The
ENGLISH HOME

20 years ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating the essence of English style

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EMBRACING A NEW WAY OF LIVING
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- Nina Campbell & many more

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Carole Middleton & Lady Carnarvon on elegant entertaining

FESTIVE HOMES
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A NEW WAY OF LIFE IN 2021

Taking time to appreciate nature and make improvements at home and in the garden were themes that united the leading names in British design in 2020 as homes for all took on a new significance. Here we reveal their personal experiences of home in the pandemic, as well as their design predictions for interiors as a new year dawns

INDIA HICKS

Humanitarian, designer and mother of five

How did the way you used your home in 2020 change?
We found ourselves locked down in our home in the Bahamas for several months altogether as a family, with all five children home. Our home became a hive of activity, my daughter, aged 12, became a pro at making deep-fried donuts, one of her brothers was taking a creative writing course on Zoom, another was using the sewing machine to make samples for his clothing brand, but the most outstanding was the home-made gym our youngest son created with planks of wood, cement blocks, broom handles and two tin buckets filled with wet sand. Impressive bench press.

What were the unexpected benefits of lockdown?
It was strange celebrating several of the kids' birthdays month after month without any outside distractions. We became quite good at inventing mad birthday parties just for ourselves – a Japanese-style dinner inside, a barbecue outside, wild birthday cakes, cocktails and games which involved blindfolds and sticking your hand inside a cardboard box and touching the unknown, like we were celebrating a three-year-old's birthday not a 23-year-old's!

Do you feel anything has become less important?
Stilettos have become completely and utterly unimportant.

Was there a particular project you immersed yourself in?
I have recently published a book on entertaining (*India Hicks: An Entertaining Story*). Happily it seems to have been quite popular. I think as we spend more time at home, we all search for ideas on how to make the most of that time. We no longer take any of it for granted, so when we do sit down to a meal with our family or friends, we want it to feel as lovely as possible. I am now working on a small home collection that I hope will bring a bit of joy to everyone's life during these strange times.

indiahicks.com

JANE CHURCHILL

Founder of Jane Churchill Interiors

What did you find were the unexpected benefits of lockdown?
I am so programmed to go to work, I couldn't get used to not going. I find the camaraderie of office life encourages creativity and ambition – to me a preferred environment. Although I did enjoy having the time to read more books, and this included everything from *The Splendid and The Vile* by Erik Larson to Barbara Amiel's book *Friends and Enemies*, the perfect book for lockdown.

Is there anything you feel has become more important to have at home?
A comfortable office chair, a printer, good Wi-Fi and Classic FM – everything you need to make working from home stress-free.

janechurchillinteriors.co.uk

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JOANNA WOOD

International interior designer

How did the way you used your home in 2020 change? I found myself working from home for the first time since I set up my business 30 years ago. Having the design studio next door to my London home was a godsend. I could sneak over in my slippers if I needed to!

Is there anything you feel has become more, or less, important to have at home? The larder at home has really come into its own. Thanks to a vast interest in lockdown cooking, our larder is now stuffed full of some weird and wonderful ingredients, matched only by the large pile of new cookbooks. I think lots of people found a new interest in tableware. Experimenting with decorations and table settings has been fun, and many of us found it was an entertaining way to treat ourselves.

Have you noticed any new requests or desires from clients emerging for 2021? Lots of our clients have chosen to move to the country. Working from home encouraged people to look for more space if they could, and young families in particular have taken the plunge and left London.

joannawood.com

NATALIE STEPHENSON & JULIETTE WRIGHT

Founders of Stephenson Wright

How did the way you used your home in 2020 change? *Juliette Wright:* Our study was taken over by children, so part of our guest bedroom became a further workspace for us – it was so nice to enjoy a room we rarely used. Natalie and I have a garden studio at her house where we both work. During all the changes of 2020 we were incredibly lucky to have the comfort of this 'office bubble.' We feel grateful every day for this.

What were the unexpected benefits of lockdown? Our gardens benefitted enormously with the tending they received. For us the garden is another 'room' and we love to link the inside with outside. Natalie's mother is an award-winning garden designer and designed both our gardens. She was staying with Natalie during the April lockdown, so Natalie's garden got the full spring overhaul – much pruning and the planting of over 100 new plants, which Natalie is so excited to see bloom next year.We had a chance to take in our homes and focus on the parts we wanted to tweak or update (which amusingly for an interior designer is something we never have the time to do for ourselves!)

Is there anything you feel has become more, or less, important to have at home? Comfort is even more key with the additional time we are spending at home – this is something that comes not only from furniture, but very much a feeling. We focus a lot on this by using layers of light and by combining textures in fabrics and wallpapers for a holistic approach.

What lies ahead in 2021? The wish list for homes in 2021 has taken a universal turn towards the following: work, well-being and workouts. With these, we can safely reside in our homes. We not only want, but wholly need, our homes to deliver even more than they did prior to the pandemic. The blend of home and work can be effortlessly achieved through considered use of space and clever design solutions.

stephensonwright.com

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