even more comfortable by choosing natural fibres to soothe your skin and support traditional farming methods at the same time, with the help of Abaca, a Welsh company which has been at the forefront of organic textiles for the past ten years.

The company makes mattresses with loving care in West Wales. You can choose from pocket sprung and latex mattresses as well as a selection of organic cot and Moses basket mattresses. The whole range is certified by the Soil Association, so you're not only getting a fantastic mattress, but also buying a product with impeccable green credentials. Each luxurious mattress is made with generous layers of organic

Welsh wool, which is naturally fire retardant, so no chemical fireproofing is needed.

If you're changing your bed, then Abaca's experts can help you find the perfect match. The pocket spring mattress contains lots of small springs which are individually pocketed. Unlike a traditional wire coil spring (known as a Bonnell unit), pocket springs are not attached to each other, so is far less movement in the mattress. It feels denser and more supportive. Abaca offers two types of pocket unit, in 'firm' and 'standard'. A firm mattress is best if you and/or your partner are on the heavy side, or choose a standard if you are fairly light.

Should you be tempted by a metal-free option, then look for a natural latex mattress, sourced from the rubber tree. The secret inside this generously deep mattress is a 15cm pad.

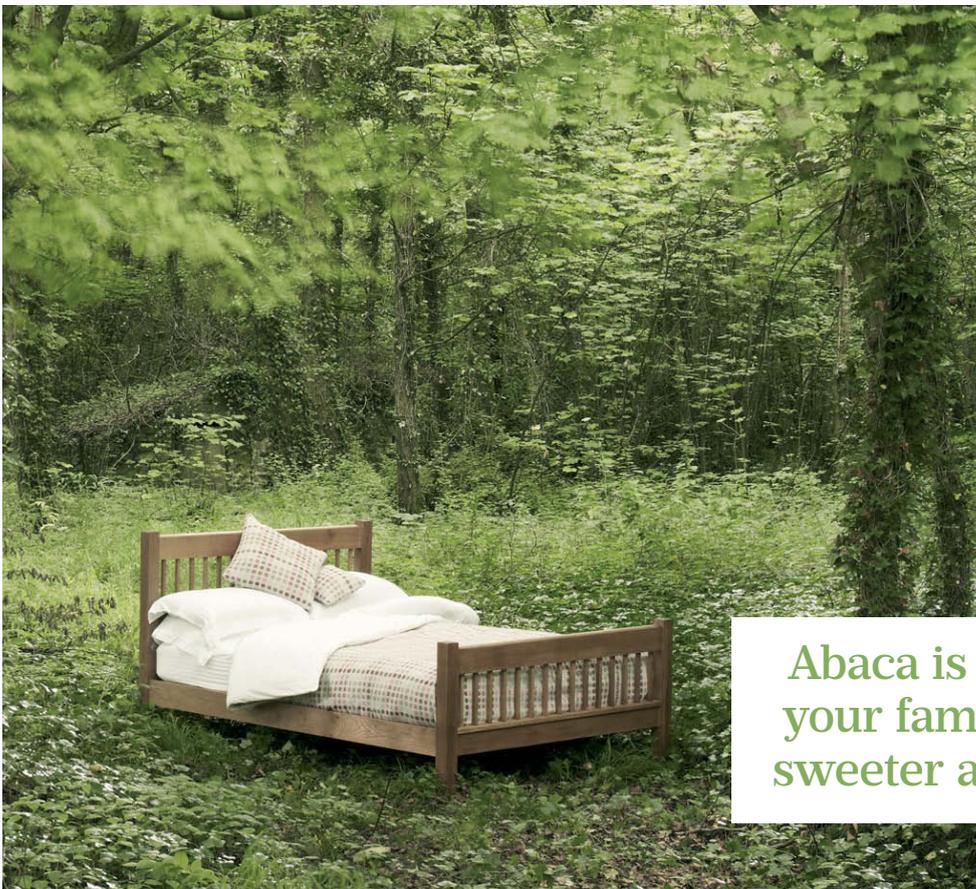


SOFTLY DOES IT

This cunning device makes the whole mattress soft yet resilient, gently cushioning your body, giving relief and support to pressure points. With absolutely none of the movement that springs might provide, the Latex mattress is a completely different, super-comfy experience.

As more and more people are choosing natural fabrics in favour of synthetic materials, Abaca has created a collection of wonderful organic bedding, which complements its own high quality branded mattresses and oak frame beds. The organic bedding products selected by Abaca are produced using materials created by traditional farming methods, avoiding the use of highly toxic fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and fungicides. This means you are able to choose products that are safer for you and your family – and which ultimately also benefit farmers.

With each one of us spending about a third of our lives in bed, Abaca is proud to bring you sleep that is cleaner, sweeter and a whole lot healthier. The company believes that hand crafted, quality beds and bedding offer the very best rest; that natural and organic mattresses give the purest slumber for those with allergies; and that chemical-free products give babies and children the best start in life. The environmentally responsible product lifecycle of all Abaca products also appeals to everyone who prefers to tread lightly on the earth.



Abaca is proud to bring you and your family sleep that is cleaner, sweeter and a whole lot healthier

Cuddle up in COMFORT

Talk to Abaca about what you need and what you want for every bedroom in your house. The team loves to listen and loves to help, because everyone in the business is simply wild about sleep. **01269 598 491, abacaorganic.co.uk**

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Being able to sew your own roman blinds gives you endless fabric choices and can save you a small fortune. They use a fraction of the fabric needed for curtains and making them up requires nothing more than stitching in a straight line.

YOU'LL NEED:

- Blind fabric in required amount
- Lining fabric in required amount
- Velcro tape, 2cm wide and as long as width of finished blind
- 12mm plastic blind-rings, three per dowel
- Metal cleat
- 2.5cm D-lath, 1cm shorter than width of finished blind
- 9mm wooden dowels, each same length as lath and one for every 30cm of blind
- 2.5cm x 2.5cm support batten, 5mm shorter than width of finished blind
- Staple gun
- Metal screw eyes, four
- Nylon blind cords, three, each twice length of finished blind plus width of blind
- Blind pull

MEASURING

The finished blind can be up to 120cm wide and the desired length (if you want a wider blind, use more cords and make the blind in a similar fashion).

