DECORATE

1,000 professional design ideas for every room in your home

HOLLY BECKER founder of *Decor8*
& JOANNA COPESTICK

photographs by Debi Treloar



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CHRONICLE BOOKS

SAN FRANCISCO

pr etty in pink
This page Yvonne Eijkenduijn's work space is minimal yet comfortable, with good use of a few key elements and soft pink and warm white.

unifor m collection
Previous pages Create a display using a collection of identical objects in different sizes. The variety of scale forms a perfect visual harmony.

blues and gr eens
Page 1 Arrange collections of glass close to a natural light source to enjoy their full beauty.



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Contents

Introduction 6

SECTION 1: Space Matters 12

White Space Thinking 16
Using Your Space 26
Linking Spaces 32
Flexible Spaces 38
Compact Space 48
One-Room Living 54

SECTION 2: Setting Your Style 62

Feeling the Style 66
Simple Style 74
Natural Style 84
Modern Style 92
Flea Market Style 100
Colorful Style 108
Floral Style 124
Eclectic Style 132
Modern Glamour Style 138

"Set an inspiration date for yourself. Visit an art gallery. Go window shopping. Spend the afternoon in a bookstore." *Carrie McCarthy, author*

"For me home is simply about shelter, in all manners of speaking. It's a place of rest and refuge, a place where I can play, relax, unwind, or create—home is the place that replenishes my soul."

Pia Jane Bijkerk, stylist

SECTION 3: Room by Room 144

Kitchens 148
Urban Kitchen 156
Cook's Kitchen 160
Sociable Kitchen 168
Living Spaces 172
Midcentury Modern Living 176
Relaxed Luxury 184
Bedrooms 190
Bedroom Storage 196
En Suite Bedroom 202
Bathrooms 206
Luxury Bathroom 216
Children's Rooms 218
Girl's Room 220
Boy's Room 226
Creative Spaces 228
Working from Home 234

SECTION 4: Attention to Detail 236

Creating Finishing Touches 240
Mirrors 250
Lighting 252
Pillows 256
Flowers 258
Table Settings 266

Afterword 272
Acknowledgments 272
Contributors 273
Directory 279

“Use your critical eye
to see
and use your heart
to feel—
and then trust your
INSTINCTS.”

Shannon Fricke

Introduction

‘I want my home to work for me not the other way around and so every design choice I make is based on practicality as well as aesthetics. I really believe a home is something to live in, not just to admire.’

Atlanta Bartlett , designer

woodland tableau *This page* Simple white wooden shelves decorated with painted tree branches form a witty backdrop for a display of nature-inspired paraphernalia.

still life *Previous page* Everyday objects such as china bowls and ceramic plates are often beautiful pieces that merit special attention. Place them together on shelves, windowsills or in cupboards so that they give you pleasure every day.

Decorate is a different kind of decorating book. Rather than concentrating on one trademark look or a particular design aesthetic, we have concentrated on ideas – more than one thousand of them – to provide fresh insight into how you can transform your home.

Ask any decorator what inspired them to create a space and the answers are extremely varied. For some a painting can trigger a whole colour scheme, for others a piece of quirky retro furniture fuels an eclectic old and new scheme, while many rooms may start from an appreciation of the white space itself – walls, floor and windows. Sometimes the architecture of a space gives a design direction or else a favourite fabric or a trusted paint colour will dictate a country or a modern feel. Learning to see the potential of a dusty cupboard in a flea market or a beautifully framed mirror at an auction, saving up to invest in a key piece of vintage furniture or simply adapting an existing chair or table are all ways of creating room schemes that reflect you and your personal style.

We have asked some of today's most interesting and inspiring creative minds for decorating ideas that reflect a sense of personal style, creativity and confidence at home. Some have opened their style notebooks to provide inspiring ideas; others allowed us to photograph their space where we experienced firsthand how and why their decorating advice truly works; and still others shared recent examples from their professional portfolios, showcasing their talent and innovation. From homes that are quirky to those that are carefully edited, wherever we travelled we gathered insight

'Decorating is an extension of your personal style. Finding your decorating style depends on knowing what you love at a gut level.' *Carrie McCarthy, author*



and wisdom on everything from how to pull together fabulous spaces in all sizes, successful ways to combine colours with finesse, fresh uses of fabrics and wallpaper, how a simple, curated collection can go a long way and much, much more.

Space Matters gives pointers on how to assess what you have and how to work with it, where and when to alter spaces, ideas for how to make a small space feel larger or a dark space lighter and when to allow the architecture itself to dictate the space. **Setting Your Style** provides advice on how to create your own mood board, using fabric samples, paint swatches and treasured items such as buttons or ribbons as a way of deciding on your own personal style. A number of interior styles, from modern and simple to natural, flea market, eclectic and colourful provide countless ideas to get you started. **Room by Room** includes fantastic examples of key rooms in the home, from kitchens and living spaces to bedrooms and bathrooms, work rooms and creative spaces to children's rooms. Throughout, case studies provide detailed information on key homes while room plans give practical guidance on why each space works so well. Finally **Attention to Detail** outlines the vital finishing touches that can make or break an interior, from china and flowers to soft furnishings.

This book shows easy ways to work with what you have, keeps an eye on the budget and encourages you to see the possibilities from many different starting points and a whole host of styles. Whether you love boho or deco, vintage or retro, country or contemporary, this book provides ideas and interiors to encourage you to be creative and Decorate.

outdoors in An elegantly unobtrusive coffee table allows the painted concrete floor to reflect the bright natural light and bring the space to life in Amy Neunsinger's Los Angeles home.

“Allow yourself

the patience

to know it will all come together in time

and enjoy the process!

For me home décor is not a goal,

but a continually

EVOLVING

and kinetic art project.”

Amy Butler

Space Matters



CITY LIGHT *This page* In a revamped Brooklyn brownstone, Lyndsay Caleo and Fitzhugh Karol renovated without compromising style.

oLd and new *Previous page* Frédéric Méchiche's exquisite choice of chairs and tables furnishes the space without pulling attention away from the architectural detailing.

'When you intentionally decorate the look and feel of your space you become more genuinely yourself, more at home in your skin and in your space.' *Carrie McCarthy, author*

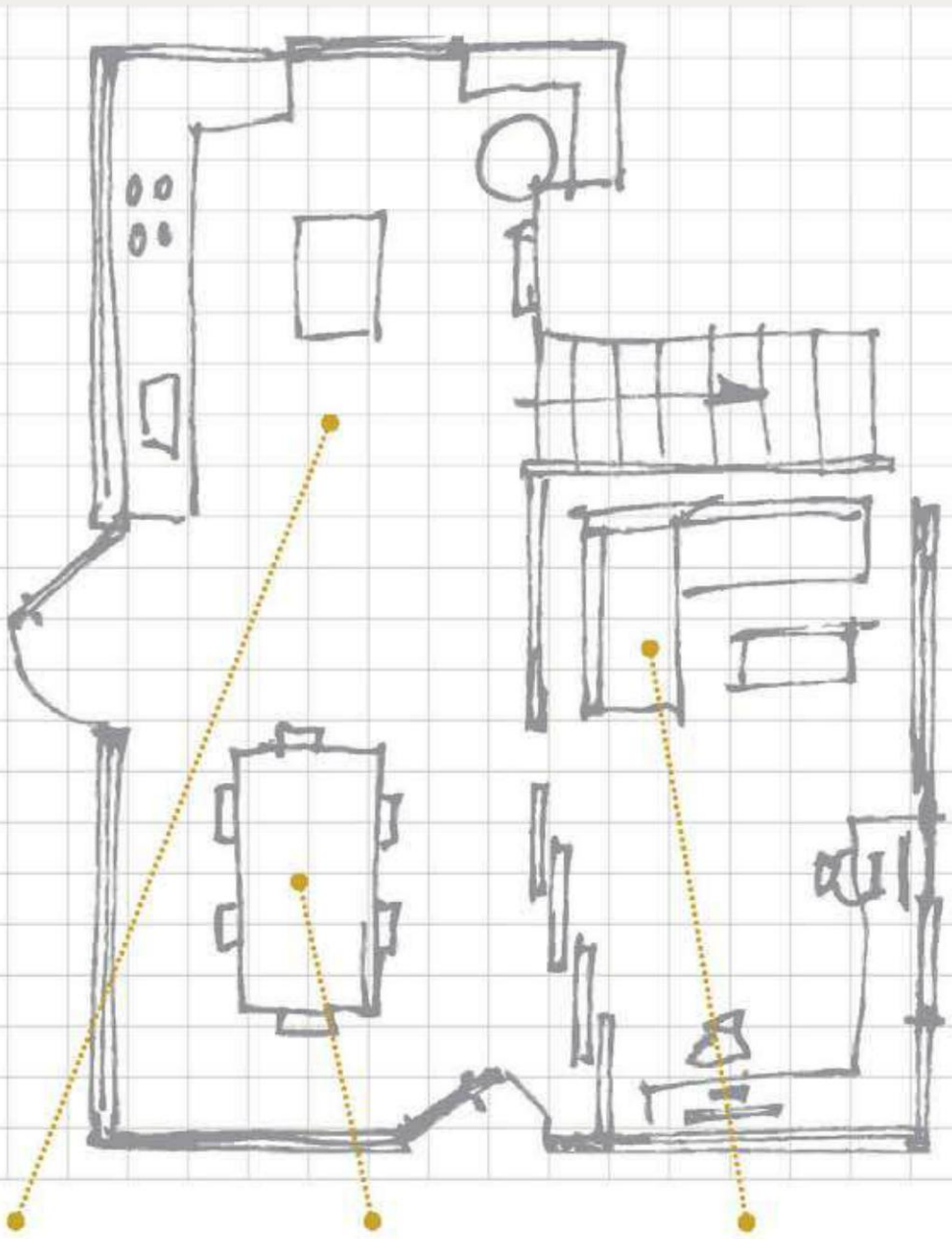
WHITE SPACE THINKING

One of the joys of interior design is to create a space where spending time is a pleasure. Think about rooms that make you feel most at ease. The reason might be obvious, such as a generous light-filled space with big welcoming sofas, or much more subtle – a kitchen where form and function marry together in such a way that the space performs as much as a living area as it does a place of food preparation. Either way, think about what works for you, and why.

Create a personal checklist of what matters to you. If you love the light, then make sure you place furniture close to windows to enjoy the view. If you are always in the kitchen, make sure it is a place where friends can hang out too, and if you enjoy a sense of space, think about banishing the walls in favour of sliding screens or transparent doors.

WHITE SPACE DESIGN involves removing all the elements from your room, either physically or mentally, by drawing up an entirely new floor plan. Whether you wish to discard unloved furniture, ditch the drab drapes or furnish a newly constructed space, the process will throw up new possibilities. Maybe you could install a fireplace or perhaps a new window treatment?

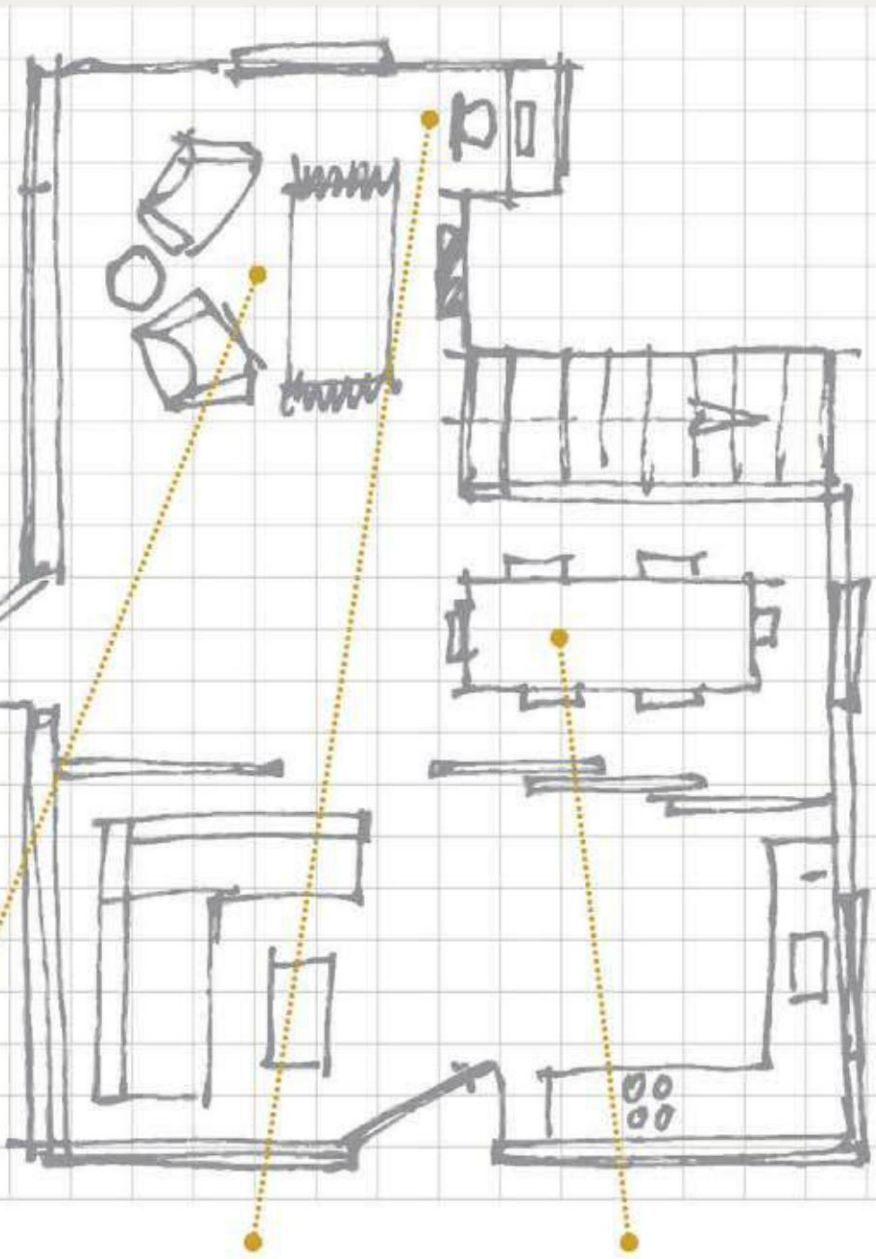
Putting it on paper A room plan allows you to analyze your space and think about how you use the room. Do you want comfort or function to dominate? Are you able to break up the arrangement with room dividers or place furniture to delineate certain areas? Think about amalgamating living and eating areas for a one space approach or, conversely, placing temporary room dividers to create an intimate entertaining room.



A kitchen/eating area is ideal for families.

Think about the shape of dining table that suits your room.

L-shaped sofas make cosy corners in rectangular spaces.



Create an intimate seating area by placing furniture around a focal point.

One space living enables you to create different zones, such as a home office.

Seating and eating areas close to one another make good socializing spaces.

FRaMe Yo UR VIew

Once you have decided how you want to live in your space and assessed a room's best assets you can start to think about how to organize the basics – furniture and window treatments for instance, and decoration for walls and floors.

The Importance of Planning

working with what you have

Draw up a list of what you have to work with – available light, room plans, furniture, furnishings and accessories.

Decide on whether each space is defined by its function – such as a kitchen or a workspace – or whether it is a place in which you can decorate purely with relaxation in mind.

If your rooms have any particular architectural features such as ceiling cornices, fireplaces, wall panelling or interesting doors, then integrate these into a decorative scheme that allows them to stand out.

Work out how you live in each room. Will you entertain and dine in the kitchen? Will your living room be open to the kitchen and dining area? Do you have children and will they need their own dedicated playspace?

Do you have space in the bedroom for an en-suite bathroom and a dressing area? Or could you create room by knocking through into another room or stealing space from a landing or hallway?

You may need to use furniture you have inherited or invested in, such as a family dining table or an expensive sofa.

Maybe you have a dark space but no budget to install new windows or knock down walls, so you'll need to use pale colours to lighten the space.

Think about what else you possess that may fit into your desired scheme.



Go wITH THe aRCHITeCTURe
Let the building do the talking and make use of natural focal points such as fireplaces or feature windows. Here a casual seating area either side of the fire is informal and inviting.



SLeeK KITCHen
Compact white units slip neatly into a corner of a high-ceilinged kitchen/diner, where a family blackboard and plenty of storage are useful elements.



Room To View
Creating a double doorway entrance to a room always enhances the space within and allows an enticing view into it. Here large-scale planters and overhead pendants play with scale to dramatic effect.



Clean and white
Pared down simplicity with white marble walls, glass and a dark wood floor works beautifully for walk-in showers and rooms where a sense of space is important.

putting plans into action

Use your room plans to place all your existing furniture, lighting, rugs and soft furnishings and get a feel for what you have and what you need.

Decide on a ditch list for items that you no longer love or that need to be replaced. Now could be the time for the new dining table you have coveted or an opportunity to make new curtains from your vintage finds.

You need to think about your style and what works with it and whether your home reflects that style or dictates a certain design direction of its own.

If your room is bland and box-like, work out how to incorporate an interesting focal point. Maybe a mantel shelf for display, a large piece of freestanding furniture or a stunning piece of art to take up one wall.

Use colour to define the space by painting one wall a different colour or using wallpaper as a focal point.

Lighting can be dramatic if you choose a huge chandelier, either bespoke or ready-made.

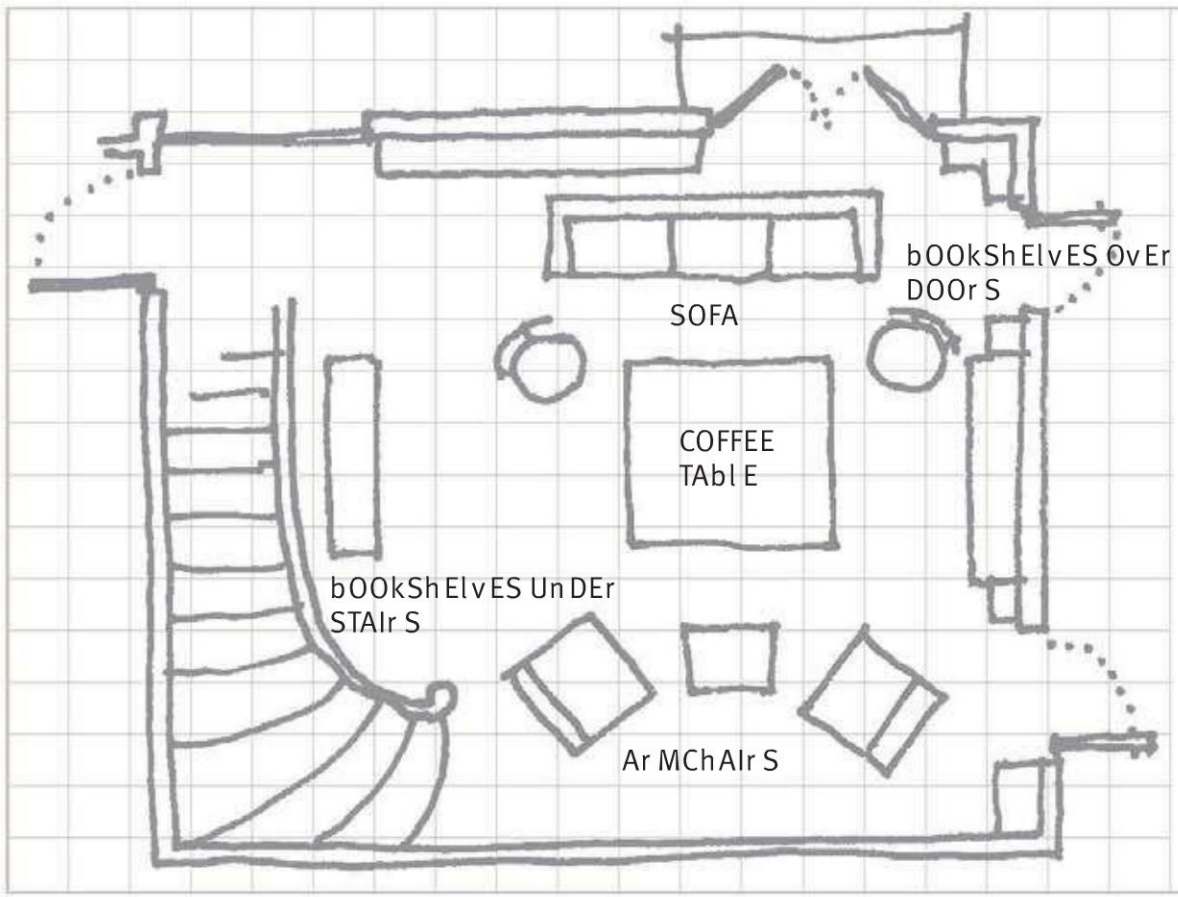
Flooring is important, too. Stripped or painted wood? Carpet or rugs? Industrial concrete or smart linoleum?

Now's the time to innovate. Make a display of your shoe collection, find space for your favourite capsule china collection or paint some mismatching chairs for your refectory dining table.

Shaping Your Space

Make your spaces fun and functional by following the basic rules of good layout, then add in personal touches to bring a room to life

'Make a furniture plan – this is a simple step that most people think they don't need. The pros all do it for their clients.' *Tom Delavan, designer*



LIVING ROOM PLAN

- In larger spaces make a separate quiet space for reading.
- Plan to have some storage, either built-in or freestanding.
- Create a cosy welcoming space by placing furniture around a focal point such as a generous-sized coffee table.
- Rugs anchor a room, providing definition for seating areas.
- Use furniture such as console tables to define and divide different areas of activity.
- Always aim to include a sofa plus at least two other seats to provide flexibility.
- If you need to work with specific architectural features, statement furniture or a collection of books, art or other objects, let them dictate the way you approach your home.



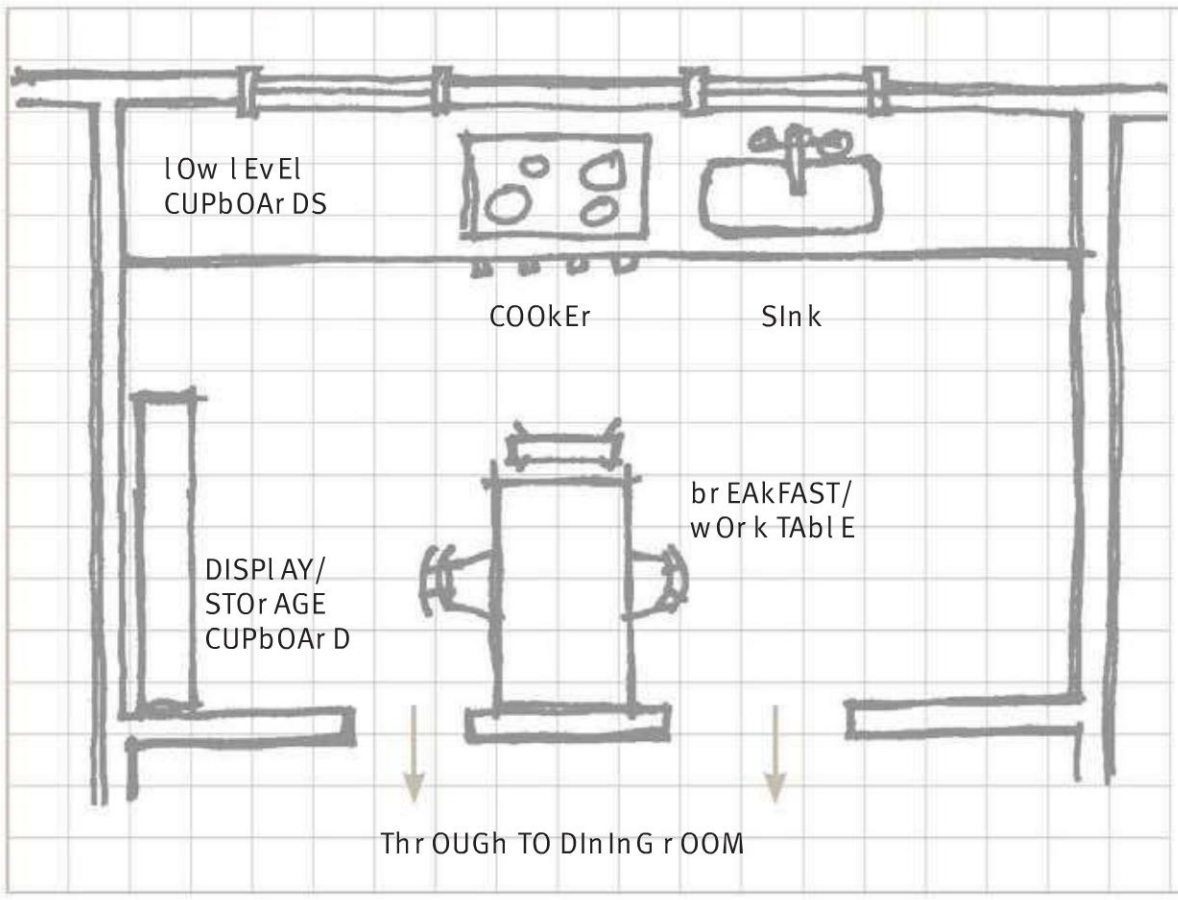


BLaCK and wHITe and Read *Opposite below left* In his Paris apartment, Frédéric Méchiche designed the living room around his vast book collection. The traditional architecture makes a pleasing counterpoint to the modern furniture ranged round the room.

BooKS do MaKe a SPaCe *Opposite below right* Integral bookshelves meld into the original architecture and create an inviting environment for a collection of mid-century and contemporary leather seating.

dISGUISed eLeGanCe *Below left* Tine Kjeldsen of Tine K Home in Denmark created kitchen units that appear to be more like furniture, which is a great way to furnish a kitchen/living/dining space.

VeRSaTILe SPaCe *Below right* Elsewhere in the kitchen/diner a small rustic table doubles up as a food preparation space or a temporary workstation. Freestanding storage positioned near by means kitchen tableware is always close at hand.



KITCHEN PLAN

- Place sink, fridge and cooker in a loose triangle to make efficient use of the space.
- Good layouts that work for kitchens are U-shaped, l-shaped and island formations.
- In small rooms, use built-in furniture to maximize storage space.
- In larger spaces incorporate an eating area or a multi-functional island.
- Try using open shelving instead of matchy-matchy wall cupboards and display your favourite china collection.
- Functional floors are essential – opt for materials that are waterproof, durable and easy to clean such as tiles, linoleum or vinyl.

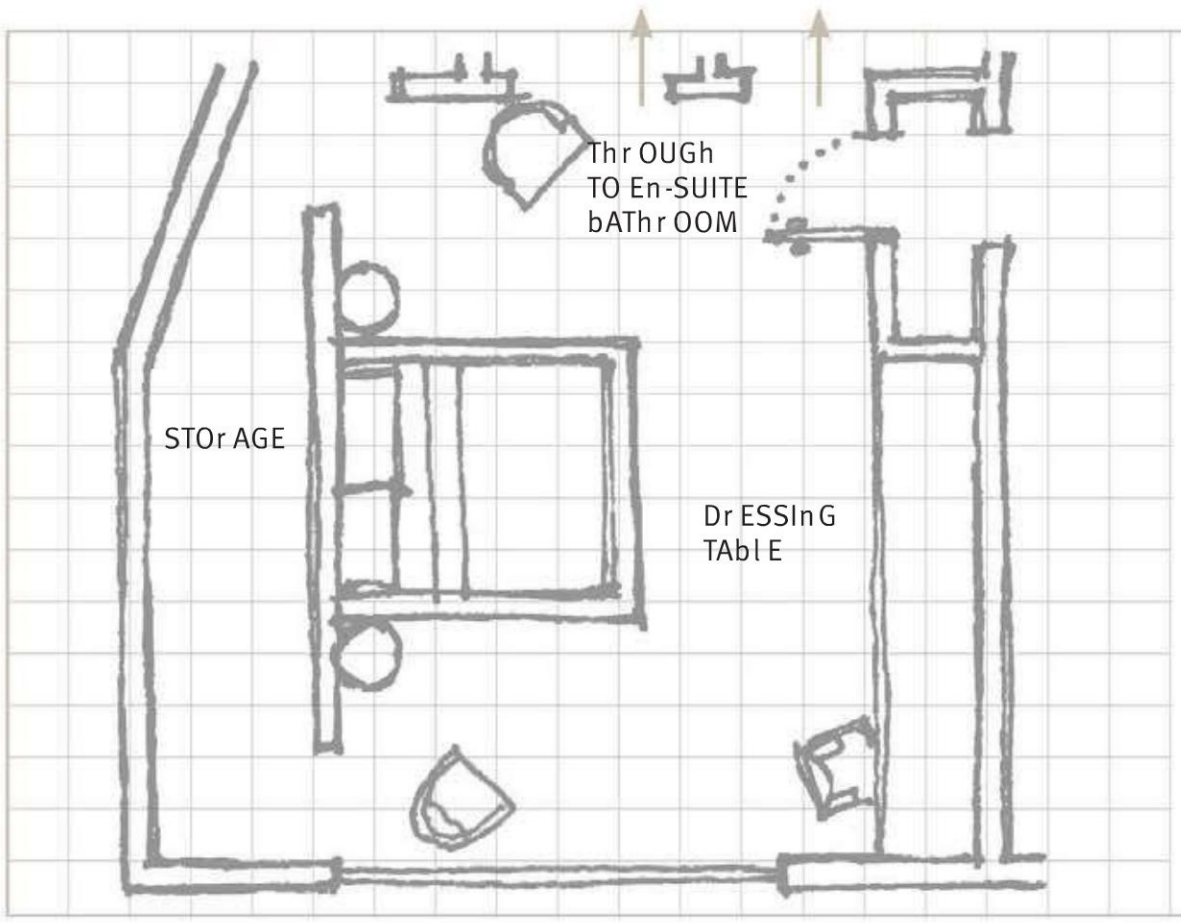




HIdden STo RaGe *Below left* A walk-in closet is hidden behind a run of semi-opaque curtains that are suspended behind a reclaimed wooden bed in Marc and Melissa Palazzo's Orange County home.

FaUX waLL *Below right* To give the illusion of a wall, a large painting is suspended on wire from the inobtrusive curtain rail attached to the ceiling. The bed has no headboard, which adds to the illusion.

'When I'm working on a room I think of textures, colours and prints that would make me feel warm and inspired.



BEDROOM PLAN

- Make the most of your bed since it's the obvious focal point in your sleeping space.
- Good reading lights and bedside tables are a must.
- Edit your clothes and shoes to fit your available space and consider building in more storage if you don't have enough.
- Think about dividing off areas for clothes storage with curtains, screens or half-height walls too.
- Make built-in cupboards more interesting by inserting wallpaper panelling, mirrors or decorative handles.
- Display favourite sketches and drawings from favourite places on the walls.
- Consider using the area under the bed for additional storage.

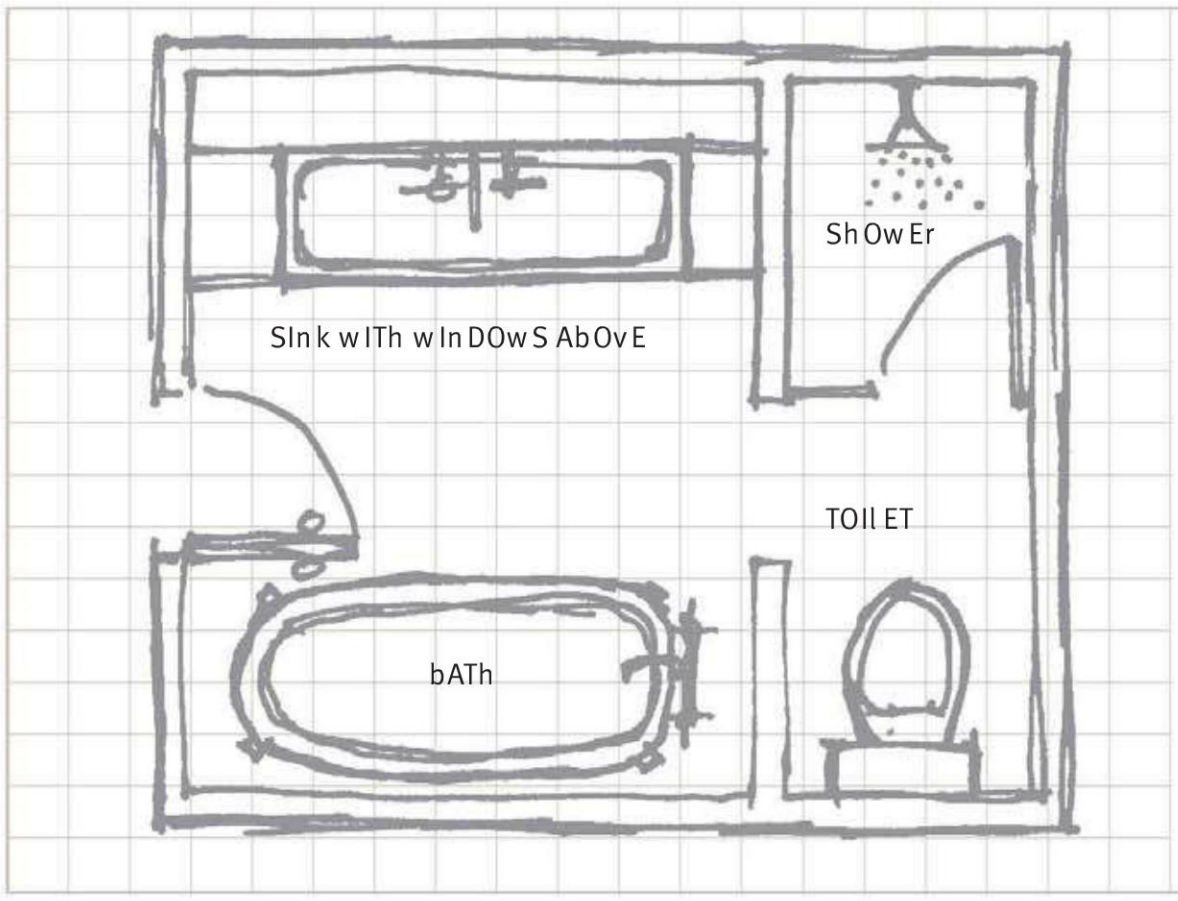




SeeInG doUBLe *Below left* In a shared bathroom a generous double trough-style sink is perfectly at home beneath a wall mirror placed horizontally to become a generous vanity mirror.

PRIVaTe SPaCe *Below right* The Palazzos created a false wall and opening so that a walk-in shower and WC could be tucked behind the main bathroom, with its freestanding bath and spacious double sink.

For example, my bedroom is minimal, because I want to feel at peace.' *Amy Butler, designer*



BATHROOM PLAN

- Do you need a bath in your bathroom or do you only take showers? Can you squeeze in an en-suite?
- bathrooms always need storage, so consider wall cupboards or built-in units.
- Sometimes two sinks are better than one. Make a feature of a pair by fitting interesting taps or sourcing unusual mirrors for each one.
- Use tiling as a decorative feature. Metro tiles will give a simple retro feel, while colourful mosaic or mismatching floral tiles echo the Mediterranean or eccentric country style.
- bold, graphic wallpaper can enliven bathroom spaces.
- Keep floors practical and easy to keep clean. Use ceramic tiles, polished concrete or vinyl coverings.





Architectural Considerations

Make the most of your structural assets

eCLeCTIC Co MFo RT *Below* In Amy Butler's home she has combined one-off mid-century pieces with stylish ethnic accessories in a living space that has additional ceiling windows to maximize the light.

IndUSTRIaL SPaCe *Opposite* Converted buildings often look best painted white so the architecture itself can take centre stage. A swing has been hung from the rafters to accentuate the height of the space.

working with the building

Highlight architectural mouldings by painting them a defining colour or the same colour as the ceiling when you use a different wall colour.

In a traditional space add contemporary furniture to provide a pleasing old with new counterpoint.

Draw attention to a focal point such as a fireplace or wall panelling by leaving the space around it free from furniture or pictures.

Where windows are generous, keep the dressing to a minimum so you can emphasize their shape and make them a big part of the space.

Play with scale in a room that has high ceilings. Introduce oversized elements such as overhead lights, huge plants or generous sofas to emphasize the space and make a statement.

Think about flooring. Whether it is stripped wood, gloss-painted concrete or ceramic tiles, consider keeping it plain so that the space itself grabs all the attention.

where skirting boards are deep and generous, consider painting them the same colour as the other architectural features such as mouldings, picture rails and dados.



‘Clean lines in a well-designed background are the beginning to any successful job. I believe modern architecture is the perfect canvas to bring in any time period you want to work with, but with any space one should utilize the architecture to show off the furnishings to their best advantage.’

Vicente Wolf, designer

case study

USING YOUR SPACE

Using your space well means making the most of your existing building and decorating it in keeping with the core components of walls, floors and ceilings. If you have high ceilings, for instance, you immediately have more options for maximizing your space with a mezzanine or tall bespoke walls of storage. If you have a series of small rooms you may want to open them out by knocking down a wall or making a half-height room divider to create different areas in a single room, while improving the natural light.

Amy neunsinger's industrial-style 1950s home in the laurel Canyon area of los Angeles has been massively extended in keeping with the original framework and includes hard edges such as concrete floors, exposed ceiling beams, bare metal-framed windows and exposed air ducts.

one-SPaCe LIVInG The open plan living and dining space capitalizes on large windows and a light-filled, high-ceilinged space. A statement chandelier, a painted and aged dining table mixed with steel dining chairs and a careworn wall are an interesting combination, while the entire ground floor has a dark painted floor to unify the space.

‘At night it feels so cavernous and cosy, when you’ve got candles lit and they pick up the texture of the wall. During the day, it is different completely. It can be everything from austere to decadent.’

Amy Neunsinger

‘I think of the whole house as South of France meets industrial. I just love pure function. But then there’s the softer, female stuff that’s important to me too.’ *Amy Neunsinger*

Amy employed architect Juan-Felipe Goldstein to oversee the reconfiguring of the space from a modest 1950s house to a spacious and welcoming family home. The overall impression here though is one of cool comfort. Many of the walls have been left untreated, with their natural brick and concrete patina providing a unique warmth and texture. During the renovation Goldstein called up Amy and put in a plea that the walls were so attractive in their pared back state that she should consider leaving them as they were, which she did. They inspired the overall decoration of the house and texture is now key throughout the extended home. You can see it on zinc tables, in painted rattan, on animal-skin rugs and comfortable cotton slipcovers. Mixing all these different materials together creates a cohesive and surprising warmth given the lack of soft surfaces in the space.

INDUSTRIAL CHIC In a hard-edged space remember to soften the edges. Here a giant photographic print on canvas adds a natural seascape to an otherwise pure white wall and a squashy, comfortable sofa plus African carved-wood tables from a Santa Monica flea market look inviting against the glossy grey concrete floor.



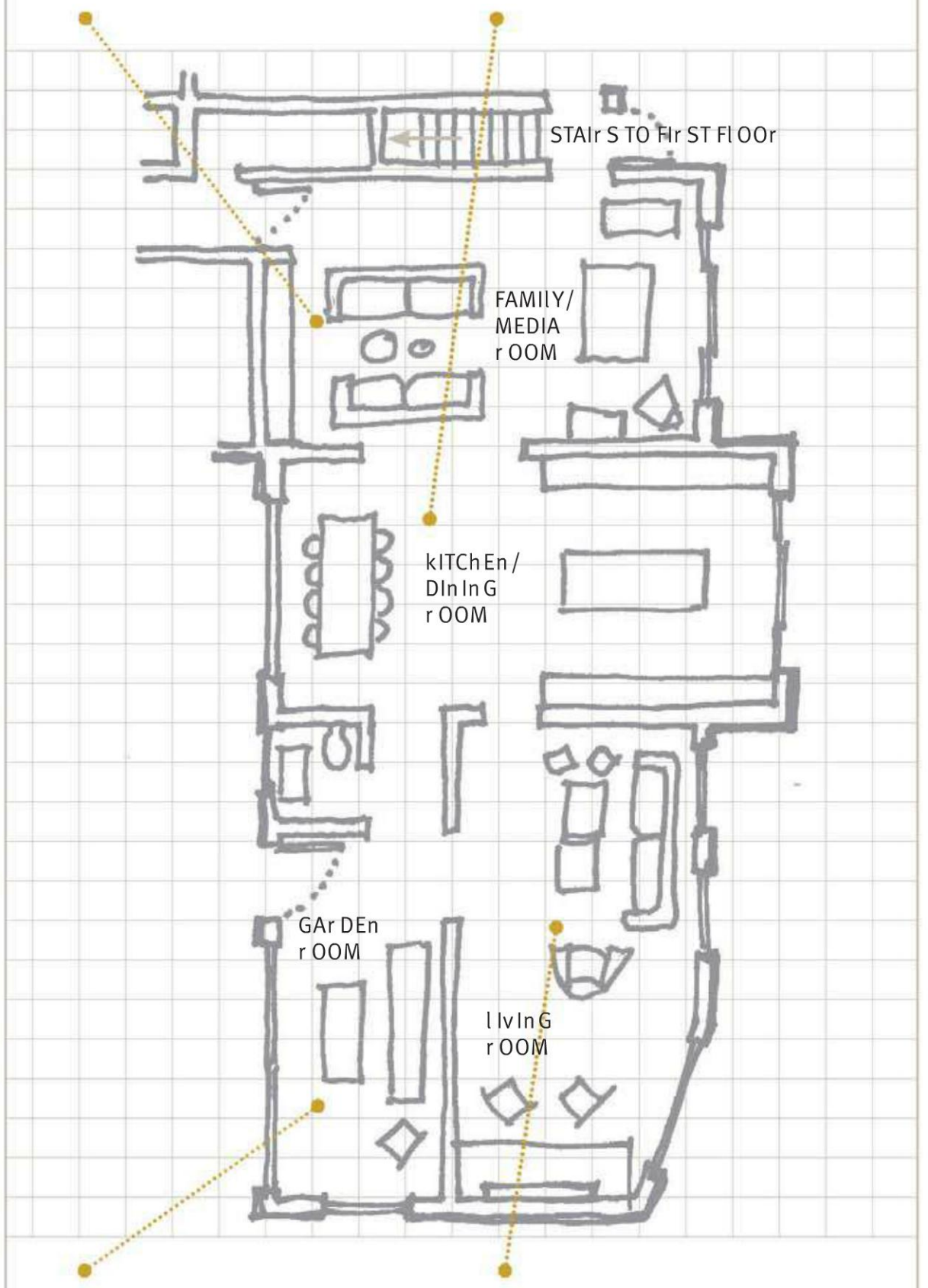
LIGHT and BRIGHT *Left* White upholstery always looks great in bright white-on-white spaces, where there are traces of dark colours and woods to create contrasts. Here an ethnic wooden console stops the seating area from becoming lost in whiteness and a fabulous chunky metal coffee table sits on animal-skin rugs.



Co o K'S KITCHen *Left* Custom-made units slip effortlessly into the industrial space where utility meets chic in the form of sleek stainless steel appliances and open shelving, warmed up with vintage accessories.

The family room has plump, squishy sofas and two large round occasional tables with an ethnic vibe for a relaxed atmosphere.

An island layout in the kitchen gives maximum flexibility and frees up wall space for large French windows.



A garden room brings the outdoors in so that even on rainy days you can still enjoy natural surroundings.

In the living room white walls and furniture match in with the white ceiling rafters for a cool and airy but welcoming space.



Letting in the Light

It's free, it's natural – use it wisely

There is nothing more appealing than a comfortable room bathed in natural light that changes through the day. It's always worth checking the orientation of a room in relation to the sun to work out whether you are likely have a light-filled space in the morning, evening or – the best of all – for the whole day. knowing which direction the light is coming from will help you decide what colours to use in the room to enhance or dampen the light.



waLL LIGHT In designer Vicente Wolf's New York apartment a wall of sliding glass doors and natural light provide an enticing glimpse of books, paintings and decorative objects on the other side.

light matters

north-facing rooms in the northern hemisphere have a natural grey quality to them that can be made to look more dingy if bathed in brilliant white paint. Choose cool greys to warm up spaces such as these.

Jewel-bright sunlit rooms can stand big bold shades of fuchsia or topaz so go with the colourful vibe if light is not an issue.

If you are not overlooked, leave windows bare where light is sparse to maximize the flow of rays into the room.

Consider installing a rooflight to bring in additional daylight in a dark space.

Install an internal window, glass bricks or frosted glass panels between rooms to steal light from another space that may have access to light coming in from the outside.

Use sheer roller blinds of muslin or linen where some privacy is required but you need to encourage the light, too, during the day.

Opt for pale colours in light-starved spaces and stick to the neutral end of the spectrum for the best effect.

PaLe and neUTRaL *Opposite top* Anita Kaushal's London living room is painted a delicate pale grey. This colour always makes the most of cold northern light and warms a space in European climes.

oVeRHead PRoJeCTIon *This page* A rooflight combines with French windows to maximize natural light in this kitchen/diner, while a pale wooden floor and walls contribute to the airy atmosphere. Even the marble tabletop reflects natural light upwards.

'There's a visceral connection between our surroundings and our mood, and the amount and quality of light is the first element that dictates those moods.'

Marcia Zia-Priven, lighting designer

‘In the living room we found that the niche formed a natural space for our heirloom sofa and the art above it. It makes a good focal point when looking towards the living room.’

Claus Robenhagen

So FT Mo deRn Dark wooden floors always help to anchor a space. Here they link a series of rooms as well as providing accent colour in a living room, together with a retro lamp, black and white prints and cushion detailing.

case study

LINKING SPACES

The method of placing rooms in a single line, with doors placed at the same point in each room to provide a vista from one end to the other was first used in grand houses such as the Versailles Palace in Paris but the same arrangement is often found in city apartments and in cottages. Decorating a series of interlinking spaces is a fun challenge; you always have to check the view out of a room into the next one works with the room you are in.

The Copenhagen apartment of fashion designer heidi hofmann Møller and gallery director Claus r obenhagen is a charming space made to feel more spacious by this type of enfilade arrangement.

enFILade SPaCeS A unique view from the bedroom, through the dining space and out to the study and the living room means there can be no style secrets. The furniture of each room has to work with each adjacent space.

It is an arrangement most commonly seen in public spaces, such as art galleries and museums, which is apt since Claus is himself involved in an art gallery. 'we really enjoy how the four rooms connect together in the apartment. It almost feels like one room, yet each space is also well defined, which gives it a certain flexibility.'

The dining room is at the centre of the apartment and this is often used as an entertaining space. 'The entryway is very small so this has become a convenient stop en-route to the other rooms. when we entertain,' says heidi, 'dinners or parties tend to start with drinks in the middle room – and then end with more drinks and sometimes dancing in the same space.' The double doors were designed to emphasize the linear layout. On one side is the private space of the bedroom, where words such as 'heirloom' and 'gifted' are printed on the surface, while the dining room side is inspired by the 1980s Italian Memphis Style aesthetic that they both really enjoy.

