

Re-instating former glory



Talking to Katherine Richards about the projects she has been commissioned to work on was particularly interesting when she began to describe a fascinating job she and her company completed a couple of years ago.

The client had inherited the curtains which had hung in the library of his stately family home since 1802.

'He described how, as a small child, he would visit the library and gaze up at the elaborately designed Victorian fabric, adorned with griffins and richly coloured swirls', says Katherine.

When the family sold the enormous house, and moved to another one on the estate the curtains (which didn't fit the new windows) were lovingly packed up into a box, accompanied the family to their new home, but were not forgotten.

'Curtains were made for the new library which were appropriately opulent but the fashions had changed and they did not have the same dramatic impact as the original ones'.

'The day came when Katherine was invited to visit the house and meet the client who wanted to discuss having the original curtains re-hung in

the library,' explains Katherine. 'it was an exciting moment when the old ones were carefully unpacked and lifted out of the box. Unfortunately, they had suffered over the years and it was with regret that we had to agree it would not be possible to restore them'.

The decision was made to replicate the original design. The old curtains were sent to a historical and well-respected mill, Gainsborough Fine Weavers, who weave fabrics for royal palaces and state buildings the world over. Together, with their expertise the team at Katherine Richards Design worked alongside Gainsborough, making sure that every detail was noticed.

Surprisingly, the reverse showed that the threads were not faded so new yarns were specially dyed to match the original colours and the looms were prepared.

'We commissioned one of Britain's most established and recognised trimmings makers using traditional methods handed down from renowned French passementerie makers'

A specialist wood carver was appointed to make the holdbacks into which griffins were carved painted and gilded.

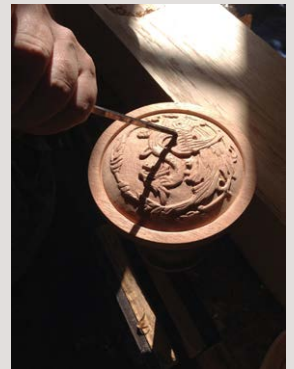
Once the fabric was woven and the trimmings completed, the curtains were fastidiously hand sewn at the KRD workrooms.

The whole bespoke process took a year to complete and the results were stunning.

All the projects KRD work on are unique; at any one time they could be working on a restoration in a country house, such as this one, an overseas property or a new build.

The knowledgeable and expert team at Katherine Richards Design is clearly able to deliver to the most discerning clients, whatever their requirements. ■

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