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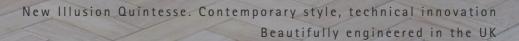
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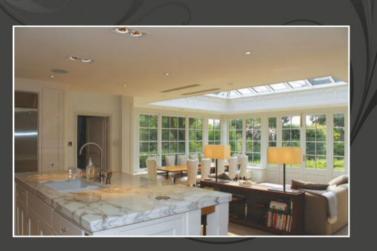


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# WELCOME



### IF THERE IS ONE COUNTRY THAT HAS IT ALL, it is

Italy. There's the wonderful food, timeless style, great design, high fashion, history and culture. The list could go on. Which is why we've devoted this month's magazine to its brilliance. Italy ignites a passion in everyone and, while working on this issue, it was inevitable that an enthusiasm for its many delights invaded my home life. My sons have been engaged in an ongoing conversation about the places they would love to visit, while I've even tried to master the art of making

the seemingly simple pasta orecchiette. I'm not sure whether it was by design or sheer good luck, but I achieved an authentically rustic look and, what's more, it tasted great.

In the magazine our focus has, of course, primarily been on the interiors side of things, although food that is not only delicious but looks good, too, is also on offer in our Italian feast for friends (page 155). From elegant homes and bountiful gardens to stylish shopping and destinations we have tried to cover it all. One of my favourite features is our decorating story in which fabrics from leading Italian companies are used to create a diverse selection of **contemporary room schemes** (page 121). The restful bedroom in particular has inspired me to update my own.

Those of you who follow Homes & Gardens on Instagram will have seen images of the **decorating team in Venice** a few weeks ago, where they took inspiration from the myriad shades and textures of this magical city. Well, the results of their hard work can now be revealed (page 46) and beautiful they are, too.

Italy exudes style, informality and relaxation all at the same time and it is the essence of this joyful way of life that we have tried to capture for you in this issue. Enjoy!

**DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** 

## IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE ...



**HOUSES** A charming mix of country grace and pan-European elegance is an unexpected treat in a Milan apartment (page 94).



**GARDENS** Nestled among the remains of an old Italian village, this evocative scheme is inspired by the surrounding landscape (page 118).



**DECORATING** Smart looks for cooks: our edit of aprons will ensure you whip up a storm in the style stakes, too (page 35).

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH GAELLE LE BOULICAUT

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# HEGEDIT AUGUST

The *people*, *products* and *places* creating a buzz this month

# VIVA L'ITALIA!

This issue we're celebrating the best of Italy, from Venetian-inspired decorating to tempting recipes for a relaxed family feast. For a taste of Italian style closer to home, we recommend a visit to the Yorkshire Sculpture Park to see the glass paintings and innovative sculptural works of Venice-based siblings Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana.

Laura de Santillana and Alessandro Diaz de Santillana are showing at The Chapel, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG, 01924 832631, ysp.co.uk. Open daily, until 6 September 2015, Free admission.













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# H&G EDIT | SHOPPING

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The timeless appeal of marble reinterpreted for modern living

**1** Beautifully crafted with an organic feel. Green marble jars, smallest H9.5xdiam7.5cm, from €90 each, Michaël Verheyden, 0032 11 262 100, michaelverheyden.com. 2 Serve canapés and snacks in style. Marble platter, 25x30cm, £199, Darkroom, 020 7831 7244, darkroomlondon.com. 3 Minimalist chic with brass detail. Marble wall clock, diam30cm, £219, Menu at SCP, 020 7739 1869, scp.co.uk.  ${\bf 4} | {\rm Practicality\,meets\,sleek\,design}.$ Core pendant lights, diam5cm, £125 each, Terence Woodgate, 01435 872677, terencewoodgate.com.

5 A smart choice for a creative display. Marble and brass shelf, L70xW24cm, £62, Holly's House, 020 7736 2222, hollys-house.com. 6 A modern take on traditional inlay. Anemone tiles in Muschio, 60cm sq, £1,000sq m, Lithos Design, 0039 0444 687301, lithosdesign.com. 7 Perfectly gives the illusion of marble. Carrara marble wallpaper in Pelican, £53 a roll, Wemyss, 01382 908300, wemyssfabrics.com. 8 Simple base in Verde Marcela marble. Samson table lamp in Green, £180, Pooky, 020 7351 3003, pooky.com. 9 An elegant piece with bold beauty.

Siena coffee table with Rosso Luana marble top, H42xW110xD110cm, £4,024, Tom Faulkner, 020 7351 7272, tomfaulkner.co.uk. 🗆



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FEATURE LAURA VINDEN

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# H&G EDIT | NEWS

# TAKE COMFORT

You'll be asking for second helpings once you've tried the luxuriously plump Pudding sofa, H83xW210xD111cm, £1,745, from Loaf, 0845 459 9937, *loaf.com.* Shown in Burnt Orange plush velvet, one of the brand's 30 new fabrics, we see it as the perfect partner to a chic grey scheme. Pudding is handmade in Derbyshire with a solid-beech frame and feather-filled cushions. It comes in three sizes, with a matching armchair and love seat.



Packed with ideas and inspiration, *Homes & Gardens* is a must-have wherever you go this summer. To view the brilliant digital edition, simply download *H&G* to your tablet and smartphone by visiting **housetohome.co.uk/digital-editions/homesandgardens**. dressing, but it's really a hi-tech gadget in disguise. Using an app or remote control, the battery-operated blinds from QMotion, 0845 450 1606, *qmotionshades.co.uk*, can be controlled or programmed to lower and raise automatically. From £664 plus fabric for a blind measuring 100x150cm.

# HIP TO BE SQUARE

Perfect for a sunny afternoon in the garden, or a rainy day in the living room, this cheery striped indoor/outdoor Trimaran pouffe, H63.5xW58xD43cm, £250, was surely designed with the British summer in mind. Made in durable polypropylene, it is available in nine colours, including Tangerine, shown, from Dash & Albert at Kensington Design, 020 7938 2000, *kensingtondesign.com*.



**WILD AT HEART** The new collection from textile designer Vanessa Arbuthnott is a family affair. Birds and Beasts includes two whimsical designs, Wild & Free and Bird Hop, each one drawn by her daughters, fine artist Rose and designer Flora. The printed linens are suitable for soft furnishings and upholstery and cost from £48m. Contact 01285 831437, vanessaarbuthnott.co.uk.



# TOTE'S AMAZING

Made in natural jute, this chic Estee embroidered bag, \$83, from Beach Cafe, 020 7467 0761, *beachcafe.com*, is just the thing for carrying your towel, novel and sunblock down to that dreamy hidden cove. Equally, it will add a sunny mood to the Saturday morning grocery run in the UK. A versatile piece, indeed.

# H&G EDIT | NEWS







# ONE TO WATCH

# BEYNON

Graphic designer Richard Davies and industrial design specialist Keinton Butler produce heirloom-quality crafted modular furniture that can be put together using just a coin. We find out more



**Why modular furniture?** We get excited about functional and practical solutions and wanted to make something really simple, which will be meaningful in people's lives. It's the antithesis of throwaway furniture. You can take it with you when you move house, adding boxes as you go to make the configuration work as your life changes.

**Why this look?** There are definitely Scandinavian and Japanese threads, both of which are about simplicity and a celebration of natural materials, but it was important that the aesthetic didn't adhere to a particular era. We wanted the design to be timeless.

How does it work? The Beynon range is centred on a simple wooden unit, which can be combined and adapted to create almost any piece of furniture, from a stool to a sideboard, a chest of drawers to a bookshelf. Each box is available in three sizes and can be vertically stacked or connected side by side. The addition of drawer units, flap doors, shelves, side-hinged doors, adjustable feet, handles and cross brackets allows the design of each unit to be transformed as required. A really clever mechanism means you can put it all together using just a coin. Where are the boxes made? We offer a bespoke service, where customers can have any wood or veneer they want, and work with a cabinetmaker in Wiltshire called John Griffiths, who is ex-David Chipperfield. We are also launching an online store, offering an off-the-shelf Core range that is made in Europe and an online configuration tool that allows customers to play with all the options. In all cases, our woods are ethically sourced and sustainable. Where did the name come from? It's a Welsh family name from Richard's side, which is derived from einion, meaning anvil. As well as the reference to a tool representing strength and fortitude, it is a nod to the heritage ethos we would like our furniture to embody. Which other designers do you admire? Many from the post-war period, such as Dieter Rams and Eames. They had an incredible methodology, but also a social conscience about what they were doing. Architects like John Pawson and David Chipperfield, who have a refined aesthetic that relies on beautiful craftsmanship and quality materials, influence our pieces, too. What are your plans for the future? We are interested in how little ornamentation it takes to give a simple box a Shaker or country feel, say, and we want to experiment with that concept. Modular isn't just for the modern design-loving customer, it's for those who like classic or traditional looks, too. Units in the Core range, from £295 each, Beynon, 020 8123 2657, beynon.co.

Glorious gardens, new restaurants, delicious recipes and inspiring interiors – find out what's caught the eye of the *H&G* team at **hglivingbeautifully.com**. It's a daily dose of the lifestyle you love.



Betsy radio, £225; Theodora suitcase, £65; Betsy bird box, £69.95; Wiltshire tent (far right), £595; all Liberty.

# FLOWER POWER

From tents to teapots, there's little an ever-stylish Liberty print cannot make more charming. Pick your favourite from the Flowers of Liberty collection and give your home a touch of playful prettiness. *Contact 020* 7734 1234, liberty.co.uk.

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# H&G EDIT | NEWS



# IIGHT & SHADE

With 15 metal finishes and a selection of shades in glass, metal, silk and linen, the new wall light collection from Balineum has something for every style of room, including the often neglected bathroom. Most of the ten designs can be supplied with an IP65-rated lamp for use within 60cm of a water source. Shown is the Leila wall light in Polished Nickel with a Faceted glass shade (left), £522, and with a Black Empire shade (right), £524. *Contact 020 7431 9364, balineum.co.uk.* 



STOCK UP West London kitchen and bathroom specialist Day True, 020 7788 9229, daytrue.com, has joined forces with bespoke kitchen company Davonport to launch the W9 kitchen. Taking centre stage is the excitingly named Mega-Larder, which is sure to please tidy cooks. This storage beast measures 153x305cm and includes separate spaces for different foodstuffs. It's made in solid tulip wood with a walnut interior and comes with handmade smoked bronze handles by Buster+Punch.



**BON APPETITE!** Handmade in Île-de-France, this new chocolate bar range, Le chocolat des Français, around £4 each, Selfridges, 0800 123400, *selfridges.com*, is made from pure cocoa butter with no preservatives or palm oil. The packaging is just as délicieux, featuring playful illustrations by artists, including Marie Assénat, Serge Bloch, Édith Carron and Gaston de Lapoyade.

La Cornue's new website, *lacornue.com*, allows you to customise your dream range cooker. Meanwhile, an extensive series of video cookery demonstrations ensures you know how to make the most of it.

### BOLD AS BRASS Lee Broom can

always be relied upon for a modern take or elegant design and his new Glass on Brass collection reinvents the shape of a coupe, wine and martini glass, which cost £125 each. Lee's designs also come in crystal and marble, so why not combine the two for a chic look Contact 020 7820 0742, leebroom.c



# PLUMP IT UP Drawing on

influences from around the world, the latest cushion collection from Elitis features saturated colours, bold prints and delicate embroidery on linen, silk and velvet. Clockwise, from above are Dream in Blue, £98.60; Eden in Blue Nuit, £92.20; and Soria in Turquoise, £66.80; all Elitis at Abbott & Boyd, 020 7351 9985, abbottandboyd.co.uk.



PHOTOGRAPH ARTHUR WOODCROFT



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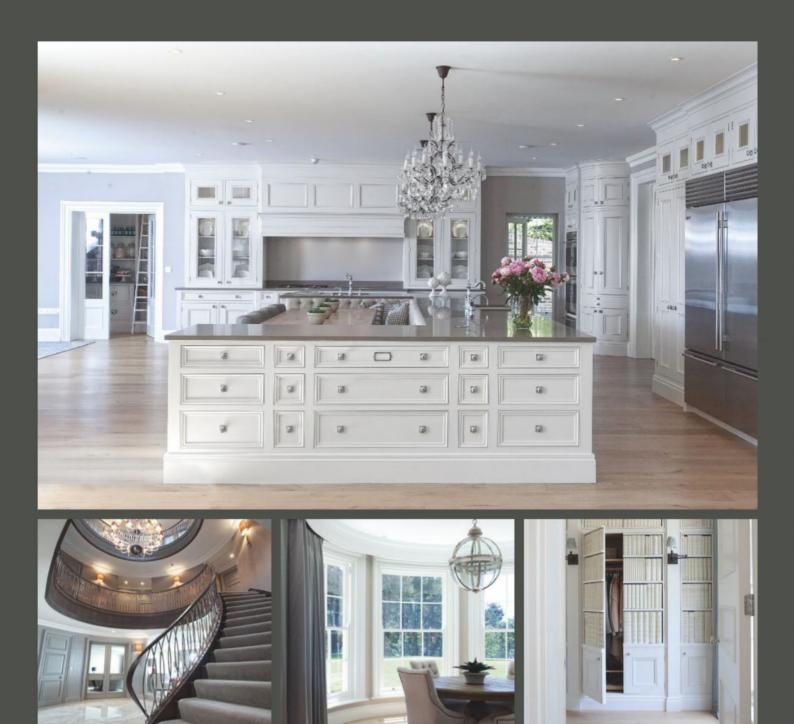
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# H&G EDIT | PALETTE

# SUMMER SHADES

The vibrant orange, ocean hues and volcanic greys of this Amalfi scene inspired our cheerful moodboard overleaf

Reading Room, Claypaint, £35 for 2.5 litres, Earthborn.

Lolly Pop, Marble Matt Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, *Mylands*.

Boy Blue, matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson.

Laguna Bay, matt emulsion, £18.49 for 1.25 litres, *Crown Paint*.

PHOTOGRAPH CON POULOS

# H&G EDIT | PALETTE



6 Brera Colorato in Cinnamon FDG2266/07, linen, 140cm wide, £68m, Designers Guild. **7** | Sapphire wood stain, £21.98 for 2.5 litres, Valspar at B&Q. **8** | Jig webbing, cotton, 6cm wide, £4.50m, The Stripes Company. **9** | Murano Strié in Aegean 6700/18, acrylic, 137cm wide, £125.70m, Chella Textiles at

Turquoise Blue, Canton, Marine Blue and Deep Space Blue; all Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene. 14 | Peaking Out in Sunrise, acrylic, 142cm wide, £83.80m, Robert Allen. 15 | Twill in Orange CH34878/3, polypropylene, 138cm wide, £202.60m, Turnell & Gigon. 16| Ellora wallpaper in Porcelain P559/09, £58 a roll, Designers Guild. WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 167

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Darsham Nurseries stocks tools, seeds and ceramics, including pieces by Barl van Didden (below right).

Darsham Nurseries, Main Road, Darsham, Suffolk IP17 3PW, 01728 667022, darsham nurseries. co.uk.



# GARDEN FOCUS DARSHAM NURSERIES

When Californian David Keleel first saw this Suffolk nursery, it was choked with weeds and conifers, but through passion and hard work he has created a heavenly nursery and thriving plot-to-plate café and shop

What was your route into gardening? In the 1970s, I had a fledgling career as a classical bassoonist. Then, on the day of a big audition, I broke my finger, which ruined my dream of being a professional musician. I spent a year feeling depressed, but then a friend said, "You need to get out of the house. Come and try a couple of days at my nursery." As a child, I'd loved watching my grandmother gardening and from that first day I was hooked. How did you find Darsham? In 2007, I was working for a horticultural land broker, travelling all over England. When I walked into what became Darsham, it was overrun with brambles, nettles and mare's tail. It had been a conifer nursery in the 1970s, so there were around 170 unruly leylandii to come out. So, what makes a good nursery? The

owner should know exactly why every plant is there and could tell you why this artemisia, for example, is more garden worthy than any other you could buy.