FOR THE FINISHED BLIND WIDTH

Decide whether you want the blind to fit inside the window recess or go across it, and measure accordingly – this is the finished width.

FOR THE FINISHED BLIND LENGTH

Decide the position of the batten support at the top of the window, then measure from the top of the batten to where the bottom of the blind should reach – this is the finished length.

CUTTING

From the blind fabric, cut a panel that is as wide as the desired finished blind width plus 8cm extra, and as long as the desired finished blind length plus 13cm.

From the lining material, cut a panel that is 1cm narrower than the blind fabric panel. The length of the lining panel is the finished blind length, plus 4cm extra for each horizontal dowel channel (this means that once the channels are folded and stitched, the lining is the exact length of the finished blind). You will need one dowel channel every 30cm, starting from the top of the



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blind; below the last channel there should be 15cm to the bottom edge of the blind. The distance between the channels can be a little more, or less, but make the distance to the hem below the last one half of the distance between the dowels. To calculate how many dowel channels you need, draw the finished blind measurements to scale on graph paper and then draw lines across it at the position of each dowel – make sure the channels are equally spaced.

STITCHING

1 Following the measuring and cutting guides online, cut out the blind and lining panels. Be sure to make a graph paper scale drawing of the dowel positions on your blind as suggested – and keep it very safe!

2 Prepare the lining. Press 4cm to the wrong side along each side edge of the lining panel and tack. Mark the dowel-channel positions across the right side of the lining. This must be done accurately so take your time. Referring to your scale drawing and using a retractable pencil, draw the first horizontal line the distance from the top of the lining as the first marked channel position. Draw a line 4cm below this – this is the first channel. Draw the remaining channel positions in exactly the same way – with two lines 4cm apart.

3 With wrong sides together, fold the lining along the centre of the first dowel channel, so the two marked lines are aligned, press well along this fold and then pin. Stitch 2cm from the pressed fold (along the marked line). Stitch the remaining channels in the same way.

4 Press 4cm to the wrong side along each side edge of the blind panel and pin in place. Sew these hems in place along the raw edge, using a catch stitch that will be almost invisible on the right side of the blind. Next, at the bottom of the blind fabric, press 1cm, then 4cm to the wrong side. At the top of the blind fabric, press 4cm to the wrong side twice. These pressed folds now indicate the positions for the top and bottom hems – do not pin or tack these hems yet. Unfold the second fold of the double hem at the top of the blind, so only the first 4cm is folded to the wrong side. Pin the soft section of the Velcro tape to the right side of the blind fabric, just above the second pressed fold line so it sits on the double layer of fabric. Stitch the Velcro in place all around its edge.

Stitching your own blinds means you can change your colour scheme as often as the seasons



5 With the top and bottom blind hems unfolded and with wrong sides together, lay the lining fabric on top of the blind fabric. Position the lining so its top edge is aligned with the hemline fold at the top and the bottom edge is aligned with the hemline fold at the bottom. Then centre the lining widthways on the blind fabric, so there is 5mm more blind fabric along each side edge. Pin and slip stitch lining sides to the blind fabric between the dowel channels.

6 Fold pressed hems at the top and bottom of the blind over the lining and pin, slip stitch them in place. At the top of the blind, slip stitch the sides of the hem together. Leave the sides of the hem at the bottom open, for inserting lath.

7 Measure and, using a pencil, mark three ring positions on each dowel channel. The cords will be threaded through these rings to pull up the blind. Mark one ring position in the exact centre of the channel and one 4.5cm from each end. Hand sew a ring at each of these positions, catching in the pressed channel fold.

8 Slip one dowel into each channel and slip stitch the ends to close. Slide the D-lath into the hem channel at the bottom of the blind and slip stitch the ends to close.

9 Staple the hook section of the Velcro tape to the front of the batten, then screw the three screw eyes to the bottom of the batten, one placed 5cm from each end, and then one at the centre. Add an extra screw eye 2.5cm from the pull-cord end. Fix a cleat to the architrave on the same side. Fix the batten to the window.

10 Knot one end of each cord onto one of the three rings at the bottom of the blind. Feed each cord up through the other rings to the top of the blind. Stick the blind to the batten and thread the cords through the screw eyes on the batten and out at the pull-cord side. With the blind down, align the cords and attach the blind pull to the ends, trimming the cords to the same length. Pull up the blind with the joined cord and secure on the cleat.



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Above Hunter Inglenook fire, Ludlow Stoves. **01584 861 628**, ludlowstoves.co.uk



Left Manor chimney piece, Haddonstone. **01604 770 711**, haddonstone.com

Right Fireplace with floor stripes, Farrow & Ball. **01202 876 144**, farrow-ball.com



All fired up

Warm your home this winter and create a statement focal point with a salvaged fireplace, says Seoana Sherry-Brennan

Whether you're building a new property or just giving an old one a bit of a spruce up, using reclaimed materials is a fantastic alternative to buying brand new. As well as injecting your home with an abundance of character and style, reclaimed items are often more eco-friendly than their modern counterparts, and are usually kinder on the budget, too.

From wooden beams and steel columns, to roof tiles and taps, almost every part of a building can be reused. Despite this, a survey by the Sustainable Build company in February of this year discovered that only 1% of available reclaimed materials are used in building projects in the UK which, considering that construction materials create 122 million tonnes of waste a year, is a missed opportunity. Ron Jones, owner of Ronson Reclaim (ronsonreclaim.com), agrees that using salvaged items to update your home is the way forward, especially in a traditional property.

"Using reclaimed materials for your period home is always going to add value rather than using modern building materials," says Ron. "Matching bricks and tiles, or roofing materials and stone to your property is ideal. With one of the largest yards in the country, we will have, or be able to source, what you're looking for."

With the winter weather approaching, it's time to start thinking about how you're going to prepare your home for the chill. A fireplace is a guaranteed way to warm up your home and create a snug, welcoming

ambience plus, research has shown that installing one can add thousands to the value of your property, and attract future buyers. With beautiful examples of surrounds from a range of different eras available, finding an example to blend seamlessly into your character property is easy.

