

# COUNTRY LIFE

The Experts' Experts: Britain's top designers, architects and craftspeople name the people they trust to work on their own homes



Giles Kime  
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<https://www.countrylife.co.uk/interiors/the-experts-experts-britains-top-designers->

## Isabel and Julian Bannerman

### EXPERTS

#### Craftspeople

Phidias ([www.phidiasneoclassical.co.uk](http://www.phidiasneoclassical.co.uk)) are fantastic stonemasons, based in Bristol. The company is run by Trevor Dring, who knows more about stone, particularly English stone, than anyone we have worked with.

#### Furniture

Andrew Crace ([www.andrewcrace.com](http://www.andrewcrace.com)) is still the best designer to go to for garden benches.

#### Antique dealer

Paul Michael Farnham ([@paul\\_michael\\_farnham](https://www.instagram.com/paul_michael_farnham)) in Bridport, Dorset, for very special things not found anywhere else.

#### Art dealer

Gilbert Bannerman (Instagram [@gilbert.bannerman](https://www.instagram.com/gilbert.bannerman)) for unusual pictures with charm, such as those he finds for the private members' club 5 Hertford Street, London W1.

#### Unsung hero

Bet Figueras, the Catalan landscape architect.

#### Biggest inspiration

The 18th-century English astronomer, mathematician, instrument maker, architect and garden designer Thomas Wright.

# TRIED & TRUSTED

## **Textiles and wallpapers**

Lewis & Wood ([www.lewisandwood.co.uk](http://www.lewisandwood.co.uk)) and especially Magdalen Jebb, the company's wonderful creative director.

## **Plants**

Hill House Nursery, Devon ([www.hillhousenursery.com](http://www.hillhousenursery.com)). That's a secret!

## **Paint**

It's impossible to work without white, especially from Francesca's Paints ([www.francescaspaint.com](http://www.francescaspaint.com)).