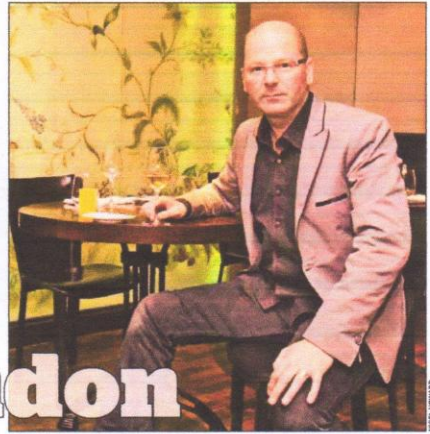
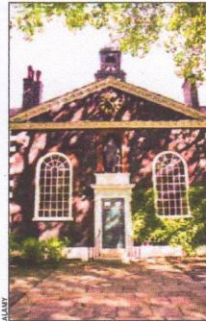


## Homes &amp; Property Design

homesandproperty.co.uk with Zoopla



**Favourites:** for movies, the Renoir, above; for walks, Camley Gardens, King's Cross, right; for lazy Sundays, the excellent Geffrye Museum, far right



**Sitting tight:** David Moore has no intention of giving up Bloomsbury "village life"

**D**AVID MOORE, 48, owner of restaurants Pied à Terre, in Fitzrovia, and L'Autre Pied in Marylebone, explains why he'd never live anywhere but Bloomsbury and dreams of owning an IMAX home cinema.

# My design London

## MY HOME

I live in a flat on the Gray's Inn Road with my wife Valerie, 44, and our daughters, Fauve, six, and Frankie, three. We've lived there since 1998, and it's only 20 minutes walk to my restaurant in Charlotte Street. I have to pinch myself "committing" each morning, past the British Museum and through Russell and Bedford Squares: it's such a lovely walk to work. I use a Boris bike to travel further – London's a big city but it's full of villages and there's something very village-like about where I live. It has interesting, quirky shops and is great for the children. It's our home for life.

## HOME MEMORABILIA

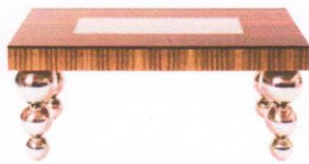
When we took over the restaurant premises in Charlotte Street in 1991, there had been another one there which had gone into liquidation. They left behind a magnificent waiter's station designed by Fitch and Co, which I took home. It's solid wood with a riveted zinc surface and shelves and drawers on the side for everything. It was built to last a lifetime and holds good memories.

## WHERE TO BUY ART

I've bought a lot of art, both for my home and to decorate my restaurants. I buy mostly at auctions, where you

## David Moore

RESTAURATEUR By Katie Law



**Best new designer:** Toby Davies at HunkyDory Furniture makes beautiful one-off items, from coffee tables to wardrobes, for less than £2,000



**The commute:** David loves his 20-minute walk to work, through Russell Square, left, and past the British Museum



**Left:** David's collection of Alphabet prints by Michael Craig Martin, which cost £750 each, might eventually help fund his young daughters' university education. **Right:** David's favourite picture is Richard Hamilton's *Dreaming of a White Christmas*



often find items much undervalued. Just do some research beforehand and go in with an idea of what you want. I bought a collection of Richard Hamilton prints and a Matisse print for £500, which is probably a better investment than the stock market and certainly nicer to look at. The Alan Cristea Gallery is also good. We bought Alphabet prints by Michael Craig Martin for the girls, spelling out their names, which cost £750 each. Hopefully they'll pay for part of their university funding.

**THE BEST WALL COLOUR TO ENHANCE YOUR PICTURES**  
The walls at home are all painted Diamond White by Dulux. It's the one colour that makes all art look good.

## IF I COULD HAVE JUST ONE PICTURE

It would be Richard Hamilton's painting, *Dreaming of a White Christmas*, which is a take on Bing Crosby's *White Christmas*. It's absolutely stunning.

## BEST FOR FRAMES

I frame pictures in Perspex, simple and cheap, or I get Aline Cathy David, a gilder and framer based at Cockpit Arts, to do it. She's great value (ateliengilders.co.uk).

## BEST NEW DESIGNER

Toby Davies at HunkyDory Furniture. He's also at Cockpit Arts and makes beautiful one-off sideboards, coffee tables and wardrobes with gilded details or leather inlays for less than £2,000. Each one is different but he's our go-to guy when we want something made that's special (hunkydoryfurniture.co.uk).

## FAVOURITE GADGET

It would be an IMAX home cinema from Cornflake in Windmill Street. Of course, they cost £2.5 million and I'd have to move house, but in the meantime I make do with going to the Renoir Cinema in Brunswick Square, which I think is the only non-digital cinema left in London.

## SECRET ESCAPE

The Study Room in the British Museum is a gem. You can ring and book to go in and they'll come and ask you what

you want to see and you can say: "Whistler prints between 1905 and 1915," and they'll bring you everything. When something I wanted turned out to be hanging in the director's office they offered to take me up there so I could see it, which was incredible. I also love taking my daughters to Camley Gardens, a nature reserve in King's Cross. You can't quite believe it's King's Cross.

**BEST-KEPT SECRET SHOPS**  
Thornback and Peel in Rugby Street sells fun textiles and is great for gifts. My daughters wanted a goldfish so I bought them Thornback and Peel's T-shirts with goldfish in a bowl, telling them how much easier they would be to look after than real goldfish. Then Jonathan Quearney in Windmill Street for bespoke suits and shirts; and Simon Carter in Lamb's Conduit Street for other menswear.

## FAVOURITE FOOD SHOPS

We don't have a market but we use traditional high street shops in WCI. We buy vegetables and bread at the charity-based People's Supermarket in Lamb's Conduit Street. McKenna Meats in Theobalds Road is an old-fashioned butcher who will do minced flank for you on the spot, and if you want sweetbreads, oxtail, or osso bucco – a specially cut veal – no problem. They'll even tell me how to cook things, which amuses me. And then it's Steve Hart in Islington on a Friday for fish.

**FAVOURITE RESTAURANT**  
Club Gascon in ECI. Pascal Aussignac, the founding chef, is a true innovator. His food and interiors are timeless and he also creates spectacularly theatrical floral displays, working more like a sculptor than a florist. It's worth a visit just to see them.

## LAZY SUNDAY

We'll go to the flower market in Columbia Road, drag our pots of flowers back with us, go round the Geffrye Museum and then have lunch at the Songe Café in Kingsland Road, which serves brilliant Vietnamese street food.

Sometimes we'll go to the YMCA in Tottenham Court Road where I love getting beaten at badminton by my wife.