

Pearl

After years of searching, Pearl Lowe finally found a house that works with her unique style, a blend of vintage meets rock 'n' roll, with a dash of granny chic thrown in...

Photography/Paul Raeside * Styling/Marianne Cotterill * Words/Andréa Childs

INNER HALLWAY

A little bit country, a little bit rock 'n' roll: Danny Goffey's guitar and platinum disc for the Supergrass album *In It for the Money* sit propped in the entrance to this elegant Georgian manor.

Get the look The chandelier was bought at Shepton Mallet Antiques and Collectors Fair. The sheepskin rug is from Rachel Ashwell. Find a similar photo of Keith Richards at Sonic Editions.



ROCKS

LIVING ROOM/STUDY

Shell-shaped seating brings Fifties elegance to the space, where Pearl works on her fashion and interior designs.

Get the look The Oyster armchair and sofa, in the foreground; Fire Monkey armchair; Aroused Rose cushion, on the sofa; and Cheese Plant bolsters, on the armchair, are all by Sera of London. This is Tokai Rose wallpaper by Robert Kime. The floor lamp is from La Belle Étoffe in Frome.

'I made some really rash decisions when we bought this house,' admits Pearl Lowe, laughing, 'but moving here wasn't one of them.'

However much of a nightmare it was to live in at first, I knew I was in the right place.'

It's been more than a decade since Pearl – pop star and model turned writer and designer – swapped the parties and scandals of her notorious 'Primrose Hill set' for a life of stylish sobriety in Somerset. But while her heart immediately settled on country life with her musician husband Danny Goffey (he of Supergrass fame) and their children, it took at least six moves before they found a house that was right for them... Kind of. 'It was ridiculous to move here – it has 11 bedrooms for a start and even with all the kids at home [and older daughter, model Daisy Lowe, visiting most weekends] that's too many. But it's the house that just wouldn't go away,' Pearl explains. 'A friend



first brought me here six years ago, saying, "It's got your name all over it!" She was right and the owner wanted to sell, but we couldn't afford the price she wanted. We kept in touch and, earlier this year, she finally said she would accept an offer. Danny and I just looked at each other and said, "How can we not?"

It was February when they moved in and, despite the house's size and age (it was built in 1852 and features a huge curved frontage as well as the usual go-to Georgian spacious rooms and high ceilings), Pearl was convinced they could do a quick paint-and-paper job and have it ready for a family party eight weeks later. 'I was so deluded,' she admits, 'but there were no walls to take down. The only major change was to convert the existing dining room into a kitchen and I'd already walked into deVOL and bought the cabinets the day we exchanged contracts.' She hadn't figured on the dangerous electrics – nor the dodgy plumbing. 'There was basically no drainage at the front of the

house,' she says, shaking her head in disbelief. 'Daisy ran a bath and suddenly there was water and bubbles all over the front garden.'

It seems fame doesn't protect you from the period drama that is a renovation project. While Danny was working with his new band Van Goffey and Pearl was creating designs for her eponymous lifestyle brand and children's fashion range, they were also living in a building site in the middle of winter and wondering if the heating would ever work again. 'I was in a bit of a state, so it's no wonder I made some bad decisions,' she says. 'I'd already redone the paper in Daisy's room. Then one day, Danny looked at the really expensive green wallpaper I'd put up in the living room and said, "I hate this. It's so un-rock 'n' roll.

You've made it look like an Eighties conservatory." He was right. I had to go over it all with a new pattern from Little Greene.'

Pearl's triumphs easily outweigh the occasional unfortunate wallpaper choice, though. There's that gorgeous new kitchen with its three-metre island topped with seamless Arabesque marble. 'Danny basically banned me from buying my usual jumble of reclaimed cupboards, with drawers that stick and knobs that fall off whenever you try to open a cupboard,' she says with a laugh. Then there's the elegant formality of the wallpaper she's used throughout, subverted with tiger print and granny lamps, neon artwork and shaggy sheepskins, chandeliers and chintz. It's the eclectic vintage look that Pearl is known for, taken to a new, more elegant level. 'I just want to love every room,' she says. 'Basically, I want to be inspired by my own house.'

For more info about Pearl's fashion and interior design business, visit pearllowe.co.uk

KITCHEN DETAIL

'I just love looking at this lightbox installation by my best friend Zoe Grace,' says Pearl. 'It's in the kitchen, so I can enjoy it every day.' **Get the look** Find alternative versions of Zoe Grace's *Sometimes It's a Yes* artwork at Lawrence Alkin Gallery. The Orange blossom candle is by Pearl Lowe Lifestyle.

HOME PROFILE

THE OWNERS Fashion and interior designer Pearl Lowe, her husband, musician Danny Goffey, and their children Alfie, 20, Frankie, 18, and Betty, 11. Plus Angie the Cavapoo.

