

All wrapped up

MAUREEN DEW'S ELEGANT GEORGIAN HOME MAKES AN ENCHANTING SETTING FOR A TRULY MAGICAL GET-TOGETHER



House A wreath including pheasant feathers adds a welcoming touch to the front door. *Wreath*, Kingfisher Farm Shop. *Lanterns*, Bardoe & Appel.

SURREY COUNTRY HOUSE

Orangery sitting area

This light-filled spot is perfect for a tree hung sparingly with silver decorations. *Sofa, chair*, La Residence Interiors. *Walls*, painted in Skimming Stone by Farrow & Ball. »





Hallway The focal point of this large space is the fireplace. Faux thyme plants in urns, Oka.



Orangery dining area
The pale palette creates an inviting atmosphere for elegant entertaining.



The seasonal tea set comes out every year. Christmas Tree tableware, Spode.

What we love most about living here...
‘Our home has more than two dozen windows so, looking out over the fields at the end of the day, we often enjoy amazing sunsets’



Living room Pops of red give a neutral scheme a festive twist. Table painted in French Linen by Annie Sloan. Glass dome, Bone Interiors.



Kitchen The marble-topped island is the main gathering point when family come to stay at Christmas. Kitchen units, Neptune. Painted in Limestone and Charleston Gray by Farrow & Ball. Range, Rangemaster. »





Living room

Upholstery with smart tailored details creates a comfortable, formal look. Ottoman, armchairs, similar from La Residence Interiors. Curtain fabric, Kate Forman.

Passionate about spotting beautiful and unusual houses since she was a little girl, Maureen Dew enjoys putting the final festive touches to her welcoming Georgian home. 'After renovating more than 40 houses, I've finally found the perfect place to enjoy Christmas in truly traditional style,' says Maureen.

She was ecstatic when, aged only 19, she bought her first house - a rather tired Victorian terrace packed with original features. 'It was a major undertaking, done on a shoestring,' says Maureen. 'At that stage I was into art deco and I had an absolute ball decorating from top to toe, painstakingly deliberating over every paint colour.' Once the house was completed, however, Maureen couldn't wait to sell it and start another project.

'I absolutely adored the challenge of breathing new life into gorgeous but neglected character properties,' she says. 'In my mind I had a tick-list of the types of homes I wanted to live in, and this all-consuming desire led to many fabulous projects, not to mention fascinating experiences...'

Over the years, she and her husband, Jeremy, have renovated everything from a magnificent chateaux near Bordeaux and a villa near St Tropez, to a string of stunning houses in Britain. 'I feel that renovating a house is similar to painting a picture. Once every detail is perfect, it's time to move on,' says Maureen.

Two years ago, as the couple were close to finishing a long project on a large rundown hotel in Surrey, they happened upon an advertisement for a handsome Georgian property, in a rural location near Guildford. 'I thought its proportions were wonderful and, from outside, it resembled a very pretty doll's house.'

Keen to find out more, the couple set up a viewing and were elated the minute they walked into the grand hallway. 'Everything was already done, and to an exceptionally high standard,' says Maureen.

They moved in during November 2013, and began putting their stamp on everything. 'We've gradually been working our way through the house, ringing the changes with soft furnishings and paint colours, buying some new pieces of furniture and injecting a modern country feel,' says Maureen.

Apart from personalising her own home, Maureen has been busy setting up a new home-staging company, Smoke & Mirrors. 'I'm working with my daughter, Verity Webster, and our friend Sarah Gordon, who owns Bone Interiors,' says Maureen. 'It's a new challenge in interior design and very satisfying,' she adds.

Maureen looks forward to spending time at home with her family at Christmas. 'The grandchildren's enthusiasm is contagious,' she says. 'On Christmas Day everyone heads into the living room to take a turn singing, dancing or reading a story. It's very special.'

☛ **Smoke & Mirrors, smokeandmirrorsstyling.com.** »

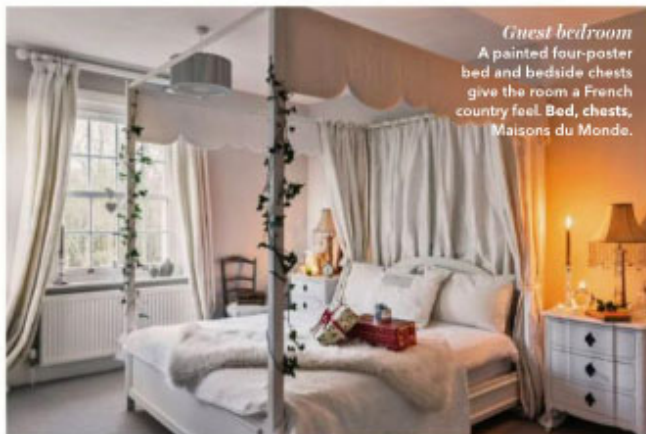


AT HOME WITH...

Owners Maureen Dew, a partner in home-staging company Smoke & Mirrors, who lives here with her husband, Jeremy, a property developer and business consultant, and their long-haired Jack Russell, Alfie, and Maine Coon cat, Poppet. She has two grown-up children, Dan and Verity.

House A five-bedroom detached Georgian home with annexe. Built in 1760, extended in the 19th century and again in 2012.





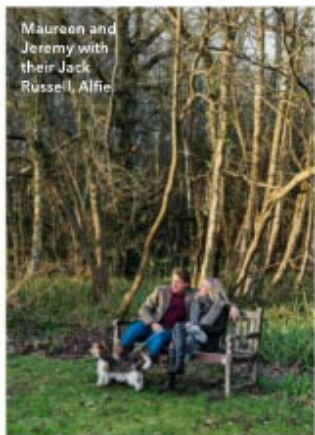
Guest bedroom
A painted four-poster bed and bedside chests give the room a French country feel. Bed, chests, Maisons du Monde.



Bathroom
Woven rattan baskets soften the look of the hotel-style unit.



What makes this house a home...
‘We enjoy being so close to nature. Occasionally, deer tentatively approach the house and they have been known to peep in through the back windows’



Maureen and Jeremy with their Jack Russell, Alfie



FEATURE: JANET MACMERRY. PHOTOGRAPHS: ANDREAS VON KENIGSEBEL. FIRE BURNING CANDLES SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... ‘Polesden Lacey (01372 452048, nationaltrust.org.uk/polesden-lacey), near Dorking, a wonderful Edwardian mansion with beautiful grounds.’

Shop at... ‘La Residence Interiors (01403 752245, laresidenceinteriors.co.uk), Alford, which sells French-inspired handmade furniture, from a beautiful old barn [open by appointment].’

Go for a meal at... ‘The Thai Terrace (01483 503350, thaiterrace.co.uk), Guildford, a chic rooftop restaurant with breathtaking views of the North Downs.’ »



Main bedroom
Luxurious fabrics with contrasting textures create a rich sumptuous look. Curtain fabric, Kate Forman. Faux fur throw, John Lewis.