

EDITION

LIMITED

NOVEMBER 2014

**TIMOTHY
SPALL**

PORTRAIT
OF AN ARTIST

JO BRAND

IT'S FUN TO CARE

**TASTE THE
DIFFERENCE**

THE 'FOOD
OSCAR'S'

Party
SEASON

GLAM UP FOR GOING OUT

EDITION

HOUSES & GARDENS

17th Century Italian
Aristocrat, £1,400
www.editioninteriors.com

KEEP THE HOME *fires burning*

SUZANNE WILKINSON WARMS HER
TOES IN FRONT OF THE CHOICEST
FIRES THIS AUTUMN



According to a recent survey by residential design database Houzz, many of us in the south east are partial to a real fire – or at least flickering flames – with a staggering 41 per cent having an open hearth, wood-burning stove or modern gas fire.



*Original Victorian Corbel fireplace, circa 1860, with a reproduction cast iron insert, £1,800
www.renaissanceclondon.com*

Real fires

Along with wooden sash windows and period cornices, original fireplaces remain a major asset.

“I think a fireplace brings drama and glamour to a room and as a design focus, people are seeing their power and potential,” said Owen Pacey, founder of antique fireplace specialist Renaissance London who has worked in the business for more than 20 years.

“Installing original fireplaces adds value to your home and keeps a period property true to its surroundings.”

With his business based in an iconic Shoreditch building, Owen has sourced extraordinary pieces and gathered a host of high profile clients like Mick Jagger.

“I consider fireplaces pieces of art; Georgian are my favourite,” he explained. “I think it’s because of their square-ish inserts, whereas Victorian ones are mainly arched or tiled.”

Owen, pictured above, said that many homes are challenged by space but whatever the size of the room, there will be a fireplace to fit the bill. However he stressed they must be in keeping with the house for them to add value.

“I’ve been asked to take stunning antique fireplaces out of houses that shouldn’t come out and it breaks my heart. I just won’t do it. As a rule, match architectural pieces to the period of a property and the scale for the room. If you’ve got a fireplace you don’t like, trade it in for another; it’s easy to swap a tiled Victorian fireplace for a cast-iron arch. It is not about cost but what looks right.”

Owen’s fireplace collections range from Victorian grates starting from £750, to marble surrounds for £1,000, up to £100,000 for an extremely rare Bossi.

“Reclamation is hot now, which is why Renaissance offers a handmade reproduction service.”

Owen has just sold two matching stone Georgian Bulls eye fireplaces to a customer living in a Georgian Terrace House in Greenwich.

Recreating stunning matches of beautiful original designs, using unique aging and immaculate carving techniques, they cost a third of that of the authentic piece - but look true to the original.

The value of pairs of fireplaces has gone through the roof and are much more valuable than singles alone.

www.renaissanceclondon.com



There’s a trend towards fireplaces in kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms – as well as the living room. In Victorian properties, it’s often a case of uncovering ones that exist already. This period fireplace, above, in a bedroom was an original and made a fantastic focal point for the room, with tiles showing floral and butterfly images which Phoebe Oldrey from Smartstyle Interiors in Tunbridge Wells, worked with for her colour scheme.
www.smartstyleinteriors.com

If you don’t have an original fireplace in your room – or it has been removed – you can install one. The Vanbrugh Fireplace is named after Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace. He was a leading exponent in the English Baroque Movement. This cast stone chimney piece is pictured right with a hearth and optional

