

INSPIRATIONS

Hark back to times past for decoration ideas this

November

DINNER TIME

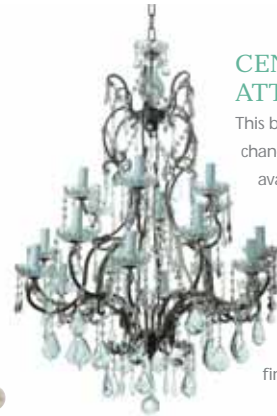
Available from Gustavian, this Carl Gustav oval dining table is priced at £1,640. Call 020 7724 6444 or log on to www.gustavian.com to find out more.



The Gustavian style emerged as a result of King Gustav III's travels across Europe in the late 1700s. After discovering the French Louis XVI style and the Italian Neo-Classical fashion, the monarch brought them back to Sweden, where they were embraced and developed. It is distinguished by its cool colour palette of greys, blues, and whites, and its clean, strict lines.

CENTRE OF ATTENTION

This beautiful cut crystal chandelier in burnished gold is available from Bella Figura and would make a stunning focal point. It is priced from £2,740. Call 01394 461 111 or take a look at www.bella-figura.com to find out more.



GATHER ROUND

This Gustavian-style table costs £399 from ILVA, while the chairs are priced at £179 each. For further details call 0845 245 8285 or visit the company's website at www.ilva.co.uk.



SOFT TOUCH

These pretty Camellia cushions are £39 each from Barbara Coupe. Featuring a floral sprig motif and gingham backing, they would suit a Gustavian-styled room. For more details call 020 7720 1415 or click on www.barbaracoupe.co.uk.



TIME WILL TELL

This Mora clock is priced from £435. It is available from Scumble Goose. For more details call 01453 731 305 or visit www.scumblegoose.com



ON REFLECTION

This Roccoco mirror is priced from £249, and is available from Scumble Goosie. Call 01453 731 305 or visit the website at www.scumblegoosie.com.



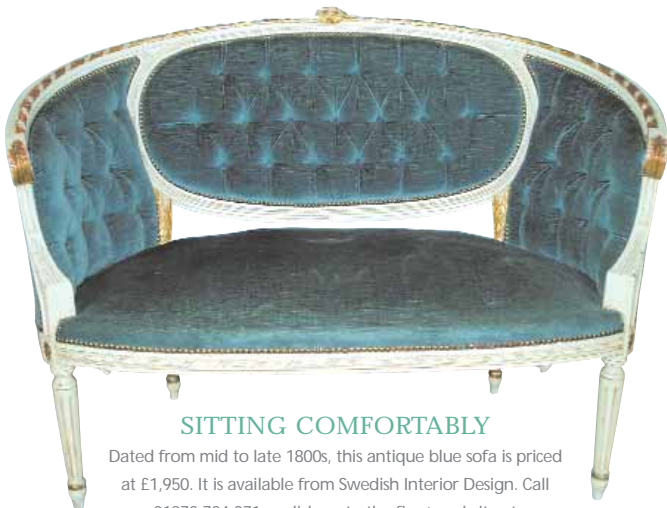
WITHIN REACH

Available from Chic Shack, this Versailles side table is priced at £198. For more information call 020 8785 7777 or log on to the company's website at www.chicshack.net.



PEN TO PAPER

This painted writing desk with cabinet is priced at £4,600 from Gustavian. Call 020 7724 6444 or visit the firm's website at www.gustavian.com to find out more information.



SITTING COMFORTABLY

Dated from mid to late 1800s, this antique blue sofa is priced at £1,950. It is available from Swedish Interior Design. Call 01273 734 371 or click on to the firm's website at www.swedishinteriordesign.co.uk to view similar items.

