

The

ENGLISH HOME

*Fabric &
Wallpaper*
SPECIAL

Celebrating the essence of English style

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AUTUMN EDIT

NEW fabric & wallpaper collections

GORGEOUS HOMES

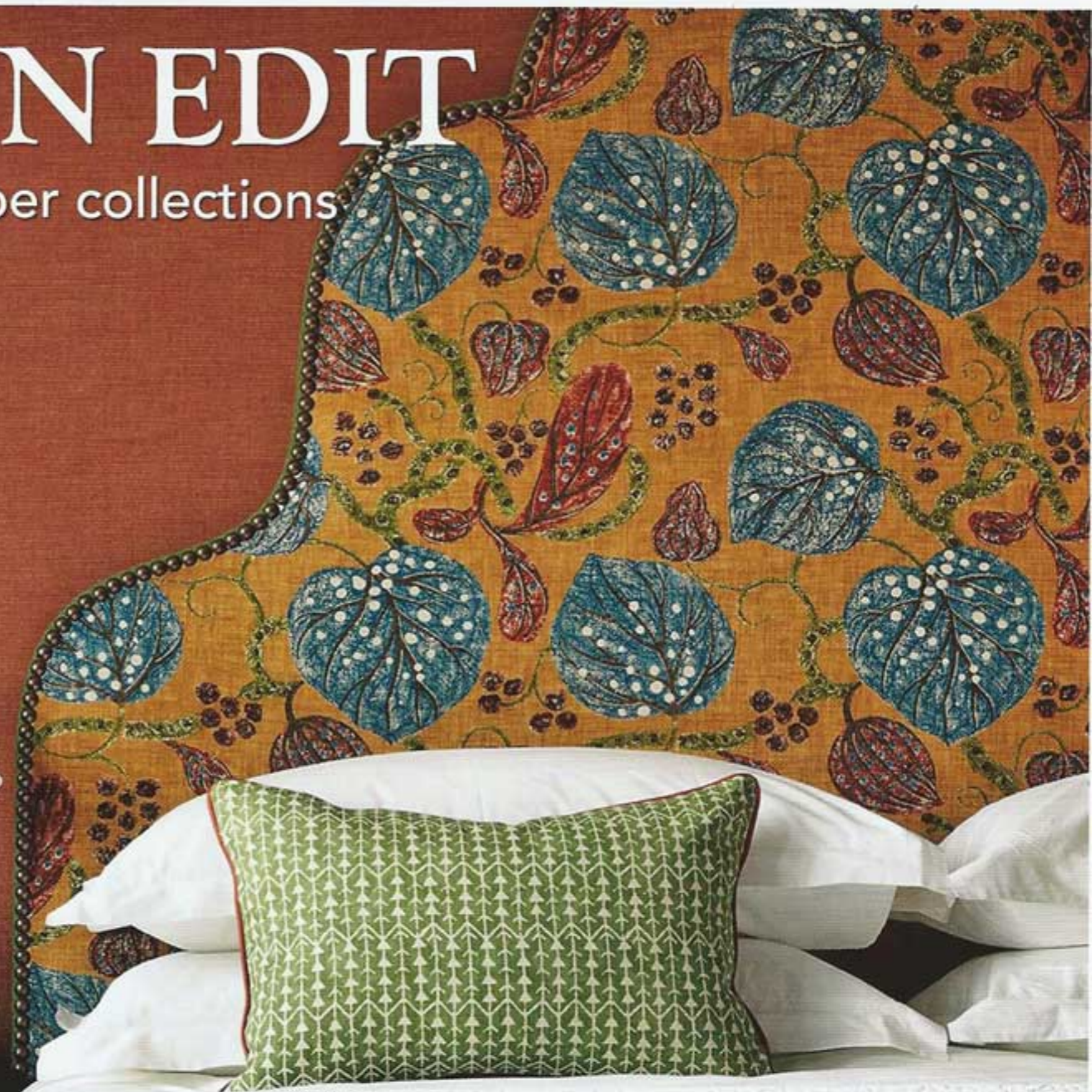
London townhouse

Hillside manor

Cotswolds country house

STYLE IMPACT

Inspiring ideas for
floors & ceilings



DOWNTON DARLING

Actress Kate Phillips
on her interiors style

Sophisticated spice tones

Smart schemes in paprika, nutmeg & turmeric





LEFT Stripes work well against a dark, rich background. Dimensions Plain Stripe in Twickenham, £46 a square metre, Brockway

BELOW Add character as well as practicality with wood flooring. Abbotswood

flooring (600mm x 600mm) in Generations Mellow finish, £126 panel / £350 a square metre, Generations

BOTTOM Bring emphasis to an area with a beautiful rug. Prado Pralet rug, from £399 (140cm x 200cm), Woven



Whilst flooring may be functional in essence, it need not nor should be dull. Pattern, form, colour and texture can all be used to draw the eye to look down and create underfoot decor as worthy of attention as any other element of a scheme.

