

The

ENGLISH HOME



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BEDROOM SPECIAL

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Zardi & Zardi Withdrawing Room by Sean Symington Design

Also combining the aesthetics and tastes of England and America, Sean Symington makes his debut at WOW!house with his plans for its Withdrawing Room. 'We've drawn inspiration from a Georgian withdrawing room,' Symington explains. 'The space will feel like a treasure trove - layered, enveloping, almost jewel-box in mood, and filled with a plethora of varying furniture, artwork and moments of entertainment.'

He too has envisaged a client to keep a focus on the plans: 'We imagine an international jetsetter, a glamorous, well-travelled woman who has lived in New York, London and Paris. She's metropolitan and cultured, with a sharp eye and a love of beautiful things collected over a lifetime.' He goes on to say that this room would be in her English country estate: 'A kind of modern lady's lounge inspired by a Georgian withdrawing room. It's where Park Avenue meets the English manor house: a hybrid of glamour, luxury, and genuine liveability.'

Symington is collaborating with Zardi & Zardi to decorate the room. 'We've used Zardi & Zardi prints throughout, even on the tablecloth, which creates a wonderfully immersive feel,' he enthuses. 'The entire scheme is centred around the brand's fabulous Primavera print - it acts as the backdrop to the whole room, setting the tone and colour story from the outset. We loved working with this print, it gave us the



WOW!HOUSE 2026

2 June to 2 July

Design Centre Chelsea Harbour

Visit dcch.co.uk/wowhouse/tickets
Individual tickets are £28 each, however, there is a range of offers available for group bookings. Tickets include a souvenir WOW!wonderbook and a portion of the price is donated to United in Design.

ABOVE Zardi & Zardi's Primavera will envelop the room on the walls and ceiling.

LEFT Textiles and papers from Zardi & Zardi are used

throughout the scheme. Primavera is shown here in two colourways (top & bottom). Fiorella (centre) will be used on lampshades.



FAR LEFT & LEFT
New pieces from Vaughan Designs such as this table lamp and coffee table will sit alongside antiques.

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confidence to easily layer colour and pattern throughout, allowing everything else to build naturally around it.'

Both Zardi & Zardi and Sean Symington have bases in the Cotswolds, as does Lorforfs, from whom Symington sourced antiques for his scheme, bringing a sustainable ethos to it as well. 'These items are part of a much bigger story and will return to the dealer to be sold and loved again. We pride ourselves on using antique and vintage pieces, classic shapes and traditional upholstery that can be re-covered time and time again. Nothing feels throwaway,' says Symington.

Other brands are contributing newer pieces, including lighting and furniture from Porta Romana and Vaughan Designs, and passementerie from Samuel & Sons. 'Contemporary pieces will sit comfortably alongside the antiques, each one chosen for its character and story. It's about the joy of living with lovely things, thoughtfully brought together over time, creating a room that feels personal and storied rather than overly designed.' ■

Mary Graham and Sean Symington also share bedroom designs from their own homes in our *Designers' Secrets* feature on page 82.

RIGHT Interior designer Sean Symington.

BELOW A striking dash of red is added with this lamp from Vaughan Designs at Design Centre Chelsea Harbour.

BOTTOM A sketch of Symington's design for the WOW!house Withdrawing Room.



PHOTOGRAPHS (SALVESEN GRAHAM LIFESTYLE IMAGES) CHRISTOPHER HORWOOD; (SEAN SYMINGTON LIFESTYLE IMAGE) MIKE GARLICK



Utilise awkward spaces

Sean Symington, interior designer, Sean Symington Interior Design

Often, bedrooms are sequestered near the top of the house, and with loft extensions becoming more common, principal or guest bedroom suites frequently occupy the eaves space of period homes – which comes with character, but also unique architectural challenges. ‘Loft rooms can be wonderfully atmospheric, but there are often constraints: compact proportions, sloping ceilings and limited storage,’ says Sean Symington. ‘In my Victorian terrace in Bath, rather than fight these elements, I worked with them.’

Adding Velux windows introduces natural light and draws the eye upwards towards the architecture. ‘We also clad the structural supports in timber for a soft

country touch,’ continues Symington. Storage was carefully considered; built-in joinery under the eaves provides generous space for guests while keeping a compact footprint uncluttered.

‘In smaller rooms, scale is everything. We opted for slim bedside tables to maintain flow, layering vertical interest instead with decorative plates above one table and a framed piece above the other to create balance. To soften the Velux window, we fitted a pocket curtain via rods at both the top and bottom, allowing light to be fully blocked when needed. It’s a practical detail, but it also introduces texture and a sense of finish to an often-overlooked feature.’ ▶

ABOVE The tall headboard helps to elongate proportions by drawing the eye upwards. The side table is from Camilla Hampton and the sofa, curtains and cushion are in Le Manach’s Gruzeu from Pierre Frey.