What was your inspiration? In the 1990s, I read about De Kas, a nursery in Amsterdam that had converted one of its greenhouses into a restaurant, serving the produce it grew on site. I just loved the idea. I also visited Petersham Nurseries when it opened and had

one of the most perfect meals l've ever eaten, which had that balance between rusticity and heart-breaking elegance. The partnership of nursery and café shows customers the real value of home-grown produce.

What influenced the shop? In the early 1980s, I was living in Berkley, California, and was a customer in a store called The Gardener. It was owned by the wonderfully named Alta Tingle, a woman of rarefied taste. She might only sell one pair of gardening gloves, but they'd be made in lambskin and be displayed like art. She elevated the simplest things, making you notice how special they were. How did you start? Instinct and improvisation. My partner, Willie Williams, and I bought old tables locally for £20 and found ladders to make trestles. I prefer everything to have more space than is usual in a shop. We sell a real mix. I like there to be something for everyone, from postcards to exceptional prints, beautiful ceramics on a table, and then bags of Miracle Grow underneath. At the moment, we have work by ceramists Hilary Mayo and Mercury Hare, too. What are your plans for the future? I'd like to turn our eight-acre field into an artist-inresidence space for artists to grow, dig. find. sculpt, build and photograph anything they like. Also, I'm hoping the first chamber music performances will take place soon, with our summerhouse as a stage and the audience sitting among the veggies and flowers.

What has gardening taught you? It forces one to develop a philosophy about loss, patience and reward from hard work.

# H&G EDIT | NFWS

# TIMELY ADDITION

Award-winning British furniture company Tom Faulkner has extended its accessories range to include elegant clocks, candlesticks, vases and colourful woollen throws. The minimalist Now clocks are available in three unusual patinated finishes, (above from top) Bronze, Black and Brown, £189 each, while the sculptural Capricorn candlesticks, from £609, come in copper and stainless steel. Both have a timeless guality, which means they'll fit stylishly into modern and classic schemes. Contact 020 7351 7272, tomfaulkner.co.uk.

Whether you're planning to create your dream garden or perfect kitchen this summer, there are hundreds of stylish ideas at housetohome.co.uk/homesandgardens. You can even collect your favourite images in a digital moodboard as you go.



including LS

York, 1952,

box by Jane



# ARTS AND MINDS

Following an £8 million renovation of its 19th-century Grade-II-listed building, which includes an extended exhibition space and the new Centre of Ceramic Art, with the largest display of British Studio ceramics in the world, York Art Gallery, 01904 687687, yorkartgallery.org.uk, will reopen on 1 August. The gallery's latest commission is an epic installation of 10,000 handmade slip-cast ceramic bowls by Clare Twomey, piled high in towering columns. It will also exhibit the Anthony Shaw collection, which is on long-term loan, in a domestic-style setting as it was previously shown in the ceramicist's London home. Other gallery spaces will span art's history, showing work from Old Masters as well as 20thcentury artists, including LS Lowry, David Hockney, and Stanley Spencer.

# CONTEMPORARY COOL

The simple oval shape and velvety hand-polished finish of this Lacrima bath, H80xW169xD56cm, £1,850, from Alternative Bathrooms, 020 3375 9009, alternativebathrooms.com, gives it a sophisticated edge that makes a statement without being overpowering. It's made of a composite called Natural Stone, which means it's incredibly strong, despite being just 10mm thick.

> Uncino chair in oak and metal. £903. Mattiazzi.

# SIMPLE PLEASURES

The pared-back lines and subtle curves of the Uncino swivel chair, by Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec for Mattiazzi, give it a pure modern elegance. Available from Aram, 020 7557 7557, aram.co.uk.

# H&G EDIT | NEWS



# MODERN CLASSIC

Milanese architect Luca Scacchetti has designed the first furniture collection for Italian textile house Rubelli. The 40-piece range was inspired by the contrasting cities of Venice and Milan, and draws on both classical and mid-century styles. The Piron chair (below) costs from €2,052. *Contact 020* 7349 1590. rubelli.com.

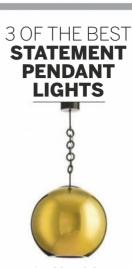




**VERDANT BEAUTY** If you are planning a trip to Liguria in northwest Italy, which is renowned for its beautiful ornamental gardens, don't miss the opportunity to visit Villa della Pergola, *villadellapergola.com*. Built in the late 19th century, its restored gardens overlook the Gulf of Alassio and feature Mediterranean favourites, including cypress, citrus trees, paradise flowers and jacarandas. Guided tours are available until the end of October. Further along the coast is the Villa Durazzo (above), *villadurazzo.it*. Set on a hilltop in Santa Margherita within a park featuring exotic plants and palm trees, it offers expansive views over the bay. The garden has themed sections including a Romantic English Wood and the Secret Garden, a meeting place for lovers in the 19th century. To find out more about Liguria, visit *turismoinliguria.it/en*.



### BRILLIANT BRAZIL The vibrant new Sonho collection of wallpaper and linen wallcoverings from Paris-based studio and store Rouge Absolu, *rougeabsolu.com*, certainly isn't for the faint hearted. Eye-catching designs, including (from top) Goiania Vermelho, Brasilia Noite and Goiania Açafrao, are inspired by the flora, fauna and architecture of Brazil and cost from £160 a roll.



1 Golden globe. Thunderball pendant in hand-blown glass painted in gold, £2,100, Charles Burnand, 0845 467 5868, charlesburnand.com.



2 Three of a kind. Farrier's Cage metal bar with three teardrop pendants, £1,200, Made by the Forge at Heal's, 020 7896 7451, *heals.co.uk*.





**C.P. HART** www.cphart.co.uk

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Image shows: Hoxton furniture with London basin, London bath & Waterloo brassware



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# H&G EDIT | SHOPPING



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1 Linen apron in Blue, medium L85xW98cm, £54.50, Once Milano. 2 Portsmouth apron, L81xW81cm, £28, Anthropologie. 3 White with Blue Stripes apron, L87xW90cm, £36.99, Falcon Enamelware. 4 | Farcell Check apron, L85xW70cm, £20, Hedgehog. 5 | Artisan pinny in Duck Egg, L110xW95cm, £58, The Linen Works. 6 Denim apron, L105xW85cm, £45, Toast. 7 Hickory & Leather Mercantile apron, L99xW78cm, £125, Dawson Denim.

6

BiBroadway apron in Black on Linen, L80xW82cm, £60, *Tori Murphy*. Background in French Grey; wood in Shirting; Intelligent Matt Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5 litres, *Little Greene*. □ WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 167

# H&G EDIT | NEWS

# DESIGN EYE

# **BARBARA CHANDLER**

Homes & Gardens' design correspondent discovers what's in store for visitors to the Celebration of Craftmanship & Design show

With more than 300 exhibits, the Celebration of Craftsmanship & Design show is an unmissable fixture in the interiors calendar. Taking place in Cheltenham from 22-31 August, the event brings together the work of around 70 contemporary artisan furniture makers, as well as jewellery, art and ceramics.

It was founded in 1995 by Betty Norbury, author of *Bespoke* (2006) and *Furniture for the 21st Century* (1999), who nurtured it until 2009, when furniture designer Jason Heap took over. This is the remarkable young man who won our Young Designer Award in 2006 for his Infinity coffee table and the Judges' Award in the same year. "Without my involvement, the show would have folded," says Jason. "This would have left a huge hole for the numerous small workshops across the UK, for which it is the major annual showcase."

Exhibits are spread through six large neoclassical rooms of the historic Thirlestaine House, including a magnificent long gallery, and you'll find every type of furniture, from coffee tables and chairs to large cabinets, sideboards and beds. Smaller items include wine racks, clocks, mirrors and shelves. Everything is for sale, with prices starting at around £200 for a jewellery box or a lamp, and furniture from £500 to £10,000. Craftsmen are on hand to tell the story of each piece and discuss commissions. Exhibitors range from Robin Furlong and Christine Meyer-Eaglestone, with modern versions of longcase clocks and hand-cut marguetry, to more avant-garde designer-makers, such as Marc Fish and Robert Scott, who push the boundaries of work in wood. "What I love is the passion and diversity of the exhibitors," says Jason. "This is work that is considered and loved from conception to delivery." For more information, contact 023 9216 0761, celebrationofcraftsmanship.com.





# LET'S ROCK

Handmade in Italy, this brilliant solid-beech rocking chair is easy to fold up, making it the perfect partner for a day trip or afternoon in the garden. The chair comes in a wide range of popping and pared-back shades, including Tortuguero (above left) and Manzanillo, and costs around £159 from *Swingdesign.eu*.

# ON THE TILES

Two new tile collections have caught our eye this month, both with geometry as their starting point. Patricia Urquiola's Tierras range for Mutina combines hi-tech innovation with artisan craft. Her earthy palette draws inspiration from clay and soil, and comes in a variety of formats that can be arranged to create striking patterns. Tiles cost from £157sq m, from Surface,

Tiles cost from £157sq m, from Surface, 020 7819 2300, *surfacetiles.com*. Meanwhile, Paris-based architect and designer India Mahdavi has created a striking, modern take on traditional handmade cement tiles for Bisazza, 020 7584 8837, *bisazza.com*, influenced by pop and graphic art. Available in two formats, 20cm sq or 20x23cm hexagonal, they cost from £128sq m.

VORDS MORAG BRUCE

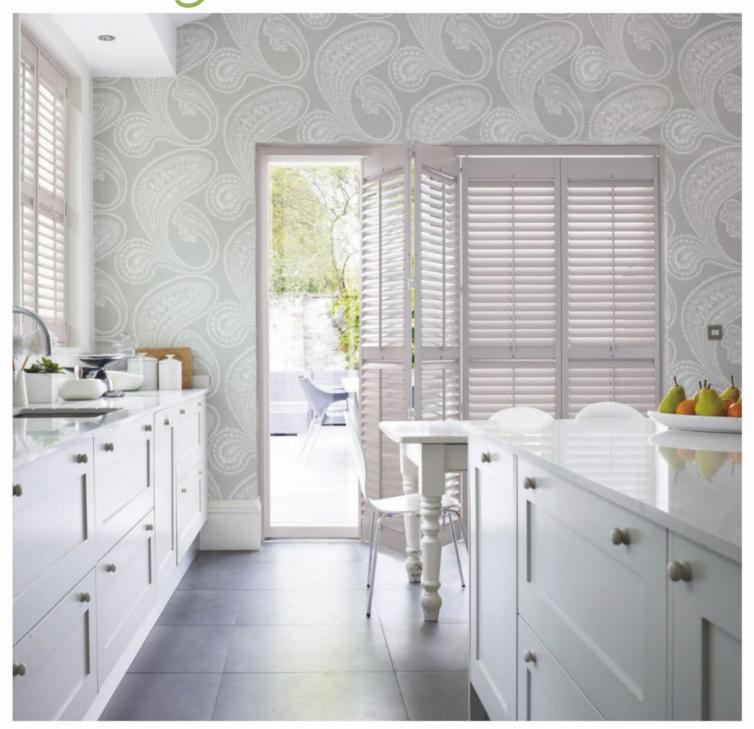
(Clockwise, from top left) **Tierras tiles** in Humus, Rush and Blush,

from £157sq m, Mutina. Eclipse,

In the Sky and Butterfly tiles,

from £128sq m, Bisazza.

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## H&G TRAVEL



#### BOLOGNA, PARMA AND RAVENNA

#### Five days, from £669 per person. Selected departures up to October 2015.

#### HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

Return flights from most UK airports, taxes and transfers.
 Four nights in a centrally located four-star hotel with breakfast.
 Fully escorted sightseeing including a

visit to Italy's gastronomic capital Bologna, home to the oldest university in the world, as well as beautiful churches, monuments, civic buildings and portico-lined streets.
A tour of Parma and its historic cathedral with frescos by Antonio da Correggio.
A visit to Ravenna, which has eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, impressive religious art and some of the world's finest mosaics.
Trips to see how prosciutto (Parma ham) is cured and how a true artisan makes Modena's famed balsamic vinegar.



#### POMPEII, CAPRI AND THE BAY OF NAPLES

#### Eight days' half-board, from £829 per person. Selected departures up to October 2015.

#### HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

 Return flights to Naples from most UK airports, taxes and transfers.
 Seven nights in a three- or four-star hotel with half board in Sorrento.
 Fully escorted sightseeing including Sorrento, the island of Capri, Mount Vesuvius, the National Archaeological Museum in Naples, the ancient city of Pompeii, the dramatic Amalfi coast and Ravello.

Terms and conditions Additional entrance costs may apply. Prices are per person, based on two sharing and subject to finite availability. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. Offer operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Riviera Travel Ltd. ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430, a company wholly independent of Homes & Gardens, published by Time Inc (UK) Ltd.



#### CLASSICAL ITALY

#### Eight days, from £859 per person. Selected departures up to October 2015.

#### HOLIDAY INCLUDES:

- Return flights to Rome from most UK airports, taxes and transfers.
- Seven nights at four-star hotels with
- breakfast and four evening meals.

■ Fully escorted sightseeing including a guided tour of Rome, home to the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain, medieval Siena, Florence with a timed visit to the Uffizi Gallery, and Arezzo, one of Tuscany's most unspoilt cities.





#### LAKE MAGGIORE, ORTA AND THE MATTERHORN

#### Eight days' half-board, from £949 per person. Selected departures up to October 2015.

#### **HOLIDAY INCLUDES:**

Return flights from most UK airports, taxes and transfers.

Seven nights at a four-star hotel with half board.

Fully escorted sightseeing including visits to Isola Bella on Lake Maggiore, Lake Como and Lake Orta, and medieval Orta San Giulio.

Travel through the Simplon Pass to Zermatt to see the Matterhorn.





#### TO BOOK, CALL 01283 742330 OR VISIT HAGRIVIERA.CO.UK

#### H&G EDIT | TRAVEL



1



 Bologna is famed for its red buildings.
 The historic Archiginnasio.
 The Fountain of Neptune.
 Quadrilatero market. 5| Piazza Maggiore in the heart of the city.

### GREAT ESCAPE BOLOGNA

Affectionately known as la grassa, or the fat, this vibrant Italian city serves up a veritable feast of authentic dishes, impressive architecture and a fascinating cultural heritage

#### STAY

For a slice of classic Bologna, try the five-star Grand Hotel Majestic Già Baglioni, grandhotelmajestic. duetorrihotels.com, in a splendid 18th-century palazzo on the main thoroughfare, Via Indipendenza. The traditional-style rooms, from €266 for a double with breakfast, evoke a glamorous bygone era. In complete contrast. the four-star Il Convento dei Fiori di Seta, ilconventodeifioridiseta.com. is a boutique hotel housed in a restored 15th-century convent, where rooms have a smart contemporary look that allows the original features to shine. Doubles from €79 a night.

#### EAT

Any evening worth its salt in Bologna begins with an aperitivo. Zanarini on Piazza Galvani is the place to be – accompany a glass of pignoletto, the local white, with a selection of delicious stuzzicati, the Italian equivalent of tapas, but do leave room for some of Bologna's great traditional dishes. Al Pappagallo, alpappagallo.it, is an institution where you can enjoy a tasting menu that takes in tortellini in a capon broth and tagliatelle with the ubiquitous ragù. However, no visit is complete without a trip to the Quadrilatero market, where stalls overflow with local delicacies.



Be inspired by interior designer Fabrizio Cocchi's mesmerising store, fabriziococchi.com, on Via Castiglione. More of an experience than a showroom, furniture and accessories are displayed in extravagant settings. For antiques and other intriguing objet, pop into Camera con Vista, camera *convista.biz.* on Via Santo Stefano. with its dazzling array of pieces collected from all over the world. The flagship store of textile brand Borgo delle Tovaglie, borgodelle tovaglie.com, is beautifully set out in a medieval building on Via Farini and sells a host of its eclectic, covetable homewares.

#### VISIT

The 16th-century Fountain of Neptune is one of the symbols of the city and is located in Piazza del Nettuno, next to Piazza Maggiore, also home to the Biblioteca Salaborsa, biblioteca salaborsa.it. Set in a 15th-century palazzo, this superb library has a glass floor, beneath which lie Etruscan ruins. The Archiginnasio. archiginnasio.it, in Piazza Galvani, was once the seat of Bologna's university, the oldest in the world. It contains the strangely beautiful Teatro Anatomico, which was made almost entirely from wood in 1637 for anatomy lessons and is a must-see on a tour of the city.





