



Rose Uniacke talks to Leonora Oldfield about supporting British craftsmen and using antique furniture.

Sitting in an armchair next to a roaring fire in Rose Uniacke's shop on the Pimlico Road, it is immediately clear that comfort is paramount to the interior designer. Indeed every piece of furniture is designed to be comfortable, as well as elegant. "Furniture is functional and it should be used like that," she tells me. Rose strives to make homes that feel welcoming and cosy, yet stylish, and is always careful not to overdesign. "I like to give clients the freedom to live in a space," she says.

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Rose Uniacke



It is a philosophy that has served her well and resulted in a constant stream of interior design jobs. Rose's first assignment was twelve years ago, when she was asked to refurbish and to redo a client's house. "I said yes - although I hadn't done it before - and really enjoyed it," she says. She is currently working on several residential and commercial projects in London.

Having trained as a furniture restorer, gilder and specialist in paint and lacquer, she has always harboured a passion for interior design. This, combined with her love of classical antiques, resulted in her setting up her own interior design, antiques and fine furniture business.

In February 2009 she opened her shop in a prime spot on Pimlico Road. Her design team of five are based downstairs, while her shop, featuring antiques from 18th to mid 20th century furniture is on street level. In addition, the shop features her rapidly expanding bespoke range, including a new line in sofas, beautiful lighting and a collection of cashmere.

Rose grew up surrounded by beautiful things. "My mother's houses have always been wonderfully done," she tells me. This influence is evident in her designs and products. The shop features chic, pared down pieces of furniture, often inspired by her inability to find a piece elsewhere. The cashmere range evolved in this way. "I couldn't find a simple bed blanket," she says. "I also sell cashmere by the metre which can be dyed to order"

Supporting British craftsmen is fundamental and Rose employs old fashioned artisan using traditional technique. She also uses antique furniture for its 'recyclable quality'. "There is so much gorgeous furniture out there all the time," she says.

In this sale, she veers towards lot 6, a pair of George IV mahogany hall chairs, lot 36, a North Italian late 19th century silvered mirror and lot 138, a George IV mahogany coaching table.

www.roseuniacke.com

