

9 splendid **afternoon teas** in Bath, Cheddar, Porlock & more

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MODERN GEORGIAN

Interior designer SEAN SYMINGTON takes us into this stunning contemporary Bath townhouse to reveal how colour, pattern and furnishings can transform a home, creating something that is traditional with a modern twist

A recently constructed mock Georgian townhouse, offering sweeping vistas of Bath, was to become the newest showcase property for a local development. The brief sat at an interesting tension point: individual and characterful, yet still accessible enough to help prospective buyers picture their own lives within it. It was crucial for the aesthetic to resonate with the surrounding area, thus marrying tradition with a contemporary twist. The interiors needed to feel rooted in place, a quiet nod to Bath's heritage, without tipping into pastiche.

With no scope to alter the existing fixtures or finishes, we turned to colour, pattern, and curation to do the heavy lifting. An eclectic mix of furniture and artwork was introduced with intention and each room given its own personality, its own small narrative, so that moving through the house felt like a journey of discovery rather than a viewing appointment.

The result is a layered, joyful interior that we hope lingers in the memory long after the front door closes, proof that a new build can have soul and that a show home can have genuine character.



▲ Living Room

Flooded with natural light, this felt like the natural place to push the colour palette further than expected, the kind of choice that opens a room up rather than closing it down and quietly sets the tone for the rest of the house.

Walls: Edward Bulmer Granite Green.
Sofa: Snowdrop Sofa in Eucalyptus.
Armchairs: Bluebell Armchair in Dusty Rose. sofa.com
Sofa cushion fabrics: Lewis & Wood Nantessa, colour Dijon.
Armchair Cushions: Soane Pineapple Silhouette in ochre.
Side table: Hampton side table in Farrow & Ball Pigeon.
Lamps: Vaughan Avebury lamps in teal.
Lampshades: Penny Morrison Pink on tribal pleated silk lampshade.
Curtain fabric: GP&J Baker Poppy Sprig, colour blush.
Sofa floor lamps: Pooky Aesop standing lamp in antique brass.



◀ Kitchen

The kitchen was already fitted, so the work here was more about softening than transforming. Rattan, window treatments and trailing foliage were brought in to add warmth and texture, a gentle counterpoint to the room's inherent modernity. With the adjoining corner making a bolder colour statement, this space earns its place as the quieter, more tactile balance to that energy.

Dining table: Onske oval dining table with Carrera marble top.
Island lampshades: Matilda Goad rattan weave pendant in natural.
Curtain fabric: Romo Oswin, colour duck egg.

Informal dining ▶

Tucked against the kitchen's clean white backdrop, this banquette became an opportunity to inject a little charm. A skirted bench, painted rattan chairs, and enough personality to make it feel like the most coveted seat in the house. The painted bamboo chairs are a nod to heritage but freshened up in a way that speaks directly to the project's central idea: old and new, happily coexisting.

Bench fabric: GP&J Baker Poppy Sprig, colour blush.
Bench cushion fabric: Soane Pineapple Silhouette, colour ochre.
Bench cushion: Romo Kemble, colour celadon.
Table: Onske oval tulip table with Carrera marble top.
Dining chair finish: Farrow & Ball Yearbridge green.
Dining chair Fabric: Colefax & Fowler Seaweed, colour pale blue.



Scullery ►

One of our favourite moments in the house. There's a common instinct to play it safe in smaller spaces but going bolder here really lends itself to more personality, the room feels larger for it, and infinitely more characterful. A skirted sink is an inexpensive way to add charm without cost, cleverly concealing storage in the process, while plates on the wall draw a quiet thread back to the kitchen next door.

Mirror: One World Trading.
Sink skirt fabric: Romo Oswin colour beige.
Stool: antique.
Plates: John Lewis Bordallo Pinheiro Cabbage Earthware plates.
Walls: GP&J – Poppy Sprig, colour blush.

