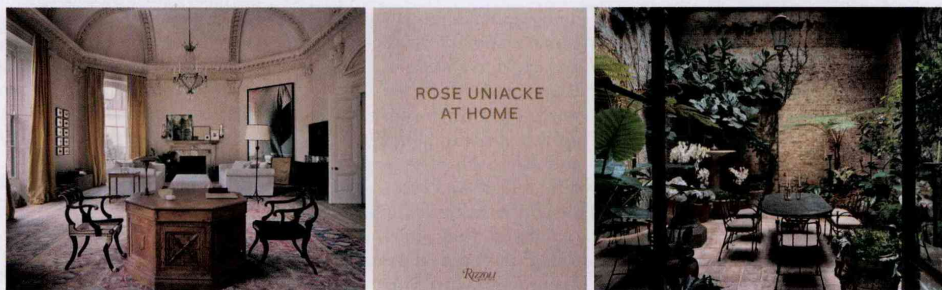


INSIDER *books*

## GIFTS FOR BOOKWORMS

From interiors and gardens to art and history, these new titles are bound to inspire

- *For design lovers* -



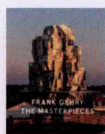
### ROSE UNIACKE AT HOME *by Rose Uniacke (Rizzoli, £150)*

The first time Rose Uniacke and her husband David viewed this London house – the subject of her book – they walked away. 'It was too large, too damaged and definitely too big a project,' she writes. Built in the 1860s by a society portrait painter as his home and studio, its proportions were those of a palazzo. The detailing that remained after it had been bombed in the Second World War was very fine, but subsequent use as an art school and exhibition space – and many layers of lumpy whitewash – had left an ugly institutional taint. The story of how, three years later, she came back to the house and painstakingly transformed it into a beautiful place, and a family home, is compelling.

In simple prose, Rose explains the feeling she wanted to convey in the house, her love of the simplicity of empty space and how she wanted to cross its palazzo proportions 'with something restrained and monastic'. She explains in detail how she achieved the result: how, for instance, after the walls had been dry-scraped, she asked the painters to layer 'thin washes of distemper over the original stripped walls until the

feeling was just right'. Once every period detail – from the fireplaces to the door locks to a complete cantilevered stone staircase – had been restored or replaced, she felt the freedom to make the interiors more modern.

The grandeur of the rooms is reduced by low, white sofas of her own design and the feeling of empty space that she finds essential. Her written account reveals an intensely refined choice of art, objects and furniture of every era – Regency spoon-back chairs, rustic milking stools and Kaare Klint's 'Red Chair' of 1927 are allowed to coexist beautifully. The effect of this perfectionism could have been austere, but Rose has made her account of the work on the house, and her choices for it, warm and personal. There is a 1933 chair by Gerald Summers in the drawing room that, she says, 'likes being looked at', and her captions to the photographs read rather like stream-of-consciousness notes to herself: 'Mughal carpet bringing extra colour. Sharp contrast with the painting and chair. Open space. No need to overfill.' The extraordinary house has the book it deserves. **Elfreda Pownall**



#### FRANK GEHRY:

##### THE MASTERPIECES

BY JEAN-LOUIS COHEN

(FLAMMARION, £65)

The Guggenheim in Bilbao, the Walt Disney Concert House in Los Angeles – architect Frank Gehry is behind some of the world's most famous buildings and this tome brings together 38 of them. Arranged chronologically, it reveals how his style evolved over the years. Particularly interesting is his own house in Santa Monica, which received a swathe of criticism when it was built in the Seventies. But, as the architect himself once said, 'There are no rules, no right or wrong.' **Elizabeth Metcalfe**



#### WOMAN MADE: GREAT

##### WOMEN DESIGNERS

BY JANE HALL (PHAIDON, £39.95)

This elegant book examines the pioneering role women have played in design, providing a who's who of more than 200 female designers from the early 20th century to the present day. The designers – both well known and overlooked – come from over 50 countries and create everything from textiles to furniture. There is a short description of each, alongside an image of one of their key designs – for example, Lucienne Day's 1951 'Calyx' textile and the boldly shaped 'Polder Sofa' by Dutch designer Hella Jongerius. **EM**



#### ATLAS OF INTERIOR DESIGN

BY DOMINIC BRADBURY

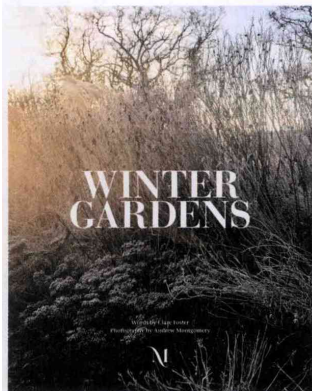
(PHAIDON, £69.95)

