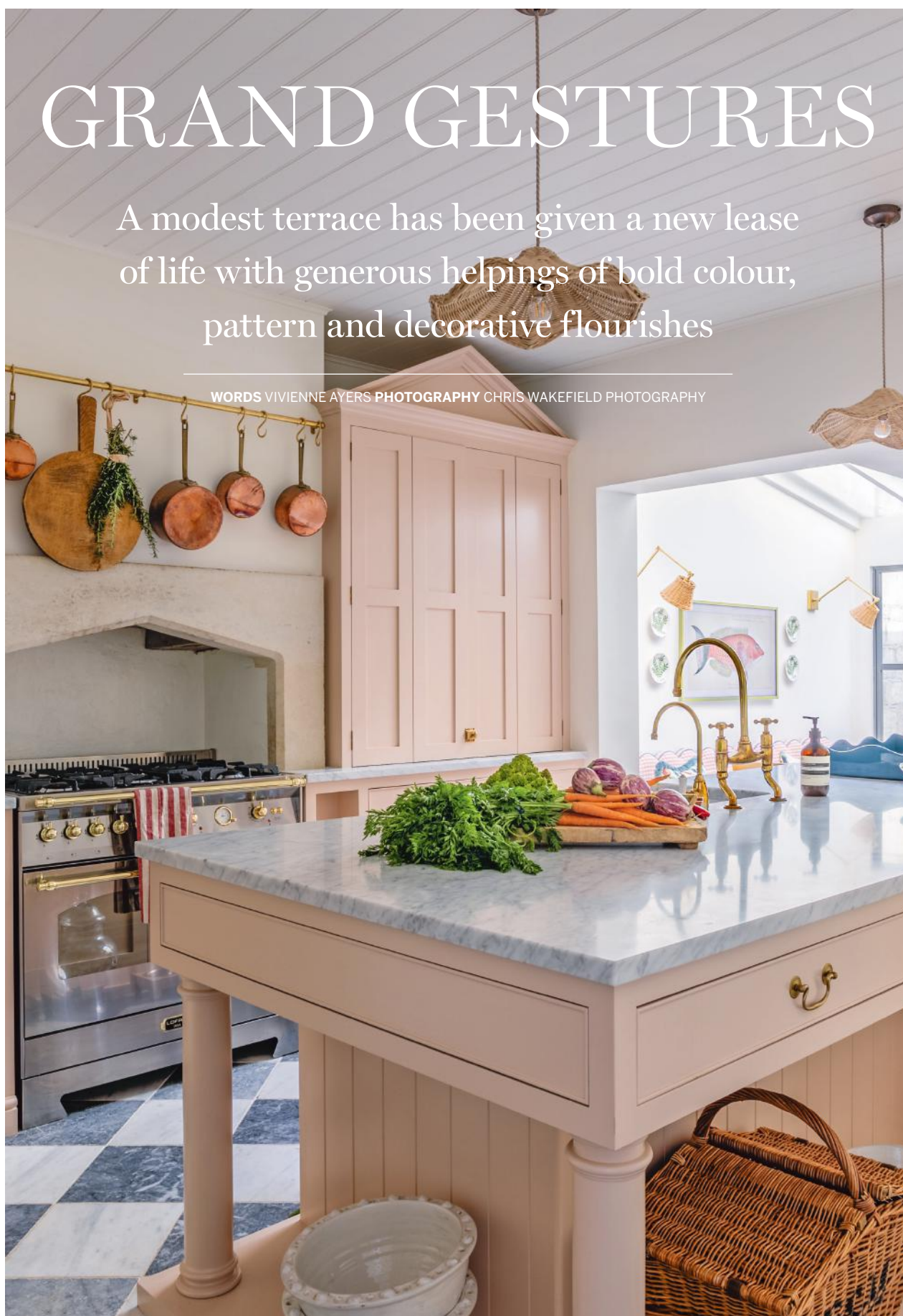


# GRAND GESTURES

A modest terrace has been given a new lease of life with generous helpings of bold colour, pattern and decorative flourishes

WORDS VIVIENNE AYERS PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WAKEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHY







**KITCHEN**  
Sean, the owner and designer, wanted to keep the Bath stone fire surround, so he opted for alcove units on either side with a shallow plate rack along one wall. The marble floor introduces definition. Custom **cabinetry** in Setting Plaster, Farrow & Ball. **Marble flooring**, Mandarin Stone. **Range cooker**, Lofra



## HOUSES

### DINING AREA

A scalloped banquette in pretty gingham breaks up the slick lines of the extension and introduces a playful element.

Fish art **TV**, Samsung.

**Wall light**, Vaughan.

**Banquette in** fabric by

Romo. **Table**, Swivel.

Vintage French cane chair

**seats in** Squiggle, Sibyl

Colefax & John Fowler







**LIVING AREA**

'We spend a lot of time in here,' says Sean of this space, which includes an abundance of storage. The artwork was from a market in Paris.