THE PROPERTY An 11-bedroom Georgian house located just outside Frome in Somerset. On the ground floor there's an entrance hall and inner hallway, living room/study, drawing room, family room, dining room, kitchen, playroom, pantry and utility room. The first floor has six bedrooms and four bathrooms. There are a further five bedrooms on the second floor.



FAMILY ROOM

'My house is kitted out from the antiques markets in Frome and Shepton Mallet,' says Pearl. 'If I'm passionate about a piece, I know it will work in the mix.' Here, it's the animal prints that add an urban twist to her edgy, English country-house style. **Get the look** This is the Kenton ottoman in Tigre by House of Hackney. The leopard armchair is a flea-market find covered in fabric Pearl brought back from Hong Kong. The green velvet sofa is from DFS. The vintage mirror is from Les Couilles du Chien.

FLOWERS FROM BRAMBLE & WILD IN FROME.

HOME TRUTHS

Which song do you sing in the shower? *You Don't Love Me* by Dawn Penn. Love that song so much!
Do you have a signature scent? I adore Agent Provocateur.
What's your typical day? I take Betty to school and then either meet friends for breakfast in At the Chapel in Bruton, or I go for a swim at Babington House and have breakfast there. Then I collect Betty and, if there's a vintage fair on, we'll go to that.
You're having friends to visit for the weekend – how do you prepare? I usually go to the White Row Farm shop in Beckington and stock up on fresh veg and bread, then I get some flowers in jam jars from Bramble & Wild in Frome.
What's your favourite autumn pastime? Going for walks by the river and in the forest with Angie the dog.
Any surprising talents? I used to play tennis when I was young and I still have a mean backhand... I can also beat the boys at table tennis.



KITCHEN

'Danny put up all the pictures – he's really good on positioning,' says Pearl. 'They're pieces we've gathered along the way, including *I'm Not Sorry* by my friend Zoe Grace.'
Get the look Find works by Zoe Grace at Lawrence Alkin Gallery.



KITCHEN

'Originally the units were maroon, but as soon as they arrived, I knew I'd made a mistake,' admits Pearl. 'I had to ask, "Erm, is it too late to repaint these?"' Today's pale blue and black combo is the perfect foil for the marble surfaces and vintage chairs.
Get the look The cabinetry, worktops and brassware are all by deVOL. The pendant was found in an antiques shop in Exeter. The stools are from Old Albion in Bridport. Find prints of Sam Taylor-Johnson's *Escape Artist (Green and Red)* at Counter Editions.



BETTY'S BEDROOM

Betty chose every element of the décor in her room - including the black and white striped wallpaper. 'I suggested yellow, but she was determined. She wants to be a designer one day,' says Pearl.

Get the look This is Farrow & Ball's Block Print Stripe wallpaper. For a bespoke bed like this one, try The London Joinery Co. The bed linen is from Soak&Sleep. The Butterfly outfit is by Pearl Lowe Petite.

DAISY'S BEDROOM

Pearl's eldest daughter has her own bedroom for when she visits. There's a Victorian Gothic vibe to the scheme, inspired by the antique four poster. What keeps it fresh: white floorboards, crisp paintwork and that prim print wallpaper.

Get the look This is Little Greene's Albemarle Street wallpaper. The bedside cabinet and the armoire were found at The Giant Shepton Flea Market. The mirror was bought at Ollie & Bow in London's Golborne Road. The cushions are from Sera of London.

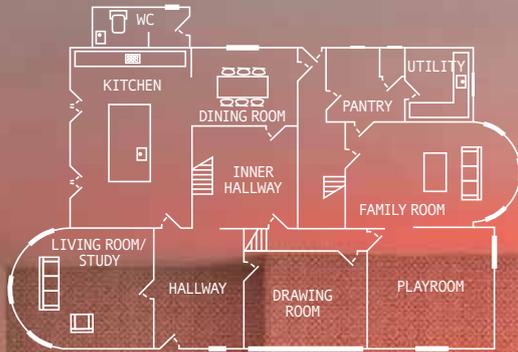


DAISY'S BATHROOM

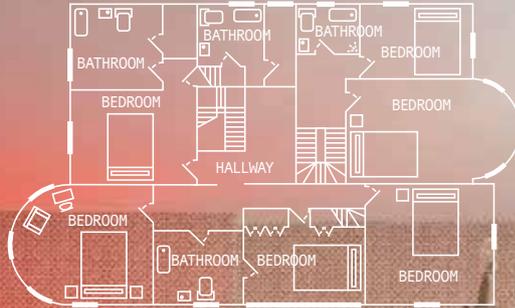
'The wallpaper is the big feature, but actually, the room was transformed when we painted the panelling black and created the bath surround with antique glass tiles,' says Pearl.