On moving in four years ago, the couple, who had fallen in love with the light, spacious feel of the apartment, set about renovating the space completely, removing old layers of wallpaper, painting the floors, renewing the electrics and recarving the architectural mouldings, which were disguised by so many layers of paint it was hard to see what they should look like. both the kitchen and the bathroom were replaced.

They decided to paint the floors black by applying a water-based paint, then sealing it with a coat of water-based lacquer on top. It was easy to work with and is really quite durable. 'we like the black colour as it gives focus to the space and makes the colours of the rest of the room stand out.'

'The bespoke double doors that lead from the dining room to the bedroom were designed by Bank/Rau, two artists that work together. The inspiration comes from the fact that the doors bind together some of the most central rooms in the apartment.'

Heidi Hofmann Møller

'Our personal style can best be summed up as a mix of different decades, with an end result that is colourful, personal and innovative.'

Claus Robenhagen





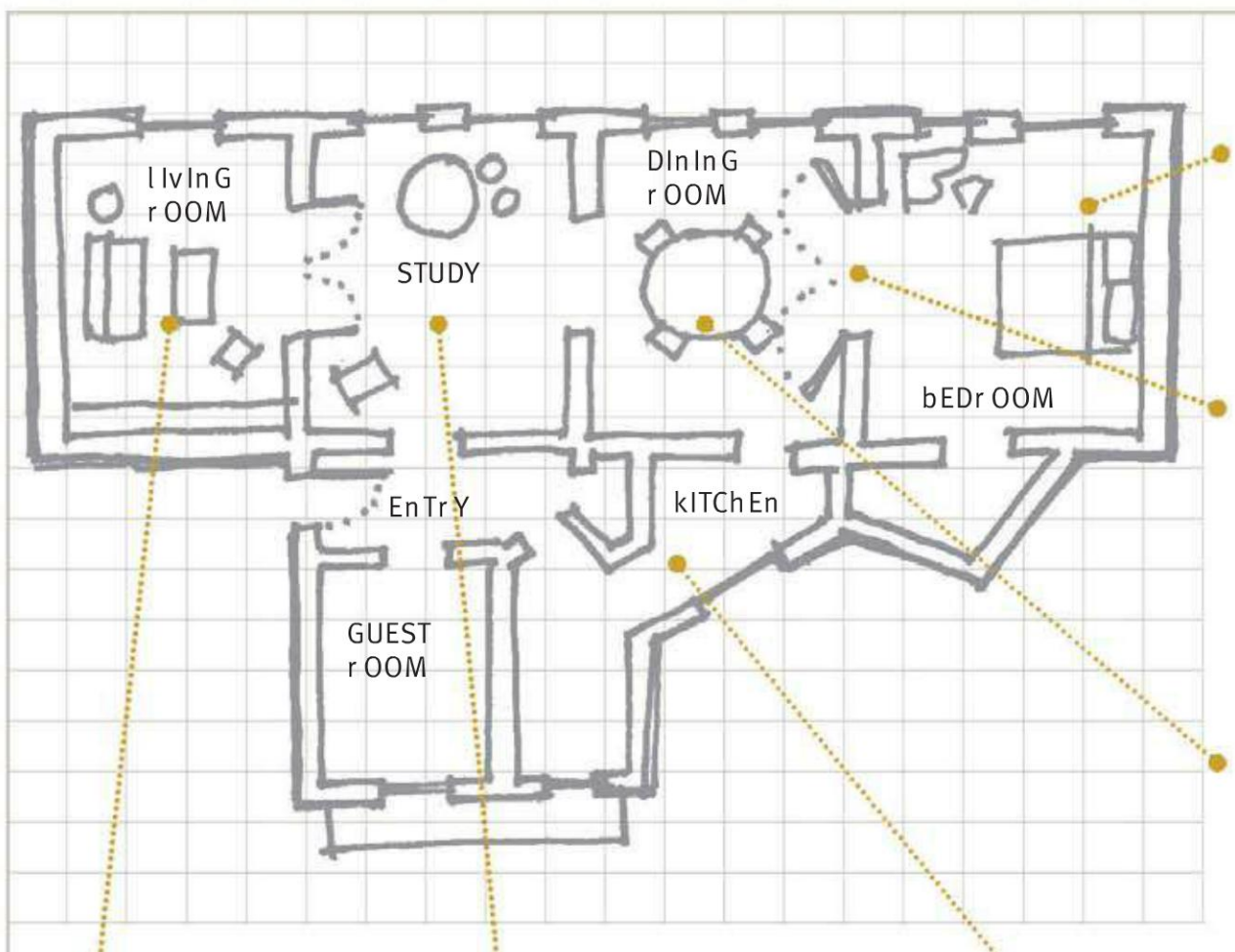




deSeRT ISLand aRT *Above left*
A wirework image of a scrolled map is a neat wall decoration against a contemporary bentwood easy chair in the study area in between the living room and the dining room.

STaTeMenT dInInG *Above right*
At the centre of the apartment, an Eero Saarinen Tulip table is pride of place, its oval shape providing a smooth organic form amongst a series of square and rectangular spaces.

CUSHIon HeadBoaRd *Opposite*
Plumped cushions ranged across the top of the bed replace a conventional headboard and provide touches of colour in the bedroom.



The main rooms of the apartment are arranged *enfilade*, with one room leading to the next.

Double doors between the dining space and the bedroom were custom-made to provide a statement piece of design in the apartment.

An oval marble Tulip table is placed in the centre of the room and forms a focal point from both the bedroom and the work room.

A dark hardwood floor runs through the apartment, unifying the space and making it feel larger.

A tidy work room fits nicely between the living room and dining room and also serves as a drop off spot for keys and bags as it is directly off the entry hall.

The kitchen fits neatly into a cosy space with a charming balcony with a table for two facing the rear courtyard of the building.

Dividing Space

Create new shapes and functions by clever division of your basic rooms

Creative ways of dividing space may range from architectural solutions, where faux walls act as space definers or define a change of function, to one-off decorative pieces that demarcate an area, such as a retro folding screen or a large piece of traditional furniture. whatever method you choose, room dividers are a versatile way of organizing your space to make it work harder.

GLaZed dooRS *Below* In Nathalie Leté's Parisian apartment, glazed metal-framed doors frame a bright and whimsical feminine bedroom. By day they open out to extend the living area, but by night floor-to-ceiling curtains are drawn to enclose the bedroom and create a semi-tented feel, Bedouin-style.

PLaY daYS *Opposite* This functional, modern house in Denmark incorporates half-height walls to divide the space into a child's play area that is separate but easily accessible from the adult work and dining areas.

working with what you have

Make room dividers really work hard by incorporating storage into them in the form of shelves or cupboards.

Sliding doors or screens can be made from wood or frosted glass panels or can be decorated with a mural.

Half-height room dividers work as subtle screens when dividing off a particular zone, such as a freestanding bath in a bedroom, a work area in a living space or a seating area in a kitchen.

Freestanding furniture can become a good room-dividing solution: try a unit of openplan pigeon holes on castors that doubles up as a storage and display place.

Folding screens vary from Japanese-style grids of wood and rice paper, fabric-covered concertinas or vintage hospital screens made from scaffolding-type poles and covered with muslin or other lightweight fabric.

Create an open recess in which to place a discreet shower room, a small dressing area or a compact work space.

Use a room divider as a dual-purpose functional space: bathroom on one side, shower on the other; shelves for storage on display on one side and utility room storage on the other; bed on one side, bathroom on the other.

Greenery in the form of large fig trees or other large household plants in striking containers are good for defining different zones in a living room.



‘My clients place high priority on spaces that have multiple functions, such as family room and dining space, living room and TV space, sunroom and breakfast room plus comfortable, great-looking sectional sofas.’

Betsy Burnham, designer

old with new By mixing vintage furniture such as painted cupboards with modern-day classics such as Eames dining chairs, Anna-Malin disguises the fact that her house is a contemporary space.

‘Where I grew up, there are mountains and lots of snow so that is why I use white as a foundation colour in my home. It’s flexible and versatile.’ *Anna-Malin Lindgren*



KITCHen CHIC The room exudes comfort and effortless style, drawing your eye to the clever combinations of furniture and materials, as well as the softening of clean architectural lines with the addition of curvy painted rattan chairs and tables.

case study

FLEXIBLE SPACES

Flexible spaces make sense for homes in which there are growing families. Dividing up a large space into different activity zones is one way of preserving flexibility. A living space may be divided by a temporary room divider, to allow a change of use at a later date.

Anna-Malin l indgren's home in helsingborg, Sweden is a truly flexible space. Before moving in Anna-Malin spent some time making design decisions about the use of each room and how the space should flow. She and husband Anders selected materials such as flooring, kitchen units and wall colours. natural light was an issue for them so they decided to add transom windows over the internal doors and in the ceiling upstairs to let in more light.

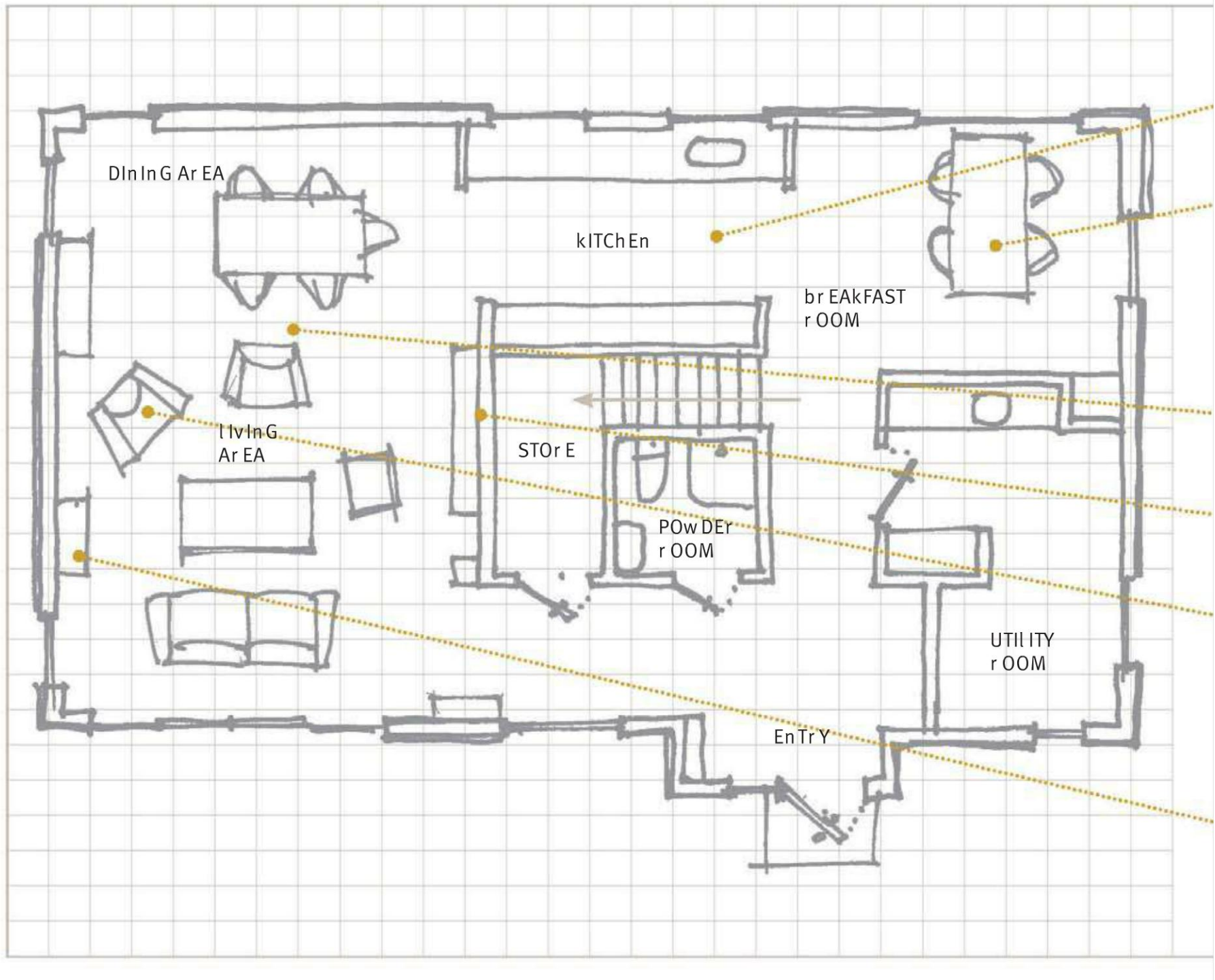
From northern Sweden originally, Anna-Malin likes to connect with things in a spiritual way rather than simply choosing off-the-peg solutions when it comes to furniture or fittings. The reindeer furs in the living room are cruelty-free in that they are harvested for meat and the furs are also used so nothing is wasted.

Although Anna-Malin would prefer to live in an older house – this one is only a few years old – she has managed to create a sense of timeless comfort. 'I've learnt to work with the home and not against it, making it reflect my taste and style and adapting the space to fit in with our lifestyle that incorporates two young children and plenty of comings and goings, both of people and activities.'

SCReen MaGIC *Above* A black-painted wall divides the living/dining space from the kitchen area. In the centre is a discreetly mounted flatscreen TV, with home entertainment accessories stored beneath in a contemporary low-level cabinet.

waRM Co MFo RT *Opposite above* Squashy period sofas and generously filled cushions in different shapes and sizes, covered in a variety of fabrics and textures provide ease. Clustered around a painted coffee table, the furniture creates an intimate conversation and relaxing area.

Mo deRn TRadITIo n *Opposite below* Throughout the house pieces of vintage and period furniture soften the clean architectural lines. Black and white are key base colours for the decorating scheme.



‘I like a cold and warm contrast in my home created with materials and colours. The reindeer furs in the living room warm up the white space.’ *Anna-Malin Lindgren*

A change of flooring in the kitchen space provides definition for a room without walls.

A dining table in the kitchen area doubles up as a craft space or a work area during the day. An extendable dining table means it can be moved around the space according to needs.

The living and dining space is a flexible area that can over time become a live/work space or a live/play space as small children get bigger.

The wall that divides the living space and the kitchen/diner and stairwell is painted black so as to disguise the flatscreen TV.

Ultra comfortable chairs and a sofa provide a touch of period charm in an otherwise contemporary space. Soft pale plum and mulberry tones on the furniture warm up the white space.

Freestanding storage and display units are flexible and can be moved around the space when required.



Floors & Walls

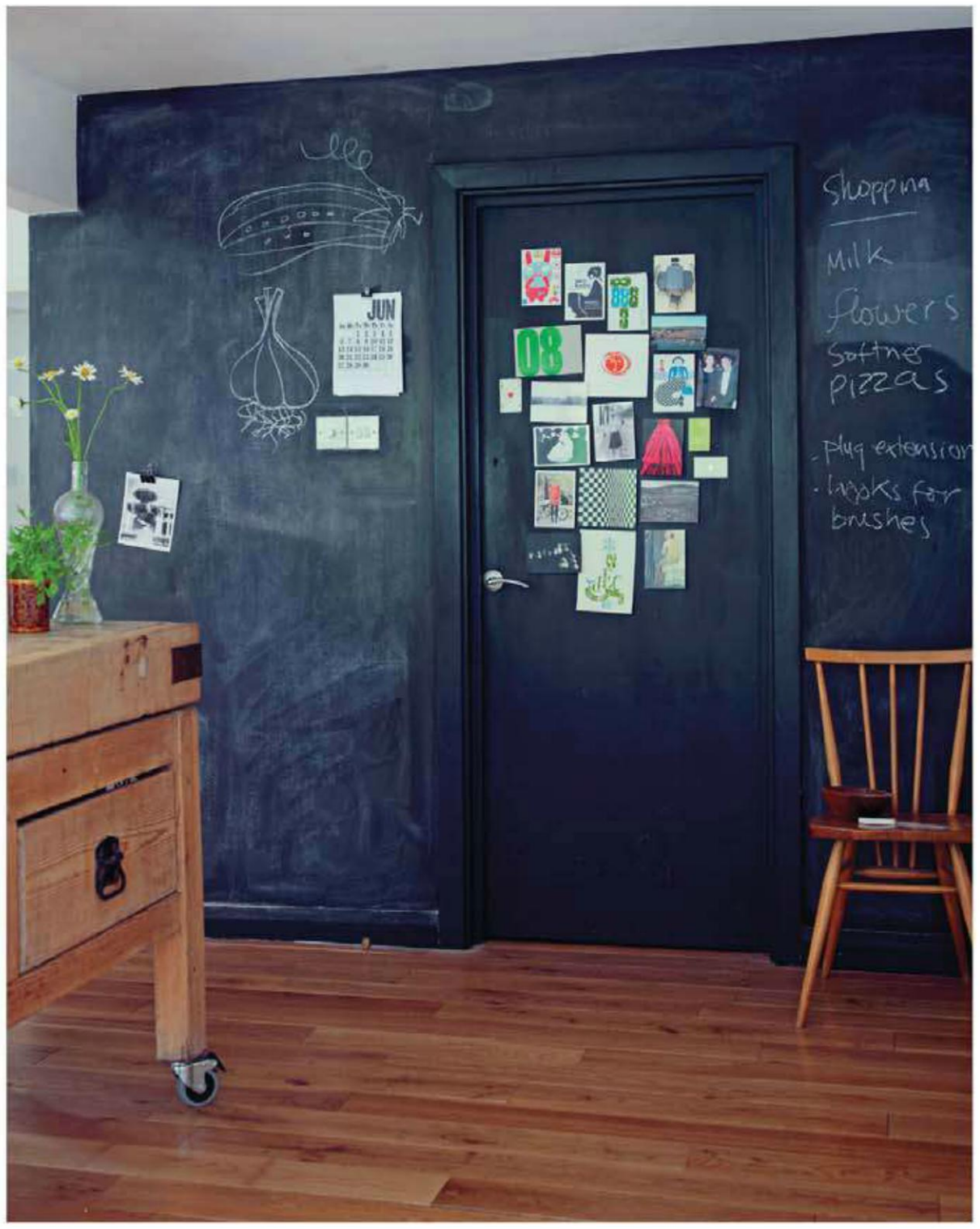
Careful thinking about these vital surfaces can set the tone for how you want your space to feel

Far from being the 'boring bits', walls and floors can absolutely make a space, so getting these surfaces right is an important task. Whether you choose wooden floors and rugs or carpeting, painted walls or wallpaper, your choices will often influence what style of decorating works best for the rest of the room.



'I love using chalkboard paint – it's the perfect black-but-not-pure-black and has a great matt finish. I've used it on walls, furniture, lamp bases and vases.'

Belinda Graham, blogger



decorating with walls Your walls offer plenty of choices when it comes to decorating. From matt or glossy paint finishes, to bold floral, geometric or patterned wallpaper and even fabric, you can apply your chosen finish to just one wall or bathe a whole room in your favourite wallpaper or paint colour. Panelled walls or tongue-and-groove dado-height panels merit carefully chosen colours, either muted or bold depending on what you love.

CLaSSIC GReY *Above left* Painting walls grey is like dressing in black and white. It is versatile and always stylish, allowing you to embellish the overall effect with small dashes of other colours.

BLaCKBoaRd waLLS *Above right* In a kitchen or children's play room use blackboard paint on walls and doors to create a permanent space for drawing, doodling and list-making.

wooden Floors If you have a busy family home, an urban loft or a traditional country cottage, wooden floors will work in all of these spaces. Stripped floors are great in older houses, while bleached or painted glossy boards look ultra smart in modern or retro industrial spaces. They are also easy to maintain and keep clean.

Softening wooden Floors r ugs and runners work really well with wooden floors and will also add colour and pattern to a neutrally decorated room. r ectangular, square or circular shapes anchor or define specific areas in a living room, while runners work well in hallways and bathrooms. If you don't like the thought of hard floors in bedrooms or children's rooms, then carpeting is a relatively affordable option.

floor & wall decisions

In an old or a new building leaving bricks exposed or painting them are both options. Old redbrick, especially round a fireplace, is warming, while white-painted bricks are a contemporary solution.

Wood is versatile and hardwearing in areas of heavy use such as hallways and living rooms.

Cosy up a space with rugs and ring the changes with one for summer and one for winter.

Panelled walls never fail to make a room feel welcoming. Paint them a similar colour to the walls for a unifying effect or a distinct colour to place a visual emphasis on them.

wallpaper is available in so many designs it is capable of altering the style of a room.

Painted floors work well in small or large spaces.

‘Be bold and paint a feature wall, table, and floor. Don’t worry, it’s like a hair cut, therefore not permanent.’

Carrie McCarthy, author

CURVed aIR *Left* Bleached floorboards and generous windows give this living room an airy feel. On a diagonal wall a large pigeon-hole bookcase is both functional and decorative.

‘Most rooms need a rug – a room without a rug can appear unwelcoming and unfinished. It brings a sense of luxury to a room; the colour, pattern and texture lend a feeling of comfort and personality.’

Suzanne Sharp, The Rug Company

UndeRSTaTed GLaMoUR *Below* In a room where the furniture takes centre stage and the floor is cool concrete, discreet animal skin rugs placed in the seating area make a wonderful counterpoint to both the furniture and the intricate chandelier. They define the space but also lend a neat touch of warmth and sophistication.

daRK deFInITIon *Opposite* In cool spaces anchor the pale seas of white with a glossy dark wooden floor. It will provide sharp definition in a room and allow furniture, textures and artworks to come to the foreground.

‘I see white environments as an opportunity to draw attention to elements that might otherwise be lost in a more colourful setting. The neutrality of white allows texture, shadow and light to become focal points rather than afterthoughts.’

Anna Dorfman, graphic designer/ blogger

Rugs

In spaces with hard wooden or concrete floors, rugs are the vital ingredient for providing decoration, comfort and texture

choosing rugs

Choose a shape that complements your space. Circular rugs work well in square living rooms. r unners are good for hallways and landings or other narrow spaces.

Rugs make good alternatives to carpets, especially in areas of heavy use such as living rooms and children's rooms.

l ook at many types and styles of rugs before you make your final decision. Rug shops will usually lend you a few styles so you can view them in situ before making a final choice.

FUCHSIa PeRFeCT *Below* In Alayne Patrick's Brooklyn apartment she has brought an Asian textiles vibe to the space and punctuated it with a striped cotton dhurrie in bleached raspberry and pale sky blue.

naTIonaL PRIde *Opposite* Jonathan Adler and Simon Doonan's eclectic office space nods in the direction of Simon's nationality with a Union Jack rug in navy and lime in a statement that is both stylish and quirky.

From traditional Indian dhurries and Oriental rugs to woven wool and animal skins, rugs are not merely finishing touches in rooms. They often provide both a focal point and a sense of welcome, especially in living rooms and hallways. r ugs perform the dual task of protecting hard flooring and adding comfort to a space. Pattern and texture are just as important as materials when it comes to rug design, so consider all these when you are thinking about a centrepiece for a room.

Scandinavian woven cotton runners look great on bleached or dark wooden floors. Chunky seagrass matting and sheepskin rugs also work well on wood, while rag rugs and thick woven wool always provide comfort and colour. On concrete, animal skins provide a definite warmth.



‘Beautifully patterned rugs always wake a space up.’

Lulu deKwiatkowski, designer

‘Don’t skimp on rugs. I prefer big rugs that really surround as well as define a living room.’

Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan, interor designer/blogger

case study

COMPACT SPACE

Living in small spaces calls for a sense of order and a smart but cosy approach to decorating. There is no room for clutter so be ruthless in editing your belongings and living with only what you need. Use every inch of space – build shelving into generous cupboard spaces or see whether a fold-down desk or additional storage can be incorporated.

This compact space in Manhattan is decorated to give an instant sense of comfort and interest. All the elements flow together smoothly and with so much to feast the eye on, the small scale is pushed to the background. Style writer and interior designer r ita konig has bestowed her british sense of comfort on her tiny apartment.

Ro o M w ITH a VIew
Compact spaces need to be tidy at all times as all the rooms are often on show. This pretty bedroom is snug and inviting seen from the living room where the floral wallpaper and scalloped edges of headboard and bedding become soft and appealing focal points.

‘Start with thinking about how you live, then plan a layout of rooms and furniture to suit your lifestyle before you get on to the details about what style to follow.’

Rita Konig

CaLM Co MFo RT
Soothing grey walls, a very personal collection of pictures and large sofa in a small living area create a cosy ambience that disguises the compact overall space.



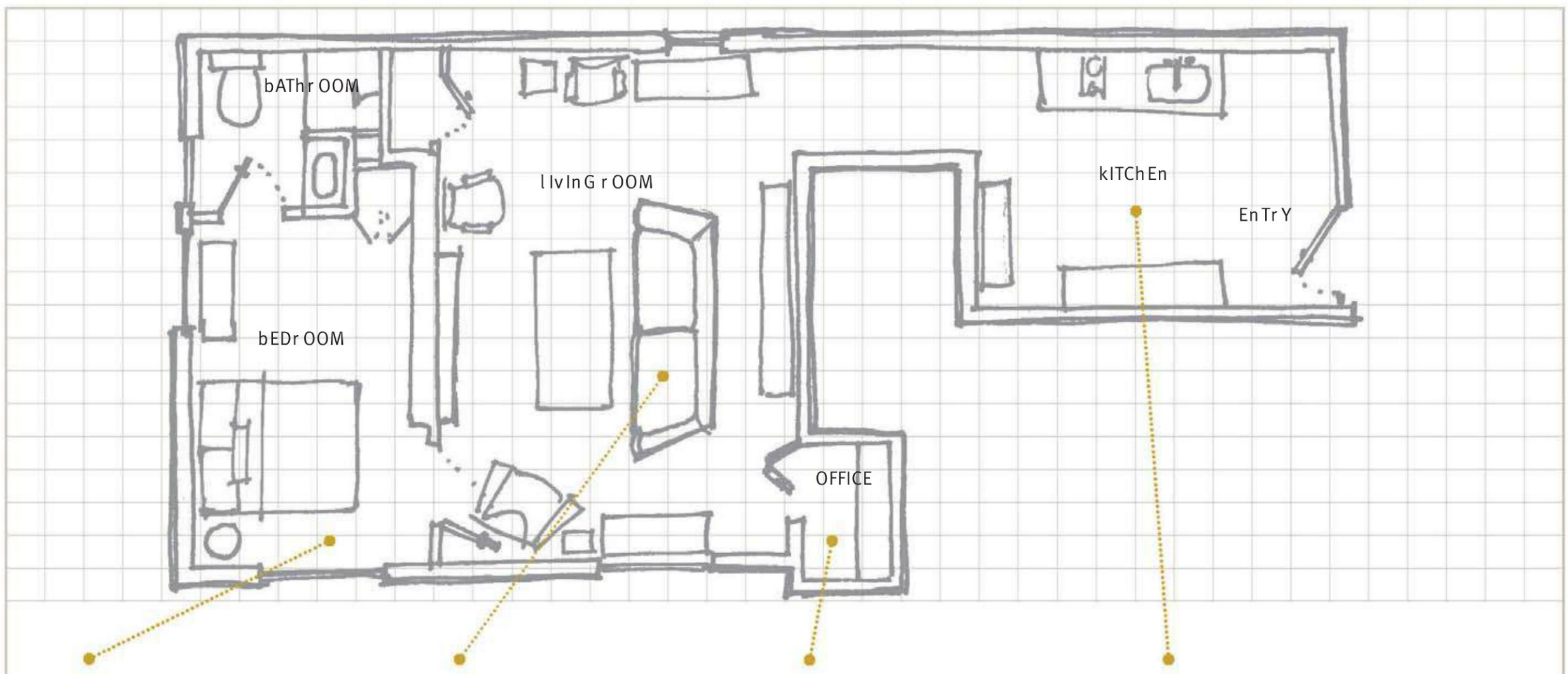
'The best rooms in a home are always comfortable, tranquil and have a strong sense of the person that lives there. r ooms should be a culmination of things and it is hard to create that in an instant,' says r ita. 'I've moved several times in n ew York so when I moved to this space I decided to reupholster some key pieces of furniture to ring the changes.' This is a good way of updating the look of a room for not too much outlay.

'My pictures are really important to me and I had quite a few of them brought over from l ondon,' explains r ita. 'The best interior designer can decorate your home, but without pictures on the walls it will lack a dimension that I find so important.

'One of my favourite colours is a pale grey from the Paint l ibrary in l ondon. It is always bright and clean and is a great foil for many other colours. I often combine it with pink and green to create a very soothing and warming scheme. I like storage and order to form part of the decorating, which is why I like the drinks tray, book shelves, linen closet and pantry that have become a part of the space itself in my apartment. I've also adapted a closet to become a mini office.'

w a LK-THRo UGH KITCHen *Left* Neatly tucked into a hallway, Rita Konig's kitchen combines a wall-mounted bookshelf for cookery books and a galley-style practical food preparation area.

PICTURe PeRFeCT *Opposite* Cosy and colourful seating, a drinks table and interesting art on the walls combine to create the perfect welcome. Use bright velvet upholstery as a counterpoint to pale walls.



At one end of the apartment the bedroom opens on to the living room so is decorated to be 'on show' when required.

A sofa is used along with three occasional chairs to create cosy seating areas in a living space that is at the heart of the apartment.

Off the central living room a small closet has been used to house a mini office with the addition of new shelving.

A large entryway has been converted into a welcoming walk-through kitchen space.

‘When you put pictures on the walls you see the greatest change in a place.’

Rita Konig



Increasing Space

Ingenious use of space can yield dividends in small spaces

Compact living calls for neat ideas as well as tidy spaces. There are various ways of increasing your living space while not eating up valuable parts of the original floor area. You can quite often shoehorn additional living, working or sleeping spaces into tiny areas such as cupboards, enclosed upper level capsules or by adding a mezzanine level to tall spaces.

Split-level spaces are one way of including different zones in a living space. Mezzanines are good for creating libraries or reading areas above living spaces, which additional sleeping spaces can appear above kitchens, off first floor landings or incorporated into existing bedrooms. w here a lot of living has been layered into spaces of awkward shapes and varying heights, getting from one area to another may call for a variety of different ladders, shallow permanent steps or temporary stairs. w hile ladders are versatile and useful in split-level lofts and apartments, safety is a key consideration. Small children, toddlers and even teenagers are often drawn to stairs and cannot resist exploring them. If you do not want to be forever checking up on them, think about whether a small, discreet staircase in steel or wood may be a better solution.

CaPSULe BedRo o M *Above* In Lyndsay Caleo and Fitzhugh Karol's Brooklyn home, their one-space living area has room for a capsule sleeping area tucked above the kitchen space. Curtained off when not in use, it is reached via a vintage ladder when required.

‘Draw a floor plan to scale and experiment with furniture placement. Fill wall recesses with shelves and remember that wall-mounted cabinets free up floor space.’

Deborah Bibby, editor in chief



making space

l ook at your home as a 3D shell so you can assess where and how to increase your space. A tall hallway could incorporate a sleeping capsule or a bedroom could double up as a creative space by adding a mezzanine level.

Landings are good places for slotting in a mini home office or a day bed for younger overnight guests. In tall bedrooms, consider building a high bunk and creating a workstation beneath it.

Consider dividing rooms to provide separate spaces for different activities.

If space is tight, think about using transparent walls or windows to divide the different zones but preserve a sense of space.

‘My husband and I like our home to be very uncluttered, so built-in storage gives the house a more calming, tranquil quality. We invested a lot in hidden storage so we don’t have to look at all our stuff all the time.’ *Jessie Randall, designer*

daY BedS and dadoS *Above* In a large light-filled space a mezzanine landing has been designed to become a daytime relaxation area, benefiting from fabulous natural daylight and open views across the living spaces, in the home of Pal + Smith designers Marc and Melissa Palazzo.

SMaLL and SMaRT In a compact New York apartment Liz Bauer has managed to cleverly create a series of rooms without compromising on style or a sense of space. Instead, it feels like a classic home because she has managed to shoehorn a foyer, dining room, living room, dressing room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom into what is essentially one studio space.

‘Use what you have and add to it. Colour is important, and I cannot live without pattern.’

Liz Bauer

case study

ONE ROOM LIVING

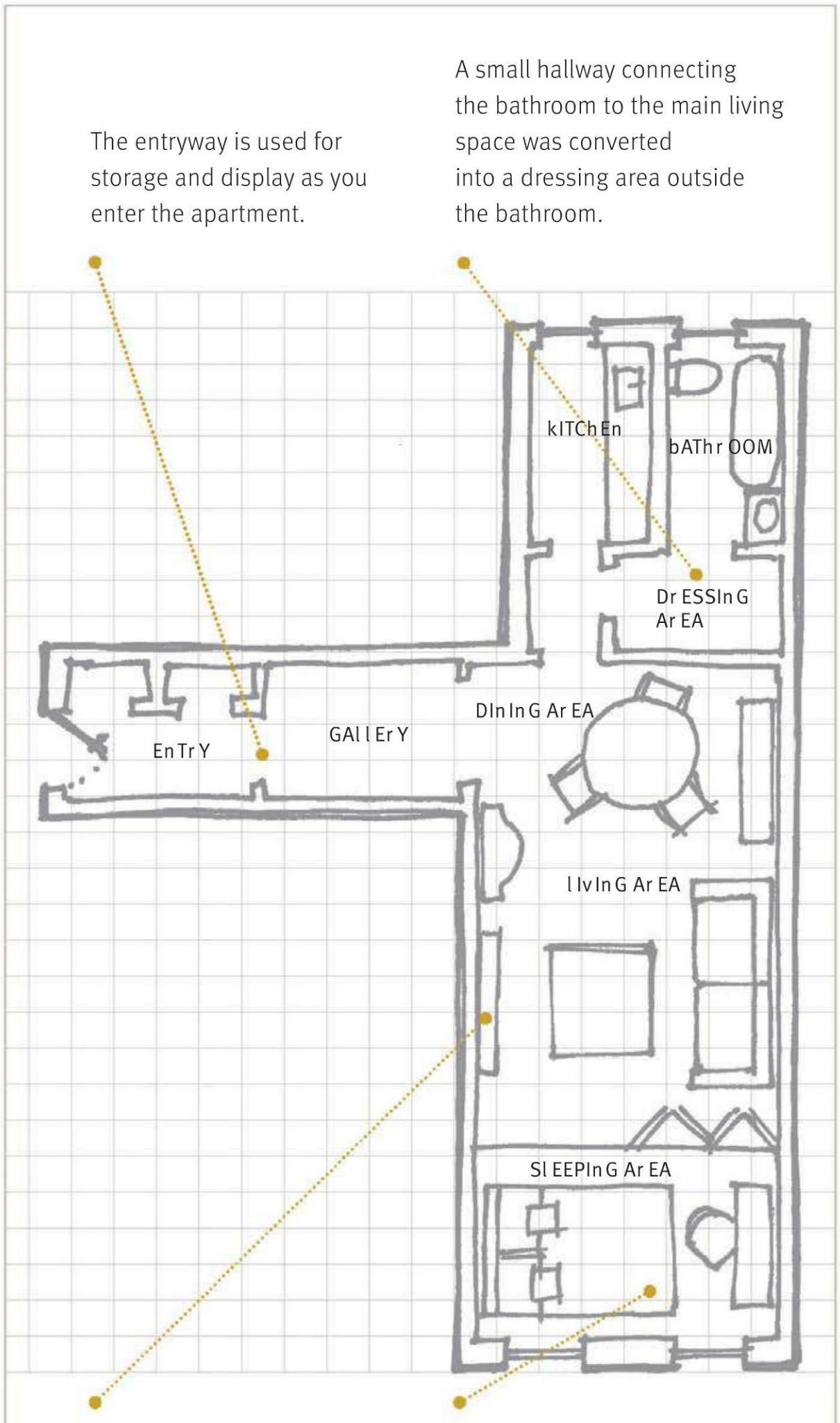
Living in one space calls for an exacting use of the floor area. Every single piece of furniture has to be fit for purpose and be as versatile as possible. An occasional table needs to include storage, a bed will need to have hidden clothes boxes beneath it and the floor space should be kept uncluttered to encourage natural light to flow through the space.

This one-room apartment belonging to new York interior designer liz bauer has been transformed using modern twists, traditional elements and a feminine touch into a smart but inviting space whose limited floor area is well disguised by clever design techniques. Bauer initially installed a faux fireplace as the first focal point in the living room, then a transparent vintage screen was used to demarcate the bedroom from the living space, together with bold wallpaper on the ceiling and walls around the bed. The eye is naturally drawn to the patterned walls rather than the fact there is a bed at the end of the living space. ‘I turned the small hallway into a dressing room. It seemed like such dead space to me, and living in nYC and having dead space is not an option! It houses a closet and is right next to the bathroom, so it just seemed like the logical place for me to get dressed and put on make-up,’ says bauer.

TRadITIonaL LIVInG By mixing interesting art, colourful textiles and upholstery from Designers Guild and Manuel Canovas plus vibrant table lamps along one wall, then complementing them with a transparent drinks trolley and coffee table, Bauer manages to bring the living space to life while disguising its limited size.

‘Architectural details are a must for me as I grew up in a very traditional home. Although the space is technically a studio, I immediately knew that I could define the space into different areas and give more of a classic home feel.’ *Liz Bauer*

STo RaGe and dISPLaY *Right* Liz takes a practical approach to space: 'Although I have made my apartment deliberately functional, I do not have room to display everything. At some point, in another home, I am sure the white cabinet will once again house china and crystal. For now, it is functional storage.'







deSIGnInG wITH waLLPaPeR *Right* Papering the walls and ceiling at the end of the living space creates a mini sleeping haven. Bauer used a welcoming blue and white paper from Rose Cummings punctuated with rose pink lampshades and art.

Colour Tricks

Colour is one of the most powerful of decorators' tools. Relatively economical to use, fun to choose but also easy to get wrong, so some experimentation is a good idea

‘Wallpaper or paint the interiors of your bookshelves and, if you can afford to, the ceiling or an accent wall.’ *Celerie Kemble, designer*



Mo deRn dISPLaY *Above* Painting the space behind display shelves a vivid colour provides a visual focus and a backdrop for your collection, whether it is china or other decorative objects.

daRK CHo Co LaTe *Opposite* Combining a range of tones in one colourway makes a sophisticated statement. Minky, mole-like browns and soft cappuccinos on a range of fabrics and textures in a bedroom presents an enticing picture.

colour magic

For instant impact paint one wall in a living room or bedroom in a bold, vivid colour. Choose the wall that will make the most dramatic statement.

In a large room where you want to enhance a sense of enclosure and seclusion, opposing walls can be painted the same colour.

You can add highly patterned wallpaper to one wall to create a feature in a room where there is no natural focal point.

In a room dominated by neutral colours add in vivid contrast colour as accents on upholstery, cushions or artwork. Strong tones such as orange, citrus lime or red work well as vivid jolts of colour in this way.

Infusing a room with bold colour is one of the best decorating tools to create an instant mood or a certain style. Think warm blues, hot pinks or sunshine yellows. They will all create a cosy space in a small room and detract from the room's natural dimensions.

Remember that red will always warm and enclose while white will always expand and lighten a space. When choosing paint colours, always opt for a shade or two lighter than what you are naturally drawn to. Paint chips often deceive.

Steer away from brilliant white paint. It contains a blue caste that will make northern rooms dull and grey. Instead, opt for a standard white that includes a hint of pink pigment for maximum ‘whiteness’ on the finished wall.







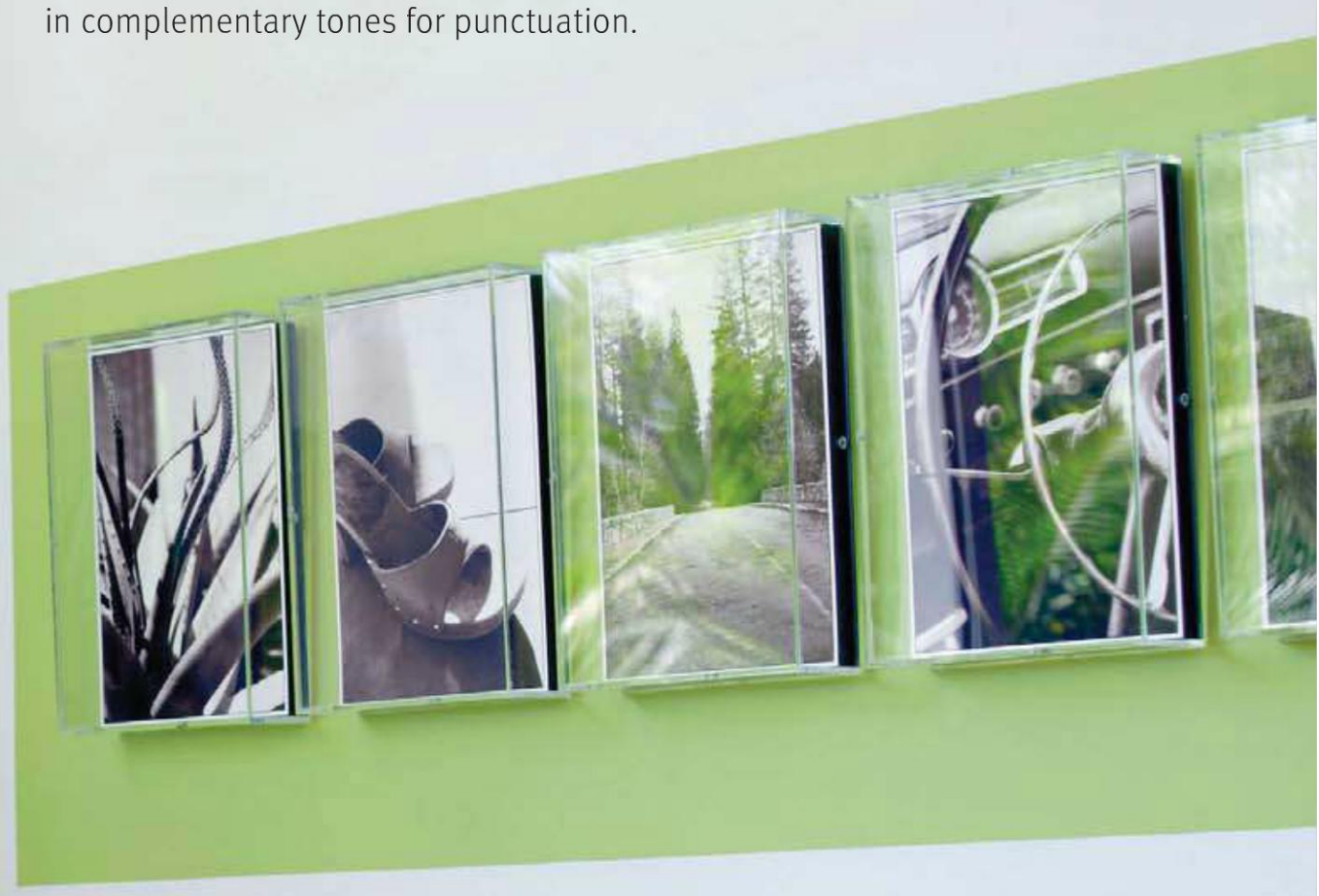

HOME
SWEET
HOME



CITRUS deFInITIon *This page* Inject some colour by painting around artworks or using cushions or rugs to make a colour statement. Flowers are also a good means of shifting the colour direction one way or another in a living room or bedroom.

oPaLeSCenT TILe *Opposite top left* Small sky blue mosaic tiles give a mother-of-pearl shimmer as they catch the light above a simple fireplace. Tiling is a good way of adding colour to kitchens, living room and bedroom fireplaces and bathrooms.

BandS oF CoLoUR *Opposite top right* Apply bold colours midway up a wall to lessen their impact but provide a visual feast when moving from one room to another. Use paint or wallpaper to create the colour and add in complementary tones for punctuation.



PaSTeL PRIMaRIeS *Opposite bottom left* Soft shades of blue, red and green used as accents in all-white kitchens are fresh and inviting. Experiment with lighter or darker tones of the colours you are naturally drawn towards to create a variety of palettes.

RaSPBeRRY PInK *Opposite bottom right* Pale pink linen walls in Christine d'Ornano's London home are subtle but hugely warming. Some colours will change character according to how they are used. A gloss grey will be colder than a chalky paint, while blue can bear to be shiny as well as matt.

'Colour creates life and energy. It can be uplifting and make us smile and your home should make you smile, you should be happy there. What better way to achieve this than by infusing beautiful colour into your space . . .' *Shannon Fricke, stylist*

“We all have our own

STYLE

and personality to our work, even if we follow the same step-by-step instructions.”

Lotta Jansdotter

Setting Your Style


VOGUE
LIVING

‘I love a well-travelled, eclectic house with furniture and objects, layered one upon the other, that tell a story about who lives there, where they’ve been and what they love. There’s nothing worse than walking into someone’s house that looks like they just called up a decorator!’ *Eddie Ross, designer*

ELEGANT LIVING *This page* Deciding on a personal style is so often about living with what you love, whether it is a collection of paintings, favourite furniture styles, colours that inspire you or objects that hold a special significance. Run with your instinct and you won’t often go wrong.

dESIGN cLASSIc *Previous page* Setting your style may be a matter of selecting a certain piece of furniture and allowing it to lead the way elsewhere in the room. Here an Ercol sofa forms the basis of a mid-century aesthetic.

FEELING THE STYLE

Once you move away from home into your first property you learn a simple truth: this is the one place where you can truly express yourself and let your imagination run wild. Discovering your style sensibility and why you are attracted to certain things is one of the most joyful and emotionally freeing processes of decorating. Once you grasp that your home is your space to experiment with new ideas it's smart to explore a little and learn about what you truly connect with, and why, so you can shop smarter, faster, have less return purchases and truly love the space you're living in. When your home authentically reflects those living there, which is the ultimate goal, you can enjoy domestic life even more – making your bed is more interesting when you've learned how to layer pattern, and simply walking into your home at the end of a long day gives you a warm, welcoming feeling.

HAVE YOU EVER wondered why you are always drawn to painted furniture or mid-century modern ceramics? Why you can't walk past a flea market without stopping for just a peek? Why you linger over a design blog or a magazine that hones in on feminine finds or classic furniture? This is where you need to pull out a small notebook and start taking note of what interests you and why.

Quick kitchen renovation Your ideas can be composed in a large journal and need not always be focused on a complete room design. In this example, a kitchen that needs a few modern updates is in the works. Bright textiles, mismatched dishware, bold ceramic pitchers, fresh flowers and vibrant floral wallpaper set the tone for a quick renovation.



‘Saturate yourself with visual reference. Magazines, books, websites, art galleries, museums, shops. You can’t know what styles you like if you don’t have knowledge of what’s out there.’ *Atlanta Bartlett, designer*

hAppINEss Is . . .
This craft room is a creative workshop for Californian stylist and photographer Leslie Shewring. She has surrounded herself with brightly coloured objects against a white background so that this room sparks her creativity and simply brings her joy.

