

Saturday 3 August 2019

telegraph.co.uk

Republic of Ireland €3.00

No 51,074

£2.50

Subscriber price just £2.00



# Don't move, improve

Easy interior design tips from Fearne Cotton, Abigail Ahern and Matthew Williamson

Saturday

Ashes special Burns turns up heat on Australia

Sport

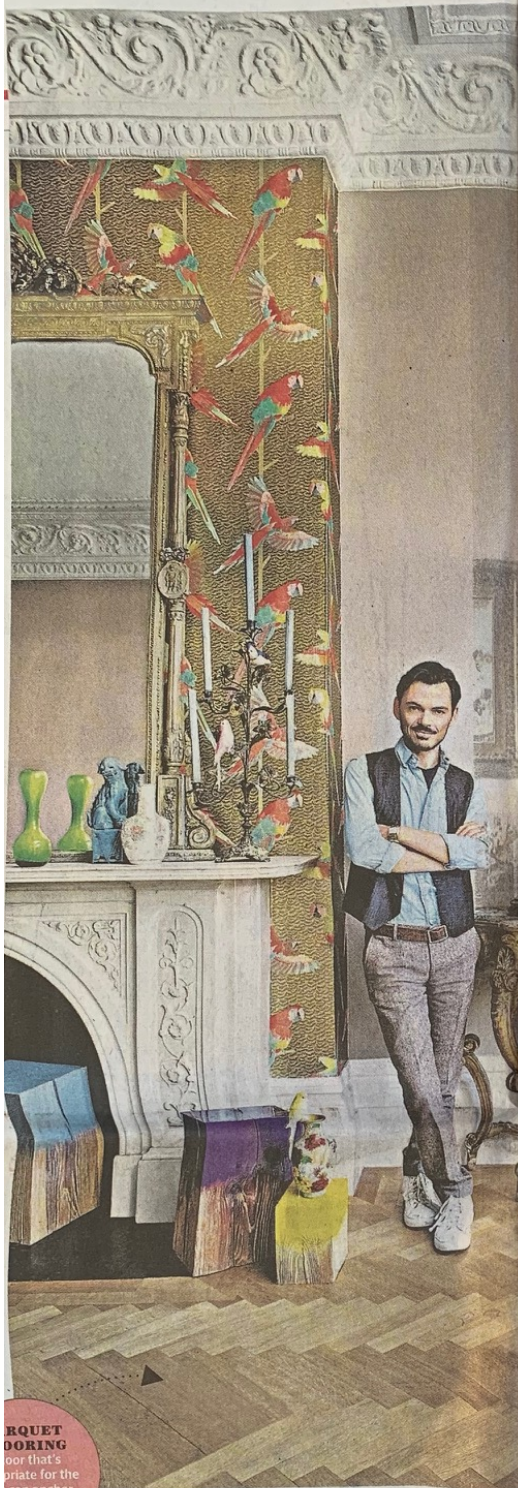
Bryony Gordon on Meghan's toughest week yet

Features

# The Daily Telegraph

BRITAIN'S BEST QUALITY NEWSPAPER





**RUG**  
For that's  
can anchor  
pace and set  
the tone

what do you like?"

says Cotton.  
For her, that's family pho-  
s, wooden floors with rugs, and an  
eclectic mix of bits and bobs, old and  
ew, so long as it's cosy and warm.

"It's got to be your little oasis. And  
at doesn't require lots of money; I've  
ever had an interior designer in my  
fel! With a little bit of thought you  
can take your home your utopia, some-  
where you can whip your bra off and  
ake a deep breath."

**Interior Design Masters** starts  
on Wednesday Aug 14 at 8pm on  
BBC Two.



**PAINTED  
SHUTTERS**  
Use bright, neon  
colours to contrast  
with traditional  
features in older  
houses

#### WILLIAMSON'S INTERIOR DESIGN ADDRESS BOOK

■ Browse the website *A Modern Grand Tour* – it's super extravagant, over-the-top, and really expensive; the Harrods of the interiors world. So maybe just to dream, if not to buy (amoderngrandtour.com).



■ To create a space that's unique, forage in shops while you're on holiday. Look for things like little Spanish plates from a ceramics store. Browse in shops you wouldn't normally visit.

■ George Brownrigg has a beautiful store in Tetbury and he is a market leader in terms of Spanish and English antiques. He often shows at the Battersea Arts Fair. Again, it's very high-end, but great to browse (brownrigg-interiors.co.uk).

■ If you want to get the look for a fraction of the price, head to interior.co and ebay.co.uk. Rockett St George is a place I love for more affordable prices, too (rockettstgeorge.co.uk).



■ Penny Morrison does beautiful textiles and lampshades. (pennymorrison.com)

■ Les Ottomans has a beautiful array of homeware. I'm doing a tableware collaboration with them in September. But that aside, it's a great place to go. (lesottomans.com)

## MATTHEW WILLIAMSON interior designer

### THE LIVING ROOM

In fashion, you're up against relentless pressure to create and produce. What I've learnt to love about interior design over the past three years I've been working full-time in the industry, is that it's a much slower beast. You want things to last, as you live in them day in, day out.

With any room, the first thing I consider is the floor. Once you have a floor that's appropriate, and a style that you love, it anchors the space and sets the tone.

My living room in London is Victorian with high ceilings and big windows. It's got lovely proportions; those good bones are already there. I've gone with a wooden herringbone design floor,

so it feels at home in the space. But you could go the opposite way and choose a bright, neon rubber floor down to contrast with the traditional features. The floor is often the most expensive part of the room, but if you can put a floor down that you love, as dull a job as it might be, it pays off in the long run.

I see people doing great wall colour and then leaving the skirting and ceiling white. But you don't have to do that. If you have an orange wall, you can use a softer tone for the woodwork, still in the orange spectrum. People think of my work as very colourful, but not everything needs to be bright.

Things get pedestrian when everything is very chic and tonal. I love to paint a door frame in a neon tone, or a little window in a really electric colour. It adds personality.

What's great about paint is that, unlike the floor, you can easily change it. I've just painted my wooden shutters a bluey-green from Designers Guild. It's quite in-your-face and to most people, it's a bit much. I'm living with it at the moment, and I'm not sure if it's too much for me – but I can always change it.

The mistake people make is to whack up a bit of wallpaper and then buy lots of bits. A room takes time to build, but often people go straight to shopping and

styling. I love a candle and a cushion, but if you can hold back it will pay dividends. While judging the show, there was one room that felt like a shopping space. Everything felt bought and new. No item had a story.

If I had an empty living room and no idea where to start, I would pick a couple of things that I loved and let them spark inspiration. It could be an heirloom, or something from nature. Something personal, rather than following a trend.

In fashion, it was my job to set the trends, so I never followed them. I think people are perhaps realising that to go your own way is a good thing if you want to achieve something that's not a cookie-cutter space.