Ben Couchman of UK Architectural Heritage (uk-heritage.co.uk) shares his tips on shopping for salvage:

"Buying a reclaimed fire surround is a great choice to enhance any interior. Many of our clients want to reinstate the original style of fireplace into their period properties, which have often been removed and replaced over the years. If you are hunting for a more contemporary look, simple reclaimed stone and bolection surrounds can offer a timeless solution. Or try reclaimed marble surrounds for a statement piece. They come in a variety of colours including grey, black and rouge. At UK-Heritage, we stock an extensive range of chimney pieces and accessories in many different styles and materials to suit most interiors."

Before you begin treasure hunting at your local reclamation yard, bear a few key things in mind. Always have an idea of what you're looking for before you go, so that you're not overwhelmed by all the different options and end up coming away with something entirely wrong for your home. And, most importantly, have all the relevant measurements noted down in a notebook or on your smartphone, so you can guarantee that your new (or old!) investment will fit perfectly.



THE ANTIQUE OAK FLOORING Company

offers a huge variety of antique reclaimed flooring and timber. Call **020 8501 7555** or visit antiqueoakflooring.co.uk to view the full range



Take to the floor

Seoana Sherry-Brennan chats to Bob Lovell of The Antique Oak Flooring Company, and discovers why reclaimed flooring is so popular

The sixties and seventies are as famous for their ground-breaking interiors as for their politics. New technology enabled designers to play around with form and function, and the bold prints of the catwalks made their way onto furniture and furnishings. Experimentation was key, as was establishing an identity for a new generation. It was fashionable to remove architectural features from older properties, and many period homes were stripped of their original floorboards and fireplaces to make way for modern designs.

But just as our Victorian forebears were inspired by the past, the offspring of the baby boomers began to draw influence from previous eras, which led to a huge demand for antique flooring and floorboards in the 1990s. Architects and developers started hunting for

flooring dating from the early 18th century to the 1940s. Since then, interest in the use of reclaimed building materials has rocketed. Salvage is chic!

Fortunately our expert, Bob Lovell, can help you meet your needs. He founded The Antique Oak Flooring Company specifically to meet the demand for antique and reclaimed flooring. "I've spent 35 years in the architectural salvage industry and I specialise in the re-use and

application of reclaimed timber and flooring. I'm proud to say that we offer the largest range of reclaimed timber and flooring in the UK," he says.

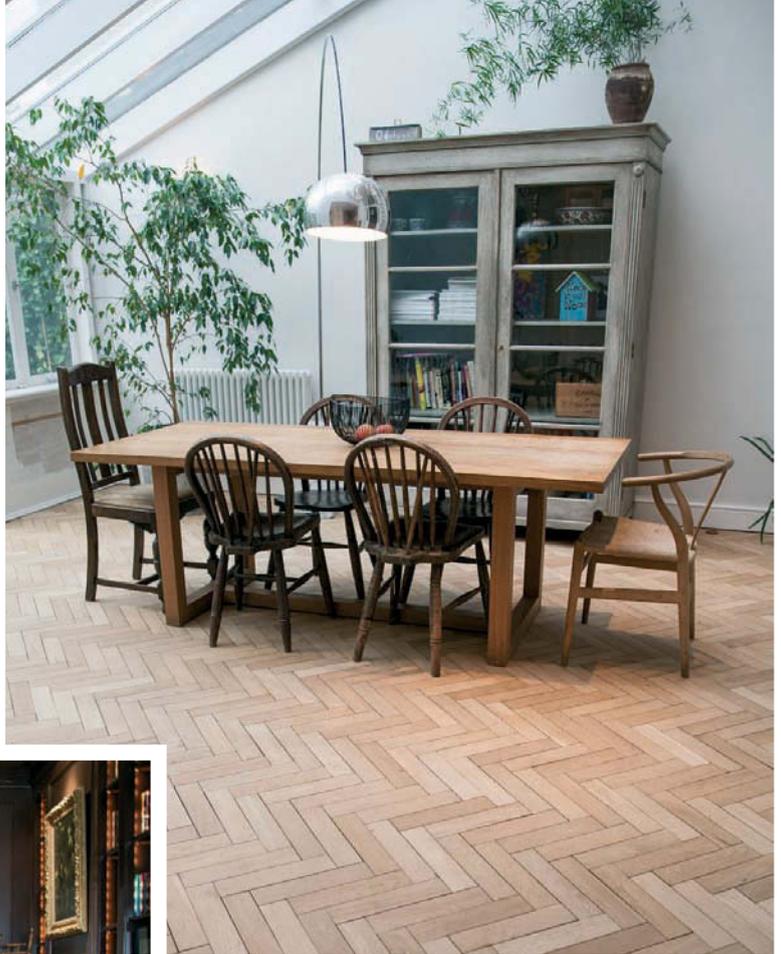
SUPPLY AND DEMAND

There are many benefits in using reclaimed materials. The push towards building sustainable structures and having a more environmentally friendly lifestyle is encouraging interior designers and home-owners to give

Interior designers and home-owners are excited about using reclaimed materials, thanks to the drive towards sustainable living



Below Reclaimed flooring isn't just for underfoot, here it's been used to decorate the walls and create a cosy, Scandi vibe



Above Parquet flooring is a popular choice in period properties, as it is incredibly durable and there are a huge range of decorative designs to choose from



second-hand building elements a new lease of life. Using salvage helps to reduce landfill and preserves some beautiful architectural antiques. Some people love the thrill of the chase and relish sourcing unique stock with a story to tell.

Despite increasing demand, the amount of reclaimed material available is dwindling, thanks to the recent downturn in the economy which has led to a decline in property development. This is not a challenge for Bob as he has spent the past few years hunting down top-quality reclaimed material to add to his extensive stockpile. His accumulation now comprises of over 100,000 sq ms of reclaimed flooring, and includes pieces from the Bank of England, London City Hall, and many prestigious municipal buildings from the UK and overseas.

WORLD WIDE WOODS

In addition to the period and historic restoration field, Bob is exploring other uses for his supply of reclaimed flooring. "We regularly receive shipments from all over the world, including weathered Mississippi Oak, Cherry from old cotton mills in the southern states, and Russian and Anatolian ancient Oak boards," he says. "My son, Sam, has even travelled to Australia to discover more about reclaimed Eucalyptus woods."

