

ELEMENTS OF

Style

personal luxuries

ENGLISH ROSE

Hannah Cecil Gurney embraces the vibrant, verdant flourishes of her family's wallpaper firm.



"I stick to things that suit me rather than forcing myself into a mold of whatever's fashionable."

HANNAH CECIL GURNEY'S FAVORITE THINGS

1. **DE GOURNAY TEMPLE NEWSAM WALLPAPER** Like a breath of fresh air indoors.
2. **FRED LEIGHTON ART DECO RING** I love jewelry with a history.
3. **COLLIER WEBB SHITAKE TABLE LAMP** It has a bright red leather stand and a brass shade—so unusual and fun.
4. **RODARTE FOR THE RUG COMPANY RUG** A subtle dose of color.
5. **SMYTHSON TRAVEL BACKGAMMON SET** I travel a lot and always take it with me.
6. **JO MALONE POMEGRANATE NOIR** I can't get enough of it.
7. **CHANEL BOY FLAP BAG** A little more edgy than usual.
8. **CLAY McLAURIN STUDIO LINEN** Sometimes simple patterns are the most effective.
9. **DUBARRY OF IRELAND TWEED COAT** Keeps me warm on rainy Welsh weekends.
10. **SUNDAY RILEY LUNA SLEEPING NIGHT OIL** Smells divine. I swear it helps me snooze!
11. **DE GOURNAY PORCELAIN** We are the only people who still carve and turn every piece in a service by hand.
12. **NIKE AIR MAX THEA SNEAKERS** The first shoes I put on every day to walk my lovely dogs.

as the daughter of the founder of de Gournay, the wallpaper company renowned for its chinoiserie panels hand-painted with plumed fauna and trailing flora, Hannah Cecil Gurney had an early exposure to rarefied beauty. "I grew up with butterflies and birds on the walls," she says. "It felt so normal." Gorgeoussness is second nature to the 29-year-old Londoner.

Gurney studied physics and math at uni-

versity and worked as an accountant at Price Waterhouse Coopers before joining the family business, where she helps devise new ways to keep the time-honored tradition of artisanal wallpaper relevant. Employing archival patterns, the firm has pioneered such techniques as a tone-on-tone design with a pearlescent ground and raised gilt details. "It becomes completely textural and looks like carved metal," she says.

When it comes to her own style, the

mathematician in her has hit upon a winning formula. "I've always had a technical approach, sticking to things that suit my body shape, rather than forcing myself into the mold of whatever's fashionable." Her standards include vivid, feminine frocks by the likes of Jenny Packham and antique jewelry that she wears with fashionable nonchalance. "I'll throw on a T-shirt and my aquamarines. If you have nice things, it's a travesty not to ever use them." □