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#### H&G EDIT | TRAVEL

BELLA ITALIA We asked leading figures from the world of design for their dream Italian destinations



#### ALLEGRA HICKS Lacco Ameno, ISCHIA

WHY When I want a relaxing long weekend with girlfriends I head for Lacco Ameno on Ischia in the Bay of Naples. This volcanic island has long been known for its spas, hot springs and thermal waters and the pace of life there is much slower. I go to rest and rejuvenate while enjoying some pampering, I particularly love the mud baths.

**STAY** I've always preferred old-fashioned hotels and L'Albergo della Regina Isabella has a chic Fifties feel that's so welcoming. The sea views are wonderful – the location overlooking the bay couldn't be more perfect – and the interior design is stunning, with beautiful handmade tiles and elegant furnishings. *From £320 per night for a double room. L'Albergo della Regina Isabella, Piazza Santa Restituta, 1, 180076 Lacco Ameno, Ischia, 0039 81 994322, reginaisabella.com.* 

**EAT** The fresh fish and seafood is delicious, particularly the staples of calamari and octopus. Rabbit is a speciality on the island and is not to be missed, while the basics, such as mozzarella and tomatoes, are good, too.

**DO** Ischia isn't about "doing", you come here to relax and enjoy the beautiful scenery. I read books, have massages and use the time to unwind. Occasionally, we rent a speedboat for that classic Italian holiday experience.

VISIT The gardens at La Mortella are well worth seeing. Developed by Lady Walton, a writer and the wife of composer William Walton, they are packed with exotic plants, including spectacular water lilies. A tour of the coast is a must, otherwise save the sightseeing for Naples and go easy on yourself here.

#### H&G EDIT | TRAVEL

THIS PICTURE The view to Isola San Giulio from Hotel Leon d'Oro. **BELOW** The Chiesa dell' Assunta and Piazza Motta in Orta San Giulio.







#### ALBERTO ALESSI Lake Orta, PIEDMONT

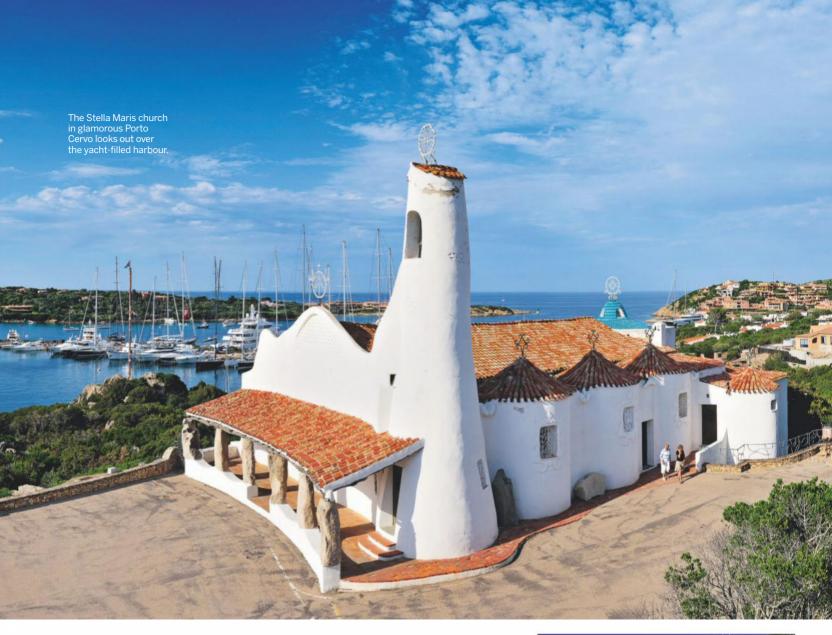
**WHY** For long weekends I like to stay on Lake Orta, which is west of Lake Maggiore in northern Italy. We have renovated an old farmhouse there and the landscape has a quiet beauty about it that I find enchanting.

**STAY** My favourite place to stay is in the lakeside town of Orta San Giulio, which has cobbled streets and a pretty piazza with cafés. The Hotel Leon d'Oro is right on the shore of the lake and has glorious views across to Isola San Giulio. I love to sit and have a coffee or orange juice on the hotel terrace after a walk. It's so tranquil and recuperative. *From £130 per night for a double room. Hotel Leon d'Oro, Piazza Motta, 42, 28016 Orta San Giulio, Novara, 0039 322 911991, albergoleondoro.it.* 

**EAT** There are so many good restaurants, but I always head to Little Italy in Verbania as it serves the best pizzas in the area. I like places that use local ingredients and at Ristorante Hotel AI Sorriso in the nearby village of Soriso the Michelin-starred chef Luisa Valazza serves superb dishes cooked with fresh, seasonal produce. A favourite spot for lunch is Ristorante Barabba in Casale Corte Cerro, which offers homely cuisine made with first-class ingredients. *Little Italy, Via Guglielmazzi, 25, 28922 Verbania, 0039 323* 504546. Ristorante Hotel Al Sorriso, Via Roma, 18, 28010 Soriso, 0039 322 983228, alsorriso. com. Ristorante Barabba, Via Novara, 82, 28881 Casale Corte Cerro, 0039 348 820 2794.

**DO** I love walking in the hills around Orta and I usually start from Sacro Monte di Orta on the western shore of the lake, which is a World Heritage Site of 20 Catholic chapels built between the 16th and 18th centuries. It's a great place to rest and recharge. I like to park the car at the top of the hill and walk down to Orta San Giulio for a coffee.

VISIT I recommend Collezione Calderara in Vacciago, which is now a gallery and where the conceptual artist Antonio Calderara lived and worked. On Lake Maggiore, the Giardini di Villa Taranto are also worth a visit for those interested in rare botanical species, as is the town of Verbania for antiques. I spend a lot of time looking for old editions in two bookshops, Margaroli and Alberti, as I collect and restore works on the history of the area.



#### GEORGE KHACHFE, Poliform Porto Cervo, SARDINIA

WHY Sardinia has everything: beautiful scenery, a sea that is the most amazing colour, especially after a storm, and fantastic food. It's very much off the tourist trail and is the perfect destination if you prefer nature to monuments. Building is strictly regulated, so Sardinia has remained unspoiled.

**STAY** We always stay at the Cervo Hotel. It's right in the middle of everything, which means you don't need a car. I love nothing more than sitting out on the terrace, taking in the fantastic views of the port and buzzy atmosphere. The Cervo team are so friendly and the service effortless. *From £380 a night for a double room. Cervo Hotel, Porto Cervo 07020, 0039 789 931111, hotelcervocostasmeralda.com.* 

**EAT** The food is wonderful wherever you go, whether it's a five-star restaurant or small trattoria. I like to have a simple plate of spaghetti aglio e olio to start, then some

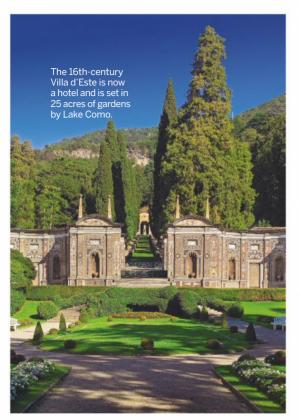
grilled fish and vegetables, finishing with the island's wafer-thin bread, *pane carasau*, with ricotta and some local honey. I also love *vitello tonnato* (cold sliced veal with a creamy tuna sauce), which is light but full of flavour.

**DO** I come here to laze around and do nothing, which is a welcome break from my usual 7am to 7pm working routine. I start with a leisurely late breakfast, something I never normally eat, and stretch it out over coffee. Then I go out in a boat with friends and find a nice quiet bay to moor up. We swim to the shore and have lunch on the beach. Then I take a nap – such a luxury.

VISIT For me, Sardinia is not about sightseeing but relaxing. The most exerting activity I would recommend engaging in is to enjoy a cocktail with a panoramic view on the terrace at II Pontile bar at the town's luxury five-star Hotel Cala di Volpe.



#### H&G EDIT | TRAVEL



#### MATTEO GALIMBERTI, Flexform Porto Rotondo, SARDINIA

WHY For me, summer is about the beach and we are lucky in Italy, as we are spoiled for choice with more than 3,000km of coastline. However, the lure of Porto Rotondo in Sardinia, my favourite destination, is hard to resist and for years I've returned there with my family. We can wake up in the morning in Meda (near Milan), yet have our feet in the water by lunchtime. Porto Rotondo, in the north of the island near the Gulf of Marinella, is a tranquil spot that's perfect for holidaying with children.

**STAY** The Hotel Abi d'Oru near Porto Rotondo is a lovely place to enjoy the colours and atmosphere of the Italian seaside. Paths lead from the hotel gardens straight to the gently shelving sandy beach. The days there follow a natural rhythm that allows you to truly relax and I always take off my watch and switch off my phone. In the evening, its terrace is a great spot to enjoy a drink while watching the sun set over the sea. *From £470 per night for a double room. Hotel Abi d'Oru, Località Golfo di Marinella, Porto Rotondo 07026, 0039 789 309019, hotelabidoru.it.* 

**EAT** Wherever you go in Sardinia, the seafood is excellent and I often travel a bit further for

#### NICOLÒ FAVARETTO, Rubelli Lake Como, LOMBARDY

WHY I first visited the area for work, as it is famous for silk and weaving. We bought a mill 20 minutes away from Lake Como and I stayed to oversee the project, which is when I discovered how pleasant it is. Coming from Venice, a city by the sea, I was fascinated by the tranquillity of the lake.

**STAY** For me, there's nowhere quite like Villa d'Este. Staying here is rather like being a film star, as the hotel is so grand and everyone gets such wonderful service that you feel as though you are in your own palace. From £600 a night for a double room. Villa d'Este, Via Regina, 40, 22012 Cernobbio, 0039 31 3481, villadeste.com.

**EAT** There's no such thing as a quick meal in Como. Trattoria del Glicine in Cernobbio is a family-run restaurant that's relaxed and not overdone. It serves simple and elegant Italian cuisine that respects the seasons. One of my favourite dishes is risotto with perch, a speciality of the region. Make sure you try the delicious ice cream for which the area is renowned.

**DO** The lake is, of course, famous for its beauty, so it's essential to enjoy the many spectacular views. You can hire a motorboat to cruise on the lake and admire the grand houses that line the shores, which is always a wonderful experience.

VISIT Villa del Balbianello is an exquisite house perched on the shores of the lake with elaborate terraced gardens and amazing views. In Como, the cathedral is well worth a visit, as is the Casa del Fascio, a building by rationalist architect Giuseppe Terragni. Round off your trip with a little shopping at one of the mill outlets.



dinner to find small restaurants. For the best gelato, try Paradice Cream in Golfo Aranci. Inland, the charming rural Agriturismo Agrisole, also a hotel, is set in beautiful scenery and serves wonderful local produce. *Agriturismo Agrisole, Via Sole Ruiu, 7, Olbia,* 0039 349 848163, agriturismo-agrisole.com.

**DO** We often spend whole days out on a boat with friends and return happy and relaxed. After dinner we chat long into the night over a

glass of mirto, the traditional liqueur made from myrtle. I always bring some home with me and, in winter, just one sip transports me straight back to warm Sardinian summers.

VISIT Just a few miles from the coast are the fabulous sights and scents of the Sardinian countryside. The rugged, mountainous landscape of the interior is absolutely stunning and a complete contrast to the coast. It's a perfect refuge in high season. □

**H&G READER OFFER** Visit Bologna, Parma and Ravenna on a five-day trip, from £669 per person. The price includes return flights, four nights in a four-star hotel with breakfast and all excursions and sightseeing. For more information, turn to page 38, call 01283 742330 or visit housetohome.co.uk/homesandgardensbologna.

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The spirit of FILLER FI

From watery teals and deep lagoon blues to faded plaster pink, we select the new textiles that reflect the magical shades of this bewitching city

STYLING EMMA THOMAS AND ALI BROWN PHOTOGRAPHS EMMA LEE

Whether you opt for crisp and fresh or sumptuous and rich, these shimmering designs (left) are perfect for long curtain drops.

FABRICS (From left) Reflecting Pool in Wet Sand 3228/01, viscose mix,
142cm wide, from £190m, Holly Hunt at Fox Linton. Tache Toile in Forest
17228/003, linen, 140cm wide, £99m,
Dominique Kieffer at Rubelli. Camelot Blue Large SC 056/02, linen, 140cm
wide, £80m, Sheila Coombes at Brian Yates. Waterpolo in Teal PP50396/3,
linen, 140cm wide, £65m, GP&J Baker.
Cheeky Linen CH2788/050, viscose mix, 137cm wide, £86m, Chivasso at JAB Anstoetz. Tracks in Indigo, linen, 134cm wide, £100m, Christopher Farr Cloth. Poseidon 03, cotton mix, 140cm wide, £193m, Lizzo.

Marine-coloured silks and heavy-weight linens, some of which echo rippling water, make natural companions.

**FABRICS** (Cushions, clockwise from top) **Savannah** in Ottanio M418/07, linen mix, 308cm wide, **£130m**, *Mark Alexander*. **Ruskin** in Turchese 30126/015, polyester, 135cm wide, £118m; Fedora in Giada 30108/008, polyamide mix, 135cm wide, **£214m**; both Rubelli. **Guinevere** SC055/02, linen mix, 300cm wide, £140m, Sheila Coombes at Brian Yates. Tuileries in Vert 98040/001, linen mix, 138cm wide, £238m, Verel de Belval at Abbott & Boyd. Jarapa 03 linen mix, 138cm wide, £183.60m; Poseidon 04, cotton mix, 140cm wide, £193m; both Lizzo. Yori in Marine 131453, viscose mix, 140cm wide, £54m, Harlequin. Tosca 2667/01/22, silk, 136cm wide, £98.80m, Sahco. Hat trimmed with Laguna stripe mix, £6.50m, Wemyss Houlès. ACCESSORIES Twine rug in Charcoal, 90x180cm, £255, Armadillo & Co at Northwood

An intricately embroidered cloth, redolent of renaissance tapestries, adds a sense of occasion to an intimate table setting.

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FABRIC Farfalla in Teal 331953, viscose mix, 133cm wide, £125m, Zoffany. ACCESSORIES Neu pitcher large, H22xdiam15cm, £49, Ferm Living. Canova tumblers, €750 for six, Nason Moretti. Heavy linen napkin in Pale Pink, 45cm sq. £27 a pair, Once Milano.





#### Small-scale crackled designs (left) celebrate the delightful haphazard nature of Venetian terrazzo floors.

FABRICS (Cushions, clockwise from topleft) Ancolie 36020158, viscose mix, 135cm wide, £123.20m, Casamance.
 Crackle in Pale Teal 331963, cotton mix, 135cm wide, £98m, Zoffany.
 Caracalla in Poivre 550/05, viscose mix, 138cm wide, £89m, Lelièvre.
 Terrazzo in Canvas, polyester, 136cm wide, £43m, Kirkby Design.
 Terrazzo in Giada 30112-08, acrylic mix, 140cm wide, £105m, Rubelli.
 FLOORING For similar terrazzo flooring, try Diespeker & Co.

A contemporary Murano glass pendant teamed with a chair in classical-inspired fabric offer a new take on Italian artistic traditions.

FURNITURE Angelo's wing chair, H116xW83xD76cm, £3,870 plus 5m of fabric, Donghia. FABRICS Chair in Mirage in Rosa 30109/005, acrylic mix, 140cm wide, £142m, Rubelli. Cushion in Genoa in Pink F4136/08, silk, 138cm wide, £75m, Colefax and Fowler, Curtain in Cabaret in Café 71258/010, linen mix, 324cm wide, £191.80m, Metaphores at Abbott & Boyd. ACCESSORIES Flauti Le Amethist 1 pendant light, H47xdiam16cm, €1,769, Giopato & Coombes.

The pure forms of coloured Murano glass vases and filigree patterned tumblers make them ideal for decorative display.

ACCESSORIES Canova tumblers, €750 for six; Round Morandi vase in Pink and Tall Morandi vase in Petrol Blue, €160 each; all Nason Moretti.



Taking their cue from the delicate tones of worn marble, stone and plaster, these tactile fabrics have an appealing sense of depth.

