

JANUARY 2016

FROM THE EDITOR



We can deliberate over choosing fabrics for days, weeks, even months, but when it comes to curtains and blinds, the details of how they are made up can easily be overlooked. I have to admit that my knowledge of curtain terminology is scant, but I do know that even if you opt for simple-seeming curtains hanging on a pole or track, it is worth giving proper thought to the headings and fixtures, as they dictate the finished effect far more than you might think. In response to my decorating inadequacies, between pages 49 and 55, Gabby Deeming has collated a host of good advice and examples of curtains – from the pretty softness of antique linen with an unusual shirred pencil-pleat heading to the slickness of those hung on a recessed ceiling track.

In fact, this issue is packed full of practical decorating ideas, including Rita König's thoughts on bed linen (page 56) and an in-depth look at bespoke lampshade makers, Copper & Silk (page 58). It seems no interior is complete without pretty pleated lampshades right now – for evidence, look no further than Ben

Pentreath's Bloomsbury flat from page 78. There are several companies offering ready-made ones, but if you want them in a fabric of your choice, Copper & Silk are good people to call.

Come February, gleaning such decorating know-how will be made even easier by the launch of The List, *House & Garden's* new online directory that will be bulging with interior designers, architects, landscape and garden designers, and companies providing design-related services – all searchable by specialism and area. *House & Garden's* 100 Leading Interior Designers are all included and so are many more, as well as curtain makers, upholsterers and even joiners. If you are a designer or somebody providing a specialist service who hasn't yet signed up, please do – we're hugely excited about it.

On another note, David Nicholls gives us a glimpse into two very different worlds this month. The first is the glamorous Florida lifestyle of Rodman Primack, director of Design Miami, the cutting-edge design fair that takes place this month, from page 61. Then between pages 96 and 101, he takes us to Stoke-on-Trent's struggling but hopeful pottery industry. Here at *House & Garden* we are acutely aware of the difficulties associated with manufacturing in Britain, whether it be finding a mill that will produce the base cloth needed for a printed fabric or a metal worker who can cast and finish a lantern with the skill required. There are some worrying tales and some heartening ones, too – see 'Art scene', page 39, for an interview with Mark Cropper of the thriving paper manufacturer James Cropper. We are keen to champion those who are determined to continue producing their work in this country and to keep their skills and industries alive □

Hetta Byng



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Fabric background: Romilly (marine red), by Virginia White Collection, linen, from Redloh House Fabrics