

COUNTRY & TOWN HOUSE

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NICKY MUDIE | THE INTERIOR TAILOR

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VIOLET & GEORGE IS AN OLD-FASHIONED INTERIOR DECORATION COMPANY – BUT WITH A VERY MODERN ETHOS. IT WAS ESTABLISHED BY NICKY MUDIE, WHO HAS 13 YEARS’ EXPERIENCE IN INTERIOR DESIGN, TO FILL A GAP IN THE LONDON MARKET FOR AN INTERIOR DESIGN SERVICE SPECIALISING IN TEXTILES AND BESPOKE SOFT FURNISHINGS.

Where do you source your fabrics from?

We are a British brand, so we mostly purchase fabrics from artisans in the UK. Many traditional British textile crafts are declining as manufacturing moves overseas and a generation of craftspeople retires. I’m trying to keep fabric and textile production in Britain alive.

Best thing about fabric?

I love the versatility of fabric compared to solid materials. It can hide sins and reinvent a tired old piece of furniture and you can change the nature of an item by changing it from silk to distressed linen.

Favourite material?

I’ll never get bored of sourcing new fabrics and textiles. I love working with smaller fabric studios to source one-off, exclusive fabrics for clients. I’ve lived in Notting Hill for over 12 years, so The Cloth Shop on Portobello Road is my go-to for inexpensive linen and cotton fabrics in a huge range of delicious colours and prints as well as wool throws and linen napkins. Goldhawk Road is great for African prints.

Favourite fabric to wear?

I love wool. Which is funny as it’s probably the fabric I use the least in my interior schemes. In my home I love to use linens and silks, neither of which I wear very often. I love wool’s versatility, from a very fine, delicate fabric to a chunky, heavy fabric. I love its provenance; knowing exactly how the fibre has been manufactured and that it can be worn all year round. I have just recently taken up knitting again. So far I have only knitted a small blob-shaped animal for one of my goddaughters but I hope to become more adventurous.

What’s hanging on your bedroom windows?

I prefer to get a sense of the position of the sun in the morning but I am a light sleeper so I have reached a compromise over the years. I have blackout curtains that let no light in but I install them on a pole so a very small amount of light seeps in over the top of the curtains, helping me to wake up naturally. I have a voile roller blind to give me privacy during the day and blackout curtains made up in Lewis & Wood’s Skittery Linen, which are lined and interlined as the linen is so thin it needs support.

Net curtains are naff, how can we create privacy?

We usually install café curtains but with contemporary styling. Pocket-headed curtains are threaded onto either white or bronze poles but are hung so they are completely flat and there is no gather in the heading. They look simple and elegant every time.



— Decoration should be functional



— Use playful fabrics for finishing touches

Favourite piece of furniture you own?

I had a huge u-shaped sofa made to fit my sitting room so that when I have friends and family over we can laze around together on the sofa and catch up. It’s surrounded by huge glass windows overlooking my garden so it feels as though you are sitting outside while remaining warm and cosy. In the summer I throw the windows wide open.

What’s on your bedside table?

Lots of books that I never have the time to read, including Caitlin Moran’s *How to be a Woman*, Lena Dunham’s *Not that Kind of Girl* and several books on mindfulness that haven’t yet been opened. Additionally I always have Rescue Remedy Night Spray to put me back to sleep when I can’t stop my mind from racing. I have a pad and paper next to my bed as I often dream of designs and ways to solve problems but worry that I will have forgotten them by the morning.

Top decorating tips?

Use wallpaper to reflect your personality. There are so many types, from textured, patterned and illustrated to plain wallpapers, that it can be overwhelming. Play with bright, bold

wallpaper in the smallest room of the house, like the downstairs’ loo. From graffiti to wallpaper to mirrored tiles, as this room is so self-contained it can take the boldest of prints. I’m about to launch my own range of wallpaper and fabrics.

Finishing touches?

Plenty of cushions, vases, art and photos are comforting and can be easily updated. But I’m not a huge fan of unnecessary dressing so most of the accessories you will see in our projects have a purpose.

Design dislikes?

Mass-produced furniture. We often reinvent old furnishings, which are still good quality but need a new lease of life. A bit of clever juxtaposition, re-upholstery and accessorising goes a long way.

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