

# COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

MAY 20, 2026

## The wonders of the West Country



76 pages of property for sale

Barbara Hepworth in Cornwall and cider in Somerset

Why we're too polite to say what we mean

# Interiors

'Park Avenue meets English country manor'. His imaginary transatlantic client has a keen eye for art and style and enjoys collecting beautiful things from New York, London and Paris. 'Drawing inspiration from a Georgian withdrawing room, the space feels like a treasure trove: layered, enveloping, almost jewel-box in mood and filled with a mass of furniture, artwork and moments of entertainment,' he explains.

Pale-blue, butter-yellow and sage-green Primavera wallpaper by Zardi & Zardi forms the starting point and sets the tone for the room. The paper is used on the walls and ceiling, bordered by a sage-green grosgrain tape, and the same Primavera design is used on printed fabric for the curtains, lined in pale-blue silk moiré. A rich, expressive tapestry, *La Belle Vie*, also by Zardi & Zardi, creates a striking focal point hung above a chocolate-coloured velvet sofa. 'Then we have layered colours that repeat the palette,' he says. 'A glossy red lamp base, for example, hits the red in the tapestry and the design begins to evolve.'

Alongside antique furniture in the room, Mr Symington has selected a variety of modern pieces, including a leather-wrapped games table and a Compton chandelier in Plaster White from Porta Romana. 'The contrast of traditional and contemporary creates a sense that the room has been thoughtfully brought together over time and feels personal,' he explains.

**Above: The 'treasure trove' Zardi & Zardi Withdrawing Room by Sean Symington Design. Below: Full of textural richness: Max Rollitt's Schumacher Dining Room**



## Schumacher Dining Room

**Max Rollitt**

**I**NTERIOR designer, furniture-maker and antique dealer Max Rollitt (01962 791124; [www.maxrollitt.com](http://www.maxrollitt.com)) blends his knowledge of historical buildings and traditional craftsmanship with an eye for characterful, richly

layered design. His space at WOW!house, on which he is collaborating with his artist son Edward, is inspired by paintings of an 18th-century dining room at twilight. 'I want the atmosphere to feel intimate and warm and to create the sense of a visual feast,' he says.

Walls are upholstered in a sumptuous terracotta-coloured damask by luxury furnishing fabric house Schumacher, which was founded in New York in 1889 and now encompasses one of the world's largest collections of textiles and wallpapers. Dramatic curtains in bottle-green wool frame the doorways, an ivory silk mohair fabric is used as a tablecloth and a glazed linen in Venetian blue is used to upholster antique chairs. 'They bring textural richness, as well as colour to the room,' he says.

Wall sconces, table lamps and a chandelier provide soft lighting, contributing to the theatrically romantic mood. Antique and bespoke pieces from Mr Rollitt's furniture collection add to the sense of character, as does a personal collection of art (three of his artist sons have contributed pictures).



**Kent table, priced to order, Max Rollitt (01962 791124; [www.maxrollitt.com](http://www.maxrollitt.com))**



**Where** WOW!house, Design Centre, Chelsea Harbour, London SW10

**When** June 2–July 2

**Entry** Morning/lunchtime (10am–2pm) or afternoon (2pm–6pm). Final entry is recommended by 5pm

**Tickets** Individual £28; two tickets for £45 on weekdays (£40 on Saturdays); concessions from £15. A portion of proceeds will go to charity partner United in Design

**To book** Visit [www.dcch.co.uk](http://www.dcch.co.uk)