

# COUNTRY & TOWN INTERIORS

2019



*The  
Finest*

50

INTERIOR  
DESIGNERS

COUNTRY & TOWN  
HOUSE



### FRAN HICKMAN

'I'm very bored of pink and brass,' says interior designer Fran Hickman. It's no wonder: her colour and material choices are far more imaginative than that. From the White City Television Centre show apartment – which featured animal prints and an aubergine-hued living room –

to the Richard Meier-designed East Hampton home of stylist Elizabeth Saltzman, where she restored the interiors to their 1960s maximalist glory, she encourages clients to be adventurous and experimental (to this end she is thinking of joining the Institute of Making, a materials library). Fran, who set up her Notting Hill practice in 2014, describes her elegant design style as 'purposeful and restrained' and cites photographers Robert Polidori and Candida Höfer as inspiration. Her roster of ongoing work includes Locket's wine bar in St James, a shopping salon for Farfetch in Tokyo and a country house in Gloucestershire. [franhickman.com](http://franhickman.com)



### HARDING & READ

Nicola Harding and Orla Read (the practice was set up by Nicola in 2008; Orla joined

three years later) are celebrated for eclectic spaces combining bespoke items with fabulous flea market finds. 'We favour soulful, well-made pieces that tell a story, combined with unusual colours and compelling textiles to generate interiors rich in atmosphere,' says Nicola. Case in point: transforming a tired working men's pub in Kent into a charming seaside hotel, The Rose, which opened to much fanfare last year. The pair are currently completing a hotel in a Regency building overlooking the cathedral in Hereford, a Victorian family home on the River Thames, a timber-framed eco-build in Surrey and a penthouse apartment in Fitzrovia, owned by a film director. [hardingandread.com](http://hardingandread.com)



### HELEN GREEN DESIGN

'Elegant, considered and beautifully created,' says creative director Tim Murray, summing up the Helen Green Design philosophy. The studio, which was founded in 2002 by the late Helen Green, is also noted for its gentle colour palettes and collaborations with specialist suppliers that mean 'clients can enjoy the uniqueness of the bespoke worlds we commission for them'. Fine wools consistently appear in both upholstery and architectural elements (say, as a cashmere sheer curtain), joinery detailing is exemplary and Tim is currently looking at various shades of green, particularly sage, which was prevalent on the men's catwalks recently. 'A malachite stone veneer crossed my desk from one of our artisan makers and I'm thinking of incorporating it into the design for a client's drinks cabinet,' he says. Most recently, the studio completed the interior of a new build family home in Melbourne, putting open air living at the centre of the scheme. [helengreendesign.com](http://helengreendesign.com)