

# Pearl Lowe

TV Talent and Social Media

Press





**Pearl Lowe**

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"S A SUNNY afternoon in an 18th-century ab on the river Thames in west London, and a fashion/interior designer Pearl Lowe and her model daughter Daisy are talking maily, fashion, handbags, heartache, parent-hood, the perfect partner and breakdowns. They share the same graceful, feline feares, the same ready laugh and, of course, th are darlings of the fashion world. Pearl, 41, is wearing a vintage dress from her successful eponymous label, and Daisy, 30, is wiling that sexy androgynous 1940s look she ses so well – the one that has won her many modelling contracts. As we bunch up around tiny table, it is clear they know absolutely everything about each other's lives, with Daisy talking me through the pages of her um's new interiors book, *Faded Glamour*. If the photos are from her house in Somers-t, but if you came to my house, you'd see exactly the same sort of look [vintage boho]. can't help it, I grew up with it, I love it, it akes me feel comforted,' she says.

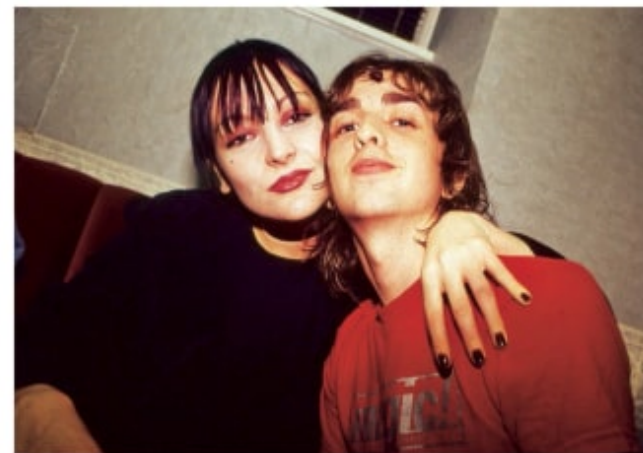
Today is a good day because they are able to work together, having been asked by Rad-



y, the British handbag label, to front the new Edit, a collection of eight party-season-ary bags, including a 'Pearl' in sparkling tvel, and a 'Daisy' with crocodile texture. they are incredibly classic and timeless with nazing attention to detail,' Daisy says. 'I love ine because it is this beautiful barrel shape, it when I saw Mum's velvet one I knew it's mething I would be borrowing – which is e point of the collection. They are bags you ve to share.'

'There's a lot of borrowing that goes on be-ween us. Usually Daisy taking things from y wardrobe,' Pearl says. 'I used to drive me ad, but I've just accepted that when my ew pair of Vivienne Westwood boots go issing they will be somewhere in the world i Daisy's feet. I walked into a party one id saw her friend wearing the Miu Miu res that I'd been searching for for months. ad, actually, it's nice that your daughter ap-eciates your style.'

Pearl was never a conventional mother, hich makes their close bond all the more traordinary. In her 20s and early 30s, Pearl



Above Pearl Lowe and her husband Danny Goffey of Supergrass in 2000



'I feel it was something I had to go through. I actually think it was all about becoming a woman, the woman I wanted to be'

L-R Daisy with actor Matt Smith at the Baftas in 2011; with music producer Mark Ronson in 2008; modelling for Vivienne Westwood at London Fashion Week, 2010

the sake of her family, and she and her h band, the Supergrass drummer Danny G fey, moved to the country. Daisy, who I started modelling at 15, lived for a year w her grandparents – Eddie and Leila – in no London. And by 17, despite being predic three As at A level, she abandoned plans study law and dropped out of school to mo full-time, with shoots for Italian Vogue i French Connection among others.

In Somerset, Pearl's life fell into pla She became pregnant with her fourth ch Betty, now 14 (the couple also have two s Alfie, 22 and Frankie, 20), and embarked a new career, designing textiles and vint dresses (which she sells online), and m recently moving into interiors, designi her own range of wallpapers and worki on private commissions.

I have known Pearl for almost 20 ye and I know the strength and resilience, i to mention a couple of financial crises, th has taken to get to the place she's in n. Although she always seemed such a met politan orchid, the country life suits her. i

went from being queen of the indie music scene (she fronted a band called Powder) to being a key figure in the Primrose Hill set, best friends with Kate Moss – and developed an on/off heroin habit. She was just 19 when she had Daisy, whose father is the rock star Gavin Rossdale, and relied on her parents to help her bring up her young daughter.

But in 2004, their life was transformed when Pearl made the decision to get clean for





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**CAROLHAYES  
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## FADED GLAMOUR

inspirational interiors and beautiful homes

**BOOK**

**Faded Glamour** by Pearl Lowe  
Published 8 October

Minimalists, avert your eyes. This month, rock 'n' roll vintage queen Pearl Lowe invites us into her exquisitely styled home that celebrates the once-plush – a cacophony of colour and pattern including lived-in and loved velvet armchairs, too beautiful for the scrap heap. We get a peek into the similarly glamorous pads of her fashionable inner circle, too. “To me,” she says, “an object that was once the height of elegance but is now a bit battered has far more allure than something brand new.”  
Hardback, €19.99 (rylandpeters.com)

PEARL LOWE  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMY NEUNINGER

CLAIRE FOY MATT SMITH

## LUNGS

A play by

DUNCAN  
MAGMILLAN

From 14 Oct 2019

**EXHIBITION**

**Costume at the National Theatre**

From 3 October | **Wolfson Gallery**

The NT invites us to delve into the creative world of those who source, construct, alter, repair, organise and maintain costumes for over 20 new productions each year, including *War Horse*, *Follies*, and *Antony and Cleopatra*. The exhibition visits each stage of the process, from design and construction to dressing and repairs. The show's designer, Tom Paris, says it “offers the chance to get up close and to touch some of the most exciting and interesting items from the extensive collection.” An unmissable insight into the extraordinary work that goes into even the most ordinary costumes. **Upper Ground, SE1 (020 7452 3000; nationaltheatre.org.uk)**

Costume of Turb  
Nasim (Cleopatra)  
Long Shot  
© AHH Banerjee

**THEATRE**

**Lungs**

14 October-9 November | **The Old Vic**

Matt Smith and Claire Foy reprise in Duncan Macmillan's unconventional love story that follows a young couple who want a child, but who, in a culture of terrorism, political tension and global anxiety, are running out of time. They want a child for the right reasons, but they just don't know what those right reasons are. Poignant, funny, outgoing and brutally honest, we follow their story as they're propelled into an uncertain future in the hope their relationship will survive.  
**The Cui, SE1 (02044 871 7622; oldvictheatre.com)**



**W**ith her Britpop past and her 24-year relationship with Supergrass singer Dazne Gelles, whom she married in 2008, singer turned designer Pearl Lowe has music in her soul. So her collaboration with Tigerlily Taylor – daughter of Queen drummer Roger – who models her new collection, is a match made in rock 'n' roll heaven.

“A friend of mine knew Tigerlily and I just thought she'd be brilliant,” says the 50-year-old mum of model Dazne and younger children Betty, Alice and Frankie Gelles. “It's so happy with the pictures have come out, I think she looks fantastic.”

