



**ABOVE** Brass details have been used throughout in this marble bathroom.

**RIGHT** The Dolce pompom fringe from Samuel & Sons adds interest to a linen curtain in a teenage girl's bedroom.

**FAR RIGHT** Navy piping added to the cream sofa in this bedroom makes it look more tailored.

The beautiful Georgian-inspired painted pelmet frames the window and conceals the curtain rail.



KATIE GLAISTER &  
HENRY MILLER-ROBINSON

## *Detail in design*

The co-founders of K&H Design reveal the critical importance of interior details in every setting



Can details make or break a room scheme?

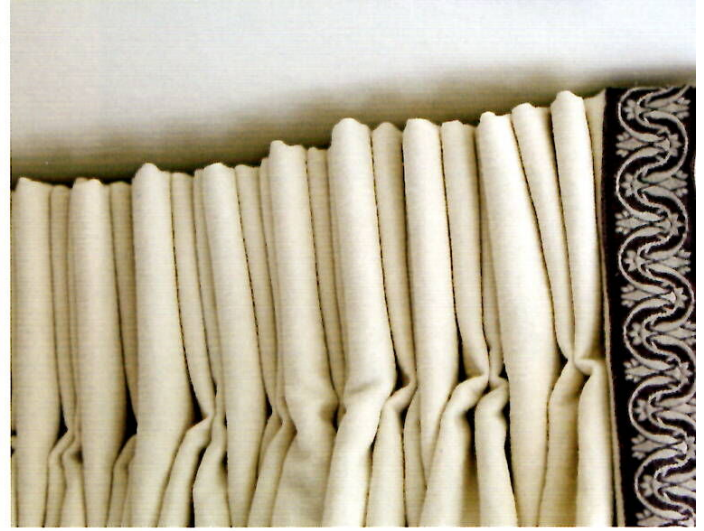
We feel the design is definitely in the detail. In this modern world, where it may appear easy to put together a 'magazine' look from the myriad of choice, in reality it can all too often be soulless and unhomely.

The design of a home should reflect the personality and practicality of everyday life whilst also being enjoyable, inspirational, beautiful and comfortable. This is where the detail comes in – be it the trim on a chair that elevates a more standard fabric, the reworking of treasured and inherited family heirlooms, or the fact that all the ironmongery matches and is just the right balance of warm, smart and reassuringly solid but definitely not 'bling'.

What do you consider to be a 'detail' for an interior, and do you have a favourite you like to employ?

Detail is actually a really broad term for us – it applies to everything. The point, really, is that to fully design something, every aspect needs to be considered. For example: do the screws match the handles they fix to a door; is the tone of a curtain fabric complemented by the trim; is the curtain hem





hand-sewn; has the colour of the silk thread in the hand-woven curtains been hand-dyed to exactly the right tone for the aspect of the room; do the kitchen handles have a lovely soft curve on the reverse so the handles are ergonomically comfortable when opening drawers and cupboards?

Spatial planning, including the housing and storage of personal items, should be done to the nth degree. Does all the furniture serve the right purpose as well as look great? Is the colour of the woodwork unified throughout a project? On one project where every room would have its own story we united the space through the timber flooring. On another, we stripped back the timber flooring to its natural state and stained it and then repeated in other areas.

Passementerie is enjoying a renaissance. How and why does trim elevate a room?

Luxury and texture can elevate very simple and inexpensive fabrics to more than the sum of their parts – for instance the teenage girl's bedroom curtain pompom trim by Samuel & Sons (page 20).

Do you have favourite types of passementerie and how can they be used in a way that feels current?

When we get the opportunity, we love to commission British makers to create bespoke passementerie – it is a dying art in the United Kingdom.

When design budgets are more constrained, is it possible to find cost-conscious details that still work hard?

For kitchens, we suggest picking very plain cupboard doors and cabinetry but then celebrate with some extraordinary handles.

Use plain linen blinds (much less fabric than curtains) and add a simple trim. Even if it's just a line or two of vintage Petersham ribbon, the fact that thought has been given to develop something individual with detail will help it to stand out.

Bathroom budgets can be kept down with painted or mirrored walls rather than tiling, but go big with a reclaimed piece of stone for the vanity top. Applying marble to one wall and then using mirror to reflect the look is another great solution.

Which details elevate a piece of furniture to something special?


We love hand-painted specialist paint effects. This is a very clever way to take quite simple joinery into a completely new league. The subtle dragged finish of the joinery by Henry van der Vijver (*above right*) is enhanced with linen horsehair inserts and finished with minimalist antiqued brass handles by Ged Kennett. ■

**ABOVE LEFT** Rooms with different functions can be united by using the same flooring throughout, such as this natural, stained timber flooring.

**TOP RIGHT** Trim on the leading edges of curtains can add a sense of luxury and elevate simple fabrics.

**ABOVE RIGHT** Simple cabinetry is elevated with a specialist finish by Henry van der Vijver and bespoke handles by Ged Kennett.



A dining room with sage green walls and a built-in bench. A white tulip table is surrounded by four chairs with green and white geometric patterns. A large window on the left shows greenery outside. A white pendant light hangs over the table. On the table are a tall green vase with white flowers, a small blue vase with greenery, and a round wooden bowl. A radiator is visible under the window.

