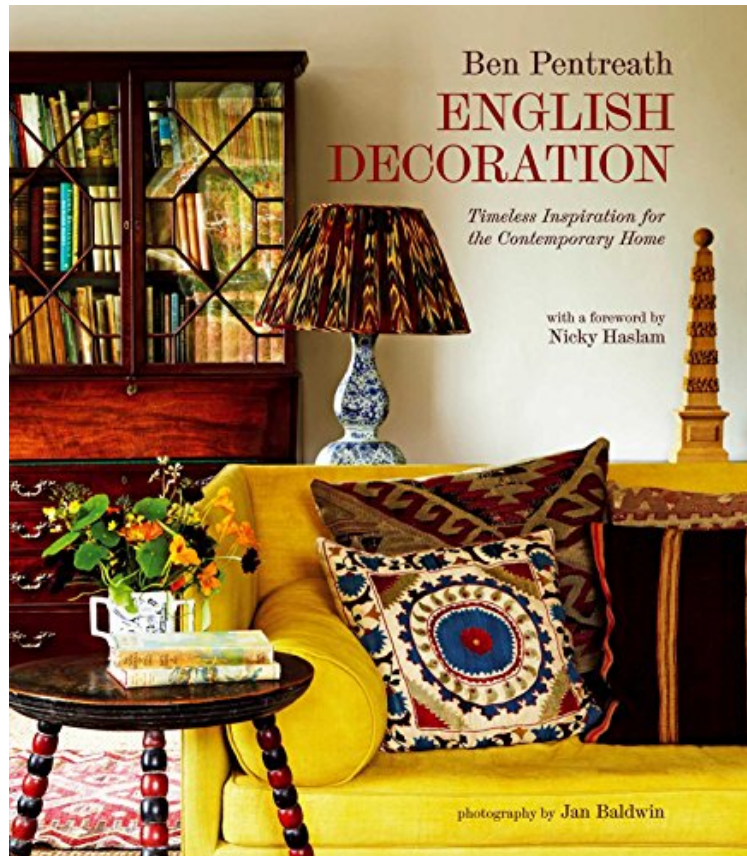


# English Decoration: Timeless Inspiration for the Contemporary Home

Ben Pentreath

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**Ben Pentreath : English Decoration: Timeless Inspiration for the Contemporary Home** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised English Decoration: Timeless Inspiration for the Contemporary Home:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. A truly English book!By kim bI have been waiting with happy anticipation for this tome and was not disappointed. It has the informal and undecorated, evolved and comfortable look I love.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Ben Pentreath is my favorite designer around right nowBy A. JohnsonBen Pentreath is my favorite designer around right now. His books are absolutely stunning! I love how classic and timeless the homes are.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good? Yes. But Utterly Derivative.By Sewickley ReaderBen Pentreath exhibits wonderful taste, but the taste is not his. While one could argue that everything is derivative, Ben takes derivative to new heights. Ben borrows from two sources in everything he does: the world-class design magazine World of Interiors, and New York's John Derian. The book is a visual delight of shabby chic English interiors, but the work is not inspired or at all original. Ben has boasted of having an almost-complete collection of World of Interiors mags on his blog, and that collection has paid off for him. And his shop's decoupage

items are either real John Dearian, or pale copies -- you can take your pick on his web site. Ben is talented, and the book is good, but it's (alas) three stars because it lacks any true originality.

Eighteen homes, many of which have never been previously photographed, provide the source material for his wide-ranging investigation of this classic look. The houses include Bens own homes in London and West Dorset, alongside those of Earls and artists, writers and architects, book designers and gardeners. The book opens with an essay on the English style in decoration, and then entrance halls, living rooms, kitchens and dining rooms and bedrooms and bathrooms are considered in turn, together with simple Rooms of Utility and spectacular Rooms of Display. There is also a foreword by Nicky Haslam, suggestions for further reading, and a style directory that reveals Ben's own favorite sources helping you to achieve the classic English look, wherever you live.

About the Author Ben Pentreath is one of Londons leading architectural and interior designers. He graduated from the University of Edinburgh, where he read History of Art Architecture. Ben then worked with architectural designer Charles Morris and trained at the Princes Foundation for the Built Environment, before working for Fairfax Sammons Architects in New York. Bens blog was named one of the 20 best design blogs in the world by the Sunday Telegraph and currently receives around 25,000 hits a month. He is also a regular columnist for the Financial Times. Bens architectural practice has worked on projects from housing developments for HRH The Prince of Wales to private houses in the UK, Ireland and the United States.