

Nancy Lancaster

PRESS

- **The Independent** — Obituary (1994)
- **The New York Times** — Obituary (1994)

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The famous “Buttah Yellow” drawing room was created by Nancy Lancaster (1897–1994) in collaboration with John Fowler (1906–1977) of Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler.  Country Life +1



It was in Lancaster's London apartment above the premises of **Sibyl Colefax & John Fowler at 39 Brook Street, Mayfair**, and was created in the late 1950s. The enormous room—originally the drawing office of architect Sir Jeffry Wyatville—was about 46 ft long and had a barrel-vaulted ceiling.  Country Life

There is an important distinction over **who actually designed it**. It is commonly described as *Nancy Lancaster's Yellow Drawing Room*, and Lancaster was responsible for the overall conception, furnishing and distinctive mixture of grandeur and informality. However, **John Fowler was intimately involved in its creation**, and sources associated with Colefax & Fowler state that the idea of painting the room the extraordinary luminous yellow was Fowler's. He developed the effect through multiple yellow tones and layers of glaze, producing the shimmering colour for which the room became famous.  Country Life +1

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