Before you start collecting and analyzing your inspirations, first let's stomp out a common misconception. Some people think there is too much choice and visual overload and encourage taking time out or logging off in order to feel more inspired. While this is true from time to time, exploration is really the key to tapping into your likes and dislikes. We are lucky to have such a broad choice laid out before us. Shopping for interiors has become as much fun as shopping for clothes with the range of stylish finds out there. With retail outlets, boutiques, online shops, sample sales, pop-up shops, catalogues, home shopping television shows and other great resources, home decorating has certainly evolved for the better and choices are no longer as limited as they were in past generations. If you sometimes feel overwhelmed by choice and have a hard time defining your style because of it, simply stand back and take notice of what you respond to subconsciously. Try going through a stack of magazines and tear out what you are attracted to and group the images in folders labelled 'Bedroom', 'Living Room', 'Kitchen' and so on, to start a visual compilation of what pushes your decorating buttons. You will soon build up an idea of what you're visually responding to so that you can identify your style. You can then begin to personalize the way you live in order to enjoy a down-to-earth honest lifestyle that fits your emotional, physical and spiritual needs.

It's helpful as you examine your clippings to add notes to them identifying exactly what you like about the space. Maybe you only like one thing in the entire image – the chair, or the fireplace mantel and how it is styled. It's important to identify

Sweet and feminine This loose arrangement is the jumping-off point for a guest bedroom doubling as a craft room. Existing furniture will be used and only a new chair will be purchased so the focus is on adding accessories and creating cosy charm. It's all in the details: silk throw cusions, patterned cotton bedding, soft colours and a focus on handmade, tactile finds.



what you like about a magazine tear sheet as this helps you to identify themes in your thinking. Anyone can tap into their inner decorator and make their home a confident reflection of self, whether it is a rental or a sprawling home by the sea, simply through knowing what they like and why and how they respond to these personal favourites.

Stay on the look-out for that 'ah-ha' moment when you walk into a space and instantly feel connected – whether energized or calmed. It could be a home but not always, as inspiring interiors are all around you, from stores to hotel lobbies, cafés to museums. Think about your favourite movies and why you loved the look and feel of them. Record these findings as you go – you will begin to recognize definite patterns in your thinking that will lead you to setting your true decorating style.

'Research is essential in creating a space that reflects your essence. Buy or borrow magazines and tear out what speaks to you; don't think, just feel. Store in your Style File.'

Carrie McCarthy, author

'It's easier than ever to find inspiration because it's so abundant on design blogs. If you can find a blogger whose taste is similar to your own, they'll do the hard work of sourcing things and finding new ideas for you!' *Nicole Balch, blogger*

Danish romantic Let your travels inspire you. This compilation of elements will ultimately result in a living room scheme based on a weekend spent in Copenhagen. Soft linen pillows with a metallic sheen, vintage family photos, tactile throw rugs and storage baskets along with a slip-covered sofa in white and a floor plan will help create a cosy Danish-inspired retreat.



How Mood Boards Work

Many designers turn to mood boards (also referred to as inspiration or concept boards) to convey the overall feel of a project, a visual representation of how they've interpreted their client's requests. By carefully gathering elements in one place, they are able to communicate their concepts more specifically, receive targeted feedback as they progress and deliver focused results. Mood boards can aid not only professional designers but also those who want to tap into their personal style and embark on a decorating project on their own. They expedite the decision-making process and prevent shopping without purpose, which can derail a project and impact negatively on the budget. A mood board can spark creativity, stimulate the imagination, organize ideas and define a palette.

> 'Pay attention to movies: *Out of Africa* and *Marie Antoinette* have both been a source of great inspiration for me.'
>
> *Rachel Ashwell, designer*

Use pages from magazines, textile samples, paint swatches, postcards, holiday souvenirs or anything else that speaks to you. Try not to pull from a single catalogue or magazine; you want to create your own vision. A mood board often works best on the wall because it not only serves as a frame of reference but also allows spontaneous editing as your project evolves (if you do not have wall space you can also use a large journal). Pull from your files and pin up elements that speak to you. Pair the overall decorating style that you will use – cottage, eclectic, mid-century, contemporary, bohemian – with the feeling you would like to convey. Place notes on your board that will inspire the design, such as 'restful', 'welcoming', 'natural'. Sketch a floor plan and show some of your favourite furniture and accessories, flooring or wallpaper. You can even pin up found objects, such as a leaf, a tassel from a trip to Marrakech or cherished vintage family photos. Anything goes!

Your ideas can be translated in two ways: inspirational and literal. Purchasing the exact duvet you found in a bedding catalogue is literal. Translating a tiered skirt from a fashion magazine into a ruffled duvet is inspirational.

It can be quite a process to build and edit a mood board, so be patient and give yourself time. On the other hand, it's important to set a deadline to avoid lingering as well as over-editing so that you do not lose your original vision. Often your initial instincts and feelings best define the direction of the space. Remember, designing a mood board and translating it into a finished room scheme are two very different things. To see how your ideas will work in the space, take some elements from the board into the room. For example, drape pieces of fabric on furniture, pin up wallpaper samples, paint a few poster boards and affix them to the wall to see how they look. Leave them in the room for a few days to see how the colours and textures change throughout the day depending on the light. This exercise will provide you with valuable insight so that you can either move forward or rethink your ideas.

be your own client

When a designer initially consults with a client several questions are asked before a project can begin. After considering these, you can begin to build your mood board.

What is my budget? Do I need to hire help? What is my deadline? Who else should be involved in the decision-making process?

How will I use the space? Will it be for eating, sleeping, working? Will children or pets regularly use the room?

How do I want it to feel? What story would I like to tell? What decorating style best fits my vision?

Will I change the wall colour or flooring? What colours speak to me? Have I checked my colour palette first in natural light?

What architectural considerations should I keep in mind? Do I need to conceal a bad window view? What needs to be changed before I can get started? What do I want to highlight that is currently in the room? What will be the focal point?

What items would I like to have on display and how? Do I need storage? For what? Do I have things in other rooms or in storage that I can incorporate?

What do I need to purchase right away? What can I purchase later, depending on my budget? What can I keep in the room? What can I transform and use in a new way?

Remember . . . Be honest, build your mood board over time, set a deadline and put your plans into action!



coLLEcTING youR ThouGhTs As you build your palette, lay out your inspirations from paint swatches to fabrics and little details that speak to you and tell a personal story.



puLLING IT ALL ToGETheR

After laying out your inspirations, pin the different elements to your mood board to see how they interact.

TRy o uT IN sITu Next, put your ideas into action. This mood board is for a home office that happens to be in a pool house in the backyard. Still in the beginning stages, the board was brought into the room to see how the colours and textures worked in the space.

‘When you create a collage you literally become the designer of your life. You can be selective, creative and intentional in creating your imaginary space. These visuals reflect your essence – look for common threads among the things you love. This will help you translate your taste into wise and beautiful decorating choices.’

Carrie McCarthy, author

case study

SIMPLE STYLE

simple style embraces restraint rather than eccentricity, calm rather than clutter and plain tones rather than lots of strong colour. A simply styled room will often include white space furnished with wood and soft neutrals, with the visual interest supplied by a few key pieces of furniture. Layering different textures and combining a number of different materials, such as metal, wood and linen for instance, also brings life to a neutral space. display and a few dashes of greenery in the form of small house plants make good finishing touches.

On Fyn island near Odense Tine Kjeldsen, owner and designer of homewares brand Tine K Home, has created a smart yet relaxed family home based purely around subtle shades of white mixed with textured woods on furniture and accessories. The neutral palette is extended with shades of grey on picture frames and layers of white and dusky grey on the sofa, chair and cushions.

All of the woodwork is white, including the white-rimmed wall prints and the standard lamp, but it wasn't always so. When renovations started, Tine had new pine floors laid throughout the house. At first they were painted a dark chocolate brown. 'Although they looked very smart, we quickly realized that they just soaked up too much of our northern light and were also difficult to keep in pristine condition. Next, I decided to paint them a pale watery grey colour, in keeping with the nature outside the back door, so we painted them over in white first, which reminded us of the floors in our summerhouse. We liked them so much that we still have them, 18 months on. They wear surprisingly well but we encourage people to walk around in the house without shoes, so that helps reduce scratch marks and general wear and tear.'

'My design ethos is one of mixing different styles and eras, but it has to be done gently, so as not to jar. I love a mix of Far Eastern styles with Scandinavian materials, colour and shapes.'

Tine Kjeldsen

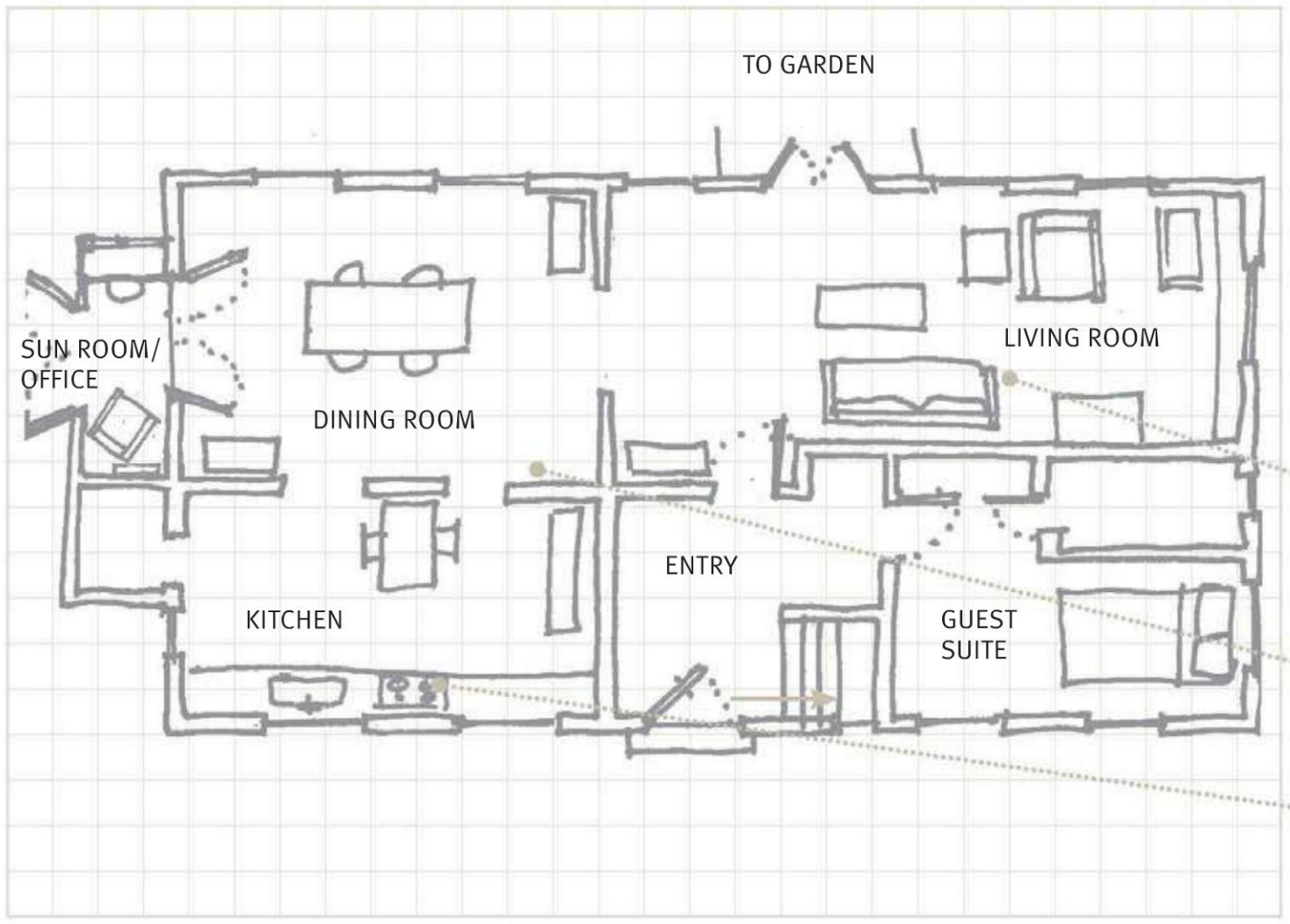
whITE sympho Ny An overall white scheme increases the sense of space in this narrow living room, where the natural light bounces off the glossy floor and pale surfaces. Comfort comes in textured fabrics and plenty of lanterns and candlelight.



‘The furniture has evolved over time,’ says Tine. ‘I like to combine elements of my own Tine K Home collection with one-off pieces sourced from antique shops and junk stores in nearby Odense and elsewhere.’ In the living room the coffee table was bought in Vietnam, while in the dining room the Chinese cupboard came from the Danish boutique Suzanne Varming.

Layering whites on walls, floors and woodwork, then combining them with Tine’s favourite soft neutral colours creates an atmosphere of harmony and laid-back chic. The slightly battered wooden tables tie the scheme together and lend warmth and patina to the clean whites elsewhere in the space.

NEuTRAL coLLEcTIoN *Left* A display cabinet from Vietnam is the perfect showcase for a collection of vintage books and basketware, while the glossy white wooden floor is a sophisticated anchor for pure white walls and a small evergreen tree.



Mixed and matched Far Eastern furniture placed against white and pale upholstery gives a clean-lined simplicity.

White floors throughout enhances the sense of space.

A simple kitchen layout means the rest of the room is given over to display and a small work table.

‘The colours I love to work with are pale grey, blue and lots of white, in many different shades.’

Tine Kjeldsen

NATuRAL dINING East meets West in the dining room, where Tine had her large wooden dining table custom made so as to contrast with the Vietnamese plain wood tables elsewhere in the house. One of the chairs is painted grey for an unexpected touch.

‘To be able to open the terrace doors every day during the spring and summer is fantastic. With three children who love nature, the huge garden is a gift.’

Tine Kjeldsen

‘I have collected cabinets and small tables over a period of time. Many of them come from a small antique shop in Odense that I’m always taking a trip to.’

Tine Kjeldsen

cREATIVE Nook *This page*
A makeshift trestle table fits snugly Into a small sunroom to create a delightful place for painting, working or simply enjoying the view.

quIET coRNER *Opposite*
In the same area a quiet corner is devoted to a cosy chair and a chance for relaxation with a view.

Simple Style Guidelines *Pare down and beautify*

‘Keep it simple – in smaller spaces, you should have a unifying colour scheme, and not too much pattern, otherwise it will make you crazy.’ *Tom Delavan, designer*

1

sImpLIcITy RuLEs
Keeping it simple is one way to maximize a sense of space in a small home. Cutting down on accessories, wall adornment and busy colour or pattern will clear not only the clutter but also the senses.

2

sImpLE coLouRs
Start off by working with a colour palette that includes only two or three core colours and mix and match these across walls, floors, furniture and furnishings.

3

NATuRAL NEuTRALs
Natural materials often fit well in a simple space. Bamboo, wood, leather, cotton and linen all look at home in spaces that take white and off-white as their colour cue.

4

VIsuAL INTEREsT Use materials, textures and details to provide a shot of colour here or layers of texture there to build up a look of only a few elements but a lot of visual interest.

5

sEEk INspIRATIoN
Find great simple ideas by looking at seaside homes in the Hamptons or lakeside cabins in Scandinavia. Paint wood on walls and floors, or seek out furniture in simple shapes or interesting materials.

mATERIAL EFFEcTs Use lampshades to complement materials elsewhere in the room. Here ruched silk lampshades echo perfectly the broken lines of bamboo dining chairs in Tine Kjeldsen’s Danish home.



whITE chINA White-on-white displays never fail to delight the senses and lend a sense of calm to a space. Choose china, paper-covered books, framed photographs or flowers for creating a display.



‘Beautiful materials used simply are luxurious – cotton and linen for crisp coolness, wool for sustainable warmth and comfort. For furniture and furnishings, used in a pared down way stripes can be either contemporary or classic.’ *Roger Oates, designer*

6

dETAILING Use details to echo colours or objects elsewhere in a room. A simple striped cushion may have a couple of large dark wooden buttons as detailing that echo a dark wooden floor or table elsewhere in the room.

7

FuNcTIoN ANd sTyLE Keep an emphasis on function in simple spaces. You won’t need overly complicated window treatments or sofas with curlicued legs. Similarly avoid busy patterned wallpaper or textiles.

8

LIGhTING Simple lighting can work wonders in keeping a space warm but appealing. Include floor-standing lamps next to a sofa, or adjustable ceiling overhead glass pendants above a dining table.

9

FuRNITuRE Create a mix of clean-lined pieces in smart but simple fabrics – cool linens, textured plains or subtle stripes all work in simple settings. You can always jazz up the seating with interesting cushions.

10

sImpLE sTo RAGE Having enough storage is important in simple style. Don’t put too much on display and make sure that clutter lives behind closed doors, in the form of discreet built-in solutions.

chIc BAThRoom White units and dark brown detailing work well against walls that are painted palest grey and a pale stone floor. Experiment with pale neutral tester pots to get your optimum shade.



dEsIGNER dETAIL We love these simple bespoke leather handles as a way of livening up plain and simple bathroom cupboard doors. You could also choose zinc handles or ceramic knobs instead.



Why White Works

White is the favourite colour of many a professional decorator. It always looks clean, bright, calm and allows you endless opportunities for playing with colour, scale and texture.



I In this New York loft white walls and floors allow light to flood in. Black woodwork is echoed in the metal plinths of large planters either side of a Perspex chair. Transparent furniture works well in white spaces and enhances the light that dances in.

‘After experimenting with many colours of paint I always come back to white walls because I like how art looks on a brighter white wall.’

Leslie Shewring, photographer/stylist

2 In kitchens and bathrooms, white tiles are always a good choice. Glossy surfaces help reflect light in darker spaces and always look smart and inviting, particularly against steel fixtures and fittings.

3 Taking an all-white approach to bedrooms allows you to clear your head, both visually and mentally after a busy day, allowing you to focus on simple pleasures and rest.

4 The classic monochrome colour scheme is always pleasing and never dull. Crisp dark lines of picture frames against white walls with dark furniture is an easy look to achieve and comfortable to live with.

5 Strip down reclaimed cupboards and paint them white inside and out to create a beautiful display case. Add shelf detailing or wallpaper panels at the back if you want decorative touches.

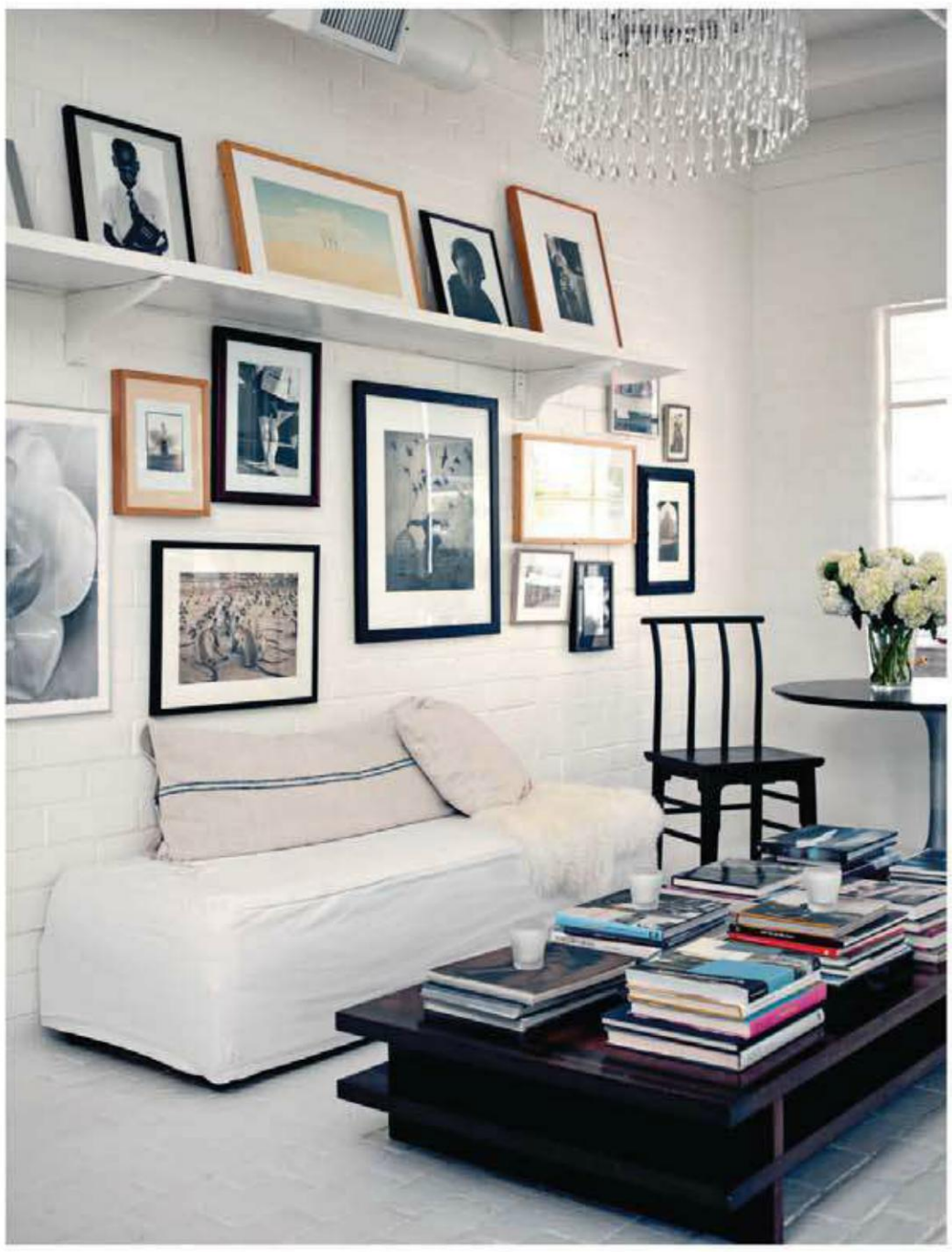
2



3



4



5



case study

NATURAL STYLE

Natural may imply neutral but it certainly doesn't mean bland. This mix of modern and classical design takes its cue from natural, reclaimed and salvaged materials and a fondness for white.

In their Brooklyn brownstone, metalsmith and designer Lyndsay Caleo and sculptor and designer Fitzhugh Karol say 'There is a story behind everything that we have in our house. When we moved in we had no furniture other than a wood bookshelf that Lyndsay had built a few years before. We had access to many large logs though. There was an ice storm one winter and a landscaper we knew had more logs than he knew what to do with. We spent the summer after graduating designing and building our furniture and looking on internet auction sites for everything else . . . like our kitchen sink,' explains Fitzhugh.

'Our palette is primarily white as there is nothing more beautiful or invigorating. It's like waking up every day to a clean slate,' says Lyndsay. The couple first saw the home, built in the late 1800s, when it had rotten floors, fire damage and the horrendous remnants of a late 1970s renovation. Despite this, the house felt just right to them and they set about restoring rooms.

'I would definitely recommend painting floors white, but only if you can relax and appreciate a little wear and tear,' advises Lyndsay. 'The light you get is amazing. We recommend using a hard-wearing non-oil-based deck-floor paint from a marine supply store.'

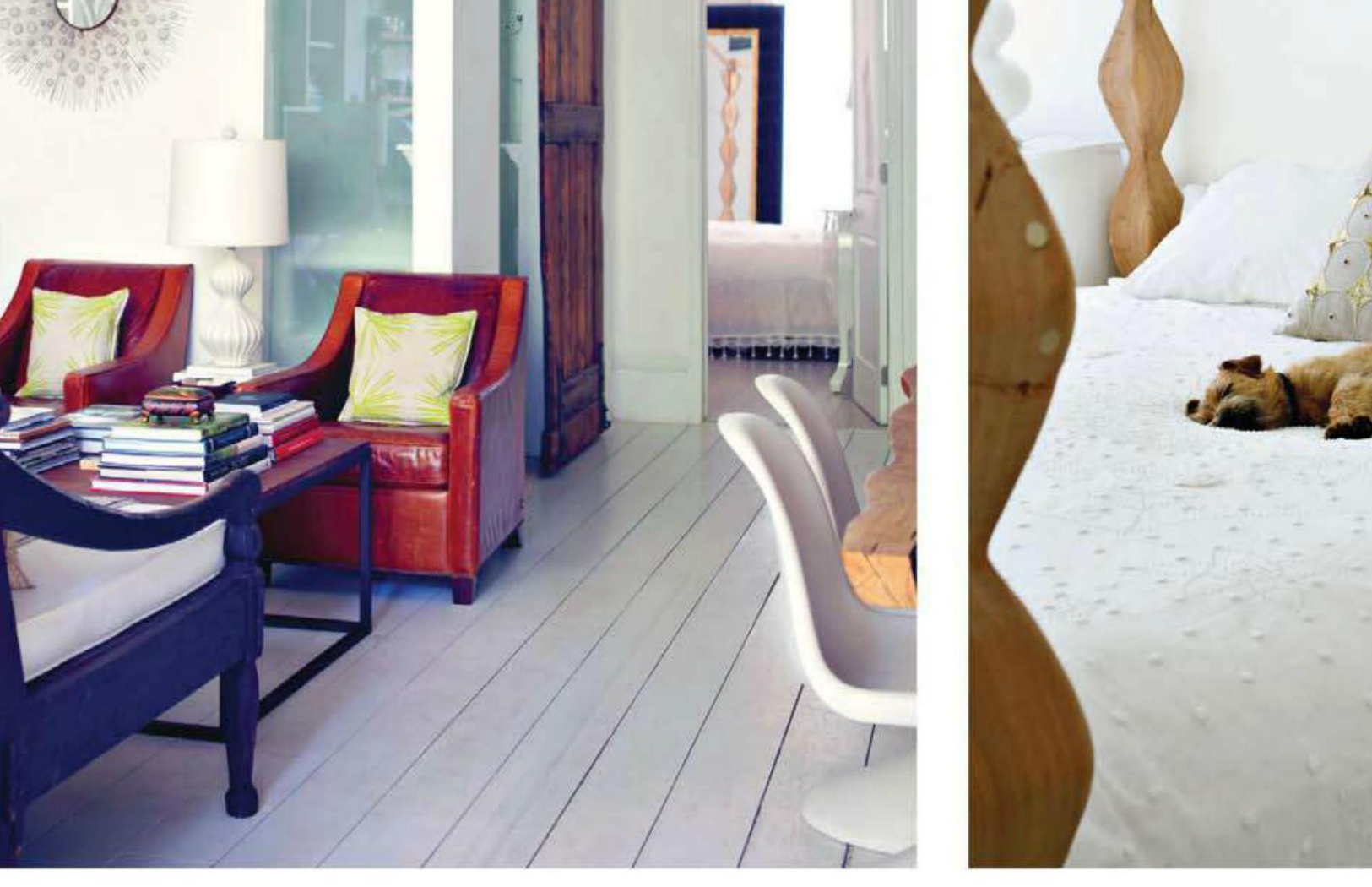
sALVAGEd shELVEs Storm-damaged timber was used to form rough and ready shelves, with metal brackets designed by Lyndsay. Plenty of texture is important in natural decorating.

Eco EThos For a great natural look mix high with low, new modern with handmade and hunt around for great objects and fixtures.

‘Our home is a living sketchbook, full of our design experiments and ideas, and holds our ever-changing displays of books, artwork, furniture and objects that inspire and motivate us.’ *Lyndsay Caleo and Fitzhugh Karol*

wood ANd whITE The ceiling beams were covered up for a hundred years. Now they give the room great texture to counterpoint the neutral colour scheme.

FouR posTER Fitzhugh hand carved wood to form the four-poster in the bedroom.



The salvaged sink was the starting point for the entire decorative scheme.

A table from recycled wood and reclaimed furniture make for a truly sustainable living space.

A hand-carved four poster bed made from reclaimed wood is the key feature in the bedoom.

The kitchen sink was the starting point for the pair's home and they went on to design and make other elements as the space evolved. The barn door on the bathroom was an early acquisition too. 'Rooms and collections evolve and when they do, they look much more natural,' says Lyndsay. 'We like to make every bit of space useful.'

wARm wood
The salvaged barn door that leads to the bathroom reflects the style of the whole house, which has an air of calm but warm simplicity and a close relationship with eco-friendly materials.

‘The best rooms in a home are always evolving. Mix it up and only bring into your home things that you love.’ *Lyndsay Caleo*

Natural Style Guidelines *Reclaim, restore and reconnect*

‘Reuse, repair and recycle! Stop throwing things away and get out of the disposable mindset. Take a leaf out of our grandparents’ books. Get creative with the abandoned, broken and unloved.’ *Atlanta Bartlett, designer*

1

IT’s Good To Go GREEN Introducing a natural take in your home can range from upcycling furniture to choosing environmentally friendly fixtures and fittings and working with eco fabrics.

2

wood, wood, wood The cornerstone of natural inspiration, wood works wonders on floors, furniture, one-off pieces such as tree trunk tables or driftwood sculptures. Teamed with white walls or floors, wood warms a room.

3

INspIRATIoN Stools and benches made from complete tree branches and twigs, witty twig stools and chairs plus bamboo dining chairs and bed frames in clean-lined bamboo are all interesting in a cool, natural space.

4

NATuRAL pALETTE From the vivid lichen greens of a forest backdrop to the white and off-white palette of chalky neutrals and the coastal neutrals of blues, greys and bluff white, the natural palette need not be all brown and white.

5

TEXTuREs ANd LAyERs Texture is important in a natural palette, whether the rich patina of worn wood or the reassuring warmth of wool and linen, or the scrupulous simplicity of Egyptian cotton, calico or scrim.

REcycLEd shELVING Reclaimed wood is ideal for small shelving projects, in the kitchen, living room or bedroom. Even better are bespoke metal or wooden brackets to support your display.



Go GREEN Delightful unbleached cotton cushions with greenery motifs in a soft autumn green colour are the perfect idea for a white sofa dressed with a boiled wool throw.



‘Natural objects are always very welcome in my home. Some people view some of my finds as trash but for me they are treasures. It’s all about changing the lens you use to look at them.’ *Fernanda Bourlot, designer*

6 **FuRNITuRE** Generous sofas, chunky tree-trunk stools and banquettes and carefully streamlined contemporary pieces made from elegant ash or birch all resonate well in a natural space.

7 **REuSE ANd REcLAIm** Keep an eye out for old wooden fruit crates for storing everything from craft supplies to children’s toys, magazines to clothes. Old glass-fronted cupboards are also great for storage and display.

8 **kEEpING IT smART** The William Morris ethos of useful and beautiful chimes well with the natural ethos. Mix high design with low handmade items for a pleasing juxtaposition and strong visual interest.

9 **FLoo RING** Keep walls and floors relatively plain and let the textures do the talking. Painted, stained or stripped wooden flooring is the classic natural solution; other choices include seagrass matting and linoleum.

10 **LIGhTING** The most natural lighting of all is candlelight, so make sure to incorporate some candles, whether large chunky church candles or delicate tea lights placed in metal and glass storm lanterns.

pERSoNAL coLLEcTIoN Lyndsay Caleo and Fitzhugh Karol designed and built not only their storage and display system but also their dining table too. Discreet cupboards hide less aesthetic belongings.



NATuRAL GLAmouR A reclaimed door adds instant warmth to the bathroom where smart retro fittings sit on a warming cork floor, which is both eco-friendly, economical and hardwearing.



Sustainable Living

Reclaiming and reusing materials is as much a matter of necessity as it is of eco-aesthetics, since preserving the earth's natural resources is high on people's personal agendas.

1 Fitzhugh Karol used storm-damaged timber to create a bed frame, a lamp base and a tree-trunk table in his TV room. Timber yards are always happy to sell you offcuts of timber if you want to get creative with wood.

2 Baths can be reclaimed and reconditioned so they are fit for purpose. Sometimes the worn, peeling look becomes part of the ethos. In a converted industrial building, traditional elements echo the age of the building.

3 Ingrid Jansen's delightful stools are made from recycled timber and topped with pretty crocheted wool covers for a look that is both pleasingly handcrafted and eco-conscious.

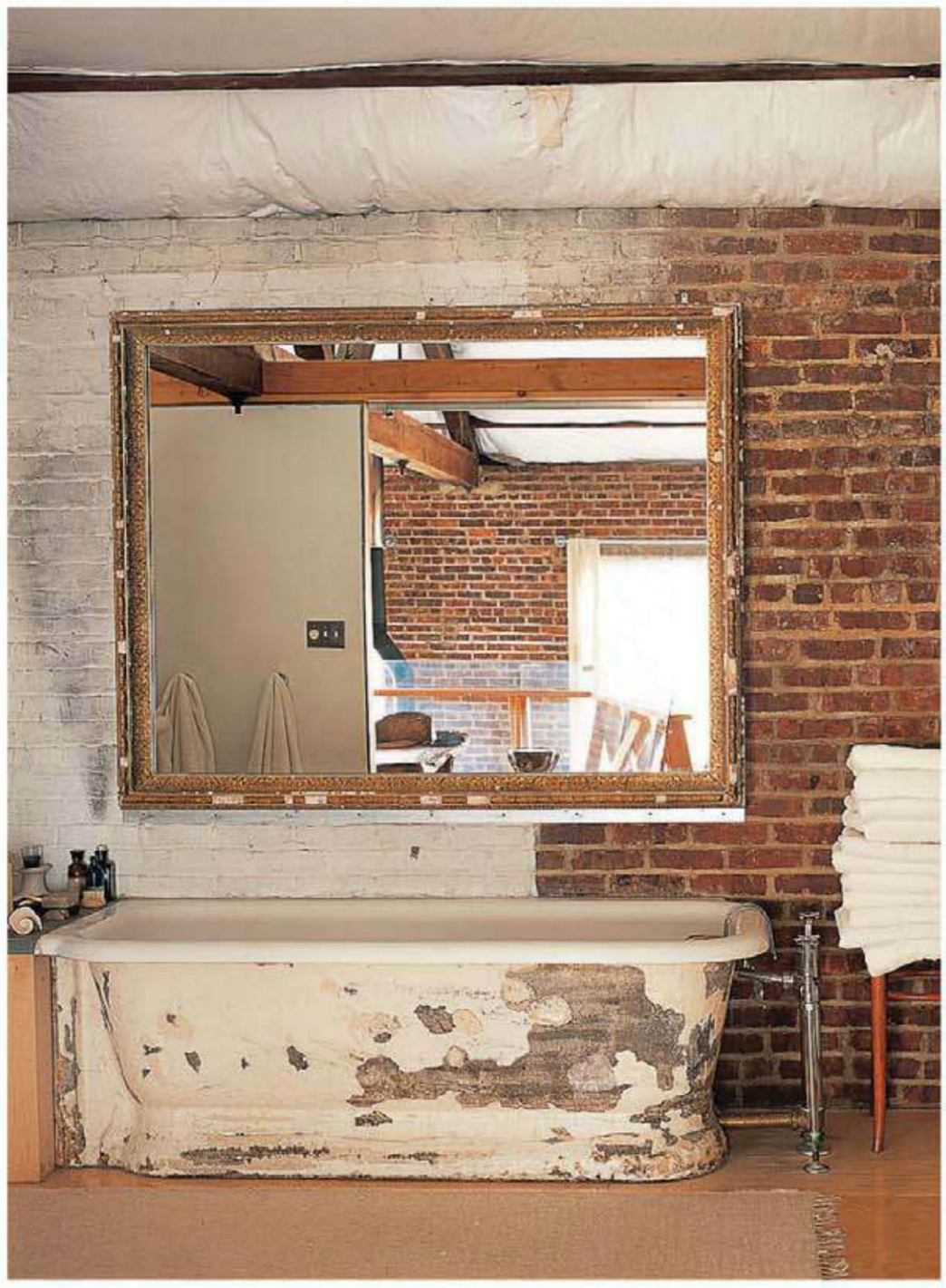
4 In a smart, minimal home, discarded fruit crates are both warming for the space and a fun means of storing craft materials.

5 Vintage and retro storage pieces and furniture always add tons of personality to a space as well as a happy mix of interesting materials.

'I think it's clearly easier than ever before to find eco-friendly furniture and accessories for your home – whether it's bamboo, Forest Stewardship Council approved wood pieces or even just picking up things from a flea market or thrift shop to reuse them.'

Danny Seo, green living expert








COÖP. TUINDERSVEILINGSVER.
AMSTERDAM & OMSTR.
E. VAN NOORD



‘We knocked down the walls on the ground floor to turn three small rooms into a huge kitchen and dining space.’

Virginia Armstrong

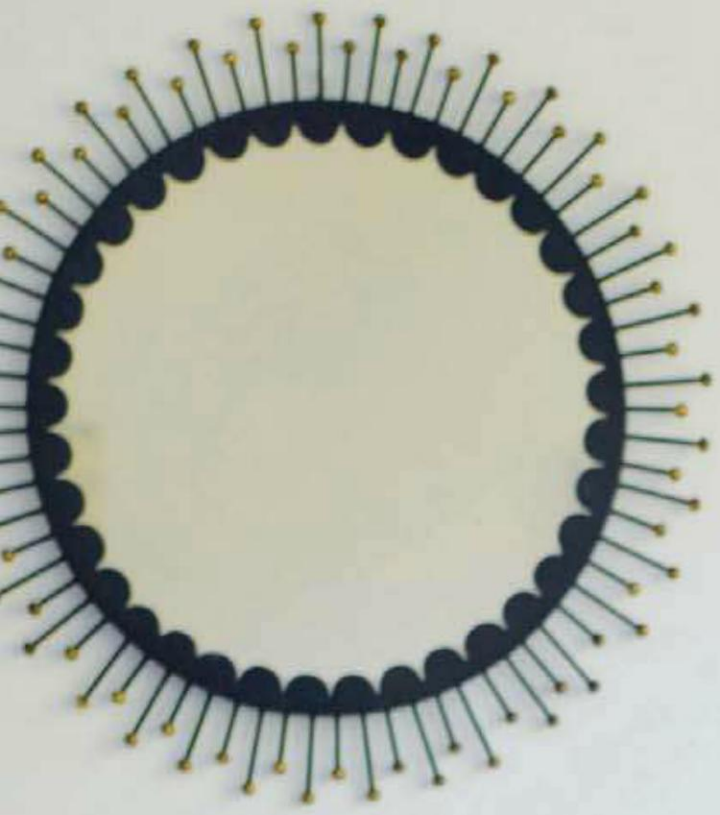
case study

MODERN STYLE

modern style has a lot to do with a clean, uncluttered vibe, a muted sense of colour that is restrained yet sophisticated and fabulous elegant mid-century classic furniture such as Ercol sofas and danish modern circular dining tables. mid-century furniture is universally admired and relatively easy to obtain, either in its original form or as reproduction pieces.

Designer Virginia Armstrong runs textile and print company Roddy & Ginger out of her south-east London base, where she has created a beautiful yet functional family home taking mid-century modern style as the starting point for her decorating ideas. ‘It’s a great family home on five floors and I have the luxury of a basement room that I use as my studio and workshop.’

cLEAN LINEs
Mismatched mid-century classic chairs around a Saarinen Tulip table provide stylish seating at the family dining table. Light, space and a functional kitchen all reflect modern style.



‘I love chairs. Some of my favourite possessions are my vintage chairs. And my Ercol sofa is special because of its lovely elegant shape.’

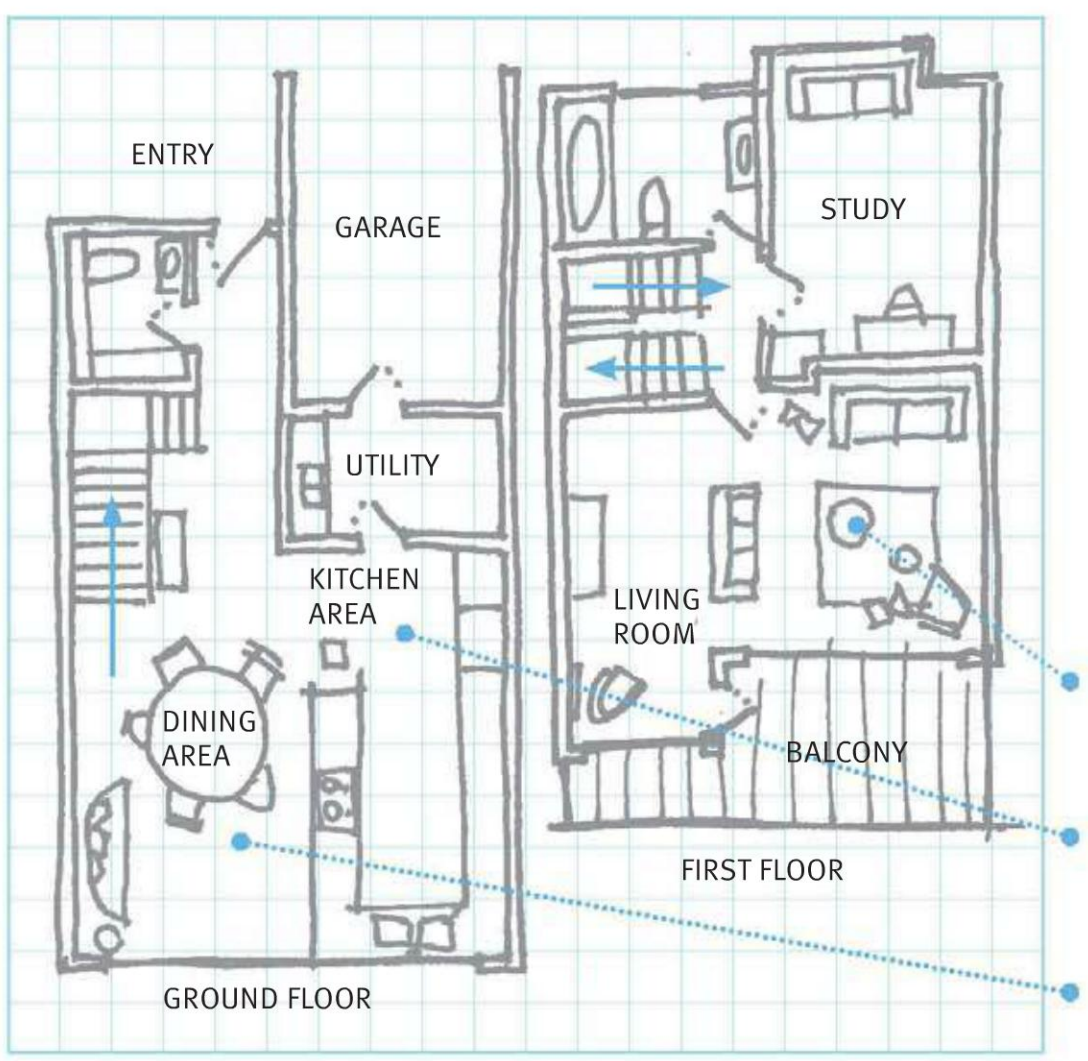
Virginia Armstrong



puRE ANd sImpLE
In a pure white space Virginia Armstrong has created visual interest and harmony by mixing woods with a soft colour palette of turquoise blues and fern.

oN ThE sIdE Several Danish furniture companies, such as France & Son and Vinde Møbelfabrik, produced sideboards such as this in the 1950s and 60s. Sturdily made from teak or rosewood, they are both practical and beautiful.





‘We chose the house because it was large and light, with huge windows and was a very good price,’ says Virginia. ‘Slowly people have come to realize the amazing potential of 1960s suburban homes and their suitability to mid-century modern style. We have set about transforming the house into a modern space using key pieces of mid-century furniture collected over the years. The great thing about this classic furniture is its durability and practicality so for once it is quite easy to assimilate collectable designer furniture into a family home.’

Mid-century furniture needs space around it so the clean-lined aesthetic can be viewed from all angles.

The kitchen is very simply styled and incorporates a room divider/ worktop area so as not to detract from the dining area.

The dining space, with its Eero Saarinen Tulip table and Ercol sofa demands the main visual attention on the ground floor.

Modern Style Guidelines *All that's hip and happening*

'I love modern classic design, its beauty and charisma, which doesn't go out of date. High-quality manufacturing guarantees a long life expectancy too.' *Claudia Nowotny, store owner*

1

chAIRs Some of the classics are now very pricey but get the look by buying some reproduction pieces if necessary. Look out for the key Scandinavian designers and their signature pieces.

2

FuRNITuRE Sturdy sideboards, kidney-shaped occasional tables, single and in nests, and clean-lined rosewood and teak Danish coffee tables are all key elements in any modern style interior.

3

cERAmIcs Make an instant statement by displaying a small tea service or some storage jars from the 1950s–1970s. These can still be found at retro junk stalls and charity or thrift stores.

4

GRAphIc pATTERNs On textiles used for curtain fabrics or upholstery, graphic shapes and motifs in colours such as brown, dusky orange and forest green are all recognizably modern style.

5

scANdINAVIAN INFLuENcE Danish Modern style provided the life force for stylized wood-framed furniture and lighting, and wood was a key material even for smaller items, such as bowls and candle holders.

coo L mIdw INTER Group together a collection of white ceramics from a particular era in the middle part of the last century and enjoy their different shapes, styles and forms.



kEEp IT cLEAN In a modern space, allow materials to do the talking. Simple wooden furniture and a stripped floor and staircase provide a neutral space in which jolts of colour provide the visual interest.



‘Mid-century furniture feels fresh and optimistic. It comes from a period of time when designers were thinking to the future, not the past, and saying how can we do things differently?’ *Amy Butler, designer*

6

LIGhTING There are so many key designs and so many contemporary reproductions to choose from that you can easily lift the look and translate it to any room in the house.

7

FLooRING ANd RuGs Plain wooden floorboards are de rigeur for modern style. Dress the space with bold and colourful graphic rugs to add some warmth and comfort in rooms that are often wood and white in style.

8

GLAss Bold, colourful glass in smoky browns, blues, purples and turquoise are unmistakably modern; from apothecary-style glass vials to 1960s flat glass ashtrays and bulbous vases, build up a display.

9

sTudyING ThE sTyLE Visit 20th-century design museums for inspiration and to view work of the key designers. From Amsterdam and London to Florida and Copenhagen, the ideas will soon flow.

10

chRomE ANd sTEEL Tubular steel is often used on furniture legs and on lights. The classic Arco lamp is made from stainless steel and shiny steel vases will tie in to a wood and chrome scheme.

TImE Fo R TEA Mass-produced 1960s china, with its graphic patterns and simple shapes, is enjoying a revival amid the vintage and retro movement of preserving rather than consuming.





RETRo REAds Vintage books with distinctive dust jackets are delightful objects in their own right, whether used for reading, displaying or as sources of inspiration for decorating.



Mid-Century Classic Furniture

The shapes and forms of mid-century furniture are not only collectors' items and the antiques of the future, but have also inspired new interpretations of classic designs and reissues of the work of several master designers.

1 Amy Butler's cool dining space includes a round table that is reminiscent of Eero Saarinen's classic Tulip table, while a sideboard is home to a collection of vintage glassware.

2 Wirework chairs such as this 1960s classic still look completely contemporary, wherever you choose to put them – kitchen, living room or dining space.

3 The classic Ercol wooden-framed sofa has never gone out of fashion, seldom wears out and is currently being reissued as a design classic.