Pearl's latest campaign features the flattering vintage-inspired looks she has become famous for since leaving the pop world behind for design, starting first with interiors before moving into fashion. We caught up with her to find out more about her new collection, her “faded glamour” style and her hopes of becoming a grandmother one day...

**Pearl, what inspires your design?**

“I make clothes because I can't find clothes. I've got a big bust and a big bum and I can't really find anything, certainly not on the high street or any of the designers. I find vintage patterns from the 1950s and '60s work so well, so I basically take my inspiration from there.”

“If it flatters me, I know that particular dress is going to be a winner. I normally put it on and we have many consultations I get, and if I get more than three, I think ‘Yep, I'm going to put that into production.’”

**You started off in interior design. Why did you move into fashion?**

“In 2005, after I had Betty, I left London and I gained about a stone. I probably needed to – I became a healthy size 10 while in London. I was probably an unbelievable size 8. I started designing dresses then and they were pretty much the same – all black, all black lace. I was a bit of a goth. Now black makes me look a little bit old so I don't wear it as much. I've gone into florals and patterns and silhoues.”

“Also, I was living in Hampshire at the time and the dressmakers were very expensive. Now I've found much better and cheaper production. Instead of the dresses being 2000, I try and keep them around the £200 mark.”

**Who wears your designs and who would you like to see wearing them?**

“When I first started, there were a lot of

# ROCK ROYALTY

Former singer Pearl Lowe has crafted a career designing vintage-inspired tea dresses. She tells us how working with model Tigerlily Taylor hit all the right notes

INTERVIEW MICHAEL LEITCH; PHOTOS BELLA HEINHOE

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Bird-print  
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Floral Marilyn,  
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Alice, £225

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"I'm getting on a bit now, unfortunately. In my head I'm still 21, but when I look in the mirror it confirms that I'm really not."

**Do you have any treasured possessions in your wardrobe?**

"Probably the Alexander McQueen purple silk floor-length dress he gave me. I went to his birthday party one night wearing it – I'd borrowed it from the press office – and he said: 'You look great in that. You should keep it.' I was like: 'Oh my God!'"

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"It's happily in my wardrobe; the girls haven't actually found that one yet – they haven't got their grubby paws on it.

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**What's next in the pipeline for you?**

"I want to do shoes and boots, but I don't know where I'd start. I really hate that I'm always thinking of something else to do as I really don't have the time, but I also have this thing where I can't find shoes and boots that I love, so I need to make them."

**Where do you see yourself in ten years' time?**

"Probably a grandma, I should hope – I'm really hoping I'll be a grandma and that I'll still be in Somerset and fitting between home and somewhere abroad."

Pearl wears Polka Dot Joan, £195 (above far left), and Tigerlily Taylor models Mabel in Mabel Fern, £225 (left). All dresses Pearl Lowe; visit [pearllowe.co.uk](http://pearllowe.co.uk)



Created in honour of Woodchip & Magnolia's frequent collaborator, Pearl Lowe, on the launch of her new book of the same name, it's a vintage-inspired print exuding opulence and drama.

Decadent and romantic with more than a hint of rock 'n' roll, it's basically Pearl in a print. Lush botanicals in rich reds, inky blues and the palest of prints clash against a brooding black backdrop for a dramatic, sumptuous finish.

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MAD ABOUT . . .

## BEAUTIFUL ROOMS: A SPLASH OF GREEN

7TH OCTOBER 2019



pearl lowe's book Faded Glamour is out now, this is her bedroom - [house tour](#) here

Green is all anyone is talking about at the moment; whether it's colour of the year, our impact on the planet or new paint ranges so I thought we would use that as excuse to look at some greenspiration today and perhaps if you are thinking of incorporating this colour into your space it might inspire you.

I wrote about the [psychology behind the colour green](#) here here so you can have a look at that too while strolling round these beautiful rooms.

Another French bed below – and if you like them try [The French Depot](#) for similar – that link takes you to a particularly pretty one but there are lots more on the site. This belongs to Pearl Lowe, whose new book Faded Glamour is out this week and whose [house tour](#) you can see here. She has teamed her green velvet Manette bed from [Soho Home](#) with soft pink wallpaper and vintage mirrored bedside tables. The cover of her book also features the French bed in her daughter Daisy's room.

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- Her own Somerset home is featured with rock and roll style and designs to die for
- Style-icon Lowe is known for her love of vintage fashion and interiors and dabbled in interior design herself
- Her new book called Faded Glamour: Inspirational Interiors and Beautiful Homes is published by CICO books



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Now the fashion designer, former singer and interior designer, 49, from Somerset has revealed her friends' grandiose homes in her new book Faded Glamour: Inspirational Interiors and Beautiful Homes

All encompass different facets of what she calls faded glamour a 'gloriously decadent yet well-lived-in decorating style.'

Several high-profile Brits' country-houses and pied-à-terre are featured, including the stylish interior of designer Solange Azagury Partridge, who combines different kinds of textile and prints to create a very colourful living-space in her weekend country house.

Alice Temperley's Somerset house also makes a rather dashing appearance, with its pink bathrooms and aubergine living-rooms, decorated with touches of romanticism and escapism.

Pearl also gives a glimpse of her own sense of faded glamour, sharing pictures of her own lavish Somerset Georgian property of 11 rooms.

Pearl and her husband Danny Geoffrey moved from London to the house three years ago. They now live there with their children Betty, Alfie, Frank and daughter Daisy.

She explains in the book that thanks to the dwelling's space and light, she managed to pay homage to its Georgian roots as well as her more 'playful' style. FEMAIL features eight pictures from the book...

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MailOnline

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people like Courtney Love, Sienna Miller and Natalie Imbruglia wearing them. Faine Cotton has recently Instagrammed herself in one of my new dresses.

"I love Alexa Chung's style and she always tells me she loves my dresses so I'd like to make her one. And obviously, my daughter Daisy looks incredible in all of them."

**You've used both Daisy and Betty in your campaigns. What made you choose Tigerlily so model this season's collection?**

"Do you know what? I just felt like I always use Daisy and although she's so perfect and has the most beautiful body, I felt like I had a few comments off people asking why I always use my daughter.

"I like to keep everything routine so I thought: 'Come on! Come out of your comfort zone,' and I first used Dylan Weller (daughter of singer Paul) and it really worked. It brought in a different demographic.

"I think Tigerlily looks fantastic - she's quirky, but also womanly and rock 'n' roll."

**How does she fit in the face of the brand?**

"Even though I love girly-girl things and I like

that look, because my dresses are quite dense I chose someone with a bit of an edge. Tigerlily's got tattoos and she's a bit of a girl-around-town, but she's also so lovely. And she's got a womanly body so she's perfect for the Pearl Lowe brand."

**Which do you prefer interiors or dresses?**

"Probably the dresses because I get to wear them, which is amazing.

"I've got hundreds of vintage dresses from the 1950s going up to the '70s. Some of them are starting to fall apart because they're so old and some of the fabrics aren't standing the test of time.

"It's so lovely to be able to source wonderful fabrics like silks and crepes, and make the patterns into something more modern that I can wear and wash. It's great. I'm absolutely loving it."

**Do you miss making music?**

"Yes, I do. My husband has just built a studio and he keeps saying: 'Pearl, let's do a record,' and he'll play something and be like: 'This will really suit your husky voice. Come on.'