FABRICS (Cushions, clockwise from back left) Ode in Nude 36032589, cotton mix, 140cm wide, £79.20m, Casamance. Trimmed in Pisani hand-blown glass fringe 979/39659, 5cm wide, £193m, Samuel & Sons. Roxie in Pinot Noir 10280/01, silk, 135cm wide, £246m, Donghia. Ducale in Sabbia 30056/001, wool mix, 120cm wide, £148m, Rubelli. Trimmed in Calice in Peche 35962851, cotton mix, 310cm wide, £95.30m; Amour 3558/0517, polyester mix, 144cm wide, £55.20m; both Casamance. Reflecting Pool in Wet Sand 3228/01, viscose mix, 142cm wide, from £190m, Holly Hunt at Fox Linton. Rose du Matin PL01N, linen, 136cm wide, £150m, Jennifer Shorto at Redloh House Fabrics. Dorian Gray in Quarzo Rosa 30110/005, acetate mix, 135cm wide, £118m, Rubelli. Trimmed in Au Naturel brush fringe in Mercury 983/37175, 4.5cm wide, £67m, Samuel & Sons.

This flowing, aqua-tinted sheer has a painterly design that brings a lightness of touch to summer interiors.

PONTE DE LA ALVASIA VECCHIA

> Panorama panel 14336/609, cotton, 300x147cm, £186m, Christian Fischbacher. □ WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 167

IN SEASON

# POPPES

These much-loved flowers will introduce a delicate, colourful beauty to borders

WORDS SUI KEE SEARLE PHOTOGRAPHS EVA S ANDERSSON

 THIS PAGE Featuring scarlet flowers with a compact habit, *Papaver* orientale 'Allegro' (oriental poppy) grows to a height of 45 to 60cm.
 OPPOSITE PAGE, CLOCKWISE
 FROM TOP LEFT The common field poppy, *P. rhoeas* appears from June to August; the striking seed heads of *Promiserum* (opium poppy) create an attractive display after the blooms have disappeared; native to northern sub-Arctic regions, *P. nudicaule* is better known as the lceland poppy and is well suited to rock gardens; the silver foliage of a *P. somniferum*.



#### **CLOCKWISE, FROM THIS PICTURE**

The promise of the unopened buds of *P. orientale* 'Lambada': *Meconopsis cambrica*, also known as the Welsh poppy, is a spreading perennial that produces yellow to orange blooms in late spring with deeply divided, fernlike foliage; *P. somniferum* (Laciniatum Group) is a subtype of the opium poppy that has deeply cut double petals; this *P. somniferum* 'Polycephalum' is part of the most economically important species of poppy. As well as producing opium, its seeds are used in baking; striking blue *Meconopsis grandis* hails from the Himalayas and appears in early summer in shady positions.





waying gracefully amid cornfields and meadows, along roadsides and in gardens, the poppy, with its delicate, cup-shaped flower and slender stems, is one of the most evocative signs of summer. The plant is native to northern temperate regions and belongs to the *Papaveraceae* family, which numbers more than 700 different species and includes *Papaver rhoeas*, or the field poppy, the variety that grows wild in the UK, where it prefers disturbed ground and is the flower we associate with remembrance. Just 70 years ago, red seas of wild poppies spreading across the cornfields of Britain were a common sight. Today, although their numbers are rising again as the campaign to restore natural growing conditions gathers pace, we should not forget that the poppy will also happily flourish in our gardens.

Annual varieties, including those derived from both the field poppy and *P. somniferum* (opium poppy) are eye-catching, extremely easy to grow and are valuable for filling gaps in any herbaceous or cottage garden scheme. The larger perennial flowers of *P. orientale* (oriental poppy) may be brief, but they are stars of the early summer garden, flowering before most. Their showy blooms come in a range of shades from pastels to brights.

More experienced gardeners, if they have the right conditions, may want to try cultivating the much prized, but harder to raise *Meconopsis baileyi* (Himalayan poppy). Producing the most exquisite pure blue flowers, they should be grown in moist woodland conditions in partial shade, and paired with primulas, foxgloves, shuttlecock ferns and astilbes.  $\Box$ 

#### HOW TO USE POPPIES IN YOUR GARDEN

 In small spaces, incorporate poppies into mixed or herbaceous schemes for a hit of vivid colour. Co-ordinate with hot-coloured perennials or use as a contrast against a muted palette.
 Certain species, including *P. rhoeas*, grow naturally on wasteland and scree and would be well suited to dry, gravel or coastal gardens.
 Sow into pots on a balcony or roof garden.
 If you have plenty of space, mix field poppies with other annuals and biennials, such as corncockles and cornflowers, to create a wild-flower meadow.

■ In shadier locations, consider Himalayan poppies. A woodland setting with light shade would be ideal for these beautiful flowers.

#### GROWING AND MAINTAINING POPPIES

Most poppies prefer a sunny position in light, well-drained soil. Sow seeds directly where they are to flower when the soil is warm and moist in autumn or spring.

Oriental poppies also thrive in such conditions and positions, but these tap-rooted perennials can be sourced as plants or propagated by root cuttings in winter.

Blue Himalayan poppies are hardy, but providing the optimum conditions can be tricky. They need cool and damp in summer and prefer a humus-rich, neutral-to-acid soil. Species and hybrids can be sterile or fertile and tend to be short-lived, so will need to be divided or re-sown every two to three years.

**H&G READER OFFER** Choose from Poppy Checkers (white), Poppy Coral Reef (pink), or Poppy Livermere (red), £10 for three young plants, or buy all three varieties (nine plants) for only £15, saving 50 per cent. To order, visit hayloftplants.co.uk/ROHS15 or call 01386 426245 and quote Homes & Gardens Poppy Offer.

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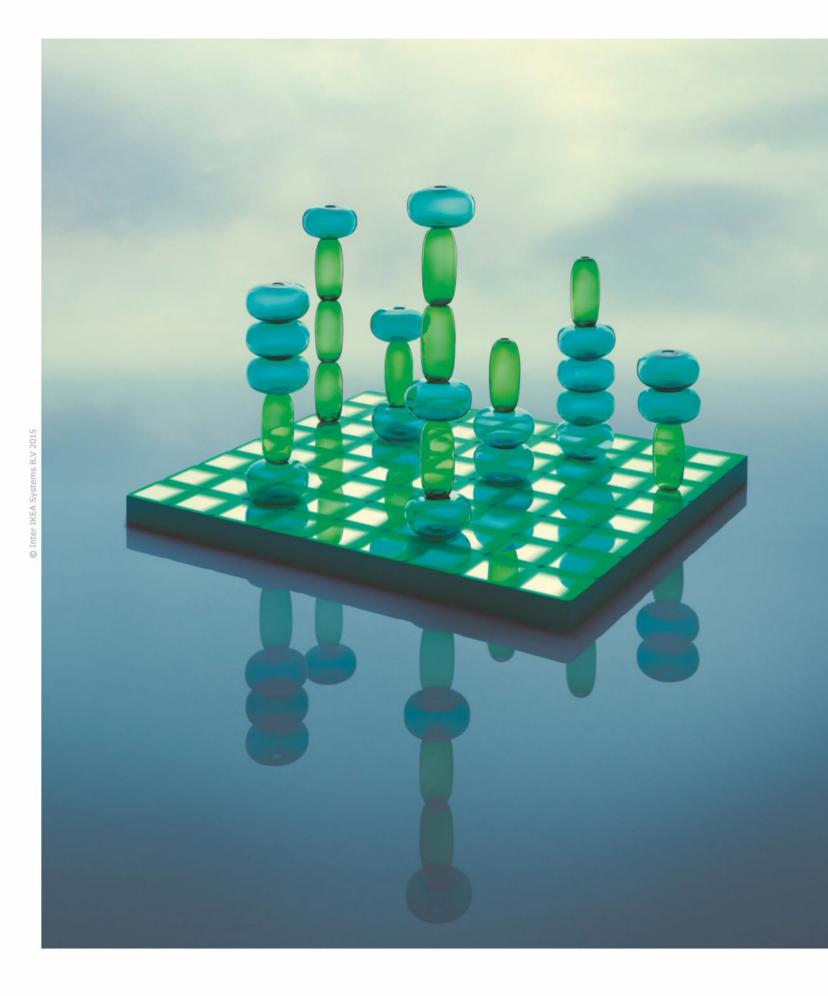
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## **INSPIRING SPACES**

#### Our choice of *irresistible homes* and *beautiful gardens*



THIS MONTH, be transported to an idyllic island retreat (*page 64*), enjoy the eclectic style of a Milan apartment (*page 74*) and discover the understated chic of a converted factory (*page 82*). We also showcase a characterful pied-à-terre (*page 94*) and a Tuscan restoration (*page 100*) where classical flair abounds, plus a creative garden (*page 90*) that blends edible planting and formal design.

COASTAL RETREAT

It had to be an island in the Mediterranean, but which one? For the Melkmans, Capri and the Villa delle Scale were to prove irresistible

WORDS SARAH FARLEY PHOTOGRAPHS GAELLE LE BOULICAUT

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**CONSERVATORY** This metal-framed structure has survived from the 19th century when the villa was built, hence its Belle Epoque feel. A favourite piece in this space is the tree-trunk table, which is actually made of metal. Eden Patina occasional table, from £12,350, Boca do Lobo, 00351 910 010 529, bocadolobo.com.

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SITTING ROOM Throughout, the colour scheme is inspired by the sea, combining blues and greys with subtle green touches from the garden that surrounds the villa. A flock of paper birds, which were made by hand from old maps, adds a fanciful fourish to white walls. Sampei floor lamps, from £840 each, Davide Groppi at Darklight Design, 0118 988 2294, darklight design.com. Bespoke birds artwork, Claire Brewster, 07940 18781, clairebrewster.co.uk.

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# LIVING ROOM The floor tiles are original to the villa and help unite this split-level space. For similar tiles, try Epoque Blue, £99.99sq m, Original Style, 01392 473004, originalstyle. com. Eva chairs, from £1,400 each Creazioni at Chaplins each, Creazioni at Chaplins, 020 84211779, chaplins.co.uk.

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661 he Mediterranean feels like a central point for us, as it's more or less half way between the places where we each grew up," says Ben. He is Australian and his wife, Alexa, comes from Mexico City. They met at school in the United States, then Ben moved to London to study and Alexa returned to Mexico, but the pair kept in touch as friends for more than ten years. In 2007, things changed when they became a couple and Alexa moved to London. Three years later, they relocated together to Geneva. "Living in the mountains made us think about where we wanted to spend summers," says Alexa. "As we both come from tropical countries, we missed the heat and the ocean." They considered a second home in Mexico but, with a growing family (Isabella, aged four, Max, two, and Lior, one), decided it was too far to go for a weekend.

#### **ROMANTIC MEMORIES**

The couple began their search in 2012 and as Ben recalls, "We were happy to consider any of the islands, so we looked at places on Ibiza, Corsica, Mallorca and Sardinia." It was an Italian friend who suggested Capri, with the intriguing phrase, "I've found the place for you". By coincidence, a visit to Capri had been part of their honeymoon. "Seeing this house revived all those happy memories," says Alexa. "In fact, I remember Ben saying, 'One day, I'll have a villa in those mountains', so when we walked into the property for the first time, it felt right. We knew we had found the one."

The Mediterranean islands offered the perfect alternative.

The house their friend had in mind was the Villa delle Scale (meaning villa of the stairs), a classic Caprese building dating from the 19th century. Fortunately, it was in good condition and needed only the usual maintenance that is required by most old houses. As for alterations to the structure, Capri's local planning department has strict rules in place about what can be done to these traditional villas, but fortunately the Melkmans had no plans to rebuild. As Ben explains, "It is a beautiful canvas with so much history and we didn't want to change that. The floor tiles on the ground floor, for instance, are original, as is the stone fireplace."

#### **INNER BEAUTY**

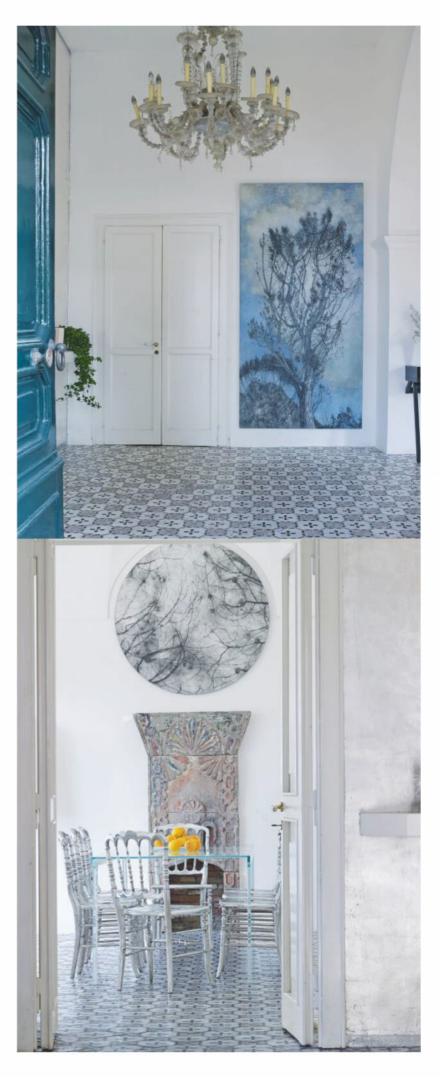
With this in mind, the Melkmans wanted an interior that was sympathetic to the original features, while creating a home that suited their personalities. Their property in Geneva had been in need of attention for some time and Alexa was looking for a

#### ENTRANCE HALL

A lofty white hallway such as this (above right) demands dramatic furnishings and artwork. Artist Philippa Smith produced several pieces for the villa and her tree painting is an interesting counterpoint to the antique Murano chandelier. Tree artwork, Philippa Smith, 01822 852842, philippasmithart. com. Similar antique chandelier, from around £1,500, Norfolk Decorative Antiques, 01328 856333, antiquelighting andchandeliers.co.uk.

#### DINING ROOM

The choice of contemporary furniture creates a striking juxtaposition with the rustic carved-stone fireplace (right). Above it sits a specially commissioned artwork, also by Philippa Smith, which fits perfectly into a shallow half-moon arch in the wall. Emporium dining chairs, £3,556 each, Boca do Lobo, 00351 910 010529, bocadolobo.com. Faint dining table, from £3,666, Glas Italia at Interior Supply, 020 7352 0502, interiorsupply.co.uk.





designer to take on the task. Her discovery of Lausanne-based interior designer Jorge Canete came at almost exactly the same time as their purchase of the house in Capri. "It was great to find him after such a long search," says Alexa, "and we were so excited about the villa that we asked him to start work on it first, so we could begin using it that summer."

It was important for Alexa and Ben, well-travelled as they are, to avoid what they call "the boring neutral feel of an international hotel". Alexa believed that in Jorge she had found someone who could make the house very personal. "I find his work to be lyrical and full of poetry," she explains, "but he has a sense of humour too. He stayed in the villa and insisted on sitting down with us to find out more about our passions and what we were looking for. As it's a family home, he even met our children and asked them what they wanted."

#### AN ISLAND IDYLL

The ground floor was completed in 2014, as were the two guest bedrooms near the swimming pool. One of these has porcelain flowers scattered across the wall – a charming decorative device and a favourite of Jorge's, who also added paper birds to a wall in the sitting room. With this work complete, the Melkmans were able to spend their first summer in the house last year, just as they had wished. "Jorge has managed to combine the unique personality of the house with ours to create a home that reflects us perfectly. It's magical," says Alexa. At the same time, the sympathetic treatment of the original architectural features has captivated Ben, "I love the huge arched ceilings on the ground floor and the historical feel of the place."

For Alexa, there are many delightful aspects to this heavenly place, including the all-pervading fragrance of a glorious canopy of flowers. "When you walk through the gates, you suddenly find yourself beneath the flowers," she says, "and their scent is an unforgettable welcome; it eloquently encapsulates the island and the villa. I also love the beautiful marble staircase for which the villa is named and I adore playing with the children in the conservatory, because it's such a wonderful inside-outside space; we spend most of our time there."

