

A ROOM OF ONE'S OWN

Alice Rose steps inside the homes of four top interior designers to discover their own style rules. Photography by Arno



CAROLINE PATERSON

Don't, whatever you do, ask Caroline Paterson to define her decorating style. 'That's a word I absolutely hate – I am style-less,' she insists. 'I adore colour, but when a client wanted a house decorated purely in brown and white, I did it. It is about what a client wants.'

The drawing room of Caroline's Knightsbridge flat, where she lives with her husband and teenage daughters, is testament to her love of colour and her collector's eye. There's an Indonesian batik silk wall-hanging, as well as a vibrant collection of modern art. An unusual yellow glass, art deco mirror hangs above the fireplace; beneath it sit three Chinese figures that Caroline bought in a junk shop when she lived in Kuala Lumpur. 'They've got these wonderful emerald greens, which inspired a colour scheme in my old house,' she explains. 'You only need something like that to spark inspiration.'

The drawing room was originally two rooms that Caroline knocked into one. On the William Yeoward console table dividing the room sit two beautiful glass lamps that Caroline picked up in Paris. 'I love their transparency,' she says, 'but you can fill them with stones or shells... it's a fun way of making an interesting lamp.'

At one end there's a drinks cabinet with mirrored doors, which Caroline designed with Yeoward especially for this room, and which displays her collection of glasses and cocktail shakers. It's a great party room, holding 100 people with ease, but Caroline calls it 'a haven after a long day.' Do her collections take a lot of dusting? 'I'm never in the flat long enough to notice – I collapse there at 8pm and leave at 8am.' And as for the plants: 'I'm too busy to water – they're all fake.'

Caroline Paterson Interiors (020 7584 6890; carolinepatersoninteriors.co.uk)

STYLE FILE

CONSOLE TABLE

William Yeoward's Bell
Ile Console Table; approx
£2,815. (020 7349 7828;
williamyeoward.com)

LAMP

Julian Chichester makes glass
lamps, from £368. (020 7622
2928; julianchichester.co.uk)

PLANTS

From a selection at Fake
Landscapes. From £30.
(020 7835 1500; fake.com)

PHOTO FRAMES

Find similar antique frames
at Evonne Antiques at Grays
Antiques Market. (020 7629
7034; graysantiques.com)