“There are many different possibilities,” says interior designer Alidad. “Hard flooring can be the focus of attention with clever use of detailing – in past projects we have used faux painted inlay to do this, for example. As an alternative, you could use a rug on a hard floor to create a visual focus for the room.”

Intricate flooring can enhance a space and make it more harmonious, with individual detail created through facets such as inset borders or inlaid detailing elements within carpet, rugs, tiled floors and wooden flooring. The latter offers the potential to include a second material within the floor – perhaps metal, stone or leather. Inset monograms or motifs within a carpet, rug or in a tiled floor are further possibilities.

PATTERN OPPORTUNITY

Whichever flooring material is preferred, pattern can be created underfoot. A combination of stone tile formats might be chosen, contrasting laying patterns, or incorporating borders. Bespoke sizes can be brought into play, whilst the edge treatment of a stone is also part of the overall aesthetic; tumbled or chipped finishes give a timeworn effect, whereas a clean line can create a seamless ‘urban’ finish. ▶



“Style-wise, there are no limits on options except that repetition in a patterned floor is key. Non-symmetrical pattern would be considered abstract,” says Jason Cherrington, director of Lapidida. “Decorative stone floors have been a feature of beautiful homes and public spaces since ancient times, so from classical and neo-classical to art deco and contemporary, there is plenty of style inspiration to be found.”

The way in which a wood floor is laid can attract interest. “Even with plain boards there are decisions to be made over the orientation in the room, and the set out – from the centre of a hearth, for instance,” says Clive Lyons, design manager at Weldon. “With a bespoke floor, board widths can be varied to eliminate thin strips when the walls are reached. For more complexity, boards can be laid to create bold simple patterns.”

“More intricate still,” he continues, “are parquet floors, starting with traditional herringbone and chevron, then moving through any number of parquet panel designs. For the greatest complexity, borders can be introduced to the perimeter of the room and feature centrepieces or thresholds between rooms. If a design – either for a border, centerpiece or within a parquet panel – has curves, then this is referred to as marquetry.”

Tiling is a ready way to introduce pattern to flooring, and for floors that experience low footfall, hand-painted tiles could be laid. Douglas Watson Tiles can customise the designs in its handmade tile panels in terms of content, size, composition and colour. Leather in tile form contributes another way to create geometric pattern, and specialists such as Alma Floor and Element 7 offer bespoke services using the material.

WAYS WITH WOOL

If wool is preferred underfoot, carpet can bring individuality and intricacy to a room. “It is the weaving process that gives carpet the greatest potential for pattern and colour versatility,” says Rupert Anton of The Carpet Foundation. “Nowadays, woven carpet is largely made with up to eight colours, and in the case of Wilton, five.”

Both Brockway and Hugh Mackay Carpets can provide bespoke carpet for homes. The latter offers Design It, a bespoke service on patterned Axminster with a minimum order quantity of 20 square metres. A design selected from its collections may be coloured online, or a sketch submitted. Axminster Carpets has a service called Ready to Weave, within which a selection of patterned designs is available that can be made with up to eight colours from the 40 available. It is also possible to work with the design team at Axminster to commission a bespoke carpet.

Rugs offer further potential to create intricate pattern. “Wool is an integral part of most hand-knotted rugs and carpets woven from Anatolia to Tibet,” says Peter Ackroyd, chief operating officer at The Campaign For Wool. “Like silk, it adapts well to classic Islamic kilim-type designs. In the case of more contemporary designs in ‘tap knotted’ Nepalese and Tibetan-type rugs and carpets, wool is particularly suited to this type of medium tuft.” Leading showrooms and designers provide the opportunity to determine the scale, colours and shape of a particular rug, or a completely bespoke design may be commissioned. ▶

RIGHT Patterned tiles add zing in this pared-back kitchen design. *The Real Shaker kitchen, from £12,000, deVOL*

MIDDLE RIGHT Intricate patterns with different materials, including metal, can be achieved with wood.

Inlaid panels in wenge, brass, walnut and steel, price on application, bespoke from Havwoods

BOTTOM RIGHT Leather flooring has inherent heat-retaining and noise-reduction properties as well as improving with age. *Indiana black chevron leather flooring, £POA, Alma Floor*

FAR RIGHT This golden yellow carpet brings a joyous burst of colour to a bedroom decorated in muted hues. *Golden Effie, £89.99 a square metre, Brintons x Timorous Beasties*



