



Through reintroducing COLOURS and MOTIFS of the English GARDEN and mixing new and ANTIQUE pieces, Lucy sensitively RETURNED the interiors to their original GLORY



Keeping up Appearances

Lucy Marsh gives a rambling country home a new lease of life, finds *Sofia Tindall*

It would be difficult to find a better example of a dream interior designer project than this handsome English village house. A 17th-century former bakehouse in Hampshire, it was 'bought seven years ago, but a fire meant building and redecorating decisions had to be rushed,' recalls Lucy Marsh, who founded her eponymous design studio in 2010.

'The brief from the husband was to be brave,' she continues, 'adding colour, texture and pattern, while the wife wanted one-off decorative pieces, beautiful wallpapers and fabrics, art and accessories.' With her special talent for restoring sparkle to rambling country houses, Marsh was the perfect candidate for the job.

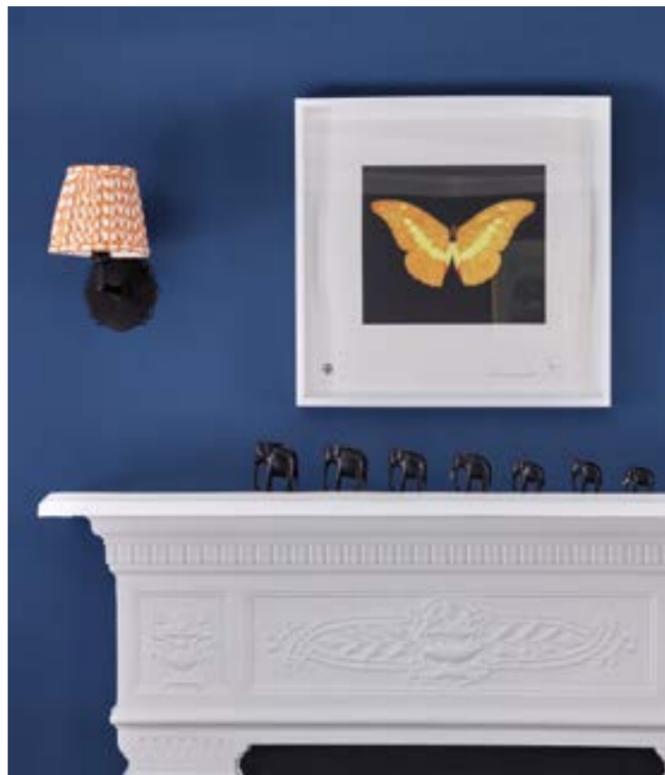
An instant client chemistry meant the process went like clockwork from start to finish. Through reintroducing colours and motifs of the English garden and mixing new and antique pieces, Lucy sensitively returned the interiors to their original glory, offset by a certain military flair from start to finish. While the theme may feel distinctly *flora britannica*, some influences from far flung locations are cleverly woven in. 'Africa is a big part of the family's life,' Lucy explains, 'and animals, particularly African animals and birds, were a major theme in their existing possessions, which needed to be blended in with new items.'

To realise this fusion, Lucy designed bespoke cushions and commissioned art by sculptor Patricia Mitchell and Jazzy Westinghouse. The country residence theme makes a comeback in the hallway, an unusually large statement space that Lucy covered in wallpaper by Lewis & Wood. 'It's an impactful design that brings wow factor to a space and is perfect for this country house setting,' she comments.

Equal thought went into the detail, where Lucy added her own homeware designs, such as Fermoie-covered lampshades, scatterings of textured cushions and antique French chairs reupholstered in Soane fabrics. A love and respect for heritage British designers shines through: Colefax & Fowler, Fired Earth, Little Greene and Farrow & Ball make regular appearances.

'I adore the drawing room,' says Lucy, 'which features Soane Pineapple Frond in watermelon, one of my favourite fabrics. We also upholstered a brass club fender in a stunning Guy Goodfellow weave for additional seating.' She concludes: 'It's the perfect place to sit and have a conversation in front of a roaring fire.'

lucymarshinteriors.com ■



The English country home aesthetic is mixed with influences from afar and shots of bright colour