



# HOUSE & GARDEN®

JANUARY  
2023

HOUSES WITH  
COLOUR,  
PATTERN &  
PERSONALITY

*Plus*

WILD & WONDERFUL  
Knepp Castle's walled garden



# Good intentions

When CHRISTABEL CHUBB quizzed designers about their New Year resolutions, they revealed a wide range of creative objectives for 2023 – from capitalising on collaborations to making more use of shades of brown

ILLUSTRATION ALEXIS BRUCHON

## Rita König

[ritakonig.com](http://ritakonig.com)

I've taken up tapestry again and this year I'm planning to complete a chair. I started doing tapestry when I was 10 years old. I used to buy canvases from Tapisserie, which was then on Walton Street, SW3, next door to my mother's shop. My mother [Nina Campbell] and its owner, Hayat Palumbo, were great friends and Hayat taught me how to stitch. I am stitching canvases and also starting to use a lot of tapestry in my work. We've been working on a fender stool and upholstering the seat of an antique cockpen chair and a pair of stools with tapestry. I love adding this texture to a room. It is completely bespoke and any time I get the opportunity to find an alternative to buying new fabric by the metre I make the most of it. I think that is where you start to get the personal detail into a room.

## Clare Gaskin

[claregaskin.com](http://claregaskin.com)

We have recently discovered the work of the Dutch artist Dirk van der Kooij, who works with recycled plastic. Designing sustainably has become more important to the studio and I am going to try and incorporate something like his 'Melting Pot' table into a project this year.

## Emma Burns

[sibylcofax.com](http://sibylcofax.com)

I need to edit more. It's not that I'll ever be a minimalist, but I want less – and better. I love pink and brown together and I'm considering having new curtains made for my hallway, using glazed cocoa-brown linen with a dirty pink mohair border to the leading edge and base. I'm also excited to find a place for Peter Page's fantastic range of rugs and carpets.

## Duncan Campbell & Charlotte Rey

[campbell-rey.com](http://campbell-rey.com)

We don't want to give anything up – we don't believe in depriving ourselves without good reason. Obviously, what inspires us evolves over time. We would love to work with anyone under the Ateliers de France umbrella of heritage craft specialists. It's a treasure trove of possibilities for creating beautiful interiors through a network of ateliers. Rinck is one we have our eye on; it specialises in decorative woodwork, such as delicate burr-wood wall panels, which we would love to put into a project.

## Nina Litchfield

[ninalitchfieldstudios.com](http://ninalitchfieldstudios.com)

We are currently exploring browns. It was never a colour that I was drawn to, as I thought it could be too dark, but I have learned to love it and now want to explore all shades of it. I'm particularly keen on 'London Brown' and 'Etruscan Brown' from Edward Bulmer Natural Paint.

## Katharine Pooley

[katharinepooley.com](http://katharinepooley.com)

The preservation of nature is a focus for the studio this year. We'll be doing this by using specialist finishes that are more environmentally sustainable and have a local source. For example, the wonderful Simon Orrell creates straw marquetry inlays painstakingly by hand in his London atelier. I also want to use more wool. As an advocate for The Campaign for Wool, I've visited mills in Scotland, Ireland and England in the past year and am blown away by the manufacturing capability and creative vision on offer in companies like Anta. Wool drapes beautifully and has excellent environmental credentials.

## Max Rollitt

[maxrollitt.com](http://maxrollitt.com)

I spent my childhood painting and decorating for my mother using white gloss. It is overdue for a revival. Pure white has been neglected for too long by us so-called smart decorators, but it absolutely has its place – a sharp white on old painted surfaces can highlight age and texture beautifully. I would love to combine white with 'Putti' and 'Orange Aurora' from Little Greene Paint & Paper. We all have a rollover resolution, don't we? Mine will always be to give up the ordinary.

## Angus Buchanan

[buchanan.studio](http://buchanan.studio)

I predict a resurgence of the Seventies. Having recently fallen in love with glass bricks, we are planning to use more of them in 2023. They're not just robust, but they can also become a showpiece and are such a great way to be creative. We buy ours from Glass Blocks Direct.

## Flora Soames

[florasoames.com](http://florasoames.com)

I hope that this is going to be the year to embrace collaboration. In December, I married the ceramic artist Alexander Macdonald-Buchanan and we're going to try and do some work together. I'm sure he'd say there will be endless challenges, as I am so bossy, but I'm excited by the prospect. I'd also love to work with an artist friend of mine, Annabel Grey, on an interiors project – perhaps a mural. I want to try to always keep space free for opportunities like this on projects. The more that we give people the platform to exercise their creative abilities, the more successful the end result is. If I have to give something up for 2023, it would be paying attention to trends or fashion □

ALEXIS BRUCHON IS REPRESENTED BY ARTIST PARTNERS

