

Usually, wall panelling and fluted pilasters, a roll-arm sofa and a Persian rug would make for a totally traditional space, but this moody room feels fresh thanks to Mulberry Home's new take on tartan and a kilim-inspired fabric-turned-wall hanging. **Sofa fabric**, Haddon Check in Plum; **pillow fabrics** (from right), Bohemian Tapestry in Sienna; Lucien in Cranberry; Drummond in Plum; Bohemian Travels Velvet in Sand; **wall hanging**, Buckland in Plum, all through Kravet Canada.

# LONDON CALLING

A TRIP TO THE U.K. GAVE SUZANNE DIMMA A NEW APPRECIATION FOR A TRAD-MEETS-MOD LOOK THAT'S FRESH, FUN AND DISTINCTLY BRITISH.

Produced by **JOEL BRAY** | As told to **STACY LEE KONG**



## STOP 1

*The Number Sixteen hotel, designed by Kit Kemp*



"On our first day in London, after a very long day of travel, I flopped down on the sofa in the lovely hotel lobby and took this photo. It was the perfect trad-meets-mod room."



## STOP 2

*The Vyne, a 16<sup>th</sup>-century Tudor mansion*

*At Mulberry's offices in London, we saw patterns inspired by The Vyne*



"Next, we visited The Vyne, a beautiful manor house just outside London. The highlight was the stunning plasterwork in the front hall (top centre), which we learned served as inspiration for fashion house Mulberry's Fall-Winter 2015 line."



*Our Group*

**L**ater this year, fabric giant Kravet put together an inspirational London Design Week adventure for some of their biggest fans — Canadian designers Richard Ouellette, Philip Mitchell, Victoria McKenney, Elizabeth Metcalfe, Susan Calhoun, Tania Richardson and Paul Lavoie — and invited me along. Kravet is a company that works hard to keep things fresh, but also looks to its roots for inspiration, and they took us to amazing design destinations with the same philosophy. Over and over, I kept seeing a look that's rooted in history, but updated with exciting hues, daring pattern combinations and beautiful details. All these gorgeous spaces got me excited about this new spin on traditional British decorating. Turn the page for the rundown on what I love most about this look.

## STOP 5

*Jessica McCormack's chic jewelry boutique*



"This was my favourite stop — jewelry designer Jessica McCormack's boutique is in an eclectic Edwardian townhouse, which makes for a unique shopping experience. The moody living room with global accents and the striking pineapple-motif wallpaper by Timorous Beasties in the powder room were definite highlights."



## STOP 3

*Ivo Prints*



"This Paddington plant prints Kravet's fabrics, like Christopher Farr's Belfour ikat (above). Some Kravet patterns are inspired by finds from their archives (left), and I love that some fabrics are still printed using traditional hand-screening for an organic sense of imperfection."



## STOP 4

*Christie's on Old Brompton Road*

"I thought I'd only see oil paintings and antiques at Christie's, but there was such a wide range of eras and styles represented, including a unique collection of found objects and a stunning modernist sculpture by Alexander Calder."





## THE LOOK: British Eclectic

### THE FABRICS: Bold and layered — and sometimes bright.

A monochromatic blue palette that recalls classic delftware feels new when juxtaposed with purposely imperfect woodwork, giving this space an air of beautiful decay. **Door colour**, Hague Blue (30), Farrow & Ball; **wallpaper**, Mulberry China in Indigo; sofa **fabric**, Wild Geese Linen in Indigo; pillow **fabric**, Festival Stripe in Indigo; pillow **trim**, Scrub Brush in Yucca, all by Mulberry Home through Kravet Canada.



Embroidery, block-printing, references to William Morris and solid, sumptuous velvets feel fresh in new colourways and combinations. *From top:* Botanical Garden in Fig, Zennor Mineral, Trumpet Flowers, Langdale Velvet in Pewter, Langdale Velvet in Mink, GP & J Baker, all through Kravet Canada.



### THE ACCESSORIES: Playful, mix-and-match finds.

**1.** Bright candles in a mismatched collection of holders add an eclectic hit to any room. **Candles**, Candle Emporium; **candlesticks**, Cynthia Findlay Antiques.

**2.** A table with horse hoof-inspired legs is just the sort of quirky one-off that adds a jolt of witty personality to the look. **Ari side table** by Oly, South Hill Home.



**"THIS LOOK COMES ALIVE IN  
THE TENSION BETWEEN  
TRADITIONAL COLOURS  
AND MORE MODERN  
PATTERNS" — Suzanne Dimma**

Golden Chalice  
(360D-5), Behr.

Whipple Blue  
(HC-152),  
Benjamin Moore.

Red Earth (64),  
Farrow & Ball.

**THE PALETTE:**

**Rich historical hues.**

Tried-and-true paint colours feel hip again, especially in applications like this panelled door, which pairs a classic lavender-tinged dove grey with a green pebble-look wallpaper to modern effect. **Paint colour**, Purbeck Stone (275), **wallpaper**, Blostma (BP 5205), Farrow & Ball.



## THE LOOK: British Eclectic



### THE DETAILS:

**Unexpected updates.** In this sitting room by Brit designer Ben Pentreath, a pleated lampshade, a trad decorating mainstay, gets an update thanks to pretty colours and a mod ikat pattern.



Florals in different scales feel abstract thanks to the shades' tiny pleats.  
**Lampshades,** Irving & Morrison.



### THE ACCENTS: A whimsical mix.

In jewelry designer Jessica McCormack's residential-style atelier, an elaborate ceiling medallion gets an edgy update via an illuminated sculpture by David Wiseman.

3



3. Library lights add a bit of shine to a gallery wall, especially when they're doubling as a classic counterpoint to modern art. **Dean picture light** by Alexa Hampton, Visual Comfort.

4. Hang a matte cameo alongside more contemporary choices for added tension. **Cameo plaque**, Horchow.



4





**THE ART:** A studied *mélange* of styles hanging over pretty wallpaper. The swooping staircase took centre stage at this year's Kips Bay Decorator Show House. Toronto designer Philip Mitchell filled the walls with a variety of art and frames — huge abstract pieces alongside photographs, oil paintings and sketches. **Wallpaper,** *Torridon in Silver/Grey,* Mulberry Home through Kravet Canada.

Room design by Philip Mitchell/Photography by Marco Ricca/OPPOSITE: Room design and photography by Ben Pentreath

***"IT'S A BOLD MOVE TO TAKE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL PASTORAL WALLPAPER AND COVER IT WITH ART, BUT THE IMPACT IS DRAMATIC" — Suzanne Dimma***