

THE HOMES MAGAZINE FOR MODERN LIVING

# Living etc

MARCH 2017 / £4.40 US \$9.99/AUS \$9.95/NZ \$11.50

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## MODERN HOMES

Inspiration overload!

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## TOP 10 KITCHEN DIRECTIONS

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Discover the kooky new trend for interiors



# Relaxed

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# DUTCH COURAGE



Pierrette's brave colour choices and punchy patterns are built into her design DNA and celebrated in her bold and beautiful family home

Photography/Alexander James \* Production/Mary Weaver \* Words/Joanna Simmons

**HALLWAY**

The shell-frame mirror belonged to Pierrette's granny. 'She lived with just a sunhat, a dress and a basket,' says Pierrette. 'But she had some pretty funky pieces and loved crazy things.'

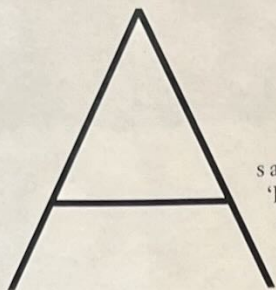
**Get the look** This is Harlequin's Sumi wallpaper in Hessian/Copper. The bespoke stair runner is from Tim Page Carpets. The console table was bought at Lots Road Auctions.

**LIVING ROOM**

'This room was designed around the fireplace,' says Pierrette. 'It was a gift from my mother-in-law... I'd always wanted one! It was quite a job to install and build a flue, but so worthwhile.'

**Get the look** For a similar fire surround, check out Chesney's. This is Drag DR 1216 wallpaper by Farrow & Ball. The Small Snooze sofa is by Ochre. The coffee table is bespoke, made in Belgium from reclaimed flooring.





s a child, did you ever dream about your future home? Pierrette Bentinck did. 'I would say, "When I grow up and have a family, I'd like a house with a fireplace and cool art"; she says. 'Now I have it! This is my grown-up home!' Alongside the roaring fire and striking paintings, her London terrace boasts an exciting mix of pattern, colour, inherited pieces, contemporary furniture and cleverly upcycled finds. 'I suppose you'd call it eclectic?' says Pierrette, sounding unsure. 'It's not standard!'

As well as being a dream come true, this place is the happy result of a lifetime of collecting. 'Whenever I go somewhere, I pick up things,' she says. 'I've been walking around with fabric swatches and wallpaper scraps for years. Here, I've had a chance to use them all.' The house has also allowed her to display treasures that have been in storage. 'I've had one painting for about 20 years,' she says. 'It's been at Big Yellow the whole time!'

So why the delay? It's because, despite living here on and off since 2009, Pierrette and her husband John have only owned the whole house since 2013. Before that, it was two flats. They lived in the lower one and, once children Rolf, Georgie and Nerine came along, moved to a bigger, rented home and let the flat out. 'Then, one morning, we emailed the neighbours above it to see if they wanted to sell,' says Pierrette. 'First they said no, then it was why not?'

Finally, Pierrette, an interior designer, had the chance to convert two into one and create a family home worthy of her childhood ambitions. 'Initially, we just gutted the entrance and added a new staircase,' she says. Then she opened up the poky rooms on the first floor, removing the kitchen, before working out how to redesign the space. Her ambition? 'For it to work for everyone and every age.'

Now, the lower two floors are very much for the kids. 'They know they can have their friends over, watch a film and do anything they like there,' says Pierrette. Equally, if she and John want to entertain, the first-floor living room is the perfect toy-free space. 'I love our big dining table too,' she adds. 'I like having lots of people round. It was great to be able to design a space where that's possible.'

Pierrette ponders each choice she makes for clients, but admits that in her own home she was more instinctive. 'I don't agonise over things,' she says. 'My mother was an interior designer and my sister is too, so it's definitely in our blood.' Their creative genes stem from a decidedly groovy granny. 'She lived in Ibiza in the Seventies and Eighties, in a house that had belonged to the Bee Gees,' says Pierrette. 'She was very out there and funky. We get it from her!'

Mixed with this family flair is a dose of Dutch style (she and John are both expats). Rather than kit the house out from scratch, she modified her existing pieces so they work in their new surroundings. The blinds in the kitchen and the living room coffee table used to be in her interiors shop in the Dutch town of Bloemendaal, while the curtains in the girls' room originally hung in her own teenage

bedroom. 'I like to reuse stuff,' she says. 'It's about being creative and resourceful.'

