

IF you're looking for an antique or high-end reproduction fireplace, Owen Pacey is your man. His stylish salvage business, Renaissance – which also sells reclaimed radiators and other architectural artefacts with history – has helped to kit out A-list homes belonging to everyone from George Michael to Gilbert & George and Jamie Oliver to Naomi Campbell.

Here Owen shares his top tips for finding the perfect period fireplace and, below, offers an inspirational visual style guide to choosing the right style for your home.

Where do you start when choosing a fireplace for a room?

The period of the house is the most important factor, followed by the practical aspects of chimney breast size and flue status. Many people are given bad advice and unnecessarily install a new flue without a thorough check for damage. If it is not damaged don't replace it and you can save yourself a huge amount of money and time.

What are the most common mistakes people make when choosing a fireplace?

Going for a mass-produced fireplace. Polished metal, glossy marble or granite are common materials used for these which are never going to look authentic no matter how much you pay. People often paint over a stunning period piece or get it removed without getting expert advice. Nine out of ten fireplaces that go to the rubbish tip are restorable.