



FOREIGN EXCHANGE

During the decoration of this American home in a modern pastoral genre, British design studio Salvesen Graham took away a few new ideas

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SNUG

'We mixed and matched trimmings here for a folksy feel,' says designer Mary Graham.

Walls in Calke Green, Farrow & Ball. Curtains and blinds in Qajar Stripe, Soane Britain. Ottoman by David Seyfried; in de Le Cuona's Antique Paisley Blue; trim in Tarsus braid in Olive, Susan Deliss. Side table, Salvesen Graham



KITCHEN

This is a true country kitchen with pot rack hanging overhead and pretty half curtains at the windows.

Joinery in Light Blue, Farrow & Ball. Swiss back counter stools, Nickey Kehoe.

Pot rack with lights, Ann-Morris. Curtains in Casse-noisette, Décors Barbares

It is safe to say that not many turn-of-the-20th-century houses in Colorado feature gutsy floral curtains and pelmets, matching wall and window treatments and skirted floral lampshades, but few are lucky enough to have British design duo Nicole Salvesen and Mary Graham at the helm of their renovation.

The house, located in a former mining town at the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, features traditional American millwork (think hand-carved banisters, chunky newel posts and high oak skirtings) and a classic timber front. But its English country house interiors are a reflection of the British heritage of one half of the couple who lives here. 'I settled in America more than a decade ago,' she says, 'but during the pandemic I craved the comfort and familiarity of the interiors I grew up with: that relaxed mix of pattern, colour and antiques that feels refined but not overly precious.'

That craving for home came soon after the couple and their three young children moved to this town from California, attracted by its slower pace of life and the appeal of summer hiking and winter skiing. Built in 1903, the house has listed status so there was a limit to the structural changes the family could undertake. 'But that didn't stop us from fine-tuning the floor plan and adding a quintessentially decorative flavour,' says Mary Graham of Salvesen Graham, the design firm known for its relaxed yet elegant take on British style.

The renovation was kick-started by a simple but pressing request: sumptuous window treatments that unashamedly celebrated blowsy florals, frills and pleats. 'When we compared notes, we found that the owners' scrapbook of favourite fabrics featured many we had already picked out,' says Mary. 'It's always gratifying when ideas dovetail.' The pair selected classic florals

by Jean Monro, simple sacking by Guy Goodfellow and vivid suzani textiles from Pentreath & Hall, which together introduce warmth and vibrancy throughout.

Their application carries a nonchalance and exuberance that has a distinctly British feel. 'The execution was in fact the most challenging part,' admits Nicole. 'Americans are on the whole used to producing drapes and shades, rather than curtains and blinds and their treatments are more tailored. We spent a fair few Zoom calls encouraging the curtain maker to go bold with overscaled, gathered pelmets and generous swathes of fabric.'

The result is a home that the owner describes as 'rich and cosy, but not stuffy; full of colourful, light spaces that we love to spend time in'. Original flooring and woodwork that 'feels handcrafted and weighty' has been tempered by shades of soft greens and blues; the principal bedroom has been given a cossetting reading nook thanks to a pair of skirted floral armchairs, and the dining room, once a walk-through, is now defined by a bold matching wall, window and wall light treatment. A reworked basement now features a guest suite, laundry room and a chill-out zone for the children. 'We wanted something that felt sympathetic to the historical architecture of the house, while feeling relaxed, a little bit cluttered and eclectic,' continues the owner. 'That is what has always felt homelike for me.'

Although designers Mary and Nicole brought their inimitable style to Colorado, they also found themselves taking something home. 'Americans are brilliant at scaling up,' says Mary. 'We fell in love with their generous pot racks and chunky hardware, which we'll definitely be incorporating into our British schemes.'

■ salvesengraham.com

"WE WANTED TO IMBUE THIS HOME WITH A STRONGLY DECORATIVE FLAVOUR, EVOCATIVE OF CLASSIC BRITISH STYLE, BUT IT HAD TO BE PRACTICAL, TOO, WITH CLEVER STORAGE"



DINING ROOM
 Part of an enfilade, this space leads to the snug and sitting room. 'We opted for a wallpaper to demarcate it,' says Mary. Zénaide wallpaper, Décors Barbares. **Chairs**, Salvesen Graham; upholstered in Milano Linen, Claremont. **Pendant**, Soane Britain. **Rug**, Jennifer Manners





BASEMENT GAMES ROOM

'We wanted to retain a sense of elegance so we opted for built-in joinery and rich fabrics,' says Mary.

Column lamps, Salvesen Graham. Sofa in Duro Olowu's Timbuktu fabric in Baobab, Soane Britain



**BASEMENT
GAMES ROOM**
A horizontal black
metal-framed
window channels in
additional light.
Armchairs in Moorish
Maze in Cinnamon,
Rapture & Wright



ENTRANCE HALL
Woodwork painted in soft
green helps to balance
out the dark undertones
of the flooring and stairs.
Devonshire **wallpaper**
in Blue/Green, Michael S
Smith. **Woodwork in** Olive,
Farrow & Ball. **Runner in**
Serrano 8, Fleetwood
Fox. Oil **pendant lamp**,
Empel Collections

STUDY
Formerly a pantry, this
area has been turned
into a peaceful home
office complete with
panelled walls.
Blinds and lampshades
in Feuilles Nina, Décors
Barbares. **Desk in**
Desmond Grasscloth,
Sister Parish. Parsons
desk lamp, Susie Atkinson





MAIN BEDROOM
 'We really went all-out here, layering texture and pattern for full-on country house appeal.' Blinds and armchairs in Wisteria Rose, Jean Monro



MAIN EN SUITE
 A slipper chair upholstered in a classic chintz lends a wonderful decorative flourish. George Smith slipper chair in Mansfield fabric, Jean Monro. Rug, Jennifer Manners

MEET THE DESIGNERS

Mary Graham and Nicole Salvesen of Salvesen Graham share their style inspiration

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

Panelling the ceiling in the family dining room added interest where it was lacking in architectural details.

FAVOURITE DECORATIVE

FLOURISH We adore a bold artwork by Sarah Graham in the drawing room, which adds vibrancy.

YOUR STYLE IN THREE WORDS

Timeless, layered, comfortable.

GO-TO DESIGN DETAIL Fabric walling – and where this isn't possible, trimming a room with a tape or wallpaper border.

INSPIRATION American architects such as Gil Schafer, Peter Pennoyer and Ike Kligerman Barkley. And also the greats, of course: John Fowler's tricks of the trade are regularly revisited in our interiors.

GREATEST INDULGENCE Pattern on pattern – it doesn't have to be bold but it can be very pleasing to the eye.



MAIN BEDROOM

Stripes, florals and suzani prints combine to striking effect, while the bed is anchored by a half tester.

Fez wallpaper; valance in Olive Sacking, both Guy Goodfellow. Throw, Pentreath & Hall. Cane étagère table, Vaughan