



Janet Barbour

THE CIRENCESTER DECORATOR ON WHY SHE ONLY USES FARROW & BALL PAINTS, TRICKS OF THE TRADE AND THE PERILS OF MAGNOLIA

Q. How long have you been in Cirencester?

A. I moved here with my husband and two daughters nine years ago. We were drawn to the Cotswolds – who wouldn't be?

Q. Name your favourite design trend of 2013

A. Trends come and go and everyone has such personal taste that it's difficult to pinpoint a specific trend. I am inspired by the colours and shapes found in the Cotswolds countryside – depending on the season, it can really influence the paint palettes I use.

Q. What is the project that you

have been most proud of to date?

A. I worked on a house that had failed to sell for a number of months. I spent three weeks transforming it and it sold in ten days for way over the asking price.

Q. Tell us a trick that only decorators know

A. There are so many but white ceilings are a bit of a bugbear – all it does is highlight a big area that no one wants to look at. If using neutral colours, try painting the whole room in the same colour so that your eye is then drawn to the furnishings within the room and the painted surfaces just become a

perfectly toned backdrop. This can also make the room feel bigger.

Q. What are your favourite interiors shops in Cirencester?

A. Forum Interior Design for Farrow & Ball paint and beautiful fabrics – Lottie Jordan is the new owner and has some really inspirational ideas. For You and Your Home is good for finishing touches.

Q. What's your favourite building in town?

A. Can I have a whole street? Gloucester Street is the most amazing mix of fascinating buildings and stories.

Q. What are the biggest dos and don'ts when revamping a room or house?

A. I only use Farrow & Ball paint; the quality is amazing and the final look, finish and feel are beautiful. Don't paint your radiators white! Use the same colours as the walls.

Q. When you're not decorating, how do you spend your free time in Cirencester?

A. We're so lucky to live in such a beautiful town with amazing countryside on our doorstep. Dog walking is a joy in those surroundings, particularly in Cirencester Park.

Q. If you could get on a soapbox, what would you shout about?

A. There's more to life than magnolia: think colour!

Q. What's your go-to destination for a great meal in Cirencester?

A. Dolcetti for ice cream, the Indian Rasoi for amazing Indian food and He says She Waffles for a bacon waffle with maple syrup. **CL**

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