

RESTORATION STORIES

PATINA AND PAINT
IN OLD LONDON
HOUSES

BY PHILIPPA STOCKLEY PHOTOGRAPHY CHARLIE HOPKINSON

A photograph of a narrow hallway with a dark blue wall and a wooden door. A pair of brown boots is on the floor in the foreground. The scene is lit with dramatic, low-key lighting, creating strong shadows and highlights.

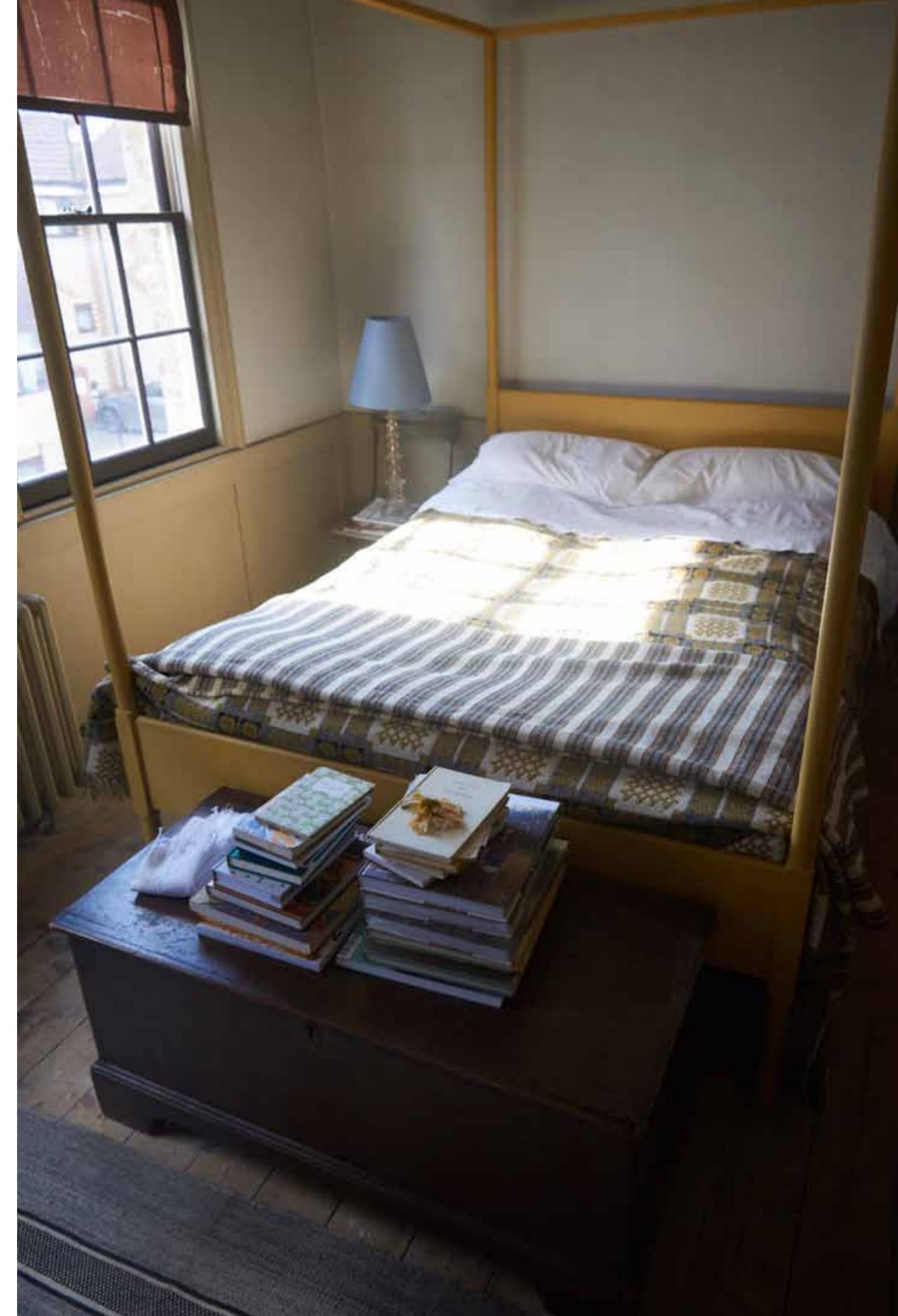
THE PAINTMAKER'S HOUSE

A historically coloured 1812 Regency house in Whitechapel



LEFT In this bedroom, a carpenter installed dado panelling, a quite plain timber fire surround appropriate for a bedroom, and, in the alcoves, cupboards carefully copied from examples in the house. They were all then painted a good stone colour with a warm yellowish tone. The Regency grate, bought online, was filthy, but when it was cleaned a mark along the bottom revealed its maker, the famous forge of Coalbrookdale.

RIGHT A plain post bed has been painted a rich yellow ochre colour to harmonize with the panelling and the warm cream walls. Yellow-toned Welsh blankets add inviting comfort. Blinds maximize space, while their red-brown tone adds character.





OPPOSITE Lapped sheet lead makes an unusual splashback and shower enclosure for an ordinary steel bath set in the corner. Left to its own devices the lead will patinate attractively, so there is no need to clean it, although it can be rinsed down from time to time. As lead is heavy, it is essential to fix it well. (Such a splashback is only suitable for adult use and where lead's potential toxicity is understood. A similar effect could be achieved with non-toxic zinc sheet.)

ABOVE LEFT Interior glazing for the small new bathroom off the bedroom is handsome as well as practical in terms of bringing in borrowed light.

ABOVE RIGHT A charming arrangement of a generous shelf for bottles and bathroom effects; pine wooden panelling painted an ambient colour; a small lead offcut from lead flashing as a splashback; reclaimed brass bib taps, and a butler's sink.