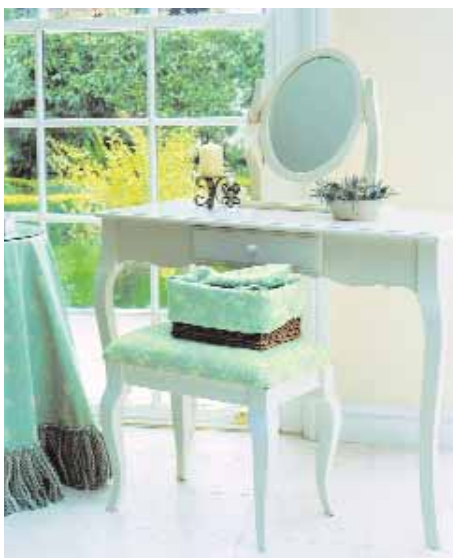


GOOD TIMING

This ornate wall clock would look stunning on the wall of a room decorated in the Gustavian style. It is priced at £2,900 from Rupert Cavendish. Call 020 7731 7041 or visit www.rupertcavendish.co.uk to find out more information.

SIT TIGHT

This chair is priced at £298, excluding the upholstery fabric. It is available from Chic Shack. For more details call 020 8785 7777 or log on to www.chicshack.net.



DRESS TO IMPRESS

Add a touch of glamour to your bedroom with this Swedish-style dressing table, which is priced at £220 from The Dormy House. The stool costs £195, and the mirror is £80. Call 01264 365 808 or visit the website at www.thedormyhouse.com for further details.

Expert Advice

"Gustavian style is actually much more eclectic and colourful than we are led to believe. The distressed grey and off-white furniture finishes and checked fabrics that are common to modern reproductions were more often seen in the parlours of the middle classes or the private rooms of richer houses, along with the ubiquitous Mora grandfather clocks. The salon, galleries and other public 'entertaining rooms' of wealthy manor houses and the Stockholm nobility were far more sumptuously decorated in a riot of colour. These often featured glorious handcarved giltwood furniture and mirrors, large candle chandeliers, dramatic parquet floors, and elaborate ceiling corning and plaster mouldings. Striped damask silk fabrics in vivid yellows, rich red, subtle blue-greys and cornhusk blues were also popular, as were striped or patterned silk wallpapers."

Madeleine Lee of Swedish Interior Design creates holistic interiors in classical Swedish styles using non-toxic organic materials. She sells a wide selection of original Swedish antique furniture and unique sleigh couches. For more information call 07958 788 555 or visit www.swedishinteriordesign.co.uk.



Places to Visit



GRAND IDEAS
 Designed by Robert Adam, the magnificent state rooms at Kedleston Hall in Derbyshire are fine examples of the European fashions that influenced the Gustavian style. Admission to the Neo-Classical mansion costs £7.27 for adults and £3.63 for children. Call 01332 842 191 or log on to the website at www.nationaltrust.org.uk



NORDIC RETREAT
 The Grand Hotel Stockholm boasts a selection of elegant rooms that have been decorated in the Gustavian style. In keeping with the Swedish tradition, the rooms and furniture display classical tones of blue, white, and grey. Prices start from around £290 for a double room. For further details call +46 (0)8 679 35 00 or log on to the website at www.grandhotel.se.



MODEL EXAMPLE
 Located in West Yorkshire, Nostell Priory is an 18th century architectural masterpiece. It features the style of interiors and collections that would have influenced Swedish designers during the Gustavian period. Admission is priced at £6.50 for adults, and £3.25 for children. For opening times call 01924 863 892 or log on to www.nationaltrust.org.uk.



LIGHTEN UP

This ornate cut crystal wall light in burnished gold is priced at £445 from Bella Figura. For more information call 01394 461 111 or visit www.bella-figura.com.



TABLE TOP

With a distressed soft-white finish and an oak top, this Provencal console table is priced at £499. It is available from Belle Maison. For further details, call 0870 850 6207 or visit www.bellemaison.com.



TAKE A SEAT

Simple checked fabrics in strong colours are a Swedish favourite. Available from Scumble Goose, this Baroque carver costs from £334. To find out more, call 01453 731 305 or log on to the website at www.scumblegoose.com.



SWEET DREAMS

All available from Sasha Waddell's Liselund range, this bed is priced at £2,705, the chest of drawers is £1,950, and the stool is £1,380. For further details call 020 8979 9189 or visit www.sashawaddell.com.

FLAMING BRIGHT

In keeping with the pale colours that are often associated with the Swedish style, these weathered-white wooden candleholders are available from Laura Ashley. They are priced at £12 each. For more details call 0871 230 2301 or visit www.lauraashley.com.



