

The

ENGLISH HOME



Celebrating the essence of English style

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Making the most of interior architectural features





With an emphasis on the bones of a building, interior architecture bridges the gap between a home's raw structure and its decorative elements, facilitating a balance between functionality and beauty. An intuitive layout, created by establishing an interior's framework and flow, is the starting point from which everything else can seamlessly follow.

Our series explores many of the ideas first noted by Sir Terence Conran in his perennially useful *The Essential House Book*, published three decades ago. Then, he suggested that "a house reveals its character in a variety of ways - through materials and construction, design and layout, and, critically, what is generally referred to as 'architectural detail'."

Still now, these fixed elements, from walls and staircases to fireplaces and doorways, not only lend a home its form, but also contribute to its character and atmosphere. A thoughtful relationship between structure and flow creates a dynamic living experience within every space.

A FIRM FOUNDATION

Interior architecture lays the foundation of a home. "Without it, the rest of the design may feel disconnected or forced," explains Queensdale Residential's Fiona Paré. "A solid architectural framework allows the interior design elements, such as lighting and furnishings, to elevate the space seamlessly. If the interior architecture is neglected, the space may not feel cohesive, whether that's something as fundamental as a staircase or a key structural element like a wall. The way a scheme is framed architecturally can completely shape the experience of the house, from creating a sense of grandeur to one of intimacy."

Key architectural detailing, such as cornices, architraves and integrated storage solutions needs to be considered, too. "These details comprise the fabric of the building and they can be the most expensive, disruptive and time-consuming aspects to alter," advises Sarah Limbert of Poet's Corner Interiors. "Furniture will come and go but the bones of your home are here to stay. If you get them right first time, you will only need to do it once."

IN HARMONY

Ideally, interior architecture should marry seamlessly with the building as a whole. "The flow should be effortless, storage intuitive and rooms should make sense of everyday needs," suggests Violet & George's Nicky Mudie. "Before starting any work, ask some key ▶



ABOVE On the first floor of this Victorian home, renovated by Studio Raymond, a library-cum-sitting room has been created using a modern Vitsø metal shelving system. Crittall doors make for a crisp contrast against the building's original architecture.

LEFT In this sleek renovation by Zulufish, graphic metal accents, including lighting and steel-framed windows, are offset by capacious storage by joinery specialist Hux London, finished in a serene grey-blue tone.