Architects and interior designers are flocking to the north east London depot to satisfy the most demanding design schemes and restoration projects. Bob has an impressive commercial client portfolio, including many top high street retailers, fashion stores and restaurant chains. For

example, he recently supplied materials to The Happenstance bar, opposite St Paul's Cathedral. This up and coming bar is now short-listed in the UK and International Restaurant & Bar Awards, which is the world's only event dedicated exclusively to the design of food and drink spaces.

Whether you're attracted by the character, patination and depth of colour of reclaimed timber, or you're striving to make a renovation as eco-friendly as possible, salvaged flooring is the perfect way to combine time-honoured design with sustainability. The Antique Oak Flooring Company's breadth of choice is guaranteed to cater to your tastes and requirements, providing you with the perfect base for all your decorating and restoration projects.

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QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

INSIDE OUT

Make the most of the world outside your window with our expert advice

Practical parking

Our son has moved back in with us, so we're looking for garaging for three cars. What do you suggest?

How about an oakframed garage which will blend in beautifully with a period property? I recommend a two-storey three bay garage so you can have extra space for storage above the vehicles or you could consider using the space as a grown-up den. We can help by supplying our standard plans, or our architect is available to liaise with you to achieve the oak frame building which will best suit you. I strongly recommend that you check with your Local Planning Authority before you make any firm plans.

Vicki Bareham, Crown Oak Buildings
01732 866 910, crown oakbuildings.co.uk



House party

I want to buy my daughter a summerhouse as a wedding present next year. What sort of lead time should I expect?

It's great that you are already planning ahead. I would advise that it normally takes six to eight weeks to make this type of garden building, and we always give our customers an estimated delivery week, which we then reconfirm closer to the time. As all our products are made individually to order, this estimate may be subject to change during the busy summer months. All of our beautiful designs are produced in our Suffolk workshops by skilled craftsmen to exacting standards. We combine modern machinery with excellent construction traditions to ensure that your new garden building is not only aesthetically pleasing, but also well-crafted with every detail considered.

Jamie Townson, HSP Garden Buildings
01638 583 814, hspgardenbuildings.com

Work-life balance

How can I persuade my husband that a home office is a good investment?

A home office can often be combined with other working elements such as a garage or workshop. It can provide an inspiring vista over the surrounding landscape, increase visibility over working yards or nearby pastures and at the same time create a feeling of separation from the distractions of a home. Not only will a Prime Oak home office give you the satisfaction of reducing pollution, but also its use of sustainable materials from new oak groves and other managed woodlands will give you the satisfaction of knowing you're helping the planet breathe more easily too. As no doubt will you, ensconced in an individual and elegant environment created by craftsmen and designed to endure for years.

David Handley, Prime Oak,
01384 296 611, primeoak.co.uk



Cool idea

I'd like to have a ceiling fan in my conservatory. Could you tell me how much they cost to run?

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Richard Moore, Fantasia Ceiling Fans
01959 564 440, fantasiaceilingfans.com

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J Hayden Carpets



PICTURE THIS:
Joss Minter, Peter's grandson brickmaking in the family tradition

PERFECT MATCH:
Bulmer Brick's repairs at Claridges

"Buildings such as Hampton Court, Layer Marney tower in Essex, and so many medieval churches were really experimental, cutting-edge buildings of their time," he explains. "I get a lot of enquiries about buildings from this era and I love exploring how the history of

the period links in with styles of church buildings. I am also fond of Georgian buildings.

"I feel that it is my duty to pass on my knowledge to the next generation and have almost finished my first book. Continuity is very important to me."

One of Peter's proudest moments was receiving the Esher Award, from the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings. It is not presented every year, but is given when deserved to those who, on purely altruistic grounds, have furthered the cause of building conservation and the work of the Society. "I was very moved as I didn't think I'd done anything particularly special," says Peter, though plenty would disagree. He is a passionate, big-hearted and patriot who lives and breathes his history.

BRICKS & MORTAR

How a family business helps to preserve the past



It's hard to believe now, but once upon a time we didn't appreciate Britain's wealth of old buildings. Fortunately some people have always been

trailblazers and one of them was Peter Minter's father. "My dad was 20-30 years ahead of his time in his building business," says Peter. "His inclination was to do up old buildings rather than pull them down, unlike some public authorities after the war."

Today Peter is following in his father's footsteps as the owner of the Bulmer Brick and Tile Company, on the Suffolk-Essex border. Bulmer bricks are made from the finest London clays, dug from seams which have been almost continually used since Tudor times. All Bulmer bricks are hand made, using traditional methods of making and drying, before they are fired in a coal burning, down draught kiln. This helps to give the distinctive finish that blends so well with the originals.

Peter employs 20 people, and works with his sons, his daughter-in-law and his grandsons. Over the years countless buildings have benefited from the conservation and restoration know-how Peter has amassed over the years. He was right at the beginning of the revolution in conservation, in the mid-1970s, when writers, architects and academics began campaigning to protect the built environment.

TIMELESS TRADITION

"My favourite historical era is the 14th-16th century. It was a fascinating time in terms of how bricks were evolving," he says. "Prior to this bricks were rarely used in building and our ancestors were highly skilled and fantastically clever, working with none of the technology we take for granted today. I would love to go back in time and talk to the craftsmen. We work in many of the same ways today, in terms of moulding and firing the clay."

I feel it is my duty to pass on my knowledge to the next generation

He says, "I am thrilled that our work at St Pancras station has won so much acclaim and I am also proud of my son for managing the project. I am also very pleased with our ongoing work at Hampton Court."

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Discover more about The Bulmer Brick and Tile Company and how the team can help you restore your house to its former glory. You'll be amazed by the bricks which can be made to your specifications and grace your home. Visit bulmerbrickandtile.co.uk or call **01787 269 232**

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Centre

Beautiful floors deserve the perfect finish. Try Osmo's Wood Wax finish in Transparent - Cognac as pictured here. **01296 481 220, osmouk.com**

Bottom

Gorgeous walnut adds rich character and will help to ground a traditional room, at John Boddy Timber. **01423 322 370, johnboddytimber.co.uk**

Flooring is a vital component of a period house and one that is sometimes seen as more of a practical purchase than a glamorous one. But as with buying shoes, there is a lot of fun to be had exploring all the options available and seeing which options will meet your needs best.

