



Merchant Suite by Skinner &amp; Skinner for Town House Co - Liston Suites

## THE ONLY DRAMA YOU NEED IN YOUR LIFE IS YOUR INTERIOR

### Bring it with Statement Headboards

Is anyone else tired of the minimal chic, cookie cutout hotel look? If like me you're hankering after something different, individual with serious soul, then read on, because when I experience a sharp intake of breath and my heart skips a beat, I know I'm onto something good. Following on from wallpaper and lampshades, I predict statement headboards are the next big thing....

**A**s winter swirls around, why not re-imagine the humble headboard as an artwork and breathe new life into your nest. Creating a standout headboard really defines a bedroom and gives it a visual focal point in the same way a fireplace does to a lounge, bringing atmosphere and drama to the space. It's transformative.

Great interiors surprise, delight and create wonder; they jolt you from the mundane. Cue Skinner & Skinner, architect and interior designer, husband and wife duo Dominic and Claire, responsible for designing the Liston Suites in Corfu, whose interiors stopped me in my internet researching tracks.

This is what I have been searching for; brave, bold fabrics on custom-made headboards that dominate and define the



**Polly Gibbs**

Polly Gibbs, Creative Director at Coco Design, shares her down to earth approach to interiors, from design secrets to trends and everything in between.





Achillon Suite by Skinner & Skinner for Town House Co - Liston Suites

throughout their projects. This is design intelligently thought out and lovingly created, with attention showered on every detail. The result is a blurring between hotel and home - and it doesn't hurt that they're located in a sunny clime either.

Uber comfortable Greek Coco-Mat beds are topped with locally made headboards that tell a story, making the chosen fabric absolutely key. The Durrell suite for example, (see image page 46) is an ode to British conservationist Gerald Durrell (as depicted in ITV's *The Durrells*, filmed on location at Danilia, Corfu), who lived on the island from 1935-39 and later founded Jersey Zoo.

The vibrant fabric used for the headboard naturally features flora and fauna, while a selection of Durrell's books nestle between objects, adding to the cosy homely atmosphere.

(10% of the profit from booking this suite is donated to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust. Visit

**Continued on page 46**

space, plus, joy of joys, unlike most chain hotels, you won't find a single homogeneous design repeated per room. The duo create interiors

with genuine Corfiot personality that echo the location for a truly culturally immersive experience. Dominic explained how

important localisation is to them, it's part of their creative DNA, with local artisan products and site specificity woven ingeniously

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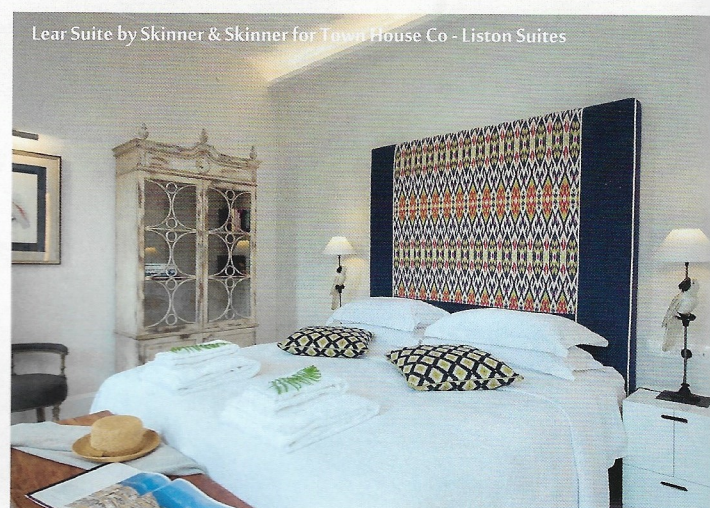
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Durrell Suite by Skinner &amp; Skinner for Town House Co - Liston Suites

Headboard detail



Lear Suite by Skinner &amp; Skinner for Town House Co - Liston Suites

Continued from page 45

[www.townhouseco.co.uk](http://www.townhouseco.co.uk) to book).