4 A Saarinen Tulip table original, complete with reupholstered chairs, proves that modern design and a traditional room can live happily together.

5 Poul Kjaerholm's classic Scandinavian modern dining chairs retain their elegance and simplicity at a modern zinc table.









‘A home takes time to grow and become personal. I think this can only be done over years, collecting interesting bits and bobs from holidays, car boot sales and junk shops. Then your character starts to shine through and the house begins to reflect your personality.’

Sania Pell

JuNk mAGIc Old haberdasher’s storage drawers and a reupholstered sofa are set off well with a still-life display of ceramic vases and a vintage industrial clock.

case study

FLEA MARKET STYLE

whether you call it junk, garage sale style or simply 'old stuff', there's no doubt that flea market chic's time is now. while the world has realized that recycling and reusing is not only a virtue but also a necessity for the sake of the planet, the idea of living with second-hand furniture and objects is as fashionable as the latest paris catwalk show.

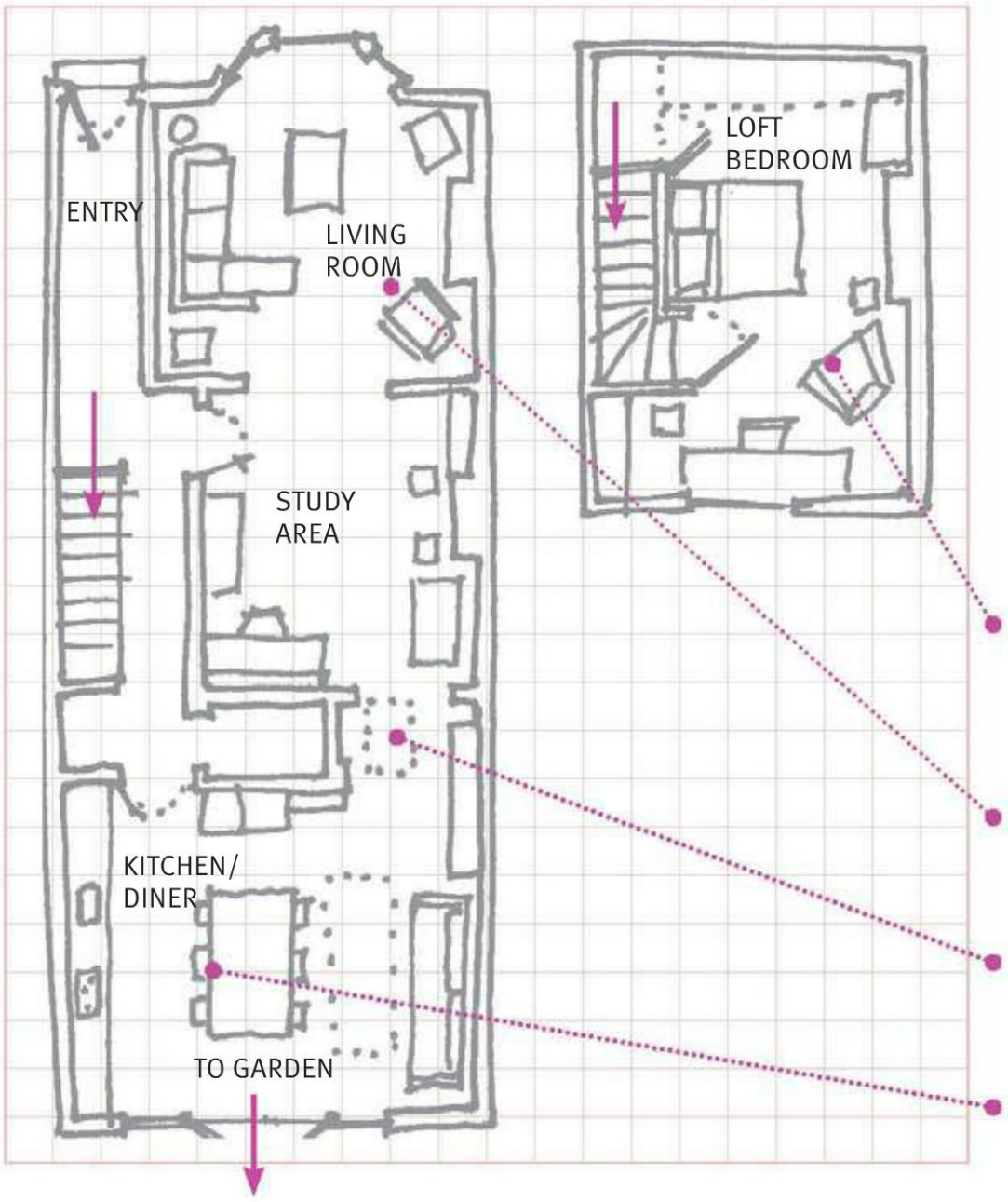
Those in the know can be found in thrift stores and flea markets rather than high-end furniture showrooms, seeking out a 1930s clock or a 1970s tea service, a 1960s wood-framed sofa or a much loved but slightly battered painting to add character and personality to their home.

Sania Pell, stylist and writer, specializes in the handmade object and has spent a long time collecting and displaying interesting utility items in her London home. 'I love anything that is handmade, eclectic, graphic or quirky,' she

ATTIc coNVERsIoN A comfortable armchair has been re-covered with linen and embellished with handcut floral fabric motifs and velvet offcuts.

'I love the history behind things and being part of it.'

Sania Pell



says. ‘When we bought our 100-year-old home it had been unloved so it was up to us to realize its potential and to inject some soul into it. We like to update and transform furniture that has been given to us, or to revamp older pieces in a new way. The 1930s chair in the living room was given to my husband’s grandmother as a wedding present. When she gave it to us it was covered with purple nylon – very 1970s retro. We re-covered it in a grey bouclé and it was instantly transformed into something different and special.’

There are many pieces of furniture, objects and artworks, but it is all family-proof. Nothing is too precious that it requires the children to be especially careful.

Every inch of the house is used; there is no sacred space saved for special occasions only.

The living room is devoted to displays of flea market finds that have a common colour theme with the rest of the room: tan, black or white.

Extending into a side alley and putting in a wall of glass doors doubles the size of the kitchen.

sTILL LIFE Favourite utility objects arranged as a still life lend character and vitality to a home.

‘Some of my favourite possessions are objects made or drawn by other people, especially my 6-year-old son. Others are finds from art degree shows or craft fairs.’

Sania Pell

A hANdmAdE homE Surrounding yourself with handmade items collected over time is a great way of bringing the past up to date.

‘We like collecting old utility items and displaying them, like the antique rulers and surveying staffs, for example, and old cricket scoreboard numbers and signs.’ *Sania Pell*

Flea Market Style Guidelines *Furnish with found objects*

‘I always carry a kind of mental list in my head of things I am looking for as I often find something beautiful when I least expect it.’ *Atlanta Bartlett, designer*

1 **dIspLAy** Flea market finds always look good on display. Highlight them by placing objects on a plain white windowsill or bookcase or meld them into a piece of junk furniture such as pigeon-hole shelving or utility shop fittings.

2 **quIRky sTo RAGE** Find common but discarded objects such as fruit crates and use them for storage, or convert wooden pallets into coffee tables by adding castors underneath.

3 **co LLEc TIo Ns** Spending happy times in flea markets and junk shops often leads to building a collection of items you may never have encountered before. Celebrate the beauty of old fruit box labels or enamel kitchenalia.

4 **upcycLING** Take a piece of retro furniture and either paint or decorate it to make it unique. Change the handles, add tassels instead of draw pulls, resurface a table with mirror or marble or re-upholster a sofa with jute or retro fabric.

5 **TALkING-poINT pIEcEs** Seek out interesting one-off pieces to add drama to your space. It could be a wirework dressmaker’s dummy, a freestanding ceramic animal, a discarded store display item or a garden sculpture.

dEsIGNER kEys Use smaller flea market finds to embellish existing items such as a lampshade. Here vintage keys are ranged around a plain lampshade to give a quirky edging.



BE A cuRATo R Arrange your flea market discoveries in a considered way and have fun with placing furniture and lights close to art on the walls to create the look.



‘I start at the back of a flea market and work my way forward. I like to think everyone else is still browsing the front rows and if I start backwards I might score a great treasure no one has seen yet.’ *Victoria Smith, blogger*

6

LIGhTING You will find examples of great chandeliers, floor and table lamps from the 1930s onwards with which to furnish your space. If you only choose one light make it a chandelier, either frilly or functional.

7

pIcTuREs Arranging a display of framed pictures throws up an infinite number of possibilities for personalizing your space. Paint the frames one colour and fill them with faded landscapes or stylized flower paintings.

8

SOuRcING Say the words flea market and instantly the Sunday morning markets of Paris spring to mind. The fact is there are now flea markets everywhere. Take time to visit a few and you will quickly establish a network of favourites.

9

mIXING ANd mATchING The great mantra of mixing old and new to create something personal is particularly pertinent to flea market style. Revel in mixing up the eras and playing with colours and materials.

10

uSING INSTINcT If your eye fixes on a battered cabinet across a crowded junk shop floor then you’ll find it hard to go home without it. Trust your instinct and buy only items that you are really attracted to from the start.

JEwELLERy STORE A pair of discarded jewellery store display hands make a great feature on a chunky shelf, especially when put to their original purpose as jewellery stands.



cuSTOmIZEd dISpLAy Shop-bought storage cubes have been decorated with flea market stickers and graphics and a noticeboard created to match for a workstation. Economic but stylish.



Flea Market Finds

Decorating with flea market finds often means finding a single item that sparks your imagination in different directions. It may be fabric, furniture, mirrors or even vintage clothing that set you off.

I In Emily Chalmers' industrial loft, the mid-century furniture and vintage textiles combine to create a welcoming, quirky space.

2 Retro mirrors in a tiny kitchen create a vintage feel that is smart rather than strictly nostalgic.

3 Gather together a collection of vases and vessels from the same decorative period but in different colours for a bright display. Fill them with twigs and dried flowers in winter and vivid flowers in summer.

4 A metal shelving unit is filled with functional but decorative items to make a great wall display. Oriental food packets, brightly coloured condiment bottles and tableware all bring colour.

5 Enamel advertising signs bring an instant sense of flea market style to a space. Search out ones that complement other furniture finds you have in the room.








Hero
Perl
Vloeibaar Fruit

case study

COLOURFUL STYLE

decorating with colour is one of the most personal styles of decorating you can undertake. One person's favourite vivid turquoise or sugar plum pink can be another's idea of excess in the taste department, while a pale neutral palette beloved of many professional decorators may seem like a bland compromise to those who love bolds and brights. The important thing is to take a good look around you, in magazines, at homes you love and while out shopping, to get an idea of what colours you are instantly attracted to.

Colour means everything to Alayne Patrick, owner of the fashion and home interiors store, Layla, in Brooklyn. She describes her Brooklyn home as small but efficient, but with the unusual and enviable bonus of an outdoor space, where she has created a bright, cheerful seating area that brings a touch of Asian influence to the city.

‘Don’t be afraid of colour and mix prints up to create impact.’ *Alayne Patrick*

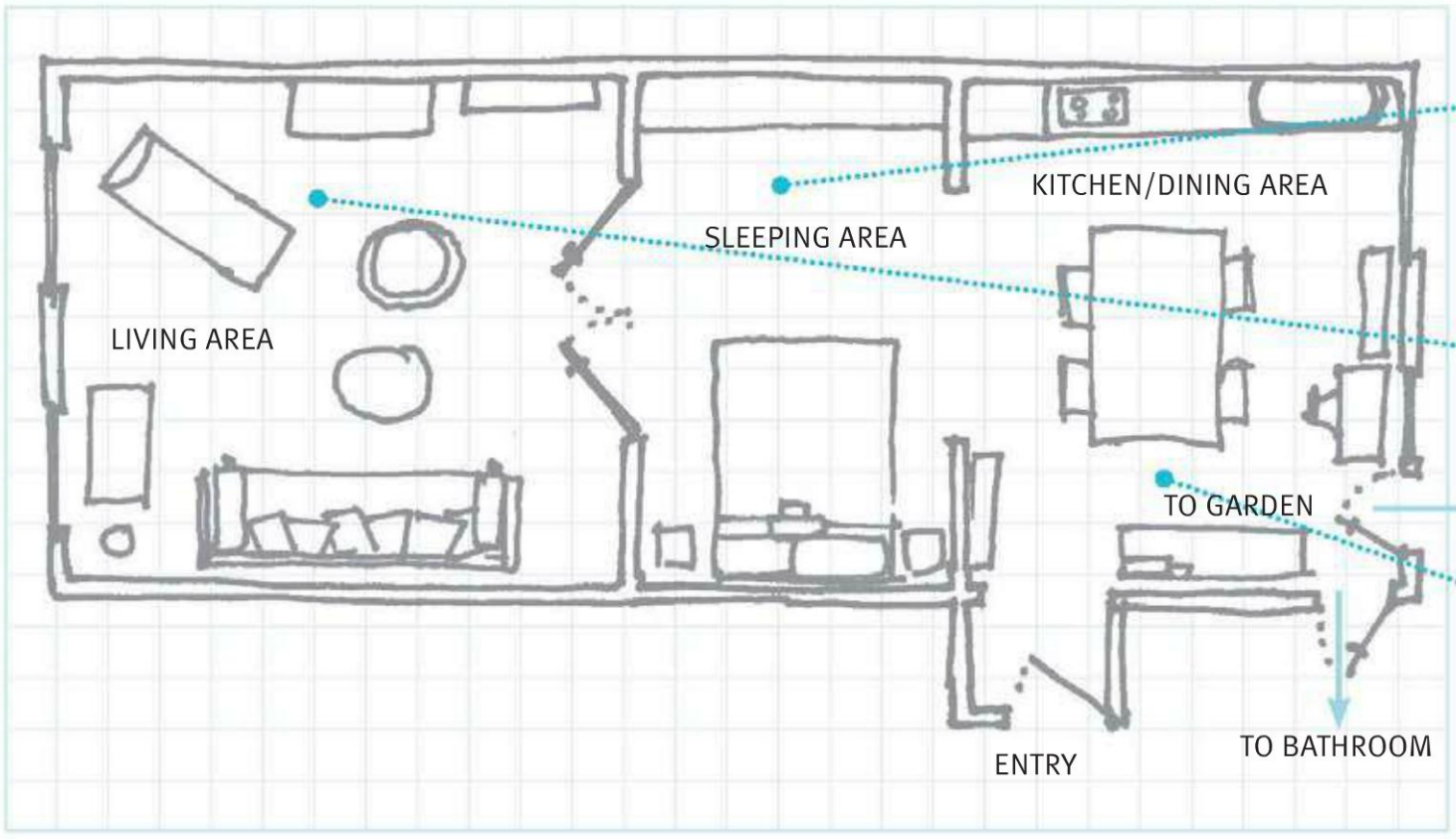
AsIAN cooL Vibrant fuchsia fabrics on cushions and rugs provide a sharp contrast to rich verdant greens and sunny yellows elsewhere in this colourful living room.

GLoBAL chIc A vintage iron bedstead is decorated with Asian embroidered and hand-blocked cushions and pillows and other ethnic fabrics, while the art on the walls is whimsical and feminine.

‘I am inspired by anything Asian, Indian and colourful that is handmade and good quality, whether it’s old or new,’ says Alayne, who has managed to inject strong flourishes of colour into her home by the clever use of textiles. ‘My sofa was the first piece of furniture I bought when I came to live in New York. I found it in a vintage furniture store and it’s been completely refurbished since. Some furniture I have had custom-made to fit the apartment because of its limited dimensions.

‘In the bedroom I used thick black tape on the walls as a border to define the sleep space. This is something I’ve seen a lot in India, where of course it is usually handpainted, but I’ve always wanted to use this device in my own home.’ It provides graphic definition in the white space, rather like a dado rail would.

‘I would love to have a bigger, separate bedroom but the space constraints at least make me tidy. However, I dream of more closets, especially a walk-in one to store my clothing, fabrics and linens.’



The entire space is only 46m² (495ft²) and consists of three connecting square rooms – a kitchen, bedroom/bathroom and a living room.

Mix up colours and patterns but keep furniture to the minimum.

Comfortable seating in every room, including the outdoor space, creates a cosy vibe.

‘The kitchen was the first room I tackled, ripping everything out, then fitting open shelving throughout.’ *Alayne Patrick*

coLouRFuL dINING
Ethnic fabrics are used to brighten up the neat kitchen/diner and instil colour into the neutral space.

‘Among my favourite possessions are my embroidered dowry pillows from the Swat region of Pakistan.’ *Alayne Patrick*

BEspokE dAy BEd It’s a good idea to consider having pieces of furniture custom-made when space is tight.

ouTdooR LIVING The outdoor space is as big again as the apartment, so throw rugs layered on the concrete surface warm up the area, making it an inviting extension of the apartment.

‘It was the garden and the kitchen that first attracted me to this place. I’ve made the garden into an outdoor room so that the living space can spill outside when the weather is good.’ *Alayne Patrick*

Colourful Style Guidelines *Embolden your home*

‘Bold, blingy and fabulous: nothing changes the personality of a space like colour. It seduces, thrills and surprises and adds high voltage energy to any room. Overdose on it I say!’ *Abigail Ahern, designer*

1

choosING A pALETTE Work with colours you love and you will always be pleased with the end result. Don’t be afraid to experiment too, though. Look at colour combinations you respond to.

2

BLANkET coVERAGE You may want to drench a room in a particular shade to create drama and impact. From sugar plum pink to electric blue, rooms that shout colour can be fun to create.

3

coLouRFuL wALLs Painting a single wall is a good way to go if you want to try out a new colour to see whether you can live with it. A wall painted up to dado height in a vivid colour with white above it is a way to live with some colour.

4

ALL IN ThE dETAIL Introducing colour via details that can switch around is both versatile and creative. Look at what you have and how you mix and match items to create a colour story.

5

LIGhTING Use either lampshades or colourful light bulbs in wall uplighters to inject colour into your surroundings at night. Coloured glass chandeliers will also throw off different tones and textures of light.

dELIcATE chINA Ceramics decorated with motifs of burnt orange, faded yellow and soft pinks and plums echo colours used elsewhere in Alayne Patrick’s textile-inspired Brooklyn home.



pATTERN ANd TEXTuRE Layering cushions and textiles on beds and sofas is a great way to decorate a space, especially if walls and floors are plain. Mix textured fabrics with florals and embroidered surfaces.



‘I have always had a fascination with colour. I truly love all colours. For me, it is more about the intensity of a colour, rather than the hue itself. A monochromatic room can evoke harmony while a room full of brilliant hues can be energizing.’ *Kelly Wearstler, designer*

6

FLooRs Painted floors can be just as dramatic as painted walls. Colourful tones can be enhanced and emboldened by the addition of crisp, bright rugs or even painted stripes.

7

TEXTILEs The perfect way to both soften and decorate a room is by using textiles on upholstery, at the windows or as tablecloths. Layer patterns, textures and colours to create a huge range of styles.

8

FLowERs Use flowers to either create colour, complement an existing scheme or start a bold colour clash in a room. Use a variety of vases in differing heights and styles in which to introduce the colour.

9

FuRNITuRE Treat your furniture to a colour makeover, whether by changing the upholstery or painting it to blend in with your scheme. It can be the central colour focus of the room or else a backdrop to colourful walls and floors.

10

spLAshEs oF coLouR Add a dash of colour by using a bright shade on a tablelamp, painting behind dresser shelves or painting the panels of a door. Tableware is capable of shifting the colour balance, as are bold artworks.

FLowER mAGIc Combine complementary colours such as green and red to create a lively palette that is bright and welcoming. These fuchsia pink and emerald green cushions make a bold statement.



EVERydAy TEXTILEs Bring colour to your everyday chores by using tea cloths and towels that are brimming with vibrant tones. They will make you smile and add welcome colour to a kitchen or dining area.



Introducing Colour *Brightening your home*



colour confidence

Floors anchor a space so think about whether you want them to recede or intervene in a room by painting them white, keeping them dark or carpeting them in a rich colour.

Create a feature in a white space by painting a wall in a bold colour such as red, blue or orange.

Choose colours that suit your space. White will always enlarge a space. Red is an advancing colour, so will make a small room feel cosy and disguise its size.

Collections of similar-coloured objects will provide visual punctuation in a space. Consider artworks, textiles, ceramics, glass, vases, sculptures, vintage hats, books and suitcases.

Introduce seasonal colour by having a spare set of loose covers for your sofas and chairs. Try white or neutral for summer, and rich reds or browns for winter perhaps.

Wallpaper is a great way of providing colour in a room, either on one feature wall or throughout the room.

Look at accent colours – introduce them incidentally on flowers, lampshades, rugs or soft furnishings.

FLoRAL FANcy *Left* In a Belgian living space one wall is given over to a spriggy floral wallpaper to create a feature wall, further accented by cushions on an all-white sofa.

BRIGhT AccENTs *Opposite* Charlotte Hedeman Gueniau's Danish home has plenty of colour that is provided on movable objects – lampshades, tableware and cushions – so changes can be introduced daily if the mood takes her.

‘The more I decorate the more I learn about introducing a complementary colour somewhere, such as throwing a turquoise pillow in an orange room. Always test many colours in every single part of the room.’ *Ruthie Sommers, designer*

Colourful Furniture

Painted furniture will enliven your room and decorate your space with a minimum of disruption or expense.

‘At home I have painted some old vintage wooden dining chairs with neon pink paint. The colour actually makes me feel happy!’ *Selina Lake, stylist*





I Painting an old cabinet in a vivid colour makes for an uplifting colour statement. Bright paint will also disguise any imperfections on furniture that has seen smarter days.

2 In kitchens, consider using colourful appliances in your scheme. A summery pink and blue scheme is achieved here by the use of only two items.

3 Make a big colour statement by using strong colour on both walls and furniture. Here a shocking pink cupboard is a cheerful complement to a bright turquoise blue wall.

4 On the subtle end of the spectrum, duck-egg blue and other neutral-based colours work well on furniture in a traditional setting, creating a quiet and sophisticated palette.

5 Apple green is a joyful colour that works well in white and off-white spaces. Combine it with red curtains for a warming scheme.

2



3



4



5



Colourful Textiles

Dotting colourful textiles throughout a home is a delightful way of injecting life, decoration and a little joyfulness into a space, with florals, stripes, checks or knitted or embroidered pieces.

1 This bedroom mixes complementary blue and orange in a variety of patterns and textures to create impact. An orange mohair throw is the icing on the cake.

2 In a tribute to ethnic eco, a variety of colourful handmade textiles on pegs provide a colourful, globetrotting tableau.

3 Mix and match colours in a similar spectrum for a cohesive effect. Here fuchsia, purple and deepest navy work well with cool greys and whites elsewhere in the bedroom.

4 Patchwork on curtains or upholstery is always pleasing on the eye. Theme the patches by subject, such as florals, stripes or geometrics or by fabrics, such as cotton ticking or linens.

5 Stripes and florals often work well together, especially when some colours are repeated from one to the other.

6 Place embroidered fabrics on top of bold colours so that each of the elements make a crisp visual statement, making sure that the embroidery includes some of the bold colours.

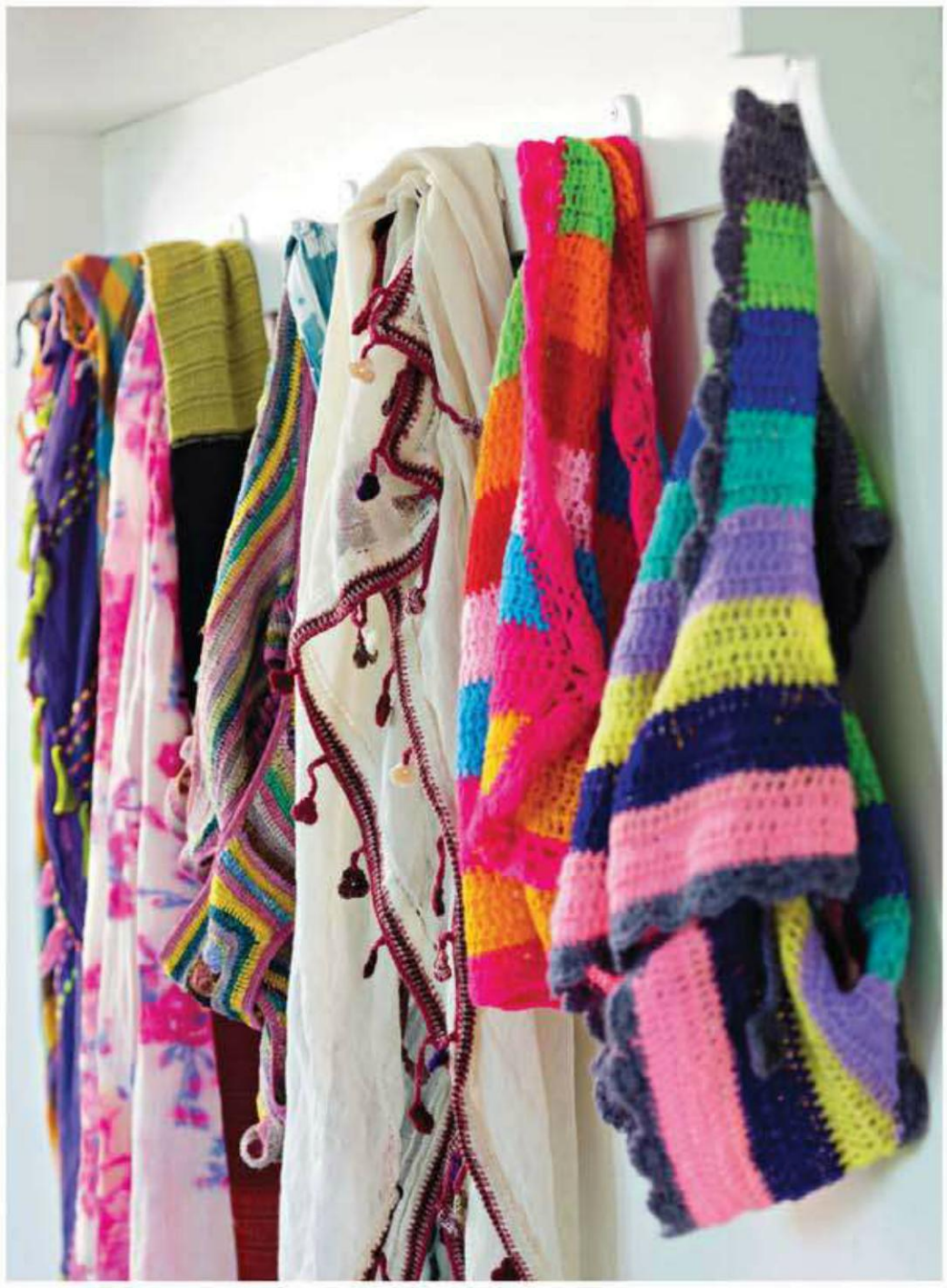
‘Textiles are the quickest and easiest way to bring style, colour, pattern and texture into a room. Whatever your taste, snuggly throws, cheerful crochet, fabulous fabrics, cosy quilts and squishy cushions are all a gift to the home decorator.’ *Jane Brocket, author*

1



4











Wallpaper

Using wallpaper to decorate a space has never been more fun to do because there are so many designs and styles to choose from.

1 Make a feminine statement in the bedroom by using delicate floral wallpaper that is as subtle as it is pretty. The wallpaper makes the space but the bed dressing is in keeping with it.

2 This iconic Cole & Son treescape design shows how wallpaper can become the defining feature of a room. It is both decoration and statement rolled into one.

3 Floral papers are enjoying a timely revival and always add warmth and comfort, even if only used on a single wall. This pattern was originally designed by Josef Frank in the 1940s.

4 In a small room, disguise the limited space by applying two different wallpapers to adjacent walls. These Liberty prints are both pretty and stylish.

5 Let the wallpaper do the talking and range it over walls and ceilings to give the impression of a tented space; the effect is bold but beautiful.

6 Classic toile de Jouy designs are always appealing on bedroom walls, giving off a rural vibe, whatever the location of the space.

‘Great wallpaper prints give personality in much the same way great paint colours do. It’s fashion really. Sometimes you want a solid-coloured skirt, sometimes you go for the beautiful print.’ *Amy Butler, designer*

1



4












Miele

case study

FLORAL STYLE

Decorating using floral motifs isn't always about colour but it can be a great excuse to go bold. Whether it's walls, textiles or ceramics, there are endless variations on the floral theme, from breezy blooms on wallpaper and fabrics to stylized Japanese-inspired blossoms on delicate porcelain china and furniture. Two-tone flowers make quite a subtle statement, while one corner of a room decorated with a floral decal or handpainted with small flowers is a quieter way of going floral.

Charlotte Hedeman Gueniau runs the innovative home furnishings campany, Rice, in Odense, Denmark. When not busy launching new collections or travelling the world gathering inspiration, she likes to spend time with her family in their 19th-century house in Kerteminde, on the island of Fyn, in Denmark.

'It's a great place for indulging my love of bold, zingy colours and florals. I am always at one with the happy colours of pink, green, petrol and yellow. For me grey, beige and black are not even considered a colour. I often let my paintings inspire the colour scheme for a room. In the Fyn house we were attracted by the big space, the good natural light and the generously proportioned rooms. There's also a great view and we're surrounded by beautiful landscape,' explains Charlotte.

'Sometimes colour accidents happen. We had a happy misunderstanding in the TV room. Our painter had applied a bright coral colour on one wall but I meant for him to paint over a petrol-coloured wall elsewhere in the room. In fact, when

FLowER powER *Opposite* Raspberry pink gloss units look almost understated against a wall of glorious blousy pink rose wallpaper that brings instant cheer to the kitchen.

'My space is all about fun, function and colours.' *Charlotte Hedeman Gueniau*

coLouRFuL chINA *This page* Open shelves display a vibrant mix of floral cups and saucers, a vintage tea set and acid bright melamine cups.





I saw the two colours together they really worked. I couldn't stop laughing, but it actually looked great, so we kept it.'

Floral motifs occur throughout several rooms in the house. In the hallway a bright folk-art style motif is used on the wallpaper, while the kitchen is resplendent in bouffant pink roses against a dark background. Rugs and runners all repeat the pink-on-pink floral theme in the kitchen and family room.

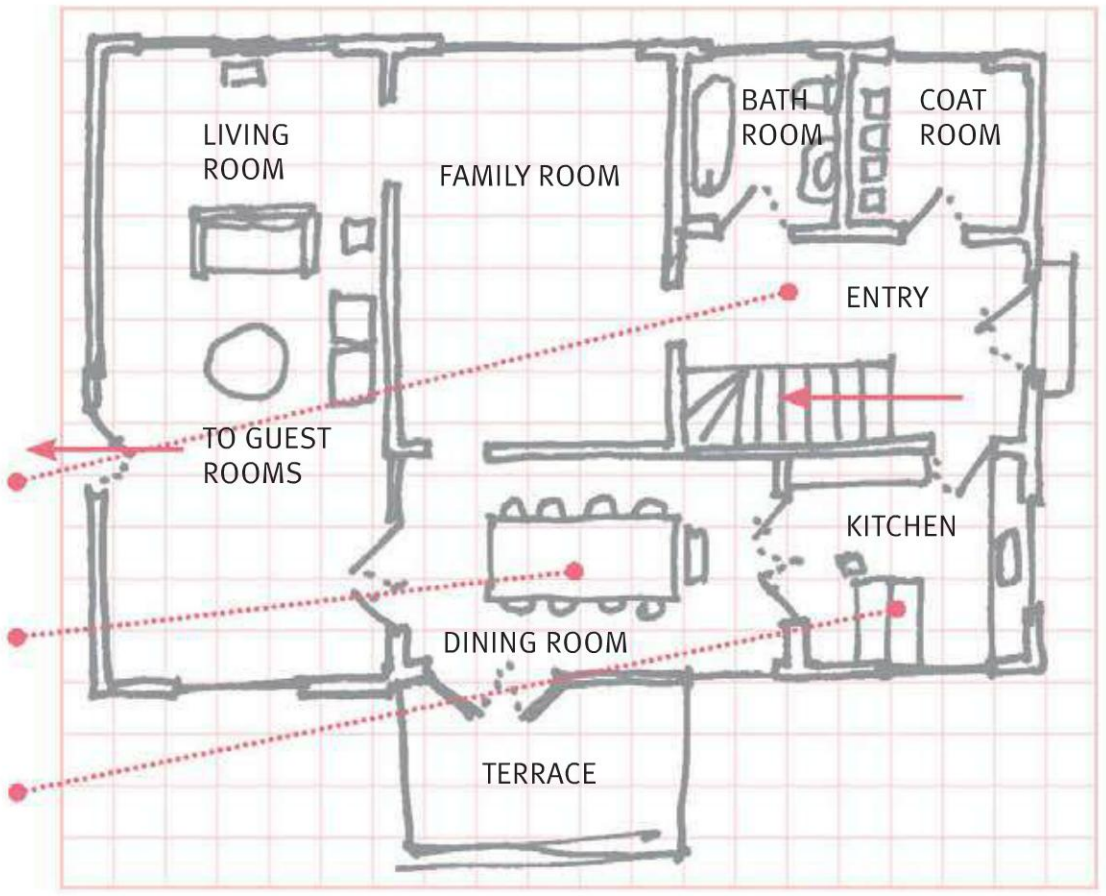
In the dining room flowers are present on different floral vases and containers, while real flowers have a permanent place at the table. Flowers also adorn lampshades, crocheted pan holders, tinware and display ceramics in the kitchen, and the guest room has subtle floral wallpaper and cushions in more muted colours. 'I love mixing together old and new colourful items, combining Royal Danish porcelain, for example, with contemporary melamine tableware,' says Charlotte.

'My favourite colour changes often. My daughter often asks me what is your favourite colour this week?' *Charlotte Hedeman Gueniau*

Floors are wooden and neutral so the floral wallpapers and rugs can take centre stage.

A generous dining table includes cushions and napkins in floral designs, as well as real flowers.

Painted furniture in complementary colours picks up on the the pink roses in the kitchen.



LookING Rosy
This page
Powerful floral wallpaper applied to the wall behind the sink and dishwasher is unexpected and delightfully bold, creating a joyous vibe in a room where flowers are never far from the surface.

pINk FIZZ
Opposite left
Floral fizzy pink wallpaper is a bold backdrop in the hallway, where painted wooden stools and crocheted cushions provide vivid complementary colours to the electric pink.

RosEs ANd LImE *Opposite right* Papering only one wall in the kitchen leaves the rest of the space dedicated to displaying objects, china and lights in a vast array of bold and cheerful colours that dance against the vivid wall.

Floral Style Guidelines *Let flowers flourish in your space*

‘If you have a lot of patterns, try to keep your palette simple. Too many prints are difficult to work with, if you also use different colours. It would be best to play with variations of the same colour.’

Madeline Weinrib, designer

1

INspIREd By FLowERs Take to the garden and look at the flowers you respond to the most. Shapes, form and colour will lead you towards what you love in decorating too.

2

pApER ThE wALLs Wallpapers come in a variety of styles, from Art Deco cherry blossom designs that are as pretty as they are subtle, to glorious Technicolor mopheads and traditional country-style floral sprigs.

3

FuRNITuRE Try adding floral still lifes or motifs to the panels of a cupboard, or apply a delicate blossom or leaf motif to the sides or fronts of chests of drawers or chairs to personalize and stylize your own furniture.

4

FLoRAL FABRIcs Pretty floral fabrics can be found from department stores to flea markets. Use them in unexpected places for a sense of surprise – on a mid-century chair or even to cover a padded door.

5

dEcoRATEd chINA From Victorian era tea services to delicate Far Eastern porcelain tableware or 1960s graphic blooms, flowers are everywhere on china. Set the table with a plain white cloth and go floral with the place settings.

pATchwoRk pouFFE Stripes, checks, florals and plains all combine on this buttoned pouffe to provide colourful casual seating in Charlotte Hedeman Gueniau’s home. Make your own version using fabric offcuts.



FLoRAL TRIBuTE Painted flower panels on an oriental cupboard bring eastern exoticism to a Danish home. The cupboard provides decoration enough, when combined with a vase of flowers and a small painting.



‘One thing to keep in mind is if you use a ton of bold patterns throughout your home, try to minimize clutter as the look can easily become a sensory overload. Pattern on pattern tends to work best in organized and chic spaces.’ *Michelle Adams, designer*

6

hANdmAdE FLowERs Get knitting or crocheting plate holders, placemats and plant pot covers using floral designs. Better still, create your own single flowers and use these as decoration.

7

hEIRLoom quILTs Use vintage fabric or scraps of inherited floral fabric curtains to create quilts and throws that have personal meaning.

8

REAL FLowERs Use a variety of vintage vases in different colours and sizes. Pick wildflowers from the garden or make a bold graphic statement with a single bloom such as a camellia, hydrangea or sunflower.

9

FAkE FLowERs For year-round colour, keep a store of faux flowers that you bring out when the season is right. Combine some small orchids with a few larger blooms to be used as an informal arrangement on a windowsill.

10

AccEssoRIEs Lampshades can be covered with floral fabrics or plain ones embellished with 3D blooms. Add floral shaped door handles to chests of drawers. Or add a ceramic flower to the end of a light pull.

FLoRAL cuIsINE Have fun in the kitchen by collecting crocheted and embroidered pan coolers and display them with zingy tea towels. Flowers work well as a motif on all surfaces.



BoLd spRIGs On a patchwork quilt, combine tiny spriggy florals with checks, stripes and a wide range of bold colours for a strong statement in a brightly coloured room.



Using Floral Fabrics

Whether on traditional curtains or contemporary upholstery, comfortable bedding or delicate cushions, floral fabrics are timeless and elegant.

1 Floral fabrics in unexpected places, such as these cushions on a mid-century armchair, make an unusual statement. Meanwhile a crocheted floral throw is a good way of continuing a floral theme in a subtle way.

2 Christina Strutt of Cabbages & Roses uses faded floral fabrics in delicate shades of buttercream and pale rose on many different surfaces including walls, curtains, throws and outdoor awnings.

3 Yvonne Eijkenduijn's Belgian living room comes with its own floral tribute and a sense of comfort, showing how white combines well with pink and red florals.

4 Vivid apple green provides a strong counterpoint to a combination of florals in this snug rustic bedroom belonging to Dutch designer Floriene Bosch.

5 In a modern take on traditional floral fabrics, classic chairs have been reupholstered in contemporary toile de Jouy designs and placed against a bold blue wall with flower paintings both old and new.

'Traditional floral fabrics have enduring appeal; the older and more faded they get the better. Buying fabrics for the home is a huge investment so it is important to use the most beautiful you can afford.'

Christina Strutt, designer




beautiful conifers of canada





dINING sTyLE Mid-century occasional chairs mingle with a swinging sixties dining table and upholstered chairs and a swirling blue bespoke rug in a dining room that offers comfort and welcome, and where the architectural merits of the space do not get lost in the mix.

‘Jonny is the visionary behind the look of our groovy pad. When I come home I am happy to be surrounded by his colourful vision. It makes me smile.’

Simon Doonan

‘The best rooms in a home are always comfy and optimistic.’

Jonathan Adler

case study

ECLECTIC STYLE

Eclectic Style is all about mixing and matching, breaking rigid style rules and playing with colour to create something that is totally unique and inspiring.

Jonathan Adler, potter and interior designer, and Simon Doonan, writer and Creative Director of Barneys New York, have created an apartment in New York City that fits perfectly with their life. It is clear they had a ball creating their space. It has a vibrant luxury about it. Adler believes that a home should be all about beautiful, unimpeachable chic and full of gorgeous and well-designed objects.

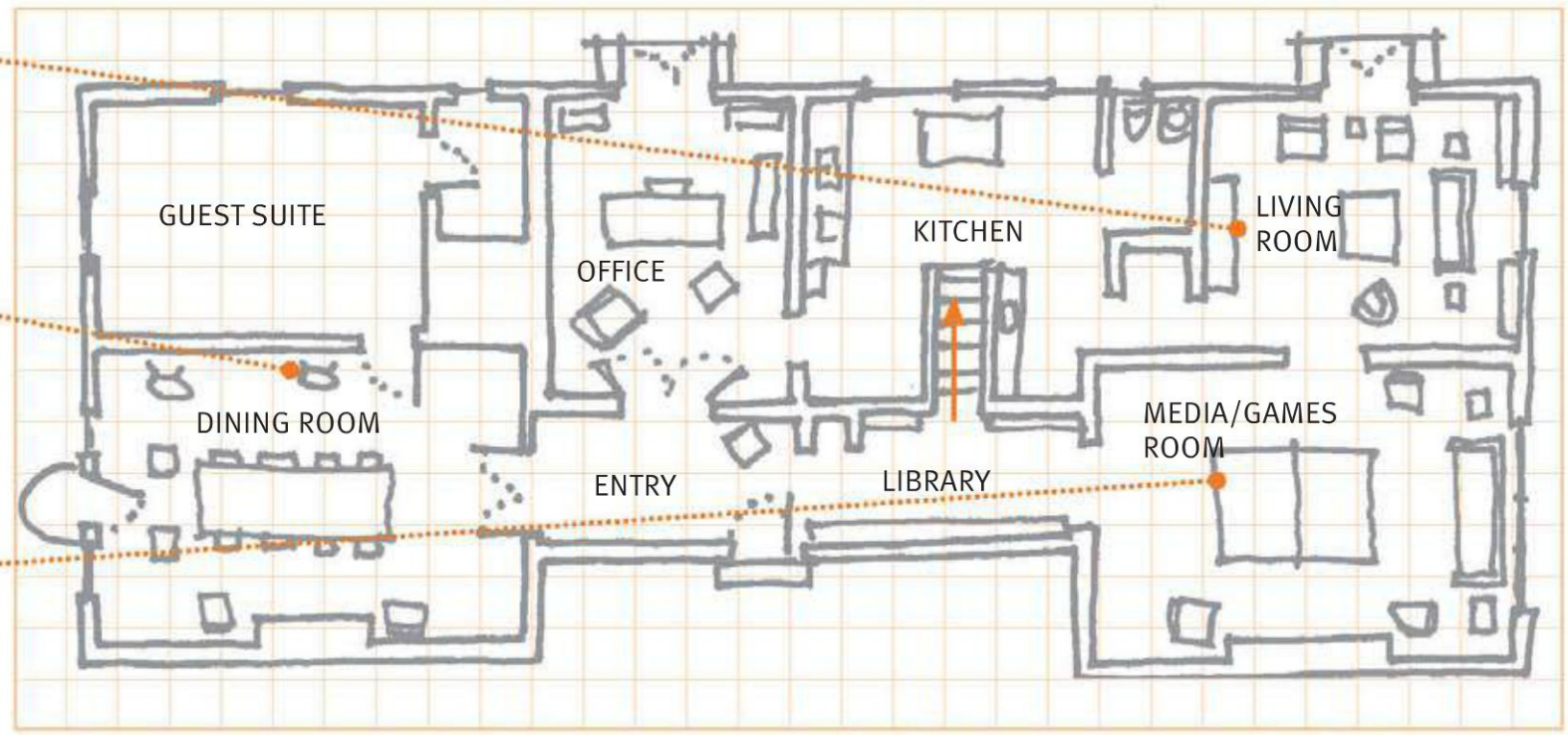
In combining graphic patterns and bold colours, Adler and Doonan’s cheerful apartment follows no set colour rules. ‘We wanted to create a dreamy space so we painted everything – floors, ceilings and walls – bright white. Then we layered in lots of bold and colourful bits with wild abandon,’ says Adler. ‘We are very lucky to live in a large Manhattan apartment and find that we use every square inch. We bought a first apartment 14 years ago and the adjacent one six years ago.

hAppy chIc A symphony of bold colour, warm textures and lots of tempering white walls, the Adler–Doonan living room provides an inviting mix of mid-century furniture, vintage finds and contemporary ceramics. This is eclectic style at its very best.

Large, bold rugs anchor the space in both living rooms.

Use mantels to display colourful collections of china or glass.

One living room was converted into a big dining room, the other became a comfortable seating space and a ping-pong room combined.



When we combined the apartments we struggled with what to do with the other living room. For a while we made it kind of formal and we never, ever used it and it was kinda' sad, just staring at us unused. That's when I decided to get rid of all the furniture and put a ping-pong table in the middle of the room and now we use it constantly.' Simon's most recent book was called *Eccentric Glamour* and that perfectly describes what he is looking for in interior and product design. 'I hate it when a house feels snobbish and designed to impress rather than be welcoming. So I strive to create stuff that is beautiful but has a dose of welcoming levity. The most successful aspect of our own personal design ethos is that it is a true reflection of who we are and it makes us happy every day. We like to call it happy chic.'

hAppy FAcEs Witty ceramic objects and vases create a a still-life ensemble that will always elicit a positive response in any room.

'My favourite quote of all time is: Less is a bore.'

Jonathan Adler

GAmE pLAN Two paintings by John-Paul Philippé depicting an abstract pair of eyes rest on the window mullions at the back of the living room and look over the ping-pong table. This space is smart and sophisticated but also effortlessly comfortable.

‘If you can only afford one statement piece in a living room, make it an oversized chandelier. I think chandeliers should always be bigger than you think you need and more expensive than you think you can afford.’

Jonathan Adler

Eclectic Style Guidelines *Make your spaces fun and funky*

> ‘Mix it up. If a room is too matchy-matchy, it’ll look contrived. Instead, keep its colours and themes casually connected.’ *Thom Felicia, designer*

1

cLAsh mEANs cLAss Throw out the colour rule book and mix up bold clashing colours and cheerful graphic patterns. Try deep browns and oranges, pastel blues and leaf greens, gold enamel and coloured glass.

2

GLAss AcT Look out for vintage and mid-century glass vases, jugs and decorative pieces that work together. Range them across a windowsill so that natural light shines through them and casts a warming glow across a room.

3

pIck-ANd-mIX FuRNITuRE Eclectic means mismatching pieces that create their own cohesion. Look for furniture with metallic legs, 1960s style, to combine with eco pieces and some classic lighting.

4

EcLEcTIc LIGhTING Scour flea markets for floor-standing lights and table lamps. Combine the two and they will throw pools of light in the direction of your favourite pieces. Oversized Anglepoise lamps make a statement.

5

FINdING INspIRATIoN 1950s advertising, magazines and books and design museums are all good sources for the eclectic feel. Flea markets and retro stores are great places for picking up one-off statement pieces.

quIRky chIc This painting of 1960s singer Sly Stone by Ed Paschke provides a colourful backdrop for a navy blue velvet chair and zigzag rug, while salvaged wood is made chic with metal legs.



kINGs ANd quEENs Ceramics from Jonathan Adler’s Utopia ceramic collection provide a witty way of displaying flowers that would work on a mantelpiece, tabletop or shelf.



‘By masterfully mixing and layering collections of favourite objects and possessions you can create an enchanting, idiosyncratic mix that enhances the individuality of your space.’ *Abigail Ahern, designer*

6 **FoLLow youR INsTINcT** Creating an eclectic vibe is all about curating your belongings almost as though they were artefacts in an ever-changing museum. Play around by creating different configurations.

