



ALL OVER THE WORLD there are scores of madly fortunate individuals living in their castles, towers, flats, hotels, farms and cottages who share a palpable feeling of contentment within their dwelling places. They may or may not be able to pinpoint where the feeling comes from, but I bet I can.

They are clients – old, new and often regular – of the doyen of Spanish decorators, Jaime Parladé. His skill, which he modestly describes as ‘playing dollies with old houses and furniture – both my own and other people’s’, stems from an unerring desire to make life comfortable and aesthetically delightful, regardless of the constraints of space. Not for him the ‘lone black leather chair, wi-fi equipment, cashmere throw and single lily in a feature vase’ school of decoration, nor the wacky ‘isn’t this a too, too *now* purple, orange and pink combination’. His style revolves round decorative antiques free of pomposity, delicious colours and an unswerving dedication to comfort, using flattering but effective lighting – you can read in bed and actually see yourself in the bathroom mirror. If he fiddles about with architecture, it is with great finesse and afterwards you would never know it.

This style has changed little over the decades. It does not need to – it makes people happy. There is something faintly English about Jaime’s choice of furniture and fabrics. Indeed, he regularly shops in

Britain, where he has a flat, and dealers adore him. But as an inveterate traveller his ‘Anglo’ tastes are heavily laced with objects and old textiles from north Africa, the Middle East, Iran, India, France and, of course, his native Spain.

Jaime and Janetta Parladé probably spend the most time in the decorator’s ancestral base, Alcuñuz, near Marbella (*Wol* May 1988), where he has offices. He also has a flat in Madrid. The other two houses could be described as the diversifying elements, bought for fun and exchangeable when necessary for something else, somewhere else.

The house in France (*Wol* March 1996) was exchanged for the one photographed here in Carmona, near Seville, a convenient two-hour drive from Marbella. The idea was that when they are in one, they would rent out the other, though Jaime confesses that in the 18 months since this one was finished they haven’t actually bothered to do that.

Apparently Carmona has been on Jaime’s wish list for ages. There are many beautiful grand buildings surrounding the town – palaces belonging to local landowners. Although he has always relished looking at them from an architectural point of view, inside he finds them gloomy beyond endurance.

This house in the centre of town was one of the many known in General Franco’s time as *una casa de*

inspiration

Some of the design effects in this issue, re-created by Maria Yiannikou



1 If you like the curtains in Jaime Parlade's drawing room (page 130), draw upon the services of Caravane (00 33 1 44 61 04 20; caravane.fr), which sells this ready-made linen 'Lana' (from £85 approx). Period House Shops (01584 877276; periodhouseshops.com) can make the poles (from £46).

2 Copy Parlade's painted ceiling beams (pages 130 and 132) with Francesca's Paints colours (from top): custom blue (£34.07 per 2.5 litres), 'First Rose of Morn' (£47), 'Louise's Orange' (£34.07) or custom green (£34.07). Ring 020 7228 7694, or visit francescaspaint.com.

3 For a floor lamp like the one in the Parlades' drawing room (page 130), visit Besselink & Jones, whose 'Smartie' (£1,042) is a close match. Ring 020 7351 4669, or visit besselink.com.

4 Several of the hand-blocked cottons in Jaime Parlade's bedroom (page 136) are by designer Brigitte Singh. Aleta stocks her 'Red Hibiscus' and 'Poppy on Cream' (both £48.68 per m). Ring 020 7228 9676, or visit aletaonline.com.

5 The Parlades' kitchen and dining room (page 132) have the feel of a 17th-century Dutch interior. Imitate the effect with encaustic tiles (£66 per sq m) from Habibi. Ring 020 8960 9203, or visit habibi-interiors.com.

6 Stretch out on an armchair with matching stool like the example in Jaime Parlade's drawing room (page 130). He went to Christopher Howe; you could do the same, or try Sean Cooper's new 'Ash-

ton Run-Up' set instead (£2,030 without fabric). Ring 01264 811008, or visit seancooper.co.uk.

7 For walls as impressive as Castello di Arsoli's (page 152), get Harvey Woodward to paint interior murals (from £250 per m) of rural scenes, figures or anything that takes your fancy. Ring 07958 778488, or visit harveywoodward.co.uk.

