



# COUNTRY LIFE'S secret address book

You've just bought a country house and now you're faced with the business of restoring and enhancing it—and possibly knocking it down and starting all over again. Or perhaps you've decided that the house you're in isn't fulfilling its potential. Who are you going to call? COUNTRY LIFE gives you the top 100 architects, interior designers, builders and garden designers who have the knowledge and experience to create the rural retreat of your dreams

Compiled by Arabella Youens

thetic that often includes both antiques and modern furniture and, most importantly, comfort for the client'

**We say** 'Understated and elegant designers used to decorating houses all over the world' 020-7730 9072; [mhzlondon.com](http://mhzlondon.com)

#### **Nina Campbell**

The grande dame of interior designers, who's known for her wit and sense of style, as well as her extensive range of fabrics and wallpapers. One of her first commissions when she started out was to decorate Annabel's nightclub.

**They say** 'Her designs appeal to both young and old and sit well in both contemporary and traditional interiors'

**We say** 'Confident use of colour and pattern, all underpinned with comfort' 020-7225 1011; <http://ninacampbellinteriors.com>

#### **Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam**

Contemporary designers who favour glossy surfaces, good art and lavish materials with a clientele based across the world's most influential cities.

**They say** 'Although initially grounded in the principles of English design, the arrival of Paolo Moschino and Philip Vergeylen brought a Continental flair to the company'

**We say** 'A sophisticated and expensive look that translates just as well in a London penthouse as it does in an old rectory' 020-7730 8623; [www.nicholashaslam.com](http://www.nicholashaslam.com)

#### **Penny Morrison**

South African by birth, Penny isn't bound by English tradition and her trademark eclectic look layers old and new, resulting in an uncer-

monious and welcoming finish.

**They say** 'I use a mix of antique and modern furniture to create an interesting atmosphere while focusing on comfort'

**We say** 'Imaginatively incorporates existing possessions into new schemes and has her own range of fabrics' 01547 560460; [www.pennymorrison.com](http://www.pennymorrison.com)

#### **Piers von Westenholz**

A former Olympic skier who enjoys a reputation as one of Britain's more respected antique dealers, he's worked with many decorating luminaries, including David Mlinaric and Robert Kime, and specialises in sourcing antiques for large country houses.

**They say** 'Simplicity and comfort are my watchwords'

**We say** 'The perfect choice for anyone who respects books and antiques' 01279 842545; [www.westenholz.co.uk](http://www.westenholz.co.uk)

#### **Pippa Paton**

With a fleet of clients in the Cotswolds—including owners of cottages, barn conversions and Grade II-listed manor houses—Oxfordshire-based Pippa has built up a reputation for her cool-headed, functional yet eclectic designs.

**They say** 'With a real emphasis on precision and creative detail, the multidisciplinary team creates beautiful and inspiring contemporary homes that people love to live in'

**We say** 'Perfect for anyone looking for a clean and contemporary country-house look' 01865 595470; [www.pippapatondesign.co.uk](http://www.pippapatondesign.co.uk)

#### **Rivière Interiors**

With backgrounds in the decorative arts,

Robert and Josyane Young are known for their ability to juxtapose traditional and contemporary materials and accents.

**They say** 'A completed project ideally displays a sensitivity for existing architecture, an understanding of space, a confident touch with colour and texture, a certain individual originality and honours the client's brief'

**We say** 'One of a reliable band of dealer-decorators who source beautiful antiques and know how to use them' 020-7228 7847; [www.robertyoungantiques.com](http://www.robertyoungantiques.com)

#### **Rita König**

The journalist turned interior designer has a large, London-based studio working on residential and commercial properties where she introduces her signature look of English with a hint of eccentricity mixed in.

**They say** 'A home is made up of layers that you've accumulated at different stages and have meaning'

**We say** 'Adept at mixing old and new with relaxed and unpretentious results' 020-3735 7280; <http://ritakonig.com>

#### **Robert Kime**

A man with unimpeachable taste, who brings antique dealing, textile collecting and an abiding passion for putting rooms together with great effect. He has worked on both Highgrove and Clarence House. (No relation to our very own Interiors Editor.)

**They say** 'His interiors appear to have evolved over time, combining a relaxed mood with antiques, vintage textiles and quirky pieces'

**We say** 'For a beautiful and layered country-house look, you can't go wrong' 020-7831 6066; [www.robertkime.com](http://www.robertkime.com)

#### **Rose Uniacke**

Once a name known only to those with their ear to the decorating ground, she now has the soubriquet of being 'the Beckhams' interior designer'—we think that shows they've got good taste.

**They say** 'Interiors matter: they change the things we do and the way we do them. That's why Rose works as hard as she does to design harmonious interiors that are at once reassuring and uplifting'

**We say** 'Pared-back elegance is her *leitmotiv*. No room is ever over-furnished' 020-7730 7050; <http://roseuniacke.com>

#### **Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler**

Founded in the 1930s, this is one of the most long-established interior decorating firms in Britain with a worldwide reputation. Work spans notable country houses, city apartments, ranches and tropical beach houses. The business has moved to new premises on Pimlico Road.

**They say** 'The eight designers have more than 150 years of collective experience'



Simon McBride

Easy elegance is the key to Emma Sims Hilditch's contemporary country style