



Wallpaper for Brighton Pavillion by conservator, consultant and designer Allyson McDermott, hailed by Giles Quarme and Natasha Brown

Art dealer Philip Mould (www.philipmould.com) has an impressive knack for finding ‘sleepers’ in the art market.

Unsung hero Adrian Palmer (www.palmersfoakham.co.uk) is the builder who undertook the work at new house Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire, with our team. He’s the best builder we know—dedicated and committed.

Biggest inspiration Raymond Erith was an architect with a profound knowledge of traditional and historic design, which he combined with modernity. The architect and structural engineer Frei Otto was a genius who linked architecture and engineering in the most magical, creative manner.

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Lighting Nicky Burrige (www.nbll.co.uk) listens carefully to clients’ requirements, either working with one-off commissioned pieces or finding some incredible lights.

Wallpaper Allyson McDermott (www.allysonmcdermott.com) is the leading authority on specialist wallpaper and conservation of wall coverings and someone who inspires

with her skills and abundance of knowledge. **Paint** Traditional limewash is a soft warm white that works in the UK.

**Jonathan Dinnewell,
 Smallwood Architects**

EXPERTS

Craftspeople James Elliott (www.jameselliott.co.uk), the stonemason who created the rather wonderful new tomb of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral.

Furniture The Danish cabinetmaker Garde Hvalsøe (www.gardehvalsoe.dk) has a dedication to quality craftsmanship, durability and sustainability that permeates all the company’s work.

Antique dealer Gordon Watson (www.gordonwatson.co.uk) sells the best of 20th-century furniture and lighting.

Art dealer Fraser Scott of A Gallery (www.agallery.uk) sees ahead of the curve.

Unsung hero My mother, for so many reasons. **Biggest inspiration** Nicholas Hawksmoor, the shadowy, but influential colleague of both

Wren and Vanbrugh, whose London churches are a triumph of skill and imagination.

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Lighting Skinflint (www.skinflintdesign.com) refurbishes old lights. It has lights from Fawley Power Station and we have lamps from Poland, as well as bulkhead fittings from a German cargo boat over our Aga.

Textiles The designer and weaver Eleanor Pritchard (www.eleanorpritchard.com) makes thoughtful and sophisticated blanket designs that speak of the modern, but are rooted in the vernacular.

Paint Sanderson’s Dusky White and Oyster White Light (<https://sanderson.sandersondesigngroup.com>) which, used together, allow the architecture of a room to shine.

Marian Boswall

EXPERTS

Craftspeople Sculptor and furnituremaker Alison Crowther (www.alisoncrowther.com) makes exquisite, timeless pieces in natural materials on a scale that suits our gardens. →



Marian Boswall is inspired by the joyful block prints created by Molly Mahon (above)

Furniture Sebastian and Brogan Cox (www.sebastiancox.co.uk) are mould breakers, brilliant sustainable designers and deeply lovely people.

Antique dealer Lorfords Antiques, Gloucestershire (www.lorfordsantiques.com)—always a treasure trove, outdoors as well as in.

Art dealer Angela Nevill of Nevill Keating (www.nevillkeating.com) is courageous and kind, with a perfectly honed eye.

Unsung hero Michael Kennard (www.compostclub.online)—community compost collector to living soil creator extraordinaire.

Biggest inspiration Architect Geoffrey Bawa—impeccable and romantic.

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Lighting Rebecca Weir at Light IQ (www.lightiq.com) is at the top of her game.

Textiles and wallpapers Molly Mahon (www.mollymahon.com) for joyful, hand-blocked prints.

Plant nursery Hillier (www.hillier.co.uk) for beautiful UK-grown trees.

Paint Hazelrigg lime mortar for outside (www.lime-mortars.co.uk).

Graham Lloyd-Brunt
EXPERTS

Furniture Outside, Kettal (www.kettal.com) from Barcelona in Spain offers original and fun designs for garden furniture. Inside, I use George Smith upholstery (www.georgesmith.com), which is made in Newcastle and lasts for decades.

Antique dealer Yola Gray (www.yolagray.co.uk) in Cheshire has found interesting Art Deco furniture for our homes in Kent and Scotland.

Art dealer The Redfern (www.redfern-gallery.com) and The Nine British Art (<https://theninebritishart.co.uk>) represent a wide range of clever contemporary artists, including Sarah Chatto, Ffiona Lewis and Leigh Davis.