7 **wALLs ANd FLooRs** Keeping floors and walls neutral gives you the freedom to create clashes of styles and colours elsewhere. Or, make them the focus of your eclecticism and experiment with bold wallpapers and fabrics.

8 **FABRIcs** Adler and Doonan love geometrics and graphic devices and these can be found throughout the apartment. Strike a cohesive note using similar fabrics, colours or designs so there is a gentle coordination.

9 **quIRky pIEcEs** Making a statement is very much part of eclecticism. Display your favourite pieces in their best light by placing them prominently in a room or spotlighting them with LED floor or wall lights.

10 **humouR** Eclectic often means witty and is a style that doesn’t take itself too seriously. Go with your instinct when choosing the quirky and the downright wacky. If it makes you smile, buy it.

RETRo coRNER A smart seating area has been created beneath a statement piece of art by combining retro chairs with a glass-topped table and a metal sculptured base.



cusTomIZEd chIc A sleek, clean-lined cupboard has been rejuvenated by the addition of graphic floral fabric and chicken-wire panels. On top is a display of decorative ceramics that adds to the zing.



case study

MODERN GLAMOUR STYLE

Modern Glamour is all about making a statement and preserving a sense of cool at the same time. Mix dramatic furniture with pale neutral colours, using glamorous materials such as velvet or marble in rooms with simple furniture layouts, or place unexpected pieces of furniture alongside one another to create an interesting rhythm.

In Orange County, Marc and Melissa Palazzo's home demonstrates perfectly how modern glamour is as much about personality and a bold commitment to mixing and matching as it is about off-the-shelf style. Chic but relaxed, the design duo, who run Pal + Smith in Newport Beach, describe their style as modern, eclectic, colourful and unexpected. 'We get our inspiration from fashion, old and new, vintage photography, Frida Kahlo paintings, old James Bond movies and Alfred Hitchcock. Often, we'll mix styles and genres, placing antiques next to vintage finds.'

'I love citrus colours,' says Melissa, 'and there is plenty of green and yellow throughout the house. Contrast is something we thrive on, whether in bold fabrics or paint. And statement chandeliers are another favourite device for introducing an element of surprise or drama.'

GLAmoRous LIVING
Smart but friendly, the open-plan living area divides into an intimate 'grown up' area, a family area with a table and bookshelves and a relaxed sociable kitchen.

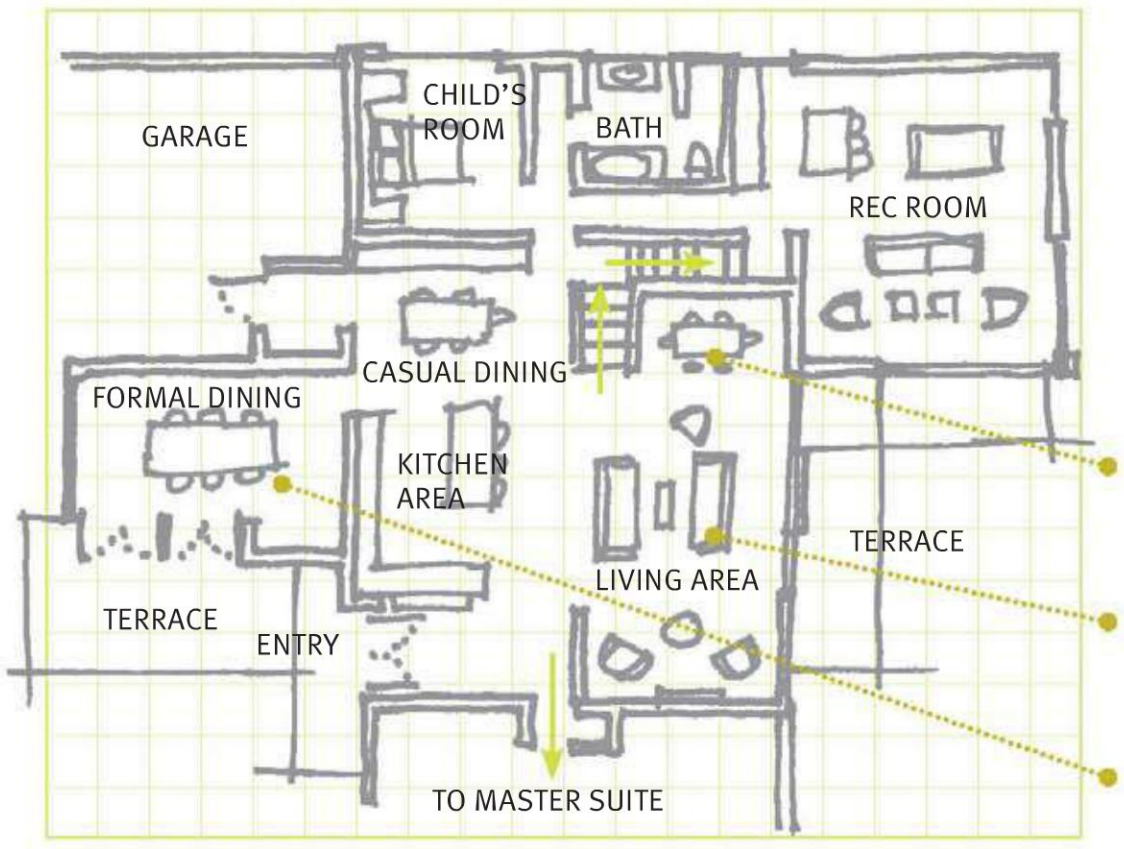
‘I love to mix all styles. I use a fair amount of mid-century, Art Deco as well as Asian antiques. I think eclectic design is the best. I want to keep people guessing.’

Melissa Palazzo

‘Antiques and vintage play a big part in modern glamour.’

Melissa Palazzo

dINING dELuXE In the dining room, colourful sheer curtains were added to soften the hard-edged glamour of a marble-topped dining table and functional dining chairs.



The Palazzos use a bold mix of colours and textures, rather than a particular style, as a starting point in their designs. They also make full use of the indoor/outdoor style of the house, often throwing open the glass doors for entertaining or spilling the living space into an extended area outdoors. It makes for more relaxed and flexible living.

An elegant painted wooden table and low round stools give a hint of the boudoir at one end of the living space.

The living room features two Madison sofas from the collection of Pal + Smith that provide instant glamour in the open plan space.

Formal dining is at a marble-topped table flanked by leather chairs. Luxurious materials always denote glamour.

‘Allow seriously grown-up wallpaper to take centre stage but not dominate a space. A mix of materials such as velvet, shiny wood and metal tones against a rich verdant green makes a striking combination in any space.’

Melissa Palazzo

modERN ALchEmy A luscious combination of forest green and blues plus a variety of textures lends unexpected glamour to a quiet seating area.

Modern Glamour Style Guidelines *Aim for elegance and eloquence*

‘If you want a statement piece, it should be an expensive one, otherwise the statement you are making is “I can’t afford anything better”.’ *Tom Delavan, designer*

1

modERN mIX Work some glamour alchemy by mixing and matching different types of furniture for a modern feel. Try painted Asian-style tables alongside 1930s armoires or vintage French baroque furniture.

2

EVERydAy dIsGuIsE Create instant drama and an element of surprise by using glamorous and diaphanous white or colourful curtains to conceal everyday clutter such as walk-in wardrobes or office paperwork.

3

cREATE coNTRAsT Contrast rough with smooth, bold pattern with minimal floors and walls, colourful glass with neutral surfaces and the old with the new to create an interesting and unpredictable visual tension.

4

mIXING mATERIALs For a modern glamour masterclass gather together furniture that is a mix of glossy white, reflective steel, hard-edged but luxurious marble and in a range of decorative styles.

5

GLAss cLAss Tall vases and bottles in a variety of shapes and tones double-up as colour providers and smart display pieces. Place them on mantels, dining tables or consoles so their colour becomes an accent in a room.

TRuE BLuEs A Nouveau ottoman from the Pal + Smith collection in jewel-bright turquoise fabric complements glass lights and objects, while a chunky display shelf echoes the espresso base of the box.



cLosET ART An antique cupboard, one of Melissa Palazzo’s favourite pieces in her home, makes a dramatic statement and doubles as a piece of art as well as a storage cupboard in the living space.



‘Even if one is working within a budget, one custom piece in a sea of recognizable, mass-produced objects could be the *pièce de résistance* that suddenly turns a room from boring and predicable to innovative and sensational. I highly recommend it.’ *Tori Mellott, style writer*

6

pIcTuRE pERFEcT Use vintage drawings and colourful art to make a statement. Collect types of art that are personal to you, such as animal images, favourite landscapes or family portraits.

7

sMART TEXTILEs Luxury means deliciously tactile textiles. Think of rich velvet or chenille used in combination with damask or textured linens in bold colours, graphic patterns or stylized floral designs.

8

chIc wALLpApER Wallpaper always adds glamour and visual interest to a space. Keep it confined to one wall or one part of a room for the most impact. Bold patterns or motifs in muted colours provides a smart backdrop.

9

LIGhTING TRIcks, Mid-century modern floor lamps, 19th-century chandeliers and cool contemporary Italian globe lights all add to the glamour story. Don’t be shy about including a big light in every room for instant impact.

10

cocooNING From suspended cocoon bamboo chairs to oversized sofas upholstered in bold and glamorous patterns, modern glamour is about creating smart, effortless comfort.

dELIcATE GLAmouR For a smart still life on a marble dining table surface group delicate glass decanters in signature shades of citrus, burnt orange and turquoise to create a little luxury.



RELAXEd dINING In spare space beneath the stairs, a curious mix of Asian art, feminine stools and a traditional table make an understated but undeniably glamorous area in which to work.



“Your home should tell the story of who you are, and be a collection of what you LOVE brought together under one roof.”

Nate Berkus

Room by Room

EASY ENTERTAINING

Previous page In Christine d'Ornano's London kitchen a generous-sized reclaimed refectory table and a set of colourful retro dining chairs look elegant combined with overhead utility lamps.

‘Think twice before incorporating a trend concept or material into the kitchen. In fact, the more rewarding road to a truly lasting kitchen design is to define your very own personal style.’

Susan Serra, kitchen designer

UTILITARIAN CHIC *This page*
Mixing vintage accessories and retro wall tiles with industrial style cabinets and bar stools, this kitchen is both functional and easy on the eye. Design-wise, it is easy to move from one sphere of activity to another.

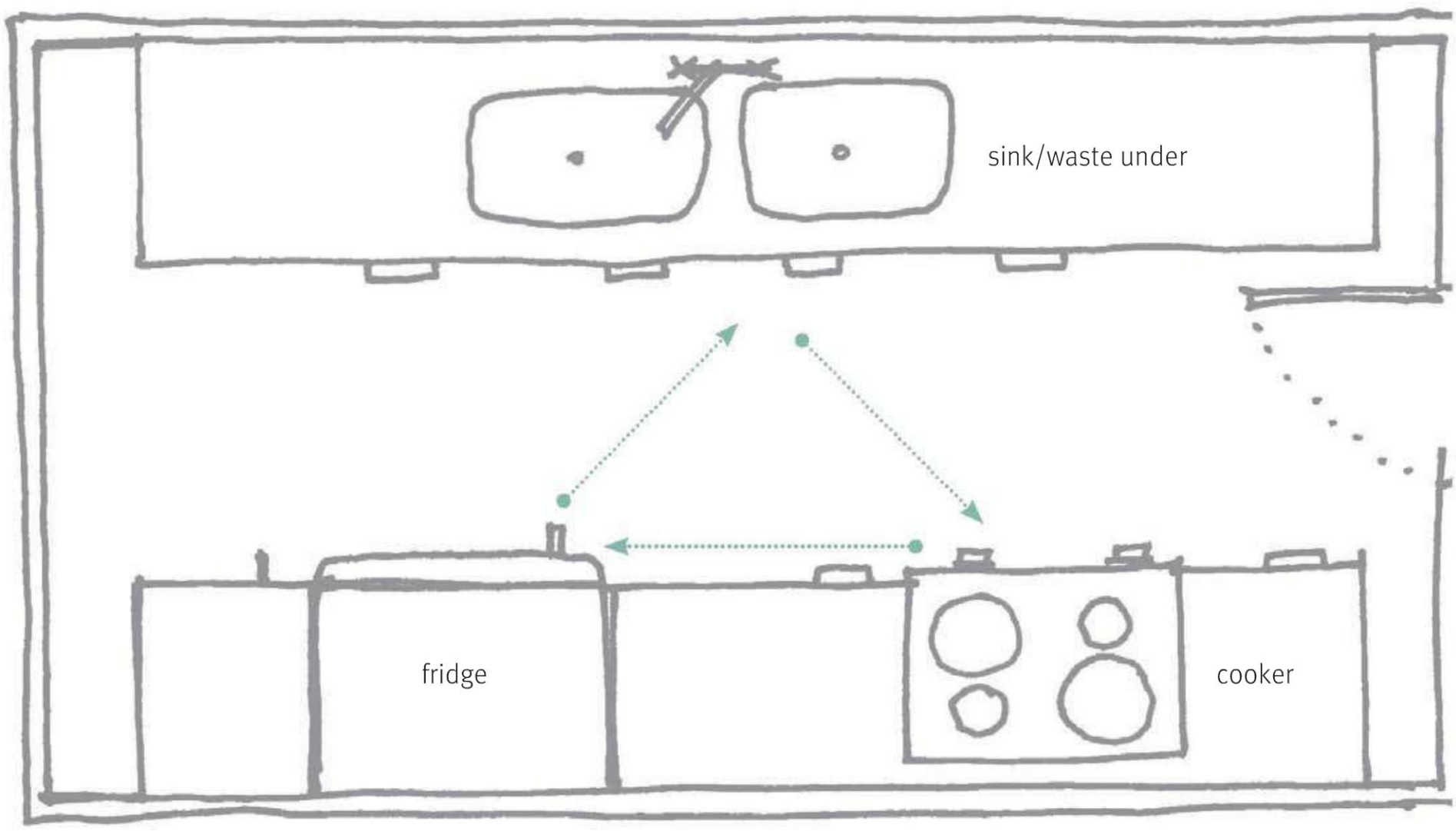
KITCHENS

At the core of every happy home is a kitchen. Whether large or small, smart or informal, cosy or minimal, it is the kitchen in which friends and family gather, and where cooking, eating and entertaining take place. You can indulge your decorating passion by planning a layout that suits both the way you live and the things you love. The best kitchens are those that combine function, personality and good design, spaces where you want to both linger and also feel a sense of purpose.

Start to think about what your priorities should be. Do you have an empty space to plan or, more likely, are you looking to remodel or revamp? Look at as many different types of kitchens and layouts as possible. Make a floor plan of your space and play around with different configurations on paper before gathering in quotations from kitchen designers.

KITCHEN DESIGN is all about fitting what you need into the space you have available. Small kitchens often call for single-run galley arrangements or a compact L-shaped configuration, while larger spaces can often accommodate island units, U-shaped layouts and different zones of activity. Planning at an early stage is important, whether you are reconfiguring or starting from scratch.

The work triangle This classic idea dictates that the three main areas of cooking activity, namely the sink, the cooker and the fridge, should form a loose triangle so that you can move from one to another in the most efficient way. This isn't always possible, but it makes sense to store everyday tableware close to the dishwasher and for cooking equipment to be kept close to the oven, for example, to save on time and energy.



CLEAN-LINED KITCHEN *Opposite* In a converted ground floor kitchen Sania Pell opened out one wall as a window to the garden so that the dining table could take centre stage in a room that marries function with understated style.

‘A kitchen has to be pretty. That’s important to me, but even more important is that it has to be functional, well thought out and carefully designed.’

Fernanda Bourlot, designer

Kitchen Layouts

Work out your personal priorities, then plan your space around them

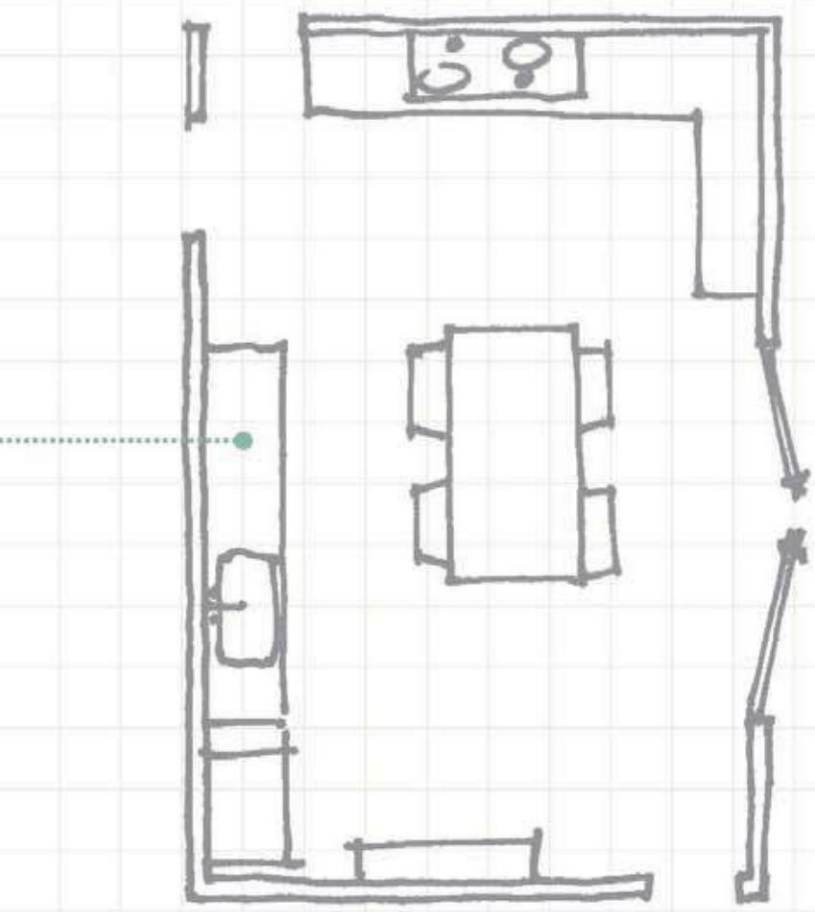
Kitchen design is dependent on the space available, how many people will use it and whether it is purely a cooking space or also doubles up as an eating and/or living area. Gather tear sheets of kitchen elements you love and use them to build up a picture of your dream kitchen.

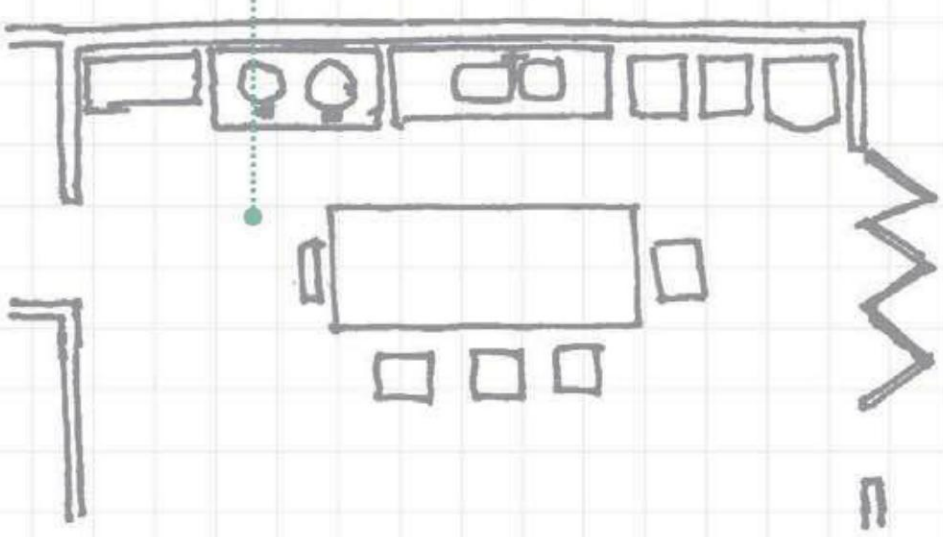
‘I love to mix new Scandinavian design with old Scandinavian, French and English farm antiques. I do not like fancy antiques. I like simplicity and functionality in furniture.’

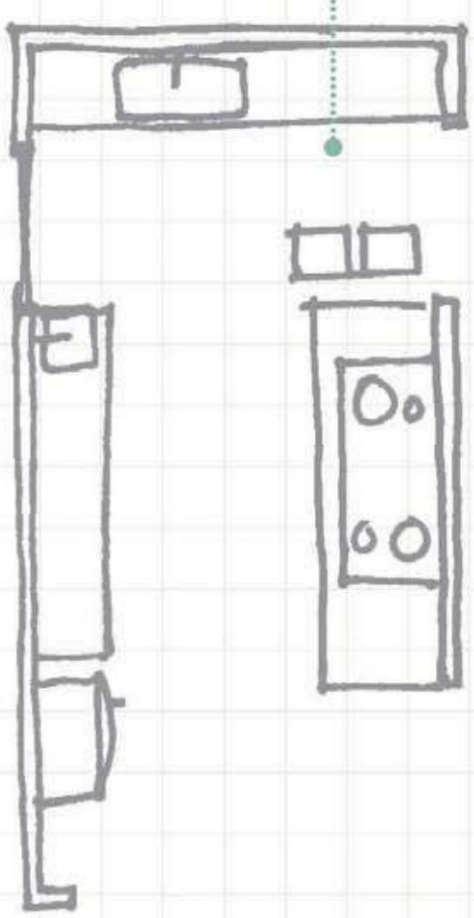
Yvonne Eijkenduijn, blogger











LOOSE L-SHApED *Opposite* A loose L-shaped layout works well in a kitchen that is large enough for a dining table and distinct areas for cooking and food preparation. The tall walls have been used to house generous glass-fronted cupboards to display attractive items such as food containers and books, while undercounter cupboards contain cooking equipment.

ISLAND RETRO *Above left* In a ground floor space a single run of units and appliances that includes a sink, an Aga cooker and a fridge is balanced by a freestanding island unit that doubles up as a food preparation and eating area. Single-run kitchens are suitable for small spaces, where they also need wall cupboards to provide storage.

DOUBLE GALLEY *Above right* In a long rectangular room a double galley layout makes for a functional food preparation space. Here a third wall has been used to provide a sink and a more generous run of worktop space plus additional storage in open pigeon-holes on the wall. Serious cooks keep paraphernalia to hand; utensils are ranged across a rail above the worktop.

Kitchens: Planning

The fun starts when you draw up a plan



getting the essentials right

Your choice of materials will depend on what decorative approach you choose. There are many decisions to make but here are the basics to help you pick on a look.

You will always need some cupboards so decide what it is you really love: wood or painted, matt or gloss, fitted or unfitted.

Worktops are important. Spend money on the best surface you can afford – corian, slate, steel or zinc – wood for tough, hardwearing surfaces, or laminates if your budget is tight.

Flooring has to be tough and easy to clean, so think about ceramic tiles, flagstones, vinyl or linoleum, cork, slate or painted concrete.

Walls in work areas can benefit from tiling or panelling in glass or steel. If left plain, remember to paint them with mould-resistant kitchen paint.

Lighting should be varied, with LED spots placed under wall cupboards for lighting work surfaces and overall dimmers so you can adjust light levels at different times of the day.

Keep window coverings minimal and useful. Fabric and wooden blinds work best, but if you love colour introduce some floral fabrics or pattern on cushion textiles or tea towels, or incorporate them in cupboard panels.

The best kitchens are those that work on a functional and aesthetic level. Before you start thinking about replacing a kitchen or planning a new one from scratch, take some time to think about what it is you need. Are you a keen cook who prepares fresh meals every day for yourself and/or a family? Do you like to cook alone or is it more likely that two people will be working in the space on a regular basis? Are you a tidy person who likes to have everything hidden away in dust-free cupboards or do you like to see tableware and your *batterie de cuisine* on display and at the ready?

Do the tear-sheet trick and pick out images of kitchens you are emotionally drawn to. It may be materials, colour, large windows, great flooring or fantastic tiles that take your fancy. Or you may find yourself returning to a perfectly white and wood space, where everything feels fresh but serene.

Your type of space will often push your design in a certain direction. A small space with tall ceilings may call for incorporating split-level areas or mezzanines in order to create a room within a room. A larger space allows you to spread your design wings and add in big one-off pieces of vintage cook's furniture such as a butcher's block or a rough-hewn dining table that's seen a lot of life. In a bigger space you have more layout options and the walls and floors have an opportunity to take centre stage.

SINK CHIC *Above and opposite* In this Brooklyn home a reclaimed sink inspired the design of a simple white and wood kitchen that takes its design cue from natural materials: slate, wood, ironwork and steel all working together in a happy harmony of new and reclaimed elements.

‘Think of a kitchen as a machine.’

Fitzhugh Karol, designer

Storage on Display *Make a feature of favourite objects and display them for all to see*

In the kitchen there are always plenty of opportunities to create some interesting eye candy from everyday items. In a cook's kitchen it may be shiny utensils suspended from hanging racks or rails. Colourful china may dominate a lively family kitchen or a serial collector may have an entire tableware collection that needs to be seen rather than hidden away in a dusty cupboard.



Hanging rails are a great device to have around the cooking area, either positioned above the hob on a tiled surface or at the side of a range cooker or food preparation area. If you have an island unit then create a hanging system above it by installing a dedicated rack from the ceiling. A freestanding butcher's block placed up against a wall looks good with a hanging rail above it on which butcher's hooks can be used to display anything from a row of decorative jugs to china cups.

Open display units may take the form of pigeon-hole shelving, either freestanding or attached to a wall, or else a unit with shelving in which displayed objects take centre stage.

COOK'S CORNER *Above* A neat storage unit houses deep drawers for plenty of cooking equipment in this well-stocked kitchen. Pans that are used every day hang happily from a chrome rail placed beneath the cooker hood.

ELEGANT DISpLAY *Above* A simple wooden display unit backed with reclaimed timber forms the perfect textured backdrop for a collection of everyday glassware and ceramics in this Danish kitchen. Practical storage and delicious display rolled into one.

‘If possible, for a dramatic, new look, paint the cabinets. A sophisticated off-white, in a sort of mushroom, light khaki shade is easy to live with, classic and elegant.’ *Susan Serra, kitchen designer*





It makes sense to store and display everyday china and glassware so it’s at hand and place seldom used but pleasing platters or soup tureens higher up the display ladder.

When storing china, group it according to colour or style for more impact and make sure that any really precious pieces are stored in such a way that they’re not easy to knock over. Glazed cupboards, either wall-mounted or undercounter, are a good way to protect china from breakages and the accumulation of grime and dust open shelving acquires over time. They can be transparent, opaque or frosted depending on how much visibility you are after.

CONCRETE IDEA *Above* Concrete block shelves attached to the wall by strong steel supports provide a stone-like tableau for a display of everyday ceramics and fern-like plants.

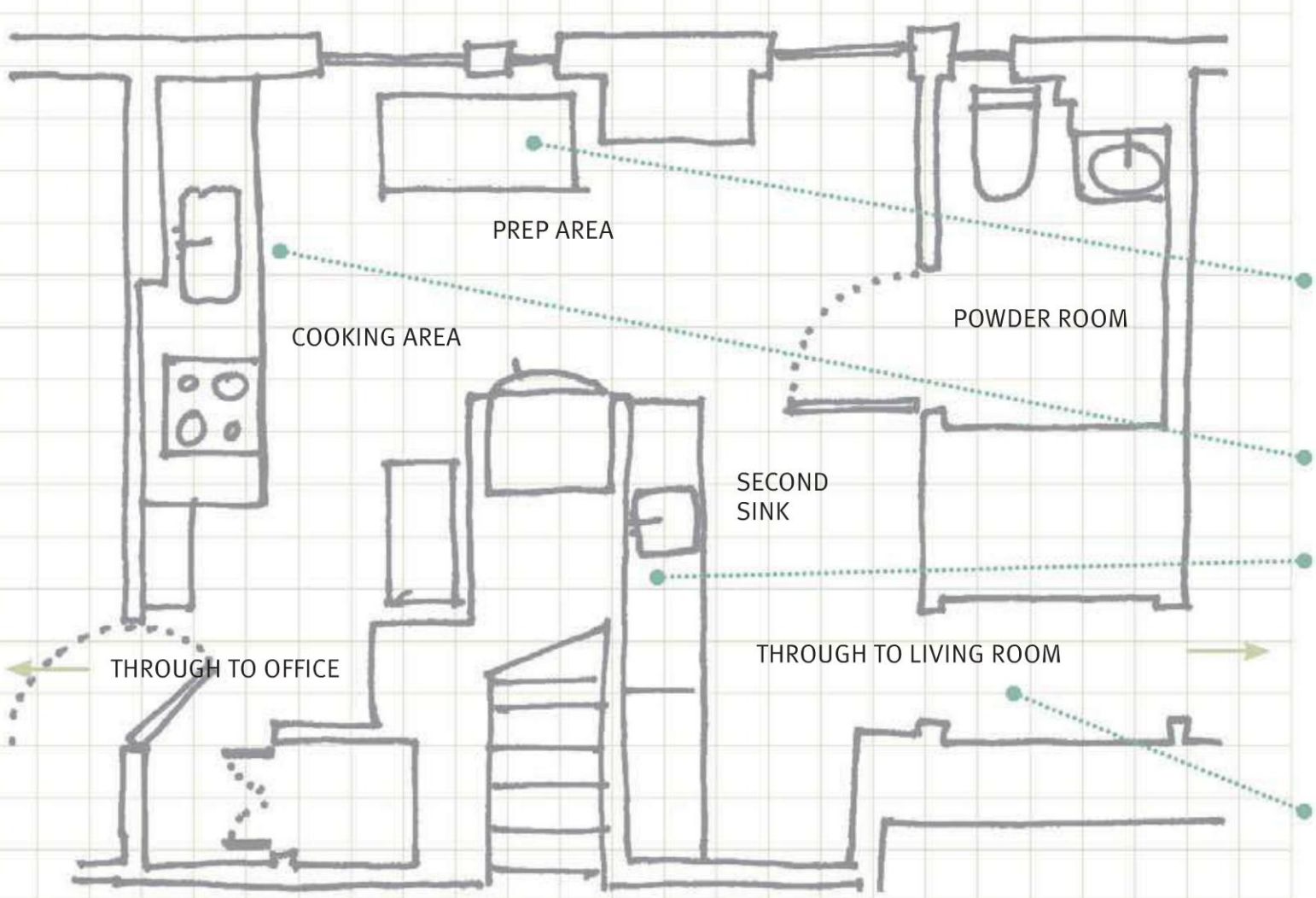
CUpBOARD LOVE *Above* A classic collection of blue and white china together with glasses and coffee cups and saucers looks informally at home in a glazed wall cupboard, which is perfect for keeping ceramics free from dust but on display.

In Manhattan Jonathan Adler and Simon Doonan's kitchen combines sleek functionalism with groovy displays of quirky ceramic jugs and vases to create a cooking space that brims with personality and panache. A mix of materials echoes perfectly the colours of the assembled ceramics on a purpose-built steel shelf. The kitchen slips neatly into an L-shaped space to one end of the apartment and combines bespoke units and fixtures alongside a built-in original glass-fronted cupboard used for storage. Adler's ceramic collection is beautifully showcased along shallow steel shelving placed above the work areas at eye level to provide a visual treat while cooking or preparing food.

Plates mounted just above the stainless steel splashback make for a witty way of complementing the repetitive task of doing the dishes. Flush-fitted plain wooden cupboards are practical as their smooth lines are easy to keep clean. Neat, tiny door knobs work well for the same reason.

CHINA DOLLS *Left* Intricate china figurines and plates, some by ceramic artist Bjorn Wiinblad, add a quirky and colourful touch to the sleek industrial-style kitchen sink.

CERAMICS ON pARADE *Opposite* Work with any existing built-in cupboards and butt new units up to them for a mix and match finish. Or incorporate a larder-style cupboard in a different design and finish to create the same effect.



Conventional fitted units combine with freestanding storage trolleys and built-in original cupboards.

Plenty of undercounter storage means there is space left over for display shelves.

Soften industrial-style fittings with displays of china and tableware.

Slate floors are a sensible idea for homes with pets. They are easy to care for and easy to clean.

‘A feeling of eccentric glamour and irreverent luxury perfectly describes what I try to create in interior and product design.’ *Jonathan Adler*

case study

URBAN KITCHEN

In city apartments where space is usually limited, it is often best to design a kitchen that is simple and functional so that you can add personality in the details. Let the materials take centre stage: stainless steel, wood and slate are all pleasing solutions that work well together or on their own. Add in detailing by displaying china or ceramics, or make a feature of shiny cooking equipment.

‘Repaint the back wall and/or side walls of glass-door cabinets. Adding a fresh colour of raspberry, coral or an elegant charcoal colour against white dishes will dramatically change the look.’ *Susan Serra, kitchen designer*

HANDMADE CUpBOARD In Alayne Patrick’s Brooklyn apartment a sink storage unit has been built using vintage cupboard doors and handles, while open pigeon-holes on the wall provide storage and display space for an eclectic china and glass collection.

Built-in Storage *Out of the way but not out of view*

When you are redesigning or reconfiguring a kitchen, built-in storage is one of the most important aspects of making sure you can fit all your equipment into your space. Take a look around at the huge variety of cupboard styles that are available and remember to think about handles and door knobs at the same time.





It can be tempting to follow kitchen manufacturers' advice and kit out your room with as many cupboards that you can cram into the space. More important though is to make an inventory of all your kitchen equipment. There will always be some redundant pieces you can edit out. Next, work out which items will look good on display, which ones you need to have for everyday use and those that are best hidden way. Then you can calculate how many cupboards you will need and which ones can double up as display units. It's good to aim to have some built-in units, as these are the engine room of any storage scheme, whether they are discreet, plain-door affairs or bold glossy design statements.

WHITE STYLE *Above* Amy Neunsinger's kitchen includes simply styled white cupboards and drawers that are completed with mesh panelling, retro steel handles and glass knobs.

ELECTRIC ECLECTIC *Above* Bright and cheerful ceramics sit in glazed cabinets next to an open display of ceramic designer Jonathan Adler's deliciously original collection.

case study

COOK'S KITCHEN

A kitchen in which cooking is the main focus calls for a happy mix of function and creativity. More often than not a cook's kitchen includes some form of island or breakfast bar. Serious cooks spend a lot of time in this room, so they prefer to create a working space where friends and family can also gather round the food preparation area to talk, help or watch.

Amy Neunsinger's splendid Los Angeles kitchen showcases the best of vintage utility with a classic island layout that enables efficient movement throughout the space. Worktops are sleek marble, while at the heart of the space a stunning generous sink designed by Michael S. Smith for Kallista is both a focal point and functional. The cooking and food preparation activity can be flexible thanks to the inclusion of two sinks. One is a focal point for the room and is at the head of the island unit.

UTILITY CHIC Industrial materials and a white-and-steel colour theme create a glamorous, hardworking foodie workspace where exposed pipework and luxurious surfaces mingle well to create a smart utility vibe.

‘I wanted that “old with the new” here. I love that feeling where you get those old materials and that mingling of the indoor and the outdoor too.’ *Amy Neunsinger*

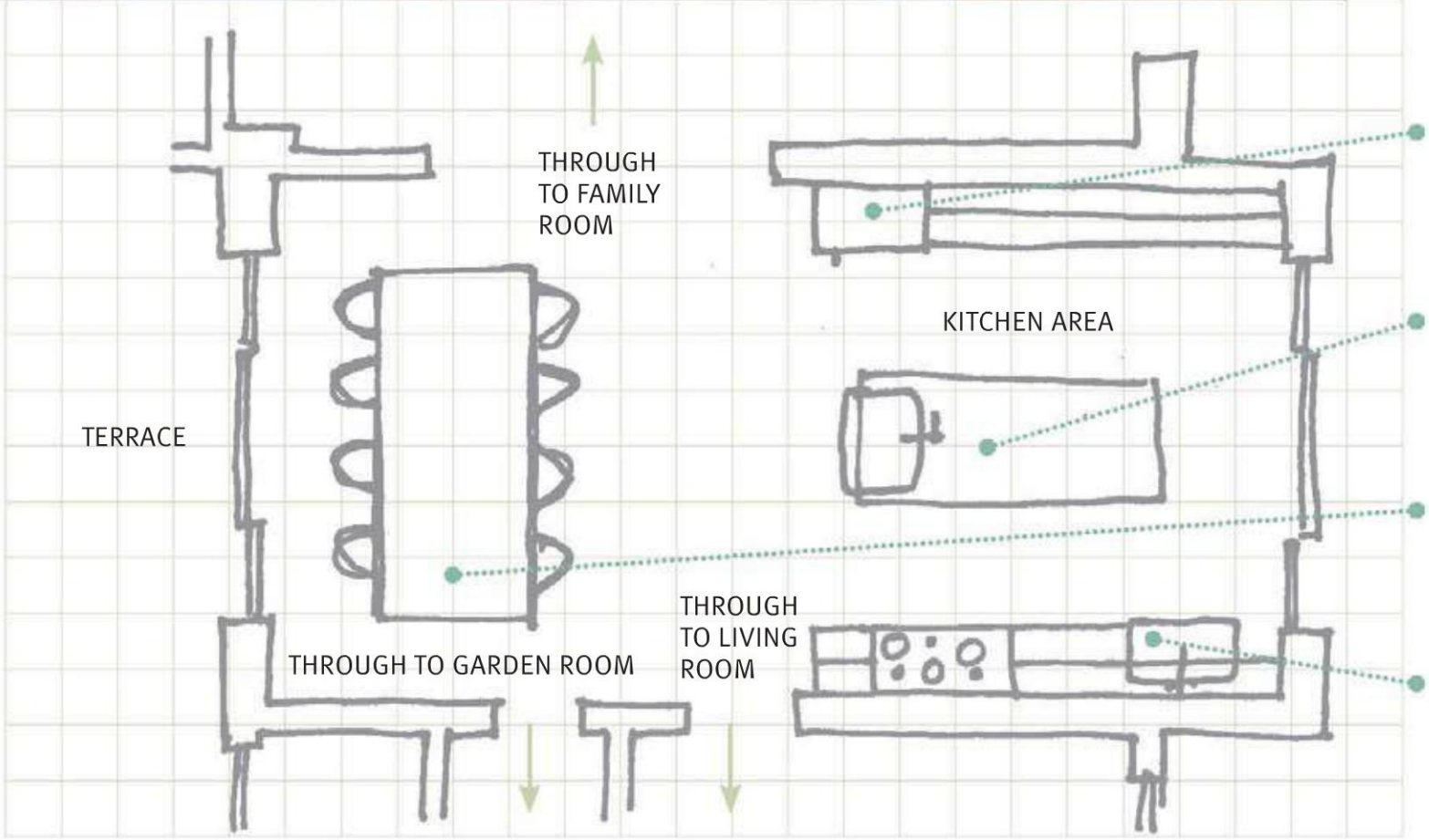
To soften the hard surfaces of concrete on the floor and marble on the worktops, lighter touches have been added in the form of flowers, opalescent tiles beneath the sink and appealing vintage taps and accessories, as well as utility-style door knobs and handles.

White custom-made wooden units inlaid with wire mesh panels mix well with open shelving that displays and stores glassware and tableware. Having everyday china on display is a great way to minimize work in the kitchen, especially when the dishwasher is only a step away in the island unit.

Wall-mounted glass-fronted cupboards are used for storing cookery books and cooking equipment and are designed to look as though they are part of the original fixtures and fittings. A big bold fridge is in keeping with the industrial-style range cooker on the other side of the island.

THEATRICAL SINK *Left* Food preparation is never a chore when you have a deliciously generous sink and a serious tap and plate rinser. Work takes centre stage at this solid island unit.

WHITE ON WHITE *Opposite* Sleek glass splashbacks reflect the natural outdoor light onto white Thassos marble worktops, both from Walker Zanger, while vintage-style taps lend retro glamour to a functional workspace.



The classic triangle of sink, fridge and cooker are in a straight line here to minimize time spent circling the island unit.

Allow enough space around an island unit for traffic flow.

Keep the activity centre of the kitchen away from French doors where access is required at all times of the day.

Make good use of tall ceilings by installing tall cupboards and shelving.

‘Open shelving is great for easy access, but it’s also nice to view my pottery.’ *Amy Neunsinger*

Casual Eating *Sharing a meal with family and friends is one of life's great joys*

The days of formal dining are no longer with us, mainly because the idea of a separate dining room, for best only, is no longer considered to be an important element of many homes. In its place, the kitchen has become a central space, where the daily activities of cooking, eating and relaxing are more likely to take place in the same area rather than in separate rooms.



COUNTRY IN THE CITY *Above* A pretty tablecloth and simple china against fuchsia pink chair cushions and a painted floor is understated yet supremely enticing in a kitchen/diner. A vintage china collection sits happily on simple wooden shelving that is painted white to allow its display of tableware to shine.

Although formality may not be key, there are many ways to make a dining experience feel special for your guests or family. Rather than formal table settings, a starchy white tablecloth and a 'best' dinner service, make the space comfortable and welcoming with subtle lighting, a friendly table covering, whether it be cotton, linen or plastic, mismatching china and everyday rather than heirloom cutlery. That way you keep the dining experience real, relaxing and inviting.

setting the scene

Source a dining table that provides some flexibility. Having either an extendable or folding one allows you to cater easily for unexpected or extra guests.

Chairs are important. The more comfortable the better, although if space is tight folding ones make sense.

Chair cushions will add to the comfort factor and may be covered in matching or complementary colours to the rest of the space.

Start a tablecloth collection: a waxed oilcloth for everyday and family use; crisp Egyptian cotton for the perfect backdrop to colourful tableware and china.

Include candles, and plenty of them, either in the form of discreet tea lights or a couple of candelabra for romantic moments.

‘A laid-back, relaxed home comes from allowing real life to be a part of your design mixing old with new, luxurious with everyday and family heirlooms with kids’ paintings, where the odd imperfection is celebrated and friends and family can come together and not worry about “messing up” the interior decor!’

Atlanta Bartlett, designer

UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE In Anna-Malin Lindgren’s Swedish home a gateleg table is extended when guests are expected. By day the table is used for crafting, but during the evening garden flowers and butterfly glass decorations set the scene for dinner with friends. Mismatching cane and metal chairs create an air of informality.

ZINC ALLURE A vintage zinc table is a surprising but effective choice in this Copenhagen dining room, where guests get a good view of the fascinating china collection.

‘Watch the clutter! Few, quality, decorative additions to the kitchen present a more simple, yet elegant, appearance than too many. Take a second look, too, at your things that “live” on the counter. Less really is more!’

Susan Serra, kitchen designer

‘Friends relax in my kitchen to enjoy a drink and appetizers while I cook. Comfortable seating and an island to prepare food so that they can watch while I’m cooking were essential.’

Fernanda Bourlot, designer

DINER STYLE Tucked into a corner of a kitchen are two small open shelving units arranged to form an impromptu eating and gathering area. Bar chairs encourage guests to stop and linger.

‘I like our home because in it we have created an airy environment that is conducive both to a big family and to entertaining.’ *Melissa Palazzo*

ISLAND QUEEN *Above* A super-sleek island in white wood and with a chunky zinc worktop reigns supreme without dominating this casual, functional kitchen space. It is deep enough to provide seating and plenty of storage.

ROOM WITH A VIEW *Opposite* At first glance you would never know a kitchen area is incorporated into this open-plan ground floor living space. White walls and floors pave the way for a brown, steel and citrus green colour scheme that helps to disguise the kitchen area.

case study

SOCIABLE KITCHEN

When kitchens are integral to either a living or dining space the best decorating trick is to allow them to meld into the room as a sociable space rather than making too much of a statement with them. Units can be painted to blend in with the walls and ceiling, while jolts of accent colours can be picked out in both the living area and the kitchen to unify the space. Keeping the tiles or other splashback the same colour as the walls also helps with this process.

This kitchen forms part of a well-considered open-plan living space that has been opened out in all directions to create interesting zone of activity, that each work really well. It belongs to Marc and Melissa Palazzo of Pal + Smith, who have managed to create a neat kitchen space at one end of the room where all the functional elements are tucked away down one side. The kitchen is generous in size but in no way eats into or impedes the living space. A deep island unit doubles as a breakfast bar and storage space, as well as a space divider.

‘Antiques and vintage play a big part in getting modern glamour right in an entertaining space.’

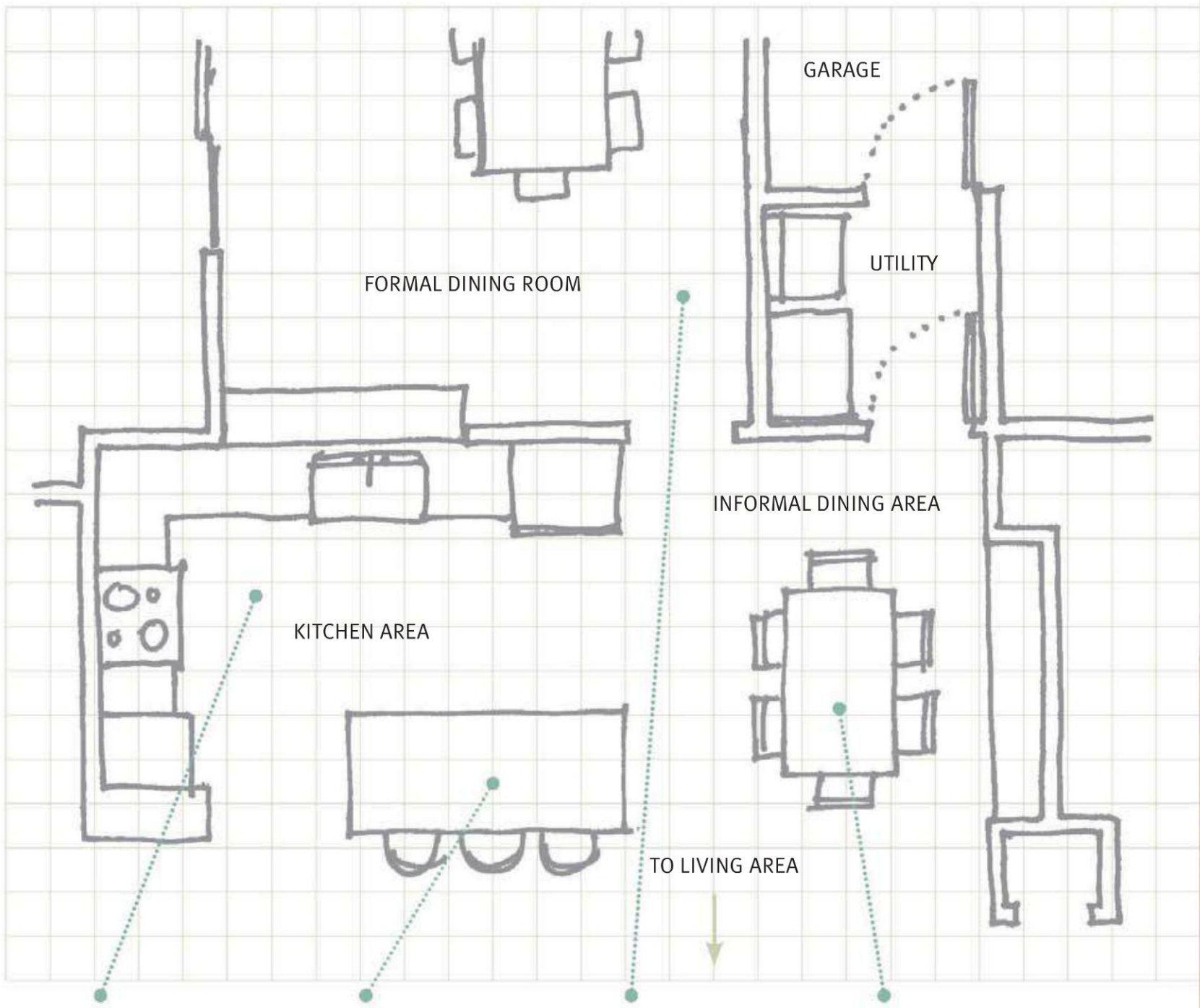
Melissa Palazzo

Seating at the island unit is complemented by a dining table and chairs a few steps away so entertaining is made super easy, with guests able to move smoothly from the living space to a natural conversation area centred around the island while the cook is busy and then on to the dining table to eat.

