

ROYAL MISSION: PRINCE HARRY'S AFRICAN ADVENTURE

# TOWN & COUNTRY

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## TEA FOR TWO

An audience with Gemma Arterton



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INTERIORS

# CREATURE COMFORTS

*Why a dog in the house needn't preclude a stylish home.*

By *Catriona Gray*

There was a moment – about an hour after Crumble, my Cavalier King Charles, first arrived in my house – when I wondered if interiors and dogs really got along. Paw prints and other, more unspeakable additions, festooned the pale carpets, enhanced by a liberal scattering of ginger dog hairs. Shortly afterwards, I discovered his fondness for chewing through lamp flexes. A

month later, the now-bedraggled carpets were ripped out, replaced by wooden floorboards dark enough to hide a multitude of sins. Several new table lamps appeared at about the same time. But by that point, I'd stopped noticing whether or not my pet damaged my home, largely because he had become such an integral part of it.

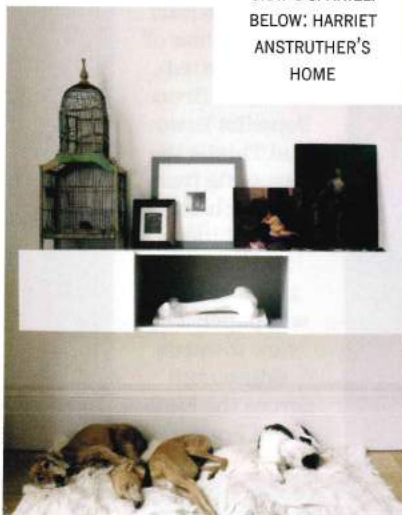
Given my experience, it may seem odd that so many interior decorators and designers own dogs, yet a surprising number manage to balance the most covetable houses with a canine presence. 'I have always had animals in my life,' says the interior decorator Paolo Moschino, who owns Luigi, a young French bulldog. 'A house without a dog – especially in the countryside – is like a house without books, without a soul.' When decorating for clients, he'll often recommend installing a dog shower outside the back door, to sluice off excess mud, and warns against displaying treasured items on side tables if there's a Great Dane in residence – 'There's always the risk they'll knock them down with their wagging tails.'

Harriet Anstruther, who transforms houses and yachts around the world, has an elderly Jack Russell called Elvis and a whippet named Pearl. They travel between her London townhouse and Sussex farm. 'I didn't want their shared basket in London to be hidden away, but it had to fit into a glamorous interior. I bought a soft bed in a neutral colour and filled it with sheep-skins of different shades. Everything could be washed, plus it was warm and comfortable for them, and a pleasure to the eye for me.'

Bridie Hall, who has a homewares range and runs the Pentreath & Hall interiors shop in Bloomsbury, made a



TOP LEFT: PAOLO MOSCHINO'S FRENCH BULLDOG. RIGHT: CATRIONA GRAY'S SPANIEL. BELOW: HARRIET ANSTRUTHER'S HOME



couple of beds from cut-up French duvets for her miniature poodle Max, but in practice, they're superfluous to requirements. 'Max sleeps on my head. He was never going to choose anywhere else,' she says. 'Although recently he's started to sleep alongside me with his head sticking out on the pillow like a person. The only major problem I've had with him is when he got into the daily habit of peeing on a vintage Beni

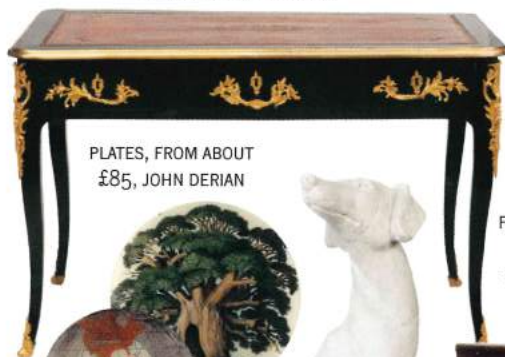
Ourain rug and there was no stopping him – we had to remove it.' Yet all three designers agree that the positives of keeping a pet far outweigh any potential drawbacks.

'It's these extra little beating hearts that turn a house into a home,' continues Hall. 'Dogs are so much fun to have around and give so much unconditional love that they certainly earn their keep – you won't mind the odd chewed slipper or clawed door. It's their house too.' □

PHOTOGRAPHS: TRUNK ARCHIVE, HENRY BOURNE, OLIVER HOLMS, GEMMA MILLER/COURTESY OF NICHOLAS HASLAM. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NICHOLASHASLAM.COM, WWW.HARRIETANSTRUTHER.COM AND WWW.BRIDIEHALL.COM

BELOW AND  
BOTTOM RIGHT:  
COCO CHANEL'S  
APARTMENT ON RUE  
CAMBON IN PARIS

£12,000,  
JULIA BOSTON ANTIQUES



PLATES, FROM ABOUT  
£85, JOHN DERIAN



£39.95,  
THE FOLIO SOCIETY



£257, CARAN D'ACHE  
AT SELFRIDGES



FAUX CORAL,  
£75,  
INDIA JANE



£49,  
OKA



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JULIA BOSTON  
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INTERIORS

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FOLDERS,  
£26 EACH,  
PENTREATH  
& HALL

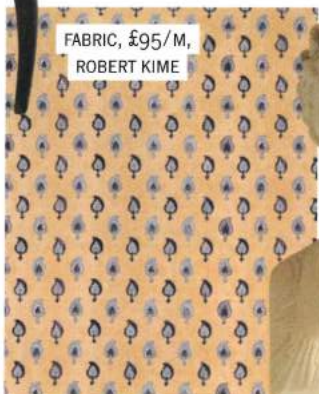
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BATSTONE



FABRIC, £95/M,  
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TOM  
DIXON



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PAOLO MOSHINO FOR  
NICHOLAS HASLAM



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