

HOUSE & GARDEN

January
2017
£4.30

INTERNATIONAL INTERIORS

*Houses in DEVON,
SOMERSET,
NEW YORK
and MOROCCO*

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WINTER COMFORTS

BRILLIANT IDEAS FOR FIREPLACES AND STOVES
CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS WITH EMMA BRIDGEWATER
STEVIE PARLE'S INDIAN VEGETARIAN DISHES

PLUS
THE FROZEN
GARDENS OF
A HIGHLAND
CASTLE

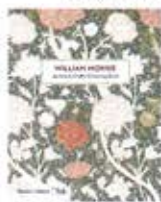


FLOURISH: STUNNING ARRANGEMENTS WITH FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE Willow Crossley (Kyle Books, £19.99)



This accessible read serves up a pleasing selection of year-round flower-arrangement ideas. In seasonal order, floral stylist Willow Crossley picks her favourites, with an accompanying overview of their aesthetic qualities (the jewel colours of anemones), pitfalls (the thirsty temperament of ranunculus) and merits (waxflowers can last up to three weeks). Favouring a wild, natural style influenced by the ruggedness of her Welsh countryside upbringing, Willow's arrangements have a rustic air: photographs of lilac alliums forking out of milk churns; wispy lysimachia strung up in pom-poms; apple branches tumbling out of stripy containers. A step-by-step guide to the arrangements is accompanied by a list of plants or flowers needed, while useful tips and techniques for preparing flowers concludes the book. It's not for the seasoned gardener, but the inspiring photography by Emma Mitchell makes it a pretty and practical addition to the bookshelf. **RD**

WILLIAM MORRIS: AN ARTS & CRAFTS COLOURING BOOK (Thames & Hudson, £12.95) and
THE GREAT BRITISH COLOURING MAP: A COLOURING JOURNEY AROUND BRITAIN (Laurence King, £19.95)



Colouring books for adults are abundant, but these two are particularly appealing as presents, with interesting images offering the therapeutic benefits of colouring in. *William Morris* features 45 of his iconic patterns, selected from the Victoria and Albert Museum's collection of his works. Each of the four sections - Nature, Colour, Pattern and Craft - has an introduction exploring his designs, while coloured illustrations throughout allow you to take a cue from his original colour palette. To celebrate its 225th anniversary, Ordnance Survey (Britain's official mapping agency) has launched *The Great British Colouring Map*. The maps span regions across the UK and a small fact box detailing source, location and trivia related to the area sits in the corner of each page. **RD**

BITTEN BY WITCH FEVER: WALLPAPER & ARSENIC IN THE VICTORIAN HOME
Lucinda Hawksley (Thames & Hudson, £28)



In 1775, Carl Scheele revealed the potential of arsenic in the formulation of chemical dyes. Long used as rat poison, arsenic was, more surprisingly, also considered - in tiny doses - to be a useful medicine and an aphrodisiac. So alarm bells failed to ring when wallpaper and textile manufacturers used 'Scheele's green' to create brilliant emerald wallpapers and dress fabrics. Rumour had it that Napoleon died after inhaling arsenic emanating from the wallpaper in his damp confinement, but while some countries banned arsenic dyes in the 1840s, Britain was slow to realise the hazard. Even William Morris saw no danger and only in the 1870s espoused gentler pigments. Lucinda Hawksley's eccentrically designed book tells the story of how Victorian England was poisoned, setting her investigations against a background of wallpaper samples from the National Archives - each one of which tested positive for arsenic. **Stephen Calloway**

SIGNATURE SPACES: WELL-TRAVELLED INTERIORS Paolo Moschino and Philip Vergeylen (Vendome Scriptum, £40)



Putting me in mind of *The Sound of Music's* favourite things, Paolo and Philip write in their concise introduction that books and art are the two elements that can 'make a house sing'. Punctuated by quotations from nineteenth- and twentieth-century artists, writers and thinkers, this is a visual distillation of jaw-droppingly beautiful interiors. My eye was taken by the bursts of crimson, cerulean and teal, spotted in Versailles or Venice, then translated into a chair or tabletop. Clean white spaces and parquet floors taken out of their comfort zone by the overlaying of an animal hide; a stuffed polar bear in an otherwise classical room. These are a few of Paolo and Philip's favourite things. Like the best Instagram accounts, this work holds visual delights, surprises and curiosities at its core: just as Paolo and Philip either 'love or hate but are never indifferent', it is impossible for the reader not to experience a visceral reaction to their book. Mine was to love it. **Kate Slesinger**

ON THE FRINGE: A LIFE IN DECORATING
Imogen Taylor (Pimpernel Press, £50)



This delicious frolic through the life of Imogen Taylor is delightful. Her book is a testament to her status as surely one of the greatest exponents of the English country-house style of decoration in the latter half of the twentieth century. From her, we discover what she learnt as John Fowler's assistant. Indeed, when I was one of her lucky protégés, she taught me everything. Forget taupe - her colourful, Mitford-esque romp through the great houses of Britain and North America gives great insight into her eye for detail and passion for craftsmanship, and tells the tale of friendships built over a lifetime of decorating. Her wit, charm and amusing observations flow through the book. She relives an era when only the best would do and, by doing so, hands us a precious legacy. **Fiona Shelburne**

LONDON PRECINCTS: A CURATED GUIDE TO THE CITY'S BEST SHOPS, EATERIES, BARS AND OTHER HANGOUTS
Fiona McCarthy (Hardie Grant, £17.95)



I like to think I've scoured most of London's side streets for interesting shops and cafés, but this book has alerted me to some I have yet to stumble upon. Split into areas, it offers detailed descriptions of many shops and eateries. Plenty of attention is given to design shops like SCP, Skandium and Mint. To Londoners, some of the suggestions may seem obvious - Liberty, Fortnum & Mason and Borough Market, for instance - but as Fiona points out in the introduction, she wanted to profile places that 'feel distinctively British'. An ideal present for visitors to London. **Elizabeth Metcalfe** □