This island paradise seems to suit the Melkmans very well. "I'm so happy we've found somewhere we can come back to year after year," says Ben. "The villa is five minutes' walk from a charming village with wonderful local shops, but once we're inside, it's our own little private space, peaceful and secluded. It has perfect views of the sunset, just like on our honeymoon and we can't wait to spend the summer there again."  $\Box$ 

#### **GUEST BEDROOM**

An open-plan arrangement (top left and right) of bed, bath and relaxing seating area make up one of the stylish guest rooms. SB14 Nota bureau, £4,389, E15 at Nest, 0114 243 3000, nest. co.uk. For a similar door mirror, try Casamilano, 0039 0362 340499, casamilanohome.com. Ptolomeo bookstand, from around £321, Opinion Ciatti, 0039 055 887091, opinionciatti.com.

#### MAIN BEDROOM

Key pieces of furniture, such as the metallic stools and large wedding cabinet, offer a bold contrast to the white and pale-blue shades of this soothing bedroom (left). **Tab U stools**, from around £250 each, Opinion Ciatti, 0039 055 887091 opinionciatti.com. **Orlando cabinet**, Roberto Lazzeroni at Casamilano, 0039 362 340499, casamilanohome.com.

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GUEST BEDROOM The subtle nuances of the original marble bath inspired the room's light palette, while the charming arrangement of wall-hung porcelain flowers is by Jorge Canete. Jorge Canete Interior Design, 0041787102534, jorgecanete. com. Bianca table lamp, £165, Davide Groppi at Darklight Design, 0118 988 2294, darklightdesign.com.

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**EXTERIOR** The property is one of the few surviving 19th-century Caprese villas and features the typical construction on several levels, always finished in pure white. The terrace steps continue directly into the pool.

MILAN APARTMENT

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Shunning the instant makeover approach in favour of careful curation over time, Christine Erspamer has created a distinctively decorative home words JENNIFER GOULDING PHOTOGRAPHS MARCO BERTOLINI

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LIVING AREA Jewel-coloured seating punctuates this dining and sitting space, providing a lively contrast to the grey walls. The two areas of the room are clearly defined by different patterned rugs, while an office desk has been used as a dining table. Similar pink-feather wall decoration, Bamileke tribal headdress, £550, Pebble London, 020 7262 1775, pebblelondon.com.



### SITTING AREA

SITTING AREA Two empty picture frames and a sofa with seat cushions in an eye-catching geometric pattern (left) create an unexpected yet effective focal point. Sofa cushions in Surset in Spices, £92m, Larsen, 020 7244 7427, larsenfabrics.com. Armchair in Sherborne in Pink, £39m, Jane Churchill, 020 7244 7427, janechurchill.com. For similar antique picture frames, try Rollo Whately, 020 7629 7861, rollowhately.com.

### ENTRANCE HALL

1027

A collection of vintage glassware brings a pop of colour to this pared-back space. For similar vintage glassware, try Glass Etc, 01797 226600, decanterman.com. Similar vintage runner, Middle Atlas runner, £600, Larusi, 020 7428 0256, larusi.com.

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atural panache, together with design acumen garnered through years of working with fine fabrics, has enabled Christine Erspamer to create a richly decorative home in Milan. Awash with vivid colour and bold pattern, and embellished with idiosyncratic objects, it is the antithesis of minimal and a lesson in creating daring interiors. Christine tells us more.

**How long have you lived in Milan?** "I was born in Austria, but moved to Milan 25 years ago when I got married. Now, a large part of my work is based here, which is ideal because I like the city and the Italian way of life; it's very easy-going."

Why did you choose this apartment? "I wanted a place that I could design from scratch and it didn't take me long to find. I fell in love the apartment's exterior, it's a Twenties building in the centre of Milan in an area called Porta Venezia, which is home to a range of shops, boutiques and restaurants. It's not far from my one of favourite stores, Alberto Levi Gallery, which specialises in wonderful antique rugs and textiles."

What alterations did you make to the interior? "I changed absolutely everything, which was partly because of the apartment's poor condition and the fact that it needed to be entirely rewired, but also because I wanted a different layout and a much larger sitting room. There were three bedrooms, so I sacrificed one of them to create the open-plan space I wanted."

It sounds like a large undertaking. Did you have help with the interior design? "No, I did it myself. I've worked in the fabric industry for 23 years, so I am confident with design and

### KITCHEN

As this space can be seen through sliding glass doors (above and above right) from the breakfast room, Christine gave it a more decorative feel with pictures and objet d'art. Similar framed butterfly, Genuine framed butterfly in Papilio Ulysses Blue, £79, Rockett St George, 01444 253391, rockettstgeorge. co.uk. Similar pendant lights, Euston pendants in Pale Blue, £119.40 each, Bespoke Lights, 01643 707505, bespokelights.co.uk. Similar metal letter, Industrial metal letter, £28, The Letteroom, 01264 355488, theletteroom.com.



even more so with decoration. Although I didn't know exactly how the apartment would look, I found it easy to identify the types of objects I wanted around me and how to make them work together. I have a strong sense of my own style."

**How would you describe that style?** "It's eclectic. I like mixing things up. I love modern antiques from the last century and vintage pieces. I don't consciously favour any particular period, but I have more things from the Twenties, Seventies and Eighties than anything else. I rarely buy new items as they don't have the character and look that I like."

**Do you have the same eclectic attitude to colour?** "Not in the bedroom and bathroom, where I have used calming shades of white and beige, but elsewhere, grey walls combine with bold colours and patterns to create a warm, cosy and inviting atmosphere."

Where do you shop for your furniture and accessories? "Generally, I buy from dealers in Milan or from various flea markets that I find around Europe. I travel a lot for my job and if there's a vintage market nearby, I always pay a visit. They have such an interesting range of pieces and the prices are often very good. Many of my things come from the excellent and vast Saint Ouen flea market in Paris."

**How long have you worked on your home?** "Decorating with vintage items means you can't just go out and buy everything you want immediately. These rooms have evolved gradually over the years and are still evolving. I don't go out looking for particular things, but if I see something I like I will buy it and find a space for it. A house is never finished."  $\Box$ 

### BREAKFAST ROOM

Above the table, which was designed by Christine and is where she likes to sit and drink coffee, are a striking pair of 1920s mirrors, part of a series of 12 made for a hotel in the south of France. For a similar vintage display cabinet, try Elemental, 020 7247 7588, elemental.uk. com. Similar rug, Pozzilli, £984sq m, Luke Irwin, 020 7730 6070, lukeirwin.com.

### HALL

The mirror, which has a fabric-covered frame, brings colour, texture and a sense of space to this narrow area. Michelle upholstered mirror, from £9,900, Promemoria, 020 7730 2514, promemoria. com. Similar hanging lantern, Small star lantern in brass, £450, Vaughan, 020 7349 4600, vaughandesigns.com.



"These rooms have evolved gradually over the years and are still evolving. I don't go out looking for particular things, but if I see something I like I will buy it and find a space for it. A house is never finished."

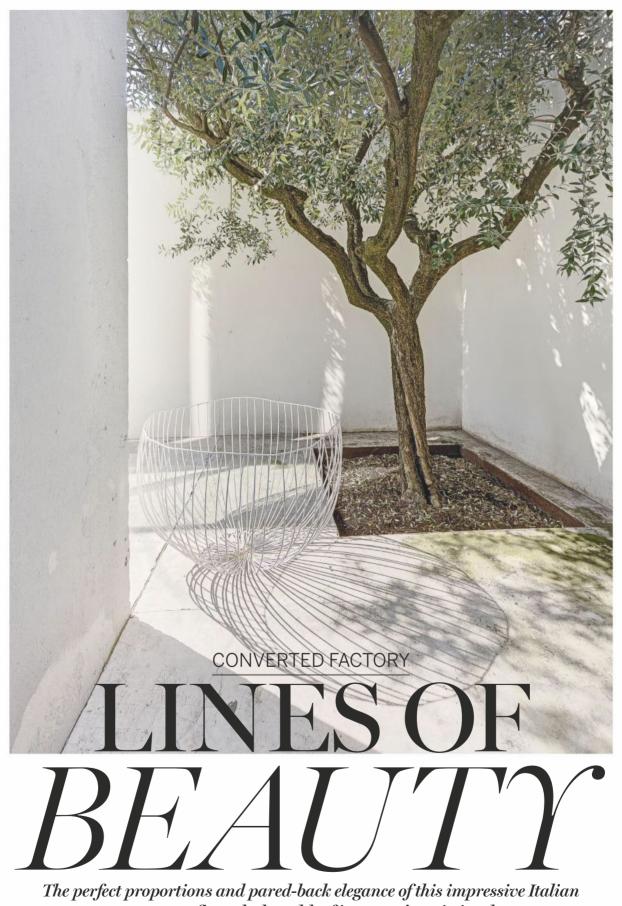
### BATHROOM

Christine's skilful positioning of mirrors combined with glass and sparkling crystal helps to give the compact bathroom (above left) a light, glamorous feel. Similar wall light, Two-arm Glover wall light with narrow backplate in chrome, £646, Besselink & Jones, 020 7351 4669, besselink. com. Similar chandelier, Stately Empire chandelier, £354, Sweetpea & Willow, 0345 257 2627, sweetpeaandwillow.com.

### BEDROOM

This apartment is a lesson in contrasts and the bedroom (above and right) is no exception. Here, an elegant antique chandelier is partnered with an industrialstyle wall light, while art is displayed in a mix of traditional and modern frames. Curtains in Salsa in Argent, £92m, Manuel Canovas, 020 7244 7427, manuelcanovas.com. Bedspread in Farne in Slate, £85m, Colefax and Fowler, 020 7244 7427, colefax.com. Similar chandelier, Italian antique chandelier, £3,650 a pair, Norfolk Decorative Antiques, 01328 856333, antiquelightingandchandeliers. co.uk. For a similar vintage wall light, try Skinflint Design, 01326 565227, skinflintdesign.co.uk.





apartment reflects the breadth of its owner's artistic talents

WORDS ANDRÉE FRIEZE PHOTOGRAPHS SERGE ANTON

### COURTYARD

A terrace, which surrounds part of the apartment, leads onto this courtyard with an olive tree that was planted after the renovation. The white iron sculpture, called *Tulipano*, is by Antonino.

### SITTING ROOM

Soothing grey walls allow the lush green of the Sicilian plants and distinctive paintings, which emulate sand, to sing out. The look exemplifies Antonino's design ethos: "My home has a New York-loft feel with a Mediterranean twist." The chairs are by renowned postmodern Italian architects and designers Afra and Tobia Scarpa. Artwork by Giorgio Braghieri, giorgio.braghieri@fastwebnet.it.

11.







are and fortunate is the person who possesses talents of such quality that he or she is able to achieve prodigious success in two completely different artistic spheres. Antonino Sciortino is such a person. For 20 years, he travelled the world as a renowned ballet dancer and choreographer. Then, on retiring, he embarked on a second successful career as a metalwork designer.

Look back in time, to his childhood in Sicily, and it is clear that Antonino's interest in design is a long-nurtured one. It was while he was growing up that he learned the rudimentary elements of working with iron and steel from his blacksmith brother, Michelangelo, but it remained just an interest until he stopped dancing at the age of 40. "When I realised I couldn't continue my career as a top athlete," says Antonino, "I started creating tables, vases and other small objects for my designer and architect friends." While the change of direction may seem dramatic to an outsider, it was entirely logical to Antonino who describes his pieces as "characterised by the fluid lines seen in dance".

An exhibition of his work at Compagnia del Giardino brought early success, with commissions and sales worldwide through companies such as Serax and Busnelli, as well as online. It also led Antonino to leave a classical property in the centre of Milan and begin converting a former factory, situated in the old industrial area of Tortona, into a home. "I wanted to move to somewhere greener," Antonino says, "and this opportunity presented itself so I seized it. I operate by instinct."

Transforming the property from a shell into a completed home took a year, and what was once the kitchen and canteen for the factory

### KITCHEN

Glass doors overlooking the private courtyard (left) give the impression that the indoor plants are growing entwined with those outside. Antonino designed the drinks trolley, which is wheel-mounted for ease of movement. Similar cooker, Rangemaster Classic 110, £1,729, Currys, 0344 561 0000, currys.co.uk. Fontana Arte Naska wall light, from £163, GES Licht Erleben, 0049 234 516 5600, ges-bo.co.uk.

### ENTRANCE HALL

Like the rest of the flat, this area (above) is blissfully free of clutter, allowing the pale blue tile painting by Franco Guerzoni to draw the eye. Sticchite side table, €439.95, Serax, 07836 752454, serax.com. Badess lamp, €237.60, Atipico, 0039 375 833124, atipiconline.it.





workers has now become a three-storey, two-bedroom, two-bathroom apartment with a large garden, terrace and a courtyard.

Cement floors and metal-frame furniture are an obvious nod to the building's industrial heritage, but Antonino's use of plants, antique rugs and a few judiciously chosen paintings and photographs combine to soften the effect. "I describe my home as New York loft with a Mediterranean twist," he says, adding that the cement floors are polished, a finish that gives them unexpected lustre and depth. "They are so easy to maintain and you don't need to be careful around them."

The centrepiece of the home, and Antonino's calling card, is a dramatic iron-and-mahogany staircase, which he designed to look as if it is floating within the space. Of course, there are more examples of his metalwork on display; the apartment is also his showroom and his studio (or "laboratory", as he calls it) is in the basement. "I commute to work," he smiles. "It's a mere fourteen steps downstairs."

Antonino's second career is not the only thing to have been inspired by his upbringing on Sicily. The plants with which the designer surrounds himself today are typical of the island's botany: broom, agaves, eucalyptus, tamarisk and carob trees create green enclaves around the apartment. "These elements are important to my well being," he says. "They add a natural energy."

Equally important are the pieces of furniture and artwork that Antonino collects when he travels or visits markets and bric-à-brac shops. "Before buying, I visualise a place for the item in the apartment, otherwise it might become a white elephant that ends up in the cellar," he explains. "My aim is merely to enhance my home's best attributes."

### STAIRCASE

This has the appearance of being suspended, rather like a ballet dancer leaping into the air. The plants are on trolleys and can be relocated depending on the mood Antonino wants to create. Mau table, €240; Guscio trolley, €1,400; both Antonino Sciortino, 0039 339 641 3175, antoninosciortino.com.

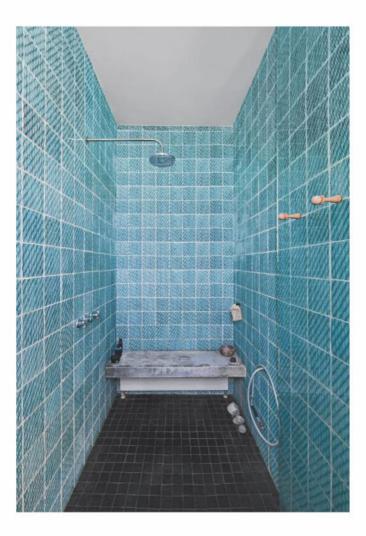
### STUDY AREA

The floating desk made of wood and iron has a simple beauty, which is complemented by carefully selected objects. A blue painting by Max Kuatty, which was bought 15 years ago, adds another element of colour to the scene. Similar lamp, Lumiere XXL table light, £523, Aram, 020 7557 7557, aram.co.uk. Commira chair and cushions, €293.40, Serax, 07836 752454, serax.com.

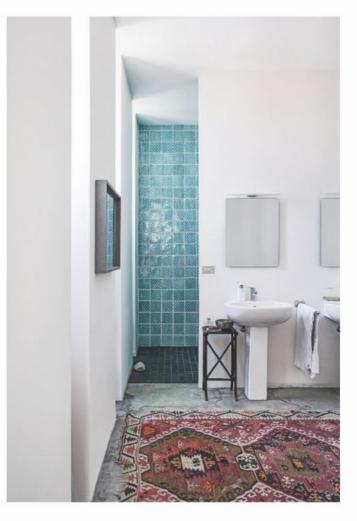
### LANDING

The minimalist treatment of this space, with its polished concrete floor and clean white walls, emphasises the silhouettes of the iron Monachine chairs designed by Antonino. Their angular, lean lines mirror those found in the structure of the staircase.





