

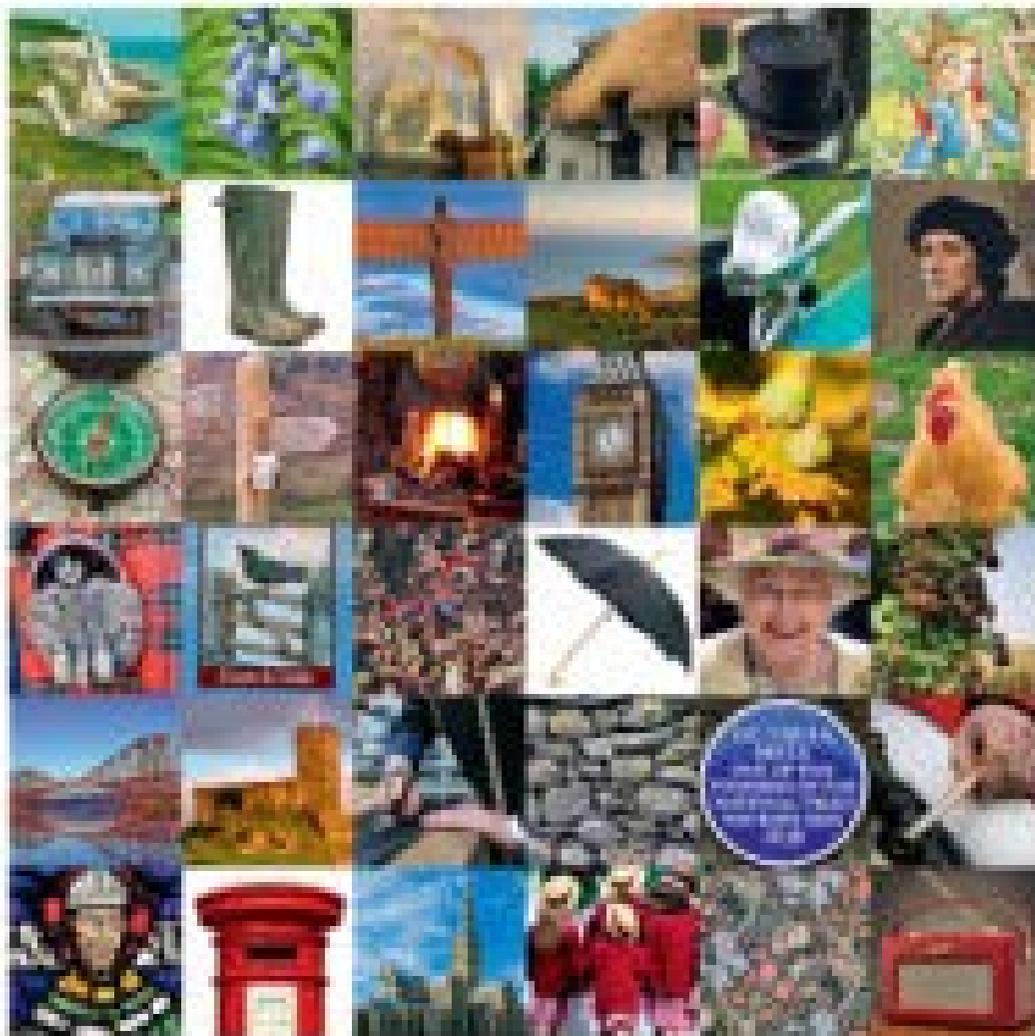
COUNTRY LIFE

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SPECIAL ISSUE

The Best OF Britain

Our nation's greatest glories



Anglophiles' hymns to our great nation
Albert Roux, Carla Carlisle and Michael Holding
PLUS ambassadors, opera singers and tailors

Interior design The designer's room

Despite a long career as one of London's most accomplished interior designers, **Veere Grenney** is also one of the most discreet, with an impressive portfolio of projects to his name on both sides of the Atlantic, from a London town house and suites in Claridge's to new-build houses on Long Island and town houses in New York



How to get the look

Fabrics

Bernie de Le Cuona's showroom at 150, Walton Street, London SW3 (020-7584 7677; www.delecuona.co.uk) sells an exquisite range of fabrics including cashmere.

