

BEAUTIFUL  
OLD HOMES

DECORATING  
& SHOPPING

GARDEN  
INSPIRATION

ANTIQUES  
& VINTAGE

RENOVATION &  
MAINTENANCE

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING PERIOD HOMES MAGAZINE

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# PERIOD LIVING

## Homes to celebrate

From an atmospheric Tudor cottage to a colourful Edwardian villa

PLUS OUR  
2020 AWARDS  
WINNERS  
REVEALED

## TURNING BACK TIME

Essential guide  
to antique clocks

## Decorating resolutions

Latest heritage-inspired patterns  
for a new year interior makeover

*Relax into  
beautiful sofas  
and armchairs*

**SWEET  
DREAMS**  
Sustainable  
and ethical  
bedroom ideas

FUTURE





## EYE ON DESIGN

**Colourist Francesca Wezel of sustainable paint company Francesca's Paints chats about her love of colour**

### How did you become a colourist?

I have always been very artistic, and fascinated by colours and textures. When I went to live in Australia in 1989 I had a chance meeting with the owner of Porters Paints, the only manufacturer of traditional paint finishes in Australia. I fell in love with the pigments and textures; I didn't know much about it, but I was very enthusiastic and found making colours came naturally to me. I stayed with Porters for seven years, becoming the colourist and manager of the company. In 1996, after moving back to London, I opened my own paint and colour company focusing on hand-mixed, sustainable formulas and have never looked back. I'm now celebrating 25 years in the industry and am as passionate about creating paint as ever.

### Tell us about your paints

We offer 24 paint collections comprising over 200 different colours in finishes from limewash, Eco emulsion and Smart emulsion to masonry paint, oil eggshell and gloss. We are not just a paint company, we are artisans; all of our paints are mixed by hand with the highest quality pigments. The high levels of lime and chalk in our bases gives the pastes an irresistibly velvety texture, and they are all made with a touch of either burnt or raw umber, too, as this adds depth to the colour. The limewash is my favourite finish because it is completely natural and I love the mottled effect that is created by the carbonation of the lime. We present colours in collections of 8-12, with each shade designed to work with each other or alone. The collections are mostly inspired by travel, nature and art, but I have also created some tonal collections such as Namibian Sands, Off White and Urban Chic.

### Do you have a favourite colour?

I have always liked earthy colours. Arabella's Pumpkin from the Original collection is still



**Left:** Ludlow Hills Green, a bespoke colour, with Bossington Pebble  
**Brush strokes from top:** Arabella's Pumpkin; Rudranath Temple; Freedom and Angelico Pink, £52.27 for 2.5litrs of Eco emulsion  
**Below:** The Francesca's Paints studio with collection colour cards on the wall

a favourite despite being 25 years old; it is so vibrant and deep. I'm drawn to shocking pinks, too, particularly Rudranath Temple from our Himalayas collection. Because our bases are made with lime or chalk, our colours are never too aggressive. I also love our Angelico Pink – a plaster pink that keeps changing throughout the day – along with Freedom, which is the softest Blue I have ever made. Both are from the Poison into Medicine collection.

### What colours and finishes would you recommend using in a period home?

Colours are very subjective. To me it is more the finish used that is important. The best paints to use in a period home are breathable, plastic-free paints, like our limewash or Eco emulsion. Breathability in paint is important because it allows the passage of moisture, so that the wall does not bubble up. Our paints are soft, chalky and very absorbent of light, which creates a wonderful atmosphere that is ideal for period properties.



### WINTER DELIGHTS

Looking to treat someone special? Designer-maker Fiona Leighton of Particle Press has created a charming collection of accessories inspired by her winter garden, which make perfect little gifts. Covered in her handpainted illustrations, the washbags, £21, and Winter Spiced soap, £5.50, feature specimens such as white mistletoe, the redwing moth, and common bonnet mushrooms.

