



magic

A turreted
Victorian
house in
South London
becomes the
castlelike home
of an interior
designer and her
family.

for
a
year



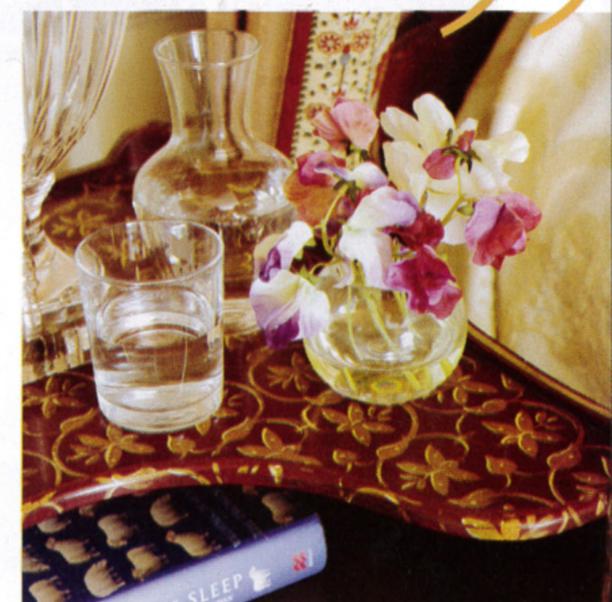


The centerpiece of the master bedroom is the enormous four-poster, which Charlotte designed in collaboration with Carr. Dressed in silk and lined with a complementary fabric, it is a testament to her love of pattern and decoration. Old prints, 18th-century furniture, and patterned textiles give the room a rich, traditional facility.



I love to live with clutter, and I love strong colors.

—Charlotte Lane Fox



Above: The antique rug hanging behind the vintage walnut dresser repeats the colorful floral patterns seen throughout the house. A tray of Halcyon Days hand-painted eggs adorns the dresser; a side chair painted by Prue Lane Fox sits to the left. **Right:** The floral motif of an ornate hand-painted side table by Carr perfectly complements the intricate floral pattern of the bed canopy. A set of glass accoutrements paired with fresh flowers adds elegant simplicity.



Above: In the dining area, an antique pine chest Charlotte inherited from her parents is topped by an antique birdcage.
Right: A vintage table and chairs offer eat-in dining in the kitchen. Charlotte designed the granite-topped island.

Charlotte's sumptuous home also evinces her strong interest in texture and materials; take the tasseled sofa beneath an Indian tapestry, for example. "It's one of my favorites," she says. "It was made by a local upholsterer using Colefax and Fowler's fabric, Malabar. I love it." Patterned curtains in the main living area of the house complement an Indian wall hanging above the sofa.

The kitchen provides openness while being comfortable and cheerful. Blue-and-white-gingham Roman shades and gingham-edged cream curtains pair perfectly with Charlotte's collection of blue-and-white china. "I think it's the nicest kitchen in London," she says. "The ceiling is high, which makes it lovely and airy." Antique chairs and a vintage French table in the breakfast area instill a sense of history, while framed art pieces add interest.

Comfort extends to the bathroom, where Charlotte installed wallpaper, heirlooms, and a comfy armchair. It's terribly English—perhaps even verging on the eccentric—but it's a welcome antidote to the astringent neutrality of many modern interiors.

All the rooms combine to create a joy-filled home with plenty of space for Charlotte and her family—who consider their London "castle" a truly magical place.

Resources on page 108



That's part of the joy of this house. It's very spacious with big rooms and high ceilings.

—Charlotte Lane Fox



The ornate curves of an antique Victorian-Era sofa and an antique elephant seat, which now doubles as a coffee table, are juxtaposed atop a sea-grass carpet.



toward a contemporary classic and traditional style rather than a minimalist modern," Charlotte says.

Charlotte imbued her own home with a 19th-century sense of decoration that includes a rich mix of eclectic artifacts, strong patterns, and glowing colors. "I love to live with clutter," she says, "and I love strong colors and patterns." Neither the chic of minimalism nor the hauteur of a "done" home is for her. "I don't believe that you can make a proper home overnight," she says. "It's a result of collecting, mixing, and matching. The result is a mishmash, but it works."

Visitors are often drawn to the conversation pieces in Charlotte's home. A trio of mounted ammonites—two on the mantel and one on a nearby table—join plants, vases, prints, and a splendid silver lobster. A trompe l'oeil painting of decorative urns and plates on a French-style country dresser was created by noted furniture designer and artist Graham Carr, who also helped Charlotte make the regal four-poster in the master bedroom. Plenty of comfortable chairs and sofas supply seating for taking it all in.

Left: The study features a mix of new and antique furnishings. A sea-grass carpet topped with an antique rug reflects the colors of the bookshelves and the gold and black hues of the antique fire grate. A glass-and-plastic coffee table sits below a painted chandelier from Portugal. **Below:** A pair of dragons (the first present Bruce gave Charlotte) stand atop a red-lacquer chest painted by Graham Carr and beneath an antique mirror.

