



Potted History: How Houseplants Took Over Our Homes

by Catherine Horwood
Pimpernel Press, £9.99

Houseplants are so fashionable you'd have to look hard to find a home without one, especially among young adults: in 2019, the RHS found that 80% of people aged 16 to 24 owned one. There is much to attribute to their current

popularity but, as Catherine Horwood discovers, houseplants – the term emerged in 1952 – have been around for almost as long as we've had homes. This is a reissue of a book first published in 2007, and while much has changed in those 13 intervening years, other elements are constant, such as the waves of intense focus on desirable species or products, be it a Wardian case or a macramé holder, an aspidistra or a fiddle leaf fig. Catherine is a consummate garden historian with a talent for storytelling. This work reflects her considerable skill.