"I just keep going: 'I can't. I've got an email,'

or: 'I've got this conference call - I'm just too busy.' I love it more than anything else, but I have so much going on.

"I've got an interiors book that's just launched called *Faded Glamour* and that's been amazing. And I've just launched something very exciting with Daisy as the new faces of Radley. And then I'm launching castles and also my new wallpaper, which is also called *Faded Glamour*."

**Who else would you like to collaborate with?**

"There's so many brands, but I've just been collaborating with Soho Home, which is like a dream come true.

"Also, I've always wanted to do something with Globe-Trotter. I'm obsessed with their luggage; literally obsessed."

**After many house moves, three years ago you settled in Somerset. Is this home still The One?**

"Yes. We'd normally have gone by now - my husband can't believe it. He's so shocked that I haven't mentioned the words: 'removal men'.

"It has everything, it has country views but it's just at the edge of a town so my boys can walk to the station and go to London or Bristol. It's kind of an old Georgian rambling house, so it's just lovely."

**How would you describe your style? Does your aesthetic run into your home, too?**

"Completely. I'd say it was 'faded glamour' - a bit aged and a bit worn, once quite glamorous but probably isn't so much any more. That really sums up my style.

"I'm getting on a bit now, unfortunately. In my head I'm still 21, but when I look in the mirror it confirms that I'm really not."

**Do you have any treasured possessions in your wardrobe?**

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**What's next in the pipeline for you?**

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*'My daughter Betty's started borrowing my clothes. I found my Chanel top in her room the other day'*



Bird-print Joan, £225



Floral Marilyn, £195



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## Pearl Lowe reveals her vintage style secrets

We spoke to interior designer Pearl Lowe at the launch of her new book to find out how we can add some *Faded Glamour* into our own homes.



Interior designer **Pearl Lowe** is much celebrated for her signature style, combining carefully sourced decorative objects, vintage patterns, ornate fabrics and charming antiques. Her new book, **Faded Glamour**, explores some beautiful properties that encapsulate her design ethos, including her own stunning home in Frome, Somerset.

We caught up with her at the launch of the new book to find out about some of her own most treasured possessions, and how we can bring some Faded Glamour to our own lives.

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### What does Faded Glamour mean to you?

From early on, I can remember reacting strongly to a house that has some age to it and a story to tell – they appeal to me in a massive way. I just love things that are imperfect and have a history. I love Parisian apartments when you walk in and there's paint peeling off the walls and old broken mirrors – that kind of thing. I'm just mad about things that were once so glamorous, but now it's just a bit worn and torn – a few people have referred to me in a similar way in my time!

The reason I created a book like this is because, at the moment, everyone's talking about sustainability. But I don't think people don't think about the fact that actually, this style is sustainable. You have to really think about your carbon footprint at this point, and this furniture was made years and years ago – it's being recycled and it's fantastic. You don't have to buy anything new.

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### Is there a piece in your own home that has particularly memorable story for you?

I always talk about a lamp, because I bought it in Paris at Cignancourt market. It had a sort of metal frame to it and my husband said that I couldn't get it, because it was really heavy. But of course, I went up to the lady and asked how much it was. She said €80, so obviously I said I'd take it. The problem is that we were going back on the Eurostar! We had to find a taxi that would let us take it (with the window down and lamp sticking out) and then take it on the Eurostar. He had to carry it and didn't talk to me the whole way. But it's still in our front room and it is so beautiful. Whenever I look at it, it just reminds me of that trip.

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# PERIOD PIECES

THE BEST THING ABOUT VINTAGE IS THAT YOU CAN CREATE YOUR OWN UNIQUE LOOK, SAYS PEARL LOWE

**G**etting into vintage styling was a natural thing for me – I'd been obsessed with antique clothing from an early age. When I had children and my singing career came to an end, I had to find something else to do. I'd just bought my first renovation house, in Camden, north London. It was a wreck and I didn't have much money, so I painted all the walls and floors white, punctuating the look with dashes of colour. In the bathroom, I dyed a lace curtain fuchsia. It was this curtain that started my new career: a neighbour showed it to the owner of a lifestyle boutique, who loved it and asked if they could stock it. The curtains sold out instantly and everything snowballed from there. It's the history and style of days gone by that excite and inspire me. My favourite periods are the 1920s and 1950s, eras of glamour and romance, of beautiful people, beautiful clothes and beautiful furniture. Period items become damaged or are discarded and lost over the years, however, so the ones that survive can come with a high price tag, but don't let that hold you back. You just need to get savvy and know where to hunt for the bargains.

Use your imagination when searching for pieces: think what you can do to get it looking the way you want it. Slightly damaged pieces can be given a new lease of life: dressers and armoires can be painted; damaged door panels can be replaced with glass or wire grilles, and lampshades can be dressed up with lace or fringing. Vintage is a style that reflects your personality. Change colours or patterns, mix and match objects.

"Creating the perfect atmosphere is important, especially for a big occasion. Choose the colours and fabrics you love. I simply adore lace – it has a gothic but feminine feel"

Pearl Lowe  
TV Talent and Social Media  
Press

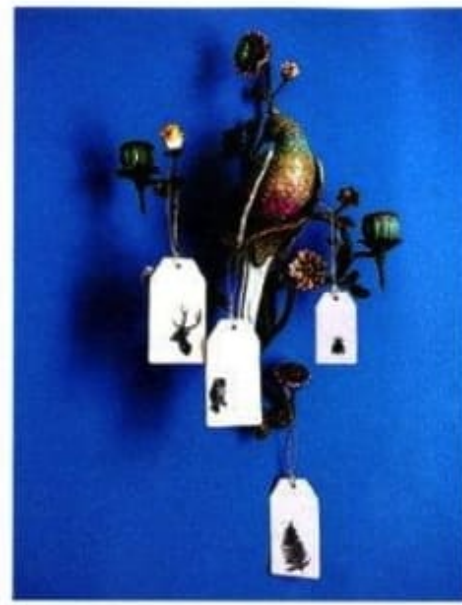
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INTERIORS



ABOVE 'I love my home, and my husband, Danny, loves to cook.' The family kitchen features cabinets painted in pastel hues. BELOW 'Lace panels feature heavily in my home, hung at windows, on tables as covers and on beds as canopies. I adore the romantic feel they give'



ABOVE Ornate candelabras and sconces, set against a vibrant wall, can also be hung with hand-printed labels. BELOW 'I love the look of indoors out of doors. Just bring out tables and chairs and spread rugs or floral quilts over the ground and scatter with cushions'



Lowe at home in Somerset. 'Due to my obsession with paint and wallpaper, few walls in our house get left plain. And if they do, they

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PEARL LOWE

Designer Pearl Lowe, 43, moved to Somerset from London five years ago with her husband, musician Danny Goffey, and their three children Aika, 16, Frankie, 13, and Betty, 7.

**What drew you to the countryside?**  
I needed the slower pace of life. We moved here when I was pregnant with Betty, so she's a real country bumpkin. Whenever I go to London now, I'm like, 'Oh, get me home!' There are no parking tickets and no stressing about what school you'll get your children into here. Friends say I woke up a completely different person as soon as I moved.

