

The

ENGLISH HOME



Celebrating the essence of English style

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GARDEN FOCUS

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Interior designers reveal their secrets to finding, displaying and combining antiques to bring character and interest to schemes



MAX ROLLITT
Interior designer, antiques dealer & furniture maker

When creating a scheme do you have specific items in mind, and what do you do if you can't find them? I always approach a room first by sketching a furniture layout. At this point I'm mostly thinking about how the room will be used and proportions of scale, but sometimes a particular style or shape will come to mind. This gives me my 'sleeping list', as such, while the rest of the scheme takes shape. I'm rarely wedded to anything too specific because the joy of antiques is not knowing what you'll find - this does require time, flexibility, and imagination, though.

Why is it better to try and find that perfect antique piece, rather than a reproduction or new piece? There is absolutely a time and a place for both, but what's special about antiques is the story they bring with them; they've lived a life already. Most often we've only got clues - in the form of marks, patination or old repairs - with which to weave that story, but it's one that will always be rooted in



humanity. Antiques were also designed and made to be repairable, so they sit naturally within the circular economy. This principle of making things that can be repaired, is one that I've carried through to the Max Rollitt Bespoke range (above). It's important to preserve traditional skills and make will stand the test of time.

How do you display an ever-growing collection? As our lives evolve, so should our homes, in order to keep up with our changing needs and circumstances. I'd advocate making the most of what you've got at any given time - use it, display it, enjoy it for what it is, and then celebrate it again when you've found the next piece of the puzzle.



GUY GOODFELLOW
Guy Goodfellow Interiors & Architectural Design

Can you recommend any particular periods or styles? Good, simple Georgian and early Victorian furniture can be remarkably good value. French furniture like Louis XVI chests of drawers and elegant elbow chairs can also be affordable, particularly if you're happy with

early 20th-century copies. The feeling of age and charm that comes from a piece of only 100 years old is amazing. A wonderful term, 'Hollywood Regency', is applied to furniture in the English style made in the Twenties through to the Sixties and which can be usable and good value. French Provincial works very well in English country interiors. A specialist in this field is Bowring in Tedbury, and Hugh Lenchars. While being eminently suitable, it creates an unexpected feel to English interiors, adding a little glamour without pretension.

How do you successfully mix periods, styles and contemporary pieces? It is important to mix styles and periods to avoid your home

looking like a museum for a catalogue sweep! Contemporary pieces or mid-century classics give an edge to your interior. Not just for the sake of it, though; the best of every decade - and ones that can be beautiful, the dross of each decade should be avoided.

Where are your favourite shops for antiques hunting? Guinevere on the King's Road offers extraordinary inspiration. Also along the King's Road, Julia Boston has glamorous, very high quality pieces. Another great resource is The Decorative Art Fair, Battersea for fun, collectable items, very well presented, with a range of pricing. The stands are well curated enabling the collector to get a feeling how each item could be used or displayed.



