

COUNTRY LIFE®

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EVERY WEEK

The secret address book

The 100 best architects, builders and interior and landscape designers in Britain



What birdsong taught Beethoven

How Michelangelo trumped Raphael

PLUS Growing lemons, Cheltenham Festival heroes
and living forever as a Georgian

£3.50



Prime Oak

Based in the West Midlands, this well-established oak-frame builder can do the full range, from an orangery or stable complex through to a new-build house. Sister companies include oak-framer Julius Bahn and the garden room and windows supplier Montpellier.

They say 'We provide an outstanding quality product coupled with exacting yet personal service'

We say 'Good all-rounder that supports craftsmanship by running an apprenticeship programme with local colleges'

Prime Oak: 01384 296611; www.primeoak.co.uk. Julius Bahn: 03444 171400; www.juliusbahn.co.uk. Montpellier: 01384 279933; www.montpelierjoinery.com



Prime Oak can call on a range of experienced specialists to create bespoke solutions

team and a core understanding of traditional materials and skills'

We say 'Skilled team that's worked on country houses from all periods'

01722 742228; www.rmoulding.co.uk

R. W. Armstrong

A 60-year-old regional firm with a reputation for high-quality refurbishments and renovations of listed houses, as well as London town houses and smaller projects.

They say 'We are a residential builder in Hampshire providing high-quality building services for the county as well as for

most of the South-East'

We say 'Reliable and knowledgeable, it's responsible for building many designs by ADAM Architecture'

01256 850177; www.rwarmstrong.co.uk

Stevensons of Norwich

A specialist in the design, restoration and installation of decorative ceilings, wall panels and stone-effect building façades.

They say 'We have more than 30 years' experience working with plaster, lath and lime plaster.'

We say 'For decorative cornices and ceiling roses or their restoration, go to Stevensons' *01603 400824; www.stevensons-of-norwich.co.uk*

Symm

A family-owned, Oxford-based company involved in some of the grandest new country houses being built today as well as traditional country cottages and London penthouses.

They say 'We are no ordinary builder'

We say 'A leading firm, which unusually carries out most of the specialist trades itself rather than employing sub-contractors'

01865 254900; www.symm.co.uk

Walter Lilly

Very-high-end London builder whose recent projects include a £28 million subterranean extension and refurbishment of a 22,000sq ft Grade I-listed house in Mayfair and a £9 million fit-out on a 27,000sq ft house in Hampstead.

They say 'The brand is a byword for luxury and refinement'

We say 'London builders don't get much grander'

020-8730 6200; www.walterlilly.co.uk

R. Moulding & Co

Salisbury-based family business that, as well as building and restoring country houses, has carved out work at Stonehenge.

They say 'Everything we do is driven by the latest building standards and techniques, underpinned with the passion of our dedicated



R. W. Armstrong combined period presence and 21st-century family comforts in this elegant Georgian property