*House & Garden* contributor Dominic Bradbury is inspired by the great decorator Madeleine Castaing and her quest to discover – or create – 'the poetic' in interior design in his latest book. This translates as characterful, original and artistic spaces, and Dominic has undertaken his own search to find homes that fit this bill. He leads us across the Americas, around Europe and the Middle East, to Africa, Asia and Australasia, taking us to popular spots and more than a few undiscovered gems along the way. **David Nicholls** >

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## INSIDER *books*

### - For the green fingered -



#### WINTER GARDENS by Clare Foster and Andrew Montgomery (Montgomery Press, £45)

**P**hotographer Andrew Montgomery, author Clare Foster and garden designer Dan Pearson, who wrote the foreword, share an enthusiasm for the subtleties, silhouettes and structure of a garden denuded of flowers, foliage and colour. As Clare writes, 'If you ignore the garden and the leafless trees... you are not fully embracing

the seasonal shifts of our temperate climate; you are turning your back on a season that can be just as uplifting, just as restorative, as any other time of year.' This book can be enjoyed on several levels. As a thing of beauty, it is an indulgent visual treat and Andrew's evocative and frequently monochrome images are a revelation. For the reader browsing by the fire, Clare's essays will be an invitation to reappraise the garden in winter. At the end of all the chapters, devoted to 12 very different gardens, she provides a wealth of information and practical advice. From billowing drifts of seed heads and grasses in Piet Oudolf's garden in the Netherlands to the snow-capped topiary of a Hampshire manor house (also featured in this month's issue), the photographs suggest the chilly stillness of suspended animation. That is until the final section, which heralds life beginning to stir with a flourish of snowdrops. While *Winter Gardens* is a joy to look at, its lists of subjects, such as the best scented winter shrubs or alternative topiary plants and advice on winter tasks, also make it immensely useful. Available to buy from [montgomerypress.co.uk](http://montgomerypress.co.uk). **Susan Crewe**



#### BETH CHATTO'S GREEN TAPESTRY REVISITED by Beth Chatto (Pimpernel Press, £30)

The first edition of this book was published in 1989, 30 years after Beth Chatto first started her famous garden at Elmstead Market in Essex. A further 30 years hence, the book is as relevant now as it was then, with additional text and images bringing it up to date. I am a huge fan of her descriptive, common-sense writing and have learned an enormous amount from her previous tomes on different areas of her garden. This book brings everything together by offering a tour around all parts of the garden, with a useful initial chapter on the principles of planting. It contains simple planting plans that give generous insight into how she put her plants together so successfully. **Clare Foster**

### - For history buffs -



#### THE STORY OF THE COUNTRY HOUSE: A HISTORY OF PLACES AND PEOPLE BY CLIVE ASLET (YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS, £18.99)

Elaborating on the idea that the country house is its own 'little kingdom', architectural historian Clive Aslet explores some of the finest examples in Britain, including Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire and Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire. Organised by period, this is a book less about the architecture and more about the people and context that shaped - and continue to shape - these estates. **EM**



#### MARTHA LLOYD'S HOUSEHOLD BOOK (BODLEIAN LIBRARY, £30)

Martha Lloyd was one of Jane Austen's closest friends and this first facsimile reproduction of her household book offers a glimpse into Jane's life at Chawton House in Hampshire. As Martha lived there with the Austens after the death of her parents, this collection of recipes would have seeped into their lives and indeed Jane's writing, which is rich in culinary references. Though the handwritten volume is not wholly legible, a complete transcription reveals methods for the likes of 'A very good orange pudding'. **DN**

### - For the bedside table -



#### HILL HOUSE LIVING BY PAULA SUTTON (EBURY PRESS, £22)

You may be familiar with her Instagram account @hillhousevintage, but now comes the opportunity to really get to know Paula Sutton. Turning her back on her glamorous, fast-paced life in London, Paula relocated her family to a peaceful Norfolk village, embracing mindfulness in nature and the joys of styling a home sustainably. The resulting book, a mix of storytelling, practical tips and gorgeous imagery, emanates colour, warmth and comfort. **Alexandria Dauley**



#### FRIDA KAHLO. THE COMPLETE PAINTINGS BY LUIS-MARTÍN LOZANO (TASCHEN, £150)

This huge monograph catalogues each and every one of the Mexican painter's works, many of which now belong to private collections and have not been seen for decades. Accompanying her self-portraits and paintings are a series of letters and diary entries that reveal the artist's inspirations and passions. Edited by the art historian Luis-Martin Lozano, it gives an insight into the woman and the artist, as well as her continuing influence on contemporary culture. **Christabel Chubb**