

Wallpaper*

JUNE 2004

ACCESS TO THE BEST THE WORLD HAS TO OFFER

U.S.
AUSTRIA
AUSTRALIA
BELGIUM
CANADA
DENMARK DK
FRANCE
GERMANY
HOLLAND
ITALY
SPAIN
SWEDEN SE
SWITZERLAND SF



Our outside space is just as important to us at Wallpaper* as our interiors. And while we're happy with our Lawson-Fenning table and chairs, no urban garden, terrace or patio, however small, is complete without a little carefully selected greenery. So what's hot and horti? After the tropical tyranny of the palm tree and dagger-edged bamboo spire, we're revolting. We're getting rid of those architectural plants that once adorned our decking and replacing the spiky bits with something more floral, fragrant and old-fashioned. And we're not alone. 'Country is back because people want a break from all those hard lines,' says Tim Birks, head florist at London-based flower business McQueens.

But since we don't have the space for a Rambling Rector in the duplex, simple pots of lavender and thyme on the roof terrace will have to capture the country spirit in miniature. For a touch of the Mediterranean under a metropolitan sky, terracotta containers,

hand-made in France by Jane Norbury and stocked by Judy Green's Garden Store in London's Hampstead (£30-£200), have all the right Provençal credentials. However, we've no intention of ditching all our understated steel containers once we've uprooted the black bamboo; the juxtaposition of old and new – say, clumps of free-form marguerite daisies in hard-edged planters – works surprisingly well.

We are even welcoming what were once botanical untouchables back into polite society. At L'Ecole des Fleurs in the Hôtel de Crillon in Paris, students learn how to dress vases with that old bridal-bouquet standby, gypsophila. 'It's a common flower, but if you use it alone – a large swathe is best – you get a fresh look and an airy texture,' says florist Christian Tortu.

Danish trends forecaster Anne Lise Kjaer says country style has deep enough roots to carry it through the next few seasons. She suggests a neat solution for the time-starved bamboo lover. 'Bamboo will' » page 050

LIFESTYLE

LAWN TO BE WILD
Tray, part of tray-table set by Margot Barolo & Märta Friman, in 'Windows' design, SEK2,225 (€240), from Svenskt Tenn. Coffee pot, £99; cups with lids, £27 each, by Missoni. Cushion covered in 'Windows' fabric; 'Montrose' chair, both as before. 'FX' planter, \$240; stand, \$99, both from the 'Architectural Pottery Collection', by Vessel USA.

'Chair 592' (just seen), by Josef Frank, SEK5,000 (€550), from Svenskt Tenn. Polo shirt, £80; trousers, £150, both by Lacoste. Shoes, £255, by Giorgio Armani



**CHESS 50**

'Lotus' chair, \$3,000; 'Lotus' ottoman, \$850; 1950s birdbath, \$600; pot on stand, \$1,500, by Pottery-Zanero/Homespun, all from California Living. 'Schachspiel' chessboard, £1,454, by KPM, from Thomas Goode

Sun hat, €300, by Malo. Bathing costume, £125, by Pringle

For stockists, see Resources, page 160

still work. But try adding extra elements such as low-lying black pansies,' she says. She's predicting an influx of 'healing' greenery such as aloe vera, and suggests cacti – prickly but pleasingly drought-tolerant for those with no time or inclination for watering. Kjaer's own humble favourite is the Money Tree cactus. 'It's green, works well in smaller spaces and has excellent feng shui.' This summer, Kjaer will be mixing it with soft colours. 'Vintage-style roses, white pelargoniums – maybe I'll throw down some wild flower seeds. Unplanned and natural is increasingly seductive.'

George Warrington of interior design partnership Gabhan O'Keefe confirms that New York has gone all wistful as well. 'Think colonial nostalgia – a 1950s English exile in Palermo dreaming of summer back home,' he says. 'That means Mediterranean hints, too. A terrace may have a background of olive saplings and lemon trees in big tubs, with sweet peas, peonies and variegated old roses. This can then be juxtaposed with strongly aromatic plants such as orange blossom and rosemary.'

The only blot on the compost heap is that a miniature informal garden can prove surprisingly high-maintenance, so you'll have to send the daily out with stakes, gloves and the odd bag of mulch if your terrace is a sun trap. But even with a little (home) help, Israeli-born garden designer Amir Schlezinger thinks life is too short to start bedding in a rose arbour.

'Many of my clients won't be anywhere near their terraces for six months of the year. They want them computerised and irrigated so they don't have to become gardeners.' He suggests being choosier about containers than about plants. 'Find one that coordinates with its setting – we often create bespoke designs to suit rooftop environments and the form of the building. That way you get a contemporary and planned feel, even if you've just bought an armful of plants from the market.' Once you've bought one of his bespoke containers (£100-£500), he suggests low-maintenance planting.

'I've been recommending succulents such as sedums and house leeks for years. They're easy to care for and don't overtake their container or end up blocking a good view. I most definitely don't do roses.' ★ Libby Norman

What's blooming, what's wilting

BLOOMING

Cacti: for over 1,500 mini and monster plants in their natural setting, visit Cactus Joe's Blue Diamond Nursery, 12740 Blue Diamond Road, Nevada, US. Cacti, from \$10, www.cactuscactus.com

Oranges and lemons: the Citrus Centre in Pulborough, West Sussex, UK, offers trees suited to temperate climates – from Tahiti limes to Owarl satumas. From £25, www.citruscentre.co.uk

Faded English roses: David Austin's modern English roses have classic full shapes, soft colours and extra virtues, such as repeat flowering and disease resistance. Stockists worldwide. Roses, from €13, www.davidaustinroses.com

WILTING

Box topiary: put away those clippers and let the poor thing grow Japanese-inspired fronds: 'Ikebana – I call it yukkybana – is dead,' says McQueens florist Tim Birks

Orchids: forget hothouse rarity, these blooms have become supermarket fodder. Palms: no one can remember when they were last in

Single white lilies: if you're buying them, be lavish; never line up single stems like soldiers. 'Anything that smacks of hotel-style minimalism is so five years ago,' says interior designer George Warrington

CONTACTS

McQueens, 126 St John Street, London EC1, tel: 44.20 7251 5505

Judy Green's Garden Store, 11 Flask Walk, London NW3, tel: 44.20 7435 3832
Ecole des Fleurs, Hôtel de Crillon, 10 Place de la Concorde, Paris 8e, tel: 33.1 44 71 15 00, www.ecoledesfleurs.com

Kjaer Global, 33 Hugo Road, London N19, www.kjaer-global.com
Gabhan O'Keefe, 3 Kinnerton Place South, London SW1, tel: 44.20 7259 5658
Amir Schlezinger, 24 Camden Mews, London NW1, tel: 44.20 7485 6464

