

LEFT Combine nature's seasonal palette with eye-catching fabric designs and learn the art of using natural dyes at Sarah Burns' workshop (see p119). THIS PAGE Textile courses open up a world of possibilities to reupholster chairs in a vibrant new fabric. Medora fabric (from left), Tomato/Slate, Blue, Red/Green, Beige, all £105 a metre, Colefax and Fowler; chairs from Adam Bentley Antiques; paint, Beresford Red, Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler, crafted by Fenwick & Tilbrook



# On course TO CREATE

Why not learn a new skill to invest interior schemes with engaging handmade touches?

Spring is traditionally the time of year when the idea of giving an interior a decorative refresh comes into sharp focus. But before the tins of paint and tools come out of the cupboard it is good to get a grasp on how to add interest to a room. Whether it is

with a special paint effect, reupholstering a piece of furniture, or how to create a new room scheme from scratch, why not learn one or more of many techniques to enhance interiors? Sign up to a course or workshop and enjoy learning a new skill and creating an even more beautiful home. ▶





## Interior courses

A successful interior design scheme relies on many components working in harmony with each other. Learn from the best industry professionals with courses specifically designed to teach the understanding and application of putting paint colours, fabrics, furniture and accessories together to create rooms that will delight. Explore colour, texture, pattern and form with **Tricia Guild OBE**, founder and creative director of Designers Guild. The course is online, via the interactive course platform Learning with Experts, so can be followed from home. Guild aims to encourage students to follow her 'no rules' creative philosophy to develop their own personal style.

Similarly, interiors expert **Rita König** has an online course with Create Academy that explores the tips and

techniques needed to bring relaxed, refined comfort to every room. König also opens her design address book, sharing favourite sources and suppliers, encouraging students to shop like a professional.

On-site courses allow for personal interaction between the tutor and students, and **Victoria Hammond Academy** in Hertfordshire offers a wealth of courses, from an introduction to interior design to the practical skills of making curtains, Roman blinds and cushions, all run from the studio at Bury Farm. Meanwhile, interior designer Emma Bloor of **Fable and Willow** runs Room In A Box workshops from the studio in Kinver, Staffordshire, covering everything from where to find inspiration to building a sample board.

**CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE LEFT**  
Master the essentials of interior design with Tricia Guild OBE.

Learn key concepts with Fable and Willow. Rita König divulges her philosophy for creating a room scheme with Create Academy. Expert-led courses help guide informed choices for schemes. *Carnforth fabric, £129 a metre, Colefax and Fowler*

## Lampshade and textile courses

Decorative accessories can transform the simplest interiors, particularly when bespoke and made by hand. Sign up for a course to make a lampshade, upholster a piece of furniture, or embrace the intricate skills of needlework and embroidery.

**The Royal School of Needlework** is keen to keep traditional skills alive and has courses to entice beginners at various locations including Bristol, Durham, Portsmouth and Hampton Court Palace in Middlesex. **Jessie Chorley** is a London-based artist and stitcher who uses traditional hand-sewing, printmaking, collage and needle-turned appliqué techniques to transform fabric into storytelling pieces of artwork, from small samplers to large quilts. Explore Jessie's modern take on this traditional craft at a masterclass in her London studio (and a select number of other venues) and learn how to embroider with confidence. Learn how to transform napkins with hand-stitched motifs with expert Lottie Mayland at **Daylesford Organic**, either in the Cotswolds or London's Notting Hill.

For more ambitious projects consider a course in machine sewing at **Ray Stitch**, Rachel Hart's sewing

school in London's Islington. There is something for all levels of skill, and great guest tutors including renowned textile artist Julius Arthur of House of Quinn, who presents modern quilting workshops.

Weaving is also a wonderful skill to explore. Why not have a go with **Rebecca Connolly** at West Dean college in West Sussex, Kelmscott Manor in the Cotswolds, and Highgrove Traditional Crafts in Gloucestershire, and learn hand-weaving with British wools on a body-tensioned loom?

New lighting can transform a room in an instant and a handmade lampshade makes it even more special. Sign up to one of Jane Warren's courses at **The Lampshade Loft** in West Wittering, West Sussex, or nearby **Clothkits** in Chichester, and use exquisite papers and fabrics to make all styles of shades from the traditional and gathered to the contemporary.

Update a tired sofa or armchair by reupholstering the frame with guidance from Joanna Heptinstall at the **Traditional Upholstery School** near Bradford-on-Avon in Wiltshire. By simply being brave and trying this skilful course, a new passion may be discovered. ▶

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT**

Delve into hand-stitching and collage with Jessica Chorley. Create intricate wall art at the Royal School of Needlework. Dip into the world of upholstery on The Traditional Upholstery School's taster course. Take up the chance to craft a lampshade with Jane Warren at The Lampshade Loft. Support British wool and learn to weave on a loom under Rebecca Connolly's instruction. Bring a hand-spun touch to napkins with Lottie Mayland's Daylesford workshops.





## Painting and Paper courses

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT** Master heritage paint styles on Alice Clark's bespoke courses. Try stencil printing online with Pauline Greuell's zoom lessons or learn in person at West Dean College. Sarah Burn's printing classes highlight the versatility of plant and vegetable dyes. Molly Mahon's courses impart her guide to block printing in bold colours.

