

Wallpaper background:  
'Michel Capri',  
by Raoul Textiles,  
from Turnell & Gigon

# FROM THE EDITOR

**K**itchen Confidential' declares the cover, because the interiors in this February issue all have distinctive kitchens. They are diverse in style and character, but striking and reflective of their owners and their collaborators – be it an architect, designer or builder, or all three. For most of us, the kitchen is probably the most important room in our house and needs to cater for the way we want to live and entertain. There is plenty of food for thought in this issue.

As these kitchens show, we celebrate the personal in *House & Garden*. From modern and carefully curated – in the case of Mia and Brian Henson's dramatic house in the Hollywood Hills (on pages 82-89) – to pretty and decorated – as with Tara Craig's tiny and immaculate London flat (on pages 104-109) – we strive to show interiors that are lived in and representative of their owners, whether a designer has been involved or not.

As I have hinted already, several of the houses in this issue are the fruits of happy, productive collaboration. In the case of the Hensons' house, this included the architect, Mia's antique-dealer father and a landscape architect. Working with a team of

people is not necessarily the easiest route – there are certainly firms that offer a turnkey service with architects, interior and landscape designers in-house. But when an engaged client brings together a team of hand-picked talents, there can be a different sort of alchemy and, to my mind, the best results.

This issue marks Rita König's final column on her own project, North Farm in County Durham (on page 63), which will be featured in all its highly personal and multi-layered glory in our March issue. Rita has written 61 columns on decorating over the past five years (and one month). We shall miss her helpful advice, confident tone and sense of humour. Her words often ring in the back of my mind as I'm deliberating over something for my own house. Luckily, many of her columns can be found online at [houseandgarden.co.uk](http://houseandgarden.co.uk), and we hope to have her contributing to the magazine as often as is possible for a much in-demand interior designer □

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