

The INSIDERS

Some of the UK's top interior designers tell their style secrets to Country & Town House



Photo by
Coope & Bernardi



NINA CAMPBELL

Interior designer (ninacampbell.com)

Trends for 2012? Back to home entertaining and giving an air of relaxation to your guests. People seem to be refreshing rooms rather than giving them a total overhaul and are being more imaginative with their budget.

Buying now? Kate Malone Pottery and I would like to be buying any artist represented by Adrian Sassoon.

Blow the budget on... Great beds and sofas.

SECRET SUPPLIERS

NATURAL CURIOSITIES

A wonderful source of art with a twist. (naturalcuriosities.com)

LILLIE ROAD

A great street in Fulham for antique shops. (lillieroad.co.uk)

TYSON BENNISON

Useful furniture and lighting. (tysonltd.com)

Whose house would you most like to design?

Ian Hislop's. I can imagine the design meetings to be really entertaining as I am a fan of *Have I Got News For You*.

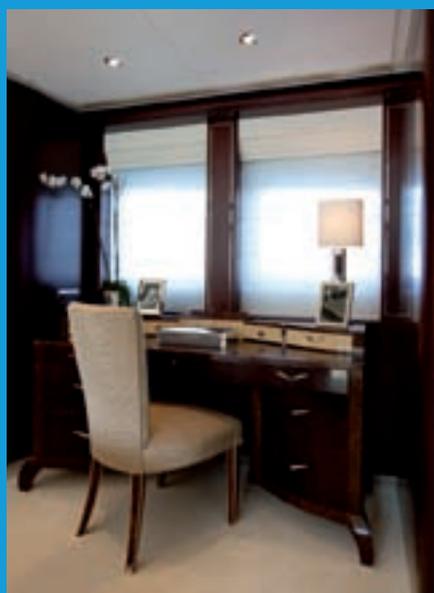
Create a paint colour...

A white, called 'perfect white'.

Up to date interiors...

New lampshades and cushions.

Top tip... John Fowler taught me never to finish a room on paper but to leave a few things to be added in order for the room to 'speak to you'.



GABRIEL BERNARDI

Creative director of Coote & Bernardi (cooteandbernardi.com)

Trends for 2012? The introduction of Egyptian and Islamic elements into interiors, particularly in the form of decorative objects, furniture and so on.

Buying now? Figured marble and cast bronze furniture.

Blow the budget on... First rate furniture.

Whose house would you most like to design? Tom Ford's. Both his style and his artistic sensibilities seem to be compatible with my own.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design? Hotel du Cap d'Antibe.

Up to date interiors... The colour

SECRET SUPPLIERS

RICHARD TAYLOR

I often use his veratile lamps. (richardtaylor.com)

THE SILK GALLERY

Great bespoke silks. (thesilkgallery.com)

CARLTON DAVIDSON

Indispensable for antique and unusual lighting. (carltondavidson.co.uk)

palette can date interiors, so perhaps think about repainting. **Top tip...** To travel and to draw inspiration from the great houses and interiors of the past.



FRANCIS SULTANA

Interior designer and art dealer (francissultana.com)

Trends for 2012? More use of stronger colours and far less use of mainstream neutrals.

SECRET SUPPLIERS

SPINA

For their stunning tassels (spinadesign.co.uk)

PAUL THOMAS FLOWERS

The most divine gift bouquets and chic arrangements (paulthomasflowers.co.uk)

GRAY'S ANTIQUE MARKET

Elegant art deco accessories (graysantiques.com)

Buying now? Design work by Oriel Harwood and contemporary photography by Elad Lassry.

Blow the budget on... A beautiful piece of furniture that you are truly in love with.

Whose house would you most like to design?

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's (below) apartment at Kensington Palace. I would love to create for them a historical but contemporary home using the best of British craftsmanship and European design.

Create a paint colour... A very special teal blue called 'Sultana Blue'.

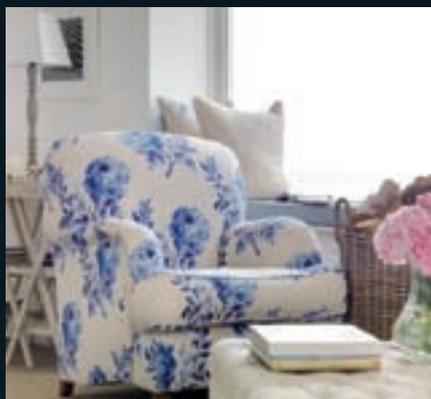
Favourite hotel in terms of interior design?

Le Sirenuse in Positano,

Up to date interiors... Combine the contemporary with the period and slightly unexpected, and inject some bold colour.

Top tip... Go with your initial gut instinct.





HELEN TURKINGTON

Interior designer (helenturkington.co.uk)

Trends for 2012? The use of geometric patterns along with Ikats which we love using for their colour and unusual patterns. Wallpaper is also making a big return – I'm loving its subtle patterns.