**Do you find it hard to adapt?**  
It takes some getting used to - you have to be more creative with activities for the kids and you have to think ahead about milk because all the shops shut at 5pm. But people love you for your heart here, not for who you are or what you can do for them.

**What's your perfect day?**  
To go for a swim at Babington House. I swim every day even though I'm allergic to exercise. A friend has the most beautiful lake which we often jump in, but I haven't skinny dipped for years! Then I'd take the dogs for a walk and cook a roast for friends.

**What do you love to cook?**  
I make marmalade and grapefruit jam, and rhubarb, marshmallow and peanut butter ice creams which I never thought I'd be able to do. And my 16-year-old son suffered withdrawal symptoms from my banana bread when he was at Glastonbury.

**How do you like to recycle?**  
We're hot on recycling - all the clothes I make use recycled fabrics and our furniture is antique. I get so excited the night before a vintage fair and every weekend there seems to be one, like Shepton Mallet flea fair. You can get everything from chandelier lights and dresses to cushions and fairy costumes.

**Do you rear any animals?**  
We're getting sheep and we have doves, a horse and pony and two dogs.

Pearl's new book *Vintage Craft: 50 Craft Projects And Home Styling Advice* (£25, HarperCollins) is out now

WANT TO LIVE IN A VERY BIG HOUSE IN THE COUNTRY?

- FROME** Also known as the rural outpost of the Soho House clan, Frome (rhymes with 'groom') is a sleepy market town that attracts the likes of Johnny Depp and Madonna, and has incredible vintage stores and markets.
- THE PALLANTS** Picturesque, quiet and traffic-free, this Chichester suburb is full of cafés, bars and boutiques. Expect academics and commuters as neighbours, but don't expect a family home to come cheap (around £500,000).
- CRONARTY** If you crave space, mountains and sandy coasts, Cronarty has them by the bucket load. It's also home to a locally-run film festival and Ian Rankin's favourite pub, the Cronarty Arms.
- ECCLESHELL** From quirky boutiques to a monthly farmers' market it's little wonder this town is up and coming. A popular choice for families, thanks to its numerous rugby and cricket clubs.
- LAUGHARNE** Described as a "legendary idyllic little black-magical bedlam by the sea" by former resident Dylan Thomas.
- TOTNES** Time magazine declared it "the capital of New Age chic", and if the artisan cafes, pubs and market are any guide, Totnes is the new Cotswolds for the fashion-forward. A Georgian town house will cost £400,000.



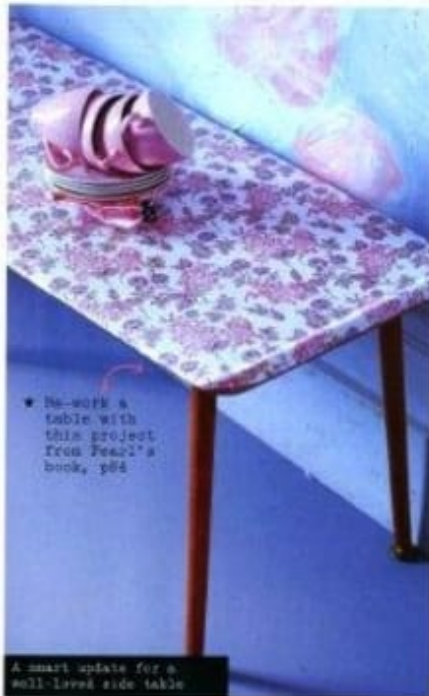
PEARL LOWE

Fashion designer, mum to top model Daisy Lowe and former member of London's infamous Primrose Hill set, PEARL LOWE is not your typical crafter. Following the release of her book celebrating handmade interiors, she chats to *Cloth* about escaping London for more tranquil surroundings and how being creative has always been a part of her life

CLOTH SPOTLIGHT



Pearl relaxes in her retro styled home



A smart update for a well-loved side table

“**B**e brave to make things beautiful, go with your instinct and passion and you will create your own unique and stylish home, and have a lot of fun in the process,” explains Pearl at the front of her new book, *Vintage Craft*. It features 50 projects that capture all the glamour and romance of vintage and every page is filled with beautiful photography, practical ideas for your home and insights into Pearl’s Somerset life with Supergrass drummer and vocalist husband Danny Goffey and their three children.

It’s a far cry from her previous life in London, with A-list friends like Kate Moss and Sadie Frost as part of her inner circle and night after night of glamorous celeb soirees to reveal in Pearl’s 2008 autobiography, *All That Glitters*, details her life as part of the coolest social group in London during the Nineties and her descent into addiction, from which she has now fully recovered. Moving to Somerset has calmed the former party girl and she’s now focused on rural life, with family, friends and craft playing a major part.

With a self-out clothing collection for Peacocks under her belt, Pearl is well known for her quirky, vintage-inspired style. She’s now turned

her attention to the home and reveals her style secrets and favourite projects within the pages of her new book. We caught up with Pearl to chat about her life in the country and what home means to her.

*What’s it like writing your finished book?*  
It’s amazing, because it’s been years of thought. To actually see it in print is remarkable. My favourite project is the ‘office in a wardrobe’ – it’s where your wardrobe literally becomes your workspace. Offices can be so cluttered and are quite masculine, so I like the fact that it’s fowery and you can hide everything in there. It’s a hoarder to anything that hides anything is brilliant!

*What was the thinking behind the book?*  
I always have to do houses on a budget because once I’ve bought them I don’t have the money to do them up! So I wanted to put together a book to show people that you don’t necessarily have to get people in to do your house – you can do it yourself.

*Your house looks beautiful in print.*  
I don’t live there anymore! We sold it last month – we’re renovating a big old rectory now, so we’ve just moved from that gorgeous house.



“I LOVE THINGS THAT HAVE HISTORY, OBJECTS THAT TELL A STORY”

Hook the chandelier trend in your home with a two-tone tablecloth



Beautiful floral tiles will uplift your kitchen.

I have gypsy blood in me and I always want to move. Once I've done up a house, much to the dismay of my family, I feel like it's time to go. My new project is the metsy, which is very exciting. At the moment the house is still an empty shell, so I can't really see how it's going to look. I'm sure in a few weeks it'll be a different story, but at the moment it's all a little daunting.

*What is it about vintage that you love?*

I love things that have history, objects that tell a story. I've got this Twenties black lacquered dresser and you can just imagine a flapper girl having all her beautiful things displayed on it. I love the fact that someone of that time enjoyed it back then and now here I am admiring and using it nearly one hundred years later.

*Do you remember when you first started to sew?*

My grandma was a dressmaker, so she would often sit with me and teach me how to sew and knit when I was around five or six. She was the creative one in the family, she used to make us clothes and all sorts of things, she was brilliant.

*How has craft woven itself into your life?*

It's always been there, even when I lived in London. Yes I had this hedonistic lifestyle then, but it was always there. Because I've got such a creative brain, it never switches off and I'm always thinking of the next thing to do. The great thing about moving to the country is I have a lot more time to do it. Instead of going on mindless lunches I actually sit down and make something.

*What does home mean to you?*

Entertaining friends and family - it's an intrinsic part of my life. We live in Somerset and have so many friends here. Even last night, about an hour before I knew anything I was told, "Oh, 14 people are coming to dinner!". That's what it's like here, but I love it.