It is true that timber is widely seen as a go-to material in older homes. Today we marvel at surviving Tudor houses, with creaky floors, forgetting that once they were new build properties. The great forests also provided raw materials for Tudor galleons as well as the frames, eaves and wattle of barns and houses.

So, if you are drawn to timber, embrace it – as people have been living and working with wood for so long that it evokes a feeling of warmth and comfort, although certain colours and species may remind you of the floor of the school gym!

SOLID ADVICE

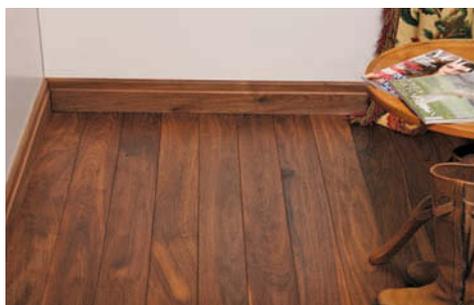
“When choosing a solid wood floor always check, style, strength and stability,” says Helen Richards, at John Boddy Timber. “Make sure your supplier explains the timber grade to you in detail so you understand the grain and what character to expect. Remember wood will oxidise and lighten in both colour and hue over a period of time dependant on the amount of light in the room and the finish applied. Ensure a good depth wood in the board, 20mm will provide stability and strength.

“This structural quality means your floor can be laid directly to the floor joist, over concrete, plywood or batten and does not have

How to give your room scheme a strong foundation



A great aspect of wood flooring is the sheer variety of options available



to be nailed over a floor joist. Keep costs down, by choosing floor boards that are planed, tongue and grooved and end matched for ease of fitting and waste reduction. We currently have up to 25 percent off flooring prices and free delivery to mainland UK so do see what we have by calling us on 01423 322 370 or visiting us at johnboddytimber.co.uk.”

EXCELLENT ASSORTMENT

Another great aspect of wood flooring is the sheer variety available. And if you're keen to make the most of the past then using reclaimed wood is both fashionable and eco-friendly, whether you're drawn to parquet or puncheon. Having an understanding of the original flooring used in your home is a great place to start, and it is also very interesting to observe the latest trends in interior design.

Bob Lovell, of Antique Oak Flooring says, “There is a noticeable tendency among many designers, especially in the commercial sector, to offer interior design schemes which merge old and new materials. Hard and sharp contemporary surfaces are blended with naturally weathered old Oaks, unsanded reclaimed parquets, original faced Victorian floorboards, which can create an exciting kaleidoscopic fusion of modern chic, and natural and organic flooring. I've also found that reclaimed flooring is also now specified for use as wall and ceiling cladding almost as much as it is for traditional flooring.” Turn to p108 to find out more about Bob's business and how his expertise can help you, or call 020 8501 7555 or visit antiqueoakflooring.com.



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Hot topic

Paul Shaw of Camelot Fireplaces shares his expertise on fireplace restoration. For more details get in touch on 01905 820 181, or visit camelotrealfires.co.uk

- What you want from your fireplace? Is it for decoration, occasional use or will it be an essential part of the heating in your home? Bear in mind that most open fires will require quite a bit of attention and fuel if you are using them a lot in colder weather.
- Look at efficient open fire designs with heat exchangers and convection systems to increase efficiency and heat output to make a big difference.
- If the fire is a primary heat source, a stove in the most effective solution in terms of performance.
- Always check that your fireplace, chimney, hearth and air supply are suitable. Are all these elements in good working condition? And are they safe in the room, in rooms upstairs and in any adjoining properties?
- Cracks or poor previous work can leave a fire in a dangerous condition. Ask a HETAS qualified person to inspect your home for peace of mind and to give you an idea of costs involved in correcting issues such as lining the chimney, if it leaks.
- As many older houses have had new windows and doors installed they are more air tight than previously. This means fires that worked well in the past don't always perform at their best today, and may require an air vent to feed air to the flames
- Many people have grand ideas but small fireplaces. Remember that if you want an open fire, the size of the opening in relation to the chimney, is absolutely vital, if the fire is going to work. Even a stove needs a certain amount of space to be installed safely and work well.
- Many apparently small fireplaces hide huge inglenooks - or at least bigger openings - so it's always worth a look up inside the chimney to see how big it is, if this might be of interest.
- Above all be practical and stay safe. Always get your chimney swept and once you're using your fire, make sure that you have a carbon alarm installed correctly and test it periodically.

Cosy classics

Instant inspiration for a beautiful focal point in your home



Stovax Stockton 5, priced around £799 with Pembroke Mantel priced from £629, **01392 474 000, stovax.com**



Top right The Da Vinci Illumia gas fire fireplace comes in Travertine or Limestone surround and all models are priced £3,299. Balanced flue versions cost £3,499, BFM Europe. **01782 339 000, bfm-europe.com**



Opposite Oakdale multifuel stove, priced from £959, available in a range of enamel finishes, ACR. **0121 706 8266, acrheatproducts.com**

Bottom left Florentina fireplace in Bianco Persiano marble priced from £2,590, Montpellier. **01452 714 800, montpellier.co.uk**

Bottom right Arada's Eco-burn⁺ II is a great addition to the company's collection and is priced £1,199. **01297 357 00, aradastoves.com**



Regular articles from our PERIOD IDEAS experts

Benefit from the breadth of knowledge, advice, experience and guidance that our regular experts share with us every issue! With their help you can refresh your interiors and create stylish and classic decorating schemes. We'll also ensure that your outside space is just as beautiful with the latest gardening news.

Antiques & Vintage



MARGARET POWLING is one of Britain's best-loved antiques experts. She began collecting as a child and has a life-long love of fine china, beautiful books and

historic homes. Her column combines practical tips with the best advice from specialists at auction houses nationwide.

Homes & Gardens



KATE FAULKNER is famous for her honest and direct approach to renovating and property buying. Drawing from her own experiences on

the property ladder, she will help you care for your period house from making an offer to renovating, moving and selling.

Designs & Projects



LINDA BARKER has become a household name in interior design and continues to inspire and delight with her reflections on decorating. She is always keen to

celebrate the best of British and will help you fuse old and new in your period home to create your own distinctive style.

