

# VOGUE

Belcombe

OCT  
£4.00

## CHERYL'S FRESH START

*Exclusive  
update*

### The return of 60s glamour

### Brush-off

CAN YOU LIVE  
WITHOUT  
MASCARA?

### OFFICE CHIC

*New weekday  
wardrobe*

### UNTAMED

*Fashion gets  
wild for winter*

### What it takes to get a supermodel's body

# Pure Style



Belcombe's south façade, added by John Wood the Elder in 1734, with the dovecote and Gothicised barn behind. Sitings editor: Fiona Golfar

# GOLDEN GLORY

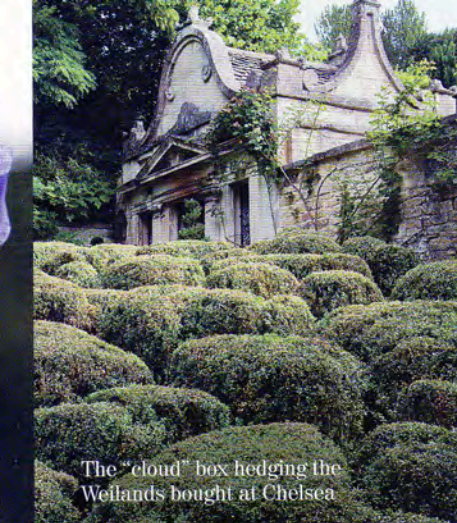
*From the moment the new owners of Belcombe set eyes on its neglected gardens, they were captivated. Candida Lycett Green charts a magical – and modern – restoration. Photographed by Howard Sooley*



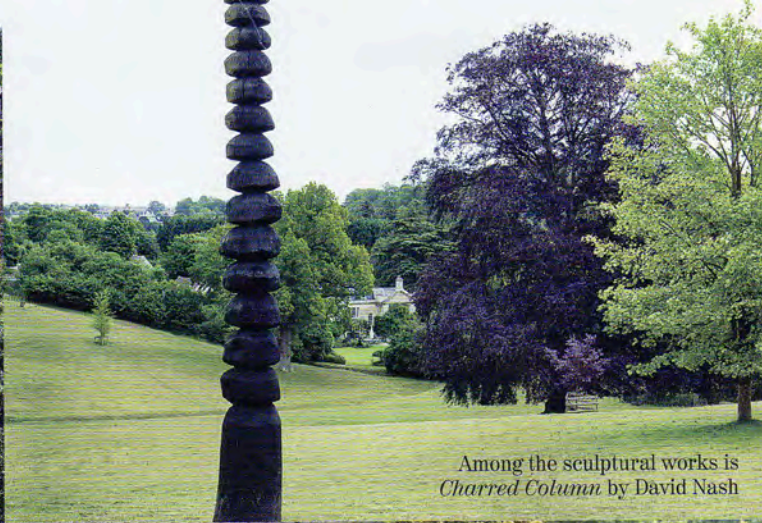
Caroline and Paul Weiland at the back of the restored shell house

**B**elcombe Court is a dazzling place. It's not just the golden limestone of the house and the crisp perfection of its south front that knocks you for six, it's also the magic of its setting. From the heart of Bradford on Avon, one of England's most beautiful towns, a narrow, meandering street leads out along the side of the deep-cut river valley. On the very edge of town, Belcombe lies hidden behind a high wall, tucked comfortably into the steep hillside – a glorious, mellow jumble of stables, old workshops, cobbled and fern-filled courtyards, Gothic archways, coach house, domed dovecote, a chapel-like barn and, alongside, the grandest of classical "villas" cobbled on. It was all built across the eighteenth and the early nineteenth centuries on the back of the cloth trade, for which the Wiltshire town was so famous, and it belongs completely to this mill-valley landscape. For the most part, the gardens and park all around it are a hymn to the Romantic movement of the eighteenth century – a miniature Stourhead – but today Belcombe shines in a new and breathtaking way.

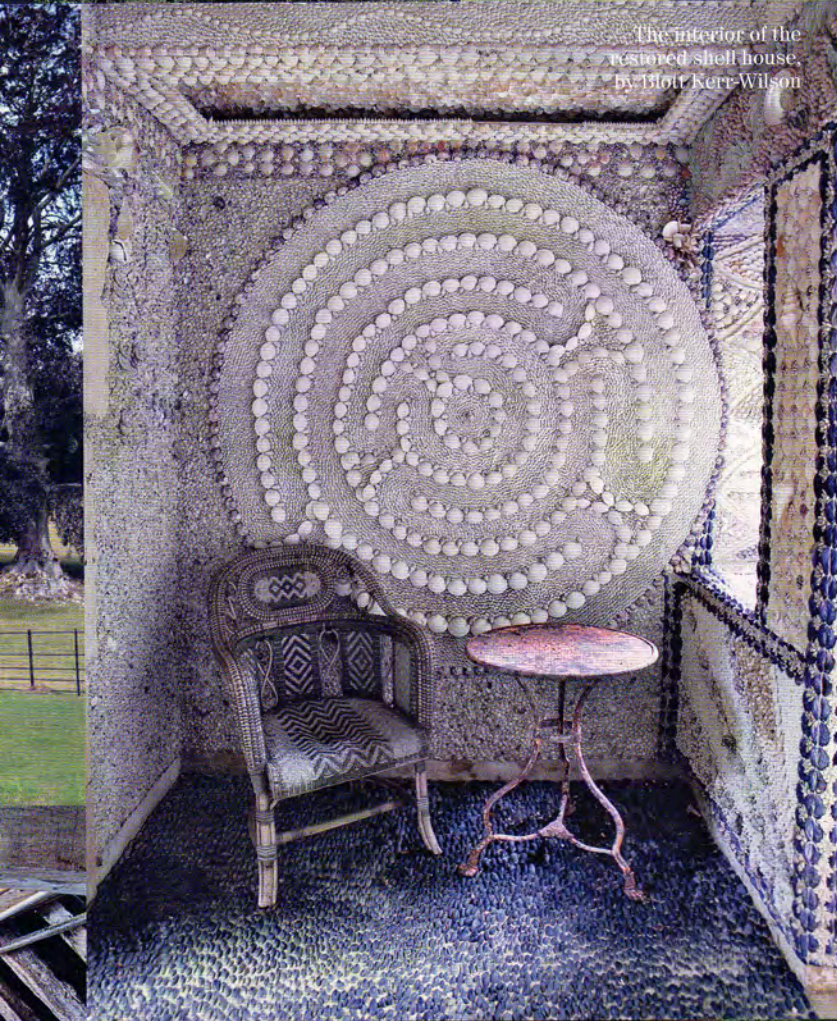
When he came through the gates for the first time in the mid-Nineties and saw Belcombe Court, in its luxuriant valley, Paul Weiland said, "Fuck, fuck, fuck, fuck..." He knew that he had to own it. Even though he and his wife Caroline had already plumped for another house, and Belcombe had a keen buyer in place who had paid the deposit, and even though >



The "cloud" box hedging the Weillands bought at Chelsea



Among the sculptural works is *Charred Column* by David Nash



The interior of the restored shell house, by Isolt Kerr-Wilson



Alison Crowther's oak snake bench winds round yew topiary on the south-west lawn



The pool, paved with the lightest golden stone, is set high above the walled garden



The domed Doric rotunda beyond the ornamental horseshoe-shaped pond