

THE ENGLISH HOME

January 2019



Wickenden Hutley

Melissa Hutley (on the left), co-founder

HISTORIC INFLUENCES

We have been so thrilled to see such a growing interest in inspiration from historic interiors. Both Charlie [Wickenden] and I grew up visiting National Trust houses regularly, but we are now seeing a much wider interest in period influences. Recent period dramas, such as the BBC's adaption of *Howards End*, have reignited a love for bold wall colours. The colour combinations seen on screen seem brave and exciting.

GOING BOLDER

In terms of country interiors, we are inspired to use bolder paint colours in properties, not just on the walls but also for skirting, cornicing and doors. Gone are the days of safe white and grey homes. Some of the most sophisticated homes have strong colours throughout. In general, people are moving away from mass-produced high-street furniture that isn't necessarily going to stand the test of time. We source antique furnishings and accessories from Brownrigg Antiques and Kempton Antiques Market.

ART FOR ALL BUDGETS

We are so pleased to see artwork taking centre stage in many townhouse interiors. We favour pared-back interior architecture, keeping it relevant to the period of the property and using bold furniture and artwork. There is now a greater awareness of artwork being available at all budgets, and people are far more likely to place contemporary and traditional artwork side by side with great success. We visit the Affordable Art Fair and Masterpiece London to keep on top of what the dealers are investing in.

SUSTAINABLE STYLE

In 2019, there is a greater awareness of sustainable decorating, and we love using antique fabrics when we can – Tobias And The Angel has the most wonderful collection. People aren't only aware of reducing plastic waste, but also of the fumes and toxins released by newly made furniture, carpet and painted walls, and the impact it has on our health. Where possible, we use natural products and fibres – for aesthetic purposes and for the environment.



TOP Eighteenth-century Louis XVI bureau in Elm, £6,500, Brownrigg Antiques.

ABOVE Melissa Hutley and Charlie Wickenden.



BELOW Louise Jones uses textures such as linen to create a relaxed dining room scheme. "I imagine that the dining room is a space that could be used at any time of the day or night and needs to be warm and welcoming at all times, not just the evening."

Louise Jones

Interior designer

ELEGANTLY INFORMAL DINING

Going into 2019, I don't think the dining room should read as a more formal space than the rest of the house – it needs to follow the rest of the look you've created. Whilst we still do a lot of work combining kitchen and dining rooms, it's also just as popular to have a separate dining room. We tend to have the dining room open on

to the kitchen, but with a sliding door or partition between the two, so that dinner parties can be accommodated separately.

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Use of space is incredibly important for modern life – home offices, wine stores, even spas are not unusual anymore, and state-of-the-art technology needs to be integrated subtly and sympathetically. On a Scottish estate we recreated the Victorian shooting lodge look, yet the house had underfloor heating (under reclaimed floors), air conditioning (concealed in cabinetry) and a complicated lighting system wired to brass dolly switches.

BOOT ROOMS

In 2019, I think less is more in halls and entrances, but I think it's fun to be brave in a boot room. They tend to be busy, cluttered spaces and it's better to embrace that, rather than fight it. There are some excellent tile companies now producing fun colours and patterns, which are perfect for these sorts of spaces. Bert & May and Designworks Tiles have great ranges that add character and personality. ▶

