

The

# ENGLISH HOME



Celebrating the essence of English style

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## FRESH BEGINNINGS

Converted barn, Sussex farmhouse, London terrace

### RETHINKING ECO CHIC

Antique furniture  
Vintage textiles  
Natural materials  
Reclaimed buys

### MADE TO MEASURE INTERIORS

Commissioning bespoke  
pieces for unique rooms

### BATHROOM DESIGN

Adding colour & character



## INSPIRED BY NATURE

Soothing colours, tactile textures, botanical motifs



# One of a KIND

Eminent interior and furniture designers describe projects where bespoke elements have delivered individual style



**C**ommissioning pieces for an interior scheme can make a room look not just wonderful but entirely individual. An intricately inlaid desk or ingenious extending dining table have the potential to become family heirlooms, whilst wardrobes built to suit a bedroom or dressing room will provide orderly clothes storage and make a strong style statement.

Furniture is a favourite subject for bespoke design but wall treatments, rugs and upholstery are just a few of the other items that can benefit from a designer's individual treatment and creative flair.

However, going bespoke is not for the faint-hearted. It requires having confidence in the designer, a

willingness to wait for the right result and a generous budget. The cost of any one-off piece will include materials and labour, design, development and any necessary modifications.

Meanwhile, customised (as opposed to bespoke) design takes advantage of the savings to be made by volume manufacture whilst meeting the desire for an individual look. Upholstery, storage furniture and even rugs, wall coverings and fabrics can be rescaled, recoloured and adjusted to order at a more affordable cost. However, as interior designer Emily Todhunter of Todhunter Earle says, "You can't replicate a bespoke design. It never seems to work. You can always tell when something has come off a production line."



**NATALIA MIYAR**  
Interior designer  
"Choosing bespoke furniture has to do with scale and proportion, especially when designing for a constrained or unusually shaped space. In this bedroom (left) the bed is the centrepiece. Inspired

by a remarkable 1970s French bed I saw in a book, it has a bronze frame, mid-weight linen drapes and – a modern addition – housing for a television at the foot. Because it was such an expensive piece, we produced the most comprehensive design possible. I had a scale model made of it, then a full-size prototype and tried out different fabrics for the drapes.

The sitting room (opposite), in a new-build London villa, is furnished with pieces that date from different periods but are pleasantly contrasting and complementary. To avoid distraction from the owner's art collection, the seating is upholstered in apparently plain textiles. Actually, there is not a single flat fabric in the room: all were chosen for their intricacy and texture. I do a lot of research for each project and to draw the scheme together I commissioned a bespoke wool-and-silk carpet inspired by a 1930s design. The pattern is quite painterly and woven in colours to reflect those in some of the artwork." ▶



**OPPOSITE**  
A specially commissioned rug uses colours from the artwork in this London sitting room designed by Natalia Miyar.

**BELOW** This unusual and dramatic bed was inspired by a French design from the 1970s Natalia Miyar saw in a book.