*What's your most treasured possession?*

My gypsy-casavan, which has become my true love. I had a wonderful mint green fifties style casavan when I lived in Hampshire and it became my haven. When we moved I had to sell it because there was nowhere to put it. I was gutted, so I spent the next five years looking



Gypsy hideaway: Pearl's treasured gypsy casavan.

## "ENTERTAINING FRIENDS AND FAMILY IS AN INTRINSIC PART OF MY LIFE"

for one, I finally found one and I wanted to include it in the book as I thought it'd be a nice thing to show people how to renovate.

*What's your favourite era?*

I'm mad about the Twenties - the mirrored furniture, the chandeliers, the decadence and the lush fabrics. I just love the way things were decorated in that time.

*What's your favourite sofa?*

My Rachel Ashwell sofa - I'm a big fan of Rachel Ashwell. A couple of years ago my mum bought me her book and I couldn't believe how similar our tastes were. I visited her shop and I walked in and saw this really comfy sofa and just said "Can I have that please?"; I didn't even ask the price then nearly had a heart attack when I found out how much it was! But it's in our front room, it's so comfy, you can fall



Shopping for time-travelled treasures.

asleep on it. I think a good sofa is so important.

*Do you ever miss sewing?*

It's so boring and I wish I could get out of them, but Thirties/Forties tea dresses with black tights and cardigans, I look odd in funny, designer clothes. I've tried wearing Vivienne Westwood suits and they don't fit me - I look weird and busty and bumpy. Daisy's always saying to me "I wish you'd bloody change your style mam"; but it's just what I know suits my body shape.

*Do you ever miss market life?*

Go to enjoy it, don't go there thinking about what you need because most of the time you won't find it if you see something you absolutely feel passionate about then buy it, because you'll never see it again. I get such a buzz out of going to vintage markets. You're the only person with that item - it belongs to you and you can make it look amazing. I like being original.

*What's your happy ending?*

To live in the country with my kids, be a good mum, be happy - peaceful and happy.



**LISTEN TO THE PODCAST**  
To listen to our chat with Pearl, you can download the podcast from [www.carolhayes.co.uk](http://www.carolhayes.co.uk)



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**Dream  
HOMES  
to buy**



**Bedrooms: 5**  
**Unique features**  
140ft water frontage on to Windermere; two bathhouses and two jetties; three bathrooms including the master bedroom's en suite; half an acre of varied mature gardens down to the lake; four-car garage; parking area for numerous cars

**DEVON  
£1.5M**



**Bedrooms: 4**  
**Unique features:** iconic property directly on the waterfront at Salcombe, so close to the estuary that it feels as if you could launch a boat from the living room, according to one of the owners, landing platform and running mooring, 2,000-year lease that began in 1796.  
**Contact:** Knight Frank, knightfrank.co.uk, 01552 849822

**INTERIORS**



Capri mirrored 1-drawer console table, £280, laurasashley.com



Elchholtz tufted chair, £1,095, houseology.com



Cream moiré taffeta lampshade, from £168, thelampshadehop.com



Heart of House Canzano dressing table mirror, £64.99, argos.co.uk



Damask cushion cover with metallic thread, £19.99, zarahome.com. Left: The look you're aiming for



Luxe Collection Alessandra Plush 5-light chandelier, £99, very.co.uk. Below: Pearl Lowe

**Get the look  
By Pearl Lowe  
Art Deco luxe**

draped over chairs work really well - they has lots of different coloured ones priced from £40. And I'm obsessed with antique mirrored furniture - Laura Ashley has a lovely selection. I'm so pleased that Soho House has created a company, Soho Home, for us to buy what we see in its hotels. The products aren't cheap but the velvet fan bed, below left, is super-stylish and has the ultimate Art Deco feel, especially with silk sheets and piles of cushions. Pearl has an interior design consultancy and clothing brand, pearl Lowe.co.uk, @pearllowe



Luxe bedspread, green velvet (king), £2,495, sohohome.com



Ultimate silk bedspread (king/superking) in soft ivory, £140, monarchsleep.com



**How to...  
TRANSFORM YOUR  
SPARE ROOM**

From £35  
Turn it into a home office with a cork-board wall, perfect for displaying new projects. Do it yourself with self-adhesive cork tiles, available for £21.94 for a pack of six, from boardsdirect.co.uk. The Feliidae Closed Eyes paper bag, light, £15.95, lulubuy.co.uk is great for storing random bits and bobs. You can't beat Ikea for desks and storage units, and search eBay for an Ikea-style chair.

From £190  
Convert it into a games room for teenagers. A boboboard wall is a great focal point - apply a couple of coats of Johnstone's Magnetic Blackboard Paint (£54.99 for 750ml) with a roller. You could also add some football fairy lights and an Quilled Mighty-b team Bag, above, from Ollie and Lulu, £159.99.

From £200  
A workout space in your spare room means no excuses. Reflects the mirrored walls in your gym for less by hanging two or three of Ikea's Håstad mirrors (£100 each) along one wall. This will make the space feel larger and brighter too. Create storage for yoga mats, towels and other exercise kit with Ikea's Tussig hat rack (£79 each).



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PHOTOGRAPH BY JONATHAN WINTER FOR VOWS; HAIR: NICKY WOOD; MAKEUP: KATE

WORDS BY MATT BIELBY

# PEARL, INTER- -UPTED

Ten years ago, Pearl Lowe – designer, singer, one time wild child – was designing bespoke dresses that sold in the poshest London stores. Now, well away from Primrose Hill and safely ensconced in rural Somerset, she's back doing womenswear for the first time in years, including a chic little bridal collection... >

When Pearl Lowe was young, her mum ran a designer boutique in London's Covent Garden, from age twelve, or thereabouts, Pearl would work there as a Saturday girl. "One day I asked her if I could design a range of jumpers we could sell and, amazingly, mum said yes," she says. "I can still remember them hanging up in the shop, and the pride I felt."

And did anyone buy them and wear them? "Well, I did!"

She was always a bit of a rebel, the young Pearl, and a style leader; she'd cut up her clothes, customise things, wear styles even before they'd hit the catwalks – and a year later she says she'd see girls wearing the same thing, but by then she'd have moved on.

"But take fashion seriously as a career? No, I never saw myself doing that," she pauses. "Not back then."

Instead she got into music and all that comes with it, singing with indie bands Powder and Lodge in the '90s, but she resists that world now. Her husband, Danny Goffey of Supergrass, often asks her to contribute to his records, but she puts him off. "I was never known for my amazing voice anyway," Pearl says, "and I'm not such a good lyricist either. I'm more a performer, someone who comes alive on stage – and that lifestyle's not on the cards at the moment. And anyway, I just don't have the time."

She doesn't have the time because she's suddenly very busy again, her children's line, Petite Pearl Lowe, going great guns at places like Harrods, and her more recent womenswear collection now spawning a handful of wedding dresses, of which more in a moment. None of them are black – as was the gown she wore to her own wedding at Babington House in 2008 – but she'll happily do you a noir version (or one in red, midnight blue, whatever you like). As she says, "It's all about wearing what you want."