BRITAIN'S HERITAGE Fun & games

BRITAIN'S BEST-LOVED TOYS

Collectables

Margaret Powling delves into the amazing history of our toy industry

I had a best friend, Old Tom. Father Dick writes. When all young children were taken to try to copy after him, he was the great repository of toys that have always reflected the child's attempts to imitate grown-ups. I'd never considered that, but it's quite obvious when you think about it. Whether it's a little girl with her dolls, or a young boy with his wooden soldiers, they have been historically designed to help children explore the world around them. The toys that have been around for centuries are those that have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations. It's not just the toys that have been around for centuries, but the way they have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations.

PAPER TRAIL Before the 19th century, parents regarded their children as adults-in-training and the toys they bought for them were accordingly designed to help them learn. The toys that have been around for centuries are those that have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations. It's not just the toys that have been around for centuries, but the way they have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations.



HISTORY MYSTERY Although the toy train has been around for over a century, it's not until the 19th century that it was designed, which means that the toy train was actually invented after the first railway lines were built. The toy train was designed to help children play with their own imaginations. It's not just the toys that have been around for centuries, but the way they have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations.

LIKE CLOCKWORK The toy train was designed to help children play with their own imaginations. It's not just the toys that have been around for centuries, but the way they have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations. It's not just the toys that have been around for centuries, but the way they have been designed to help children play with their own imaginations.

Further reading: *The Toy Train* by David Cook and David Cook; *The Toy Train* by David Cook and David Cook; *The Toy Train* by David Cook and David Cook.

LAST WORD Bricks & mortar



It took me five days on my hands and knees to strip and mortar the floors, only for my plasterer to rain them in an instant

KATE FAULKNER LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

Our property expert finally finishes the renovation project on her dream home

My brickwork of a farmhouse was coming along a reasonable speed for limestone flooring, which is thought to be an area as such a composite job and of course quality. I did a bit of research and shopping around to get the right one. The most important thing to consider was that there is a great quality 'range' of cement on the market that is designed to be used on the floors. I was told that the best way to do this was to use a composite job and of course quality. I did a bit of research and shopping around to get the right one. The most important thing to consider was that there is a great quality 'range' of cement on the market that is designed to be used on the floors.

Further reading: *The Property Ladder* by Kate Faulkner; *The Property Ladder* by Kate Faulkner; *The Property Ladder* by Kate Faulkner.

STYLE EDIT Talking point



FUTURE FASHIONS

Linda Barker explores the latest developments in interior design

If I had a crystal ball only a few years ago I could have predicted the changes that are happening in today's homes. Colour and texture are the key words and it's not just the walls that are being painted, but the furniture and accessories. The changes in design are not just about the walls, but about the furniture and accessories. The changes in design are not just about the walls, but about the furniture and accessories.

Further reading: *The Style Edit* by Linda Barker; *The Style Edit* by Linda Barker; *The Style Edit* by Linda Barker.

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HOME HIGHLIGHTS FOR OCTOBER

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Make the most of your abode with our selection of products, ideas and expert advice



WHITE HEAT

Create your own rustic country kitchen with the new Farmstead range at Dunelm Mill, featuring dots and spots, cows and chickens, and a palette of reds, blues and natural creams. You can get the Cotswold ivory round table and chairs for £399.99, while accessories are priced from £1.99. **0845 165 6565, dunelm-mill.co.uk**

CAPITAL IDEA

Give your home a touch of period elegance with the help of Capital Fireplaces. Whether it's a traditional stove, fireplace or accessories you need, the company has a wide range to choose from. For more information click on **capitalfireplaces.co.uk**.

FOREST FRIENDS

Autumn is the perfect time to add woodland inspired accessories to your home, such as these Fauna cake tins from Magpie. They cost £24 (for a set of three) from quirky kitchenware shop, The Rustic Rabbit. **01756 752 272, therusticrabbit.co.uk**



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Owl bookends in antique finish, £47. The Libra Company. **01223 895 800, thelibracompany.co.uk**



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Rustic black whale bookends, £37, Artisanti. **0345 259 1410, artisanti.com**



HANDLE WITH CARE

This Regency large door pull in brass really caught our eye this month. Absolutely great for impressing the neighbours, it costs £99 at Grace & Glory. **01271 370 095, graceandgloryhome.co.uk**



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Display special ornaments and tuck away clutter in this director bookcase from Country Desks, priced from £1,595. **01442 842 896**, countrydesks.co.uk



STYLISH SEATING

With over 130 years of experience in designing and manufacturing high-quality upholstered furniture, Collins & Hayes has everything you need in sofas and armchairs. **01424 720 027**, collinsandhayes.com



CARRY ON CAMPING

If you want to go out in style, Sass & Belle has got it in the bag with its range of vintage floral backpacks. Shown here in navy, there are five other designs to choose from, all priced at £24.95. **020 7346 0117**, sassandbelle.co.uk



A-DOORABLE ACCESSORIES

Treat your home to some gorgeous door furniture with a visit to Chloe Alberry's emporium. Her beautiful shop is brimming with handles, cabinet fittings, hooks and mirrors. Have a look at chloealberry.com or call **020 7727 0707**.

FABULOUS FURNITURE

Give your home a makeover with some stunning new furniture. Artistic Upholstery, a family business that has been designing and making bespoke pieces since 1952, has a superb selection. For sofas, chairs, footstools and more, call **0115 973 4481** or visit artisticupholstery.co.uk.

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FOOT THE BILL

A bespoke stag footstool is an ideal way to work the woodland trend into your home this season. Handmade to order by the supremely talented Jojo Bradley, it costs £420 including fabric. **07813 821 732**, jojopholstery.co.uk



COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

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This competition is open to all UK residents aged 18 or over, excluding employees or agents of the associated companies and their families. One entry per person. The prizes detailed in each competition cannot be exchanged for goods, or towards the purchase of goods at any retail outlet. Postal entries must be on the coupon provided. It cannot be exchanged for cash, or replaced if lost or damaged. Illegible entries and those that do not abide by these terms and conditions will be disqualified. Prizes must be taken as stated and cannot be deferred. The decision of the judge is final and no correspondence will be entered into. CLOSING DATE: 31st October 2014. Winners will be notified by phone, post or email. A list of winners will be available in writing on request from Andrea Turner, 21/23 Phoenix Court, Hawkins Road, Colchester, Essex, CO2 8JY.