Cement floors and metal furniture are a nod to the building's industrial heritage, while the use of plants, antique rugs and artwork soften the effect.



### SHOWER AREA

The diagonally striped wall tiles (above left) are in a warm blue reminiscent of the sea and sky of Sicilian summers. Fatto a Mano K6 terracotta wall tiles in Verde Rame, £362.40sq m, Laurence Pidgeon, 020 7610 6166, laurencepidgeon.com.

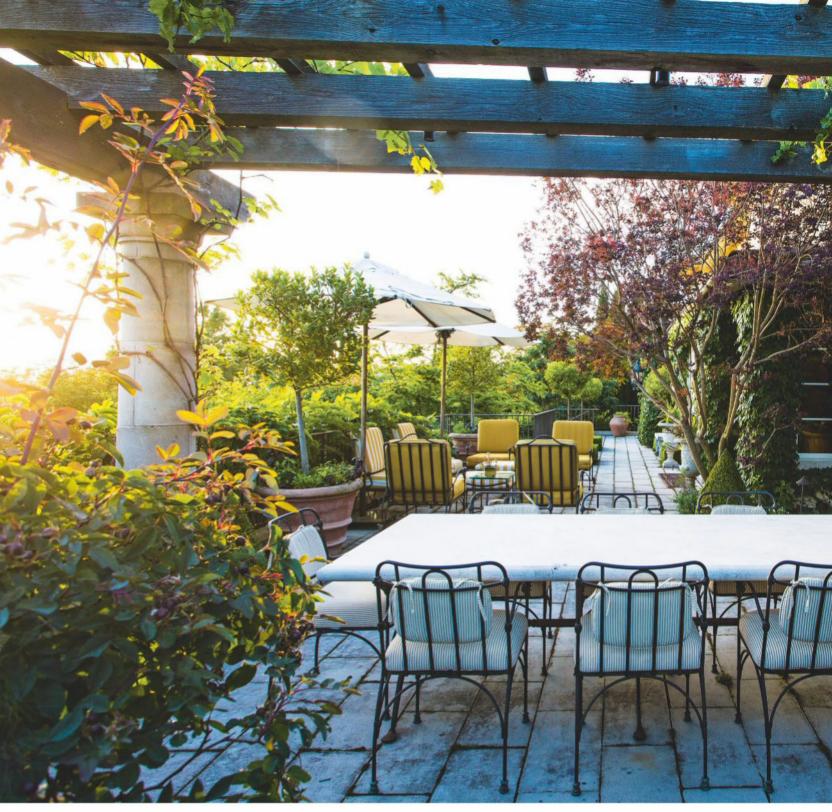
### BATHROOM

An antique rug (above right), which is a family heirloom, acts as a vibrant counterpoint to the industrial look. For a similar kilim rug, try the vintage selection, from £695 each, The Rug Company, 020 7243 7342, therugcompany.com.

### BEDROOM

Sliding doors allow Antonino to turn this room (right) into a larger living space that shows off the polished concrete floor to fabulous effect. "I occasionally wax it to add extra depth," he says. Similar lamp, Duo 1227 desk lamp, £220 Anglepoise, 023 9222 4450, anglepoise.com. Similar rug, Hand-knotted Ziegler rug from Afghanistan, £6,450, Olney Oriental Carpets, 01234 712502, olneyrugs.co.uk.





# A larder for ALL

Inspired by the European fashion for formal design blended with edible planting, Mary Horvitz's words caroline beck photographs claire takacs

THIS PICTURE The deep red-wine foliage of a smoke tree *Cotinus* coggygria 'Royal Purple' adds a flash of colour to the main dining area. **ABOVE RIGHT** Mary's seasonal larder continues outside the walls of her home, where she has planted edibles, including artichokes, garlic and fennel. **RIGHT** Apple and pear trees are trained over metal framework in a decorative arch, which marks the transition from one area of the garden to another.

# SEASONS

garden is a triumph of the decorative and practical





emories of home are deeply connected with food and, for the gardener who moves from one continent to another, it often means growing things that recreate the tastes and scents of their old lives. Mary Horvitz grew up in Angola and as a child she gardened alongside her green-fingered father (the family called the garden "his other girlfriend"). She later moved to the former Portuguese colony of the Azores, where all kinds of fruit, vegetables and herbs were grown out of necessity.

When Mary put down roots in Seattle with her husband Eric, she wanted her garden to have a formal blend of stonework and planting, a trait of European gardens since the Romans first grew vines, lavender and figs within their courtyards. She also wanted the majority of the plants to be edible. We are not talking about a simple salad patch or growing the odd apple tree. Top of her wishlist were seven different types of grape, together with huckleberries, Alpine strawberries, apricots, kumquats, Brazilian guava and giant Asian pears. That said, "everything had to earn its place in my garden," says Mary.

The couple moved to Seattle in 1994 and bought a 1930s house, which they knocked down to create an exciting, if daunting, opportunity to build their dream home. In 2001, they engaged David Pfieffer, a Seattle-based landscape architect, who suggested a garden with a house in it, rather than a house with a garden as an afterthought. "It's a small space and I wanted to make the most of it by encouraging exploration, with no dead spaces or dead ends," he recalls.

In southern Europe the warm weather means the life of the house spills outside, so the garden is both a seasonal larder and sitting room. Seattle's climate, however, is similar to that of London, so David saw his job as encouraging Mary and Eric to use the garden as much as possible. To this end, he has planted clipped box hedging, tall cypress trees, terracotta urns and ceramic pots planted with evergreen topiary, and citrus trees underplanted with herbs to reflect Mary's love of Italian gardens. All of the seating areas are positioned to catch the optimum daily sunlight and to make full use of the reflected heat from stone walls.

Another potent incentive to use the garden every day is to grow food, but Mary wanted the fruit, herbs and salad plantings to be decorative as well as practical in design and function. For David, the idea of an edible garden was intriguing but also nerve-racking because it was a new concept for him. "It proved pivotal in my career, as it forced me to consider plants in different ways," he says. "Instead of using a standard ground-cover plant, for example, I'd use Alpine strawberries. Now I use edible plants in many of my gardens." For Mary, however, the approach was an obvious one, "Seattle is known as the Emerald City and the climate is perfect for growing food, so why not?" she explains.

The sound of water, either bubbling up from a ceramic fountain or falling over the edge of a stone lip, is another of the garden's distinctive motifs, as is the interplay of light between water, foliage and stone. "When I lived in the Azores," recalls Mary, "all the gardens had low stone walls, so you could sit in the shade, talking and passing the time." Vines and espaliered figs grow against the walls of the house, while culinary plants, such as artichokes, fennel and lavender, flow out of the garden's perimeters onto the street, to the delight of Mary and Eric's neighbours, who have enjoyed seeing the transformation from barren plot to chic urban potager. □

### **GARDEN GUIDE**

**Orientation** A quarter of an acre plot surrounding a new-build house on a steeply sloping site in Seattle, North America. The garden faces west, with views of Lake Washington. **Soil type** The majority of the soil had to be brought in as the site was a mixture of poor soil and builders' rubble.

**Special features** A formal European-style garden with a strong emphasis on growing fruit, vegetables and herbs.

Design David Pfeiffer, 001 206 883 6446, davidpfeiffer.com.







**OPPOSITE PAGE, ABOVE LEFT** 

A vintage stone planter filled with colourful edible nasturtiums sits beneath a lemon tree.

**OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT** A bank of billowing hydrangea provides a striking contrast to the tall, slender forms of Italian cypress. **ABOVE AND TOP** In the Sunken Garden, which is overlooked by first-floor balconies, water trickles soothingly over the top of a limestone cistern, while a pair of

French ceramic urns planted with French ceramic urns planted with variegated New Zealand flax flank an antique wrought-iron seat. **ABOVE RIGHT** Clad with pretty handmade yellow and blue glazed tiles, this ornamental

fountain has a southern

European feel. **RIGHT** Espaliered fig trees adorn the wall of Mary's potager garden, where herbs and vegetables grow encircled by low hedges of germander instead of box.

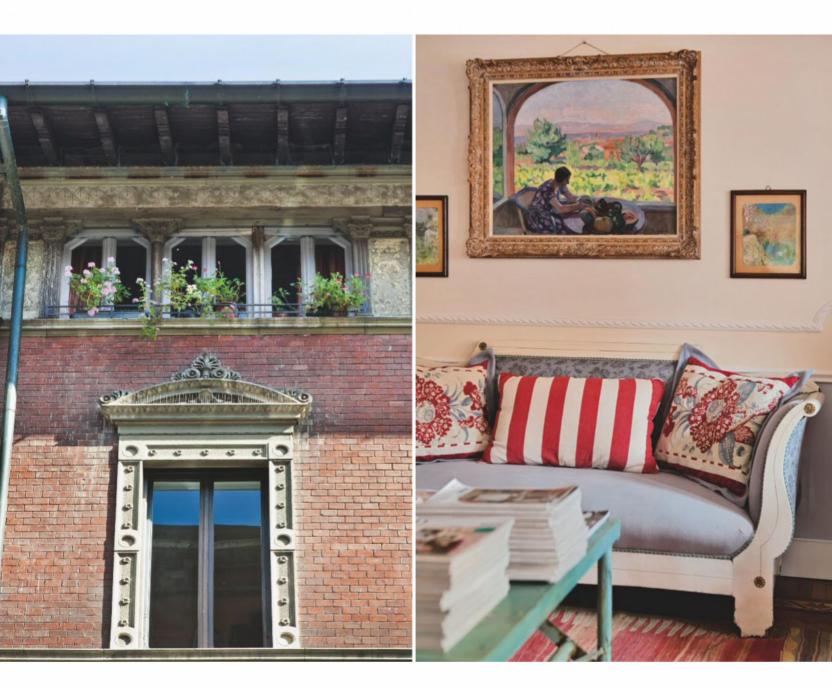


ITALIAN PIED-À-TERRE

## HIDDEN CHARMS

Located in the bustling metropolis of Milan, the tranquil, country-inspired interior of Enrica Stabile's apartment comes as a delightful surprise

WORDS NATALIE WAIN PHOTOGRAPHS ALESSANDRA IANNIELLO



**SITTING ROOM** Richly coloured parquet flooring and accents of coral and red give this room its warm glow. The effect is tempered by a powder blue sofa and sea green coffee table that perfectly echo the hues of the artwork. Similar armchair Howard style Similar armchair, Howard style chair, £1,900, David Seyfried, 020 7823 3848, davidseyfried. com. Similar curtain fabric, French Ticking linen, £45m: similar stripe cushion fabric, Seraglio linen, £66m, both Fabrics & Papers, 01273 495500, fabricsandpapers.com. Interior design, Enrica Stabile, L'Utile e il Dilettevole & Solamente Dilettevole & Solamente Giovedi, 0039 2 345 360 86 solamentegiovedi.com.



### KITCHEN

A Victorian dresser (above) lends an elegant note to the kitchen, with its compact range cooker and mix of blue-and-white tiles (above right) enhancing the country look. "I eat here when I'm alone. It's a comfortable space," says Enrica. Similar Victorian dresser, Fine Victorian Oak dresser, £2,950, Nimbus Antiques, 01663 734248, nimbusantiques.co.uk. Similar kitchen table, Industrial dining table with recycled elm top, £987, La Maison Chic, 0800 133 7828, Ia-maison-chic.co.uk. Similar curtain fabric, Grapevine, £49m, Fabrics & Papers, 01273 495500, fabricsandpapers.com.







ombining both provincial charm and classical flair, the country-style interior of Enrica Stabile's city pied-à-terre is a world away from the busy urban streets outside. The interior designer and antiques dealer moved into this grand 19th-century apartment in 2013. Her husband had died a few years before and, as her grown-up children had now left home, she decided she was ready for a change. "We have family homes in the Italian lakes and the south of France, so I thought a town property in Milan would be ideal," explains Enrica. "I also love throwing different looks together, so as well as showcasing my antiques here, I wanted somewhere I could make my own."

What attracted you to the property? It was partly the location, as there are wonderful restaurants and food markets here, but I was also immediately drawn to the light inside the apartment. In some rooms, the windows take up an entire wall. The result is a home that has glorious views and feels very bright, even though some parts of the property, such as the dining room, are fairly narrow.

What condition was the apartment in? It hadn't been touched in almost twenty-five years and was full of damp. I spent three months on the renovation, which involved restoring original features such as the parquet flooring and the cornicing, but I retained the original layout. I also swapped some interior doors for folding ones, opening up the rooms and enhancing the sense of flow. Otherwise, the work was largely decorative.

**Can you tell us about your style?** This apartment has given me more freedom to explore my personal preferences. There are definitely some country-style elements, but the interior has evolved into a blend of everything I love, combining Italian, English, French and Scandinavian pieces that I have collected over 30 years. In the dining room, I have paired a vintage French dining table with antique barbotine plates, as well as a Regency fire surround that I

### **DINING ROOM**

'There's a Parisian air to this room," says Enrica, who added the wall mouldings (below), which form frames for her collection of decorative antique plates. In lieu of a garden or terrace, a pretty display of white potted plants (opposite page, below right) reflects her passion for the countryside. For similar Creil-Montereau faience plates, from £30, try Alan and Janet Mayfield, 01732 353577, mayfieldpottery.com. For similar asparagus and artichoke barbotine plates, from £60 each, try Those French Plates, nicholsbuttons.co.uk/ new/Cover.html. Similar dining table, Round extending dining table, £1,252, Nicky Cornell, 0845 604 0244, nickycornell.com.



brought with me from the old house. It works here although there is no fireplace. It's this melting pot of styles that defines my apartment.

And the stripes? I love striped fabrics and use them all the time for cushions and curtains as they work with both classic and contemporary furniture. My apartment is also very busy, and this pattern provides a simple yet elegant alternative to plain fabric, which I prefer to avoid.

What inspired the colour palette? I've always been drawn to Gustavian style, which I associate with refined blues and greys, so this was my starting point for the dining room, study and bathroom. I find it very calming and easy to live with. Elsewhere, I chose gorgeous reds and pinks for their warmth and welcoming glow. I particularly love the colour in the bedroom; I blended it myself to match the hues of my collection of Massier vases. It is a very lively shade and never fails to put me in a positive mood when I awake each morning. **Can you tell us about the ceramics?** Collecting plates is a great passion of mine, but displaying them was quite a challenge; it took me two days to hang them. The barbotine plates above the fire surround complement the colours in the Blanche Camus painting, while the blues in the Massier vases on the mantelpiece hint at the wall colour below. I also created the mouldings on the dining room wall as a frame, which allowed me to graduate the palette.

### Where did you source your furniture? I brought a number of pieces with me from my old apartment, but I prefer not to have too many elegant things. I have a few industrial-style tables dotted around, and

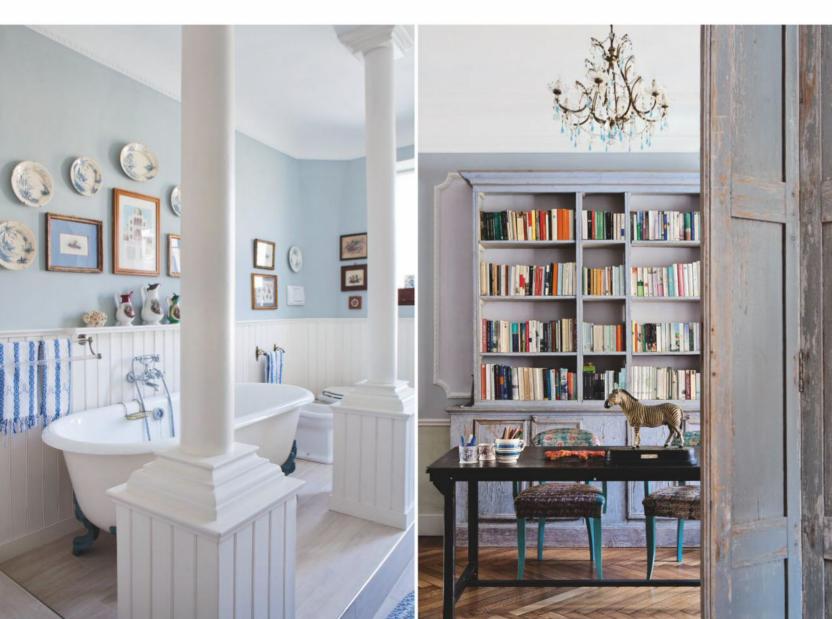
have a few industrial-style tables dotted around, and the bookcase in my study was an impulse buy from a store in Parma. The lilac paint is peeling off, but this is why I love it. I never paint furniture, as I like the sense of history you get when something is a little bit distressed; it's fascinating to imagine the life of a vintage object before you bought it and how you are the beginning of a new story. This is why I love antiques, it makes my work so interesting.  $\Box$ 

### BATHROOM

Painted panelling and duckegg blue walls (below left) have replaced overbearing black-and-white tiles for a softer, more relaxing look. Similar bath, French Empire bath, from £5,400, Catchpole & Rye, 020 7351 0940, catchpoleandrye.com.