Pearl's London years are well documented, not least by herself in her compelling 2007 autobiography *All That Glitters: Living On The Dark Side Of Rock & Roll*. She was a key part of a North London set that included Kate Moss, Sadie Frost, Jude Law; sex and drug stories revolved around her, and she revolved around them, and life was doubtless fun at times but hardly healthy. In the tabloid world, she's perhaps best remembered for the fact that her oldest daughter – the model Daisy Lowe, cover star of this issue of *Vive* – turned out to be

the biological daughter of her friend, the Bush singer Gavin Rossdale, and not of the presumed father at all.

That story came out in 2004, around when Pearl's life started changing radically. She and Danny moved out of London the following year, first to Hampshire – "it was good and healing, as I'd had a rough time in London" – and later to the West Country.

"We couldn't find a house to buy in Hampshire," she says, "but anyway, we didn't fit in. Everyone else worked in the City. But then

my best friend suggested we look at Wiltshire, and the house we liked actually said 'Frome', so it was Somerset really. We drove down and it was so far, I nearly told Danny to turn around and go back, but when we got there the house was good, and the school was good, and we fell in love with it all. The clincher was when the headmaster said, 'Before you decide, why not check out Babington House?', and that sold us. We've been down here nearly ten years now, and I've been sober for 13. Not from drink, you understand." And with that she smiles. "I never had a problem with drink."



PHOTOGRAPH BY GAVIN WOOD

*I didn't want to do music anymore – it made me miserable and anxious, all those days with a load of boys on a smelly bus*

Back in 2001, Pearl was doing up a house in London for Alan McGee of Creation Records, champion of Oasis and The Libertines. But she couldn't find any curtains she liked, so made up some lace ones – and, when all her friends saw them, they wanted

lace curtains too. "It felt really good," she says. "I didn't want to do music anymore – it made me miserable and anxious, all those days with a load of boys on a smelly bus – and I needed something else beyond being home with the children. I felt I'd got my career back."

The lace curtain thing had taken off like crazy – "beyond anything I'd dreamed," Pearl says – and set her on an interior design path that continues, in the background, to this day. "But I work on people's houses quietly," she says, "and often sign NDAs. My clients are well known, and like people to think they did it themselves!"

A return to fashion followed. "I'd had a baby," Pearl says, "and found I had nothing to wear, so I started making my own clothes again." Before she knew it she was being asked to make more, and was selling bespoke lace dresses in places like Liberty.

Up next was meant to have been a collaboration with Topshop, but then came one of those chance meetings and sudden swerves that seem to typify Pearl's life and career. "I was doing a travel review in Greece for *Grazia* magazine," she says, "and, out of the blue, got a call

## THE BRIDE: PEARL LOWE

from an old agent who instead asked me to create a line for Peacocks, the value fashion store. I'd never heard of them, but they had 600 shops, and it would be a three-year contract, four collections a year. It sounded incredible, so Topshop was history; I'd do Peacocks instead."

Pearl's work for Peacocks was quite a hit – she did a black dress that was a huge high street smash in 2010, for instance – so it was quite the shock when the company went into administration in 2012. "It was really depressing," Pearl says, "but I'd just got a book deal, so I threw myself into that."

*Pearl Lowe's Vintage Crag* was published in 2013, and was well-received. In 2014, she says, she "didn't do much," trying to figure out a way back into fashion. She'd done £1,000 dresses for Liberty, but the recent Peacock's stuff had all been £45 or so, and it seemed hard to go back to high end gear again.

The solution was to swerve sideways, into striking childrenswear. "I'd started to make quirky dressing up outfits for my youngest daughter," she says, "and it all spun out of that." One day she showed them to a friend who'd taken over the children's department at Harrods, and she soon had another major string to her bow. "Then," Pearl says, "in October last year I did my first line of adult dresses in five years. The time just seemed right. I wanted to have them made in Somerset, so they couldn't be too cheap, but they wouldn't be ridiculously costly either; more somewhere in the middle."

Indeed, the most expensive dresses she now sells are around £399. "And I'm loving it," she says. "I'm a bit of a control freak, so I adore that we're doing everything locally. With the London factories that make the children's line, I occasionally find things end up on the shelves at Harrods before I've even seen the finished version – which I hate. The new womenswear line is much smaller in comparison and we're growing it slowly. There'll be a collaboration with a big store at Christmas, yes, but we're mostly just selling online at the moment."

The initial womenswear line was just four dresses in timeless styles. "They're not red carpet gowns," Pearl says, "and they're not trend-led. Instead, they're for women with bodies, and look as good on older ladies as on teenagers. We make them in up to size 20, and can go bigger – we just did a size 22 for a customer. I'm a huge collector, have a massive selection of vintage dresses I've picked up all over the world, and am especially drawn to frocks of the

1930s and '40s, so the inspiration comes from them. A little from the '70s too – but the patterns, not the prints." And she shrugs quietly.

After a slowish start the womenswear exploded at Christmas, which has inspired her this year to experiment with different cuts (most of Pearl's frocks are mid-length), materials and colours.

"If there's one thing I know it's that if I put a dress on and love it," Pearl says, "then everyone else will too. Too many of us can't wear designer any more because you have to be a size four, and the cost is ridiculous. Just the other day, Daisy was saying to me, 'Mum, when did everything at Gucci and Chloe suddenly get to be £2,500?' And it's disgusting, in a way – that's the price of a perfectly usable old car. Really, it's become vulgar to spend so much on one dress."

People have been complaining about how expensive wedding dresses have become for years too, of course, and Pearl's initial three-piece bridal line – yes, I told you we'd get to them eventually – is more than affordable, with nothing over £400, unless you splash out for fancier fabrics.

"The Audrey is a pretty, short button-down shirt dress, and quite demure," Pearl says. "I love shirt dresses, and it comes with short sleeves as many brides like to cover their arms. In crepe it's £399 and in silk it's £499. You can wear it with a jacket, or with something under it; it's very versatile."

Cherry – the dress on our cover – is a sexy lace number, but surprisingly flattering too. "You'd normally have it with a little slip dress under it," Pearl says. "You'd only wear it as Daisy is if you're very bold – and Daisy's age!" That comes in at £299, or for 50 quid more you could pick up a Marilyn, nipped in at the waist and A-line to the knee in a 1940s style.

"To be honest," Pearl says, "I don't exactly know where the bridal line is going, but I do know that I'm loving it – and that there's a market, because these styles are so wearable for so many people."

So you'll stick with it, yes? "What I can say is when I was a singer I got slated all the time, and it doesn't help that I'm a really sensitive person. And the nearest I ever had to a nine-to-five job was working for Peacocks, which got to me in the end. I'm just not geared up for that sort of thing."

So what you're saying is, you'll keep doing wedding gowns as long as people like them, and you don't get bored?

"I think so! I've learned that I need to be able to go in lots of different directions to feel fulfilled," Pearl says. "And this is one direction, right now, that I'm really enjoying." ●

[pearllowe.co.uk](http://pearllowe.co.uk)



**“If there's one thing I know it's that if I put a dress on and love it, then everyone else will too”**



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'I made some really rash decisions when we bought this house,' admits Pearl Lowe, laughing, 'but moving here wasn't one of them.'

However much of a nightmare it was to live in at first, I knew I was in the right place.'