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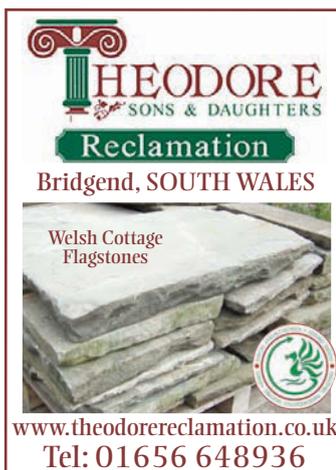


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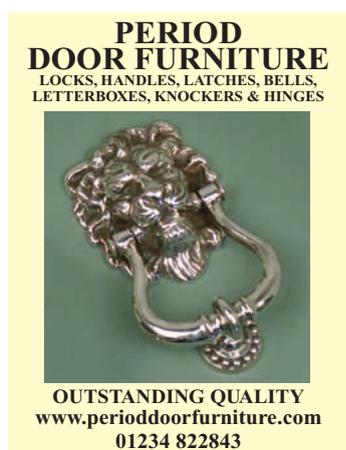
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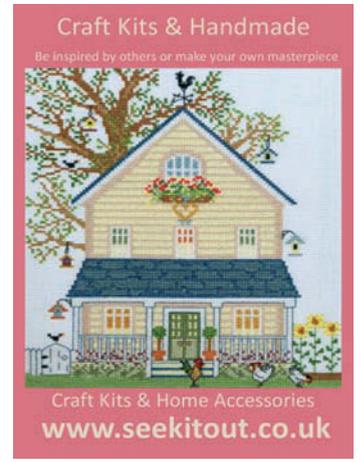
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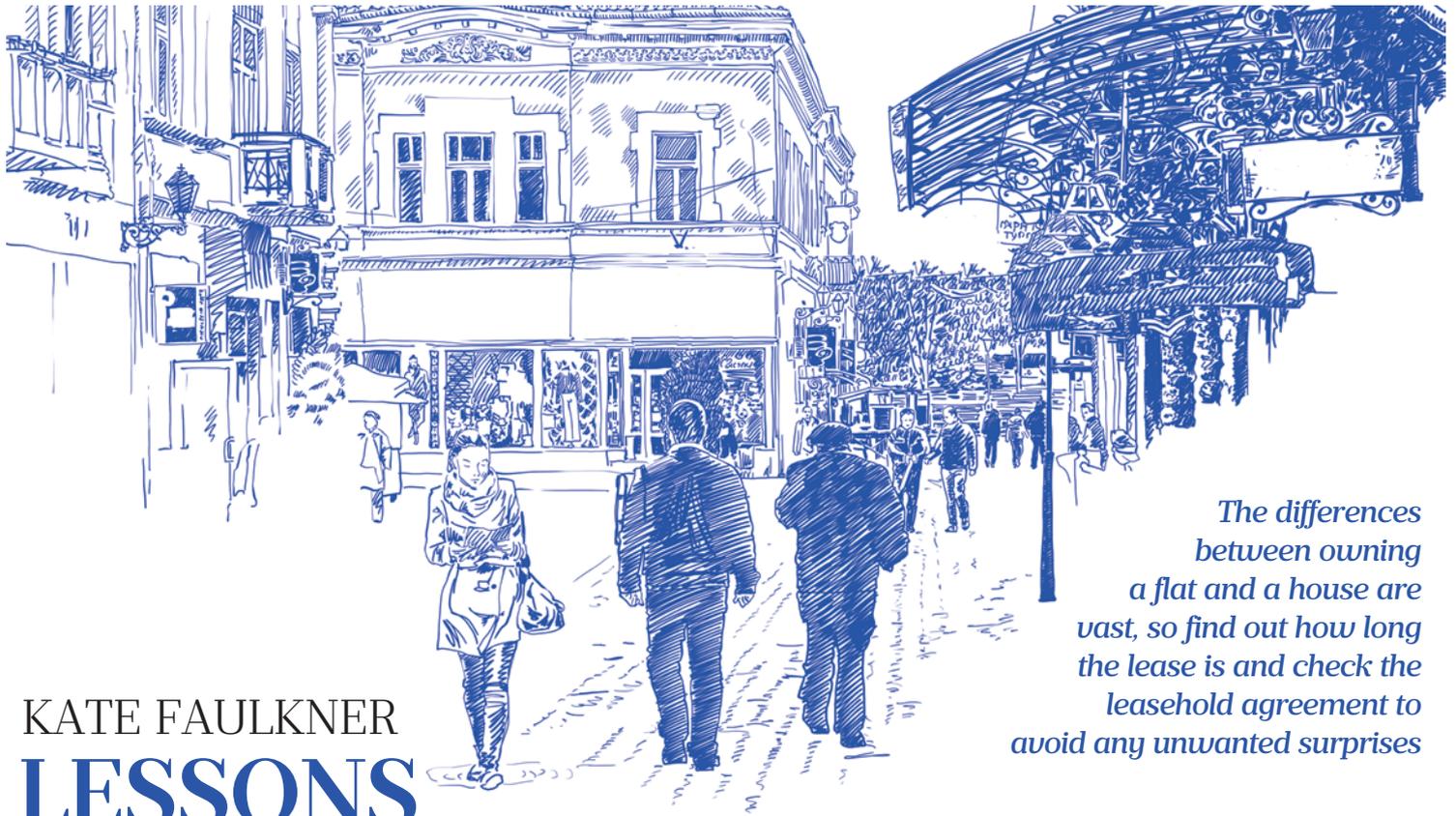
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The differences between owning a flat and a house are vast, so find out how long the lease is and check the leasehold agreement to avoid any unwanted surprises

KATE FAULKNER
LESSONS I'VE LEARNED

Property expert Kate Faulkner explores the pros and cons of buying flats versus houses

Edited by **LLOYD BURGESS**



No sooner had I moved into my lovely rural farmhouse than I found myself in a situation where I needed a flat in Reading. My husband had secured his dream job there, working for Bang & Olufsen, and I had been asked to set up the Self Build & Renovation Centre in nearby Swindon – not somewhere I could commute to daily from the farmhouse.