### STUDY

Chandeliers appear throughout the apartment. "A scheme doesn't feel complete without something pretty hanging from the ceiling; it enhances the equilibrium," explains Enrica. Similar chandelier, Marie Therese chandelier with clear almonds and pale-blue teardrops, £1,200, The Vintage Chandelier Company, 07931 303138, vintagechandeliers.co.uk. Similar antique bookcase, Painted Breakfront bookcase, £2,950, Arcadia Antiques, 07768 666833, arcadiaantiques.co.uk.







### EXTERIOR

Silvia added the salt-water swimming pool (left), which was designed to resemble a traditional fish pond.

### LIVING AREA

Although this space (right) is open plan, clever sliding doors can section off areas when required. Here, for example, the door at the back of the room can either hide the staircase or close off the view to the kitchen. Similar sofa, Ghost 12 sofa, £1,709, Gervasoni at Ambiente Direct, 0870 005 2275, ambientedirect.com. **Pon Pon cushion**, from €85, 0039 51 0548981, Borgo delle Tovaglie, borgodelletovaglie.com.

# Labour of LOVE

Using her skills as an architect, Silvia Giacobazzi has rebuilt a group of 19th-century buildings to create her dream home in beautiful countryside

WORDS SARAH FARLEY PHOTOGRAPHS FABRIZIO CICCONI







### LIVING AREA

The neutral colour scheme (above) was chosen to show off the building's striking architectural features. Similar spongeware plates, from £10.99 for a side plate, Brixton Pottery, 01544 260577, brixton pottery.com. Similar tree trunk table, Tree trunk side table, £125, French Connection, 0333 400 3285, frenchconnection.com.

### KITCHEN

Keen to reflect her home's rich history, Silvia designed the kitchen herself and chose worktops (above right) made from local volcanic stone. A wooden sculptor's frame (left), which once supported blocks of marble, is now used to store crockery and glassware. For similar volcanic stone worktops, try Stone Age, 020 7384 9090. stone-age.co.uk



aving restored a home for herself in Modena more than 20 years ago, in 2011 architect Silvia Giacobazzi decided the time had come to settle in the Tuscan countryside. "I originally studied architecture in Florence and I believe Tuscany is one of the most beautiful parts of Italy," she says. It seemed natural for her to make a home there, as it is reasonably close to Versilia and Modena where she works, as well as to an airport for international connections, but the particular spot she chose is hidden away within spectacular natural landscape. Another draw are the many beautiful Renaissance buildings in the area, such as the Medici Villas, while Michelangelo's marble quarry is also very close, all fine inspiration for an architect.

### HISTORICAL INTEREST

Silvia was aware from the start that the plot of land she had purchased to build on included two intriguing, abandoned stone buildings. They had been discovered by a sculptor from New York, who was visiting the area to work with the local marble. The ruins suggested there had originally been three structures. "I was so captivated by the possibilities of the site that I started what became a long yet fascinating investigation into the history of the area," explains Silvia.

Research revealed that the original buildings were constructed in the early 19th century, carefully positioned in a semicircle on the side of the valley to catch the sunlight. It appeared that they were originally homes for the villagers, but by the beginning of the 20th century they had become part of the nearby quarry. One of the buildings seems to have been lived in by the quarry watchman and the marble was processed in the other larger structures, which included a workshop that Silvia eventually incorporated into her design. The ruined state of the buildings was accounted for when she discovered that, in 1944, the area was on the Gothic Line, the German army's last major line of defence. It was heavily bombed by the Allies



This space incorporates a large dining table (above), which came from a carpenter's workshop and was widened by adding strips of Cor-Ten steel. Architect, Silvia Giacobazzi, silviagiacobazzi.com.

### PORTICO

Opening off the kitchen, this (above right) is where Silvia and her daughter, Giulia, enjoy spending time with friends during the warmer months. Large white linen tablecloth, £99.99, LinenMe, 020 8133 3853, linenme.com. For similar wooden serving boards, try David Mellor, 01433 650220, davidmellor design.com.

### STUDIO

自

The steel table, with its lacquered rusty finish, was designed by Giulia to add an industrial flavour to the guest room. Similar scissor-arm extendable wall light, Campbell extendable wall light, £70, John Lewis, 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com.





### STUDIO

Silvia incorporated the quarry's former workshop into her new home to create an extra living space (above). The family's fox terrier, Bri, is given free rein to roam the house. Cushions, from €32 each, Borgo delle Tovaglie, 0039 51 054 8981, borgodelletovaglie.com. Similar hurricane lanterns, Brompton large metal candle lanterns. £144 each. Artisanti, 0345 259 1410, artisanti.com.

### MAIN BATHROOM

The industrial design of this tall, barrel-like washbasin (left) offers a contemporary contrast to the more traditional exposed stonework. Vieques washbasin, £2,692.50, Agape at West One Bathrooms, 0333 011 3333, westonebathrooms.com.

### "It's been an interesting lesson in creating a building that responds to its surroundings and history."

and the main quarry building was destroyed, while the other two were abandoned. Over the next 60 years, nature took its course and the site became completely overgrown.

### SYMPATHETIC RECONSTRUCTION

Research complete, Silvia's next task was to secure the permits she needed to restore the two stone buildings that remained. They had been constructed using stone from the surrounding mountains and Silvia was able to rebuild them in the same tradition. "I hope the new buildings are much as they would once have been," she explains. "They are, of course, much simpler than the elegant, aristocratic villas in the nearby countryside, but have a solid, rustic charm that I love."

Her completed design consists of two buildings in three parts: the main house, with two bedrooms; the second house, which also has two bedrooms but a larger living area; and the former workshop, which is more of a studio, with a single main room in which to eat and sleep. The reconstruction involved quite a bit of work, as they not only had to build the houses, but also shore up the garden and make sure the forest behind would not move down the hill. Silvia added the portico, which makes a perfect place to eat in the summer, and a beautiful salt-water swimming pool that reflects the house during the day and the stars at night.

### THE BEAUTY OF SIMPLICITY

Silvia was keen that the interior should relate to its surroundings in the same way as the exterior. The floors, therefore, are made of a mixture of local oak and slate rescued from the quarry buildings and much of the brickwork has been left exposed. The tree-trunk tables were made from trees near the house that had to be felled after heavy rain washed away the ground causing their roots to become unstable.

Silvia's daughter Giulia Pederzini was also involved in the project. She lives in the house during the summer, when she is not studying architecture in Switzerland, and designed the table in the old workshop; it is made of Cor-Ten steel and is suspended from the ceiling at one end. "I think that seeing the whole project develop has been important for her as well," says Silvia. "It's been an interesting lesson in creating a building that responds to its immediate surroundings and to its history."

Now that it is complete, Silvia describes her home as "a dream realised". She adds, "To have the chance to reconstruct an historical site is exciting enough, but for it to be in such a perfect location, peaceful and surrounded by nature yet close enough to modernity to be convenient, could not be better. I am very happy to call this home."  $\Box$ 

MAIN BEDROOM Natural materials and minimal embellishment offer pure rustic charm, perfect for this house in the woods. Pon Pon bed cover, €349. Borgo delle Tovaglie. 039 51 054 8981. borgo delletovaglie.com. Kelvin LED table lamp. £255. Flos at Nest. 0114 243 3000, nest.co.uk.



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**DREAM ROOMS** This month, our five creative schemes include a **spacious kitchen** designed for socialising (*page 110*), Georgian style in a **classic bathroom** (*page 114*) and a **chic living room** with echoes of a gentlemen's club (*page 116*). **INTERIORS** Rooms inspired by **Italian flair** (*page 121*) and stylish suggestions for **simple window treatments** (*page 137*). **IDEAS Children's rooms** that will last the years (*page 130*) and the **perfect terrace** for beautiful gardens (*page 149*). **SHOPPING** Our edit of the best **dining tables** (*page 141*). **ADVICE** Celia Rufey answers your **design queries** (*page 145*).





## **ROOM TO BREATHE**



DESIGNER Paul Brivati, Kitchen Architecture, 020 8785 1960, *kitchenarchitecture.co.uk.* BUDGET £70,000. Crisp modern units and a streamlined layout are the ideal choice for this light-filled open-plan space designed for spending time with family and friends

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE SPACE?** The property is a rather grand-looking detached Victorian house in west London. In this area, the Victorian properties tend to be wider than in other parts of London, but the kitchen was still a fairly narrow galley-style affair when my clients bought their home. In pursuit of light and space, the couple made full use of their permitted development rights and built a 3m-deep extension across the back of the house. There's an entrance hallway and separate sitting room at the front of the house, but the rest of the ground floor now forms a large open-plan kitchen, living and dining room with level access to the garden.

**HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED?** We had just finished work on a striking open-plan kitchen for friends of my client and they recommended us. Plus, we've also worked with the couple's interior architect before, so there was a lot of trust from the start, which always helps a project run smoothly. As it takes around 12 weeks to deliver a kitchen, we often get involved halfway through a build, which is what happened here. We were presented with a lovely big space that had great flow and a virtually frameless glass wall at the far end.

**WHAT WAS YOUR DESIGN BRIEF?** The concept was to create a very sociable space where my clients could really enjoy the house. They have three young children and wanted room for them to run around and plenty of dining space, so they asked for a casual table attached to an island that could be used for breakfast and craft activities, as well as a formal table away from the cooking area. There's also a bench-style table outside on the terrace for alfresco meals in the summer, so all dining options are covered.

**How DID YOU PLAN THE LAYOUT?** We wanted to keep a clear line of sight and walkway from the front door to the back of the house, so we created a long galley layout with an island. We also carved off a corner of the kitchen area to form a utility room, ensuring that the laundry appliances and bulk supplies are kept out of sight. I prefer to put the hob on the island, especially if there are great views of the garden, but my clients wanted a seriously powerful extractor, which needed to be vented from the rear wall. Instead, we installed an extra preparation sink in the island, which is particularly useful when more than one person is cooking.

**WHICH APPLIANCES DID YOU CHOOSE?** We went for appliances from Siemens and Miele, which are both good, dependable brands. My clients enjoy cooking and took time to consider what types of food they enjoy and how many people they need to feed. Christmas is a busy period for the family on the entertaining front, so they asked for an additional 90cm-wide oven to be located in the island, which would enable them to roast a catering-size turkey. There's also a tall larder fridge and separate freezer that will easily accommodate their needs during the party season, while the steam oven is used primarily for their day-to-day family meals, which are focused on fresh, healthy ingredients.

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE DESIGN DETAILS?** Using a minimalist kitchen brand such as Bulthaup requires close attention to detail, as the clean lines of the

### •• The kitchen bridges the divide between modern design and comfortable family-friendly living."

cabinetry tends to emphasise any awkward connection to the structure of the room itself. Building the wall out above the cabinets creates a modern look that's perfectly suited to the handleless design we've chosen but, to provide a clear distinction, we left a thin shadowline between them and the wall. We also made the cabinets above the hob and sink shallower than those below to enhance the sense of space. The splashback in the niche is made of graphite-coloured laminate, which looks striking against the off-white cabinetry.

WHAT BRINGS THE SPACE TO LIFE? Although the kitchen is predominantly white, there is a lot of colour and texture throughout the rest of the space, which is one of the great advantages of open-plan living. From the black spun pendants with a copper interior by Tom Dixon and the soft grey velvet sofa, to the dark oversized parquet flooring and purple-painted exterior of the utility room, everything surrounding the kitchen is rich and inviting. One of my favourite elements, which was the work of the architect, are the skyline doors that are glazed right to the top of the steel frame. When they are open in summer, the kitchen becomes part of a far bigger space that includes the outdoor terrace, but when they are closed it's like looking onto another room. I also love how the Bulthaup kitchen bridges the divide between modern modular design and comfortable family-friendly living.

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### SOURCES

Bulthaup b3 cabinets, from £50,000; Siemens KI38RA50GB fridge, £977; Siemens iQ300 induction hob, £976; Siemens HB953R50E single oven, £1,416; Westin SLT900 cooker hood, £724; Miele H6460BP pyrolytic oven, £1,715; Miele DGC6600 XL steam combi oven, £3,035; Miele ESW6114 warming drawer, £860; Quooker Pro 3 boiling water tap, £980; KWC Domo Inox tap, £754; all Kitchen Architecture, 020 8785 1960, *kitchenarchitecture*. *co.uk*. Tom Dixon Beat Fat pendant lights in Black, £285 each; Eames Vitra DSR dining chairs in White, £226 each; both Heal's, 020 7896 7451, *heals. co.uk*. Smoked oak herringbone parquet flooring, £85sq m, AH Peck, 020 8788 1795, *ahpeckItd.co.uk*.

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## **GEORGIAN ELEGANCE**



DESIGNER Catherine Borse, The Secret Drawer, 01756 797800, secret-drawer.co.uk. BUDGET Around £25,000.

Sleek hidden storage, luxurious layered window dressings and statement furniture bring sophistication to this panelled scheme for a period family home

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ROOM?** This is a guest bathroom in a four-bedroom Georgian home in Lancashire. The house was extended in the 1930s and this room is in the newer section. It was originally decorated in Art Deco style, with a classic mint-green bathroom suite and emerald-green tiles. Our task was to bring it in line with the property's Georgian heart and to help blur the boundaries between the original architecture of the building and the more modern extension.

WHAT WAS THE BRIEF? Although there is a family bathroom and an en suite that my client shares with her husband, she decided to requisition this space for use as her own personal sanctuary. The brief was to create a luxurious and tranquil room that felt feminine and private, while still being suitable for occasional use by guests. The overall style was to be traditionally Georgian, but my clients also have a property in France and love that country's classic design, which is where the dramatic 19th-century-style bateau bath comes in. We added a striking ceiling-mounted curtain pole with a dreamy white shower curtain to give the bath extra presence and a touch of romance.

WHERE DID YOU START? Originally, the room had a window seat and so the surrounding wall was very deep. We knocked out the inner layer of masonry to allow better access to the window and create more space. Next, we built a false-panelled wall at one end of the room to provide concealed storage accessed via push-touch hinges. This also hides the plumbing for the basin and a radiator, which is tucked under the basin and vented through a grill. We deliberately avoided tiles – the panelling is painted in eggshell, which is easy to wipe clean – to make the room feel more homely.

**WHAT INSPIRED THE COLOUR PALETTE?** It is very much in keeping with the rest of the house, which is decorated in muted greys, greens and creams. We felt that soft neutrals in this bathroom would not only provide continuity, but create a relaxing ambience. We wanted the luxurious window treatment and the free-standing bath to be the focus of the room, so it felt right to opt for subtle shades. The panelling and fitted cabinets are slightly darker than the walls, which helps to distinguish between the two surfaces, while the low ceiling has been painted bright white to make it seem higher.

**HOW DID YOU DRESS THE WINDOW?** We chose three soft toning layers – a linen blind, a sheer curtain and a heavier wool-mix curtain – so that the room would sing with glamour. These treatments can be used in different combinations to create various levels of privacy throughout the day.

