

ALTHOUGH THIS HOME HAS A MORE CONTEMPORARY INTERIOR THAN WE'RE USED TO SEEING IN VE, IT DOES DEMONSTRATE BEAUTIFULLY HOW A FEW KEY MID-CENTURY PIECES CAN BE INCORPORATED WITHIN AN INTERIOR DESIGNER'S BRIEF

Living with Design



Profile

Name of Designer:
Clare Pascoe, Pascoe
Interiors Limited

Name of the project:
Locks Lane

Location: Birdham,
West Sussex



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ASCOE INTERIORS LIMITED'S USUAL APPROACH TO interior design is pared back, Nordic inspired base palettes which form the back drop for a blend of elements made by emerging British Designer Makers, alongside key pieces of Mid-century furniture and lighting to create a timeless and individual space.

Locks Lane was previously designed as a second home, resulting in it having a bland, un-lived-in interior that lacked soul. Purchased by Kate and David Adams, the key aspect of the brief was to create a UK family base for themselves, their three children and Kate's mother, Anne, who would live in the house permanently.

Being based in Hong Kong, Kate remotely researched interior design firms from London to the South Coast. Having been listed as one of the top 20 Best British Interior Designers by the *Telegraph*, Pascoe Interiors Ltd came to the couple's attention. With a wealth of experience working with long distance clients, Clare (Pascoe) went on to impress, with detailed answers to initial questions, before providing example schemes to demonstrate ideas and methods of communicating

internationally. While Kate and David were open about not wanting Clare's signature 'Mid-century Contemporary' style they felt more than confident she could deliver a more traditional style for their UK home, which Kate summarised as a "British New Hamptons Style" to reflect the property's enviable coastal location.

The home had been extensively renovated by the previous owners, therefore the initial plan was for a more decorative project based around furnishing and decoration, which was to include a new kitchen and amendments to the lighting to reduce the vast number of spotlights.

Alongside the electrical works, Clare designed the interior around a pared-back neutral palette to create a backdrop for the textures, colours and finishes that would then follow. New items of furniture needed to be sourced to work alongside the couple's existing furniture; with Clare designing key bespoke pieces that were beautifully handmade locally in Sussex.

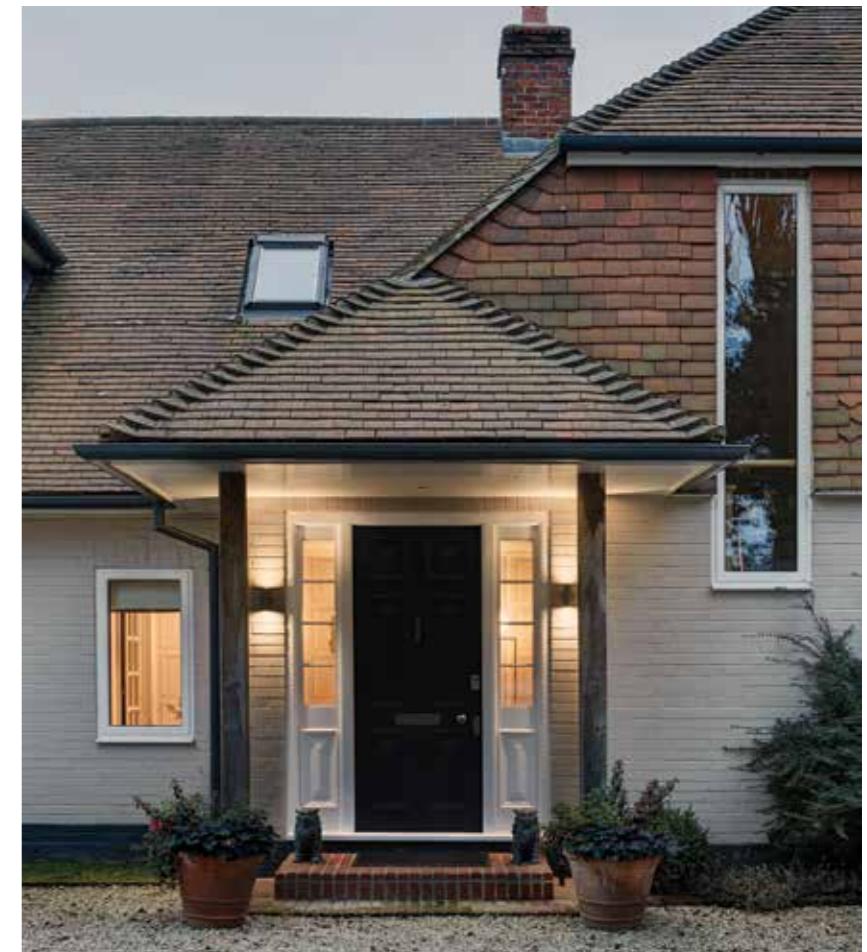
The entrance hall gives a bold first impression of the interior, with its faux panelling wallpaper, a design