'I'm also not afraid of colour or pattern,' Pierrette adds, 'but I prefer warm shades to saturated ones and geometric prints over flowery designs.' What you won't find, though, is endless amounts of grey. 'I see so much of it with my work and sometimes I get fed up and react!' she says. Like when she had the dining chairs upholstered in zingy red and blue... 'When I saw them, I did think, okay, maybe I went a tiny bit too far this time!' Needless to say, the chairs look fabulous and with them, Pierrette has not only bucked the grey trend, but stayed true to her roots. 'A love of colour runs in my family,' she says. 'I will always enjoy it.'

To learn more about Pierrette's interior design work, visit [studiobentinck.com](http://studiobentinck.com)



## DINING AREA

'They're bright, aren't they!' Pierrette says, pointing to the chairs. 'I added the stripe to make them pretty cool.' They were a gift from Pierrette's parents-in-law. 'Before I met John, I might have bought something more modern, but now I love them.'

**Get the look** The chairs are upholstered with Romo fabrics and, on the seat back, a Tissus d'Hélène design. The table was found in a local antiques shop. The rug, a gift from Pierrette's sister, was brought back from India. The curtains are made in Hedgehog linen-mix in Duck Egg Brown by Neisha Crosland at Turnell & Gigon. The painting was bought from the Affordable Art Fair.

## HOME PROFILE

**THE OWNERS** Interior designer Pierrette Bentinck, her husband John, who works in finance, and their children Rolf, eight, Georgie, seven, and Nerine, six, plus Puck the Jack Russell terrier.

**THE PROPERTY** A period terrace house in southwest London. The lower-ground floor includes two children's bedrooms, a bathroom and a playroom. On the ground floor is a kitchen-diner. Above is the living room, library and a WC. On the top floor is the master bedroom, en-suite bathroom, a shower room and Pierrette's dressing room/study.



## DINING AREA

The plate rack and china are all by Astier de Villatte - Pierrette receives a new piece from her husband each birthday. 'I made the lights on either side of the rack for a client years ago, but they were the wrong size,' she says. 'So I decided to keep them.' **Get the look** The lamp shades are from Oka. The armchair is upholstered in a Manuel Canovas fabric.

'This pink goes with everything - modern and traditional - and there's enough grey in it to stop the look turning "sugary"'



## HOME TRUTHS

**If you could see into the future, would you look?** Maybe, but I'd probably not believe it anyway, given everything that happened in 2016.

**And your personal goals for 2017?** Trying to stay ahead of the curve in a world that is changing rapidly.

**What are your survival tips for a busy family life?** Preparation and patience mixed with slight panic.

**Your ideal weekend would involve which three things?** Cooking, family bike ride, Sunday lunch...

**Spring is coming soon - any plans for holidays?** We're going to Maine in the US to visit relatives. It's a great combination of outdoor life and lobster rolls.

**Finally, which film have you enjoyed recently?** I loved the Baz Luhrmann version of *The Great Gatsby* - I spent most of it looking at the interiors!

## KITCHEN →

'I sit with the children here to do homework or when they have dinner,' says Pierrette. 'This stainless-steel table is so practical!'  
**Get the look** The prep table is by Nisbets. On the shelf is a KitchenAid stand mixer. These are Rockett St George bar stools. The cabinetry is from B&O. The blind is made in Beaded Stripe linen-mix by Neisha Crosland at Turnell & Gigon. The walls are painted in Paint & Paper Library's Suchong pure flat emulsion. The vintage pendant light was bought in Holland. The portrait painting was inherited from Pierrette's grandparents and is believed to be of South American origin.





## ← GIRLS' BEDROOM

'Georgie and Nerine's biggest wish was to have a *Frozen*-themed room,' says Pierrette. 'This is my version of that, which I can live with! It's pink to the max, but as they get older, I can trim out some of the fluffy stuff and they can still enjoy it.'

**Get the look** This is Shawnee wallpaper by Brunschwig & Fils. The *toile de Jouy* bedspreads were brought back from Holland. This is Jonathan Adler's Giraffe table lamp.

## ↙ MASTER BEDROOM

John made the headboard from two old doors. 'We went to the tip and I saw them,' says Pierrette. 'I love scavenging!' Here, she used the same wallpaper as in the living room, but in a different shade. 'It works so well and gives a little bit of depth without interfering with the overall scheme,' she says.