Unsung hero Landscapers and gardeners who help gardens thrive are generally underpraised for their exhausting work whatever the weather.

Biggest inspiration Lutyens's strong, detailed and balanced hardscaping in his garden layouts and Russell Page's confident planting that always identified the right plant for the right place.

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Lighting Simes (www.simes.it) from Italy for landscapes and Porta Romana (www.portaromana.com) from Surrey for interiors; both offer quality products that can be used subtly to fit well in their wider environment.

Textiles Holland & Sherry (www.hollandandsherry.com) for Chilean wool herringbones and Dedar (www.dedar.com) for Italian plain velvets.

Plant nursery Cayeux (www.iris-cayeux.com) in the Loire, France, for irises; David Austin (www.davidaustrinroses.co.uk) in Shropshire for roses; de Jager (www.dejager.co.uk) in Kent for bulbs; Chichester Trees & Shrubs (www.ctsplants.com) in Hampshire for perennials and small shrubs; Architectural Plants (www.architecturalplants.com) in Sussex for some interesting and unusual larger shrubs; I could go on...

Paint Grey is a very handy colour to use in the landscape when looking to temper down woodwork. French Gray from Farrow & Ball (www.farrow-ball.com) has a greenish tint and Slate Grey RAL7015 is a mid grey—both are forgiving colours.

Jinny Blom
EXPERTS

Craftspeople Jan Hendzel (www.janhendzel.com) is a furniturermaker and a real force of nature. He and his studio are in the vanguard of contemporary work. His skill and imagination at using wood, often foraged from scrap or cut from English woodland, is as boundless as his excitement at finding new ways of treating it. His furniture is sculptural and stimulating, as well as being highly practical and immensely tactile, and he's an absolute joy to work with.

Furniture No one makes outdoor furniture as well as John Danzer, owner of the American outdoor-furniture company Munder Skiles (www.munder-skiles.com). He researches and prototypes everything until he is absolutely happy with it. The result is an exceptional collection of aesthetically unusual and interesting accoutrements for the garden.

Antique dealer Andrew McDonagh and Andreas Schmid of Schmid McDonagh (@schmidmcdonagh) have unerring eyes for unusual *objets d'art* and antiques. My first purchase was a small Modernist sculpture of a bull, made from lead. I've never looked back. →



Marian Boswall salutes mould-breaking furniture designers Sebastian and Brogan Cox

Nikki Chee, Artorius Faber

EXPERTS

Craftspeople Philip Gaches of Gaches Plastering (www.gachesplastering.co.uk) for highly skilled work in historic buildings.

Furniture Mathew Bray and Matthew Collins (www.mathewbrayandmatthewcollins.co.uk)—they specialise in decorative arts and furniture with beautiful finishes.

Biggest inspiration Edwin Lutyens for his unique approach to architecture, his often playful attitude to country-house design. The way the character of materials inspired his designs has, in turn, inspired the way we work.

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Lighting John Cullen Lighting (www.johncullenlighting.com)—good lighting can

enhance the beauty of our natural stones.

Textiles I love Fermoie's (www.fermoie.com) craft-led approach to design and manufacture.

Plant nursery Blackmore and Langdon's (www.blackmore-langdon.com) sells wonderful delphiniums.

Paint Farrow & Ball Skimming Stone (www.farrow-ball.com) is the perfect backdrop to a wide variety of our stones.

Andrew Inchley, Yiangou

EXPERTS

Craftspeople Whether replicating an existing profile or creating all-new details, the traditional decorative lime plasterwork of F. E. Stacey & Co (www.festacey.co.uk) is always of the highest quality.

Furniture We often find ourselves looking for one-off pieces or buying at auction; however, a company we often turn to is Chelsea Textiles (www.chelseatextiles.com). It offers far more than its name suggests.

Biggest inspiration We are inspired by a variety of sources, but the architect from whom we take the greatest inspiration is Lutyens, who referenced and adapted traditional architecture so that it was relevant to his age.

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Lighting For lighting that is classic and enduring, we tend to use The Limehouse Lamp Company (www.limehouselighting.co.uk) or Jim Lawrence (www.jim-lawrence.co.uk). If the brief calls for something →



Marian Boswall would be happy to while away the hours on the Jupiter Bench at Glyndebourne, East Sussex, carved by Alison Crowther

Wallpapers I have always admired de Gournay's hand-painted wallpaper (www.degournay.com) and Iksel's (www.iksel.com) designs are fantastic.

