

THE BRAND-NEW BRITISH BOLTHOLES TO BOOK NOW

ELLE

DECORATION

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STYLE
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FOR YOUR
HOME
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YOUR NEW
FAVOURITE
ROOM

BRIGHT FUTURE

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THE ICONS OF
TOMORROW

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THE POSITIVE
POWER OF
YELLOW

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CELEBRATING
THE ART OF
CERAMICS

SUMMER OF LOVE

SUN-DRENCHED VILLAS & COLOURFUL CITY HOMES
GUARANTEED TO SET YOUR HEART RACING



Who are they? Founders Cath Beckett and Liv Wallers met while working for esteemed British interior designer Joanna Wood. They bonded over their shared passion for colour, pattern and classic furniture, which led them to set up their studio, Yellow London, in 2017. While Wallers trained in architectural design at the prestigious Inebald School of Design, Beckett studied fashion marketing at Northumbria University and then worked in visual merchandising ('invaluable experience when it comes to putting a room together'). The pair say their skills and tastes are complementary: Wallers' flair for colour, texture and narrative, married with Beckett's love of art, antiques and period features.

What's their style? They're proud of not having a 'set style', but their interiors are often gloriously colourful, with creatively clashing patterns. 'There is an underlying theme to our work, which is a bold use of colour and pattern, but our clients can request very traditional interiors, or something much more modern, or anything in-between,' says Beckett. 'We love the variation. Contemporary maximalism is a big inspiration for us, but there's also definitely a nod to the past. Half the fun is producing something different to the last project.'

What have they worked on recently? The renovation of an 1840s property in Devon that

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YELLOW LONDON

The up-and-coming Chelsea studio that creates joyfully maximalist interiors



Liv Wallers (left) and Cath Beckett

'hadn't been touched in decades', where they elected to show off original architectural details and create a cosy feel with bright walls and fabrics. They've also completed a Grade II-listed house in Covent Garden, where they were challenged by a couple with very different opinions on style. 'One likes mid-century modern and the other is much more traditional,' explains Wallers. 'We used lots of William Morris fabrics and wallpapers, which they both loved, and upholstered their antique furniture in plain fabrics to modernise it.' As is often the case with Yellow London interiors, there's a sense of fun and playfulness at work, too. Here, it comes in the form of a Harry Potter-inspired children's bedroom, featuring a train-style bunk bed and magic-themed murals on the ceiling.

What are their current projects? A new-build project by the sea in Cornwall that will be the antithesis of 'classic coastal', and an intriguing Grade II-listed home in Hertfordshire, which involves transforming outbuildings into a kitchen and open-plan living room.

They say: 'We want the homes we create to suit the client's personality, to have a sense of originality and to be a feast for the eyes. Comfort and functionality are always key, and bravery pays off!' yellowlondon.com

Opposite A mix of traditional and modern pieces are united by colour and symmetry

From top Different scale patterns add interest to an elegant guest room; colour is considered, right down to the smallest detail, such as the trim on these pillowcases. Beckett's dining room features the joyful 'Plein Eté' wallpaper by Pierre Frey; pale grey walls allow a vibrant artwork to take centre stage



'CONTEMPORARY MAXIMALISM IS A BIG INSPIRATION FOR US'



EXPERT ADVICE

Liv Wallers and Cath Beckett on how to inject individuality into your home

1 If you have interesting architectural details in your home, make them the focus of the space.

We recently completed a house in London where the sitting room had a beautiful decorative ceiling cornice. By painting it in a strong white and papering the walls in a deep ochre shade, the architecture really popped.

2 Don't feel that you always have to buy new.

We like to reuse a client's existing furniture, as it can acquire a completely different look and feel simply by being reupholstered in a new fabric.

It's also lovely to add a fresh chapter to the life of an object.

3 Create strong contrasts with patterned fabrics and wallpapers – the more the merrier.

The best rooms feature a combination of large-scale and small-scale patterns, and blend a variety of designs that complement each other, rather than match. It's never a good idea to have five stripe prints! We love bouclé textures on upholstery, as they really stand out.

4 With colour and texture, be brave – there's nothing better than a considered clash.

We like to use a combination of matt and gloss paint finishes to add depth to a decorating scheme.



THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK

Every project has its own unique list of suppliers and craftspeople. Part of making it special is finding the right mix

TILES

We've found some really colourful, original tiles at Otto Tiles in Hackney.

It specialises in handcrafted designs and sells everything from ornate Turkish tiles to Moroccan zelliges, terrazzo and marble mosaics. ottotiles.co.uk

FABRICS

Essex design studio Teyssier is owned by Kate Teyssier, an expert in historical textiles, and sells the softest kid-mohair plain velvets. We've just used the petrol blue 'Taling' shade in our Covent Garden project.

We also love the bold geometric 'Hawkeswood' linen – it works in so many schemes. teyssier.co.uk

WALLPAPERS

As well as antiques, Whiteworks in Pimlico sells wonderful fabrics and wallpapers by Jet & Co. Designed by Susanna White, they're inspired by 1930s and 40s patterns created by her grandmother. whiteworksgroup.co.uk

ANTIQUES

Blanchard Collective is an antiques shop in Marlborough, Wiltshire, and always worth the drive from London. We often leave with more than we went for – it has everything from Regency furniture to neon artworks. blanchardcollective.com