



This month Interior Designer Clair Strong reveals the local suppliers she recommends when creating classic designs for period homes.

Many of the properties I work on in Bath are period properties dating back to the Georgian, Regency, Victorian or Edwardian periods. Many of the older properties are listed buildings. My clients often want me to create classic or traditional schemes for these houses, so they are sympathetic to the period. Here are some of my favourite local suppliers when I am designing for period homes.



Wallpaper

I love using wallpaper in period properties, especially in bedrooms and cloakrooms where you can really go wild!

Bath-based wallpaper designers Divine Savages take inspiration from history, culture, fashion and the natural world to create a melting pot of ideas, which they then use to design bold colourful wallpapers (and fabrics) perfect for period properties. I have used their papers in several of my projects and love the quirkiness they bring to a period property. www.divinesavages.com

Annika Reed combines traditional craftsmanship with contemporary aesthetics to create charming whimsical wallpapers and fabrics. Reinvigorating the ancient art of woodblock printing, Frome-based Annika introduces vibrant energy into this age-old craft – think china dogs, Tetris puzzles, leopards, Roman pottery and fabulous brightly coloured stripes and rik-rak designs. www.annikareed.com

Tiles

Tiles are an elegant solution in many period properties, and natural materials like limestone or slate age beautifully.

Mandarin Stone is a family-run business founded over 30 years ago with a branch in Broad Street. They have a huge range of tiles, perfect for bathrooms, kitchens and flooring. I particularly love their tumbled limestone for giving a beautiful lived-in look to a traditional kitchen or elegant hallway. www.mandarinstone.com

Just down the street is Fired Earth, which also stocks a wide range of tiles and bathrooms. I love the recent collaboration they have done with designer Nina Campbell, inspired by the Moorish architecture and wall art of Seville and Ronda in Spain. The beautiful tiles in coral and aqua complement the colours used in Nina's iconic fabrics and wallpapers. www.fireearth.com

Pietra Wood and Stone are a great choice if you want to browse a wide range of luxury wood, stone and porcelain flooring all together. With over 25 years of experience, the staff in their showroom in Holt will go above and beyond to source what you want. www.pietrawoodandstone.com

Wood flooring

If you can't renovate your existing timber floorings, look for high quality sustainable alternatives.

Chauncey's Timber Flooring is a family-run company based in Bristol. They have been supplying sustainable, high-quality timber flooring since 1988 and are one of my regular suppliers for period homes. Their versatile, timeless oak flooring with beautiful hard-wearing finishes, from honey-toned to dark hues is one of my favourite ranges. They also supply a selection of alternative wood species, from light-toned European Ash, Elm and Douglas Fir, through to dark Walnut. www.chauncey.co.uk

For nearly 20 years, Broadleaf has been supplying beautiful real wood floors. Their mission is simple: to provide their customers with beautifully made products, made from carefully selected, sustainable timber, that will stand the test of time. Everybody in the Broadleaf store on Walcot Street is passionate about beautiful real wood and there are lots of samples for you to browse or take away. www.broadleaftimber.com

Paint

If you have a period property, your choice of paint can hide or accentuate existing architectural and design features. I like to choose paints from paint companies with historical colour ranges and a broad range of finishes suitable for the needs of period homes.

Farrow & Ball have wonderfully deep and richly pigmented colours which respond to light throughout the day, bringing walls to life. From soft neutrals and muted pastels, to rich dark hues, the colours all work beautifully alone or together. The intriguing story behind every colour is reflected in its name – be it nature, historic houses or inspiring people and places. Everyone loves names like Sulking Room Pink and Eating Room Red and the colours are as fabulous as the names. www.farrowandball.com

Atelier Ellis in Walcot Street make beautiful, breathable, natural colour paints. The intensely pigmented-colours are designed to create spaces that are welcoming, calming and cocooning. Virtually VOC free and fully breathable, each colour is crafted using up to ten pigments to create the perfectly complex, unique and nuanced shade. www.atelierellis.co.uk

Little Greene have been supplying pigments and dyes since 1773 and are known for their collaboration with the National Trust and research into the paint colours that work best in each period property. You can buy Little Greene paint at Davies of Bath, where the staff are a mine of information about decorating period homes. www.rabart.co.uk
www.littlegreene.com



Carpets and rugs

Natural wool or sisal carpets work best in period properties, along with elegant runners and rugs

Capitol Carpets on Walcot Street have a huge range of carpets, rugs and stair runners, from subtle classics to bold and lively contemporary designs. They are particularly known for their range of natural carpets, including pure wool, sisal, jute, coir and seagrass from Crucial Trading as well as traditionally flat-woven stair runners from Roger Oates, which look wonderful on period staircases. www.thecarpet.co.uk

BCF on Kingsmead Square are another independent supplier with incredibly helpful and knowledgeable staff who can help with large retail or commercial projects or simple domestic fitting. www.bathcontractflooring.co.uk

Virtuoso Flooring on Moorland Road is another local favourite. They stock a huge range of classic and contemporary styles, suitable for period homes as well as modern properties and have a local team of fitters. www.virtuosoflooring.co.uk

A gorgeous antique rug can really pull the colour scheme a period home together. They can be expensive, but they are a real heritage investment. Haliden on Walcot Street have a wonderful range of antique oriental carpets, kilims and old tribal weavings. They have everything from early antique Persian carpets to rare collectable Turkmen and tribal rugs. See the full range online at www.haliden.com

Artique in Tetbury is one of the country's leading sources of Central Asian artifacts. George and Ali stock a large selection of hand-woven wool kilims in stunning colours which work beautifully on the wooden or stone floors of period properties. www.artique.uk.com

Kitchens

Go for a timeless design and your kitchen will look as though it's always been there and won't date.

