

# THE WORLD OF INTERIORS

JANUARY 2024

**Va-va-bloom!**

From far-out feats in sugar  
to a Venetian fantasy suite



*January 2024*

## Leaves of Brass

Seasonal decoration is a compulsive, compensatory activity. With plants withered outside, the druids collected snippets of mystic mistletoe; gilded trinkets, meanwhile, are an equally ancient way to offset the darkening skies. Jess Wheeler's golden leaves are thus linked to a long tradition of festive baubles. Indeed, based as she is in rural Wales, her work feels fully in tune with the ancient spirit of the plants that surround her. Worked in brass, however, these decorations are designed to transcend seasonality. While plastic ornaments seem destined to barely outlast the fleeting festivities, Wheeler's, with their crafted sophistication, have the capacity to charm throughout the year. Gilding the mistletoe may yet prove to be as urgent an environmental response as it is an instinctive answer to the bleak midwinter. Shown below: brass-and-pearl mistletoe, £550. Visit [jesswheeler.com](http://jesswheeler.com)



## The Bells, the Bells

For the scholastic mind that created the Gothic style, light was a symbol of God's grace. To Abbot Suger, who popularised the pointed arch, it was best channelled through glass – itself a kind of crystallised light. And so arose an architectural style in which the massive stone structures of the Romanesque could be abandoned, thereby enabling the walls of churches to be filled with gleaming glass. Alison Berger, a designer in the medium, draws on this relationship between structure and light, reducing historical forms to their essentials. Her aim is to create what she calls 'modern-day heirlooms', using traditional techniques and references to create new objects with longevity. In this instance, the sexpartite vault of Notre Dame in Paris is turned into two tiers of interlocking beams supporting blown-glass lamp bells. Berger worked on this

collection with RH, whose own brand of harmonious serenity, long popular in the USA, has just touched down on these shores. Based in newly renovated Aynho Park, overlooking the Cherwell valley, its studio has fashioned a very contemporary tribute to the past executed with a lightness of touch. Shown above: 'Hemisphere' lamp, by Alison Berger, from £6,795. Visit [rh.com](http://rh.com)

## The Roll of the State

Monticello, the small pile in verdant Virginia designed by Thomas Jefferson for himself, is a most peculiar apparition: a Palladian villa transplanted to America. Just such 'artistic communication between countries' lies at the heart of Roi du Lac, explains Antea Brugnoli Alliata, co-founder of the wallpaper and fashion business. Celebrating the launch of its first US store in New York, the brand is reimagining the past as if through a looking

glass. Just as *les français* commodified 'Frenchness' in panoramic wallpapers they exported to America, here co-founder and designer Marco Kinloch has imagined Jefferson's compatriots responding with wallcoverings *à l'américaine*. And a tiny Monticello appears as a motif in the partners' new collection. It is a humorous realisation of the rooms behind the door that was never opened. Shown below: panel from 'Americana' collection, from \$1,360. Visit [roidualac.it](http://roidualac.it) @



# Longues Awaited

Daydream of daybeds, as David Lipton enjoys the thrill of the chaise



1 Swedish Neoclassical-style daybed, \$9,500, Erin Lane Estate. 2 'Barcelona' couch, by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, from £11,220 approx, Knoll. 3 'Duo' seat, by Muller van Severen, £2,874 approx, Valerie Objects. 4 'Guna 1', by Chiara Andreotti, from £3,213 approx, Gervasoni. 5 'Sleigh', from £1,139, AKD Furniture. 6 'Scroll Arm', £3,595, David Seyfried. 7 'Padua', by Van Thiel & Co, £5,460, RH. 8 Daybed, by Owen Jones, £45,000, Rose Uniacke. 9 'Five to Nine', by Studio Pepe, from £2,945 approx, Tacchini. All prices include VAT. For suppliers' details see Address Book @