Get the look This is Lotus wallpaper by Farrow & Ball. The vintage dresser was found at Kiss the Frog Again in Bath. Try Farrow & Ball's Pitch Black estate eggshell for a matching paint shade. For modern versions of these antique tiles, visit TST Mosaic Tiles.

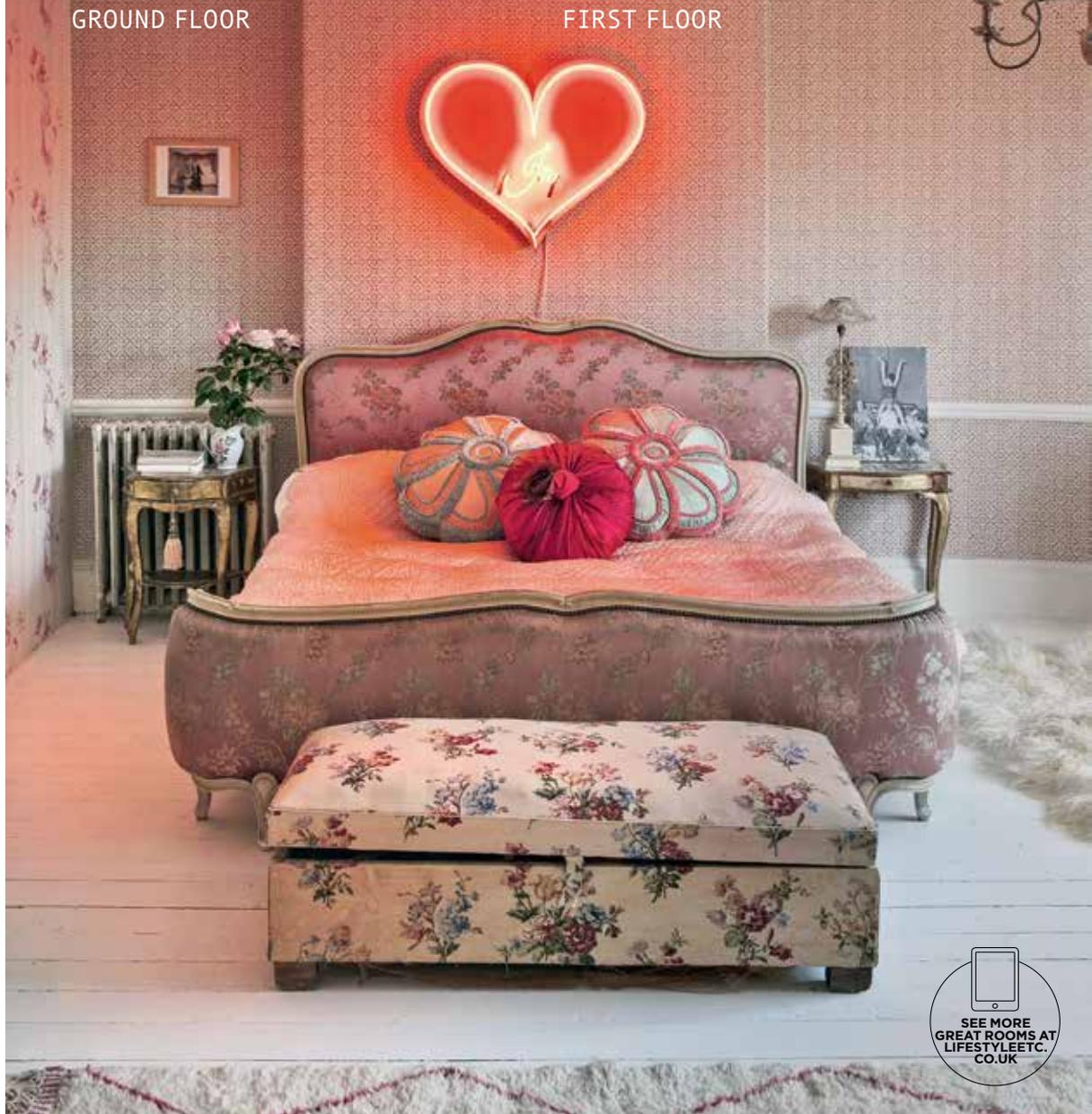
THE BLUEPRINT



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



MASTER BEDROOM

'I'm obsessed with small wallpaper prints right now and they suit the vintage style I love,' says Pearl.
Get the look The far wall is papered in Donatello wallpaper by Nicholas Herbert. The feature wall is papered in Bugs & Butterflies wallpaper by Barneby Gates. The bed is from The French Depot. Find Zoe Grace's *In Love* neon installation at Lawrence Alkin Gallery. The Powder Puff cushion is by Sera of London.