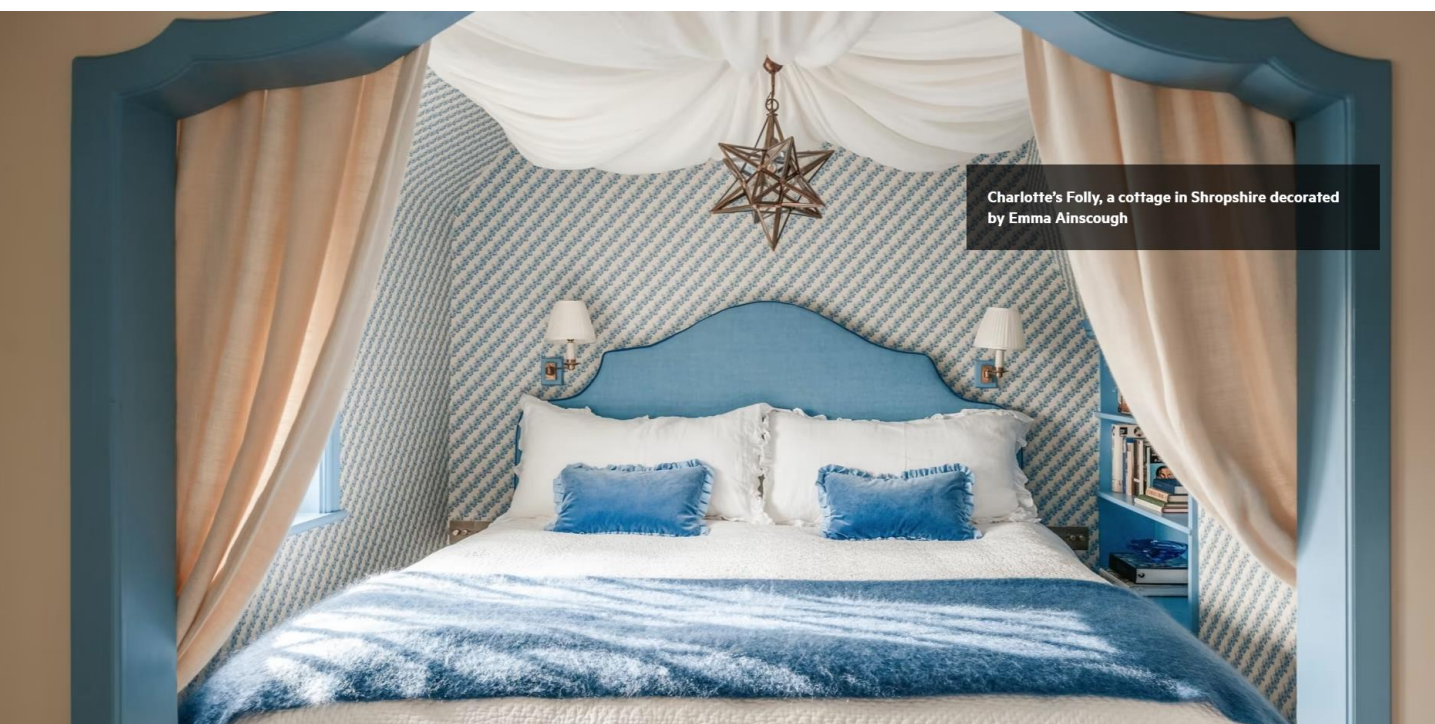


British Victoriana meets Italian palazzo: the rise of fabric wall coverings

Interior designers use textiles for wallpaper, curtains, skirts and valances

First curtains made a comeback. Then they started reappearing in places other than in windows, as room dividers and around beds. It's now near impossible to open Instagram without seeing a sink with a "skirt". Or a circular side table dressed in floor-length fabric. Even lampshades have an extra flounce to them, while coffee tables are being switched for upholstered ottomans. In short: fabric is once again proliferating across fashionable interiors.



Charlotte's Folly, a cottage in Shropshire decorated by Emma Ainscough

For those keen to try out the full fabric-on-fabric-on-fabric effect with very little effort, interior designer Emma Ainscough has decorated a pretty Shropshire cottage with a full complement of textile features — from sink skirts and fabric-draped dressing tables to a curtained and tented bedroom nook — which can be rented for holidays with Unique Homestays (Charlotte's Folly sleeps up to six guests, from £1,995 per week).