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ACQUISITIONS
HERITAGE COLLECTION

HERITAGE COLLECTION

THIS MAGNIFICENT NEW
COLLECTION IS THE REALISATION
OF OUR LONG-CHERISHED
AMBITION TO RECREATE, FOR
A WIDER MARKET, SOME OF THE
RAREST AND MOST BEAUTIFUL
BRITISH CHIMNEYPieces
EVER PRODUCED

Acquisitions has been granted access to some of
the finest historic houses bequeathed to our nation,
and after years of painstaking preparation the
exquisite, hand-crafted results speak for themselves.
Give a piece of our country's architectural heritage
pride of place in your home...

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PIECES OF HISTORY

THE HAND-CARVED TREASURES IN THIS COLLECTION ARE INSPIRED BY UNIQUE CHIMNEYPieces OF PAST ERAS IN BRITISH STATELY HOMES. FROM ELEGANT NEOCLASSICISM TO LATE-18TH-CENTURY EXUBERANCE TO ART DECO SIMPLICITY, THE PERIOD DETAILING IS EXQUISITELY RECAPTURED FOR TODAY'S CONNOISSEURS OF QUALITY

The original chimneypieces that inspired our Heritage models still grace the interiors of imposing London landmarks: Kenwood House in Hampstead, Marble Hill House near Richmond and Eltham Palace near Greenwich. As you would expect from the illustrious settings they share with priceless collections of antiques, furniture and Old Master paintings, these mantelpieces are of the finest quality, and were designed to flaunt the skills of the best architects and stone-carvers of their day.

British chimneypieces have always been exceptional in style and craftsmanship; our challenge was to continue this honourable tradition. The research process alone lasted three-and-a-half years, during which time we took hundreds of detailed photographs and countless measurements of mouldings and carvings; only then were we ready to produce our final scaled drawings.

Along the way our skilled craftsmen rejected stone that would have been perfectly suitable for simpler designs, finally selecting the very best Imperial white marble (other marble and stone colours are available to order). At last we achieved our goal: an exclusive collection of meticulously hand-carved heirlooms that preserves some of the nation's finest designs for posterity.



KENWOOD HOUSE

SITUATED IN LEAFY HAMPSTEAD IN NORTH-WEST LONDON, KENWOOD HOUSE BEGAN LIFE IN 1616 AS A SMALL COUNTRY VILLA. LATER REBUILT, IT WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A NEOCLASSICAL GEM IN THE 1760S BY THE CELEBRATED ARCHITECT ROBERT ADAM

The finest collection of Old Master paintings bequeathed to the nation in the 20th century – including works by Rembrandt, Vermeer, Reynolds and Turner – adorns the interior of this elegant house. As you might expect, the fireplaces in its main rooms are masterpieces too: only the very finest marble does justice to their intricate hand-carving. Our craftsmen use time-honoured techniques to reproduce the feel and quality of a Kenwood House original.



ENTRANCE HALL

This modest, well-proportioned and dignified creation in Imperial white marble takes its inspiration from the chimneypiece in the Entrance Hall at Kenwood House. Dating from the mid-18th century, the original was hand-carved by George Burns to a design by the Adam brothers and illustrates the discipline, skill and versatility required of a master carver. The Bacchus on the centre block is an allusion to the hall's one-time occasional role as a formal dining room; he is flanked by a fluted frieze, and bucrania (ox heads) on the frieze blocks. We show the chimneypiece with our Regency steel dog grate and a set of beautifully detailed Adam cast-iron panels, named after the most famous of Kenwood's architects. The chimneypiece interiors pictured in this brochure are simply suggestions: our extensive range of inserts, fire baskets, hob grates and panels provides a wealth of other possibilities.



Entrance Hall chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with Regency steel dog grate, Adam panels and Italian slate slips and hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	86 1/4	2190
SHELF DEPTH	8 1/2	216
BASE WIDTH	77 1/4	1964
REBATE	1	21
OVERALL HEIGHT	59	1498
OPENING HEIGHT	42 1/2	1077
OPENING WIDTH	53 1/8	1350





BREAKFAST ROOM

In pride of place in the central oval block of our Breakfast Room chimneypiece is a stately lion similar to the one in the gilded frieze of the Library at Kenwood House (see page 2). Classical motifs including anthemion leaves and buds complete the design, which is finely carved from the best Imperial white marble and honed to a tactile finish. Inspired by a mid-18th-century original in the Breakfast Room – formerly Lord Mansfield’s study – the chimneypiece is here teamed with our decorative Blenheim fire basket. An alternative version without the lion is shown overleaf.