Hobson's Choice has a showroom on the London Road, open by appointment. There are kitchens over two floors, featuring both highly engineered and hand-finished bulthaup kitchens and a more traditional Craftsman's Collection of handmade kitchens, suited to period properties. www.hobsonschoice.co.uk

deVOL has a new showroom on George Street, where they have renovated a classic corner shop, making each room into an atmospheric kitchen where you can come and immerse yourself in the brand. You will find their Classic English, Heirloom and Shaker ranges in this beautiful showroom where the team also offer a kitchen design service. deVOL kitchens look wonderful in period properties where they combine the look of a traditional kitchen with all mod cons. www.devolkitchens.co.uk

Lighting

Period properties were built before modern lighting. The right choice of lighting can make or break a room so take time to choose wisely.

Jim Lawrence on Walcot Street is known for their traditional handcrafted lighting and lampshades. The classic shapes of their pendant lights in antique brass work inside and outside and they are happy to work with me to create bespoke solutions for my clients with large period properties. www.jim-lawrence.co.uk

Holloways of Ludlow on Milson Street are a multi-brand retailer, showcasing a huge range of range of iconic lighting designs, including Original BTC, Buster and Punch and Tom Dixon. The showroom is a delight to browse in and they work with over 400 designers so have a huge range of experience. www.hollowaysofludlow.com

Antiques

If you are going for a more traditional look, modern furniture can often look out of place in a period property so look for antique furniture instead.

Lorlords Antiques in Tetbury is home to an inspirational collection of decorative and traditional antiques and accessories, showcasing items from over three centuries and from across Europe and beyond. Lorlords also have two huge aircraft hangers outside the town showcasing the stock of over 60 of the most exciting antiques and accessories dealers in the UK and Europe. With over 60,000 square feet of jaw-dropping displays and unique items it really is an incredible Aladdin's Cave where you never quite know what you will find. www.lorlordsantiques.com

Situated in Brock Street, between the Royal Crescent and the Circus, Beau Nash Bath offer fashionable antiques and a personalised service to help you find the perfect pieces for your period home. www.beaunashbath.com

Auctions are great places to pick up original pieces for your period home. Auctioneum have salerooms in both Bristol and Bath. They have regular specialist auctions and monthly Antiques & Collectables auctions so there is always something new to bid on! www.auctioneum.co.uk



Hardware

Pay attention to the details in a period home. Aged brass can often work better than more modern chrome fittings.

TBKS are based on Locksbrook Trading Estate. They have an excellent locksmith who can refurbish historic original locks and provide new keys. Their reproduction service and refinishing of original pieces is second to none and they stock a fantastic collection of architectural ironmongery and hardware. www.tbks.co.uk

Corston Architectural Detail was started by a team of creative designers and engineers with a shared vision to create hand finished architectural details that seamlessly flow from room to room. Their coordinating collections of solid brass switches and sockets, hardware and lighting are made to last. Their timeless designs work in any property from a Victorian terrace to a listed Georgian townhouse. www.corston.com

Artwork

Original artwork can bring a period home to life, creating a completely different dynamic to each room.

Founded with a vision to bring original artworks by world-renowned artists into the lives of people from all walks of life, Hidden Gallery on Margaret's Buildings is a welcoming space and displays a full range of the artists they stock, including Barbara Hepworth, Bridget Riley, David Hockney, Damien Hirst, David Shrigley, Henri Matisse and Marc Chagall. www.hiddengallery.co.uk

Situated on York Street, Beaux Arts Bath is a contemporary art gallery showing paintings, sculpture and studio ceramics. Founded in 1979, it is the longest established independent gallery in the city and presents an ever-changing roster of major exhibitions of leading contemporary artists. www.beauxartsbath.co.uk



If you are looking to revamp your space, working with an interior designer will really help you use your budget wisely and create a look that feels cohesive, pulled together and will stand the test of time.

We are a friendly, boutique business based in Bath, providing a range of interior design services for residential and commercial projects. With over 18 years experience, we work with a trusted network of professionals and trades offering complete design and refurbishment. From city centre apartments and retail units to large Georgian houses, our portfolio includes projects of all sizes. Our ethos is to take a collaborative approach with our clients, working with them to create spaces that meet their needs, improve their lives, and exceed their expectations.

You can see many of the projects I have worked on since 2006 on my website at www.clairstrong.co.uk or click the buttons below.