The chair is upholstered in Mr Grenney's own *Temple* fabric design—it's available at Tissus d'Hélène, 421, Design Centre East, London SW10 (020-7352 9977; www.tissusdhelene.co.uk)

For tickings in every conceivable style and colour, the only place to look is Ian Mankin's showroom at 269/273, Wandsworth Bridge Road, London SW6 (020-7722 0997; www.ianmankin.co.uk)

Shutters

The New England Shutter Company, 16, Jaggard Way, London SW12 (www.thenewenglandshuttercompany.com; 020-8675 1099) sells a wide range of beautifully made shutter designs in a variety of finishes

Flooring

Since 1947, Waveney Rush (01502 538777; www.waveneyrush.co.uk) has made traditionally woven baskets as well as flooring that adds wonderful texture to a scheme.

For other types of natural flooring, Crucial Trading (020-7376 7100; www.crucial-trading.com) has a huge array to choose from, ranging from seagrass and sisal to coir

Furniture

Shropshire-based Daniel Callaghan sometimes has pieces by Bugatti (www.callaghan-finepaintings.com; 01743 343452). For pieces by E. W. Godwin, try H. Blairman & Sons (020-7493 0444; www.blairman.co.uk).

Alternatively, Robert Kime at 121, Kensington Church Street, London W8, has designed a version of an E. W. Godwin occasional table in ebonised tulipwood (020-7229 0886; www.robertkime.com) and for Regency spoon-back chairs, try your local dealer ➤

Behind the design Veere Grenney

The project

This multi-purpose room in a London town house serves as a dressing room and occasional bedroom. It also provides storage for a large number of books

THE bed is housed in an alcove in which both the walls and ceiling are lined with brown-and-white ticking, creating an intimate, cosseting space for guests. This feeling is further enhanced by shutters at the window, which offer the advantage of allowing diffused light in while maintaining privacy.

The floor is laid with thick, traditionally woven rush matting in dramatic contrast to the soft texture of the walls, which were upholstered in a beautiful, saffron-coloured cashmere that was also used to make the pelmet and the hangings. As well as absorbing sound, fabric also acts as brilliantly effective insulation.

The eclectic mix of furniture in this scheme is typical of the work of Mr Grenney, who has a knack for effortlessly mixing styles from different periods—



in this case, a Bugatti side table, a Godwin Arts-and-Crafts table and a Regency spoon-back chair. The seat is upholstered in a simple graphic fabric from the Veere Grenney Collection called *Temple*. A 13ft-long glass-fronted wardrobe provides

storage for clothes. In addition, the brief from the client was to provide display space for a collection of drawings and paintings that line almost all the available space on the walls.

Oscar Norton

Designer profile

Training and experience

Mr Grenney started his career with an apprenticeship to Mary Fox Linton and David Hicks, during which he gained a deep understanding of design.

As a director of Colefax and Fowler, he learnt to appreciate the importance of detail, historic reference and quality. He has had his own practice, Veere Grenney Associates, for the past 18 years and, in addition, has his own collection of fabrics

Past projects Projects include a house on an archipelago in Sweden, a town house in New York, the refurbishment of a Nash house in London's Regent's Park, two penthouses at Claridge's and numerous new-build houses on Long Island, New York

Contact 1B, Hollywood Road, London SW10 9HS (020-7351 7170, www.veeregrenney.com)



Things I couldn't live without

- 1 A 1949 original Fortuny lamp in black, white and grey
- 2 A Barbara Hepworth painting
- 3 Pale-pink geraniums
- 4 A Thebes stool
- 5 A desk by Billy Baldwin, made by Maison Jansen in the style of Louis XVI

