

COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

MAY 14, 2025

Summer gardens



It's showtime

Chelsea preview: must-sees and those gardening stereotypes
Glyndebourne, WOW!house and fabulous prawn cocktails
Charging elephants: the art of extreme sculpting
Beloved ladybirds and Liberty at 150

Interiors

that every item in this room is handmade and that the mastery of Italian craft was evident to anyone entering the room.

Burgundy and ruby with gold, amber, brown, black and green create a deep and warm palette, layered with detail, pattern and texture. A swathe of double-sided Fortuny drapery separates an opulent living area from the bedroom itself, which features a bespoke bed designed by Mr Franchi. The rattan bed frame is handcrafted by Bonacina with a headboard that is designed to evoke the shape of a tiara and upholstered in golden-hued velvet, also by Fortuny. It is finished with a drop-shaped Murano glass jewel by Barovier & Toso at its peak.

Behind the bed, a large-scale antiqued mirror wall by Dominic Schuster (020-8874 0762; www.dominic-schuster.com) features bronze zodiac details, adding dimension to the space and reflecting the shadow patterns created by the spectacular Spade chandelier by Barovier & Toso. A long hand-woven jute and metallic thread runner connects the sleeping and living areas. Its design by Tonfè is inspired by a rattan-weaving technique that is used by Bonacina and made in Colombia, South America, by textile company Tapistelar, founded by Italian-born Giovina Caralibe Tettamanzi (<https://tapistelar.com>).

Antica chair, from £2,827, Bonacina 1889 (www.bonacina1889.it)



Bubble Glass pendant light in Antique Brass, £1,008, Hector Finch (020-7731 8886; www.hectorfinch.com)

Hector Finch snug Thurstan

TASKED by British lighting specialist Hector Finch (020-7731 8886; www.hectorfinch.com) to create the snug, interior designer James Thurstan Waterworth of Thurstan (020-8129 5555; www.thurstan.co) has chosen to create a warmly inviting retreat for Mr Finch himself. Titled the idea of creating a deeply personal room where Hector could relax and switch off from the outside world, as well as somewhere that he might draw and design, surrounded by books and inspirational items that he has collected over the years.

Imagining a snug in a Georgian house, with a fireplace to anchor the room, Mr Waterworth has chosen a palette of earthy browns and muted teal, enriched by antiques and modern British artwork, including a sculpture by Emily Young (www.emilyyoung.com). An antique elm parquet floor contrasts with a soft green-blue textured wall finish made using marble dust mixed with varnish and pigment, with linen curtains and blinds made with natural dyes and hand-stitched by Nest Design (020-7794 9698; www.nestdesign.co.uk). An 18th-century walnut desk from the South of France

is paired with an early 1970s chrome chair; walls are hung with artwork and remarkable and richly coloured ancient textiles from the Andes. 'It is an eclectic mix, layered as if collected over generations,' he explains.

Lighting includes table, floor and suspension lamps, with an eye-catching pendant in handblown bubbled glass made in Stourbridge in the West Midlands and an Amber table lamp created especially for WOW!house. 'Artwork is hung at different heights and the same applies to the lighting,' adds Mr Waterworth. 'This is key to creating the right atmosphere for different times of the day, with pockets of light to emphasise the snug feeling.'

Lopen Joinery kitchen

Pen Pentreath Studio

RUPERT CUNNINGHAM, director of Ben Pentreath Studio (020-7430 2424; www.benpentreath.com), has set out to create what he calls a 'warm hug of a space, detailed and layered with a palette of natural materials and rich earth colours'. The room is inspired by the English country-house kitchen of the early 19th century, when Greek and Gothic styles prevailed. 'I've been fortunate to work on spectacular examples of Regency Gothic architecture over the past few years and, although this style is not naturally what I'm drawn to, there's so much to love in these houses, especially in the back-of-house areas where everything is a little more restrained,' he explains. 'There's definitely a prejudice against their style, often seen as the antithesis of Classical restraint and good taste, so we wanted to see if we could do something Gothic with more universal appeal.'

Showcasing British craftsmanship by Lopen Joinery (01308 485740; www.lopenjoinery.co.uk) the furniture is designed as a collection of freestanding pieces, including an oak cook's table supported by stout octagonal columns and a vast country-house dresser, ➔

