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# ELLE DECORATION

NOVEMBER 2024

## MODERN COMFORTS

CONTEMPORARY TAKES ON  
COSY DECORATING

TRAILBLAZING TIMBERS  
& MARQUETRY'S  
BIG MOMENT

ELLE DECORATION N°381 NOVEMBER 2024

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## The inspiration

Conceived by British designer and ELLE Decoration's founding Editor Ilse Crawford, the boutique Ett Hem guesthouse in Copenhagen is the perfect rebuttal to anyone thinking Scandinavian design isn't cosy. For Crawford, always in tune with addressing true human needs through her designs, the renovation of this former private residence, built in 1910, involved creating a series of rooms that make you feel instantly at ease when you walk into them. The layering of greens (from sage through to an almost tartly apple hue) with dark wood and leather feels like a marriage between the minimalism of Danish design and a sensibility that is slightly more akin to a modern take on the homely warmth of English country houses.



## The palette

**1** 'Agave' wallcovering in 'Olive', £67 per m, Arte ([arte-international.com](http://arte-international.com))  
**2** 'Performance Wool Satin' fabric in 'Olive', £149 per m, Zoffany ([zoffany.com](http://zoffany.com))  
**3** 'Mottled' square tile in '100 M4', £1,121 per sq m, Balineum ([balineum.co.uk](http://balineum.co.uk))  
**4** 'Jeff' fabric in 'Ebony', £150 per m, Larsen ([larsenfabrics.com](http://larsenfabrics.com))  
**5** '550 Silvax' porcelain, £520 per sq m, Caesarstone ([caesarstone.co.uk](http://caesarstone.co.uk))  
**6** 'Matches' wallpaper in 'Bitter Chocolate', £99 per m, Sarah Vanrenen ([sarahvanrenen.com](http://sarahvanrenen.com))  
**7** 'Utopie' fabric in '50462191', £58 per m, Casamance ([casamance.com](http://casamance.com))  
**8** 'Merino' velvet in 'Artichoke', £330 per m, De Le Cuona ([delecuona.com](http://delecuona.com))

**9** 'Venier' fabric in 'Tiglio', £187 per m, Rubelli ([rubelli.com](http://rubelli.com))  
**10** 'Bolt' hooks by Hay, £25 each, Twentytwentyone ([twentytwentyone.com](http://twentytwentyone.com))  
**11** 'Tesseract' fabric in 'Ivy', £120 per m, Kirkby Design ([kirkbydesign.com](http://kirkbydesign.com))  
**12** 'Una' cork flooring in 'Pale Sand', from £51.90 per sq m, Recork ([recork.co.uk](http://recork.co.uk))  
**13** 'Brush' fringe in 'Olivette', £67 per m, Temperley London x Romo ([romo.com](http://romo.com))  
**14** 'Minerve' fabric in 'Natural', £170 per m, Designers Guild ([designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com))  
**15** 'Casenove' wallcovering in 'Cypress', £903 per roll, Zinc Textile ([zinctextile.com](http://zinctextile.com))  
**16** 'Vladimiro' fabric in '012', T21038, £300 per m, Dedar ([dedar.com](http://dedar.com))



## The colour card

**1** 'Country Linen', £40 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson ([sanderson.com](http://sanderson.com))  
**2** 'Sutcliffe Green', £63 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball ([farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com))  
**3** 'Passionate Olive Green', £48 for 2 litres, YesColours ([yescolours.com](http://yescolours.com))  
**4** 'Muga', £60 for 2.5 litres, Paint & Paper Library ([paintandpaperlibrary.com](http://paintandpaperlibrary.com))  
**5** 'Yes Chef', £52 for 2.5 litres, Coat ([coatpaints.com](http://coatpaints.com))  
**6** 'Wild Olive', £51.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth ([firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com))  
**7** 'Green O6', £45 for 2.5 litres, Lick ([lick.com](http://lick.com))  
**8** 'Elyson Ground', £57.50 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene ([littlegreene.com](http://littlegreene.com))



# Threads laid bare

*Known by many as the 'Queen of linen', Bernie de Le Cuona is expanding the reach of her fabric house with her latest innovative move*

WORDS **FIONA MCCARTHY**

Bernie de Le Cuona's obsession with linen began in the early 1990s on a visit to Brussels, where she discovered the supple tactility of vintage Belgian tablecloths. It kick-started what has become a 30-plus-year journey for the South African-born, Windsor-based fabric designer, taking her around the world in search of the best-quality natural fibres, weaving mills and craftspeople, and garnering early fans such as fashion designer Ralph Lauren and interior designer Nicky Haslam.