**Get the look** This is Drag DR 1230 wallpaper by Farrow & Ball. The lamp shade is from Pooky. The paisley print bed linen is by Zara Home. The geometric cushion is made in Ravenna linen by Michael Szell at Christopher Farr Cloth.

## ↓ PIERRETTE'S STUDY

Pierrette designed a study-cum-dressing room on the top floor, complete with bespoke shelving, which flanks a simple desk. 'I've had it for years and it just fits here,' she says.

**Get the look** The desk is from Ikea. The chair is by Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam. The wall light is from Holly's House. The blind is made in Jim Thompson's Gemstone cotton in Emerald, available in the UK through Fox Linton.





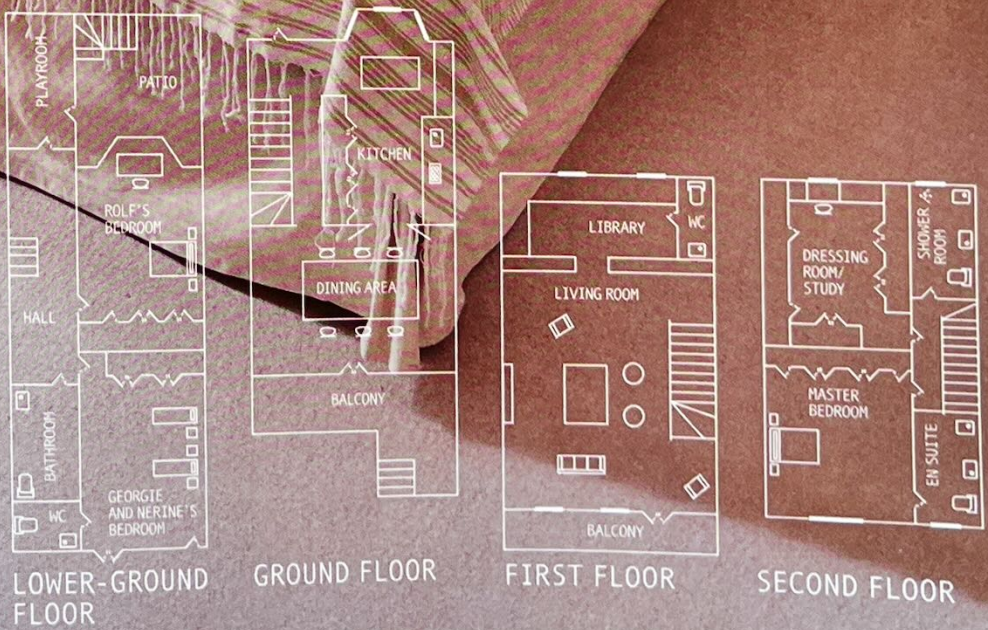
# ROLF'S BEDROOM

'This used to be mine and John's room, before we converted the upstairs flat,' says Pierrette. 'It has lovely grass-cloth wallpaper, which I wouldn't normally put in my kids' rooms as it's quite expensive! But Rolf inherited it and it looks great.'  
**Get the look** The grass-cloth wallpaper is from Phillip Jeffries.



**B**

## THE BLUEPRINT



# IDEAS TO STEAL

Take your cue from Pierrette's love of standout fabrics and striking palettes



ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT Ortiz 7767/04 Jacquard velvet in Magenta, £90 per m, Romo; Yamuna F6946-01 cotton-mix, £105 per m, Matthew Williamson for Osborne & Little; Juicy Red endurance matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5l, Dulux; Azure Blue Santona tiles, £156 per sq m, Bert & May; and Estella NCW4202-02 wallpaper, £88 per roll, Nina Campbell for Osborne & Little



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Fortuna platter tray, £98, Anthropologie; Lola table lamp, £75; and Heraldic ikat shade, £95, Pooky; Lille velvet armchair, £399, Swoon Editions; Parquet console table, £360, French Connection Home; Inferno bed, £770 (mattress not included), sofa.com; Hello Kitty lamp, £130, Sisters Guild; Carnival of the Notes painting, £1,200, Diana Baur at degreart.com; Shenlong jar, £485, Oka; and New York City toile cushion, £100, Timorous Beasties

