

# Press Release



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## English Eccentrics

A celebration of imaginative, intriguing and truly stylish interiors

AUTHOR	Ros Byam Shaw
PHOTOGRAPHER	Jan Baldwin
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*“Any book by Ros Byam Shaw inspires confidence and delight, being brilliantly researched and handsomely illustrated.”* World of Interiors

Eccentricity is by no means an exclusively English trait, but there is a type of gentle nonconformity that the English are particularly good at cultivating. And when it comes to interiors, this spirit of individuality often translates into rooms of great beauty and distinction. In *English Eccentric*, Ros Byam Shaw celebrates this type of personal design, featuring the homes of people who have a strong visual sense, and the courage and flair to be original.

The creators of these homes include artists and designers, a director of wildlife documentaries, a hairdresser, a politician, and a ringmaster. The 14 interiors are as different as their owners, and range from a tiny cottage packed with circus memorabilia, to an elegant country house full of stuffed animals, to a terraced home that is a shrine to the American Democratic party. None are at the extreme end of eccentricity, but each provides a multiplicity of inspiring and often witty ideas whether through a vibrant mix of colour and pattern, an imaginative use of space, or visual surprises.

In an increasingly homogenized world, where the same shops, selling the same sofas, lamps, cushions and ornaments, can be found everywhere from New York to Stockholm, there is a growing interest in the unique and the unconventional. This is the subject of *English Eccentric* - a book about originality, and about people whose creativity, rather than wealth, informs their take on interior design.



### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ros Byam Shaw is a former Features Editor of *The World of Interiors*. She is now a freelance journalist and writes on design and interiors for *The World of Interiors*, *House & Garden* and the *Telegraph*, among others. She is the author of *Interiors by Design*, *Old House New Home*, *Perfect English*, *Perfect English Cottage* and *Perfect English Farmhouse*, as well as the bestselling *Farrow & Ball Living with Colour*. Her most recent book is *Farrow & Ball Decorating With Colour* (all published by Ryland Peters & Small). Ros lives in Devon with her husband and dog.

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