

RENAISSANCE FIREPLACES

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Based in an iconic converted pub in Shoreditch, Owen Pacey has been sourcing, installing and producing premium original and reproduction fireplaces, unbelievable lighting, mirrors and architectural salvage for over 25 years. Owen has gathered a host of high profile projects and clients from One Hyde Park to Shoreditch House, from Gilbert & George to Georgia May Jagger.

"A fireplace can add serious value to your home and I mean it – just think if there were two identical properties on the same street, one has a fireplace that complements the period of the home and one doesn't, which one would you choose? It makes sense to invest in a working fireplace – you can ignite your property's value by up to five percent, add a welcoming glow and save on heating bills too. I would say to anyone looking to winter-proof your home don't be afraid to have a real fire in your home, you don't need a mansion or a country home, real fires can still work in small properties and flats.



How much should you expect to pay for an original or reproduction fireplace?

Fireplaces come in a range of prices from Victorian grates to 18th century marble, priced from £750 to £100,000.

Renaissance London are now introducing handmade, professionally aged reproductions with immaculate carving and attention to detail at a much lower price point. This is important as often pairs of period fireplaces are required for a design

project or large room, they typically cost a third of an authentic period piece – but can look just the same.

What is the golden rule for interior decorating?

To try to make a house more alluring to live in, whilst functioning better as a home. Installing original features, such as a fireplace, mirror or antique lighting is an appealing way to make this transformation but also keeps a period property true to its surroundings. I think a fireplace brings drama and glamour to a room but most importantly, you've got to love what you are investing in. I love seeing fireplaces in every room and I'm seeing a returning trend of installing a fireplace in kitchens, bedrooms and bathrooms. Fireplaces are the design focus for many rooms and I'd love people to see their power and potential.

What are the main benefits of having a fireplace in your home?

The aesthetic value of choosing an antique or reproduction fireplace for your home is immeasurable

Are there any financial benefits?

From a Victorian town house to a country cottage, a fireplace can add serious value to your home, just think if there were two identical properties on the same street, one has a fireplace that compliments the period of the home and one doesn't. Which one would you chose? It makes sense to invest in a working fireplace this winter as you can ignite your property's value by up to five percent, add an aesthetic glow of real fire and save on heating bills too.

Top tips when buying and installing a fireplace

Many urban homes are challenged with space but it does not matter what type of home you live in, there is a fireplace that will fir the bill. One of my tips would be to never rip out an old fireplace to make way for a replacement without getting expert guidance. If you don't like what you already have you can often trade it in for another mantelpiece.