Breakfast Room chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with Blenheim nickel-and-iron fire basket, Reeded panels and Italian slate slips and hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	68 1/2	1742
SHELF DEPTH	6 3/4	172
BASE WIDTH	62 1/8	1578
REBATE	1	26
OVERALL HEIGHT	55 1/2	1411
OPENING HEIGHT	42 1/4	1073
OPENING WIDTH	45 1/2	1155



BREAKFAST ROOM ADAPTATION

Elements of architectural elegance bring a bygone era back to life. Inspired by a mid-18th-century Kenwood House chimneypiece in the neoclassical style, this Acquisitions heirloom is embellished by master carvers with intricate anthemion leaves and buds. A simpler version of the fireplace on pages 8-9, it has the same proportions and ornamentation but without the lion on the frieze. As with our other Heritage designs, all the dimensions can be adjusted to meet individual specifications. The choice of insert is a matter of personal taste, but we think the clean lines of our polished-steel London hob grate work particularly well with this restrained design. The slips and hearth of smooth, dark slate set off the decorative detailing and luminosity of the marble to stunning effect.



Breakfast Room Adaptation chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with London polished-steel hob grate and Italian slate hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	68 1/2	1742
SHELF DEPTH	5 1/2	142
BASE WIDTH	62 1/8	1578
REBATE	1	26
OVERALL HEIGHT	55 1/2	1411
OPENING HEIGHT	42 1/4	1073
OPENING WIDTH	45 1/2	1155





DINING ROOM

Finely detailed vines bearing clusters of ripe grapes clamber up the jambs and across the frieze of the Dining Room chimneypiece. Expertly hand-carved in Imperial white marble, they are shown here in natural harmony with the elaborate shape, relief patterns and tendril-like scrolls of our Dorchester fire basket. The original from which this chimneypiece derives its beauty was sculpted by John Bingley and has its home in the north wing of Kenwood House, added by architect George Saunders in the 1790s. French-inspired, it is a significant departure, both in theme and proportions, from the neoclassical aesthetic prevalent in most of the house. The exuberant carving of this piece has to be seen to be fully appreciated.

Dining Room chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with Dorchester polished brass-and-iron fire basket, Reeded cast-iron panels and Italian slate hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	79	2004
SHELF DEPTH	9 1/4	243
BASE WIDTH	76 1/8	1935
REBATE	3	76
OVERALL HEIGHT	53 1/8	1350
OPENING HEIGHT	41 3/8	1063
OPENING WIDTH	56	1425





MIDDLE BEDROOM

A marvel in marble, this unusual chimneypiece is inspired by a mid-1790s original in the Middle Bedroom at Kenwood House, possibly carved by John Bingley. It features beaded circular patterns with central paterae on the frieze, and pairs of pilasters with composite capitals on the jambs supporting finely carved cherubs. Pictured with it is our Blenheim fire basket with its open-fret brass apron. Our Reeded cast-iron panels discreetly echo the pilasters' hand-carved fluting.

Middle Bedroom chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with Blenheim brass-and-iron fire basket, Reeded cast-iron panels and Italian slate slips and hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	70 1/2	1790
SHELF DEPTH	9 1/4	235
BASE WIDTH	64 1/2	1636
REBATE	1 1/2	38
OVERALL HEIGHT	55 1/2	1408
OPENING HEIGHT	43 1/4	1100
OPENING WIDTH	45 1/4	1148



LIBRARY

A grand, historic chimneypiece, painstakingly hand-carved in Imperial white marble, makes any home stately. This well-proportioned design is based on the chimneypiece in the famously magnificent library at Kenwood House, which was created in the late 1760s. Bearing all the hallmarks of Robert Adam’s love affair with classicism, it includes some of his signature decorations: sphinxes on the frieze, decorative pilasters topped by Corinthian capitals on the jambs, and bucrania (ox heads) on the frieze blocks. The source of inspiration for our distinctive Library hob grate was the early-18th-century model which partners the original chimneypiece. All our grates and fire baskets are suitable for solid-fuel, gas coal-effect, bio-ethanol and electric fires, so the choice is yours.



Library chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with Library polished-steel hob grate and Italian slate hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	98 1/2	2502
SHELF DEPTH	11 1/4	285
BASE WIDTH	84 1/2	2150
REBATE	1/8	15
OVERALL HEIGHT	64 1/2	1637
OPENING HEIGHT	46 1/2	1180
OPENING WIDTH	56 1/4	1430



MARBLE HILL HOUSE

THIS FINE PALLADIAN VILLA, SET IN 66 ACRES OF RIVERSIDE PARKLAND NEAR RICHMOND, IS DISTINGUISHED BY THE CLASSICAL RESTRAINT OF ITS ARCHITECTURE AND DECORATION. ONE ROOM, HOWEVER, BREAKS THE MOULD...

