

# COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

JULY 10, 2024

## The Experts' Experts 185 heroes the top designers rely on



Top dogs: politics of the village show  
Boar wars: what to do with our wild pigs  
Tea and cakes: the rise and rise of the sponge





## Pippa Paton EXPERTS

**Craftspeople** The simplicity and beauty of Charlotte

Storrs's ([www.charlottestorrs-stone-ware.co.uk](http://www.charlottestorrs-stone-ware.co.uk)) classic white tableware transforms the experience of presenting and enjoying food.

**Furniture** Matthew Cox ([www.matthewcox.com](http://www.matthewcox.com)) for his commitment to designing and making furniture that will be as beautiful in 100 years as it is today, encouraging people to buy materially and aesthetically sustainable furniture.

**Antique dealer** Anton & K. ([www.antonandk.co.uk](http://www.antonandk.co.uk)) for a carefully sourced understated yet elegant collection of 18th- to 20th-century Swedish and French antiques and distinctive decorative finds.

**Art dealer** Brian Sinfield ([www.briansinfield.com](http://www.briansinfield.com)) in Burford, Oxfordshire, is a great source of contemporary and traditional artists and sculptors, both widely acclaimed and emerging, many of them local.

**Unsung hero** Smart Movers ([www.smartmovers.co.uk](http://www.smartmovers.co.uk)), which we use for all our removals and installation of projects—it's a small family-run firm with all the 'white glove' sensibility required to install exceptional interiors.

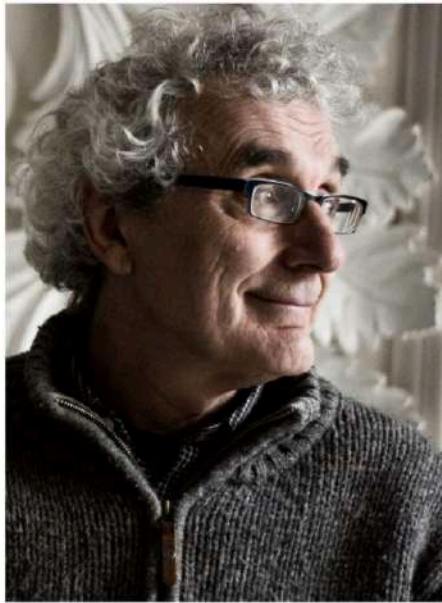
**Biggest inspiration** Axel Vervoordt's ([www.axel-vervoordt.com](http://www.axel-vervoordt.com)) belief in the purity and simplicity of *wabi-sabi* philosophy, celebrating the beauty of imperfection, inspires me in all the spaces I design.

### TRIED & TRUSTED

**Lighting** I love Herefordshire-based Hector Finch's ([www.hectorfinch.com](http://www.hectorfinch.com)) less-is-more approach to lighting.

**Textiles** De Le Cuona ([www.delecuona.com](http://www.delecuona.com)) produces original, yet understated fabrics with distinctive textures and a commitment to using natural fibres from sustainable sources.

**Paint** Paint & Paper Library's Salt ([www.paintandpaperlibrary.com](http://www.paintandpaperlibrary.com)) comes in graduated shades from I to V, offering the perfect off-white shade to provide a backdrop for artwork in any interior.



The ebullient plasterwork of Geoffrey Preston (left) is a favourite of Philip Hooper's



## Rita Konig EXPERTS

**Craftspeople** Tapisserie ([www.tapisserie.co.uk](http://www.tapisserie.co.uk)), for hand-painted needlepoint canvases and finishing. There's a moment when decorating a room that you realise that you don't need more fabrics. Instead, needlepoint on chairs, stools and fenders can look beautiful, especially in an unusual design.

‘She is like a professor of wooden floors—there's nothing she doesn't know’

**Furniture** I have recently collaborated with Oficina Inglesa ([www.oficinainglesa.com](http://www.oficinainglesa.com)) on a Bamboo vanity, taken from an antique design. The furniture is beautifully hand-made in Portugal.

**Antique dealer** Mytton Antiques, Shropshire ([www.myttonantiques.co.uk](http://www.myttonantiques.co.uk)), for traditional, useful pieces selected by an expert eye.

**Art dealer** Jenna Burlingham ([www.jennaburlingham.com](http://www.jennaburlingham.com)), for a wide range of art, beautifully framed.

### Unsung hero

Catherine Dru ([www.oakfloor.co.uk](http://www.oakfloor.co.uk)) is like a professor of wooden

floors—there's nothing she doesn't know. **Biggest inspiration** Bunny Mellon—not a designer, but a woman of great taste who decorated rooms with a soft, understated and inviting style.

### TRIED & TRUSTED

**Lighting** Anna Lari ([www.annalari.com](http://www.annalari.com)), for the Ambra lights that look modern, don't

take up too much space and, because they are made of brass, cast a warm glow.

**Textiles** Raoul Textiles ([www.raoultextiles.com](http://www.raoultextiles.com)), for hand-printed linen in delicate and modern colour palettes.

**Paint** Little Greene ([www.littlegreene.com](http://www.littlegreene.com)) Toad, which is like a bottom-of-the-pond sludge green. I like using black in architecture, but it can be hard, so this is a softer, almost-black alternative, which works particularly well on stairs and window frames.

## Jason Cherrington, Lapidica EXPERTS

**Craftspeople** I may be biased but my son, Milo, is a modern-day artisan who excels with our CNC machine. His expertise not only lies in operating the machine, but also in teaching manufacturers how to maximise its potential. His skill and innovative approach consistently pushes the boundary of what was thought possible with this new technology.

**Antique dealer** We have both worked for, and bought from, Tomasso Brothers ([www.tomasso.art](http://www.tomasso.art))—their knowledge is incredible.

**Art dealer** Gallery Fumi ([www.galleryfumi.com](http://www.galleryfumi.com)) because of the exciting artists it represents.

**Unsung hero** Mother Nature can be forgotten in this high-tech porcelain era. Then you see a beautiful slab of marble from Italy arriving at our warehouse and that reminds you of her work.

**Biggest inspiration** Andrea Palladio—we love arches!

### TRIED & TRUSTED

**Lighting** We have worked successfully with Sally Storey of John Cullen Lighting ([www.johncullenlighting.com](http://www.johncullenlighting.com)) and Thomas Holgeth of Influx Lighting ([www.influx-lighting.co.uk](http://www.influx-lighting.co.uk)). Both help create beautiful showrooms. →



Matthew Cox's Fotheringhay table, typical of his timeless designs, admired by Pippa Paton