LITTLE TOUCHES

Featuring a typical Swedish design, these hand-embroidered linen napkins are priced at £20 each from Marston & Langering. Call 0845 270 6688 or visit the website at www.marston-and-langering.com to find out more information.



WRITE STYLE

Available from Leporello, this elegant Karelian writing table is priced from £750. Call 01483 284 109 or visit www.leporello.co.uk.





GARDEN ESSENTIALS

PERFECT PRESENT

Presented in a beautiful plywood box, this Burgon & Ball trowel and fork duo would make a lovely gift for a keen green-fingered friend. The sets are priced at £19.95 each from Farley Lane. For more details call 01538 703 888 or log on to the website at www.farleylane.co.uk.



COUNT DOWN

This Victorian-style outdoor clock, £19.99 from AHS Direct, is sure to be a talking point – whatever the time of the day. Its dual face means you can see the time wherever you are in the garden. Call 01797 227 300 or visit www.ahsdirect.co.uk.



PICK ME UP

Now that the temperatures are starting to drop, we'll be snuggling up next to a roaring fire before we know it. This four-handled jute carrier makes winter chores like carrying logs a doddle, and it's also ideal for collecting garden waste all year round. It is available from the Carrier Company and is priced at £30. Call 01328 820 699 or visit www.carriercompany.co.uk.



KITTED OUT

Including a trowel, weed knife, and pair of bypass secateurs, this outdoor tool set is ideal for those last-minute autumn gardening tasks. Complete with a stylish pastel-green bag to keep them safe and tidy, the kit costs £29.99 from AHS Direct. Call 01797 227 300 or log on to www.ahsdirect.co.uk to find out more.

PERFECT MATCH

If you like to be colour coordinated wherever possible, you'll love this delightful apple green storage range from The Contemporary Home. With a matching string dispenser, metal trug, seed boxes, barometer, and thermometer, you really can dress your garden shed to impress. Prices start from £5.99. For further details call 023 9246 9400 or visit www.thecontemporaryhome.co.uk



Garden Expert

HELEN DERRIN



I'm pretty sure that growing up in Australia, where the climate remains fairly constant throughout the year, has really made me appreciate the dramatic changes that each season brings here in the UK. Autumn is possibly the most spectacular, as although the temperatures begin to plummet, the colour in some plants heats up to boiling point and the garden is filled with rich shades of red, orange, yellow and purple.

Because of their size, the biggest impact is created by some of the trees, especially if there is room to plant them en masse. If space is at a premium – or, like me, you do not have a large enough garden to house an arboretum – one or two carefully-placed specimens can be just as rewarding. Trees that pack a stunning autumn punch include the red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar*), Persian ironwood (*Parrotia*), ornamental cherry (*Prunus Okame*), and Chinese dogwood (*Cornus kousa var chinensis*). Their ordinarily plain green leaves will turn cracking shades of yellow, orange, red and purple, before falling away to create a crunchy carpet underfoot.

Stunning effects can also be created using some of the popular climbers. Few passers-by can fail to be impressed by the sight of a wall covered by Boston ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata Veitchii*) in October. If planted in a sunny spot, the red and purple colour can be jaw dropping. However, it is a big brute of a climber that can easily cover an entire wall of a two storey house, so if you're after a plant that's a little more manageable, the Chinese Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus henryana*) will provide just as much interest but will only grow to around half the size. Large arches and pergolas look equally good dripping with the vividly-toned huge leaves of a crimson glory vine (*Vitis coignetiae*).

Even tiny spaces should not be left out. You can get lashings of autumn colour by adding some small shrubs and ground-covering plants. For example, most Japanese maples (*Acer palmatum* varieties) can be grown in large pots, and will give spectacular results. For beds and borders, the smoke bush (*Cotinus*), barberry (*Berberis*), red-barked dogwood (*Cornus alba Sibirica*) and hardy plumbago (*Ceratostigma*) are all worth considering. I like to say goodbye to the summer with a bang and not a whimper, so make the most of the colour available at this time of the year and enjoy!



Helen Derrin grew up in Australia but has lived in the UK for over 20 years. She is the resident plant doctor and designer at Crocus. Call 0870 787 141 or visit www.crocus.co.uk to find out more.