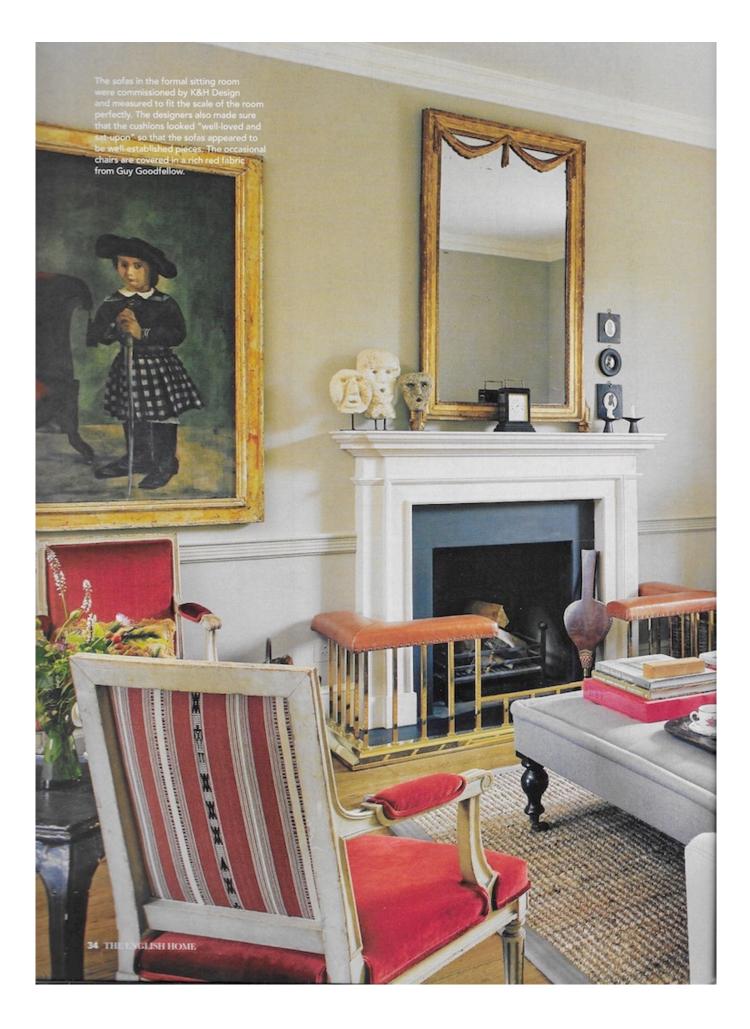
THE ENGLISH HOME October 2018







## 'The eclectic mix embellishes the original architecture of the house and makes the space feel natural and real to us'

ABOVE A neat path lined with yew trees leads to the entrance of the Georgian part of the house Carolina and Paolo use the historic rooms here for formal entertaining. ABOVE RIGHT In the formal sitting room an imposing antique painting sourced from Brownrigg adds an air of grandeur. Red and gold details underline the smart mood. For a similar club fender, try Acres Farm.

or Carolina and Paolo Pasquali, the idea of transforming their expansive country retreat within an ambitious timescale – just five months – became even more challenging due to their desire to furnish the interior in a characterful style that would appear to have evolved over many years. As the decoration of the Georgian country house was to be different to that of their contemporary-style townhouses, they collaborated with Katie Glaister and Henry Miller-Robinson, co-founders of K&H Design, to source the perfect blend of classic and contemporary pieces.

The Oxfordshire property had been in Carolina and Paolo's sights for years. "We have friends in the village and had known and loved this house since we were first married," explains Carolina. "Back then, it was on the market, but, because we both worked and travelled extensively, we managed our temptation and did not make an offer." When the property was for sale again five years later, the couple had two young children and felt it would provide a much-needed weekend oasis from the frenetic pace of city living. "The house called to us. It is spacious yet manageable, incredibly peaceful and offers us such a fabulous contrast to our London life. It sits within an idyllic hamlet and the gardens are beautiful – structured in places and rambling in others, with prolific rose gardens and fruit trees," Carolina says.

A former rectory, the Grade II listed house was sold by the church in 1960 to a family who sympathetically extended the property to almost double its original size. "Sadly, about 10 years ago the centre of the house was ravaged by fire," Carolina explains. "However, on the positive side the resulting restoration work was carried out to such an exacting standard that its bones are now finer than when it was originally built." Once the couple had exchanged contracts, things began to move fast. "We showed K&H Design the house and asked them to start work on the concept design," Carolina continues. "Then,

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