

# THE FASHIONABLE

# Think Pink!

*Life*

*Replete with romantic hues, flea-market finds and fashionable furnishings, Pearl Lowé's Somerset home is an ode to the joy of family living.*

BY CHARLOTTE BROOK  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY PHILIP SINDEN







**O**n a sunny Monday morning in Somerset, Pearl Lowe's kitchen is a scene of cheerful chaos, with people and dogs coming and going in every direction. Our hostess is producing coffee and amusing conversation for the *BAZAAR* team, her own assistant, the postman and the florist Kitten Grayson, as well as her daughters, the model Daisy, who is visiting from London, and Betty, here for the school holidays.

Lowe, the singer-songwriter turned fashion designer, interiors expert and vintage-furniture dealer, has transformed this elegant Georgian house into a home as multifaceted as she is. It also contains her business headquarters and atelier, a shoot location and a studio belonging to her husband, the Supergrass drummer Danny Goffey. The sound-proofed extension was the only addition the couple made to the 11-bedroom building when they moved here in 2016, having coveted it from afar for years.

"A friend had said, 'Oh, you're going to adore this place. It's completely you', so she took me to see it," Lowe says. "It was snowing, and the lady of the house was tobogganing down the hill. I fell completely in love, but I just couldn't afford it." For several years, Lowe stalked the Grade-II listed property on Rightmove, and when the



price dropped, she called the owner, who told her to make an offer. She did—and was both amazed and delighted when it was accepted.

That was six years ago, and Lowe swiftly set to work sprinkling her brand of shabby chic-meets-Victoriana magic throughout. "I'm already on my third redecoration," she tells me, laughing. This is partly due to her boundless energy and fondness for shaking things up. "But also, because I made some very silly mistakes first time round. I was very inspired by the late Robert Kime when we

Above left: Pearl Lowe (centre) wears cardigan; scarf, both Pearl Lowe x Bee and Sons. Dress, Pearl Lowe. Betty (left) wears jumper, Brora. Kilt, Miu Miu. Nappa boots, Reformation. Daisy wears dress, Pearl Lowe. Cardigan, Brora. Boots, as before. All other clothing throughout, their own.

arrived—the man's a legend in design, of course—so I put in some of his grey, flowery wallpapers, but it just didn't work. For me, this is a fun house—not quite a party house these days, but full of life, so it should be full of colour, not soft and neutral," she says. "Mistakes are good, because you learn for the next time, though they do cost you money. My husband says we must have the most expensive wallpaper linings in Britain ..."

Today, the walls are covered in every hue: the living-room is papered in a beautiful blush-pink; William Morris' Pimpernel

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pattern has turned the kitchen's dining area into an emerald jewel box; and the formal dining-room is an ode to animal print. Although Lowe approaches fleamarkets with an open mind and empty shopping bags (their local town, Frome, has one that is "dangerously good and regular"), she usually has an eye out for 1920s mirrors and black floral-painted Victorian furniture, and she is partial to a fringed lampshade.

"I've always been a hoarder, but the great thing about this house and having so many

bedrooms is that I'm able to collect and people don't notice—it just expands," she says. "When an object stops giving me joy, I simply put it onto my website, sell it and replace it. I love Morris' line: 'Have nothing in your houses that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful.'"

Her latest project has been overhauling a guest bedroom upstairs with House of Hackney's maximalist furnishings and her own bespoke lace curtains, which she has

been designing and selling for more than 15 years. "It's interesting—my grandmother was in one of the first all-girl bands in the Thirties, had a little black bob like me and was really into black lace, so I must have inherited something from her," Lowe says. An enthusiasm for decoration clearly runs down the female line of her family: her mother was an interior designer, and she has childhood memories of being dragged around the Design Centre in Chelsea Harbour "bored witless—until suddenly, when I got my first house, that changed".





Dress, PEARL LOWE.  
Cardigan, BRORA.



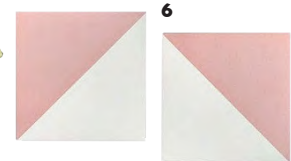
dried blossom and bulrushes: her solution for floral arrangements that last all winter. Soon, the season to eat, drink and be merry will be upon the household, and Lowe will be rolling out her signature supper parties with enthusiasm: going candle-crazy, dressing the table with a floral tablecloth and her most ornate crockery, while Goffey sorts the music and cooking. She relishes the time of year when friends and family descend, and the whole house twinkles with fairy lights. I peer outside and see a vast, sparkling disco ball hanging from a towering tree in the garden. “The only thing about living in the country is that you miss the culture and people of London,” Lowe says. “So we try to bring a bit of that stuff here. I think we’re managing quite well.” [www.pearllowe.co.uk](http://www.pearllowe.co.uk) □



For her part, Lowe has passed her interest on to Daisy, who is based in London but returns to Somerset for time out. “This is a special place—I take a lot of inspiration from Mum’s creative flair,” says Daisy. “I’ve definitely got her love for antiques, though I like kitsch as well.”

Back in the kitchen—by Devol, with chic white-marble counters, brushed-brass taps and navy cabinetry—Lowe spruces up an urnful of

## MAKE IT YOUR OWN



1. Mirror, Artemest
2. Fringed pendant light, La Redoute
3. Pillowcase, Ralph Lauren Home at Selfridges
4. Chair, House of Hackney
5. Lampshade, Morris & Co x Pooky
6. Tiles, Bert & May