Buying now? Antiques – both furniture and home accessories.

Blow the budget on... Art and antiques. I just wish I'd listened to my mother.

Whose house would you most like to design? Graham Norton's – it would be fun!

Create a paint colour... I have my own range of paints, all of which I created. Grey is one of my favourite colours, we have a range of four, including Salt and Pepper and Lippizaner grey going darker into our Grey goose and Smokey joe.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design? The Mandarin Oriental in Bangkok. Each room is like someone's home – full of amazing art and accessories.

Up to date interiors... A hit of primary colours to ring the changes. Cushions are a great way to bring things up to date in choice colours and textures.

Top tip... Don't be afraid of colour and texture. The combination of the two can be magical.



JANINE STONE

Interior designer (janinestone.com)

Trends for 2012? We are seeing the influence of a modern take on Hollywood glamour from the 1950s. A more restrained sophistication is emerging.

Buying now? Great accessory finds from obscure ateliers.

Blow the budget on... I love entertaining so the kitchen is important and it's worth a significant investment.

Anything we should throw out? If it is not disposable, keep it.

Create a paint colour... A very, very deep purple, its true depth of colour only being glimpsed in certain lights.

Whose house would you most like to design? Gene Hackman's home in Santa Fe (left). He is such a complex actor possessing an intriguing mix of masculinity and humour.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design? The Colombe d'Or in Saint-Paul de Vence. It's a magical place.

Up to date interiors... An elegant colour palette will keep pace with emerging trends.

Top tip... Don't be afraid to let an idea develop over several projects.



JOANNA WOOD

Interior designer (joannawood.co.uk)

Trends for 2012? The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics are going to have a fleeting impact on trends. Gold is making a comeback in all areas of the home and red, white and blue will be key colours as part of this fun theme.

Buying now? Art and bronzes which are a good hedge against inflation and highly decorative.

Whose house would you most like to

design? The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's – they are rumoured to be buying an English country house, and it's one of the things we do best.

Create a paint colour... A golden cream called Leopard's Breath.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior

design? Anything by Firdmale, I'm such an admirer of Kit Kemp.

Up to date interiors... Change the paint colour and add a mirror wall.

Top tip... Check the scale of every room – too big is bad, and so is too small!

SECRET SUPPLIERS

LEWIS & WOOD
You can spend the whole day browsing through the archives. (lewisandwood.co.uk)

THOMAS STARZEWSKI
The basement is well worth spending some time looking through. (starzewski.com)

THE BLANCHARD COLLECTIVE
A vast variety of products. (blanchardcollective.com)





JENNY BLANC

Interior designer (jennyblanc.com)

Trends for 2012? I don't like to talk trends because interiors should be about the people who live in them and what they love to live with.

Buying now? I have just opened a showroom in Barbados, so we are completing the buying for the Caribbean collection. At our London showroom I'm introducing a new collection of dining chairs to sit alongside the bespoke Jenny Blanc sofa collection.

Blow the budget on... Mirrors are such an important element to a home.

Whose house would you most like to design? When I first created Le Manoir Aux Quat' Saisons with my husband Raymond Blanc, Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber was one of the investors who saw the potential in what we were trying to do. It would be such a

pleasure to work with him again.

Up to date interiors... Move things around your home to see things you own in a different light.

Top tip... Go with your instinct and what you love.

SECRET SUPPLIERS

JULIAN CHICHESTER

For his fabulous combinations of materials to make furniture. (julianchichester.com).

VAUGHAN

For their exquisite, timeless lighting. (vaughandesigns.com).

VINCENT SHEPPARD:

Their furniture collection is incredibly stylish. (vincentsheppard.com)



LEE BROOM

Interior designer (leebroom.com)

Trends for 2012? A key trend for 2012 is the industrial and utilitarian look, featuring elements of quirky surrealism.

SECRET SUPPLIERS

THE SHOP AT BLUEBIRD

It combines fashion and lifestyle effortlessly so there is no need to shop anywhere else. (theshopatbluebird.com)

LE MAISON TROIS GARÇONS:

A treasure trove of unique vintage pieces. (lounge lover.co.uk)

Buying now? Lots of vintage drinks decanters. I sell a product called a 'Decanterlight', which is a vintage crystal drinks decanter turned into a light fitting. It's probably my most popular product and one

that is very unique.

Blow the budget on... Anything from the eye level upwards, so ideally a huge light fitting.

Whose house would you most like to design? Lady Gaga's (above). I can only imagine how her eccentric style would translate into a home.