Plant nursery Close to home is Daleside Nurseries (www.dalesidenurseries.co.uk) in Killinghall, Harrogate—for anything that's on offer. I'm a Yorkshireman, don't forget! And Olivos Ornamentales (www.olivosornamentales.com) in Seville, Spain, for all your olive-tree requirements.

Paint Stony Ground by Farrow & Ball (www.farrow-ball.com)—half of our Harrogate showroom was painted in it 17 years ago and it still looks great.

Russell Taylor EXPERTS

Craftspeople London Stone Carving (www.londonstonecarving.com) is a young firm of talented stonemasons who can do everything from a simple repair to brilliant carving. Recently, they carved statues of Victoria and Albert for the Albert Hall. Also Philip Gaches (www.gachesplastering.co.uk), who knows everything about Jacobean plasterwork and produces beautiful work in that style.

Furniture As architects, most of the furniture we specify is for kitchens and Plain English (www.plainenglishdesign.co.uk) is hard to beat. I also enjoy the furniture created by Fornasetti in the 1950s and Retroart (www.retroart.co.uk) offers refurbished vintage items restyled in that spirit.

Antique dealer Lassco (www.lassco.co.uk) has a huge range of architectural salvage and all kinds of curiosities.

Unsung hero Keystone Historic Buildings Consultants (www.keystone-historic-buildings.com) offers the most thorough, authoritative historical analysis of a building, which is

essential for obtaining Listed Building Consent. Also MH Costa Construction (www.mhcostaconstruction.co.uk), probably the most versatile and most broadly skilled contractor in London. Its people always look for solutions, not problems.

Biggest inspiration Ninian Comper, one of the last great Gothic Revival architects.

‘Its people always
 look for solutions,
 not problems’

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Lighting O'Keeffe Antiques (www.okeeffeantiques.co.uk) for a great selection of antique chandeliers and lanterns.

Textiles and wallpapers Guy Goodfellow (www.guygoodfellowcollection.com) has designs that are inspired by antique documents and fabrics.

Plant nursery I love Petersham Nurseries, Richmond, London TW10 (www.petershamnurseries.com), and I would most likely eat in the excellent restaurant.

Paint I don't like to restrict myself, but my most usable favourites include Chappell Green by Farrow & Ball (www.farrow-ball.com), Lamp Black and Portland Stone by Little Greene (www.littlegreene.com) and Great Hall Colours by Papers and Paints (www.papersandpaints.co.uk).

Nigel Armstrong, R. W. Armstrong EXPERTS

Craftspeople Emma Sheridan (@emma.sheridan2000) is a hugely talented stone carver and QEST (Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust) scholar. She has produced some

outstanding and distinctive work for us—she is a true rarity in these days of automation and mechanisation.

Art dealer Jenna Burlingham (www.jennaburlingham.com) specialises in 20th-century British and contemporary works. The gallery is set in a delightful series of furnished rooms and studios in the small village of Kingsclere at the foot of Watership Down in Hampshire and there is a welcoming environment in which to browse and receive expert, friendly advice.

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Lighting We have used products by John Cullen Lighting (www.johncullenlighting.com) for decades and they have stood the test of time. We have enjoyed a long relationship with director Sally Storey and worked collaboratively on many projects.

Textiles and wallpapers I particularly admire Lulu Lytle and what she has achieved with Soane Britain (www.soane.com), set up to design and make furniture, lighting, fabrics and wallpapers using exclusively British craftspeople. We often use Soane wallpapers, which sit perfectly in the country houses we build.

Plant nursery We go to Toby Collyer at Everton Nurseries (www.evertonnurseries.co.uk) in Lymington, Hampshire, for many of our plants. It is a well-run family business, established in 1922, with old-fashioned values and bags of knowledge.

Paint Rose of Jericho (www.roseofjericho.co.uk) has recently developed a chalk wash paint: Lavaggio gesso. It is entirely natural and provides a semi-opaque finish, which can be readily applied to modern surfaces. It looks wonderful in Brick Red or Eau de Nil, being slightly paler and more tonal than other paint types. 🍷