

# The ENGLISH HOME

*Celebrating the essence of English style*

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## ENDURING STYLE

A special curation of the most timeless interior ideas

Revamp, rescale, refine  
Ingenious alterations to bring  
new life to every room

### Decorating insights

- Successful colour combinations
- Vintage flavours
- Prettiest toile fabrics

*Oasis of calm*

from climber-clad retreat to Regency-inspired manor





# *Revamp,* RESCALE & REDEFINE

Rather than make furniture, furnishings or even features redundant when redecorating, consider these clever insights from the design experts to reimagine and adapt pieces to give them a new lease of life.



### PATINA OF HISTORY

**Maurizio Pellizzoni | MPD London**

Pellizzoni has adapted many pieces of furniture in this client's home. He explains that the chairs below were upholstered in dark leather with a lighter wood finish. "We stained them darker to match the dining table, used a lighter leather for the seat and a fabric on

the back that matched the dining chairs, walls and curtains – all of which have a touch of shimmer to create a luxury feel. This was not cheap to do but the value is gained by the client being able to enjoy them rather than getting rid of them. I think it is important to use a client's pieces to incorporate history and personality, avoiding a 'show home' finish."



### LIGHTEN UP

**Emily Todhunter**

It was a feature that Emily Todhunter transformed at The Dormy House Hotel.

She found the original beams

in this suite too dominant: "They were hideous!" she says. "They were black, pub-style beams and I wanted to lighten the whole room." She painted the entire room in Natural Calico from Dulux before utilising grey shades to retain the beams as a feature, albeit much softer. "Don't be scared to do this [unless prohibited by your listing], just trust your instincts. It looks much better now and the room feels much less oppressive."



### A NEW LEASE OF LIFE

**Victoria Meale**

Interior designer Victoria Meale advocates using special pieces accumulated over time or in need of restoration as part of her ethos to decorate sustainably. "I encourage clients to invest in special pieces of furniture for their homes. Whether antique or handcrafted in the UK, these pieces are going to travel with them throughout their lives from one house to another and eventually be passed on as heirlooms. Thus they are sustainable by nature. Rather than trying to hide inherited pieces in the background or relegating them to the spare room, I always encourage clients to bring them centre stage. It is often these pieces that make an interior special as opposed to looking like oddments that do not go with a new interior – something which I hear clients say all the time. It is rare to find a truly ugly piece of handcrafted furniture, it is often just the application or previous use which makes the piece unattractive. It is how a piece is treated, presented, positioned and the company it keeps that matters and makes the interior a success or not.

"The antique drop arm sofa (above) is a piece which I myself 'reluctantly' acquired! It was in a terrible state. Upholstered in threadbare orange damask, it looked so sad and dated. I chose to have it stripped back and reupholstered in a 100 per cent natural linen with a washed out damask pattern, giving a nod to its past but ensuring it made a fresh addition and breathed some character into my calming, relaxed sitting room."

FEATURE: KATIE NICLEAN | PHOTOGRAPHS: CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: IMAGE OF UPHOLSTERED CHAIRS: JANE FITZJONES; UPHOLSTERED SOFA: NICK SMITH; ATTIC ROOM: RYAN MAIN

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