Discover the age-old skills of paint techniques and wallpaper printing and create bespoke patterns that are as beautiful as they are unique. Be inspired by former artist-in-residence at The Royal Shakespeare Company **Hugh Dunford Wood** with a weekend wallpaper printing course at The School of Art and Wellbeing in Honiton, Devon. The course starts with simple potato printing and progresses to advanced lino block printing. Or join paint expert **Annie Sloan** for a week-long furniture painting retreat at Court House Farm, Bristol. Alternatively, why not add some sophistication with a classical paint technique.

Decorative art expert **Alice Clark** offers bespoke courses, covering skills such as marbling, murals, gilding and *trompe l'oeil*. Or head Paint School in

London for its extensive timetable of courses, with **Jo Poulton's** decorative paint courses ranging from Venetian plastering, woodgraining, to tadelakt.

Fabric printing is a great skill to learn for making home accessories. Dutch fabric printer and designer **Pauline Greuell** uses stencils to print pattern onto fabric and teaches workshops at West Dean college in West Sussex as well as online. Suitable for beginners and experienced artists, they are hugely inspiring. **Molly Mahon's** block-printing courses are always popular. The workshops are held at regular intervals throughout the year at a number of locations, including Charleston, East Sussex and Fritton Lake, Norfolk, and are a great opportunity to create lively designs on cushions inspired by Mahon's signature

style. In Bath, fabric printer **Carole Waller** teaches how to paint and screen-print with dyes and pigments on silks and cottons.

If working with natural materials is of interest, learn how to use plant dyes to transform paper and fabrics for home furnishings such as lampshades or cushions with **Flora Arbutnott's** online lessons. The ethos of this course encourages students to gather wild dye plants and to create beautiful textile designs. Similarly, **Sarah Burns** takes inspiration from the natural environment and runs two-day workshops that focus on block-printing with plant and vegetable dyes. Join Burns in Annington, West Sussex, and learn how to design and cut blocks, apply mordant to the fabrics, make pastes with natural dyes and print onto fabric. ■

**ABOVE** To immerse oneself in all there is to know about furniture painting, book **Annie Sloan's** painting retreat, which takes place over six days and five nights.

**BELOW** Absorb **Flora Arbutnott's** passion for all things natural on one of her courses, such as Introduction to Natural Dyes or Printmaking with Mordants.

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## COURSE DETAILS

### Interior design courses

- Interior Design: Finding the Colours and Patterns You Love with Tricia Guild, online course from £45, [learningwithexperts.com](http://learningwithexperts.com)
- The Ultimate Guide to Interior Design with Rita Konig, online course £127, [createacademy.com](http://createacademy.com)
- From cushions, curtains and blinds to full-scale interior design courses, starting at £195, [victoriahammond.com](http://victoriahammond.com)
- Room Scheme In A Box, four-hour workshop, £65 a person, [fableandwillow.co.uk](http://fableandwillow.co.uk)

### Lampshade and textile courses

- Royal School of Needlework hand-embroidery courses of different lengths, nationwide, [royal-needlework.org.uk](http://royal-needlework.org.uk)
- Masterclass in hand-stitching and collage with Jessica Chorley, from £200, [jessiechorley.com](http://jessiechorley.com)
- Visit Daylesford and enjoy a hand-embroidery workshop with Lottie Mayland, £165, [daylesford.com](http://daylesford.com)
- Creative Quilting Workshop with House of Quinn at Ray Stitch, 25 February, £180, [raystitch.co.uk](http://raystitch.co.uk)
- Lampshade making, from £49 for a half day with Jane Warren, The Lampshade Loft, [thelampshadeloft.co.uk](http://thelampshadeloft.co.uk)
- Saturday taster days in upholstery with Joanna Heptinstall, £125, 25 February, [traditionalupholsterschool.co.uk](http://traditionalupholsterschool.co.uk)

### Painting and Paper courses

- Wallpaper printing, £350 for a weekend course, [dunfordwood.com](http://dunfordwood.com)
- Annie Sloan furniture painting retreat, six days, from £2,250, [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com)
- Alice Clark bespoke paint effect courses, [specialistdecorativepainter.co.uk](http://specialistdecorativepainter.co.uk)
- Paint School decorative paint effects, various courses, [paintschool.co.uk](http://paintschool.co.uk)
- Stencil courses, various options from [paulinegreuell.com](http://paulinegreuell.com) and [westdean.org.uk](http://westdean.org.uk)
- Molly Mahon block-printing, different length courses available, from £30 a person, [mollymahon.com](http://mollymahon.com)
- Print on to fabric with natural dyes and create bespoke cushion designs, different length courses available, [carolewaller.co.uk](http://carolewaller.co.uk)
- Flora Arbutnott printing with handmade natural dyes, various courses available, [plantsandcolour.co.uk](http://plantsandcolour.co.uk)
- Sarah Burns block-printing onto fabric with natural dyes, £280 for a two-day workshop, [sarahburnspatterns.com](http://sarahburnspatterns.com)