COLOUR CONFIDENCE

# WITH GREEN

Find harmony and balance with the  
colour of life, renewal and nature

Walls, Sage & Onions;  
dado rails, Tea with Florence,  
both £45 for 2.5l Absolute  
Matt Emulsion, Little Greene





## Sage green

Include this versatile colour to create a gentle mood, whether as a feature or an accent tone

Perhaps one of the mellowest shades of green, sage can be warm and earthy or cool and silvery, and can slip into a range of different styles of room with ease. With its ability to work as a backdrop to a whole spectrum of other colours, it is no wonder that sage is sometimes referred to as a 'new neutral'.

Whilst sage has always been a popular choice for bathrooms, it has recently become one of the most desirable colours in kitchen design: it works well on Shaker-style cabinetry and on the walls of country cottage kitchens alike. "This is, in part, due to its ability to brighten up a space and add a touch of crispness, whilst remaining unassuming and abundantly fresh," says Amy Conn from Neptune's Product Design Team. "It can be used successfully as a feature in a room or as a quiet accent," she adds.

For a supremely soothing feel that would befit a bedroom or sitting room, try limiting the palette of colours to sage and off-white, and then add layers of interest with pale, earthy woods, natural stone and textural fabrics, such as wool and velvet. If wishing to create more of a focal point, sage also combines well with a range of other colours, such as dark moss greens, charcoal and spicy golds, ochre and rust.

## Calm & inviting

As an easy colour to decorate with, sage looks wonderful across all walls in a room, as seen in this sitting room (above right) where it provides a calming backdrop to other colours. In the alcove, Sanderson's delicate floral wallpaper, with its silvery sage ground colour, provides a look of refined elegance and yet still manages to make the space feel inviting.

To create a nice flow throughout the room, the designer has chosen pieces that are of the same tonal weight so that, rather than feeling jarring to the eye, the palette works harmoniously. Just the right level of contrast is created through the antique blue sideboard and the blue frame of the coffee table, which both echo the detailing on the cushions; as an alternative accent, earthy terracotta or golden yellow could be used.

It is worth noting that, instead of using myriad colours to create interest, the sisal rug, stone fireplace, striped-back wooden finishes and accessories introduce important textural elements that fulfil this role.

## Contrast & warmth

A warm, highly pigmented sage colour has been used in this attic bedroom (above) in a Georgian rectory to create a cossetting feel. Far from being an afterthought, this room has been given a strong identity and would be a beautiful space to use as a guest bedroom. K&H Design, the creator of this scheme, chose to use Farrow & Ball's French Gray, a colour that it says, "sits as a quiet neutral base, whilst rendering more green in this north-facing room". It cautions against using this particular shade in small spaces with little or no natural daylight and recommends considering how external elements, such as foliage cover, will affect the perceived hue.

In complementary colours to the green – that is, hues that sit opposite each other on the colour wheel – the accessories in gold, amber and russet combine beautifully to create just the right amount of contrast. Whilst this room has a lovely richness about it, the white ceiling and pale carpet both play an important role in adding a layer of light, fresh colour to the space so that it retains a well-balanced feel.

This space also illustrates how a quietly understated colour like sage can provide a great backdrop for different fabrics and styles: the contemporary graphite-stripped fabric sits well with the opulent velvets and highly decorative embroidered fabrics. Darker, mossy greens could also be introduced to add further depth without taking away the sense of calm. ►

### PAINT SWATCHES OPPOSITE TOP LEFT (FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

- \* Sage, £38 for 2.5l Matt Emulsion, Neptune
- \* Cedar Grove, £25 for 0.94l Aura Matte, Benjamin Moore
- \* Mellow Sage, £18 for 2.5l Coloured Emulsion, Crown

### OPPOSITE FROM TOP:

- \* Edinburgh round mirror, 96cm diameter, £685, Neptune
- \* Sitting room wallpaper, Chestnut Tree, £75 a roll; patterned cushions on sofa (from left to right): Chestnut Tree, £59 a metre; Fern Embroidery, £76 a metre, all Sanderson at Style Library
- \* Concrete table lamp, £125, Cox & Cox

- \* Aulnay sideboard, £1,495, Oka

- \* Jadis Verdigris octagonal decorative jug, £110, Oka

- \* Detail of Chestnut Tree wallpaper, as before, £75 a roll, Sanderson at Style Library

### ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT

- \* Bedroom designed by K&H Design
- \* Anvard chest of drawers in Nordic Grey, £595, Oka
- \* Mississippi WS108 wool carpet, £104 a square metre, Crucial Trading
- \* Vintage flora set of framed pictures, £55, Perch & Perrow
- \* Slipper chair UCH07 in Pine Velvet, £3,984, Porta Romana
- \* Gathered Bedwyn lampshade in Green Marden, £85, Fermoie





Design by Louise Jones

Key ■ = Experts who have contributed to this publication

Design by Beata Heuman



# DIRECTORY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS

Our selection of designers whose work we have seen first-hand or featured in *The English Home*. Most of the designers listed work nationally and internationally



Design by Gavin Houghton



Design by Guy Goodfellow



Design by Hugh Leslie



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Design by Kate Guinness



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