'When I first started, what people wanted and needed was very different. I remember the days of very heavy interlined curtains and three tablecloths layered and draped to the floor over a round table,' she recalls. Her own instinct at the time for 'more relaxed, lived-in' spaces encouraged her to eschew what others were doing and forge her own pared-back, neutrally hued path. Through ►

Bernie de Le Cuona stands in front of a curtain made from 'Fossil', a fil coupé sheer in 'Shell' from the 'Cabinet of Curiosities' collection, £414 per m, De Le Cuona

trial and error, de Le Cuona has built a fabric house renowned for 'gutsy linen, couture silk, super-fine merino and the softest cashmere created with minimal impact on the environment' in 'quiet, comfortable' dusty and earthy shades reminiscent of her own bushveld roots.

Innovation has been key ever since the former interior architect turned 'queen of linen' first learned to hand weave on a trip to Bihar in India, where artisans working at home showed her how they hand loomed tussah silk. On returning to Europe, de Le Cuona sent flax to them to be woven into bolts of fabric, but it came off the loom 'as hard as a coir mat,' she remembers. Tasked with how to relax it, she drew inspiration from noticing on her trip how silk was being beaten over logs to soften it – instead of beating it by hand with a hammer, she experimented, creating a process of tumbling the fabric with golf balls until it had the same floppy, faded finish of the Belgian cloth she'd fallen in love with.

Now, with showrooms in London and New York, and a flagship store located at the heart of Pimlico Road, de Le Cuona has forged a reputation for always thinking outside the box. Some of the ►

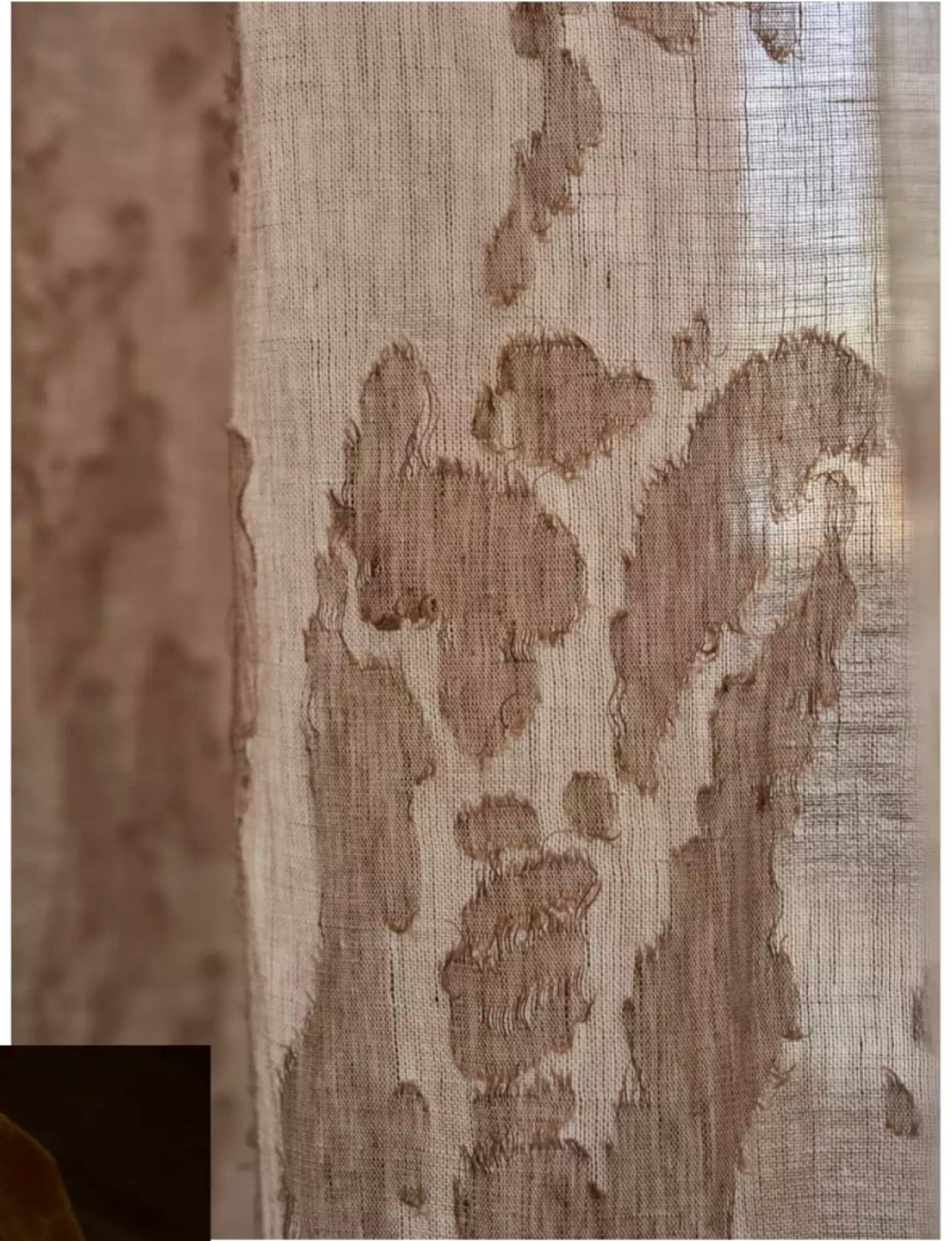
**'For me, it's about creating things of the highest quality that will grow with you and become treasures'**



