

and sub-contractors. Consider a single pair of draperies. No fewer than 12 firms may be involved in the production, and the designer coordinates it all - the initial design, fabric selection, fabric treatment, lining, interlining, trim, track and pole."

Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill's work includes all aspects of project design. Totally involved in the theming of a project, she is choosing to work closely with project architects on every last detail. Some projects span two or three years, while she is overseeing others with a shorter time frame with her staff.

Her style is English, with a sense of layering of detail. In one room, it is possible to count six different light sources - seven, counting the fireplace. The sense of warmth through lighting is one of her signature touches. She agrees that the world has become a global marketplace, but is an avid proponent of keeping things traditional to their roots. Noting that the English have ample sources of true craftsmanship, she bemoans inferior craftsmanship occasionally coming out of China and Indonesia. "Seek out quality materials," she advises. "Reduced expense on many objects lends a commercial, mass made quality."

When asked if there is a difference in the way designers approach projects, she comments, "American designers are often charged with selecting everything for a home, right down to the teacups and towels. It feels wrong, somehow, to be choosing bed linens, china and soap. I prefer building projects around people's personalities and collections. That personal touch is what makes a home," says Lady Henrietta.

And to get nobility on your side? You only have to ask.

Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill's professional life has evolved from Interior design firm owner with Woodstock Designs, and US based Spencer-Churchill Designs, into product design - wallpaper and fabrics and a soon-to-be line of home furnishings and products under her own name. **CS**

With HRW Antiques, Lady Henrietta is a provider of antiquities to the Interior Design profession, and is a lecturer and author of many books, including *Classic English Interiors*. Her current work, *Blenheim and The Churchill Family*, is about the history and the occupants of her ancestral family palace.

