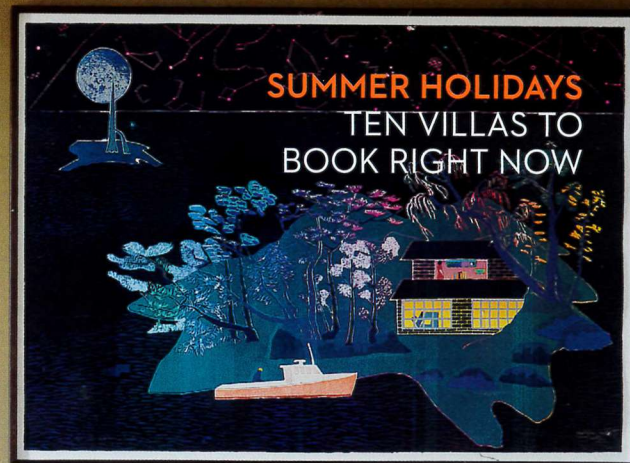


HOUSE & GARDEN®

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£4.99



LIBRARY Iksel Decorative Arts' 'D Rajput Fantasy' wallpaper provides a vibrant backdrop for the staircase in Little Greene's 'Lamp Black' and the pale built-in bookshelves. The rug is from Tim Page Carpets. **MAIN BATHROOM** Woodwork in 'Copper Beech' by Paint & Paper Library tones with the Habibi wall tiles and the Breccia Pontificia marble surrounds for the bath and the basin from Romagno Marmi. **MAIN BEDROOM** Phillip Jeffries' 'Amalfi Silk Como' wallcovering in olivastro was chosen to complement the curtains and bed canopy in Claremont's 'Tree of Life' cotton. A custom end-of-bed bench, which conceals a TV, stands on a Luke Irwin 'Green Sari Silk Klimt' rug

Overlooking the South Downs, with only an Arcadian folly to mar its view, this handsome house was designed by architects TA Darcy Braddell and Humphrey Deane and built in 1936. It was described in 1942 by Christopher Hussey in *Country Life* magazine as a 'Modern house in the Georgian manner'. Only two families had lived in the house before the present owners bought it as a home for themselves and their three young children five years ago.

Interior designer Henri Fitzwilliam-Lay was introduced to the couple by the property consultant RedBook Agency. When Henri first visited the house, it was empty. She was struck by the light, as well as the fact that many of the original details – such as the mouldings, chimneypieces and joinery – were all in excellent condition, and she has retained many of them. In fact, apart from the spanking new kitchen, little has been changed architecturally. Instead, Henri has repurposed some of the rooms and rearranged them, especially on the ground floor, where she has created an elegant enfilade effect. Upstairs, all the nine bedrooms now have a bathroom.

The brief for the interior was to create a family-friendly home that was not too stuffy, grown-up or ostentatious. In fact, the house looks almost as if it has been inherited from a very stylish relative who had an eclectic mix of furniture, acquired over many years, to which they have added their own pieces.

The original kitchen, now the dining room, had double doors that led to a covered flat-roofed area with two stone arches. Henri cannot remember whose idea it was, since it was so obvious that it should be done, but the kitchen was moved into this area, with two further arches added and each fitted with Crittall doors. A new pitched roof was added and smart floor tiles sourced from British company Artorius Faber were laid to match those in the hall. Henri had the wonderful, tall, cylindrical Swedish wood-burning stove installed and commissioned Plain English units, painted in vibrant 'Apple Smiles' gloss by Paint & Paper Library, and an island in Little Greene Paint & Paper's 'Lamp Black'.

Smart butler doors lead into the glamorous dining room, which has walls lined with red 'Inca Vertical Stripe' cotton fabric from Penny Morrison and a carpet from Luke Irwin. The owners were on holiday in Marrakech when they found the brass lanterns. They called Henri, who placed their measurements on the plans on her computer as they were bargaining, which, they say, made it feel as if she was shopping with them. The finished room is womb-like, with the dark walls and floor emphasised by new joinery, painted in a deep Bordeaux red custom mixed by Papers and Paints, which houses a snazzy brass drinks bar.

More double doors open onto the airy and light drawing room, which has four long windows and glass doors looking out over the garden. Walls painted in the warm, distinctive 'Tribe' from Paint & Paper Library are teamed with a Tim Page carpet, and the seating is grouped comfortably around an original chimneypiece. There is space for a card table from the owners' previous home and green leather Soane chairs, which pick up splendidly on the colours of the stunning Seventies lacquered sideboard that Henri found on 1stDibs. 'In every project, there is one piece that it pains me to part with and this cabinet was it,' she is happy to admit. At the far end, another set of doors invites you into a small snug, where the eye is drawn by a huge vintage drinks poster that fortuitously fitted into the space above the sofa.

The house glories in a wonderfully light hall with a stunning staircase and Henri was eager to keep the space as simple as



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