**From top** Pile of De Le Cuona fabrics (from bottom): 'Cashmere Velvet' in 'Ruby', £450 per m; 'Speakeasy' heavy linen in 'Sidecar' and 'Bees Knees', both £225 per m; 'Cashmere Velvet' in 'Fire Opal', £450 per m; 'Bearcat' reversible bouclé in 'Greta', £300 per m; 'Old Hollywood' linen-mix in 'Flame', £190 per m. Living room featuring De Le Cuona fabrics, including 'Talisman' jacquard linen in 'Trinket' (curtains), £228 per m, and 'Chukka' linen in 'Tortoise' (sofa), £300 per m

brand's most unusual designs have become the brand's most successful, such as 'Artist Canvas', a densely woven linen painted on one side and then washed with pumice stones. 'People looked at me as if I was mad,' she recalls, 'but it is now the most popular fabric we have worldwide. It caught people's imagination.' Principal Royal Ballet dancers Edward Watson and Matthew Ball have modelled in various fabric campaigns; a Revitalise service was recently introduced, allowing customers to return old De Le Cuona fabrics, such as curtains, to be unpicked and refashioned into a bedspread, cushions or as upholstery for a chair or stool; and in 2020, her 'Pure' organic, chemical-free, socially and sustainably responsible linen was certified to the highest standards by the Global Organic Textile Standard, an industry first.

This season, De Le Cuona is launching 'Life', a collection of 'really unusual, crafted, beautiful things' sourced from around the world, taking the brand out of the home and into the world of things 'people can live with, wear and take travelling'. Crafted in ultra-fine cashmere, wild silk and softer-than-soft llama and alpaca wools, using 'colours of the earth, nature and the country that they come from', the range includes throws, ponchos, blankets and shawls. 'People want a bit of excitement. They want the unusual and to see us doing different things,' de Le Cuona says. 'For me, it's about creating things of the highest quality that will grow with you and become treasures.' [delecuona.com](http://delecuona.com) **ED**



**From top** 'Fossil' fil coupé sheer in 'Shell', £414 per m. Stack of De Le Cuona fabrics (left to right): 'Vienna Velvet' in 'Samba' and 'Mambo', £200 per m; 'Autumn Linen' in 'Pecan', £180 per m; 'Nara in Forest' in 'Maple', £250 per m; 'Vienna Velvet' in 'Hula', £200 per m

## The 'Life' collection

Highlights from De Le Cuona's new range for your wardrobe and home



- 1 'Ink Wash' cashmere scarf in 'Cream', £360
- 2 'Village Wool Throw' in 'Taupe', £654
- 3 'Samurai River Throw' in 'Moss', £774