From the living space all you see of the kitchen area is a wall opening with a vista through to the dining space and neat, chunky shelving that displays everyday china. A smooth stainless steel fridge reflects great natural light back into the living space and so becomes barely noticeable. Dark wooden plinths help to echo the dark wood elsewhere in the ground floor, on ceiling beams, upholstery and the staircase.

So that the kitchen area can be quite contained, there are further deep storage units and wall-mounted cupboards with frosted panelling fitted to the side wall in the dining space. A fantastic focal point is provided by the gnarled wooden dining table and retro dining chairs that dominate the eating area.

Laying a concrete floor throughout the ground floor is a good way of anchoring each zone within the same shared space, while an animal-skin rug in the living area helps to delineate the relaxing area.

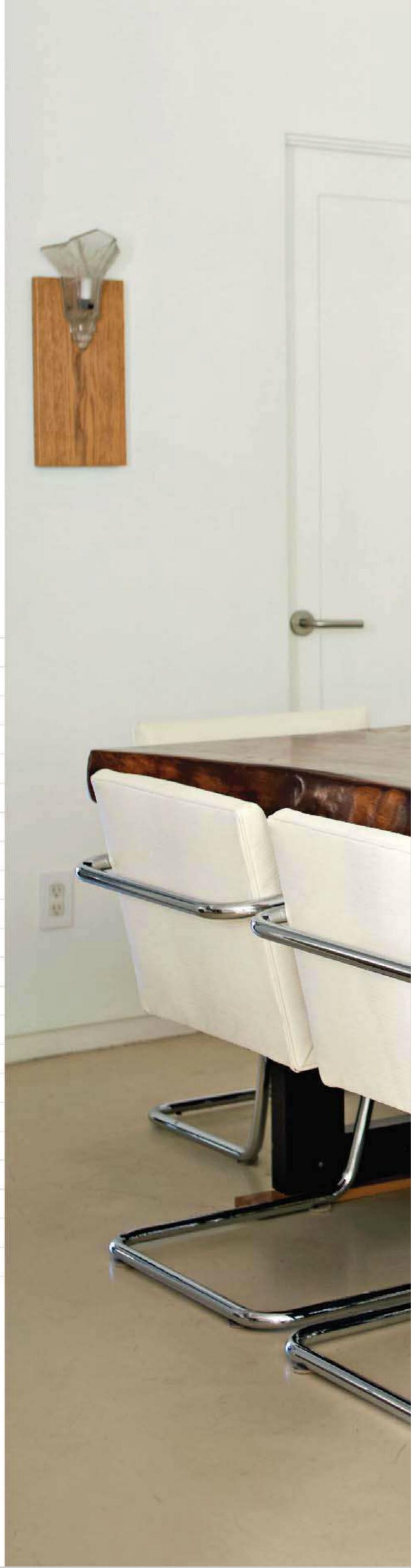


Cooker, sink and dishwasher are tucked away so they are hidden from view in the rest of the living area.

A discreet, functional island provides storage and seating space.

A more formal dining room is situated beyond, with easy access to the kitchen area through the opening in the wall.

Close to the kitchen space is a dining table for informal entertaining and family suppers.



‘I designed this organic table as a cornerstone for the space.’

Melissa Palazzo

DINE IN STYLE The table is king in this cool dining space with its mismatched retro-inspired chairs and plenty of built-in storage. Lighting is provided by an overhead pendant, bespoke wall lights and built-in spotlights within the units for maximum flexibility.

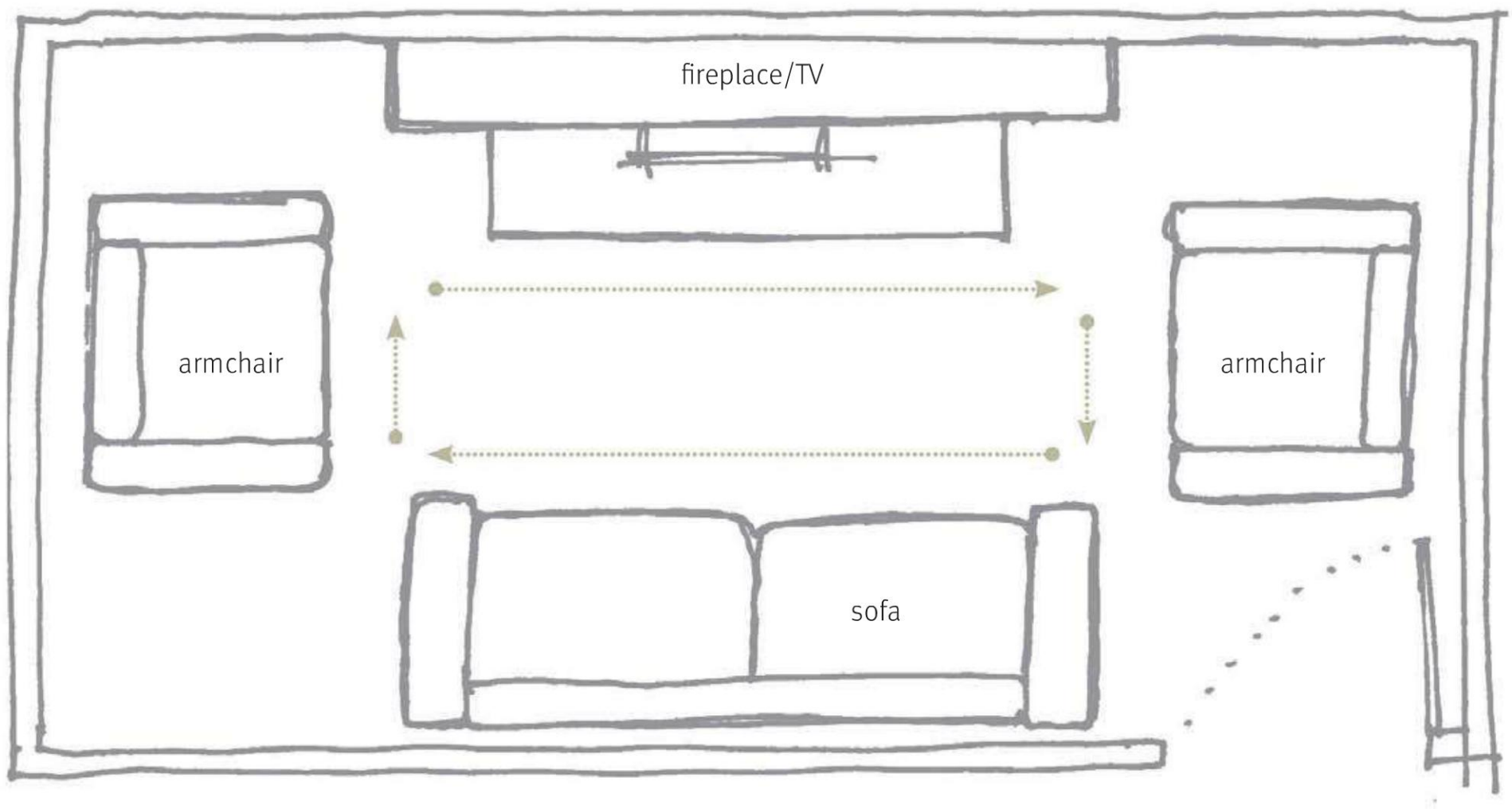
LIVING SPACES

More than any other room your living space is your nest, your sanctuary and the one space that should reflect you to the core. Whether you love colour or country style, retro informality or modern glamour, your living space gives you the chance to kick back and relax with family and friends or even on your own, for a spot of 'me' time.

However you choose to decorate the space make sure it works for you, as a reflection of your personality and preferences as well as a space in which there are no distractions to stop you relaxing. If you have small children you may want to save serious investment in new furniture for later and instead make sure you have a couple of sets of washable covers for now. Tools such as colour, pattern and fabrics are good temporary measures for shifting the look of a living space.

LIVING SPACE DESIGN calls for thought about your furniture. Do you need to incorporate all your existing sofas and chairs or can you ditch dreary specimens and invest in a designer piece, a retro sofa or simply a smart new contemporary chair to liven up what you already have? Storage, coffee tables and how to incorporate home entertainment are other key things to consider.

Working around a rectangle Think about your furniture layout in any living space. Create a seating area around a focal point such as a fireplace, a large coffee table and rug or to one side of a room divider. You can vary the shape by placing individual chairs at an angle or by using an L-shaped sofa, drawing furniture in or out if space allows.

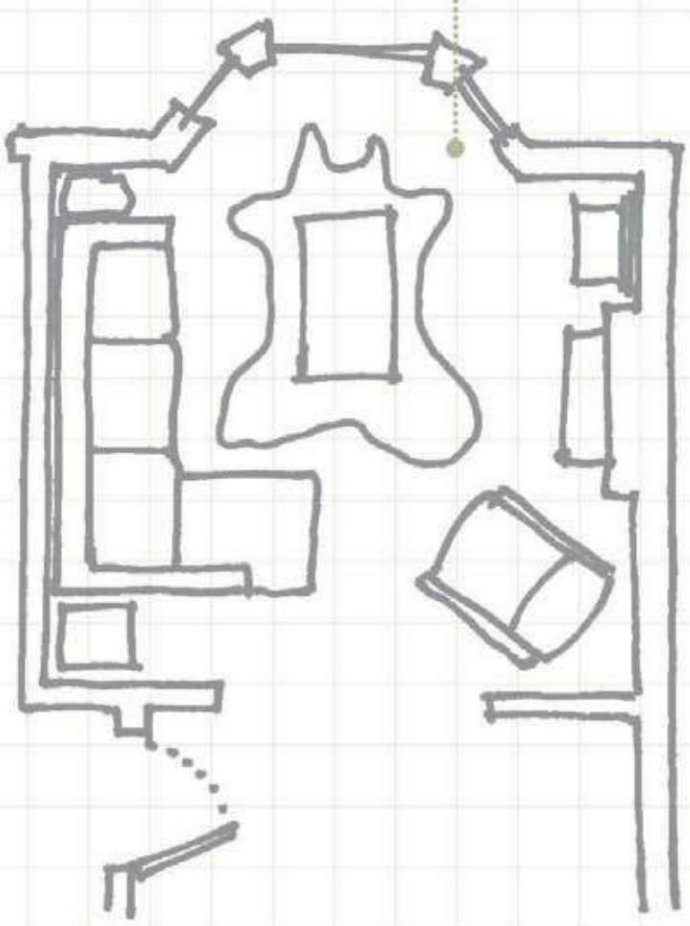


COMFORT AND JOY *Opposite* The smart combination of animal skins for warmth and texture, a comfortable white sofa set against wide zinc tables, the clean lines of metal window frames and the huge amounts of natural light is one that generates a simple welcome in Amy Neunsinger's Los Angeles home.

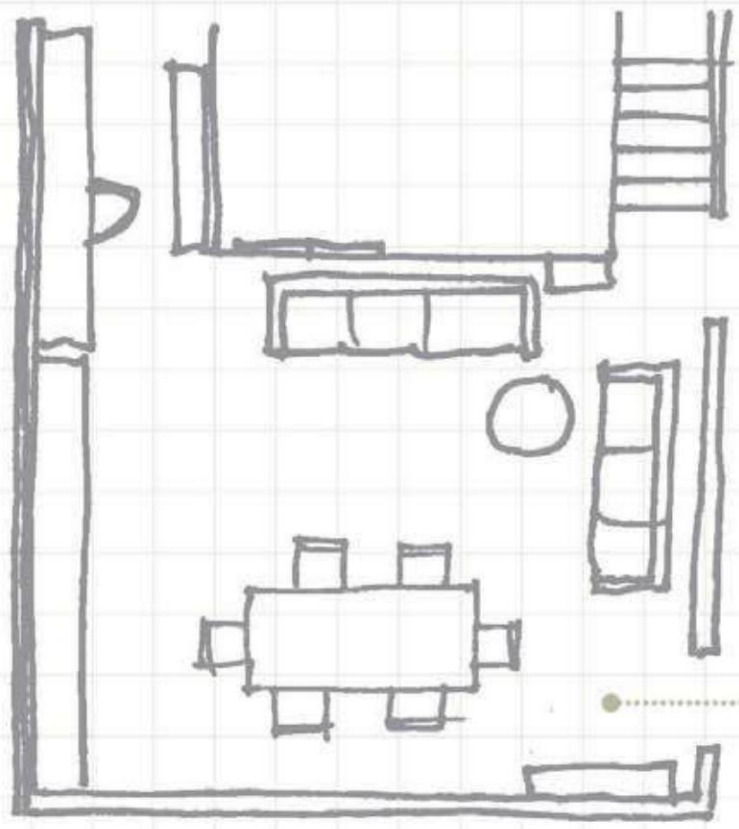
‘With custom and made-to-order a person can tackle the challenges of an awkward space, a secondary problem such as storage or the problem of colour. If money is no object, a person can get precisely what they want without ever having to compromise and that is the ultimate luxury.’ *Tori Mellott , style writer*











L-SHApED LIVING *Above left* An L-shaped sofa helps to make a cosy seating area. A single chair placed diagonally next to the focal point of the fireplace further encloses the space. An animal-skin rug underneath the rectangular coffee table helps to break up the straight lines of the sofa and furniture and create an additional focal point in the centre.

U-SHApED COLOUR *Above right* In a square living space, a central U-shaped furniture configuration will form an intimate seating area around a central focal point. A sofa flanked by chairs offers the most versatile arrangement for seating. Coffee tables work well as focal points and here a marble table creates a neutral focus among a sea of colour.

FURNITURE RULES *Opposite* Sometimes the furniture itself can act as a focal point. In a space with relatively little furniture, two black contemporary sofas become the main visual focus in a converted industrial building that is painted white throughout. A white rug softens the concrete floor but does not provide visual distraction from the sofas.

Living Space Layouts

Develop some harmony, balance and colour in your living space

Making a room feel comfortable is about bringing together a number of different elements that work with each other. Furniture placement, scale, balance, colour and furnishings are all important starting points before you decide which design direction you wish to go in. So kick off your shoes, relax and start playing around with some ideas on graph paper.

‘Living rooms are social spaces, so hide your television and make sure to have at least three seating positions: a sofa and two others.’

Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan, interior designer/blogger

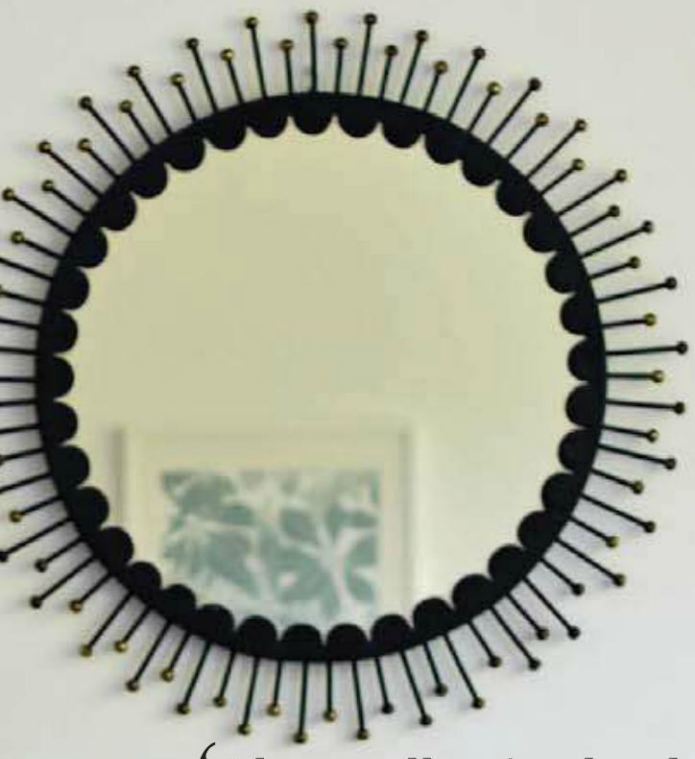
case study

MID-CENTURY MODERN LIVING

Creating a living room with mid-century furniture is all about understatement and clean lines, while allowing graphic patterns and motifs to provide the decoration.

Virginia Armstrong of Roddy & Ginger set about making her minimal but comfortable living space to be a relaxing and clear space with no unnecessary adornment to complicate the atmosphere. This style of living room works well in small spaces and rooms where one existing focal point such as a neat fireplace or a feature wall with floor to ceiling windows or exposed brickwork takes the most visual focus.

CLEAN LINES LIVING
Simple but inviting, this light-filled living space has nothing that is not beautiful within its walls. It is a calming space in which you cannot fail to feel a sense of repose. The perfect place for relaxing after a busy day.



‘I love collecting but hate clutter, so it’s always a challenge to create a balance between a clean, calm living space and my obsession with boot sales and flea markets.’ *Virginia Armstrong*







‘As a textile designer I am in love with colour and pattern, and how it can add warmth and personality to a simple space.’

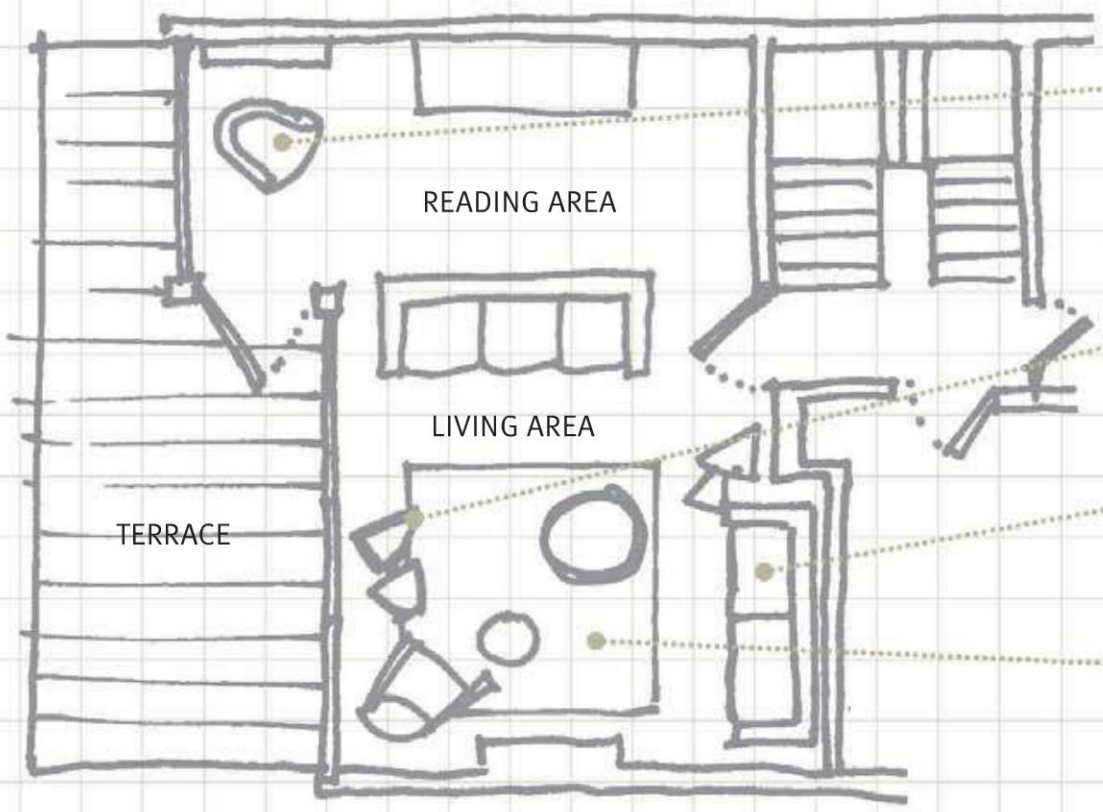
Virginia Armstrong

By placing the decorative emphasis on colour and texture, it is a gentle layering of materials that produces these comfortable results. Armstrong, a textile designer, has created a clever combination of zesty blues and greens, accent fabrics and designs to complement natural autumnal tones in the room, on the wooden floor and wood-framed furniture, in the artwork and on the sofa cushions. A woollen rug topped with a ropework pouffe provides welcome warmth.

Confronted with a simple space and a wooden floor, it is often easier to fill the space with much furniture and a riot of colour and objects, but here a few carefully considered pieces of furniture are elegant individual pieces that are curated well together to form a nod to mid-century design without slavishly following the look, as though from a design history manual. The walls are kept plain apart from a handful of images that are a mixture of vintage finds and Armstrong's own graphic designs.

AUTUMN SHADES *Opposite* Combining forest browns with leaf greens then adding in a warm turquoise to the mix creates a warming palette in a room where plain comfort is the key look. Browns work best when they are used in a careful balance with lighter, brighter colours.

DANISH COMFORT *Right* A Danish modern easy chair is lined with a sheepskin rug to make a warm retreat next to the picture window and below a quirky display shelf where disparate objects form a happy display of personally collected items.



Always include a single chair in the seating scheme, even if you have two sofas.

Nests of tables are a flexible choice for occasional surfaces in a living space.

Two sofas enclose the living space with one of them forming a space divider.

On wooden floors use rugs to define and warm the space.





SMART ELEGANCE *Above left* Sofas with stylized legs are particularly elegant for small spaces. They appear to take up less space when you can see air underneath them.

VINTAGE COMFORT *Above right* A traditional sofa mixed with a vintage lamp and contemporary shelves is a good example of mixing and matching eras and styles to create a stylish room.

CONTEMpORARY LEATHER *Below* Warm up leather seating with sheepskin and interesting textures. Here a glamorous gold lamé cushion provides a jolt of reflective colour.

pERFECT pAIR *Opposite* This pair of 1950s easy chairs upholstered in cappuccino colours are elegant additions to a period marble and plaster fireside, bringing comfort and colour.



Seating for Living Spaces

Think about seating as a decorating tool as well as a functional item

With thousands of sofa and chair styles and materials available, only your imagination limits the potential of transforming a room using only seating, taking fabric and cushions as your guide.

‘The true beauty of a room can be found in its details. Layering a room with the items you love elevates your space.’

Nate Berkus, designer

‘The crucial elements for relaxed spaces are lighting and seating – pretty much everything else works to flavour the experience. Upholstery has to work harder than most furniture – it needs to be sublimely comfortable, and at the same time it has to look sublime and inviting to get you to sit in it.’ *Russell Pinch, furniture designer*

seating as decoration

Chairs make great statement pieces, carrying a confident swagger with their design credentials on their sleeve.

If you cannot afford a design classic original, save up for a reproduction piece. Many 1950s and 1960s classics are being reproduced at a lower cost than collector’s auctions will throw up.

Comfort should take priority over style when it comes to key seating pieces, but add a touch of quirky invention when you get to choose occasional chairs or sofas.

If you have a favourite chair or sofa, allow it to influence the overall look of a space, whether its leather material calls for a masculine, modern approach, a wooden-framed sofa means that a Danish modern look beckons or a squashy sofa means that country comfort becomes the only option.

Sometimes a room needs a chair as a finishing touch once everything else is in place. Now’s the time to search the internet or flea markets for a signature chair that can be reupholstered, restored or repainted to round off your scheme.

Don’t forget the detailing. Piping, cushions, bolsters and throws all add definition, colour, comfort and glamour to your favourite seating choices.

Cushions can be as simple as fabric squares or as complex as hand-embroidered creations or tapestry blocks. Enjoy seeking out ones you love and set aside some time to make up your own designs and creations.



FORMAL ARMCHAIR *Above*
This black leather armchair combines high style with supreme comfort. It acts as a visual anchor near the casually displayed artworks.

SEVENTIES GLAMOUR *Below*
The Chippendale Arm Chair by Jonathan Adler is painted a complementary orange while his Mod Model cushion ties the decoration to a 1970s vibe.





SIMpLY WHITE *Above* Proving that white need not mean cool, this modern but comfortable sofa is warmed up with a woollen throw and handmade cushions in complementary neutral colours.



DISCREET NEUTRALITY *Below* Sometimes sofas are best left to recede into a room in which other elements – ceramics, artwork, rugs and furniture – make a decorative statement.

FLORAL CORNER *Above* Use unexpected fabric to update a retro find. This mid-century armchair has been given a facelift with a floral fabric to create an inviting easy chair.

COOL CORNER *Below* In a room full of colourful items and neutral walls this upholstered armchair with a statement cushion brings all the comfort of woven wool and tradition to a quiet corner.





COLOUR CODA Christine d'Ornano has developed an innate sense of colour from her many travels throughout the USA, Mexico and France. Every room in the house displays a sensitive use of colour.

case study

RELAXED LUXURY

Setting aside a space in your home for informal entertaining is one of life's great pleasures. Either incorporate a dining table into an existing space such as a kitchen or living room, or, if space permits, create a dining room that is not so much a formal entertaining space but one that is comfortable and creative, or a room where different activities can take place during the day but at night the table can be laid for guests, whether unexpected or planned.

Christine d'Ornano, International Vice President of cosmetic company Sisley, and her financier husband, Marzouk Al-Bader, have enjoyed converting their Kensington home from a series of negelected and rundown apartments. Opposite their living room, they have successfully created a multipurpose room that is part dining room, part library, part homework space for their three children and part cosy relaxing space away from the formal living room. It is all effortlessly elegant. Huge doors padded with sapphire blue velvet and brass studs elevate the space to one of slight opulence. Within are reproduction Louis XVI-style chairs upholstered in yellow leather. 'I knew I wanted yellow chairs,' explains Christine, 'while for my husband comfort was a top priority, so this is a good example of our decorating team work.'

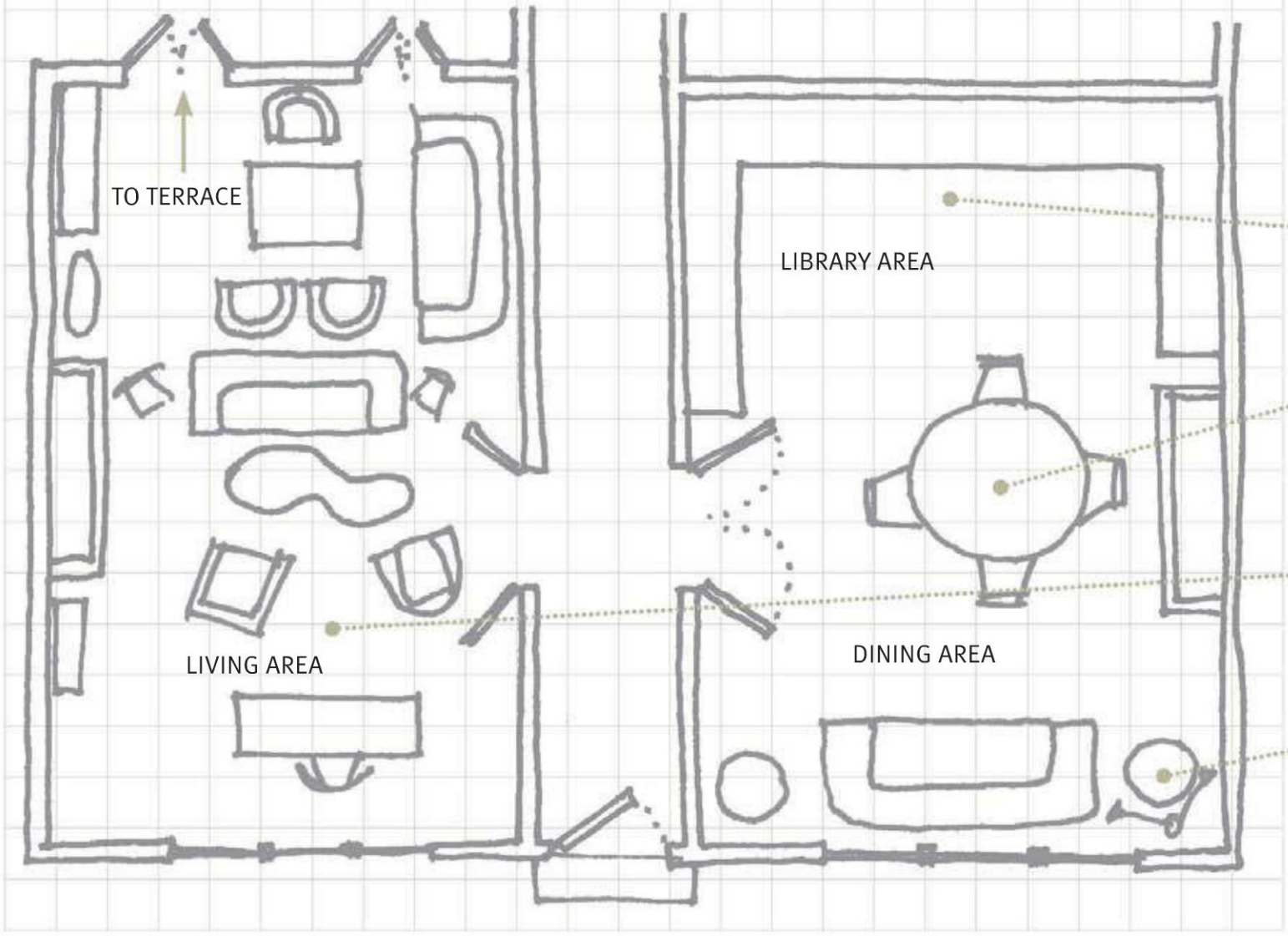
CORNER SpOT Relaxed comfort is a key element in this Kensington house. A retro side table lends glamour to a traditional and comfortable sofa placed near the window to catch the sunshine in daylight.

Unlike many Kensington residents they did not employ a designer to help them with their design decisions. Christine and her husband enjoy working together when it comes to decoration. ‘Marzouk has a good eye. It was he who chose the lacquer grey colour for the front living room walls, while I picked out some pink linen for the sofa area. We make joint decisions when buying furniture and don’t often have any decorating disasters.’

The living room is artfully arranged, with a comfortable mix of old and new furniture, contemporary art and objects. On the walls hang pieces of contemporary art by Gary Hume and Tracey Emin, while the seating includes a white Joe Colombo chair and a red Gerrit Rietveld piece that sit either side of an André Dubreuil stool with a tapestry seat stitched by Christine’s mother Isabelle.

ELEGANT DINING *Left* Round tables are good for informal entertaining and for creating a relaxed intimacy for small family gatherings. Books are easily to hand in this dining space that doubles as a family library.

COMFORTABLE SEATING *Opposite* The living room includes plenty of seating as it is where visitors gather. ‘The small Lalanne crocodile chairs are used only when we have a lot of people over and run out of seats,’ says Christine.



Open shelving is used for displaying books while cupboards beneath store children’s craft materials and tableware.

A circular table saves on space and creates an intimate, informal dining area at the centre of the room.

Double doors mirror the living space and library/dining room, with a comfortable seating area visible from the dining table.

Retro furniture provides glamour and mixes well with a traditional sofa and a more contemporary table.

‘We make joint decisions when buying furniture. If one of us really dislikes a piece then we won’t buy it, but often our tastes coincide.’

Christine d’Ornano

Outdoor Living *Extend living space outdoors and decorate it with relaxation in mind*

Creating an outdoor room is a good way of creating additional living space when you cannot expand your home. It can be as simple as a decked area for an outdoor eating space or as complex as a multi-level seating and entertaining area.

Think about your climate and what you can realistically include in any outdoor scheme. Soft furnishings in the form of movable cushions work in both hot and colder climates as they can be moved indoors when the weather turns. Make sure wooden furniture is treated to protect it from damp conditions.



‘For instant impact on a limited budget, try to keep all the fabrics coordinated with a simple colour scheme. Pick a basic background colour and two accent colours and try to stick within those colours.’ *Celerie Kemble, designer*

Lighting can take the form of fixed spots in decking and steps or temporary decorative strings brought out for summer or special parties. Have fun with decorative features and experiment with colours that suit your planting scheme.

TROpICAL RETREAT *Above left* In an Orange County garden a bamboo-lined seating area is made cosy with wooden low-level loungers furnished with generous cushions in verdant greens.

MEDITERRANEAN DECKING *Above right* Taking inspiration from the Mediterranean, this intimate decked area is flanked by fruit trees and bougainvillea. Stonework troughs are filled with roses.

WEST COAST COOL Metalwork 1960s bucket chairs and a fun game of foosball against a garland of bare light bulbs and a backdrop of palm trees is the epitome of cool coastal living.

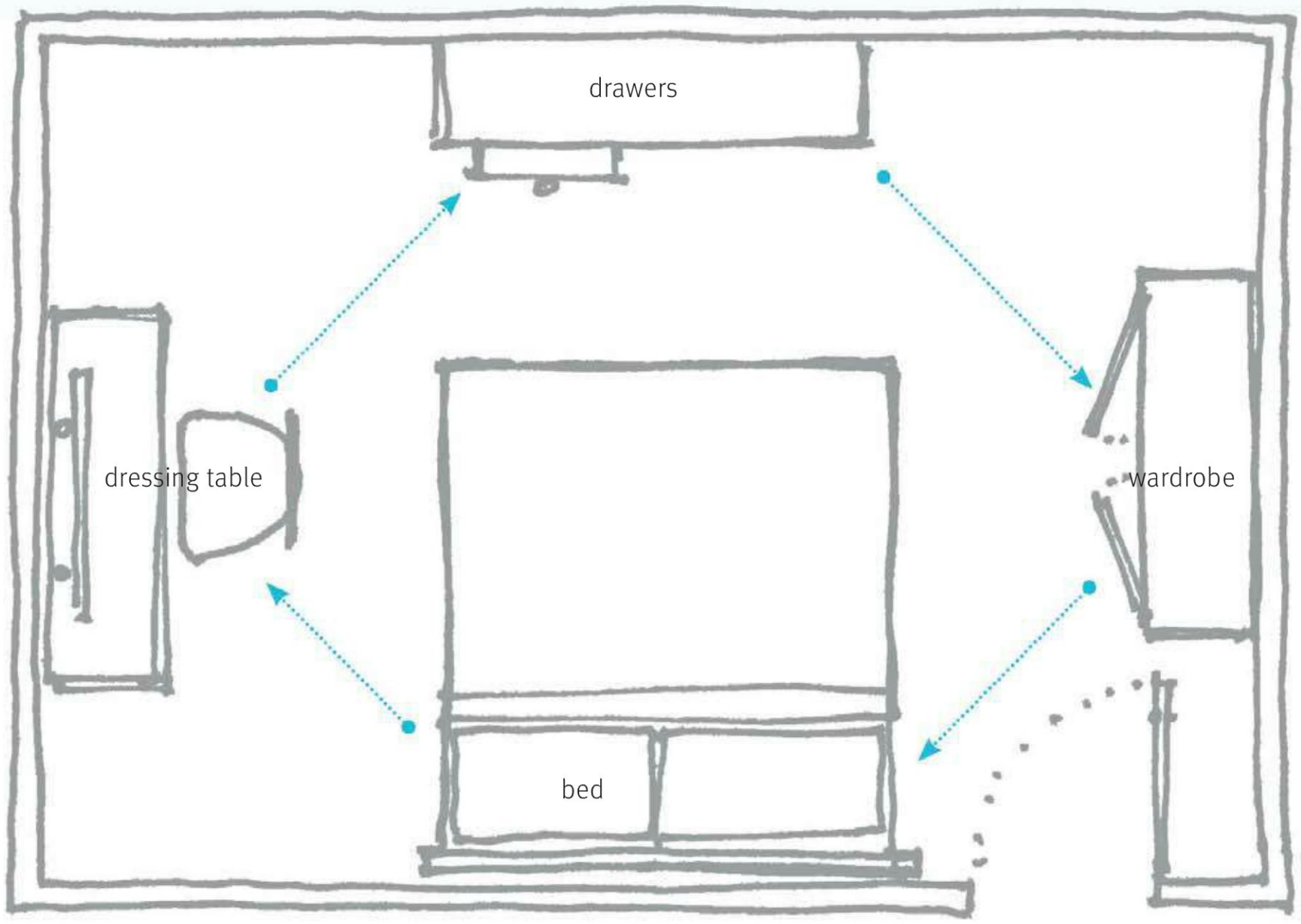
BEDROOMS

Bedrooms are not only a place to retreat to, but also the place where you spend a considerable part of your life, so decorating them in a way that makes you feel comfortable and relaxed is vital if you are going to enjoy being there.

In some ways this room has less flexibility than others when it comes to furniture layout. The bed is naturally a dominant presence in most bedrooms, so it is important to think about how much you wish to emphasize or disguise it. Storage is the other important element in planning your bedroom space. Clothes, shoes, coats etc. all need to be accommodated, even in a small space so here is where you can get creative in figuring out how and where to incorporate your clothes into the scheme. Whatever style you opt for, start by drawing up a plan of your space and working out what should go where.

SLEEPING SPACES are all about the bed and storage space. These are the key considerations whether you are designing a room from scratch or remodelling an existing space. Bed-heads, bed dressing and what type of bed to choose are all big questions to ask yourself, because the look of the bed will most likely be the biggest influence in how the room feels.

Ideal components The classic arrangements of bed, wardrobe, chest of drawers and a dressing table that form a diamond shape are the basis of best bedroom design. Where space is limited you can ration yourself to a bed plus wardrobe and drawers, employing the surface of the chest of drawers as a dressing table, or even a bed and wardrobe only in tiny spaces.



FLAMING GROOVY *Opposite* Jonathan Adler and Simon Doonan have tucked their bed into an alcove that is lined with fabric, in the French style. The same fabric is used on the lampshade and the closet panels to give a sense of uniformity.



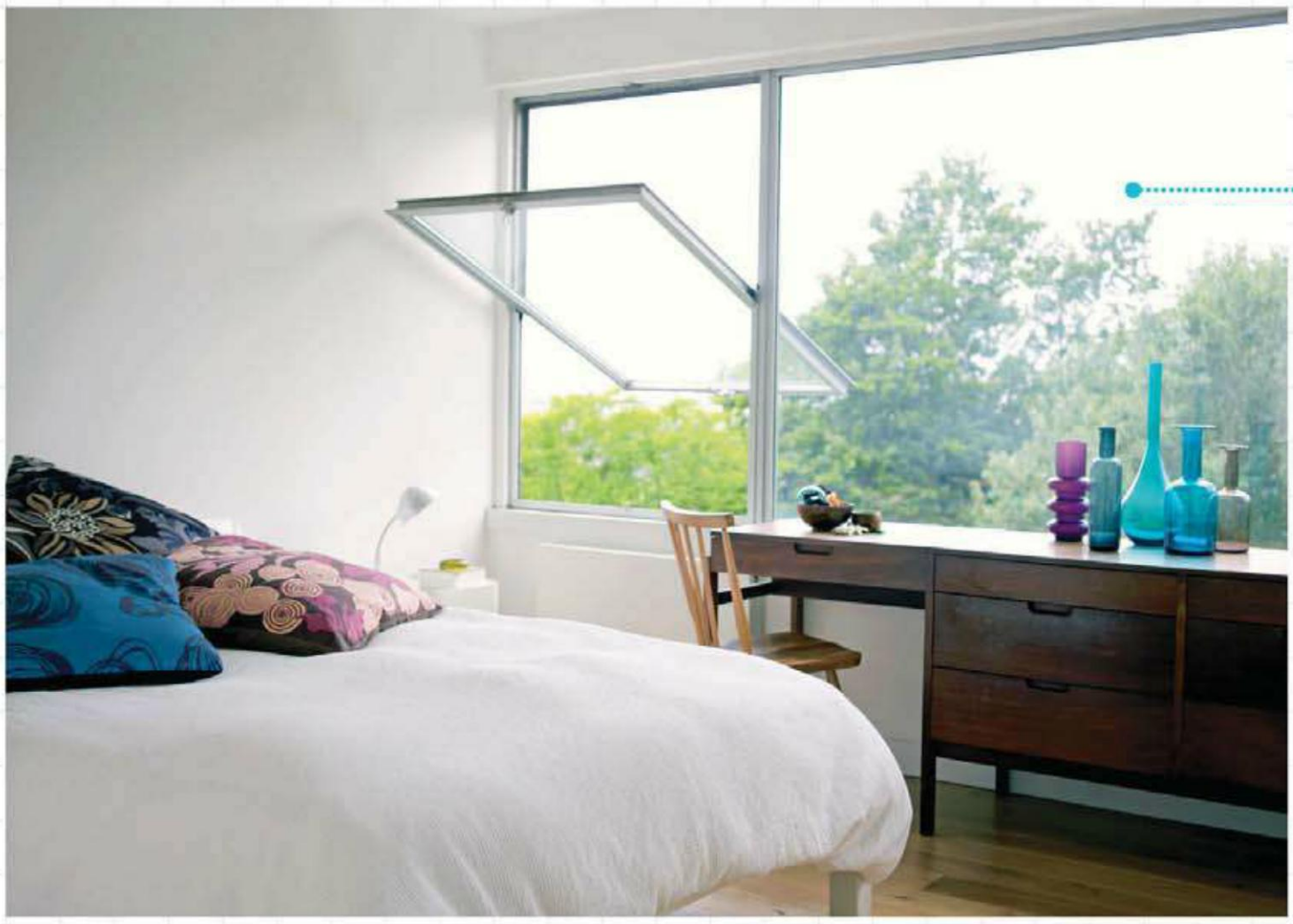
‘I love the bedroom. No matter how pared down and simply or perfectly designed a bedroom is, if you have soft pillows and pretty sheets, lights with a dimmer on them and a vase of fresh flowers, you have a sanctuary.’ *Celerie Kemble, designer*

Bedroom Layouts

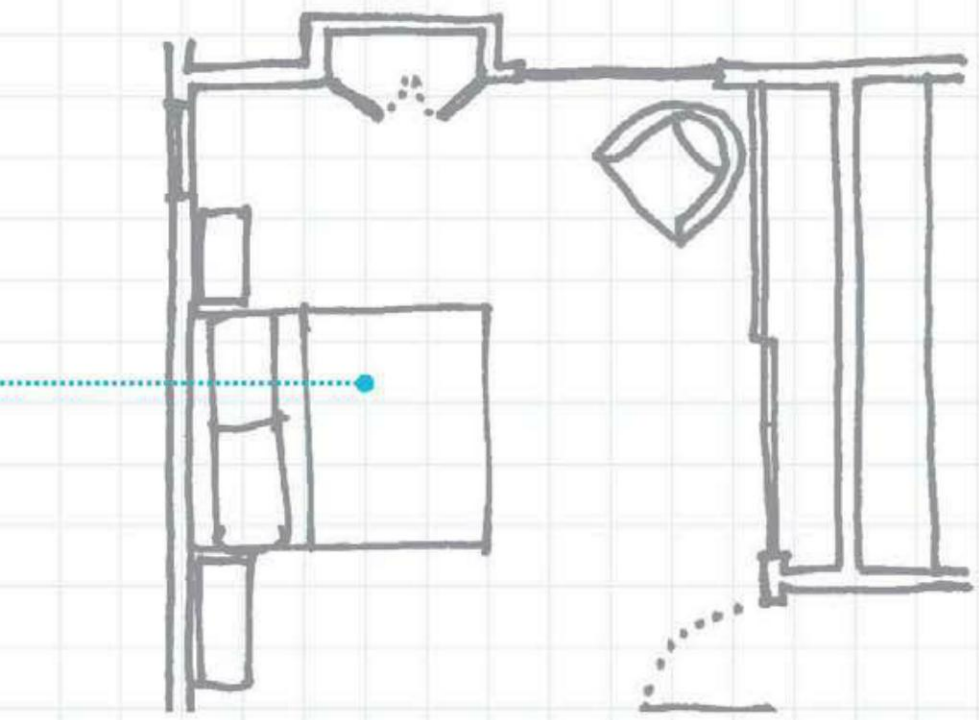
Play with scale and placement to create interesting, romantic rooms

Work around the bed to create a layout that enhances a beautiful bed or disguises a nondescript one. Use bed covers, cushions, bolsters and bedheads to set the scene and employ colour as a tool to make a feature of the bed as a centrepiece in the room. More than anything though, aim to end up with a calm and sensuous place, a room where the cares of the day can disappear quickly each evening.

‘The bedroom in my Sydney apartment was inspired by a headscarf, a pair of shoes and some nail polish that I had in my suitcase when I arrived.’ *Marie Nichols, stylist*

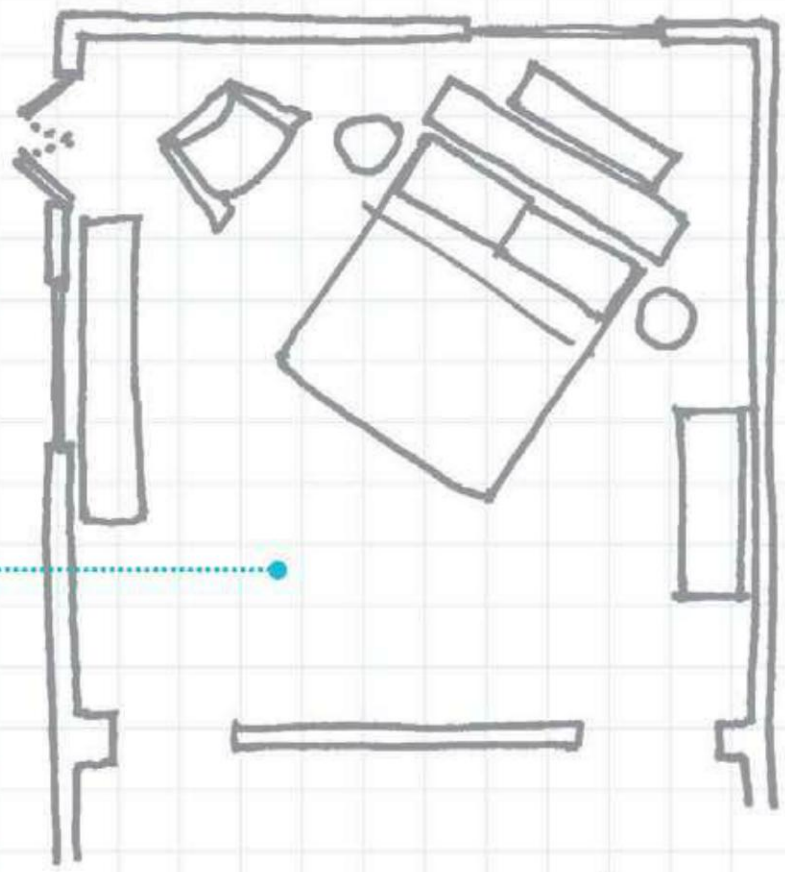


MODERN SIMpLICITY *Above* To capitalize on a great view over the whole of London the bed is placed so its inhabitants can enjoy the skyline night or day through the big picture windows. A mid-century dressing table fits neatly underneath the window so as not to block the view, while a discreet bedside table is also of low height.



