

COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS[®]

APRIL 2003 £2.90

SPRING DECORATING

Mixing antique linens
and simple furniture
Create your own Regency-style
Inspired wallpaper solutions

EXTRA
16-page inspirational
kitchen special

WIN a fantastic Brookmans Kitchen
from John Lewis, worth £30,000



All about

ROMANTIC HOMES

from a Cotswold vicarage to a Victorian villa

GLASS *chandelier*

THE SHIMMERING SPLENDOUR OF A CRYSTAL CENTREPIECE WILL SET ANY ROOM AGLOW WITH ITS BEAUTY

The word chandelier derives from the French for candle holder, and is usually applied to a fitting that holds two or more candles. It was during the early Georgian era that these glass and crystal lamps came to the fore. Before the introduction of gas at the end of the 18th century, homes were lit by candles, so the Georgians looked to materials to enhance their subtle glow – the reflective nature of glass made it a clear choice.

Grand homes boasted vast crystal chandeliers. Stacked with candles, these ornate pieces dominated the drawing room or ballroom, whereas, in more modest homes, there might be a mere six candles surrounding the cut glass.

You can buy a wide range of antique lights, many now converted to electricity. If you would like to convert a period piece, hollow branches are easier to wire than their solid counterparts. But, if you prefer period authenticity, ensure that any candle-bearing fitting hangs at a safe distance from the ceiling, and never let candles burn right down, or they may damage the candle cup.

Antique chandeliers can set you back thousands of pounds, but it is still possible to find more modest styles for around £500. Alternatively, there are now many companies that specialise in good reproductions, based on original designs. Whatever your choice, do bear in mind that such a heavy item will need to be hung from a sturdy beam or joist, ideally by a professional. And it will be shown to best effect in a well proportioned room. ♣

BY PAULA WOODS PHOTOGRAPH (MAY) LIZZIE ORME

APRIL 2003 • COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS



ABOVE: electric chandelier, £1,250, Rainbow, 020 7385 1323, www.rainbowlondon.com