

CONSERVATION NEWS

Kent

PERIOD HOMES • RENOVATION • INTERIORS • GARDENS • FOOD & DRINK

CONSERVATION NEWS Kent has a unique, unrivalled and highly selective distribution network, delivering 15,000 monthly copies into a clearly defined marketplace via Royal Mail to Grade I and II listed properties, as well as hand-picked outlets throughout the county.

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CONSERVATION NEWS Kent

Winter 2017 • Complimentary



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HERITAGE STYLE
bathrooms

WITH THE HELP OF PERIOD FITTINGS AND A TOUCH OF VINTAGE-INSPIRED GLAMOUR, YOU CAN GIVE YOUR BATHROOM A SENSE OF TIMELESS ELEGANCE.



*Knightsbridge freestanding bath in matte aluminium finish, £2,495, Frontline Bathrooms
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MIND THE DOORS!

REINSTATING PERIOD DOOR FEATURES IN YOUR HOME IS A GREAT WAY OF MAKING YOUR HOME MORE HARMONIOUS AND CAN ALSO ADD VALUE.

While plenty of thought is given to restoring windows and fireplaces, sometimes doors and door furniture are not always given the consideration they deserve.

Period timber doors add solidity and charm to a property that is hard to beat – and if any of the original door furniture remains, all the better. Panel doors, common throughout the Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian eras, in various designs, were often shunned during the 1960s and boarding was sometimes nailed over both sides, hiding the real door beneath. Discovering the originals underneath these boards is one of those moments that makes renovation rewarding.

If your doors are coated in years worth of gloss paint, they can be chemically dipped or sandblasted, with many specialists offering a collection and delivery service.

The stripped door can then be waxed, varnished or painted as you wish. If the doors remain looking damaged or patchy, then applying a limed finish is a good idea and is actually a traditional finish for doors, floorboards and furniture.

Doors that have warped or become rotten over time and are sticking in their frames can be repaired, usually for less than it would cost to replace.

It is vital not to cut corners when buying doors, whether you go for replicas or reclaimed pieces. You need to measure carefully and choose



something which you really love as you will be using the doors every day.

If the doors have been replaced – particularly common with front doors which are often replaced with unsuitable PVCu designs – reclamation yards usually have a good stock of all styles. Take your measurements along with you and be prepared to sift through quite a few. Most reclamation yards also offer a reconditioning service, at an extra cost.

How to create a COTTAGE GARDEN

THE BEST COTTAGE GARDENS LOOK LIKE THEY PLANTED THEMSELVES. THEY DIDN'T, OF COURSE. BUT THE DESIGN PRINCIPLES THEY FOLLOW ARE SIMPLE.



The first cottage gardens were born of necessity, not style. They were the domain of farmworkers and other labourers who had families to feed and used the bit of land around their cottages to grow what they could to eat.

Much later, garden designers imitated the style and elevated the humble cottage garden to the status of high fashion.

In today's world, the cottage-style garden is much admired, although more for its lush flowers than for vegetables. The appeal of the cottage garden is now mostly aesthetic, but its good practices are well worth emulating.

STRUCTURE AND DESIGN

The cottage garden is, by definition, small – making it ideal for a town or suburban plot – but the style is still possible in a larger space: simply cord off an area and fence it with a screen of woven willow or hazel, or white picket fencing. Consider planting a native hedge, preferably a beech and thorn mix to encourage wildlife and year-round interest.

Inside these precincts, an eclectic jumble of plants should include flowers for cutting intermixed with vegetables for the kitchen. A cottage garden may look overgrown, but it's never left to run riot!

A strong framework of beds and paths provides the structure, but materials are usually informal, such as old bricks, randomly-laid stone, gravel, or even bark chips. Classical statuary is non-existent. An arbour or bench makes an appropriate focal point.