



LITTLE BLACK BOOK

## WILLIAM YEOWARD

The furniture, fabric, wallpaper, homeware and interior designer divulges his favourite places to seek inspiration and some personal insights into his home decorating

### FABRICS

As a textile designer, and having our own collections to hand, I rather run to them as a first port of call. However, I do love Helen Cormack at Tissus d'Hélène, and the collections at Claremont Furnishing Fabrics and at my good friend Nina Campbell's. All of these brands offer solid, diverse qualities and designs, together with most agreeable colour palettes.

### RECENT PURCHASE

As I am now living in two very full houses – the result of manic collecting over 30 years – my most recent buy has been paint with which to change the bones of my very full rooms. One of the kitchens has been given a covering of what a friend calls “medical pink”. Whether medical or not, it looks edgy and inviting.

### KITCHEN STYLE

Speaking of kitchens, I'm keen on kitchens that look like they might be cooked in. I find very bleak colourless rooms, with no soft edges or obvious comfort, a little distressing. After all, pulling up a chair at a table with a bowl of simple food and a good bottle of wine with one's lover, partner, family and friends is to me what makes life exciting. Cold boxy kitchens are not my bag.

### FLOORING

I think rugs are one of the most useful tools in the designer's bag, whether laid on wood, stone, concrete, lino or carpet, they are utterly space defining and make rooms make sense. They are an anchor. If I don't have a rug in our collection that suits my needs, I turn to Luke Irwin.

### PAINT COLOUR

I favour something akin to 'old latte' to show off art. It's dark enough to make a statement and calm enough not to distract. I also like

this colour in grasscloth, as the texture adds a useful dimension.

### FURNITURE MAKERS

Us! Furniture is what we do – whether it is a ready-made piece from our popular Collected line or a wonderful piece from our Bespoke collection in a simply beautiful veneer. At present I am in love with silver birch with ebony stringing [inlay].

### TRAVEL DESTINATION

I think high on the 'must do before you can't' list would be Seville in Spain, as it has wonderful palaces, gardens, museums and food. Try going for a week – you will be very busy.

### INSPIRING HOTEL

Ballyfin in County Laois, Ireland. It is without question the only truly beautiful hotel in which I have stayed. It has a great history, its restoration from near ruin was a masterpiece in determination, and for service, comfort and pure peace there is nowhere I know of that is anywhere close to this remarkable place.

### SHOPPING GROUNDS

I live in Gloucestershire, so I love both Tetbury and Stroud. Tetbury has Philip Adler, one of the last proper dealers I know where one can still buy very special things at a price that is possible. Then there is Brownrigg, expert in the decorative and unusual, owned by 'Spanish George' as I call him [Jorge Perez-Martin] and my word he has an eye. Then in Stroud, there are the bohemian markets most weekends where artists both in art and food peddle their wares, from home knitting to the best sheep's cheese cheesecake imaginable.

### HOME ESSENTIALS

Good help, goose-down pillows from Peter Jones and music. ■

- 1 Yeoward's 'medical pink' kitchen is painted in Coral Shadow by Sanderson.
- 2 The Celia Desk from William Yeoward's bespoke furniture collection, from £9,495. As shown here in silver birch with bronzed-brass handles, £11,760.
- 3 A selection of fabrics from Nina Campbell's collection at Osborne & Little.
- 4 The sublime Ballyfin hotel in County Laois, Ireland.
- 5 The Chelsea showroom of Claremont Furnishing Fabrics, suppliers to the interiors trade.
- 6 Hadrian rug (2.74m x 3.65m), £21,300, Luke Irwin.
- 7 The Brownrigg showroom in Tetbury.
- 8 For an 'old latte' colour, as favoured by Yeoward, try Hammock by Little Greene, £43.50 for 2.5l Absolute Matt Emulsion.

FEATURE KATY MCLEAN