CITRUS AND RASpBERRY *Opposite* In a zingy bedroom, colour unites several different elements into a balanced whole. A lime chandelier is as much a focal point as the bed that sits squarely in the room. Citrus green is picked up in the details of framed *Vogue* magazine covers, the portrait above the bed and on the bedlinen and carpet.





ANGLED ELEGANCE *Left* The grey upholstered bed appears to float within this loft space, with storage contained behind a partial wall at the back of the bed. In a square space, placing furniture at an angle creates some visual interest. And here the bed upholstery also softens the industrial space.

Beds & Bedding *Dress your bed in the same way you would a sofa in the living room*

The best beds always look at home in the bedroom, whether they are four posters, cabin beds, upholstered or wooden sleigh beds, their style and design blending in with the space. Look through magazines and at websites for information about all the different types of beds available. Measure your space to decide how big a bed you can fit in, then consider how to dress it.



NAUTICAL SLEEp *Above* A guest bedroom always benefits from compact storage solutions and neat, simple bedlinen. Blue and white cotton combinations are always fresh and appealing.

In small rooms, a simple divan is often the best choice as it takes up less space. Think, too, about cabin beds or else some kind of built-in underbed storage if you have no space for a decent-sized wardrobe. Plain four-poster frames with no adornment work well in all-white bedrooms, while wooden headboard and footboard arrangements are best for people who are not too tall.

dressing the bed

If you go for coordinated bedlinen all in one colour, especially white, add some interest to the bed by adding on a faux fur throw.

Make a feature of the pillows, especially on a plain divan, by combining two to three pillows of varying sizes on each side of the bed. Pick out the smallest pillow in a different colour.

Layer textures to create a sense of opulence, such as a glossy satin bedspread topped with a mohair throw, or smart white Egyptian cotton finished off with a delicate linen fringed throw.

Quilts are a big feature in their own right. Handstitched patchwork quilts or striped or checked machined versions will always stand out in a bedroom.

Headboards can be specially made, customized or covered with fabric to create the right feel.

Bedlinen is one of life's necessities and one of its luxuries. Choose monogrammed or embroidered bedlinen for a special treat.

‘The five most important things for a bedroom are a great reading light, wonderful linens, a dressing table, artwork and a soft rug under the bed.’

Ruthie Sommers, designer

MAJESTIC SLUMBER Liz Bauer’s fleur-de-lis shaped bedhead in buttonback white silk provides a luxurious backdrop to white monogrammed bedlinen on her studio apartment bed. Opulence in a small space is all the more appealing as it is slightly unexpected.

case study

BEDROOM STORAGE

Making sure you have enough storage for all your clothes and shoes is a top priority in the bedroom. But it does not have to mean an off-the-peg solution. Hiring a carpenter to make a storage system to your own design is also possible, particularly if you have irregular or large spaces to fill.

Dutch designer Stephanie Rammeloo commissioned storage for her stylish home created out of a converted elementary school. ‘When we bought it, there were two classrooms with the adjoining wall already knocked out, part of the hallway, three small toilets and a storage room. I saw it as my opportunity to put all my ideas into action, a project that I could really get my teeth into,’ says Stephanie.

COOL BLUE AND SORTED *Opposite* Stephanie Rammeloo commissioned floor-to-ceiling storage cupboards to her own specification – a good idea for awkward or non-standard spaces. The relief pattern was added before they were painted.

‘If something beautiful catches my eye, it finds its way to a place in my house, seemingly by itself.’ *Stephanie Rammeloo*

STORAGE NOOKS *This page* Individual nooks were incorporated into a new dividing wall to make neat display units for Stephanie’s ceramics collection. Glimpsed beyond are more shelves used for shoe storage, with the higher ones accessed by a ladder.

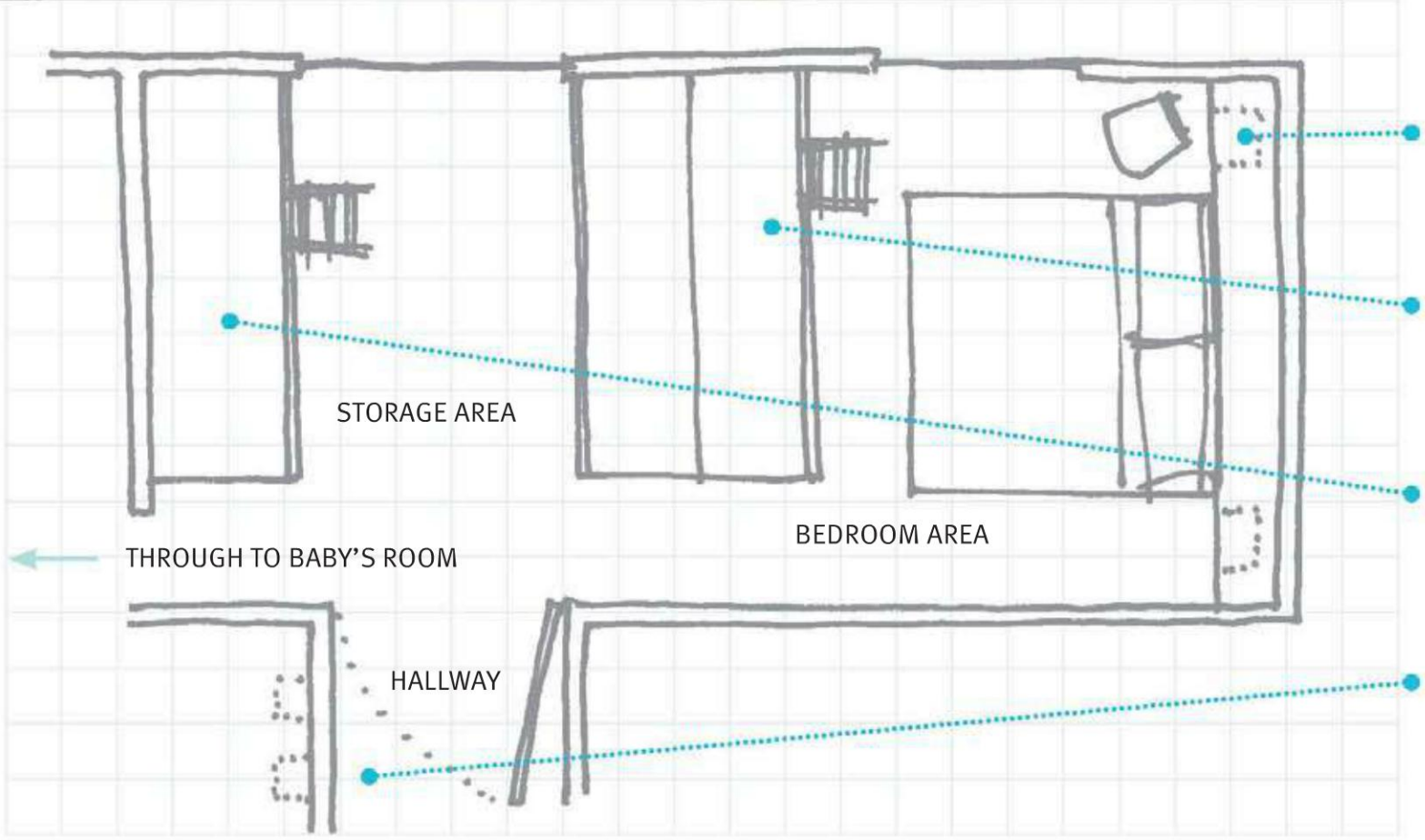


‘I am slightly tidier than my partner Aernoud, so I decided to design huge cupboards in the bedroom and hallway to fit in all our clutter. I love to have space around me. Real space so I can move around easily, and head space, so that I can think and be creative. In this house I have achieved both, thanks to its airy atmosphere and high ceilings.’

Built-in storage does not have to be boring. ‘In my work I often use relief pattern and I really enjoy it so I wanted there to be some in our house, too,’ says Stephanie. ‘The pattern on the white doors is made with pieces of plywood, sometimes one layer, sometimes two or none. For the blue doors ready-made trimmings were cut to octagonal shapes by the carpenter and then stuck to the door.’

WHITE RELIEF *Left* In a storage area off the bedroom, tall floor-to-ceiling cupboards and shelving house clothes and shoes as well as disguising electrical wiring and storing Stephanie’s styling items.

COLOURFUL BEDROOM *Opposite* The bedroom is a warm, enclosing space painted a watery pink and furnished with a simple divan made pretty with a woollen throw. With huge storage cupboards in place there is no need for other furniture to clutter up the room.



A raised ledge and small nooks have been incorported behind the divan bed to provide storage and display space.

Huge floor-to-ceiling cupboards make good use of the high ceiling but do not eat up so much of the floor space.

Blue relief cupboards in the bedroom include a hand rail along the front and a sliding ladder for ease of access.

Despite all the storage cupboards the view from the hallway is a clear one, right through to the window at the end of the corridor.

‘I like white in my workspace, but in the bedroom I could create a warm, lovely room. The colours remind me of the sea: the colour of the inside of a lovely shell with the cupboards being like the clear blue of the ocean. And I always think of the sea when I want to relax, so these are the best colours for a bedroom I think.’ *Stephanie Rammeloo*

Bedroom Furniture

Neat ideas for furnishing your sleeping space

pinpoint your personal bedroom style by considering what kinds of furniture you are likely to need, then search around for key pieces that will complete your desired look.

‘I have probably put a custom-made storage ottoman in almost every home I have ever designed. It’s great for bedrooms and for small spaces where dual functioning furniture is a must.’ *Kahi Lee, designer*

sleep & storage essentials

Purpose-built storage is the way to go if you like to store all your clothes and shoes in one place. Allow additional space for storing out-of-season clothes.

Calculate how much clothes hanging and drawer space you need by piling up all your existing clothes, remembering to edit as you go and dispense with any you haven’t worn for more than a year.

For a more eclectic approach, keep an eye out for vintage chests of drawers, shelving units and dressing tables that would make good features and also become practical storage pieces.

Customize existing built-in cupboards or freestanding furniture by painting panels or adding wallpaper or meshwork inserts, changing door knobs or adding feature handles.

Keep an eye out for footstools or ottomans for the end of the bed. You can easily reupholster them in a more contemporary fabric.

Bedside tables can range from a simple wooden table with a drawer to a contemporary Perspex cube or a circular vanity unit.

An easy chair is a great addition, not only for temporarily storing clothes, but also as a place to sit and read or dry your hair.



COSY CORNER *Above* A neat tailored grey headboard fits well with the bedlinen and lampshade in this smart, feminine bedroom. A simple bedside table has useful multiple shelves.

ROMANTIC COUNTRY *Below* White-painted vintage cupboards are a good addition to all-white country bedrooms where old paintings and an antique chair add to the charm.



REVAMpED pIECES *Above* In a contemporary space throw some quirky tradition into the mix. Here a 1930s-style chair has been reupholstered in green and repainted a bright violet colour.

TURQUOISE DISpLAY *Below* In a small bedroom a wooden display unit doubles as a linen store. Cheerful colours on furniture provide a focal point when the bed itself does not dominate.

RETRO CHIC *Above* Small dressing tables are easy to find in flea market stores and vintage emporiums. Use them to pretty up a bedroom and make an informal style statement.

MODERN TRADITION *Below* This modern take on classic 18th-century French furniture with its curved lines and sleek glossy white surface fits well in a contemporary setting.

SEAMLESS pATTERN It is hard to tell where the bed and the walls merge in this highly decorative bedroom scheme. A Jonathan Adler cushion is a witty addition to the bed itself.

case study

EN-SUITE BEDROOM

Incorporating an en-suite bathroom into your bedroom may be as simple as a small shower room or as comprehensive as a dressing area, bath and shower combined. Whatever you have or you plan to do, think about how much space you want to devote to this important part of your bedroom when you are thinking about furniture and décor.

In Christine d'Ornano's Kensington home she decided to go bold in the bedroom, choosing Osborne & Little fabric and wallpaper to go across both the headboard and all four walls. Having been brought up in Paris, educated at Princeton in the US and spent time living in Mexico, d'Ornano has inherited a fascination for furniture and decorative objects from her parents, who have always been adventurous decorators.

'When I planned the room I knew I wanted to go with bold pattern, both on the walls and the floor. I love the end result, it makes me smile.' *Christine d'Ornano*

She loves the bright colours of Mexico, has a French flair for using fabrics on walls and is unafraid of dropping in bold designs along the way.

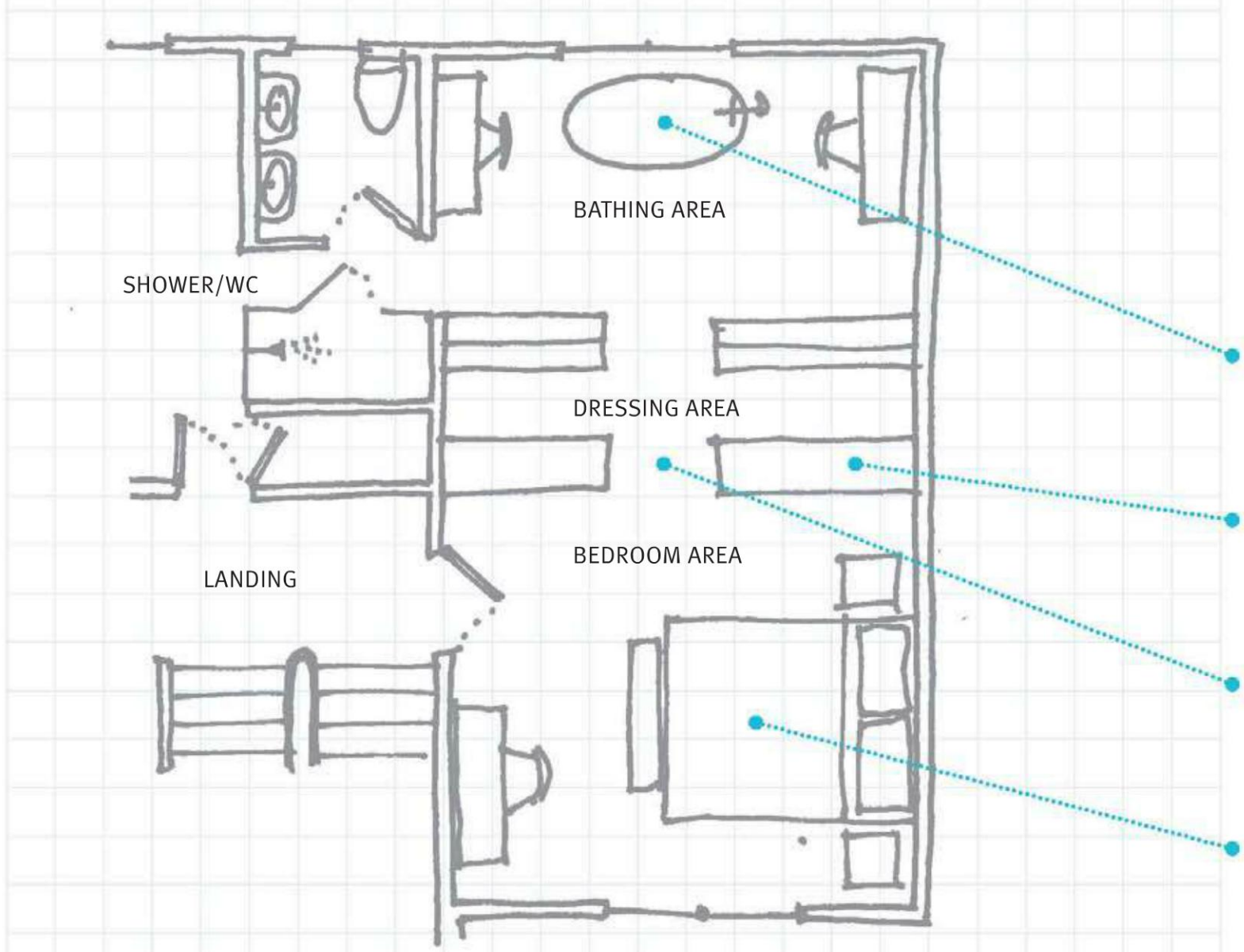
'My parents have always decorated with lots of colour, so that is where my bold approach comes from,' says Christine, whose father, Comte Hubert d'Ornano, co-founded Lancôme, set up Orlane and, together with his wife, Isabelle, began Sisley in 1976. 'My parents have always made joint decorating decisions, enjoying themselves in the process and I have continued the tradition with my husband, Marzouk; we are very much a team when it comes to decorating decisions.'

This is first and foremost a family home and there is evidence of the pair's three daughters' paintings and drawings in nearly every room, but especially here in the bedroom, where photos and drawings are simply pinned to the wall on either side of the bed. They are charming additions to the colourful space.

BEDSIDE STORY *Left* Amid a riot of pattern, a bedside table with a transparent top gives a sense of space next to the bed, where the walls are turned into a miniature family picture gallery.

BATHING BEAUTY *Opposite* Nestling beneath the big picture window, the bath is glimpsed from both the dressing area and the bedroom. The children's artwork forms an effortless windowsill display, completely in keeping with the décor.





An oval bath underneath the window is both a focal point and a good use of space.

Columns of clothes storage extend three-quarters of the way up the wall, library style, so as to preserve natural light and not enclose the dressing area too much.

The entrance to the en-suite dressing area and bathroom is left open so the bath and window become an enticing centrepiece glimpsed in the distance from the bed.

The bed is the main focal point in the bedroom.

‘I love the way the light pours into the bathroom and bathes the room in sunlight. This is a peaceful spot in our busy household.’ *Christine d’Ornano*

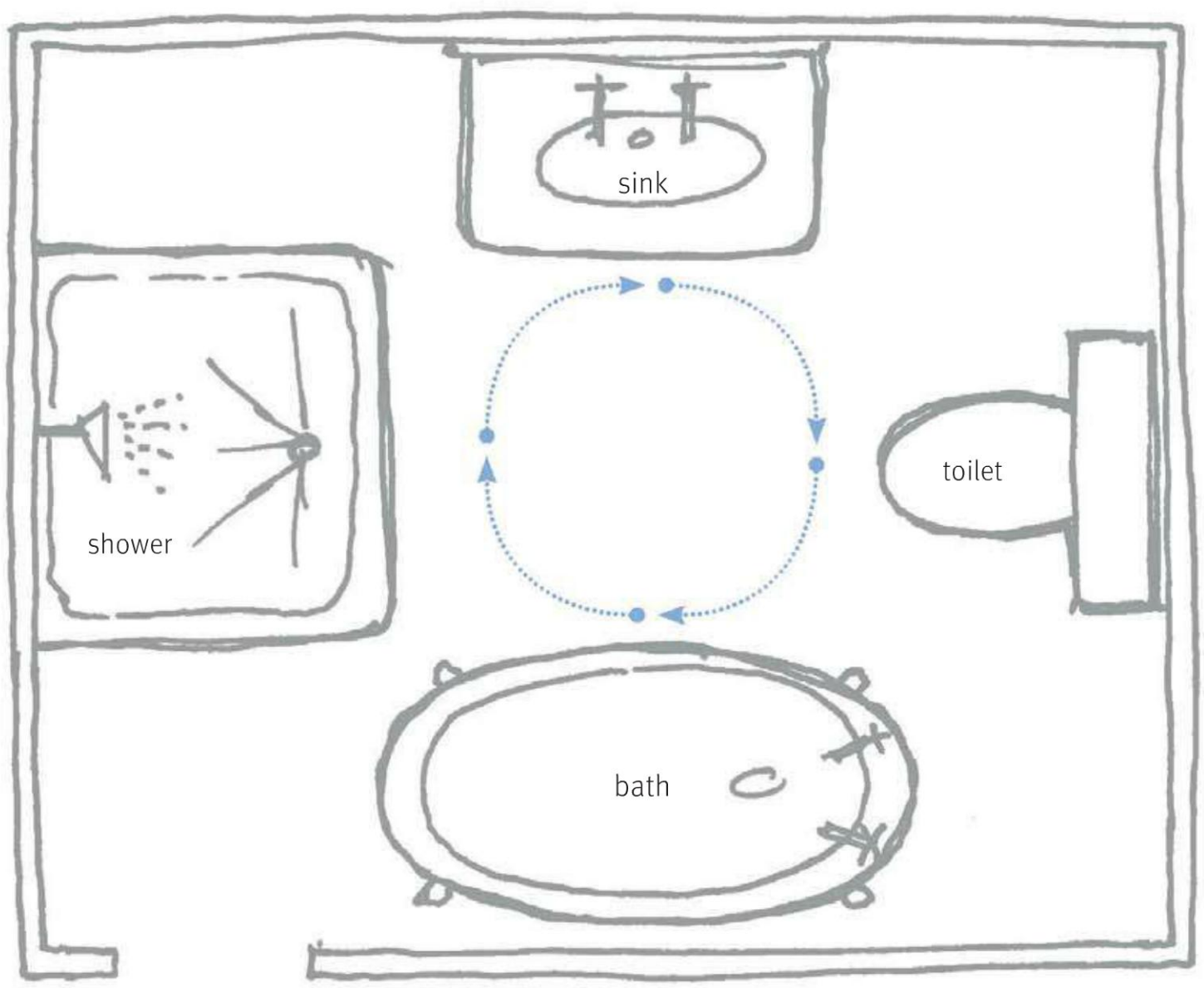
BATHROOMS

Bathrooms, like kitchens, have a few key design elements that are important to think about when you are planning the space. Considerations about keeping a smooth flow between the fixtures and fittings such as sink to bath to wc need to be addressed right at the start. When there is enough space, tuck the wc out of sight as you enter the room, allowing the bath, shower or sink to take centre stage.

Lighting is important in bathrooms. Make sure the mirror over the sink has adequate (and flattering) lighting. Avoid light levels that are too harsh and introduce a relaxing mood with candles or lanterns. Adequate storage is vital in a bathroom, too. Tuck away your toiletries in a vintage cabinet or install a system of drawers or baskets. In a small space make good use of the walls rather than cluttering up the floor area.

DESIGNING A BATHROOM well is a matter of mixing function and practicality with style, and maybe some glamour thrown in too. Decide whether you are a walk-in shower person or would prefer to concentrate your design efforts on the bathtub itself. How many people will be using the room? Do you need space for a separate shower or will a bath plus shower attachment do?

A circular movement Even in the smallest bathroom there should be a natural flow between the various pieces of sanitaryware. The route between sink and bath, sink and shower and sink and WC should be easy and unimpeded, in the same way that the classic triangle layout works well in a kitchen.



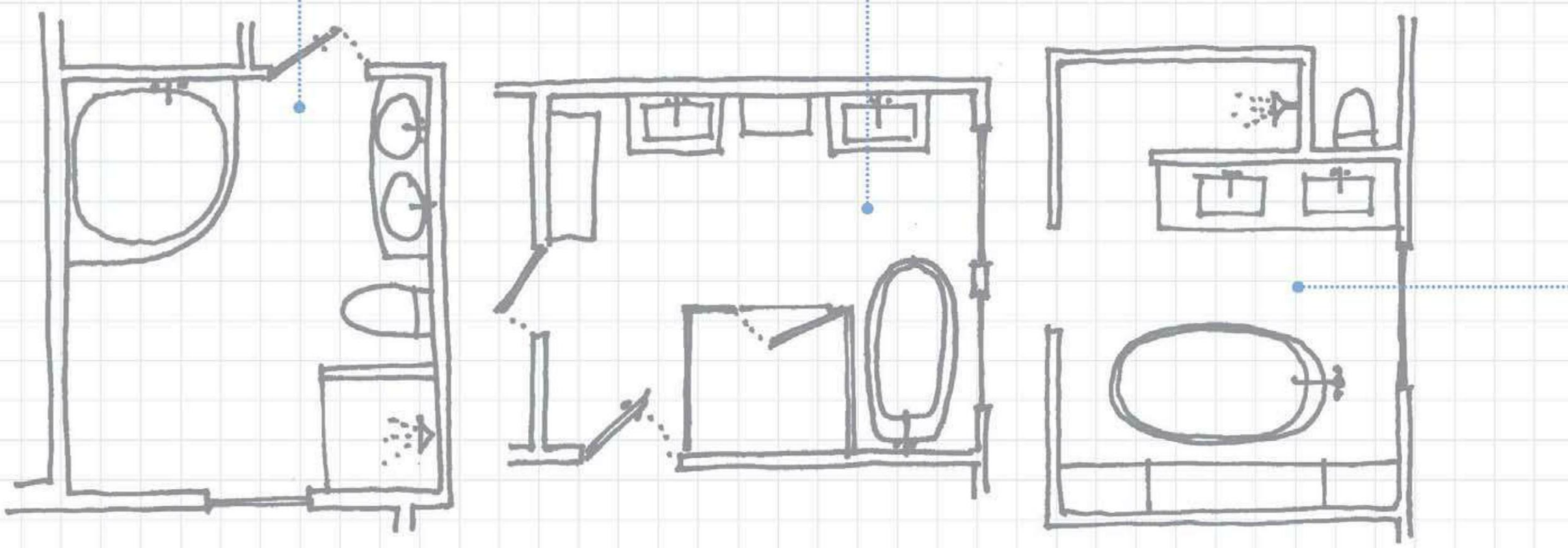
CLEAN WHITE *Opposite* In Mairead Fanning's London home the bath is a beautiful centrepiece in a space that feels more like a chic spa than a domestic bathroom. The minimal styling is warmed through with interesting elements such as honeycomb-like tiles and a nubbly schoolhouse-style mat.

‘Mix and match traditional tiles with contemporary baths or traditional baths with understated tiling to create visual interest in pale and neutral bathrooms. Choose small iridescent mosaics for half-height panelling to give an eye-catching finish in a pared-down space.’

Fired Earth







CORNER SpA *Above left* In this home a corner bath has been slipped neatly beneath the eaves to make use of an awkward space and create a cosy bathing corner. A tall, narrow plinth in sky blue mosaic tiles hides pipework and provides a ledge for displaying bathroom accessories. Corner baths are a great solution in awkward spaces.

RETRO pAIRING *Above right* A vintage vibe is created by placing a pair of retro-inspired sinks on the wall beneath large circular mirrors and separating them with a reclaimed filing cabinet. The tiles are white ceramic mosaics grouted in grey for a school washroom feel. In a large family bathroom, a separate shower and bath means family members can double up if necessary.

NEAT EN-SUITE *Opposite* A clever use of space means that two bathrooms back to back make good use of the same plumbing. A pair of sinks in this clean-lined en-suite room saves on arguments, while a feature bath is placed conveniently near by. A walk-in shower has been created behind a faux wall that adds privacy as well as becoming a room divider.

Bathroom Layouts

Creative use of every inch of space will help create the bathroom you need

In a bathroom it is important to get away from thinking you always have to use standard fixtures. Sanitaryware is available in a huge range of sizes and styles so take time to look around and find what works for you.

‘Choice is like a muscle, if you work it enough, you make stronger decisions – decisions that move you in the direction of your desires.’

Carrie McCarthy, author

Creative Tiling *As important as paint in a living room, tiles often make a space*

Tiling is capable of utterly transforming a bathroom from a purely functional space to a colourful haven or a chic, streamlined area that conjures up a dream spa.

Tiling walls and floors in different tiles creates visual interest and is a practical design solution, particularly if you have any kind of shower. Mix and match colours, styles and size of tiles to alter the effect on the space or else go for blanket coverage for a neat, cohesive feel.





‘Bathrooms and kitchens are the most important parts of a house in terms of re-sale value. They are really important rooms in the house and it is nice when they are beautiful and functional.’ *Jessie Randall, designer*

FOREST GREEN *Above left* Square mosaic tiles in fern green combined with white grout has a surprisingly warming effect in a walk-in shower room. Teamed with natural wood and white walls and fixtures this is simple but effective decorating.

HERALDIC BATHING *Above right* This bathroom mixes retro styling with vintage brass fixtures and accessories that look as though they have come from Roman baths. Splashes of orange look good against the brass and prevent the room from feeling like a sea of white.

BLACK AND WHITE Tiny black slate flooring tiles teamed with white metro-style wall tiles make a clean, classic bathroom combination that is high in style as well as function. Tiling throughout in a bathroom is both useful and beautiful.



‘Tiling in the bathroom is like wallpaper in a living room; it’s not only a practical wall covering but can also provide a decorative edge, crisp definition or a colour statement in any bathing space.’

Fired Earth

FLOATING WALL A tall plinth forms a room divider and a wall that houses a custom-made basin and vanity unit. Behind the wall is a walk-in shower. When there is space to do so, false walls are a great idea for creating different zones of activity in bathrooms.

‘The sleekness of the steel sink sitting on an old Burmese table gives you a sense of being in a foyer not a bathroom. I wanted the bathroom to have a sense of the past but read more modern.’

Vicente Wolf, designer

Basins *Choosing a basin is as much about choosing a bathroom style*

Basins are a good starting point when planning a bathroom. Gather together brochures and look at magazines and websites for ideas for different shapes and unusual materials.





If you are planning a bathroom on a tight budget, you can often save money by choosing a basic basin but splashing out on high-quality taps. But if you are set on a particularly spectacular style or shape of basin that you think will make all the difference then you can reverse the process and conserve more of your budget for that rather lovely basin or basin unit.

Before you make your choice think about who will use the bathroom. A tiny ceramic bowl may look spectacular but will irritate you if several people pass through the bathroom and leave puddles of water on your countertop. Avoid low-level basins if you have a bad back, while pairs of basins are a good idea if two people get ready for work at the same time.

RETRO COASTAL *Above left* A steel industrial basin unit placed against a metal window frame and beside exposed pipework is softened by a glass cabinet displaying a collection of sea anemones and shells in Amy Neunsinger's Los Angles home.

CHILDREN'S BATHROOM *Above right* In Anita Kauschal's London house a pair of small basins are ranged at a lower than usual height in a children's bathroom that is compact but functional. When space is tight, look for small basins that will not look too large-for the room.

Bathtubs *From freestanding to built-in, bathtubs often form the centrepiece of a bathroom*

Look out for salvaged baths to restore, designer pieces that will become covetable collectable items or choose an everyday tub and go to town on accessories.



If you are more of a shower person than an everyday bather, your bathtub may be more of a design statement than a frequently used piece of bathroom equipment, so this may colour your decision over what shape of tub to choose.

Freestanding baths are those most often used as a central feature in the room, while built-in tubs can be chosen in smaller or larger sizes than standard to fit a specific space or an awkward corner. Think about how you wish to build in a bath. You may want to incorporate a generous space for storing and displaying toiletries or else use spare space to create some pigeon-hole shelving in tiles or wood.

WHITE SpACE *Opposite* In Stephanie Rammeloo's Amsterdam loft apartment purpose-built slatted sliding doors allow natural light to flood into the compact bathroom. A standard bath appears larger due to a generous housing unit that provides extra storage at the end.

CLASSICAL BATHING *Above* Anita Kaushal's bathroom is more of a relaxing space that happens to incorporate a traditional bath rather than a functional bathroom with useful storage and display. Roll-top baths are widely available as reproductions or originals, ready for revamping.

‘Bathrooms are a great place to combine natural textures and materials in refreshing ways. There are so many different approaches to the bath and I always want mine to feel like a spa.’

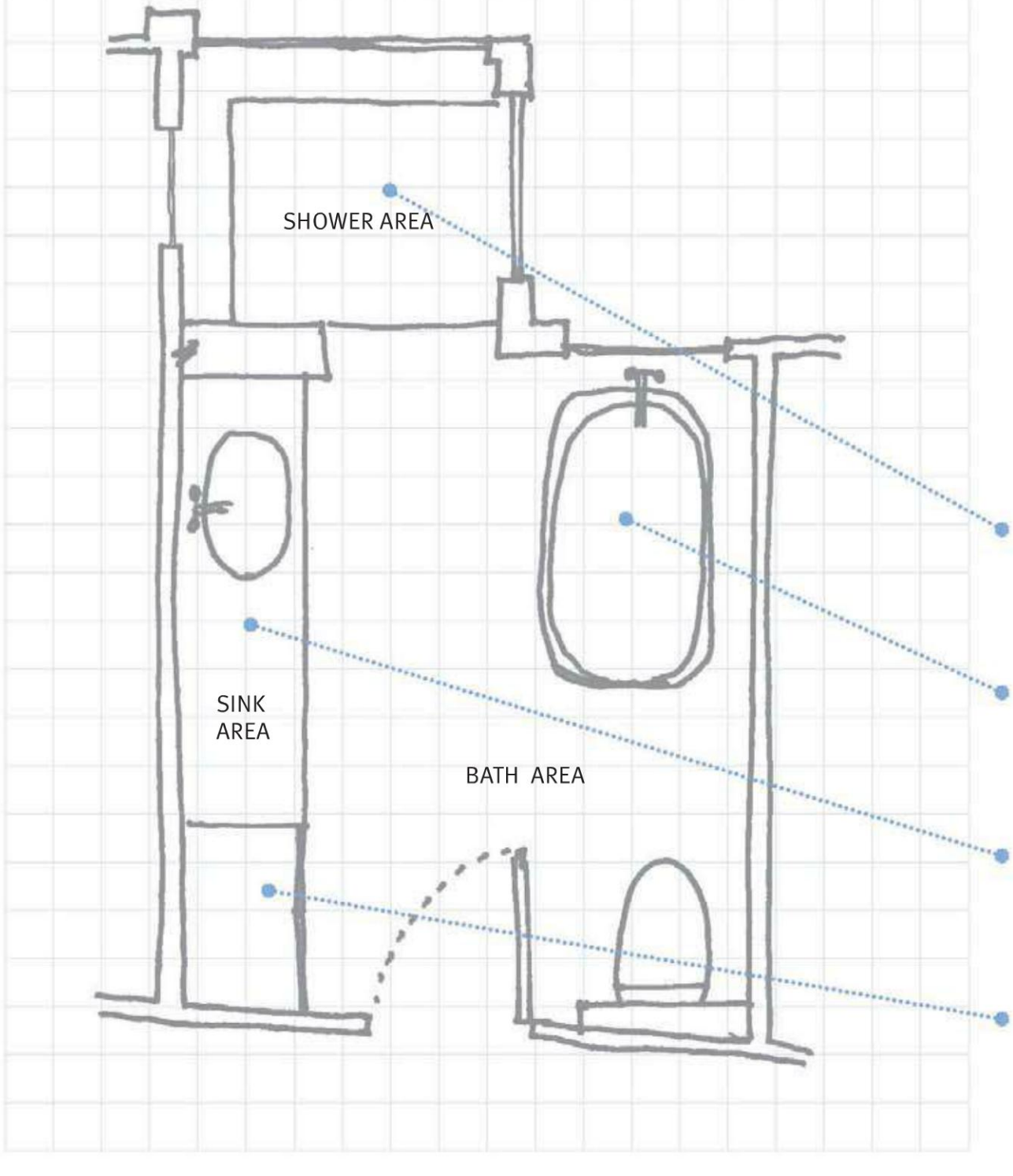
Amy Butler, designer





STONEWASH
Mixing a vintage painted mirror with the smooth surfaces of tiling and limestone creates a welcoming basin area that is a perfect combination of the old and the new.

Amy Neunsinger's glamorous bathroom combines sleek lines with luxurious materials and a statement period piece. Dominating the space is a claw-footed Victorian bath that has been reconditioned, then painted a pale mushroom colour to tone well with the limestone sink unit. On the walls of the sink area and in the shower wet room are two types of mother-of-pearl mosaic tiles that reflect natural light and provide a subtle shimmer in each of the two spaces. Effortless glamour that is not too hard to achieve.



Frosted windows allow natural light to flood into the fully tiled shower room. A low-level tiled area is used for storage and as a seat.

A reclaimed bath is a big feature in the room as you enter the bathroom.

A purpose-built limestone slab sink incorporates single drawers and extends along one wall.

Fabric storage boxes beneath the generous vanity surface offer access to toiletries.

ROOM WITH A VIEW
Above left A low-level reclaimed bathtub sits beneath a picture window. The painted concrete floor enhances light.

SHOWER SpACE
Opposite Frosted glass encloses the walk-in shower with its stylish showerhead and reflective walls.

case study

LUXURY BATHROOM

Creating glamour in the bathroom is all about combining luxurious materials in an understated way to produce shimmering surfaces, inspiring textures and a dash of surprise. It need not be expensive to reproduce an air of luxury. Keep the emphasis on one or two key areas such as the bath, the sink, one-off lighting or the walls and floors to make instant glamour.

‘My bathroom is filled with light, has a view of the canyons and the shower is large enough that a shower curtain is not needed.

It is luxurious and sparkly and makes me happy each time I walk in.’

Amy Neunsinger, photographer

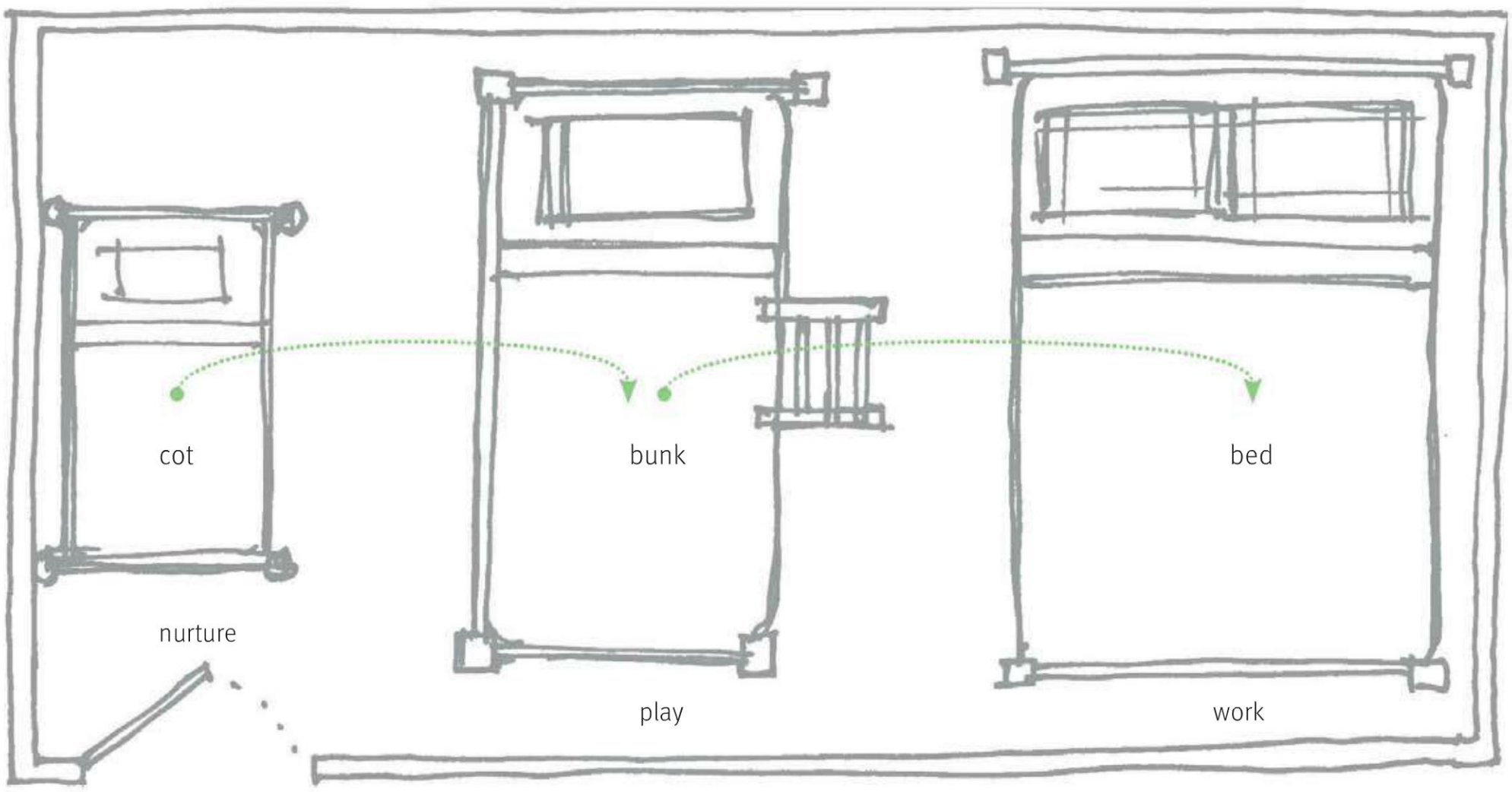
CHILDREN'S ROOMS

Creating a children's room is one of the most fun-filled and emotionally satisfying decorating jobs you can undertake. Designing a room for your own child is your chance to express your love full-on, by putting a piece of yourself in the space.

It may be that you handcraft a quilt for the bed, or create a collage of family photos or mementos in a painted frame, or take footprints or handprints of your child as a baby and display these alongside a first pair of shoes or valued trophies. Whatever touches your inner decorator, use it to connect with your children in their own rooms. This is one space where you can let all your colour whims go wild because kids love colour. Incorporate a comfortable and cosy sleeping space, somewhere to store and display toys that the kids can have access to and, for older children, a desk.

DESIGNING CHILDREN'S ROOMS allows you the chance to think about your own childhood and pass on anything you remember with fondness to the next generation. You may have had a favourite chest of drawers in a particular colour or a set of display shelves with mementos from holidays. Allow the space to grow with your child and enjoy watching the process.

Growing needs If you don't want to be altering your child's room each year as they grow too quickly, take some time to plan for the transition from the cot to the toddler bed to the teenager daybed. Constant change and flexibility are required when it comes to designing children's rooms, so bear this is mind before you jump headfirst into a particular age-related look or style.



pLAYSpACE *Opposite* Just as important as children's bedrooms are playspaces elsewhere in the home. They can be as simple as a corner of a kitchen or eating area or as complex as a specially decorated playroom.

‘I think it is very important that children have a place to create, to play, to learn. Ideally with a window, because of the natural light and nature.’

Jenny Levié, editor in chief



case study

GIRL'S ROOM

Girls' bedrooms need to reflect the passions and pastimes of the inhabitants. Try not to get too hung up on creating a specific theme. Children's tastes change and develop at a much faster rate than adults, so it's best to avoid spending a lot of time slavishly creating a certain look only for it to become outdated or unloved within months. Girls like to be involved in decorating decisions so talk to your daughter about what she sees or likes. Encourage her to create her own scrapbook of favourite images to help her formulate her own visual sense.

Leslie Shewring, a freelance photographer and stylist, chose not to introduce a specific theme into her daughter's room but instead let her daughter collect together the things she liked, including some art from her mother's own collection. 'Occasionally I buy little prints that fit in with themes she is interested in, such as carousels or cupcakes, as well as things that are not toys; things such as nesting dolls or containers, sparkly figures or little decorated boxes that she can hide things in. I made a simple covered headboard to line the wall so there are no hard surfaces for when she is running and jumping on the beds. Of course, it is always nice to have an extra bed in a child's room for when family or friends are visiting.'





‘I decided to place two low platform beds end to end because it creates a long soft space to hang out on and read or play. It is similar to a long wide sofa and who doesn't like lounging on something like this with lots of cushions?’

Leslie Shewring

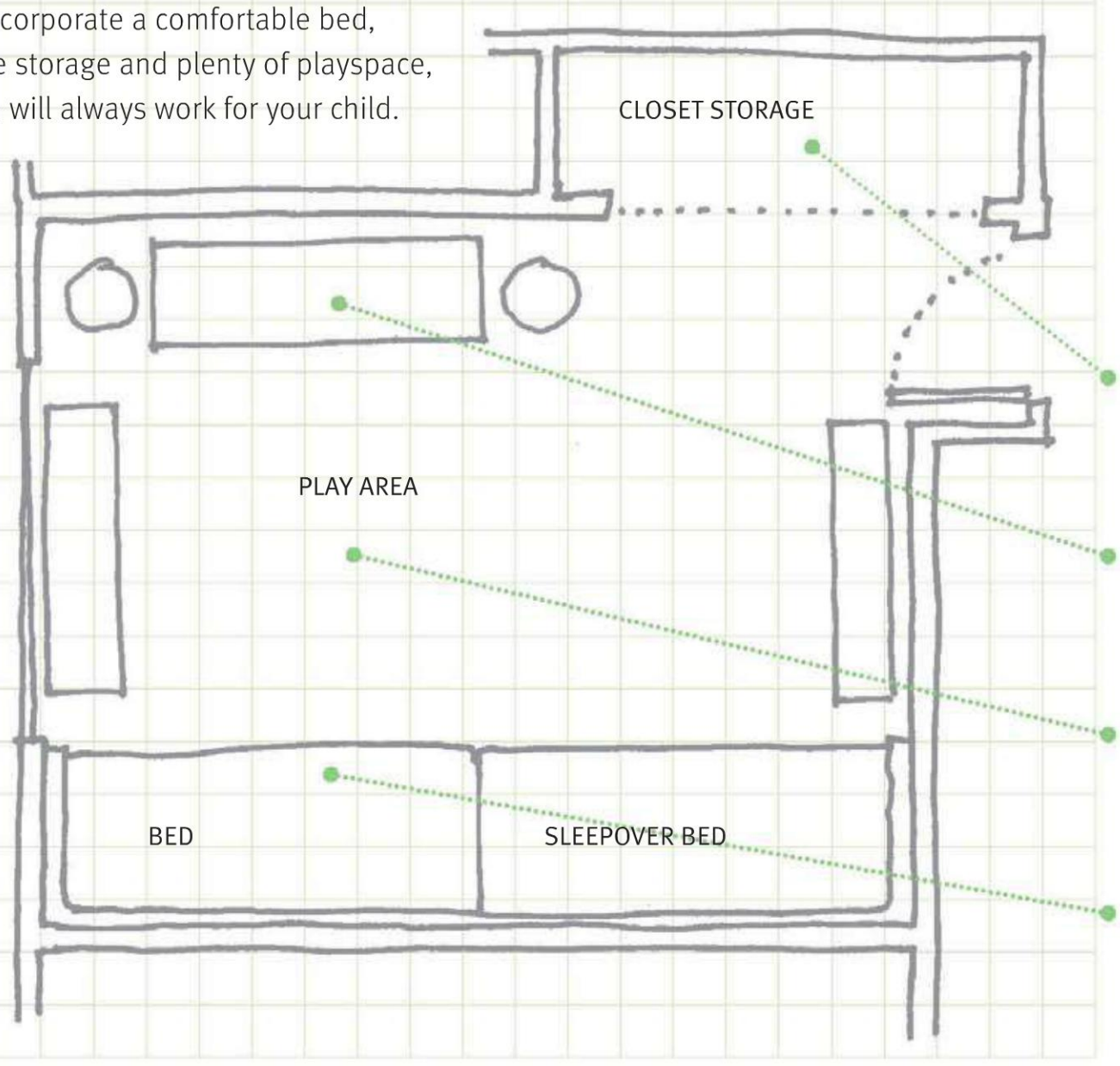




DAY BED It's important to provide a comfortable lounging space so that children always feel at home in their rooms. As they get older and become teenagers their rooms become important sanctuaries, so keep them smart and inviting for as long as possible.