It's been more than a decade since Pearl – pop star and model turned writer and designer – swapped the parties and scandals of her notorious 'Primrose Hill set' for a life of stylish sobriety in Somerset. But while her heart immediately settled on country life with her musician husband Danny Goffey (he of Supergrass fame) and their children, it took at least six moves before they found a house that was right for them... Kind of. 'It was ridiculous to move here – it has 11 bedrooms for a start and even with all the kids at home [and older daughter, model Daisy Lowe, visiting most weekends] that's too many. But it's the house that just wouldn't go away,' Pearl explains. 'A friend first brought me here six years ago, saying, "It's got your name all over it!" She was right and the owner wanted to sell, but we couldn't afford the price she wanted. We kept in touch and, earlier this year, she finally said she would accept an offer. Danny and I just looked at each other and said, "How can we not?"'



**KITCHEN DETAIL**

'I just love looking at this lightbox installation by my best friend Zoe Grace,' says Pearl. 'It's in the kitchen, so I can enjoy it every day.'  
**Get the look** Find alternative versions of Zoe Grace's Sometimes It's a Yes artwork at Lawrence Alkin Gallery. The Orange blossom candle is by Pearl Lowe Lifestyle.

house,' she says, shaking her head in disbelief. 'Daisy ran a bath and suddenly there was water and bubbles all over the front garden.'

It seems fame doesn't protect you from the period drama that is a renovation project. While Danny was working with his new band Van Goffey and Pearl was creating designs for her eponymous lifestyle brand and children's fashion range, they were also living in a building site in the middle of winter and wondering if the heating would ever work again. 'I was in a bit of a state, so it's no wonder I made some bad decisions,' she says. 'I'd already redone the paper in Daisy's room. Then one day, Danny looked at the really expensive green wallpaper I'd put up in the living room and said, "I hate this. It's so un-rock 'n' roll. You've made it look like an Eighties conservatory." He was right. I had to go over it all with a new pattern from Little Greene.'

Pearl's triumphs easily outweigh the occasional unfortunate wallpaper choice, though. There's that gorgeous new kitchen with its three-metre island topped with seamless Arabesque marble. 'Danny basically banned me from buying my usual jumble of reclaimed cupboards, with drawers that stick and knobs that fall off whenever you try to open a cupboard,' she says with a laugh. Then there's the elegant formality of the wallpaper she's used throughout, subverted with tiger print and granny lamps, neon artwork and shaggy sheepskins, chandeliers and chintz. It's the eclectic vintage look that Pearl is known for, taken to a new, more elegant level. 'I just want to live every room,' she says. 'Basically, I want to be inspired by my own house.'

For more info about Pearl's fashion and interior design business, visit [pearllowe.co.uk](http://pearllowe.co.uk)

FLOWERS FROM BIRNIBBLE. A WILD IN FRENCH.

**HOME PROFILE**

**THE OWNERS** Fashion and interior designer Pearl Lowe, her husband, musician Danny Goffey, and their children Alfie, 20, Frankie, 18, and Betty, 11. Plus Angie the Cavapoo.  
**THE PROPERTY** An 11-bedroom Georgian house located just outside Frome in Somerset. On the ground floor there's an entrance hall and inner hallway, living room/study, drawing room, family room, dining room, kitchen, playroom, pantry and utility room. The first floor has six bedrooms and four bathrooms. There are a further five bedrooms on the second floor.



**FAMILY ROOM**

'My house is kitted out from the antiques markets in Frome and Shepton Mallet,' says Pearl. 'If I'm passionate about a piece, I know it will work in the mix.' Here, it's the animal prints that add an urban twist to her edgy, English country-house style.  
**Get the look** This is the Kenton ottoman in Tigre by House of Hackney. The leopard armchair is a flea-market find covered in fabric Pearl brought back from Hong Kong. The green velvet sofa is from DFS. The vintage mirror is from Les Couilles du Chien.

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### HOME TRUTHS

**Which song do you sing in the shower?** *You Don't Love Me* by Dawn Penn. Love that song so much!  
**Do you have a signature scent?** I adore Agent Provocateur.  
**What's your typical day?** I take Betty to school and then either meet friends for breakfast in At the Chapel in Bruton, or I go for a swim at Babington House and have breakfast there. Then I collect Betty and, if there's a vintage fair on, we'll go to that.  
**You're having friends to visit for the weekend - how do you prepare?** I usually go to the White Row Farm shop in Beckington and stock up on fresh veg and bread, then I get some flowers in jam jars from Bramble & Wild in Frome.  
**What's your favourite autumn pastime?** Going for walks by the river and in the forest with Angie the dog.  
**Any surprising talents?** I used to play tennis when I was young and I still have a mean backhand... I can also beat the boys at table tennis.



### KITCHEN

'Danny put up all the pictures - he's really good on positioning,' says Pearl. 'They're pieces we've gathered along the way, including *I'm Not Sorry* by my friend Zoe Grace.'

**Get the look** Find works by Zoe Grace at Lawrence Aikin Gallery.



### KITCHEN

'Originally the units were maroon, but as soon as they arrived, I knew I'd made a mistake,' admits Pearl. 'I had to ask, "Ern, is it too late to repaint these?"' Today's pale blue and black combo is the perfect foil for the marble surfaces and vintage chairs.  
**Get the look** The cabinetry, worktops and brassware are all by deVOL. The pendant was found in an antiques shop in Exeter. The stools are from Old Albion in Bridport. Find prints of Sam Taylor-Johnson's *Escape Artist (Green and Red)* at Counter Editions.



HOMES / ETC



**BETTY'S BEDROOM**

Betty chose every element of the décor in her room - including the black and white striped wallpaper. 'I suggested yellow, but she was determined. She wants to be a designer one day,' says Pearl.  
**Get the look** This is Farrow & Ball's Block Print Stripe wallpaper. For a bespoke bed like this one, try The London Joinery Co. The bed linen is from Soak&Sleep. The Butterfly outfit is by Pearl Lowe Petits.

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'I'm obsessed with small wallpaper prints right now and they suit the vintage style I love,' says Pearl.

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# OH, what a *CIRCUS!*

After a decade in the country, it's no longer about juggling parties and the it-girl lifestyle for Pearl Lowe. Instead, she's working on a whole new performance, as Deborah Brett discovers  
*Photographs AMELIA TROUBRIDGE*

Lowe's kids' collection is influenced by circus performers of yesteryear

## PROFILE

Pearl Lowe in her beautiful Georgian country home



**C**urled up on an old French dining chair, barefoot in a '40s tea dress and nibbling on a bowl of granola is how the 46-year-old designer Pearl Lowe is when I first meet her. Her transition from Primrose Hill party girl to country-idyll-dweller has been well documented, but I wasn't expecting *quite* so much domesticity.

There's already a buffet of fresh salads and scones on the counter opposite the Aga. She hasn't gone the full Nigella and baked them herself – they've been shipped over from neighbouring Babington House to feed the 20 or so people who have descended on her Somerset Georgian house. But she's rather relaxed for someone whose home is being overrun with photographers, stylists, assistants and a gaggle of her 10-year-old daughter Betty's friends, who have all agreed to be circus performers for the day.

