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PRACTICAL PERFECTION

From laidback luxury on an island paradise to the gentle evolution of a Sussex farmhouse

PLUS THE DYNAMIC CHATELAINE OF AN INNOVATIVE COUNTRY ESTATE



FROM TOP Robert Kime, Robert Carslaw, Robert Moore



ROBERT CARSLAW



A highly experienced designer, Robert Carslaw keeps his practice small but his ideas big, tackling period country properties and city apartments with equal aplomb. His interiors are serene, combining classical proportion with modern materials. 'As in a good piece of music, the inspired drawing together of myriad themes results in a satisfying harmony,' he says. He's a charming designer who genuinely listens to his clients.

Background Robert set up his practice in 1983. He divides his time between his busy London studio in Lots Road and a Cornish office, so has become a designer of choice for West Country clients, with unrivalled access to teams of excellent craftsmen.

Projects As well as the complete design and fit-out of an art gallery and offices in Cork Street, W1, Robert is working on a listed Regency town house in Surrey, a flat in Chelsea, a waterside villa in St Mawes and a large 'Hamptons-style' new-build, also in St Mawes.

Which designer would you hire? 'Architect James Gorst (jamesgorstarchitects.co.uk). He designed a wonderful newbuild in Chelsea, which a client of ours bought. His creative use of space was inspiring, employing imaginative materials and textures.'

✉ 020-7376 4440; robertcarslaw.com

ROBERT KIME



With an unparalleled reputation as a discreet, tasteful interior designer, Robert Kime has worked on grand houses internationally. His clients have included the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Beaufort. His interiors appear to have evolved over time, combining a relaxed mood with antiques, vintage textiles and quirky pieces.

Background Robert started his career as an antiques dealer four decades ago, while reading history at Oxford. He subsequently worked at Sotheby's and then with Miriam Rothschild. His work combines his passions for antiques, textiles and putting together rooms. He has two London shops that showcase his fabrics, lighting and furniture, plus antique pieces.

Projects Robert and his team recently completed a shooting lodge in Northumberland. They are also working on a pied-à-terre in Pimlico, a five-storey town house in Notting Hill, and a three-bedroom house and annexe in Kensington. Upcoming commissions include 12 bedrooms for an existing client.

What's your tip for a great interiors find? 'The antiques fairs in the South of France are particularly enjoyable places to shop. I often find little gems in Béziers, Avignon and Montpellier.'

✉ 020-7831 6066; robertkime.com

ROBERT MOORE

NEW ENTRY



Charismatic and thoughtful, Robert Moore is keen to 'let the architecture speak', and has a flair for creating laid-back glamour. He aims for timeless, smart designs that sing with colour; sometimes he goes daringly dark. Clients can expect immaculately tailored bespoke furnishings and furniture, and deep comfort.

Background Robert studied furniture and product design at Ravensbourne. After a brief stint with Louise Bradley, he spent a decade working for the Nicholas Haslam brand, going on to launch Moore Design in 2010. As a solo designer, he offers a highly personal service, drawing on a team of specialists as required.

Projects Focusing mainly on private homes, Robert is currently working on a Grade II-listed warehouse flat in Canary Wharf, a mews house in Marylebone, a cottage in north Norfolk and a sixteenth-century house in Hampshire, as well as a new restaurant in London. He has recently completed the design of a flat in Notting Hill and a Georgian town house in south London.

Most unusual design request? 'Raising WCs by 30cm on to marble plinths for very tall clients.'

✉ 020-7582 7327; mooredesign.info