We had the option to rent or buy and, of course, we opted to buy, working out that we could help cover the costs by renting out a room. My preference was for a period conversion but the prices were out of our range, so instead we opted for an ex-local authority 1950s flat. It may not have been period, but the dimensions and location were absolutely perfect.

However, it turned out to be a hard purchase. Although we bought privately, the freeholder was a housing association, and

most of the people living in the flats and local area were social tenants. Many could have been put off by this, but we loved the community here. Although we had a through road, the only reason to be on it was to visit the flats or houses, so it felt more like a cul-de-sac. Everyone was very friendly, so much so that we had summer parties. Unlike some of the stereotypes of social tenants portrayed in the media, the majority of people on our little estate worked hard, and were there because they just struggled to pay the high living costs.

The differences between owning a flat and a house are vast. On the one hand, a house is more responsibility because you have to organise and pay for all of the maintenance yourself. But at least you can do it when you can afford it, and prioritise the work you feel is necessary. The big downside with a flat – especially a period one – is that a lot depends on how well the freeholder looks after the property, their attitude to leaseholders and whether they have a major works fund or not.

This is a big factor on deciding whether it's a good idea to buy or not.

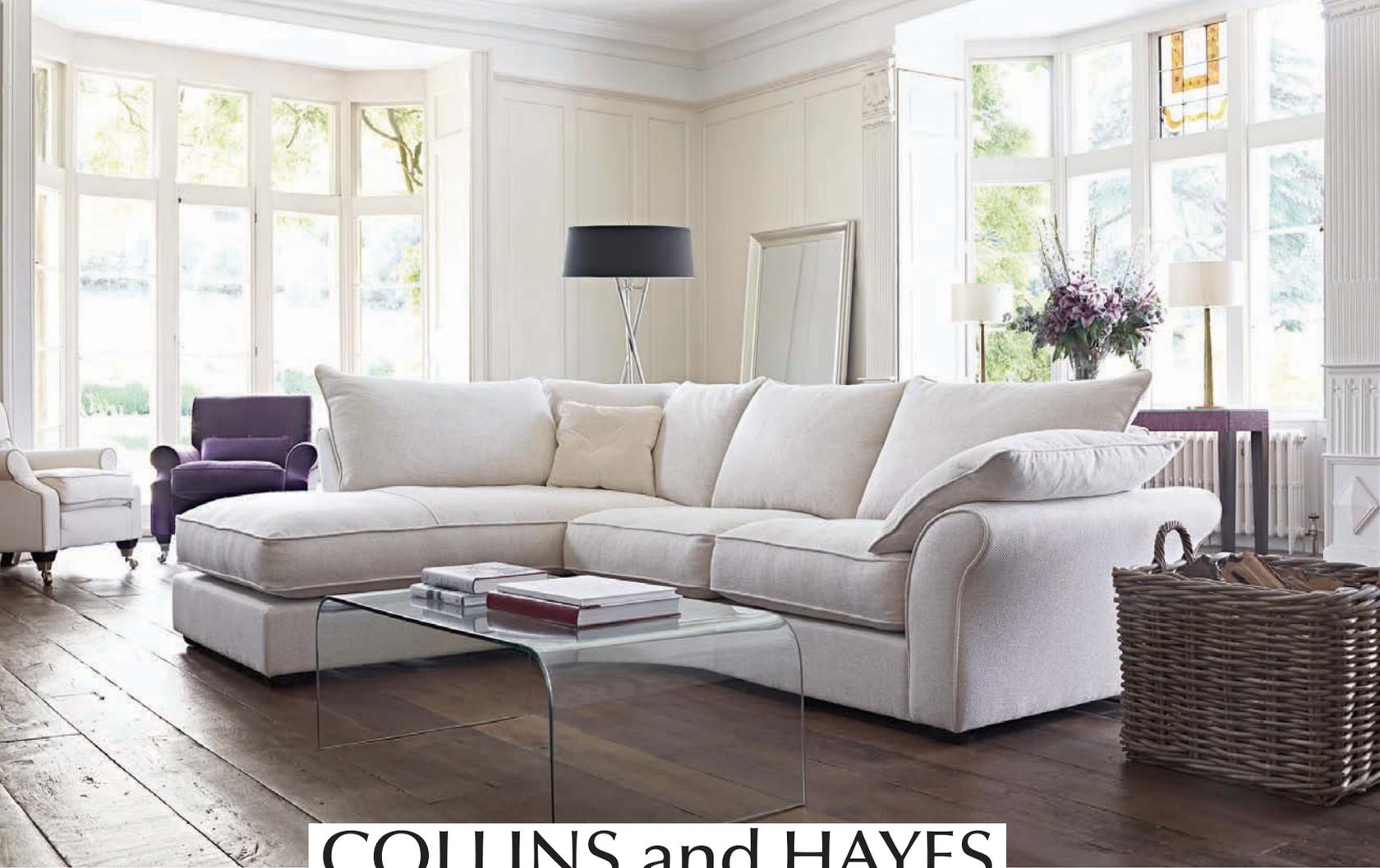
Before you fall in love with a flat of any age, but especially an old one, the first thing you should find out is how long the lease is. When you buy a flat, you buy a right to live in it for a certain period of time, subject to a set of conditions laid out in the lease. The length of time can range from 25 to 999 years. Any flat with 80 years or less left on the lease may not be mortgageable, so this can substantially reduce the price unless you pay for a lease extension.

Secondly, the leasehold agreement can be extremely complicated, especially for flats built at the turn of the century. They may prohibit you from having animals or dictate what type of flooring you can have (some don't allow wooden). The tough part to get to grips with is the list of works required to maintain the property. Some may allow you to change the windows, others might make you share the cost of roof repairs if you own the top flat. But then if you're the only one with water pouring through, why should the others pay?

So although flats, especially period ones, can be tremendously spacious and good value for money, do check the lease length and the rules and regulations of owning it, as well as what works you will have to pay for. This way you can own a part of a lovely building and stay in control of your piece of property without any unwanted surprises.

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