

Robb Report

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SINGAPORE

**TOP INTERIOR
DESIGNERS**
AND THEIR
LUSTWORTHY
DESIGNS

PLUS
ST REGIS MALDIVES
BESPOKE CUSHIONS
GLASS ART REVIVAL
ASTON MARTIN DB11

**FRENCH
MID-CENTURY
FURNITURE**
WHY YOU SHOULD
INVEST IN IT NOW



IDEAL HOMES AND ART

FEATHER YOUR NEST WITH FINERY



This and facing pages: de Gournay helps its clients realise their dreams of a perfect interior through its team of highly skilled artisans.

YEAR OF THE CHIC

For de Gournay founder Claud Cecil Gurney, chinoiserie chic is always in style.



By AARON DE SILVA

The de Gournay story is one that is familiar in design circles and to connoisseurs of decorative wallcoverings. But for the uninitiated, perhaps a retelling is in order.

Thirty years ago, Claud Cecil Gurney, then an accountancy consultant, wanted to restore the antique chinoiserie wallpaper in his London family home.

After several vain attempts, he travelled to the source of handpainted wallpapers – China – where the esoteric art had originated in the 17th century.

After much sleuthing, Gurney uncovered a small community of artisans who had

kept the tradition alive by passing on their skills from generation to generation. Keen to showcase this beautiful but dying artform, Gurney decided to set up de Gournay (the Francophone version of his family name) in London, bringing the art to a wider audience.

These days, four de Gournay studios employ those same artisans (plus a few others) who hand-paint more than 50 chinoiserie-style designs on high-quality papers and silk.

In late 2016, design studio Tatum became the sole agent for de Gournay in Singapore and Malaysia, no doubt to the delight of decorators and aesthetes in the region.

degournay.com