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# NATURAL STYLE

Maria Le Mesurier, creative director of British furniture brand WoodEdit, brings her love of nature into her 17th-century home

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**DINING AREA**  
Silver birch branches pair beautifully with original terracotta tiles in this less-is-more scheme. **Table and benches,** WoodEdit. **Woodburner,** Charnwood. Bespoke handmade linen **light covers,** Maria Le Mesurier



## HOUSES

### SNUG

Maria uses decorative objets like other people use prints or paintings to bring character to spaces.

**Baskets**, sourced from Italy and France; similar from The White Company. **Rush matting**, bought back from Spain; similar from Zara Home. **Grass animal heads**, WoodEdit



**PLAYROOM**

A collection of treasured antique bottles from Maria's late father's company, Henriques & Henriques, takes pride of place. The coloured linen sheets were sourced in Madeira.

Similar **bottles**. 1stDibs.

Similar **sheets**. Larusi.

**Shelf**. WoodEdit



## HOUSES

**F**or Maria Le Mesurier, an inherent connection to nature sits at the heart of everything and informs all decisions: whether about life, home or business. 'It has always been that way – I am constantly inspired by the beauty and authenticity of the natural world. The way we choose to live and the products we create for our company, WoodEdit, have simplicity and sustainability at their core. It's never about trends, simply what resonates.'

The steep drive up to Maria's home, which she shares with husband Paul Le Mesurier and their five children, is surrounded by centuries-old woodland, making it easy to understand the daily influence nature has on Maria's look. The family moved into the 17th-century former stable block on the Uppark Estate in West Sussex seven years ago, swapping a nearby compact barn for this capacious space that they have transformed on a budget: turning chintzy and formal into pared-back and relaxed. Enter through the earthy terracotta-painted front door and the tone of the house unfolds: calm, sophisticated spaces that balance style with practicality.

'With so many of us living here, rooms and furniture have to work hard,' says Maria. Throughout, rows of stylish WoodEdit peg and boot rails are home to a vast array of coats, footwear and baskets – life-changing storage that doubles as eye-catching displays, with a few pops of leopard fur adding a nod to Maria's personal fashion style, her guilty pleasure and the only 'faux fabric' in the house.

The whitewashed spaces, with lofty ceilings, striking architectural features and original parquet and terracotta floors, have a minimalist feel. Yet they are balanced with welcoming, oversized sofas draped

in textural, loose-cover linen sheets and hard-wearing wooden tables suited to modern family life.

Indeed the family are the test bed for all WoodEdit prototypes: think tables, benches, desks and select occasional pieces, including serving boards and candlesticks. The company's Core Collection came about through a practical necessity – needing to find pieces that looked aesthetically pleasing, but were robust enough to withstand the daily rigours of their five children, aged between three and 17.

'Paul trained as an osteopath, but wanted to follow his passion for carpentry,' says Maria. 'We spotted a gap and the business was founded three years ago.' This was the coming together of two distinct creative talents – Maria designs the collections alongside her styling work and Paul handcrafts each piece, in walnut, ash or oak. 'We're currently developing prototypes for our new collection, Graceful – more refined shapes with tapered legs and narrower forms.'

Throughout, decorative objets replace the need for art. Displays of bespoke animal grass heads, Italian ceramics and basketware add a sophisticated edge. 'As a child and young adult, I spent a lot of time visiting my father in Madeira – I am influenced by earthy Mediterranean palettes and simplistic style. For me, less is always more – limited furniture, precious heirlooms and one-off finds.'

Ever-changing sculptural branches, informed by the season, add a sense of drama and scale. 'I love the connection to our landscape – these fallen boughs personify the natural qualities that sit at the core of all we are about, and all we create.' 🌿

■ WoodEdit, [woodedit.co.uk](http://woodedit.co.uk), @woodedituk, @marialemesurier

“NATURE SITS AT THE HEART OF EVERYTHING  
WE DO AND INFORMS ALL DECISIONS:  
LIFE, HOME AND BUSINESS”

**KITCHEN**

**A minimal island lends a contemporary feel to the traditional Shaker design. Simple linens – made by Maria using old sheets – dress the window. Island and chopping boards, WoodEdit. Passata bowl, similar from GalleryBR. Lights, Baileys**



## HOUSES

### MEET THE HOMEOWNER

Maria shares her design inspiration

### GO-TO COLOUR

Stony white and bespoke terracotta colours, mixed at home.

### SECRET ADDRESS

Pequeña Inglaterra in Madrid.

### BIGGEST INDULGENCE

My collection of Spanish grass animal heads.

### WHERE DO YOU FIND

INSPIRATION By the sea, in the woods and in Spain, Portugal and Italy.

### FAVOURITE BUILDING

A tiny one-bedroom fisherman's house built into the side of a cliff in Doca do Cavacas, Madeira.

### DESIGN HERO

John Pawson.

### LAST PIECE OF ART YOU

BOUGHT A seascape by Allan Caswell; he is the most amazing artist.

### MAIN BEDROOM

The four-poster bed, made by Paul, is dressed with layers of raw linen and diaphanous curtains for a retreat-like feel.

Bed, bespoke order, WoodEdit. Linen curtains, custom made in Portugal; rug, Portuguese buy, find similar to both on Etsy



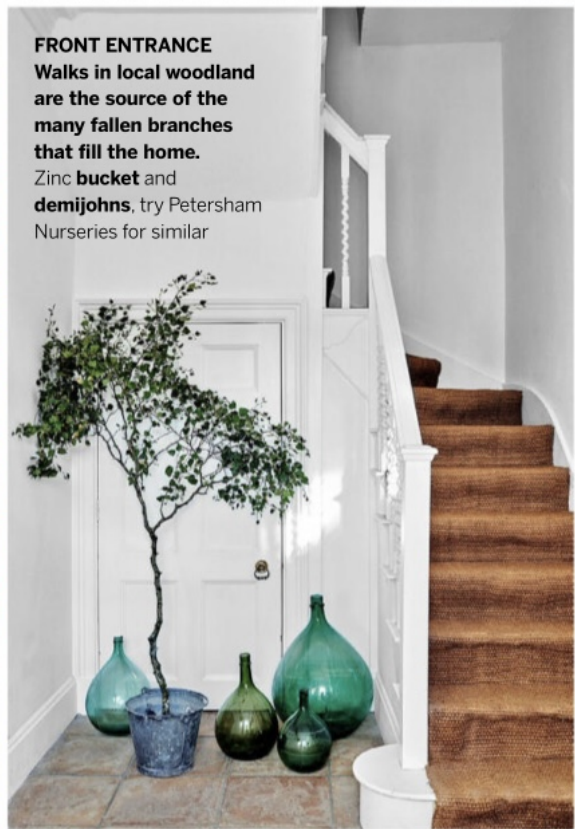




**FAMILY BATHROOM**  
The whitewashed space gets a shot of rustic styling with an antique pot and a pole fashioned from a branch. Grain sack runner, Ardingly Antiques Fair. Italian pot, similar from Baileys. Stool, WoodEdit.



**DOLLY'S BEDROOM**  
A canopy creates an enchanting look. Canopy, Numero 74. Candle, Ester & Erik. Walls in Light Gray, Farrow & Ball



**FRONT ENTRANCE**  
Walks in local woodland are the source of the many fallen branches that fill the home. Zinc bucket and demijohns, try Petersham Nurseries for similar