

THE BEST IN INTERNATIONAL DESIGN AND DECORATION

HOUSE & GARDEN®

March
2015

**PRETTY
PERFECT**
*Decorating
with florals*

PLUS
*Creating
your ideal
bathroom*

LESSONS IN LAYOUT

**TRANSFORMING
A LONDON
TOWN HOUSE**

**CLEVER DESIGN
IDEAS FOR
LARGE SPACES**

**AN ARCHITECT'S
RETHINK OF
A FARMHOUSE**



THE DOS AND DON'TS OF DECORATING, ACCORDING TO

Veere Grenney

Do everything with commitment. Nothing irritates me more than lack of commitment. Even sill-length curtains are acceptable in context, and when done with confidence. • **Look for furniture with a sense of history.** My favourite piece is my writing table, which was commissioned by Billy Baldwin for Villa La Fiorentina and made by Maison Jansen (1). • **Appropriateness, comfort and harmony are essential.** I refer back to these three yardsticks throughout a project and check whether I have drifted from them. • **My favourite decorating colour is 'Temple',** a pink by David Oliver for Paint Library (2). • **Navy-blue rooms are a no.** Navy blue should be reserved for clothes and cars. • **Listen to the house and listen to the client.** A person can kill a house by not understanding it, and can kill a relationship by not respecting the client. • **My default choice for floors is wood,** wood and wood (3). • **It is important to have your go-to shops.** The showrooms of Gordon Watson, Rose Uniacke, Jamb (4), Lamberty and Edward Hurst never fail to inspire me. • **Become absorbed in your early influences.** I idolised David Hicks (6), Billy Baldwin, John Fowler, David Adler and Raymond Erith. • **Recognise when you do not know something.** There is little to be gained by bluffing. I always leave kitchens to other designers. • **Bring your places of happiness into your work.** I couldn't live without books or the English countryside. Veere Grenney: 020-7351 7170; www.veeregrenney.com □



Choose your priorities. If I am on a budget, I save on fabrics and spend more on art and books (5)



Veere Grenney in one of his New York interiors (top left). 1 and 5 His London home. 2 'Temple', £36 for 2.5 litres matt emulsion, from Paint Library. 3 A bleached-oak floor in the Hamptons. 4 Jamb, 95 Pimlico Road, SW1. 6 An Eaton Square interior by David Hicks

AS TOLD TO RUTH SLEIGHT/OLIVE. PHOTOGRAPHS: JUSAS ALLEN; DESIGN: JAMB; STYLING: ANTHONY DENNEY