

# British Isles Mania



My cockapoo Sawyer sits on an antique chair covered in Astrea in yellow by English textile firm Fermoie; fermoie.com

**D**ESIGN FROM THE BRITISH Isles has long been a siren song for VERANDA editors. This year, we've heard the call louder than usual, and it seems we're not alone (no surprise, given the coronation of King Charles III). Summer's hottest design event might well have been the Design Centre at Chelsea Harbour's second-annual WOW!house, a charitable decorator showhouse that brought in top designers from around the world. U.S.-based RH also caught the fever, opening its first overseas showroom—RH England—in 400-year-old Aynho Park in June. Even jewelry and watch firms revisited their British connections with introductions inspired by archival pieces belonging to royals

(p. 32) and a slender new wristwatch from Rolex recalling the firm's London origins (p. 42). Looking ahead: Dreweatts' sale of designer and antiques dealer Robert Kime's collection October 4–6 promises to be a blockbuster.

What is it about British Isles style that makes it such a perennial fount of inspiration? For starters, there's an invigorating proclivity for exuberance in color and pattern (p. 24), deployed with wit and warmth in a Yorkshire cottage belonging to designer Mary Graham (p. 116). There's the charming appreciation for all things old and old-fashioned, like at Oka cofounder Sue Jones's historic Cotswold barn conversion (p. 134). There's the refreshing understanding that craft heritage often holds the keys to design innovation, showcased in our recognition of our 2023 Next Legends (p. 46) and our exploration of the thriving decorative arts scene in Scotland's Speyside region (p. 64). And there's the undeniable romance of castles and manors—palace intrigue at its absolute finest—particularly those with an affinity for the occasional offbeat element like the Irish estate reimaged by English designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard (p. 124).

But it's the soul-stirring connection between nature, art, and design that lures me back to the British Isles time and again. There, the conversation between natural beauty and human creativity is lively and long established. One need only revisit how the Bloomsbury group cultivated its avant-garde legacy from the bucolic world of Charleston, interpreted in this issue in four arresting flower arrangements on page 90. Today, that dialogue is entering a new chapter as landowners like Jay and Liam Krehbiel of five-star Irish hotel Ballyfin increasingly implement rewilding measures—replacing nonnative species with indigenous ones to cultivate more natural habitats for flora and fauna—for long-term sustainability (p. 98). It's just the kind of British Isles ingenuity likely to inspire far and wide.

*Steele*

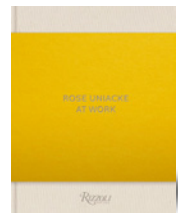
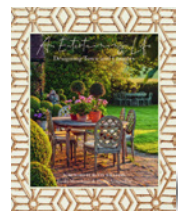
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## Editor's Bookshelf

FIVE NEW BOOKS SALUTING BRITISH ISLES STYLE



FROM TOP: *The One Day Box: A Life-Changing Love of Home* by Flora Soames (Rizzoli) • *An Entertaining Life: Designing Town and Country* by Paolo Moschino and Philip Vergeylen (Vendome) • *Living Traditions: The Architecture and Urbanism of Hugh Petter* by Clive Aslet (Triglyph Books) • *Rose Uniacke at Work* by Rose Uniacke (Rizzoli) • *Top Dogs: A British Love Affair* by Georgina Montagu (Triglyph Books)

STEELE THOMAS MARCOUX; BECKY LUIGART-STAYNER; HAIR AND MAKEUP STYLING BY CELINE RUSSELL/ZENOBIA

### WIN THIS LAMP & SHADE!

We're giving away this hand-turned bobbin lamp and folk flower wallpaper shade from Tess Newall, featured on page 94. Visit [sweepstakes.veranda.com](https://www.veranda.com) (see page 141 for details), and enter for a chance to win. Retail value: \$340