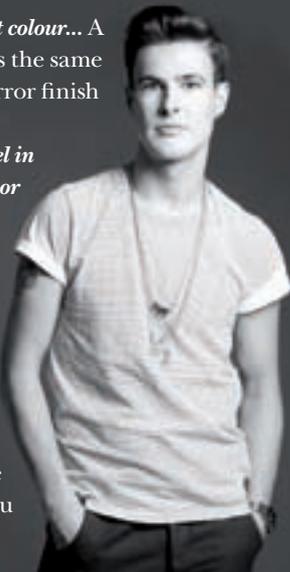
Create a paint colour... A paint that has the same quality as mirror finish chrome.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design? Soho

House in New York.

Its classic interior is still very unique.

Top tip... Overestimate how much you will spend.



LOUISE BRADLEY

Interior designer (louisebradley.co.uk)

Trends for 2012? We will definitely be using some strong accent colours in our schemes this year.

Buying now? Contemporary art. When I buy art, I love the fact that it's something unique.

Blow the budget on... A really special item. Whether it is a beautiful piece of furniture or a quirky chair that just works so well with in a room, a painting that you love or a statement mirror that adds intrigue.

Whose house would you most like to design? Tom Ford's as he epitomises style and taste.

Create a paint colour... A warm matte grey great for displaying art on called 'Mouse Whiskers'.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design? The Park Hyatt Pu Dong in Shanghai, the interior architecture is totally inspiring with the attention to detail so well considered.

Up to date interiors... Paint the room! This immediately updates the scheme and is a quick and easy way to achieve a completely different feel.

Top tip... Always follow your heart when designing a space.

SECRET SUPPLIERS

JOHN CULLEN

A master in the art of lighting. (johncullenlighting.co.uk)

MOWLEM

Sleek, beautiful yet totally functional kitchens. (mowlemandco.co.uk)

CADOGAN CONTEMPORARY

They represent Deborah Tarr whose expressive abstract paintings I use. (cadogancontemporary.com)





PHILIP HOOPER

Design Director of Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler
(sibylcofax.com)

Trends for 2012? The trend for an eclectic, unique interior using objects and furnishings from varying cultures and periods has to be the way forward.

Buying now? Cotswold School furniture, undervalued British craftsmanship at its best, vintage and contemporary photography, 20th century Swedish rugs, tribal textiles from West Africa.

Blow the budget on... Taps. Beautifully designed taps and bathroom fittings elevate the simplest room.

Whose house would you like to design?

Someone with their own sense of style who I could continue to learn from. Marella Agnelli springs to mind.

Create a paint colour... The perfect grey, called

'bruise', a colour on the periphery of a black eye.

Up to date interiors...

Get rid of 40 per cent of your furniture and 70 per cent of your knick knacks. **Top tip...** The ability to self edit. Not all your ideas are a stroke of genius.

SECRET SUPPLIERS

TOBIAS AND THE ANGEL

A treasure trove of antique textiles and objects. (tobiasandtheangel.com)

LUCY BELL PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY

She represents cotemporary and classic photographers, such as Lee Miller, Duffy, Bruce Rae and Ken Russell. (lucy-bell.com)



MARK HUMPHREY

Artist designer (markhumphrey.co.uk)

Trends for 2012? As far as my art and design work is concerned, there's a trend for 'Spacial Installations'. The appearance that rooms are seen as art

SECRET SUPPLIERS

PORCELLI MARMINI, ITALY

The very best rare stone archives and stone craftsmanship. (+39 584 72064)

installations, where sculptural objects perform functions within the interior.

Buying now? A rare block of onyx for my new sleeping sculpture. A

masterpiece homage to a four poster bed – like a sculptural stone womb.

Blow the budget on... Beauty.

Anything we should throw out? Matching floral curtains and cushions.

Whose house would you most like to design?

James Bond's. I would love to create a modern, glamorous and timelessly elegant penthouse.

Create a paint colour... A carbon fibre weave effect (three-dimensional with holographic finishes), called 'Illusion'.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design?

Hotel Coste, Paris.

Up to date interiors... Be brave and courageous with your ideas.

Top tip... Always sketch your ideas – I have an ever-growing collection of sketch books (I now have over 500).



SUE HARDIE

Head of Design at Osborne & Little
(osborneandlittle.com)

Trends for 2012? Textural effects in both fabric and wallcoverings; calmer colour palette; sumptuous textured velvets and pearlescent wallpapers.

Buying now? Any kind of ikat, especially chapan robes.

Blow the budget on... Paintings, although you don't always have to blow the budget.

Anything we should throw out? Any unnecessary clutter.

Create a paint colour... I'd create a vibrant gemstone colour, with metallic particles, and call it 'Sapphire Glimmer'.

Whose house would you most like to design?

I'd love to see our products used in David Bailey's house, especially if he were to choose Loggia, one of our photographic holographic papers! That would be very apt.

Favourite hotel in terms of interior design?

Currently Pershing Hall in Paris for the living plant wall.

Up to date interiors? Holographic wallpapers.

