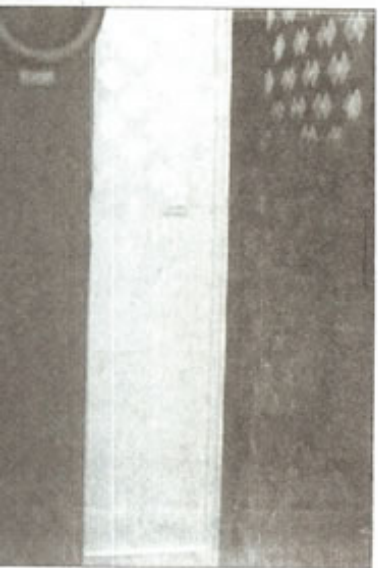




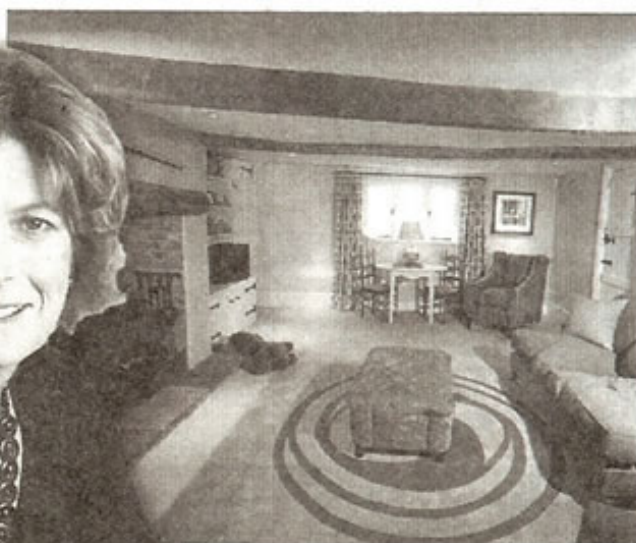
ck (left) Impressed Suzie Dolbey (below)



# THE PERFECT INTERIOR DESIGNER

When Alice Coptcoat, a gardener who is also listed in the book, needed an interior designer, she turned to Caroline Paterson on the recommendation of a friend. Paterson worked on four rooms in Ms Coptcoat's 17th-century manor house in Oxfordshire and has now started the complete redecoration of her contemporary penthouse flat in London. "Caroline has a fantastic eye for colour and very original taste," she says. "She is good at traditional and modern interiors and the end result doesn't look contrived. She had quite varied experience before setting up on her own, working in Christie's furniture department, then under Chester Jones at Colefax & Fowler. I think this is why her choices are not the most obvious - sometimes they're quite quirky - but they do work. Working with her is a bit like talking to a friend whose judgement you value. Nothing is too much trouble."

● Caroline Paterson: 020 7584 6890; email: cpinteriors@btopenworld.com



Inside and out: interior designer Caroline Paterson and gardener Alice Coptcoat (top)



Desperate housewives can now relax. Journalist Helen Kirwan-Taylor, who is well-known to readers of *The Daily Telegraph*, *Harpers & Queen*, *Wallpaper\** and the *Wall Street Journal*, has taken pity on those of us who struggle to find a good builder, plumber or architect and published her own personal database as a guide to the best professional services in Britain.

Whether you're contemplating a basement excavation or just want some flat-pack furniture assembled, you will find a company to tackle the job in Helen's forthcoming book, *Home UK*, due out next month. And it won't just be any old company. It will be a consensus

recommendation from property-owners who are confident that you will enjoy the same high levels of service they have experienced - so much so that they've agreed to be named alongside their remarks. So, if you want to know which companies are chosen by luminaries such as Stella McCartney, Jade Jagger, Victoria Beckham, Kate Moss, George Michael and Madonna, read on.

The book covers the whole gamut of trades - architects, builders, interior designers, plumbers, removal services, gardeners, lighting consultants, audio-visual specialists, upholsterers, china repairers, gilders, marble cleaners, chair restorers, carpenters and home computer services. You want someone to clean

your wheelie bin? To remove graffiti? To stick photos in albums? You'll find them all here.

As an American, Kirwan-Taylor believes that good service is her birthright. Indeed, the idea for her book grew out of an unhappy experience over the refurbishment of her own home, a five-bedroom, Victorian property in London.

"The architect sub-contracted the job because he wasn't remotely interested in it," she explains. "The sub-contractor brought in a team of builders who took numerous short cuts."

"They laid flooring before the wood had seasoned properly and it turned into a lunar landscape and had to be replaced. They failed to box in lights yet sealed in the loo so we had to