**Sofa**, Sofa.com. **Chair** and **cushion** in Pommes de Pin, Pierre Frey; **fringing**, Samuel & Sons. **Wall light**, Pooky. **Shade**, Fermeio





**SITTING ROOM**  
Sean introduced texture with a grasscloth wallpaper. 'I love the colour. It's so vibrant – it glows.' The portrait was sourced from a dealer. Bermuda Hemp grasscloth wallcovering in Tantalising Teal, Phillip Jeffries. Fireplace, cornice and woodwork in Sugar Bag Light, Farrow & Ball



**M**y mantra design-wise is putting the unexpected together,' says interior designer Sean Symington. 'I love combining country or cute items with more contemporary lines, such as the scalloped banquette and tulip table in my kitchen-diner. I love the contrast.'

Sean's Victorian terrace in Bath is awash with the unexpected. Its light Bath stone exterior belies the kaleidoscopic interior – a far cry from his first viewing when it was a dingy student house with a bed in virtually every room. 'I knew it would scare people because it needed lots of work,' Sean says. 'It was all very closed – even the corridor had a door. I didn't know the sitting room had a fireplace because there was a chest of drawers in front of it.' Also off-putting was a 1970s lean-to and a bathroom off the kitchen that the students shared. But Sean could see the house's potential: 'I knew I could open it up.' His instinct, however, was to keep the sitting room separate, as he likes to have a defined formal room.

Making the most of the space was key. So the house was reconfigured with the bathroom on the ground floor replaced with a cloakroom and utility, while a bedroom upstairs was partitioned to create a new bathroom. 'It allowed us to have more rooms but not compromise the space,' Sean says. The lean-to was replaced with an airy part glass-roofed extension which involved digging down to increase ceiling height, while a loft conversion provides a bright bedroom at the top of the house, with plenty of built-in storage.

The main bedroom features a wall of wardrobes, but the layout of this room caused difficulties. Sean wanted to position the bed in front of the chimney breast, freeing up a wall for storage. 'I like to walk

into a bedroom and face the headboard, so we widened the chimney breast to accommodate a king-size bed.'

The beating heart of the home is undoubtedly the kitchen-dining-living area. The Bath stone fire surround is a hero feature and frames the range, but it meant Sean was limited as to what he could do with the space. 'We tried to pack in as much storage as possible and included a generous island.' Offering a worktop as well as drawers, the island also houses the dishwasher and sink. Alcove units on either side of the range, concealing a microwave and coffee station, open to another of Sean's surprises. 'I painted the interior a deep red to give it that punch of colour when the doors are open. I like that unexpectedness.'

Colour and pattern are an integral part of Sean's style and he was keen for the palettes to flow throughout. 'The whole house is pinks, blues and greens,' he notes. The sitting room exudes eclectic maximalism. Its modern twist on stately home style embraces a bold backdrop of blue walls, interspersed with pastel pinks and peppered with playful prints, all overseen by the portrait of a commanding Georgian gentleman.

The extension, meanwhile, is a symphony of colour and pattern that focuses on pinks and blues and features a striking chequerboard floor. The pattern-laden dining and sitting areas are offset with warm white walls, while an eye-catching fish artwork turns out to be a TV. Sean has cleverly linked the hero Pierre Frey fabric motif through to the cloakroom where it is showcased as a statement wallpaper. This careful curation and skilful colour and pattern blending have ensured the end result is a small but perfectly formed interior. 🍷

■ [seansymington.com](http://seansymington.com)

**"THE HOUSE REFLECTS MY PERSONAL AESTHETIC – I'M NOT AFRAID OF COLOUR AND PATTERN AND I WANTED MY HOME TO BE AN EXAMPLE OF HOW YOU CAN PUSH BOUNDARIES"**





#### BEDROOM

'I wanted this room to be flouncy and cute,' says Sean, who created unity with scrolling contours. **Headboard, valance, lampshade, blind and chair in** Scrolling Fern Frond, Soane Britain. **Lamp,** Alfred Newall. **Mirror,** Pooky



#### BEDROOM

The hero in this scheme is the floral fabric, while structural supports were clad in timber for a country touch. **Sofa, curtains and cushion** in fabric by Pierre Frey. **Walls in** Lilac Pink, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint



#### BATHROOM

The wallpaper was the jumping off point for this scheme, its colours picking up on other hues in the house. **Wallpaper,** Ottoline. **Woodwork in** Aquatic, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. **Tiles,** Fired Earth

## MEET THE DESIGNER

Sean Symington shares his style inspiration

**BIGGEST INDULGENCE** We invested in window treatments and upholstery. I had fun playing with gorgeous textiles and fringes as they hold such an important part in the overall feel of the house.

**GREATEST SUCCESS** Renovating each individual room to make it a liveable space. The kitchen needed the most love as it was dark and cold – we were able to create one big open area.

**DESIGN HERO** At the moment, I have a big design crush on the American designer Miles Redd.

**I KNOW I'M A CREATIVE BECAUSE...**

I never stop designing. I was fortunate enough to turn my passion into my career and I am constantly drawing inspiration from every aspect of my life.

**SECRET ADDRESS** I love shopping for antiques. My favourite shops include Lorforde and Brownrigg in Tetbury. What I love about Tetbury is that there is something to be found for everyone.

**HOME MAKES ME FEEL** Safe, warm, comfortable, happy... the list goes on!





**MAIN BEDROOM**

The headboard fabric is a favourite of Sean's so he added the matching half canopy for a fun finish.

Walls in Red Earth, Farrow & Ball. Headboard and canopy in Tiger Palm, Schumacher; lined with fabric by GP & J Baker.

Lamp, Oka. Shade, Alice Palmer & Co