Lowe, however, seems at home in the chaos, placating Betty and the other girls, who have a braid bar at their disposal and are in a heated discussion about who will >

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Performers for the day: youngest daughter Betty (in stripes on the caravan) and her friends loved dressing up



Lowe with 10-year-old Betty, who inspired the kids' clothing range

old, Alfie, is a DJ in Bristol, he's studying music and asked me to make him a butterfly outfit for Bestival. He's been nicking some of my vintage stuff and ruining it, which is really annoying. 'Can you just ask me?'" she exclaims. Although it seems her second child still hasn't learned, having recently appropriated her favourite leopard-print coat. "One of his friends posted a picture of him DJ-ing in it on Instagram, and I just messaged him going, 'You'd better bring that coat back!'"

It's hard to believe that it's more than a decade since she upped and left the infamous Primrose Hill party set, which included Kate Moss, Jude Law, Sadie Frost, Liam Gallagher and Patsy Kensit. "We were going out every night in London. It was hard not to – 'If you come tonight, we will give you a Gucci handbag,' or, 'If you come tonight we'll pay you a grand.' It's so tempting; you have to be so strong to say, 'No, I'm staying in.' And then, when I moved to the country, I didn't go out at all."

The move was an extreme but necessary measure, designed to help Lowe finally quit her addiction to both cocaine and heroin. "It took ages to look at that time fondly because for me it was very damaging, but now I'm able to see that it was a really fun, crazy time," admits Lowe, adding sincerely, "I can embrace my more mature years, let's say, with no jealousy."

**HER MEMOIR ALL THAT GLITTERS, PUBLISHED IN 2007, CONVEYED JUST HOW CENTRAL DRUGS WERE TO HER GANG.**

Alfie read the book when he was 13. "He only told me a year ago. He said as it was just on the shelf, he thought he'd read it. I cried when he said, 'I really know what you've been through

“It's the most excited I've ever been about anything I've ever done. I'm really surprised because it's not even for myself”

on, so she is over the moon, she couldn't be prouder of her sister." Lowe admits that Daisy is a natural. "She always wanted to go to ballet, I'm really pleased people will get to know her. She is so sweet, so intelligent and she's very strong-willed."

**THE YOUNGEST, BETTY, HAS ALSO DIPPED HER TOE INTO THE FASHION POND.**

After she appeared in a shoot for cool culture magazine *I-D*, stylist Katie Grand texted Lowe asking if Betty would model in a Marc Jacobs ad.

The designer is known for his irreverent campaigns – Victoria Beckham's legs poking out of a giant shopping bag, for instance – and the images of Betty dressed in a long, python-print skirt and polo neck garnered typical outrage in the tabloids. "It wasn't provocative in any way," says Lowe of the demure photographs. "She'd never been to New York, she'd never even been to America, so for her it was a dream come true. We went up the Empire State; we went in a carriage round Central Park; we saw the Statue Of Liberty."

Since then, Betty has been photographed for the cover of *Vogue Bambini*. "We flew to Milan last week. We have these little adventures together. It's not really what she aspires to do – she wants to be a manager," admits Lowe. "She was a bit snorey with me about the editorial fee for 30

get which creation from plait maestro Joel and negotiating how much glitter they can wear on their nails, eyes and anywhere else. There's her husband, ex-Supergrass drummer Danny Goffey, and musicians strumming on guitars in the next room, while her study has been transformed into a makeshift dressing room with rails of her new children's range, Petite Pearl Lowe.

"I found this amazing sequin fabric at a vintage fair, backed it in a hurlerquin silk and made some curtains for Betty's room. Next I made a cape and leotard, and that's how Petite Pearl Lowe started," explains Lowe when talking me through her circus-themed collection, which contains butterfly-winged leotards, copious amounts of glitter, fairy wands, top hats and velvet capes. Disney Store dressing up, this is not. Think 1920s trapeze artists and lion tamers in the most sumptuous attire. "It's the most excited I've ever been about anything I've ever done," explains Lowe. "It's so weird. I'm really surprised because it's not even for myself."

**THE CLOTHES ARE NOT YOUR NORMAL EVERYDAY WEAR**, but then life at Pearl Lowe's is anything but pedestrian. "I'm very childlike," Lowe confesses, "and my kids love dressing up. Funnily enough, my 19-year-



TOP and LEFT: Leotards, glitter, top hats and velvet capes make up the Petite Pearl Lowe collection ABOVE: Lowe and eldest daughter Daisy

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## PROFILE



Betty has already modelled for Marc Jacobs and *Vogue Bambini*

FROM TOP: Lowe with youngest daughter Betty; with husband Danny in 2014



that. She was like, 'If I was my own agent, I wouldn't have accepted that.'

### LOWE READILY ADMITS MONEY AND FINANCE ARE NOT HER FORTE.

"Danny and I are so shit with money, it's been our hiccup in life. We've not had money to put petrol in the car sometimes, it's been that bad. So now any money I earn goes straight into my business. I've had no outside investment, which I'm really proud of." Goffey, meanwhile, has his new band, Vangoffey. "He's got all his mates and they're off to India soon to do a festival. He's loving it. He doesn't feel he has to be successful. He knows what success feels like; this is something to feed his soul."

And what's feeding her soul? "Creativity," says Lowe quite simply. "It makes me really emotional because there was a time when I would sob at night and ask to be removed from my life because I was so deeply unhappy. I used to ask myself, 'Why? Why can't I be

happy? I've got beautiful kids, I love my husband, I've got a wonderful home - why?' And I think it's because

### Christmas with The Lowes

**Where do you like to celebrate?** "Last year, we jumped ship to Miami, but we didn't like it so much. We needed the cold. Thankfully, this year it's back home."

**Who's invited?** "We have everyone round. My family and Danny's family, Danny's brother and all his lot. It's pretty crazy."

**Who cooks?** "Danny. He is an amazing cook. He does the turkey and I do the veg."

**What kind of tree do you have?** "I love decorating. I'm obsessed. I decorate the tree on 1st December. I've been known to buy two because the first one's dropped before Christmas and I've had to get another one."

**Do you have a colour theme? Is it black and gothic, or bright and sparkly?** "In honour of Betty's first Christmas, we bought a white tree with pink decorations. So we have a lot of kitsch. I try to limit it to two colours but Betty wants everything on."

**Any special traditions?** "Sadly, Betty made Danny admit there was no Father Christmas. Some of her friends had been telling her he wasn't real and she didn't want to be the last to find out. So, for the first time in 26 years, we won't be putting out mince pies, snow feet, carrots and sherry for Santa."

**Are you an organised present-buyer or a last-minute-dash person?** "There's always a last-minute dash - I never feel I have bought enough presents."

I wasn't being creative - that's how you can overcome addiction. I didn't realise until about a year ago that I wasn't waking up with a black cloud hanging over me."

Now there's no shortage of creativity in Lowe's life, having just finished styling Jamie Oliver's new show and book, expanding her range of candles to incorporate fragrances, and juggling filming commitments as the vintage expert on Channel 4's *Four Rooms*.

But it's the joy of creating Petite Pearl Lowe that really brings a sparkle to her eye. Lowe has added an extra age to the range for Betty, as she's getting bigger; and, after making Daisy a butterfly outfit for Glastonbury this year, she's now thinking of doing a few key pieces for teens, too. It looks like life is anything but sedate in Somerset. ■ *Petite Pearl Lowe is available at Harrods, Selfridges and online at [Pearllowe.co.uk](http://Pearllowe.co.uk)*

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