

AND WHEN YOU ARE READY FOR REFRESHMENT WITH ROYAL FLARE...

Head to The Balcon, where Head chef Vincent Ménager is creating a special afternoon tea fit for a prince or princess. Centre-stage will be two specially designed caramel crown cakes, decorated in blue icing for a prince, or pink icing for a princess, both embellished with sugared almonds and silver sugar balls. Champagne will, of course, be served to toast the new arrival, along with a selection of international teas.

Afternoon tea is priced at £24.50, and £29.50 with a glass of Champagne; it is available from May, between 2.30pm – 5pm. For reservations, call 020 7968 2900 (thebalconlondon.com)



ARTISANAL OFFERINGS



Jennifer Bradford-Davis waxes lyrical about the artisans available to those looking for some interior inspiration. Prepare to be roused to action and ready to begin the transformation of your home

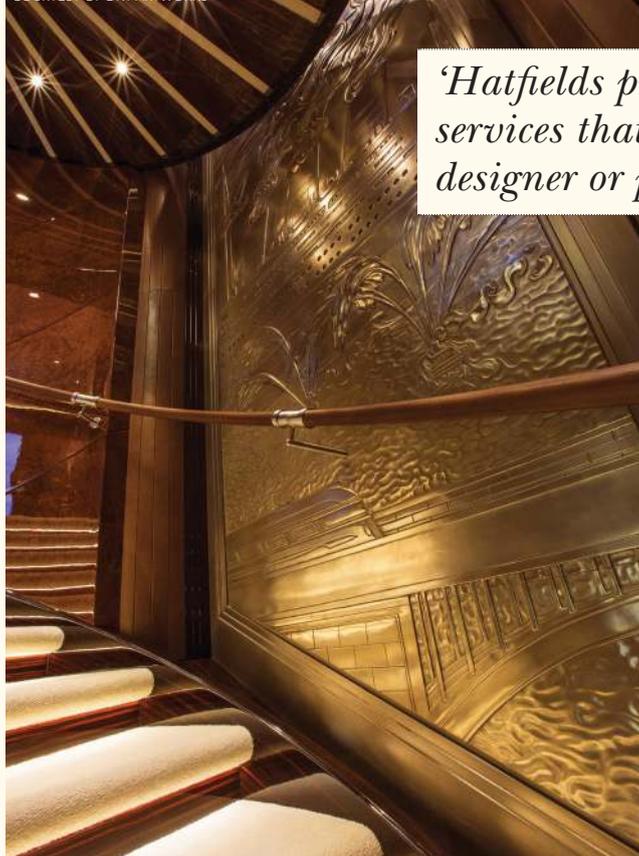
There is an old saying in Hollywood, it goes like this: 'You're only as good as your last picture.' Every interior designer, architect, and home owner who is undertaking an interiors project can agree that you are only as good as your vendor rolodex, namely, the artisans, craftsman and technicians behind the scenes, who make design visions a reality.

I recently visited a few of our esteemed workshops in London, whose clientele consists of premier architect and interior design firms both local and international. These are the people behind the scenes that have mastered their craft and specialise in providing full design services that support the design community.

For one-stop restorations of all items big and small, from 15th century to 21st century, I cannot recommend Hatfields Restoration enough (hatfieldsrestoration.com). The company's knowledge and expertise dates back to 1834, when they first opened their doors. Hatfields provide full restoration services that are a life-saver to any designer or private homeowner. Its restorative services include restoring marble, gilding, metalwork, staircases, tapestries, carpets, clocks, furniture, upholstery, caning, lamp and chandelier re-wiring. No project is too big or too small. Hatfields is an absolute must have in every designer, homeowner and antique purveyor's little black book.

For soft furnishings (upholstery, window blinds, curtains, and elaborate bed drapery, such as baldaquin), as well as for dressing tables with intricate or tailored skirts, I suggest Cover Up Designs Ltd (coverupdesigns.co.uk).

MOTOR YACHT EXCELLENCE V, INTERIOR DESIGN BY REYMOND LANGTON, PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFF BROWN, COURTESY OF DKT ARTWORKS



'Hatfields provide full restoration services that are a life-saver to any designer or private homeowner'

The company's designs can be seen in super yachts, many fashionable restaurants throughout London, for example Nobu and The Wolseley, as well as hotels, such as The Langham Hotel and The Berkeley Hotel, and many private institutions and banks. [M](http://www.hatfieldsrestoration.com) (jbradforddavis.com)



AN ARRAY OF WORKINGS SAMPLES FOR WALL FINISHES FROM DKT ARTWORKS

Recently taken over by creative textile specialist Jennifer Portz, the company can assist you with fabric selections and purchases with its extensive fabric library and knowledge regarding the history and application of textiles. If you prefer to work without a designer, this is a perfect place to start. Although their library is located outside of London in Hampshire, they provide at home consultations here in London.

If you want to feature furniture finishes, opulent beyond anything seen in the industry, then I suggest DKT Artworks (dkt.co.uk). I was fortunate to visit Sean Trowbridge and Steve Keeling, who founded DKT Artworks along with Niki Davies back in the 1980s. Whilst walking through the workshop, I observed a cast of incredible artisans working on individual projects that consisted of gilding, murals, mosaics, stucco, mirroring collaging and verre églomisé, a bas-relief technique using bronze, resin and stone. The artisans were even working with textiles to pull warps and wefts through threads to create textures that can be applied as panels to walls. What I was most impressed with was their courageous approach to creating new techniques with materials, such as textured

paper with glass beads applied and metal leaf. DKT Artworks are undoubtedly the alchemists of finishes.