I think the Lear Suite is a really great example of how to modernise an existing square headboard. It feels so fresh and inviting, with a pattern that's decorative without being overpowering. The vertical navy bands are a really nice touch that make it super smart, while crisp white linen and plain walls

heighten the fabric's impact. Flanked by monochrome parrot lamps that are a nod to the rooms' namesake Edward Lear, who specialised in drawing birds from life, a practice he continued during his stay on Corfu. The suite contains some of Lear's actual paintings.

(10% of the profit from booking this suite is donated to the Edward Lear Society. Visit [www.townhouseco.co.uk](http://www.townhouseco.co.uk) to book).

Set on the ground floor of an

18th Century building oozing historical significance, the Collas Suite, (image page 49) was the former office of John Collas, whose father Demetrios Collas was the Mayor of Corfu (1899-1911). The headboard, in a cheerful fuschia and orange is set within an alcove giving it a real sense of presence. The wavy pattern is replicated in the kitchen cabinetry, giving visual harmony, while the bespoke fabrics and furniture are reminiscent of

older times, linking history with modernity.

Many companies will be only too pleased to customise a headboard in your chosen fabric, like this Puffin design (page 49) in a lovely Zoffany fabric. The Headboard Workshop are really helpful, with a good selection of styles and over 150 fabrics to choose from, or use your own.

Hopefully these ideas demonstrate how to embrace pattern and colour



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Collas Suite by Skinner & Skinner for Town House Co - Liston Suites

in a really simple yet effective way. Here's a few further tips to get the best outcome:

1. Shape - consider the silhouette on the wall with shapes from baroque grandeur, decorative deco to fluid curves, or stick with smart masculine lines if curves are just not your thing. Mark it out on the wall, or use a paper template to get a sense of scale.

2. Size - ideally the headboard will be around 5cm wider than the bed

to allow for the additional width bedding adds to the bed frame. This is all about impact so don't forget to make allowance for the height of your pillows and cushions.

3. Pattern - it's totally about the right fabric. Headboards are a brilliant opportunity to celebrate artistic heritage, world cultures or your favourite travel destination. Don't be afraid to be bold; from Indian block printed textiles to Oriental silks, Suzani or ikat fabrics

from Uzbekistan, there are so many wonderful fabrics to choose from.

4. Details - think about adding piping, buttons, contrasting stitching, fabric borders/frames/runners, studs, textures or fringes.

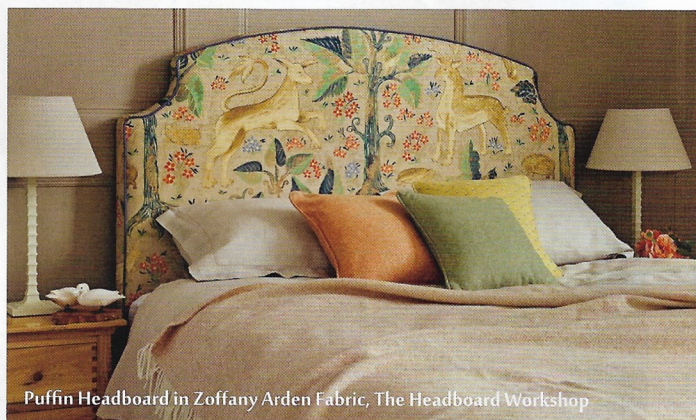
Good to know: If the headboard is floorstanding make sure you allow for the skirting. Also note, patterned fabrics will require larger quantities to allow for the pattern repeat.

For more inspiration browse the Curious Coco dedicated 'Statement Headboards' Pinterest board and follow @thecuriouscoco on instagram for a kaleidoscope of design inspiration.

#### Source List

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townhouseco.co.uk  
durrell.org  
edwardlearsociety.org  
coco-mat.com  
theheadboardworkshop.co.uk  
pinterest.co.uk/curious\_coco/  
instagram.com/thecuriouscoco

● Polly is an award-winning designer, Decorex100 interiors influencer & Amara Interiors Blog Award Finalist. If you've got a rockin' interior or design dilemma, message her and it could feature in the next issue.  
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