

# HOMES & GARDENS®

DECEMBER 2017

## TOUCH OF SPARKLE

*Welcoming interiors full of seasonal charm*

**THE ARTISANS CRAFTING CHRISTMAS DREAM SCHEMES WITH DESIGNER APPEAL**  
**RECIPES FOR A RELAXED BRUNCH**

**HAND-PICKED GIFTS FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

# CELEBRATE IN STYLE





CONVERTED COACH HOUSE

# ALLIS CALM

*A tasteful combination of statement lighting, sumptuous fabrics and glimmering wallpapers envelop this beautiful home with peace, elegance and charm*

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**HALL**

With its pale hues and flagstone flooring (left), the hall is, at first glance, a country house classic. But in her inimitable way Laura Butler-Madden has given the space a contemporary touch with an unconventional lighting choice and witty photographs.

**Vintage chandelier**, Marmorea, marmorealondon.com. **Anna cabinet**, £4,723, Julian Chichester, julianchichester.com. **Blue hydrangeas, conifers, moss and dried palm seeds wreath**, from £295, Pulbrook & Gould, pulbrookandgould.co.uk.

**LIVING AREA**

The minstrel's gallery used to be at the opposite end of this large room but, as Laura and Patrick wanted to place the kitchen there, they had it moved and its balustrade replaced to match that of the spiral staircase in the corner.

**Vintage Sputnik light**, Marmorea, marmorealondon.com. **Toulouse coffee table**, £1,375, Oka, oka.com. **Crumpet sofas** in French Grey brushed cotton, £1,595 each, Loaf, loaf.com. **Porden wallpaper** in Pearl, £59 a roll, Designers Guild, designersguild.com. **Ribbons**, Jane Means, janemeans.com.





**A**fter taking on an early-Victorian coach house near Sherborne, Dorset, that had been converted into flats, Laura and Patrick Butler-Madden set about restoring its original proportions. Here, Laura shares how they embraced its singular character yet gave it an aesthetic that is distinctly their own.

**What attracted you to this property?** Patrick went to school in Dorset and I grew up here, so we had always thought about moving to this part of the world. However, finding this place happened in a rather serendipitous fashion. We had been living in London, developing property, but with the change in the tax situation, we decided to refocus on our other careers, Patrick as a

photographer and me as a design and lifestyle blogger. I am always scouring property websites and I spotted this unique building that was in need of love. It had been split into flats, divided up among members of the same family, and had not been updated since the 1970s.

We decided to go and see the house and were inspired by the huge space that was originally the stables in the middle of the house. That was the moment. All of a sudden, we could see ourselves making something exceptional. Creating open-plan space is easier to do in a townhouse than it is in a country home, but having this incredibly large room made it simpler for us.

**Was the extent of the project a new challenge?** It was bigger than anything we had ever done before, but



#### DINING AREA

Originally, curtains were hung above the sash windows but, for a dramatic flourish, Laura opted to hang new ones (left) from the cornice to accentuate the high ceiling. **Curtains** in Saverne in Viola, £79m, Designers Guild, designersguild.com. **Walls** in Pearl Ashes matt emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Fired Earth, firedearth.com. **Candles**, Bolsius, bolsius.com.

#### KITCHEN

Patrick's decision to forgo wall cabinets, except for a plate rack above the sink, allows the scale of this space to be fully appreciated. The couple chose this marble for its whiteness and the gold flecks it contains, and specified an extra-deep slab for the island so it would not feel lost. **Worktop** in Calacatta Oro marble, around £650sq m including fitting, MG Granite, mggranite.co.uk.

as there was no major construction work involved, it was a little less challenging. It was a matter of replacing the roof, replumbing and rewiring throughout, digging up the ground floor to put in underfloor heating and replacing all the windows.

**Describe your vision for the interior.** Overall, we were keen to maintain the original features, or put them back in where necessary, and we wanted the house to look elegant but contemporary, without sacrificing any of its character. The building is neither farmhouse nor classic country home, which gave us free rein with the overall style, but for the kitchen we wanted to avoid anything that would look too utilitarian or that would detract from the high ceiling and the beautiful cornicing.

**How does your design process work?** Once I have painted and papered a room, I add in the furniture; I usually get it right first time but in the summer room, I did have to send back two sofas before I felt I had achieved the look I wanted. My style is a mixture of 1960s Palm Springs, Scandinavian and contemporary country elegance with the occasional touch of Art Deco glamour thanks to the lighting. I err towards calm colours to create a soft and gentle atmosphere, except in the snug, where I plumped for an intense blue. I wanted a really cosy room for the winter and I hankered after a Zoffany paint called Prussian Blue that I had seen used in a restaurant. I tried it but it did not suit the space so I used Zoffany's Reign Blue instead; it has an amazing texture, a bit like velvet, and creates the perfect ambience.



**SUMMER ROOM**

French doors were installed to allow the couple to take full advantage of the impressive valley views and glorious sunsets that this room enjoys. A vintage desk and chair add warm tones to the study (below right), which leads off this elegant space.

**Oscar corner sofa** in Pebble Vintage Linen, £3,035 Loaf, loaf.com. **Hepburn armchair**, £567, Sweetpea & Willow, sweetpeaandwillow.com. **Delphine bar**, £2,995, Jonathan Adler, uk.jonathanadler.com.

**UTILITY ROOM**

Laura's glamorous touch even extends to this practical space (right), which is decorated with an eye-catching gold bug wallpaper.

**Buggie wallpaper**, around £74 yard, Abnormals Anonymous, abnormalsanonymous.com.







**LANDING**

Plants add colour and vitality to the landing (left), which leads to the main bedroom.

**Hascombe Artichoke lamp base**, from £86, Laura Ashley, [lauraashley.com](http://lauraashley.com). **Jasmine inlay stool** in grey, £235, Lombok, [lombok.co.uk](http://lombok.co.uk).

**MAIN BATHROOM**

A pharmacist's cabinet (below left) makes a novel yet eminently stylish storage solution.

**Pharmacist's cabinet**, [ebay.com](http://ebay.com). **Brass circle with flat mirror plate**, from £1,135sq m, Looking Glass of Bath, [lookingglassofbath.co.uk](http://lookingglassofbath.co.uk).

**MAIN BEDROOM**

'The large proportions of the room prevent the scale of this botanical wallpaper from overwhelming the space,' says Laura.

**Contemporary Restyled Palm wallpaper** 95/1008, £76 a roll, Cole & Son, [cole-and-son.com](http://cole-and-son.com).

**MAIN BATHROOM**

With no original bathroom to work with, Laura was able to design this room in its entirety. 'We've used wooden flooring from Marmorea a lot because we like the colours and the quality.' Herringbone engineered oak flooring in Stone Age White, £83sq m, Marmorea, [marmorealondon.com](http://marmorealondon.com). Madeira cast-iron double-ended bath, £3,750; Victoria double console basin, £759; both Heritage Bathrooms, [heritagebathrooms.com](http://heritagebathrooms.com).