Intended as an Arcadian retreat from the bustle of London and life at court, Marble Hill House was built in the 1720s for Henrietta Howard, mistress of King George II. It was adapted from a design by Colen Campbell, the Scottish architect who pioneered the Palladian style. While most of the house displays the classic elegance of the era, the Great Room is ostentatiously decorated, with fine, gilded wood carvings and an opulent showpiece of a fireplace that adds to the period drama.



GREAT ROOM

This large, imposing chimneypiece is based on a lavish design dating from about 1729. Inspired by the work of the 17th-century architect and stage designer Inigo Jones, it was conceived as a theatrical flourish in a relatively sober Palladian villa. Hand-carved from premium-quality Imperial white marble, the surround is a test of a master stone-carver's skill, featuring as it does a female mask at the centre of the frieze and exquisite detailing on the corbels and jambs. We have paired this masterpiece with our Trafalgar fire basket.

Great Room chimneypiece in Imperial white marble, shown with Trafalgar fire basket and Italian slate slips and hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	90 1/4	2292
SHELF DEPTH	11 5/8	296
BASE WIDTH	83	2108
REBATE	2	50
OVERALL HEIGHT	63	1600
OPENING HEIGHT	42 3/4	1085
OPENING WIDTH	44 1/2	1130



ELTHAM PALACE

FOUNDED IN THE 11TH CENTURY AND USED BY MONARCHS FROM EDWARD II TO HENRY VIII, THIS ARCHITECTURAL CURIOSITY NEAR GREENWICH HAS A COLONNADED 1930S HOUSE ADJOINING A MEDIEVAL GREAT HALL

The original moated manor house was built a millennium ago, and Henry VIII spent much of his childhood on the site, but Eltham Palace is largely famous for its unique, ocean-liner-style Art Deco interior. The Courtauld family who commissioned the 1930s building employed some of the most innovative creative minds of their day to realise their vision. The Entrance Hall, below, by the Swedish interior designer Rolf Engströmer, features a copy of the original Marion Dorn rug.



BOUDOIR

Whatever your taste in design, a period chimneypiece will create an architectural and social focus in the heart of your home. This fireplace surround, crafted with reference to a 1930s original in the Boudoir at Eltham Palace, is an iconic example of Art Deco styling and a contrast to the detailed marble chimneypieces in the collection. Beautifully understated, it showcases the soft tone and tactile finish of top-quality limestone. We have matched it below with our Two Ball Modern fire basket, a design with an equally solid and contemporary feel.



Boudoir chimneypiece in limestone, shown with Two Ball Modern fire basket, Modern steel slips and boxed limestone hearth

	INCHES	MM
SHELF WIDTH	56	1422
SHELF DEPTH	7	180
BASE WIDTH	56	1422
REBATE	1	25
OVERALL HEIGHT	40 ⁷ / ₈	1038
OPENING HEIGHT	31	789
OPENING WIDTH	36 ¹ / ₄	924



CORE COLLECTION

Founded in 1974, Acquisitions is famed for its exquisite, authentically hand-crafted reproductions of period chimneypieces. Our collection – one of the finest and most comprehensive in the world, ranging from Georgian through to contemporary – includes every material from premium woods to top-quality limestone, granite and marble. We offer an unrivalled range of traditional cast-iron chimneypieces and inserts, and undertake some challenging private commissions. For more details, see our main brochure.

STOVE COLLECTION

Wherever you live, enjoy the beauty and warmth of a real wood or coal fire with our clean-burning multi-fuel stoves. With controlled heat, an Acquisitions stove boasts up to 82% energy efficiency; and because burning wood only releases the CO₂ it absorbed when growing, the process is carbon-neutral. Our four stylish models, precision-engineered in high-grade steel and cast iron, can be installed in any home with a lined chimney and/or appropriate flue. See our Stoves brochure for more details.

X-FIRE COLLECTION

Relax in the company of unparalleled modern chic. Because no chimney or flue is required for our streamlined electric and flueless X-FIRES, their patented lightweight frames – in limestone, antique travertine, mirror and glossy granite – can either be wall-hung or inset into a suitable wall. Some models are operated by remote control and offer a choice of natural fuel beds. There is even a widescreen electric option: just plug in, sit back and enjoy the show. See our X-FIRES brochure for details.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

All specifications are approximate. We reserve the right to alter and improve products without notice. Products may therefore vary in specification or appearance from those illustrated in this brochure and we strongly recommend viewing before purchase. Flame effects will vary depending on individual homes and chimneys. Colour reproduction is as accurate as possible within the limitations of the printing process. Slight variations in product colour and markings are possible due to the natural materials used. For full information including terms and conditions, installation requirements and warranty details, see www.acquisitions.co.uk

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All mantels shown can be adapted to custom sizes. Please talk to one of our advisers for further information.