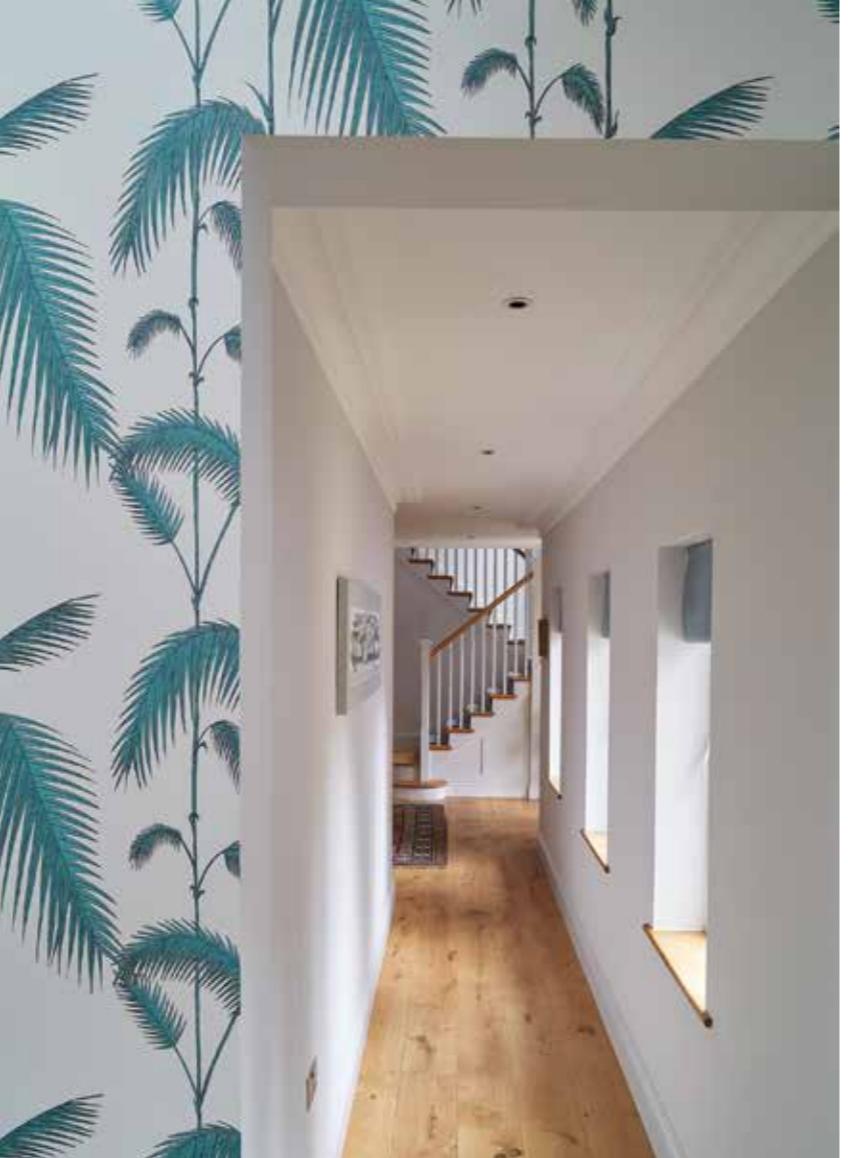
classic sofa upholstered in British wool, a rich orange leatherette ottoman and brass lamps, while beyond is a glimpse of an Eero Saarinen Tulip table and chairs with orange seats, which continue the accent colour.

By relocating the dining table, space was created for a soft seating area in the kitchen, zoned by a Knots Rug in soft shades of pink. Their dining table is surrounded by a mismatched set of Eames chairs, and offset by a pair of impressive Hex pendants in brushed brass, a material that was used throughout the house to inject subtle glamour and warmth to the crisp base palette.

Another blush pink toned rug links with the kitchen seating area, while a duck footed lamp with ostrich feather shade adds welcome humour next to the classic Eames chair and footstool. Clare added bold colours and textures through an eclectic mix of cushion fabrics ranging from bold florals to stripes in a rich yet blended palette.

For the living room a more classic scheme was desired, so Clare commissioned a pair of traditional sofas, handmade in West Sussex and upholstered in





British Wool, with a pair of Knoll armchairs and an Eames chair, all offset with brass and smoked mirror glass tables that continue the brass theme.

With three teenage children, a spacious family room was high on the wish list. A relatively narrow yet long room can be hard to furnish comfortably for a number of people, so the obvious solution was a corner sofa. Working with a Surrey based company, Clare designed an extended corner sofa to rebalance the tunnel effect of the room.

The swimming pool, with home gym, steam room and changing rooms, completes the ground floor. While the humidity is controlled with an intelligent system, Clare still had to be mindful that any decoration or furniture in this space would need to have good longevity. Wishing to inject some decorative details into the swimming pool area that would not be too typical or at odds with the space, yet that would work in harmony with the feature palm trees paper visible through the glass balcony upstairs, Clare commissioned a bespoke wallpaper mural featuring palm leaves and pineapples. Chairs by Missoni, a bench by Ercol and the Children's football table complete the space.

The first floor bedrooms are within the eaves of the house and feature sloped ceilings that, at times, posed challenging spaces to accommodate large storage items. The most spacious is the master suite, which is in the newly extended end of the house. Gold grass wallpaper adds instant drama, while the pheasant curtain fabric gives a nod to the rural South Downs, which is just a stone's throw away. The bed comprises a British, handmade headboard and mattress accented with cushions in bold mustard wool and rich orange velvet. Brass bedside tables and lamps offset with green velvet shades complete the scheme.

The boys both wanted very different schemes in their rooms (not photographed). The eldest desired a monochromatic scheme, with a 'sofa-bed' within the window alcove in which he could lounge and recline to watch films that he intended to project on the blank wall opposite. The youngest brother chose a striking street scene from Hong Kong that was made into two wall murals, adding instant depth to the smallest bedroom in the house. Ercol furniture, denim and red accents keep the scheme young and space was made for his highly coveted lazy chair.

For their daughter's bedroom, an ice theme was desired. A bold silver, crushed velvet bed takes centre stage against 'crystal' embellished wallpaper.

Despite the project slightly overrunning due to small complications along the way, Kate and David remain thrilled at how welcoming and comfortable Locks Lane now is. It is a far cry from the rather sadly bland house they first walked into. One of the most important aspects of the brief was to create a UK home base for the internationally spread out family and Locks Lane now provides a home where each member of the family feels comfortable and welcome, as all their individual needs and characters have been accommodated. **ve**

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