



ARTFULNESS – ATELIER (*Decorative Applied Arts*)

What makes the difference between a charming, yet forgettable, room and one that envelops you, transports you, and remains with you for years afterwards? In my view, it is almost always specialist decoration. Beyond paper and paint there lies a seemingly limitless world of possibilities, one in which artisan craftsmen combine a mesmerising array of skills and materials to produce unique wall finishes for interior spaces. The colours, textures and designs offered by Atelier, one of the leading studios in London, are ravishing to behold and enchanting in execution. Even the names of the finishes conjure rare visions: cracked gesso, pearlescent lacquer, stucco porphyry. Beg – don't ask – your interior designer to tell you more. ATELIER www.atelier-arts.com (*Trade only*)



THE HEIGHT OF DIPLOMACY

INASMUCH AS diplomacy is all about exercising skill and tact in one's personal dealings, it could be said that creating an environment most conducive for such interactions is half the battle won. After all, when was one last rewarded with generous plaudits for hosting a social function beleaguered by a draughty reception, uncomfortable furniture or inelegant hospitality?

With London's thriving annual Design Week upon us, *Diplomat* has invited Julian Land to give us his definitive guide to sources of fine decorative touches, some classic and some brand new, that will inspire you to create interiors that reflect your outward intentions. Embrace the ethic of reciprocity – 'Do as you would be done by' – and hopefully no-one need ever suffer the indignity of bad lighting again...



CRAFT – MANNERS & CO (*Bespoke Furniture, Panelling and Flooring*)

England has a rich history of craftsmanship and interior style dating back hundreds of years, which any newcomer to London can hardly fail to ignore. More often than not, one finds evidence of this design legacy in central London residences – perhaps even in the room where you now read this article. And while the modern vogue for placing contemporary furniture within period spaces

remains appealing, classic English style continues to thrive and is exported all over the world. Proof positive of this is Manners & Co, which in its Shropshire workshop uses a variety of English woods and other decorative materials to produce bespoke furniture, panelling (for libraries, gun rooms, etc) and inlaid flooring. Commission some living history today.

MANNERS & CO

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**SUBTLETY –
BARNEBY GATES**

(Wallpaper)

Wallpaper gets a bad rap in certain circles. Used metaphorically, the term can mean something all-pervasive, repetitive or cloying. Wallpaper is intrinsically unable to adapt to the speed and mutability with which we now consume music, fashion, or visual culture. But then again, isn't that something to celebrate? Barneby Gates certainly think so. Brand new on the scene, and launching their range of idiosyncratically English wallpapers this autumn, design duo Vanessa Barneby and Alice Gates have between them created designs that shamelessly hark back to a slower, more aristocratic era – albeit with a wry humour, heartfelt nostalgia and a very modern wink of sass. Such playful colours and designs transform modern and period interiors alike, and prove evocative, entertaining and memorable. 'No wallpaper' no more!

BARNEBY GATES

www.barnebygates.com



**DELICACY –
TISSUS D'HELENE** *(Fabric)*

There's fabric, and then there's Tissus d'Helene. Tucked away in Chelsea Harbour, Helen Cormack's fabric emporium is a seriously exciting discovery among the embarrassment of riches offered by London's interior design industry. Specialising in artisanal fabrics from England, France, Belgium, Italy, America and South Africa, Tissus d'Helene rewards its clients with a synaesthesia

of silks, linens, prints and velvets – all in unspeakably beautiful colours and designs. Furthermore, given the close working relationship that Helen enjoys with her many suppliers, customisation is always a possibility. Her boutique, in my opinion, is the sine qua non of any design project. Run, don't walk.

TISSUS D'HELENE LTD

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POISE – VALERIE WADE
(Lighting and Antiques)

'If you're not lighting any candles, don't complain about the dark' – Anon. A similar nugget I offer clients is, 'If you choose not to install dimmer switches, then don't come complaining to me about headaches.' In short, lighting can make or break an interior. Valerie Wade knows this, and as a result she has built a formidable reputation as a purveyor of some of the most beautiful lighting, whether modern or antique, in London. A tireless magpie, Valerie travels year in, year out in search of pieces that have the mercurial power to transform dull, formless space into sensuous, convivial surroundings. She also sells stunning Murano glass, twentieth century furniture and killer gifts. Her store is an institution to those in the know: consider yourself informed.

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FINESSE – FORT STREET STUDIO *(Rugs and Carpets)*

For those who claim that magic does not exist, when it comes to rugs I truly beg to differ. The Fort Street Studio in New York is the gold standard as far as hand-woven silk rugs are concerned. The design team of Janis Provisor and Brad Davis – who having extensively researched their craft in China over 20 years – work exclusively in raw wild silk. Their designs are subtle and painterly, their rugs voluptuous and seductive, and the overall effect is one of sophisticated modern. As far as these rugs' flying capabilities are concerned, I would not like to commit myself; but as a voyage for the senses I would choose one over a private jet any day.

FORT STREET STUDIO Supplied in UK by Sinclair Till 791-793

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