

# TOWN & COUNTRY

ESTABLISHED IN 1846

## The Great Outdoors

On Nantucket With David Halberstam

Hiking in the Canadian Rockies

Gardening With Carolyn Roehm

Golfing With Your Spouse

JULY 1999  
U.S. \$4.00 CANADA \$5.00  
FOREIGN \$5.00



Vanessa Diserio and daughter  
Sophia on Nantucket Island



# The Specialists

*Need a vacation from the antiques hunt? Among these four experts is a pro who can create just what you've been looking for.* BY KRISTEN CARR



*Custom-crafted, from top: Hand-painted wallpaper from de Gournay Ltd.; Napoleon Campaign chairs, the one at left a reproduction by David Salmon; new Aubusson from Beauvais Carpets; bronze-patinated hardware from E.R. Butler & Co.*

THE SMARTEST HOMEOWNER THIS month is the one who can loll in a hammock knowing that far, far away, a small battalion of experts is busy sprucing up her house in time for fall. Here are the people she might be employing: four top makers of antique reproductions who specialize in custom work, just the kind of projects that benefit from a bit of lead time.

DE GOURNAY LTD., LONDON

"When you paint by hand, you can create anything for anyone," Claud Gurney says of the beautifully rendered papers, silks and upholstery fabrics his company creates for walls, draperies, furniture and the like. Possibilities include whatever you fancy: 18th-century-style fruits and flowers, a depiction of 19th-century Paris, a Chinese landscape—perhaps with you resting under a tree? Custom work takes six to eight weeks if you know what you want; samples to order, two to three weeks. The cost: from \$360 for a 6' x 3' panel, including delivery. *De Gournay Ltd.*; (011-44-171) 823-7316.

BEAUVAIS CARPETS, NEW YORK

"If you can restore a carpet correctly, you can re-create it," says David Amini, explaining how his company, Beauvais Carpets, branched out from restoring antique carpets to reproducing them—in custom sizes and colors—seven years ago. Beauvais' Aubusson copies fool even carpet connoisseurs, music to the ears of those who've spent eons in search of the right antique (or who rail at a \$250,000 price tag). "We've gone to the extent of putting 'repairs' into a carpet to lend it authenticity," notes Amini. Custom work takes four to nine months, depending on size and complexity. The cost: as little as \$12,000 for a 9' x 12', up to \$125,000 for a

20' x 40'. *Beauvais Carpets*; (212) 688-2265.

DAVID SALMON, LONDON

British master furnituremaker David Salmon's exquisitely patinated copies have won raves from Sotheby's directors and are snapped up by top decorators (Bunny Williams, Nina Campbell, Anouska Hempel) here and abroad. Many clients ask Salmon to "complete" a set of antique dining chairs or duplicate family heirlooms—though lately he's also been tucking entertainment centers into repro George I walnut secretaries at a heady pace. Custom work takes twelve to fourteen weeks. The cost: \$1,650 for a Chippendale-style chair; \$8,785 for a Queen Anne-style kneehole desk; \$38,000 for a Napoleon Campaign chair. *David Salmon*; (011-44-171) 384-2223.

E.R. BUTLER & CO., NEW YORK

It's safe to say that E.R. Butler president Rhett Butler's devotion to historically correct architectural hardware borders on the fanatical. Designs for the company's doorknobs, cabinet pulls, hinges and key escutcheons are verified with the help of a research library of 2,000 original trade catalogs dating back to the 18th century. "There are good records of manufacturers' finishes from just about any period you're looking for," says Butler. The firm offers custom sizes, seventy-five different patinations and premature "aging" of hardware; in other words, there's something for everyone. Custom work takes three months for a fast-track project, a year plus for complicated jobs. The cost: five to fifteen percent of the overall construction budget for larger projects; individual pieces are also available. To the trade and by appointment only. *E.R. Butler & Co.*; (212) 925-3565. ❖