

COUNTRY LIFE®

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EVERY WEEK

Red is the new black

The glory of the fox-red labrador



Who you need to know
Britain's top 100 architects and designers



The COUNTRY LIFE Top 100

The secret to creating a beautiful country house is an expert with the experience, skills and creativity to turn a client's dreams into reality. For the third year, COUNTRY LIFE has compiled a list of interior designers, architects, garden designers, builders and specialists with demonstrable track records in creating the perfect rural sanctuary

In partnership with **DRUMMONDS**

THE business of breathing new life into a country house—or building one from scratch—requires a deep well of experience. That's why the members of COUNTRY LIFE's editorial team have combined their knowledge to create an updated list of the most respected practitioners in the field. It isn't exhaustive; there will be plenty of others, but those

included are representative examples of people whose work and reputation suggests they should be considered for large-scale country-house projects.

Because a key ingredient in any successful creative project is collaboration, this year's list is accompanied by advice in commissioning a designer, builder or crafts-person. There's also a guide to being a good

client, a skill that combines good communication, trust and chemistry. All three will ensure that everyone involved in a project, from architect and interior designer, to builder and garden designer, will share the same vision of its potential. ➤

This design by Artichoke was inspired by the kitchen at Lanhydrock in Cornwall

classic interiors with a twist. Their portfolio of projects is wide, from family homes to ski chalets to private member's clubs.
020-7967 7777; www.salvesengraham.com

Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler

Founded in the 1930s, this iconic company is said to be the longest-established interior-decorating firm in Britain. Its move from Brook Street to the Pimlico Road in 2017 has attracted a new audience and, today, its strength is the breadth of talent and expertise offered by its designers Wendy Nicholls, Emma Burns, Philip Hooper, Roger Jones, Nicola Crawley, Janie Money, Daniel Slowik and Lucy Hammond Giles.
020-7493 2231; www.sibylcofax.com

Sims Hilditch

Emma Sims-Hilditch specialises in dragging houses into the 21st century with her fresh take on English country style. She's particularly strong on creating comfortable and elegant spaces that work well for family life—from pool houses to utility rooms—and is recognised for bringing urban quality to the countryside.
01249 783087; www.simshilditch.com

Susie Atkinson

Susie Atkinson cut her teeth on interiors for the Soho House group, before bringing her contemporary look and sense of understated luxury to residential projects. Recently, she has completed rooms for Lime Wood and

Beaverbrook House hotels and has also launched her own range of furniture.
020-7384 0700; www.susieatkinson.com

Thorp

Clean, classic style for high-rolling clients is the strength of this well-regarded firm. Headed by founder Philippa Thorp, the company offers full interior design, architecture and landscaping services, drawing on its impressive experience across residential, yacht, plane and chalet projects.
020-7235 7808; www.thorp.co.uk

‘The system in this country means your ideas need to be clear by the time you go to planning’

Todhunter Earle Interiors

Emily Todhunter and Kate Earle are known for classic interiors with a contemporary edge. Currently working on the interiors for a roster of major new-build country houses with some of Britain's leading architects, they have also reworked the layouts at Reddish House, owned by Cecil Beaton, and are renovating the Arts-and-Crafts gem Rodmarton Manor.
020-7349 9999; www.todhunterearle.com

Veere Grenney Associates

Known for his highly creative approach and the ability to combine contemporary pieces in historic settings, Veere Grenney conceives interiors with a discreetly luxurious feel. He has a fabric and wallpaper collection, which showcases his love of elegant pattern in subtle hues, and recently published a new book: *A Point of View: On Decorating*.
020-7351 7170; www.veeregrenney.com

Virginia Howard

Clients head to Virginia Howard for smartly tailored interiors with a traditional feel. She is at home with both town and country projects, including refurbishments of listed buildings.
020-7349 8180; www.virginiahoward.co.uk

VSP Interiors

Dorset-based Henriette von Stockhausen is known for designing large family houses in a classic, colourfully eclectic style, and is a dab hand at balancing the restrictions of listed properties with the demands of modern life.
01305 265892; www.vspinteriors.com

Wilkinson Beven

Led by founders Richard Wilkinson and John Beven, this firm offers a full interior-architecture and design service from its offices in Birmingham and London. It is particularly strong on Alpine chalets and homes with luxury features, such as indoor pools and spas.
0121-622 7366; www.wilkinsonbeven.com



Colin Orchard collaborated with the artist and muralist Lucinda Oakes on the Trellis Room at Ballyfin in Co Laois, Ireland