TIMELESS AppEAL *Above and opposite*
Decorating a child's room without age-specific elements allows you to experiment more with art and accessories. As long as you incorporate a comfortable bed, adequate storage and plenty of playspace, the room will always work for your child.



Girls particularly enjoy having friends to sleep over so, if you can, incorporate space for additional sleeping equipment. Make full use of the height of the room. Consider installing a bunk bed or a cabin bed with space beneath for an extra mattress. A truckle bed with a mattress tucked onto a wheeled platform for pulling out when guests appear is a space-saver.

Storage is key in a child's room: toys, clothes, a dressing-up box and games all need to be kept in an accessible place.

A chest of drawers is versatile for storing smaller items and for display.

Allow some space as a flexible play area for board games, a small desk and chair, jigsaws or play figures.

If space allows, incorporate a spare bed for sleepovers and guests.

‘I like the idea of displaying things that are curious for her but are not toys.’ *Leslie Shewring*

Rooms for All Ages

Create a room that can grow with your child

Ring the age changes by repainting a wall or some furniture in a newly favoured colour, changing what is hanging on the wall or introducing a new, more grown-up bed.

‘I like the way that using old toys in children’s rooms gives them a sense of the past when they are bombarded with mass-produced TV characters today. Old toys are often very charming and don’t necessarily need to be collector’s items.’ *Emily Dyson, designer*

flexible decorating ideas

For toddlers choose a bed that can grow with them. An antique sleigh bed or one layer of a bunk bed may make them look tiny when asleep at first, but the bed will see them through a good five or six years’ worth of life.

Paint one wall of the room in a strong colour that your child loves. Keep checking back with them that they still love it and if not, repaint it or wallpaper over it.

Learning and decorating can go hand in hand. Paper one wall with a huge map of the world, scientific symbols or hang retro posters depicting flora and fauna.

Notice what your children respond to in art galleries or museums and take something home with you for their rooms. Just because they’re children doesn’t mean they can’t appreciate van Gogh or the Impressionists, for instance.

Personalize a room by incorporating your child’s name on wall-hung letters, as monograms on cushions, pillows or towels, or painted onto a piece of furniture.

Create an heirloom for your child – a patchwork quilt, a handmade toy box or dolls’ house, a wooden miniature chair, a framed print of family mementos or a favourite childhood toy displayed in a box frame.

Make sure you include a place to display your children’s art. It encourages creativity and boosts their confidence to know their efforts are valued.



COLOURFUL CHEST *Above* Painted furniture is a quick and easy way of ringing the changes in a child’s room. Paint it in your child’s favourite colours or in shades that suit the room.

pINK HAVEN *Below* Rather than turning a room into a pink palace, paint one wall only and use pretty accessories such as blankets and floral cushions to continue the feminine theme.







BUNKING DOWN *Above* Space-saving and a perennial children's favourite, bunk beds are cosy, fun and inviting, whatever time of the day. Add integral shelving and lighting where possible.

THROUGH THE AGES *Below* This toddler's bedroom will readily adapt to a teenager's den. There is spare space that can be used for spreading out schoolwork where there are now toys.

STARS AND STRIpES *Above* A loose theme can be achieved with accessories in particular colours. Changes can be easily made when your child outgrows or becomes bored with the look.

pERSONAL SpACE *Below* Make a feature of the bed by painting an antique sleigh bed and placing it in a dominant space in the room beneath your child's name. No mistaking who lives in this space.

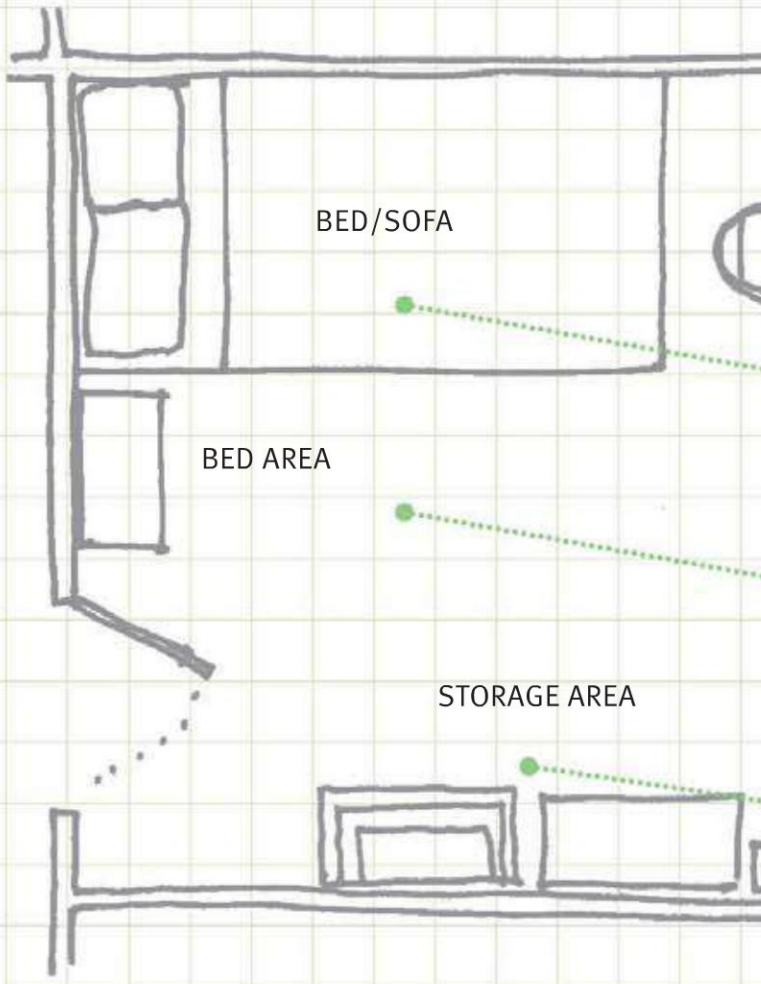




Former Montessori school teacher turned illustrator Anna-Malin Lindgren created an interesting bedroom first and a masculine boy's space second, so that the room can be adapted very easily in the future as her son grows into a teenager. A metal-framed bed is decorated with a collection of customized cushions and a nautical duvet, whose theme is reinforced by some pirate bunting and a string of rope suspended from the eaves, ship style, to display her son's artwork and quirky bits and pieces. A collection of vintage suitcases piled on the floor continues both the seafaring theme and the vintage feel of the room.

WORKING OUT *Left* A collection of sneakers decorates the top of a useful bureau that can be used for homework and creative activities. Wooden floors make sense in children's rooms where spills are inevitable.

AHOY THERE *Opposite* A sophisticated take on the traditional nautical boy's room theme, the decorating is all done with accessories, which will make it easily adaptable later on.



A desk space is really useful in a child's room, even if it comprises just a tiny desk and a folding chair.

A metal-framed bed is robust and allows for some underbed storage space.

Keep some space free in the centre of the room for toy soldiers, board games and playspace for when friends visit.

Devote a wall to storage, either freestanding or built-in.

case study

BOY'S ROOM

Boys often like their bedrooms to include space to spread out larger games and activities such as sports punch bags, Subbutteo or miniature table football and elaborate car racing tracks and vast tracts of construction bricks. Boys also tend to make use of desks, for model making for example, more than girls so bear this in mind when setting out to plan and decorate their space.

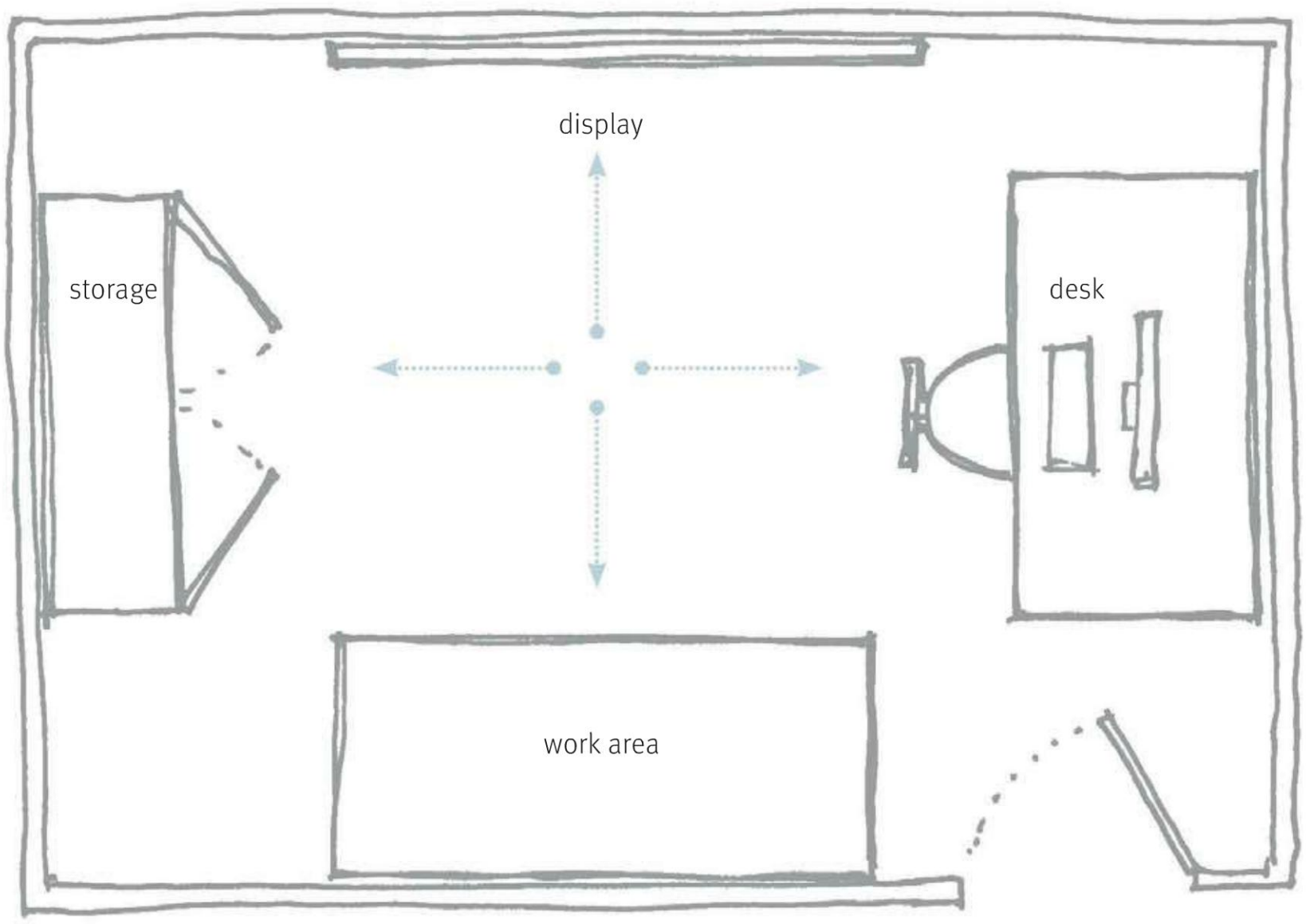
CREATIVE SPACES

If you work from home and are creative it is so important to have a space you can call your own. Somewhere that is calm and light-filled ideally, with plenty of storage space and as generous a desk as you can manage. A place to display ideas and inspiration is also key, and don't forget to incorporate some favourite things to cheer you when your inspiration wanes or to encourage the ideas to flow.

Make a list of what equipment you need for your creative work, whether it is floristry or art, writing or typography, ceramics or sewing, then work out where the best place in your home is to create a space that will enable you to feel both inspired and at home and comfortable.

WORKING AREAS can be designed in the smallest of spaces if needs be: in walk-in closets, behind false walls in a bedroom or living room, on a fold-down table in a kitchen cupboard or in self-contained purpose-built spaces in the garden or an outhouse. Wherever there are a few square metres of space, you can set up a workstation, whether it is temporary or permanent, tiny or palatial.

Practical planning Sort out which items of furniture will take precedence – a large desk for spreading out plans and paperwork or a huge cupboard to fit in oversized tools or containers? Do you need a whole wall of display space for your ideas? Do you need a desk and a dedicated worktop for things like sewing or for spreading out reference material and brochures?



SEW CREATIVE *Opposite* Virginia Armstrong's sewing desk is a simple trestle table that can be taken down when the space is needed for something else. Wall shelves provide a permanent place for ever-changing displays of inspiration and a plan chest allows for the neat storage of fabric swatches and completed artworks.

‘My favourite room changes all the time. It’s usually the one I’ve just finished updating or redecorated! But that’s the power of decorating – you get to put your inspirations, ideas and creativity to work to create a space that not only suits the function of the room, but your desires as well.’ *Belinda Graham, blogger*

Workstations *The hub of the homeworker*

Your desk should be in a quiet place where you can concentrate, and ideally it should be away from living and sleeping areas. If you work in the kitchen you may be distracted by chores and snacks; working in a bedroom means that you can never really switch off at night, while in living rooms you could well be disturbed by other members of the family at various times of the day.



CREATIVE DISpLAY *Above* Keep photos and significant pieces of inspiration close by as you work. They provide a visual breather as well as inspiration when you are immersing yourself in a work project.

Choose a desk that suits your working needs. Writers may want the reassurance of a solid, traditional writing desk with built-in drawers for storing stationery and reference books. An artist may be better off with a tilting easel-type desk, while a florist, sewer or craftsperson could work happily at a trestle table and use the additional space below the desk for storing crates of materials. Personalize your desk with family photos or a nearby pinboard for inspiration.

making space for work

Choose a desk that is large enough for all your paperwork, incorporates some storage and has ample space for a computer and a printer if needed.

Lighting is important so pick a desk lamp that lights both your work surface and your computer screen effectively.

If you are working in a dual-purpose space, make sure your work desk or workstation blends in with the rest of the décor rather than standing out as a specific workspace.

Store superfluous equipment and materials behind closed doors or drawers so that you aren't distracted by clutter when you are trying to concentrate.

Arrange your electrical wiring and sockets so that you have easy access to the telephone, computer, lighting and music.

‘A nice workspace at home will encourage you to use your talents and give more structure to your ideas and work schedule. Working in a nice atmosphere will always bring out the best in you!’

Irene Hoofs, blogger

SCHOOLHOUSE WORKHOUSE In Stephanie Rammeloo’s converted schoolhouse in Amsterdam, her workspace forms one wall of the large living space so is designed to fit in rather than stand out from the space. Ample storage in the form of freestanding pieces slipped underneath a long run of worktop means that the work surface itself is kept for paperwork.




LOVE





‘Living and working under the same roof has many advantages for family life, providing short routes from the office to the workshop to the kitchen.’

Claudia Nowotny, store owner

DISpLAY AND STORAGE *Opposite top left* In Leslie Shewring’s Californian home she has devoted a whole room to her creative space. Here she stores all her fabric samples, ribbons and other sewing materials together with vases and containers relating to her passion for flower arranging.

COSY STUDY *Opposite top right* Christine d’Ornano’s husband, Marzouk, has added a compact study next door to the bedroom, dressing area and en-suite bathroom. The walls are lined with deep turquoise linen for a clubby, cosy feel. Here he can catch up on paperwork or watch TV in a dedicated space adjacent to the bedroom.

pINK DISpLAY *Opposite bottom left* Sabine Brandt’s work desk nestles under the eaves in a converted bedroom where one sugar pink wall provides a gallery-like backdrop to a personal display of photographs, art and collections.

WHITE LIBRARY *Opposite bottom right* In this tall room, the office of Amy Neunsinger’s husband, Shawn Gold, floor-to-ceiling shelves are a good way of storing and displaying a vast collection of vintage and leather-bound books. Access is via a library ladder.

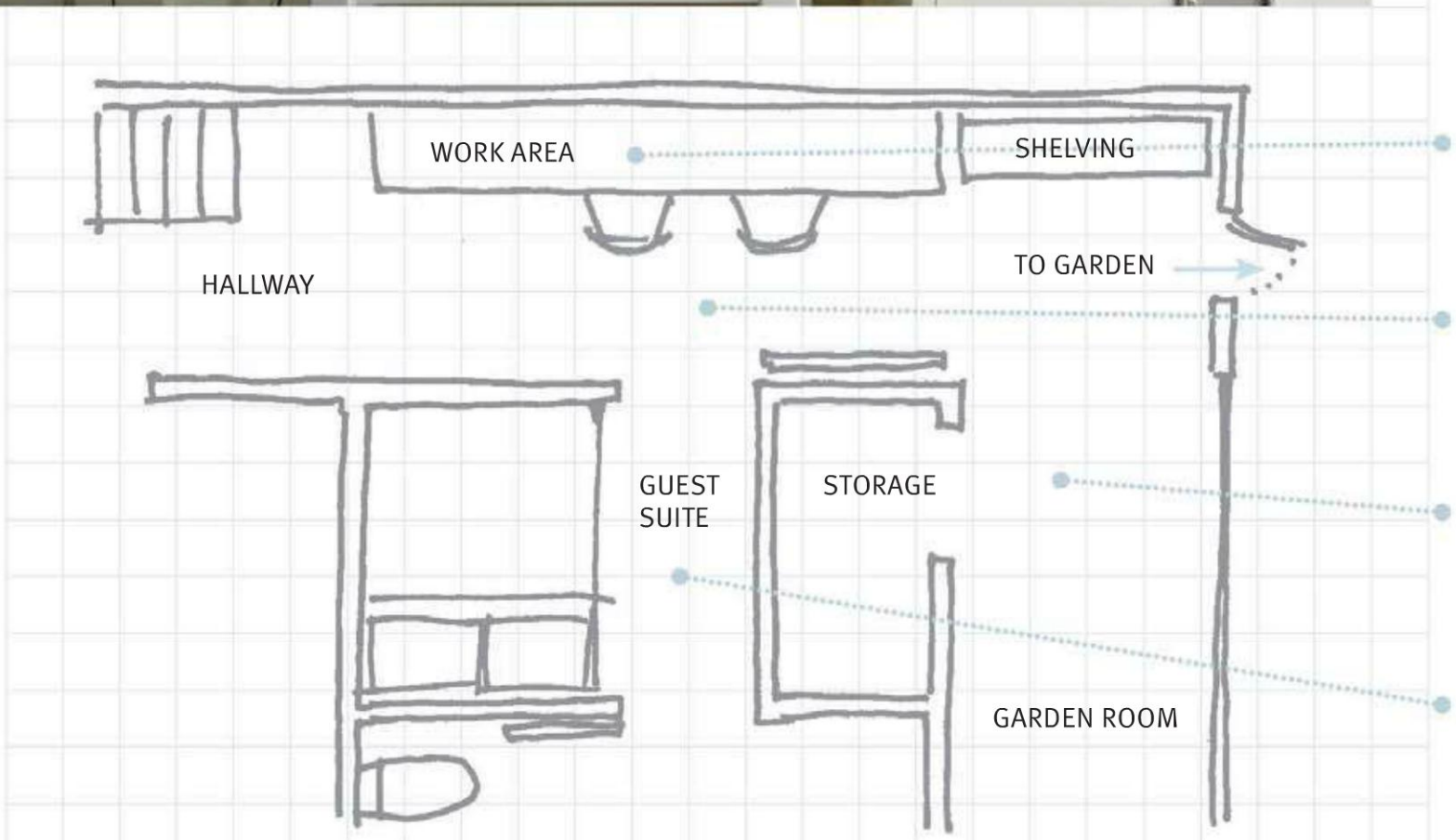
VINTAGE INVENTIVE *This page* Any corner of a room can be turned into an appealing workspace with a movable trestle table, an interesting chair and an array of creative accessories.

Lyndsay is a metalsmith and Fitzhugh a sculptor and designer, so they have made every bit of space work for them to allow plenty of white shelving for displaying their design experiments and inspiration. ‘White can lend itself to anything, for us it’s the perfect backdrop to the things we make and collect.’

The rest of the space is an informal living area so the idea of working along one long wall of the room aids their concentration as there is no view to distract them from work. Small filing cabinets are slotted beneath the worktop for storing files and paperwork and a smart iroko worktop makes a wonderful long run of desktop space.

HOME WORK *Left* Make yourself at home at your desk by displaying photos, treasured objects and reference materials. Make space for reminder notes as well as exercise books for writing down ideas when they come into your head.

A WALL OF WORK *Opposite* A space-saving home office was created with a bespoke pigeon-hole shelving system and a wooden worktop, with built-in cupboards and freestanding storage slotted in between two side-by-side work desks.



A space-saving workstation is ranged along one wall, with chairs tucked under the work surface when not in use.

If you position a desk away from a window you won’t be distracted when working, but allow adequate artificial light.

A dedicated storage space is tucked away from the work area and houses larger materials for sculpture, metalwork and design.

The guest suite tucks away discreetly behind the work area.

case study

WORKING FROM HOME

When you do not have to step out of your front door to get to your office it's important to have a dedicated space in your home that you can still refer to as your workplace. Create somewhere in which you can store, retrieve and process all the necessary equipment and materials for your job, a place where you keep the personal tools of your trade. psychologically and physically it is always good to have a distinct area that is for work alone, but it is also perfectly possible to create a work corner by adding a screen to divide off the space or to have a movable, easily portable desk.

Lyndsay Caleo and Fitzhugh Karol have dedicated the garden level floor of their Brooklyn home to an informal workspace and a guest suite. This arrangement is perfect for working from home as it is calm and quiet, with immediate access to the garden and plenty of natural light, while at night and over weekends it switches function to become a perfect guest suite.

'We have deliberately used white as the backdrop to this space because with all the information we take in visually every day, white on white is a resting place. The right white is timeless.'

Lyndsay Caleo and Fitzhugh Karol

“It’s the finishing touches that add the wow factor and take any room from ORDINAIRE to extra-ordinaire.”

Abigail Ahern

Attention to Detail

‘Jonathan uses our pad as a canvas for his design ideas.’

Simon Doonan, creative director/author



ARTFUL DISPLAY *Previous page* On a mantelpiece or shelf create a still life from collected and found objects. Flora and fauna, haberdasher’s silks, discarded price signs and battered picture frames make a cohesive display united by colour and texture.

‘Our stuff is constantly changing and evolving as I make new things and new collections. My poor, long-suffering husband never knows when a beloved ceramic piece, sofa or lamp is gonna’ disappear and be switched with something new.’

Jonathan Adler, potter/interor designer

CERAMIC SHELVING *This page* Group a collection of ceramics according to height, function, style or colour. Play around with the positioning until you are happy you have the perfect arrangement.

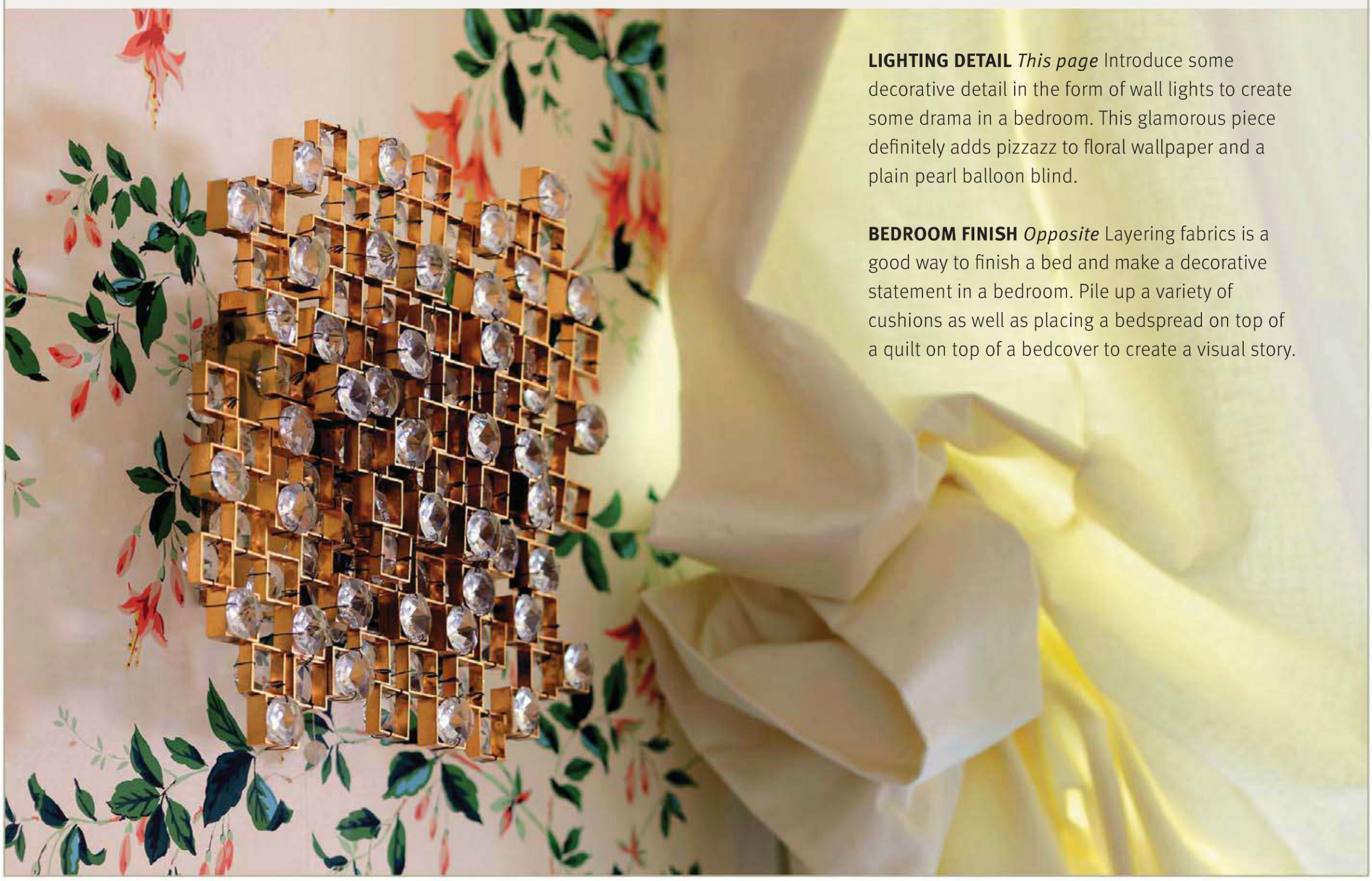
CREATING FINISHING TOUCHES

Once you have planned your space and furnished it with the things you love and long to surround yourself with, you can start to think about the all-important finishing touches. It is the details in a space that can provide an elusive harmony, a perfect colour commentary or a quirky decorative touch that may lift a room from the mundane to the magical.

Look around you and sort through your belongings to pinpoint the items that make an emotional connection with you. It may be a family holiday photo in a battered frame, a child's drawing or artwork, a gifted plant from a friend or a treasured object brought back from your travels that is shouting out to have some shelf space.

APPRECIATING HOW MUCH IMPACT can be achieved by carefully choosing and creating finishing touches is an important part of decorating. Whether it is a decorative light fitting, a textured throw or rug, a small collection of painted picture frames or small detailing such as piping on an upholstered chair or a delicate ceramic bowl on display, the details all count.

Icing on the cake When you look around a newly decorated room, is it calling out for a bit of love and attention? Does it seem a little too pared down or a little too perfect? Does it need warming up with a rug or two? Do you have enough sofa cushions and throws? Is your lighting a little lacking? Think about how you can make the details start working harder for you.



LIGHTING DETAIL *This page* Introduce some decorative detail in the form of wall lights to create some drama in a bedroom. This glamorous piece definitely adds pizzazz to floral wallpaper and a plain pearl balloon blind.

BEDROOM FINISH *Opposite* Layering fabrics is a good way to finish a bed and make a decorative statement in a bedroom. Pile up a variety of cushions as well as placing a bedspread on top of a quilt on top of a bedcover to create a visual story.

‘The last few layers of any space are the most aesthetically important as these are the details that truly personalize the room and bring out its soul. For texture, warmth and a pop of colour, add decorative cushions and handmade rugs. In the end, it’s about creating rooms that reflect you, your life and your personality.’

Thom Felicia, designer

The Art of Arrangement

Creating impact with display

‘Grouping art collections on a wall works so well, because just by sheer numbers you can make a strong visual statement. Some might recommend three to five pieces on a wall . . . I say more is more!’

Christina Batch-Lee, Etsy



Grouping together collections of objects is a stylist’s dream but can sometimes be a source of confusion for a home decorator. Should you place picture frames all the same together or vary the shapes, colours and sizes? Would a mix of old and new chairs work better than a purely vintage line-up? Is it better to cram a shelf, tabletop or mantelpiece full of objects in the hope that one of them stands out from the crowd or should you aim for a discreet display of three objects?

As a general rule, grouping similar objects together in groups of three works better than a pair of things. Eclectic collections supply visual interest and random picture frames look perfectly fine as long as there is variety to create an engaging visual feast. When displaying only a few objects, make sure they are in keeping with the overall style of a room. Three church candles on a mantelpiece will look good in a simply styled room, for instance, but will get lost in a room where riotous colours dominate.

GROUP PICTURE *Left* A lined-up display works best if all the individual elements are quite different from one another. In Vicente Wolf’s New York loft he has ranged a collection of black and white photographs along two seamless shelves to create a gallery beneath which many styles of occasional chair make a witty parade.

ART GALLERY *Opposite* Rita Konig prefers a random grouping of images above a fireplace. A mix of canvasses and framed paintings carry a subject matter of flowers and nature. Grouping items by theme can work well.

‘There is nothing quite like original art on the walls and it doesn’t have to cost a bomb. Go to second-hand shops and garage sales for bargain finds. Don’t shop at one store – you will end up looking like a catalogue. Don’t forget the meaningful elements that make a space a home.’ *Deborah Bibby, editor in chief*

Make sure that there is some consistency in your arrangement. It may be colour, shape or material that is the unifying element. Or it could be a collection of similar items such as chairs, cushions or candles. Consider the height and scale of objects, too, as this is another way of creating impact.

Once you have arranged your objects to your liking you could consider lighting them from above or below if they are on a shelf or provide some background light if they are placed on the floor. An angled spotlight from the ceiling would work well for a wall display, especially of paintings and artwork.



GLASS ARRAY *Above* Jonathan Adler's collection of 1960s Venetian glassware is humorous and colourful against white walls and fireplace in a traditional room. They are as unexpected as they are funny.

making a display

Colour groupings work well for glass, especially on mantels and window ledges. Arrange statement pieces in a simple line and close to natural light for maximum impact.

Good display is often about injecting some humour into your collections. Glass and ceramics with faces, a collection of wind-up toys in a grown-up space or some quirky vintage black-and-white magazine advertisements in frames are all examples of a lighter touch.

Natural objects are obvious candidates for striking collections. Sea shells, greenery, tracery leaves and forest finds such as pine cones are unselfconscious display items.

For pictures, place them in frames that are also decorative. Arrange smaller frames on a side table or windowsill but allow larger ones more space. Spread them out across one wall or lean oversized pieces against a spare wall for a gallery feel.

Unexpected artefacts are great for drawing attention to themselves. Retro kitchenalia, 1960s glassware, faux vintage flowers, bright textiles and stylized emblematic cushions are all unusual but effective objects for display.

Use houseplants for a green approach to display. Group together a couple of large-scale plants with bold leaves such as fig or rubber plants and stand them behind some feather ferns or hardy spider plants. Retro but eco.

AUTUMNAL GLASS *Opposite* Modern-day interpretations of apothecary jars have a delightful decorative pharmacy feel to them. Vivid colours and a lot of detailing make them ideal for a striking window display.

‘Soulful interiors are built over time by finding pieces that speak to your taste, style and experiences.’

Michelle Adams, designer

‘There is strength in numbers. Two tchotchkes on a shelf is nothing to mention; twenty matching tchotchkes on a shelf is a collection! A cohesive theme is key to letting a collection stand out.’ *Christina Batch-Lee, Etsy*

ETHNIC DIVERSITY The fruits of a well-travelled existence form a smart display on these white shelves. Astier de Villatte ceramics from the South of France mingle with a Buddha from the Far East, Danish ceramics, Indonesian batik templates and inherited pewter. The colour white acts as a unifying element.



CONCRETE SHELF LIFE *Above*
Heavy concrete shelving is suspended on metal brackets and houses a collection of eclectic ceramics, with a trailing plant providing some greenery.



EMOTIONAL REUNION *Above*
Sania Pell has taken the time to box frame her child's first cardigan and shoes and placed them in a bedroom on a wall of very personal mementos.



VINTAGE COLLECTION *Below* A varied selection of decanters, vases and ice buckets from the 1950s and 1960s have a superb 'look at us' moment on plain white open display shelving.



DROP ME A LINE *Below*
Displaying greetings cards and postcards in a kitchen is a good way of keeping your friends and family close by if you live far away from them.



DECORATIVE DISTRESS *Above left* A console table with elegant tapered legs, painted a smart shade of grey and distressed makes a traditional statement in a modern home.



PSYCHEDELIC GLASS *Above right* Streamlined glass vases in browns, greens and white make a bold display on top of an ironwork mantel. Colour, form and scale all come into play here.

SMALL OBJECTS *Below* Religious and other figurines mingle with a collection of miniature designer vases in a mantel display that hints of humour in Rita Konig's New York apartment.

CABIN CLASS *Opposite* Thom Filicia creates comfortable classicism in a lake house, where the spoils of hunting are proudly displayed on a wooden wall in a statement of rural living.



‘My aesthetic is to combine classic simplicity with a modern flair.’

Thom Felicia, designer

MIRRORS

Reflect on

Mirrors are a great way of allowing more light into a space, especially hallways and dark spaces where natural light needs encouragement, and are decorative items in their own right. Scout around for interesting vintage pieces or go shoppingc for modern mirrors. There is a vast variety of shapes, sizes, frames and surrounds to choose from. If you know the style you are searching for, visit salvage yards or flea markets to find them. Or ask a designer to create a bespoke mirror if you cannot find what you're looking for.

'Even if your relatives have boring taste, or no taste at all, I promise there is a treasure lurking in the attic somewhere – even if it's just an old suitcase that suddenly looks super-chic – there is at least one nugget of beauty in every home.' *Tori Mellott, style writer*

'Mirrors and lighting give depth to all spaces.'

Lulu deKwiatkowski, designer

GLAMOUR SUNBURST *This page top* Jonathan Adler's vintage sun mirror has a porthole-style glass that makes a fish bowl of the games room glimpsed through it.

CHROME WREATH MIRROR *This page bottom* This striking Rain Drops mirror was made from antiqued chrome and mirror glass, signed and dated by the metalwork artist of wall sculptures and household accessories C. Jeré.

RETRO REFLECTION *Opposite top* Group a collection of vintage mirrors on a bedroom wall to create impact and interest, the greater variety of shapes the better.

FRENCH FANCY *Opposite bottom left* A matching mirror and display make an ornate statement next to a faux traditional fireplace. Such frilly furniture usually works best in spaces without too much extraneous detailing to provide distraction.

GOTHIC SPLENDOR *Opposite bottom right* An ecclesiastical take on a dress mirror provides enough decoration in a relatively underdressed room; however, a ceramic poodle is sneaking a peek in case things change without notice.





LIGHTING

Decorative lighting is often much more than a finishing touch. Making a big deal of a pendant light can become a significant point of interest in a room. Look at the huge range of contemporary new fittings as well as vintage finds for your inspiration.

FIFTIES GLAMOUR *Right* Vintage finds add a touch of glamour when reconditioned and fitted with up-to-date bulbs. Adjust flexes so they fit in with existing ceiling features such as ceiling roses.

BULB CHIC *Below left* New meets old in a witty take on the bare light bulb look. This lighting has the advantage of being both temporary and movable, so it's a good idea as a stopgap while waiting for your dream flea market find to come along.

THE PERFECT FINALE *Below right* A French-style chandelier conjures up thoughts of patisseries and lively parlours. It works well against a backdrop of intricate architectural detailing in a period living space.







‘Because lighting makes such a statement in a room, it should be incorporated into a design scheme from the beginning.’

Marcia Zia-Priven, lighting designer

DANISH MODERN This classic light design from Poul Henningsen, the PH Artichoke light, was designed decades ago for a Copenhagen restaurant, where the originals still hang. It looks equally good in hallways, above dining tables and in living spaces.

GLASS DANCE *Right* Ochre's Light Drizzle chandelier is a covetable contemporary piece made from polished nickel and clear glass drops. It is glamorous enough to grace a simple living space as much as a more ornate dining area.

FRENCH VINTAGE *Below right* Table lamps with ornate bases are making a comeback for providing a decorative flourish in living and dining spaces. This metal base of spring anemones is pretty and colourful.

'Lighting should be considered the jewellery of the home. It evokes emotion.'

Marcia Zia-Priven, lighting designer

'You can find so many amazing lamps online – just search and you will be amazed at what you find.' *Vanessa De Vargas, designer*

light up your life

Decorative chandeliers make all the difference to a living space or kitchen/diner. Make sure you also have adequate task or accent lighting elsewhere in the room: either recessed spots, worktop lighting or floor lamps.

A room with an overhead pendant or chandelier plus several table lamps and maybe a floor lamp will always feel more welcoming than a room with harsh overhead lighting and no pools of interest.

Add drama by including uplighters, downlighters or recessed lights to highlight architectural features such as fireplaces and arches or to pinpoint specific pieces such as pictures or sculptures.

Lighting can be dramatic if you choose a huge chandelier, either bespoke or ready-made.

Make table lamps a decorative feature as well as a light source by placing them prominently on console tables, side tables or desks.

Retro desk lamps and table lamps look equally at home in a modern apartment or in a country cottage, as their clean, classic lines work in both types of home.

If you are displaying items on recessed shelves or in glass-fronted cupboards, create some drama by adding lighting at the front or the back of the objects, or else as down lighting or edging lighting.





‘Lighting can change the entire mood of a room and be very inexpensive to change with dimmers, bulb covers or new shades.’ *Rachel Ashwell, designer*

SMOKED GLASS FLORAL Glass bases are classy affairs, especially teamed with contrasting lampshades in country florals or complementary colours to the base. They provide as much decoration as they do a light source, especially in bedrooms and living rooms.

CUSHIONS

Providing comfort, colour and individual design touches, cushions are a perfect way of shifting the colour balance of a room, ringing seasonal changes, dressing up worn or ugly seating, altering the look of a bedroom for a minimal outlay – and making you smile on a daily basis.

MID-CENTURY GRAPHICS *Right* Roddy & Ginger textiles mingle with other graphic patterns on a classic Ercol sofa in Virginia Armstrong's London home. Picking out two base colours, then decorating with cushions that combine the two of them is tonally pleasing without being too matchy-matchy.

TEXTURAL LAYERS *Below left* Mix and match colours and patterns, then add in some texture to create an additional layer of comfort on clean-lined furniture in a neutral space.

WHITE ON WHITE *Below right* Mix up cushion shapes, especially when they are of a similar colour. Here a knitted ribbed square cushion adds a certain softness when placed behind a circular ruffled silk grey cushion.







‘Cushions can add a bit of flavour to a neutral scheme and give it personality. Hand embroidered and vintage pieces become cherished heirlooms, inspiring colour palettes and room themes, and adding originality to your home’ *Niki Jones, designer*

‘Always keep an eye on the detail. Finishing touches such as throws and cushions make all the difference, especially in the bedroom.’ *Nate Berkus, designer*

EDGY DESIGN Piping on bed cushions provides graphic definition and here gives a unifying finish to a collection including a jazzy needlepoint design and a selection from Ferm Living in different styles, from floral fabric and plain velvet to graphic motifs.

FLOWERS

Flowers are the costume jewellery of the home. A small detail, perhaps, yet one that can totally transform a room in the way a glittery necklace lifts the game of a black dress. Chosen with care, flowers are a powerful decorating tool and floral design a wonderful form of self-expression.

SPRING POPPIES *Right* Place brightly coloured flowers in plain white vases for a maximum colour statement. These multi-toned papery poppies will brighten up anyone's day when placed on a dinner table or hallway table.

ROSES AND PEONIES *Below left* If you love the effect of metal vases, slip a smaller vase inside, otherwise the metal will shorten their shelf life. Here a tight arrangement of mustard-coloured dahlias complement the deep and soft pinks of roses and peonies.

HAZY DAISY *Bottom right* Simple gerberas look like something special having been placed in a Jonathan Adler container next to a golden-coloured reflective ribbed vase. A case of less is more with the right vase.







‘Remember a few fresh flowers! I have always picked little sprigs to put into tiny vases and I find them hard to resist at the grocery store because flowers feel like home and they brighten any corner.’

Leslie Shewring, photographer/stylist

COUNTRY RAINBOW
Create an informal vibe by loosely placing cottage-garden flowers in a vintage enamelware vase for a delightful summer lunch party or simply to liven up the kitchen table.

Displaying Flowers

Experiment with your flowers. Gather a collection of favourite vases, make a list of flowers you are drawn to and the colours that work in each room of your house, then enjoy the process of mixing and matching blooms according to the season.

‘Using one type of flower either en masse or in individual pots is always more arresting than a collection of colours and varieties. The repetition of an idea is a very simple yet effective way of designing with flowers.’ *Paula Pryke, florist*

DIVINE ROSES This combination of sugar-plum pink roses displayed as single stems in tall glass cylinders wrapped in paper doilies, handmade sky blue papers and thin string creates a delicate still life that has a painterly quality.

THIRTIES GLAMOUR *Right* Tight rosebuds in soft pink stand out beautifully against an Art Deco inspired frosted and glazed vase. Create a complete colour story by choosing vases that contrast or tone with your flowers.

COTTAGE GARDEN *Bottom left* Green, white and yellow are among the most common colours in the garden so display flowers of these colours in soft green jugs and vases in a spring-like tableau to freshen up any space.

ROSE BOWL *Bottom right* Snip off the heads of large flowers such as roses, hydrangeas or peonies and pop them into a shallow bowl for an instant floral pick-me-up.

‘Flowers can add a wonderful warmth and charm to any home. I love to celebrate the seasons with colour palettes that are appropriate to the time of year. My floral design is rooted in nature. I take cues from colour stories that occur in nature and like to arrange flowers in a flowing and natural manner.’ *Pam Zsori, florist*







Containers

CANDY-COLOURED RAINBOW These allsorts glass vases in a rainbow of colours look like a candy store display all of its own, so only a few stems are needed in each vase to complete a bright and bold tableau.

Presenting flowers in pleasing containers is as important as choosing inspiring flowers in the first place. Always keep an eye out for colourful, unusual, vintage or plain vases, jugs or bowls that will set off all manner of different blooms.

‘Get creative with containers for your blooms: use old bottles, jars, tins, an old silver teapot, a vintage jug or a quirky ceramic pot from your local antiques market.’

Caroline Taylor, blogger

CHINESE INFLUENCE *Right* An oriental teapot decorated with cherry blossom and chirruping birds has been used to house a country garden collection of lupins and cow parsley against a backdrop of green. The result is perfect visual harmony.

GRASS VERGE *Below right* Claydies' award-winning Grass vase for Normann in Copenhagen is designed specifically to house the incidental flowers and hedgerow finds that you may often overlook in favour of something more sophisticated.

'For dressing up an elegant space, I love chartreuse, red and eggplant floral arrangements.' *Amy Atlas, event planner*

holding their own

Jugs, teapots, candle holders, bottles and jars are all good containers that double up as vases.

Vintage vases may have undetected cracks in them so check for leaks before you assemble a floral arrangement in a favourite flea market find.

If you have a beautiful container that is too damaged to hold water then use faux flowers instead.

Avoid using metal vases, as they can shorten a flower's lifespan.

Try to avoid using green brick floral foam, which is not biodegradable and causes flowers to dry out faster. It is also bound with formaldehyde, a know carcinogen. Bind stems with florist's wire instead.

Different flowers have different lifespans. Remove dead stems from mixed arrangements as they die to make the arrangement last the longest and look the freshest.

Have fun matching container to contents. Use a rustic jug for displaying bright peonies or place a natural collection of pods, berries and branches in a simple but curvy 1950s vase.

To show off a collection of interesting or colourful containers, place only a few flowers in each one so that they don't drag attention away from the main design story.







SHIMMERY ROSE *Opposite* Sania Pell filled a delicate fishbowl-shaped single-stem vase with tiny silver sequins to reflect the light in a glamorous rose-filled moment.

‘I love using one large vase filled with flowers with a much smaller vase next to it with just one flower in it on my mantel. Keep adjusting positions until you are happy with the display. A good tip is to step back so you can see the overall display. Most of all, have fun with it.’

Selina Lake, stylist



BLUE HUES *This page* Blousy scabious blooms in blue are given the perfect emphasis by being placed in discarded jars and medicine bottles, bringing a hint of the herb garden to a windowsill.

TABLE SETTINGS

Use table settings to reflect your own personal style or create a celebratory mood for guests

‘I use leftover fabric pieces as napkins and tablecloths – it’s a clever and cheap way to re-use remnant fabric scraps and make your table one-of-a-kind.’ *Tori Mellott, style witer*





Create a capsule collection of china in the same way as you would clothes in your wardrobe. A basic set of plain glassware can be used for everyday and in combination with interesting table cloths and a vase of jewel-bright flowers. Add in key pieces such as a vivid vase, colourful champagne flutes or wine glasses and rich-coloured napkins for a mix and match style that allows you to create a number of different looks using the same pieces.

PLAIN AND SIMPLE *Above left* By keeping the china plain you can have fun adding in linen mats and napkins for texture and colourful flowers to lift the neutral scene. Glassware can be textured, too.

LINEN PRESS *Above right* Linen napkins on earthenware plates resting on seagrass mats and embellished with a subtle butterfly theme are exquisitely set off by a jug of purple lilac on the table.

A FEMININE TOUCH Pink plates on a battered wooden table look beautifully delicate against hydrangea heads arranged in squat glass vases. Plain colourful china is good for any number of combinations at the table.

‘Silverware and stemware needn’t come from one set – in fact multiple styles and colours are more interesting and catch the attention of guests. Mini flower arrangements personalize the space and make a guest feel engaged.’ *Matthew Mead, stylist*