

Interiors

Bedded bliss

Next month, an exhibition curated by the antique dealer and interior designer Max Rollitt will explore the decorative possibilities of the four poster. In this preview he uses the designs to breathe new life into the interiors at Grange Park, William Wilkins' Greek Revival masterpiece in Hampshire

IN its heyday the four poster wasn't just a status symbol - it was also a practical piece of kit that acted as insulation on chilly nights. In the days of double glazing and central heating the thermal properties of the four posters are no longer so necessary but there's no doubt that they lend more drama to a bedroom scheme than any other item of furniture. Inspiration for Max Rollitt's collection includes a mahogany four poster from Stonythorpe Hall in Warwickshire, a military campaign bed designed by Thomas Butler and beds inspired by the Indian and Shaker originals.

Four posters are also a vehicle for colour, pattern and texture and a foundation for a plethora of looks, from tailored simplicity to decorative excess - as demonstrated here by hangings created with fabrics from Claremont, de Le Cuona, Bennison and George Spencer Designs.

Chamberlayne bed, £16,800, Max Rollitt. (01962 791124, www.maxrollitt.com)
Bed curtains in Claremont SFJ gold silk, lined with Faïlle Hamilton Havane, swag tie drops in Claremont Amelia crackle, rouge, tassels made to order, Claremont, headboard in Claremont Serge Antique Valance in Claremont Serge Antique, trimmed with Galon Guipure chenille, bedspread in Claremont Amelia crackle, bedspread trimmed in Claremont Galon Regence (special Turquoise), price on application, Claremont (020 7581 9575, www.claremontfurnishing.com)



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Campaign Bed, £12,000, Max Rollitt. (01962 791124, www.maxrollitt.com) Bed curtains in Hamptons linen in Harvest Yellow £136.00 a metre, trimmed with Spencer velvet, Cranberry £144.00 a metre, headboard in Imogen, Red Desert £134.00 a metre, bedspread and Bolster cushion in Amadea, Pumpnickel trimmed with Spencer Velvet, Cranberry Amadea £136.00 a metre, screen wallpapered in Quercus in Windswept, Moss £58 a metre, all George Spencer (020 7584 3003, www.georgespencer.com). Bedlinen, from the Secret Linen Store (01243 822 599 www.secretlinenstore.com)

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New Gloucester bed, £10,850, Max Rollitt. (01962 791124, www.maxrollitt.com)

Curtain in Phoenix, mid blue on Oyster £192 a metre, headboard and pillows in Morocco in indigo blue on Oyster, £192, bolster cushion in Honfleur in Green Blue on Oyster, £192 a metre, bedspread in Kazak stripe in blue yellow charcoal, £192 a metre, all from Bennison (020 7730 8076, www.bennisonfabrics.com)

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Bala bed, £12,500, Max Rollitt (01962 791124, www.maxrollitt.com) Drapes in Echo, in Mist, £140 a metre
Bed sheets and pillows in Artists Canvas, £160 a metre in Lake and Origami in Petal, £135 a metre, cushions in Kasba in Saffron, £214 a metre and Artist Canvas in Bloom, £135 a metre, bed throw in Antique Paisley in Burgundy, £235 a metre, all from de Le Cuona (020 7584 7677, www.delecuona.com)