▼ Snug

Deliberately moody and cocooning, this room makes the case for going darker. A reminder that country style (and good design more broadly) isn't one-note; the same home can hold brightness and drama in equal measure, each making the other feel more intentional.

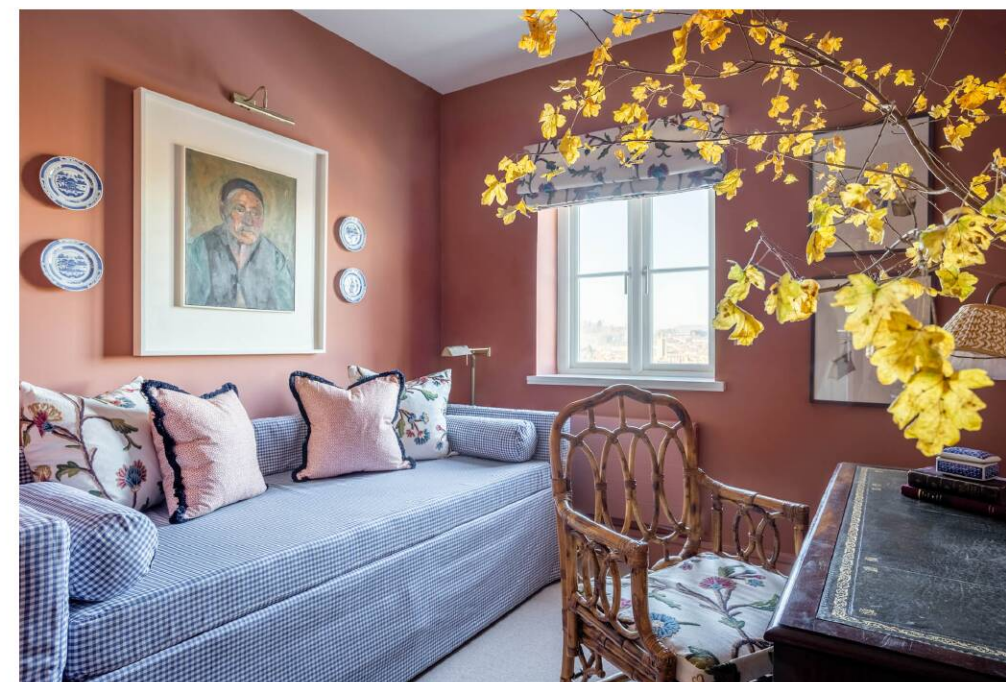
Walls: Edward Bulmer Brick.
Tray: Lacquer Company Belle Rives tray, colour marine blue.
Lamps: Nicky Cornell slim brass table lamp with embroidered lampshade.
Armchairs: Alderney armchairs in mustard yellow.
Table: Antique mahogany round table.



Guest bedroom/study ►

A reupholstered trundle bed is one of our favourite tricks for a room that needs to earn its keep twice over. A genuine study by day, a proper guest bedroom when needed, with no sense of sacrifice in either direction.

Walls: Edward Bulmer Sang De Boeuf.
Cushion fabric: GP&J Tilly, colour soft red.
Blinds, cushions & desk seat: Antique crewel work fabric.
Desk: Antique
Lampshade: Pooky caramel chevrons block printed lampshade.
Floor lamps: Pooky Aesop standing lamp in antique brass.



▲ WC

Bespoke Bobbin mirror.
Sink skirt: Romo Oswin, colour sunflower yellow.
Wallpaper: GP&J Baker birds and cherries, colour aqua.

▼ Bedroom

Playful but considered, this room carries the spirit of the house while very much doing its own thing. We opted for a chintz headboard in pink and green for a fresh and floral feel in a way that feels joyful rather than heavy.

Headboard fabric: Schumacher

Cranley Gardens, colour document.
Lamp: Pooky Rattle lamp base.
Lampshade: Patton House Gemima lampshade, colour sage.
Bedside table: bespoke scallop bedside painted in Farrow & Ball granite green.
Small cushion: GP&J Baker Bilbury fabric, colour green/red. ●