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SOURCES Bespoke fitted cabinets and panelling, around £15,000; Solid oak flooring, £45sq m; all The Secret Drawer, 01756 797800, secret-drawer.co.uk, Ethos console basin on ceramic legs £1,306; Imperium plinth roll-top bath, £2,206; Amie bath-shower mixer taps, £523; Amie three-hole basin mixer, £313; Effusio over-bath shower system, £1,071; Aquarius towel radiator, £1,059; all The Albion Bath Company, 01255 831605, albionbathco.com. Antiqued mirror glass, £2008q m, Padiham Glass, 01282 774124, padihamglass.co.uk. Walls in Slipper Satin, Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres; wall panelling in Shaded White, Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5 litres; both Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. Roman blind in Butter Soft linen, £190m; draped curtains in Heritage in Pearl, £206.50m; both de Le Cuona, 020 7584 7677, delecuona.co.uk. Sheer curtain in Barra in Natural, £49m, Baker Lifestyle at GP&J Baker, 01202 266700, gpandjbaker.com.

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# HEIGHT OF CHIC



**DESIGNER** Rebecca Leivars.

01273 732253. leivars.com.

Plush velvet furnishings and smart storage give a sophisticated twist to the gentlemen's club aesthetic in this lofty family living room

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE SPACE?** This room is on the upper ground floor of a beautiful Victorian villa. The architect, Stephen Fletcher, knocked two rooms into one to create this dual-aspect living room, reinstating the cornicing to emphasise its fabulous high ceilings. With simple white wooden shutters adorning the windows at either end, I had a real blank canvas to work with.

**HOW DID YOU DEVISE THE SCHEME?** As I quickly established that my clients enjoy regular stays at hotels, I came up with the idea of an eclectic look that offers a modern take on a gentlemen's club. The key was to give the place wow factor, with a balance of plush pieces and industrial elements, while also creating a sanctuary that the couple and their two young sons would use.

WHAT INSPIRED THE BOOKCASE? I wanted to showcase the fact that my clients enjoy reading, but I was concerned that, with the height and size of the room, a stand-alone piece would create a division. The design I came up with – a contemporary take on the joinery you might find in a classic members' club – features a lower section that runs up to the fireplace, which helps to connect the space. The bookcase incorporates open shelves for books and accessories, and base drawers to hide photograph albums and CDs. The drawers feature soft-close runners and I added nickel filing cabinet handles to give them a subtle industrial edge.

WHAT INFLUENCED THE COLOUR PALETTE? The family have a passion for English country gardens and their own garden is filled with fragrant flowers, such as roses and lavender. The palette developed from a desire to bring the outside in. I felt the colour of the joinery needed to be calm yet strong; this rich grey with a slight green tint was matched from an existing sample. To complement this, we selected softer tones for the furnishings as we felt these worked well against the bookcase: the purple and aqua are happy summer tones that echo shades found in the garden.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CHOICE OF FURNISHINGS. So as not to detract from the impressive proportions of the space, it was important to give it a feeling of unity. Matching rugs help to connect the two halves of the room, while a pair of dainty armchairs face an L-shaped sofa to create an intimate setting around the woodburning stove. The ottomans not only provide more low-level seating, they also allow traffic through without obscuring the sight lines to the garden beyond. It might be surprising to see velvet upholstery in a house with young children, but the clients are relaxed and encourage their children to use this inviting space. □

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### SOURCES

SOURCES Architecture, Stephen Fletcher, 020 7637 1244, *stephen-fletcher*; *co.uk*. Bespoke bookcase, Rebecca Leivars, 01273 732253, *leivars.com*. Pablo ottomans, £1.630 each plus 6.5m fabric, The Sofa & Chair Company, 020 8752 8935, *thesofaandchair.co.uk*. Maori armchairs, £1.995 each plus 4m fabric, UniQue, 020 7351 5181, *uniquehomeuk.com*. Ottomans in Otello 53329; armchairs in Otello 53355; both £70.50m, Nobilis, 020 8767 0774, *nobilis.fr.* Arctic Pear chandelier, £3,996, Ochre, 020 7096 7372, *ochre.net*.

(On bookcase) **Angel wings**, £110 a pair, Attic, 020 8943 9626 *discoverattic.com.* **Butterfly plate**, £70; **Blue Chair wavy bowl**, £75; both John Derian for Astier de Villatte at Designers Guild, 020 7351 5775, *designersguild. com.* **Paintings**, Matteo Massagrande at Shine Artists, 020 7499 1616, *shineartists.com.* **Flooring in** Douglas fir, from £136sq m, Dinesen, 020 3630 0196, *dinesen.com.* **Fedra rugs** in Light Grey, £555.45 for 2.3sq m, Nina Burgess, 020 7731 4191, *ninaburgess.co.uk.* 













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# **ROMAN HOLIDAY**

Inspired by the meadows of the local landscape, this peaceful retreat can be found among the ruins of a medieval village near the Italian capital



**DESIGNER PROFILE** Having undertaken his horticultural training in Britain, Stuart Barfoot then worked in Lebanon and Italy before returning to Britain in 2008 to study garden design and set up his own practice, based in Brighton. He now works on projects around the world, from large country estates to town gardens and terraces.

**CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE GARDENS?** Torrecchia Vecchia is a 1,500-acre estate, which was a working organic farm when my clients took it on. They bought the property with the intention of using the large house as a weekend retreat and turning the surrounding land into extensive gardens. The estate also included the ruins of a medieval village perched up on a hill, but both the ruins and land around the house were covered in scrub and brambles, so there was a lot to do before work on the garden could begin.

**WAS THERE A SPECIFIC DESIGN BRIEF?** The owners contracted Dan Pearson to develop a simple green-and-white theme, which he translated into lawns and cool-coloured borders up by the house. I was employed as head gardener by Dan to implement and look after his design and improve the soil, which was largely made up of tufa, a porous volcanic rock. After a few years, I took over both the design and the management and my clients asked me to introduce a little more colour.

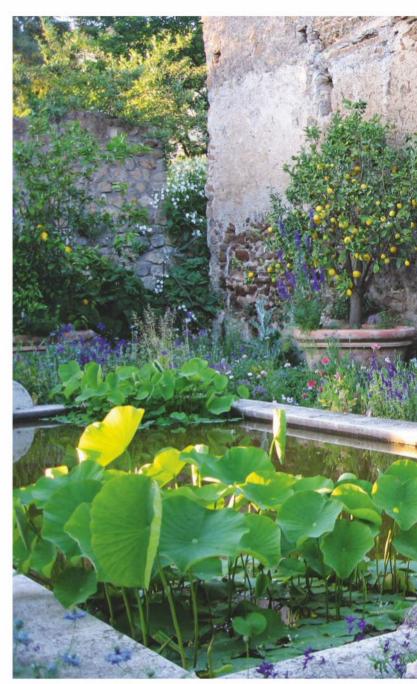
#### WHAT WAS THE IDEA BEHIND THIS ENCLOSED PART OF THE GARDEN?

This sunken outdoor room is nestled within the ruins of the village. The aim was to create a contrast between it and the lush lawns and planting near the house. However, the foundations of the old buildings limited what we could plant. Pots offered a solution, while the raised pool made a dramatic feature that required no excavation. I also wanted to create a connection with the wider landscape and drew inspiration from the wildflower meadows in the valley below.

**How DID YOU BUILD AND PLANT THE WATER FEATURE?** The pool is made from block work rendered with a slurry of pozzolana, a local volcanic material, which has created a rough, gravelly surface, while the coping on top is travertine. I limited the planting in the water tank to nelumbos (lotus plants), which produce exotic-looking flowers and have magnificent leaves that grow to around three-feet high by late summer. Although lotus plants are tender, you can grow them in Britain as annuals or overwinter them in a bucket in a garage with a minimum temperature of 5°C.

### ARE THERE ANY TRICKS TO CREATING THE MEDITERRANEAN LOOK?

The meadow-like flowers seen here echo those of the local landscape and the terracotta pots planted with lemon trees lend a Mediterranean feel. If you plant lemons in smaller pots, you can bring these slightly tender trees in under cover in winter, although, in London and sheltered coastal regions, they may survive outside all year as long as the



temperature remains above -5°C and you keep the soil dry. Elsewhere, bring them into a cool but frost-free greenhouse or conservatory.

### HOW DID YOU PLANT THE WILDFLOWER-INSPIRED MEADOW? Every

August we clear the site of old plants and weeds, then rake the soil and sow seed in September when the ground is still warm and plants germinate quickly. I mix easy annuals, such as Love-in-a-mist, opium poppies and clary sage, together with wildflowers, to create a richer mix of colours and longer flowering period. You may need to cover the beds with net to prevent birds from eating the seeds. The seedlings then overwinter and flowers will appear the following year from the end of May. Although the seedlings will need watering during dry spells in spring, after they have established they are very drought tolerant and need little other maintenance. □



### **KEY PLANTS**

- 3 Nicotiana alata.

- 6 Jasmine.
- 8| Papaver rhoeas 'Angel's Choir'. 9| Nigella damascena

- 10| Nelumbo nucifera.11| Salvia sclarea var
- 12 Allium cristophii.13 Consolida regalis
- 14 Papaver somniferum. 15 Salvia horminum.

#### WHERE TO BUY

Lilies Water Gardens Nursery, 01306 631064, lilieswatergardens.co.uk. Burncoose Nurseries, 01209 860316, **Sarah Raven**, 0845 092 0283, Wildflower Shop, 0151 737 1819, **Thompson & Morgan**, 0844 573 1818,

### ACCESSORIES

The green-painted oak bench was made locally. The terracotta pots were handmade by Mital.

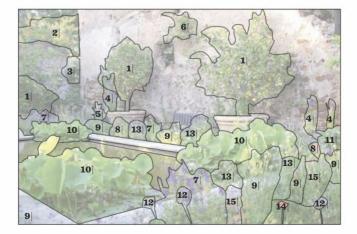
#### WHERE TO BUY

**Primrose** (for similar bench), 0118 903 5210, primrose.co.uk. Mital, 0039 55 201 1414,

**CONTACT DETAILS** Stuart Barfoot Garden and Landscape Design



Simple meadow-like flowers echo the local Italian landscape and the lemon trees lend a Mediterranean feel."



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### H&G DESIGN INTERIORS



PREVIOUS PAGE Charcoal walls bring drama and intensity to this study. Paired with contemporary black furniture and pops of rich colour, the look is one of understated elegance.

FURNITURE Lagon clear glass top, W90xL200cm, £180; Kusa large dark stained trestles, H72x W60xD60cm, £85 each; *all Habitat*. Vik chair in Dark Mahogany Velvet, H84xW45xD58cm, £442, *Ligne Roset*. Nina chair, H59xW45xD39cm, from £1,374. Baxter.

**WALLS Scree**, Absolute Matt Emulsion, **£37 for 2.5 litres**, *Little Greene*.

Listnessed Blocks, from £69.85sq m, Ecora.
ACCESSORIES Sybil lamp in Black, H45xW26cm,
£516; Bajan Natural Linen lampshade, H40xW40.5cm,
£363; both Porta Romana. Tray in Vesuvious Ibiza leather, diam40cm, £275, Alma. Blue vase, H38cm,
£725, Louise Bradley. Naples vase, H18cm, £22,
Habitat. Tom Dixon Cog desk tidy, H21.5xdiam10cm,
£200; Bambou magnifying glass, £110; Umbra
Woodrow waste can in Aubergine, H30xdiam23cm,
£20; all Amara. Black pencils, £3 each; Noto journals, from £12 each; all Paperchase. For a similar Murano glass chandelier, try Atomic Antiques. Tauriani pale jade rug, 160x260cm, £1,145, Designers Guild.

Opting for curtains and walls in the same pastel shade creates a subtle backdrop, allowing a choice abstract upholstery print to sing out.

FURNITURE Turin chairs, H94.5xW68.5xD78cm, £2,142 plus 5m fabric each, Julian Chichester. Hockney 2.5-seater sofa, H85xW208xD100cm, £3,285 including fabric, The Sofa & Chair Company. Bell coffee table with Black burnished steel and Black glass top and Quartz Grey base, H36xdiam75cm, £1,882; Bell side table Black burnished steel and Black glass top with Montana Blue glass base, H53xdiam50cm, £1,506; both ClassiCon at Aram Store. Drum ottoman in Burgundy Ostrich leather, H40xdiam40cm, £275, Alma.

FABRICS Chairs in Margaritas Multicolour T15033/001, viscose mix, 133cm wide, £164m, Dedar. Sofa in Malmo in Aero 2054/99, viscose mix, 140cm wide, £39m, Villa Nova. Curtains in Cyan in Bonbon 35061956, linen, 300cm wide, £103.20m, Casamance. Edged in Carlyle Silk Satin border in Crimson 997-56626-33, 5cm wide, silk mix, £38m, Samuel & Sons. Square cushion in Forenza in Cassis 7558/21, cotton, 142cm wide, £57m, Romo. Rectangular cushion in Marmande in Emeraude 04847/12, cotton mix, 144cm wide, £85m, Manuel Canovas at Colefax and Fowler. WALLS Pink Ground, Estate Emulsion, £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball.

FLOORING Similar parquet floor, Oak Imperial Distressed Blocks, from £69.85sq m, Ecora. ACCESSORIES Lucca Celeste water tumbler, £8, Designers Guild. Lektor desk light, H54xdiam19.5cm, £383.90, Holloways of Ludlow. Naples vase, H18cm, £22, Habitat. L'Objet Malachite pencil cup, £85, Amara. For a similar vintage Venini Murano chandelier, try Atomic Antiques. The Emperor rug, 250x150, £995, Graham and Green. 1960s ink abstract artwork, 90x76cm, £1,180, Birgit Israel. Nucleus painting (right) by Rob Wyn Yates, 76x61cm, £550, Heal's. Brass Pole in Antiqued Brass, 19mm, 33p per cm; Brass standard brackets, 19mm, £16.30 each; Brass button finials, 19mm, £9.50 each; Brass rings, 19mm, £1.80 each; all Jim Lawrence. A polished concrete floor lends a smart urban feel to this dining room where a scenic printed linen is used to great effect for full-length curtains. Banquette seating paired with designer chairs add a distinctly cosmopolitan flavour.

FURNITURE Jens dining tabletop in Black, H70xW94xL260cm, £629; I Do trestle legs in Black, H71.5xW65xD31.5cm, £269 a pair; all Norr 11. O414 Studio G&R chairs with black open-pore lacquer frame and seats in Mink 518 and Velvet Blue 408, H74xW58xD52, £1,146 each, Gallotti & Radice. Prince armchair in Aspen Leather Pomice, H89x W89xD87cm, £5,475, Minotti London. Similar cube. Upholstered cube, H45xW40xD40cm, £105 plus 1m fabric, The Dormy House.

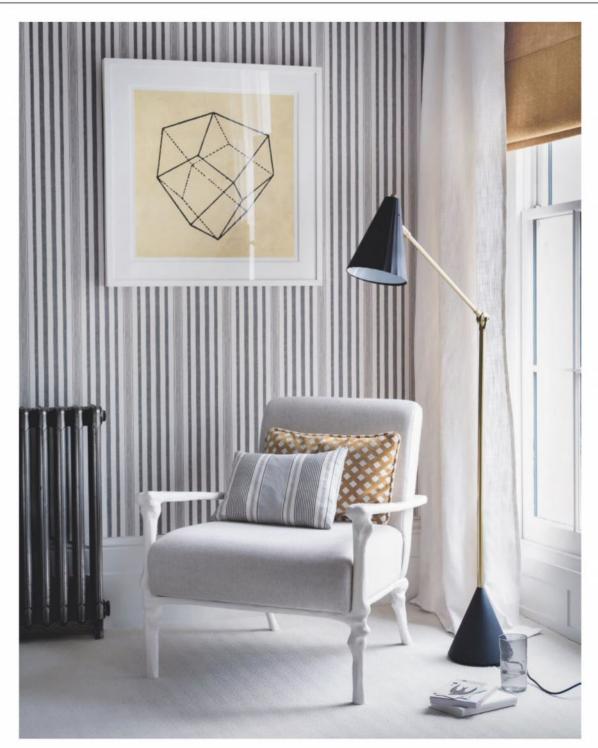
FABRICS Curtains in Bee's Knees in Grey Blue 10287-12, linen, 147cm wide, £158m, Donghia at Rubelli. Sheer curtain in Haze in Grey Mist M421/03, linen, 310cm wide, £115, Mark Alexander. Banquette in Kerry in Teal DKER 234192, cotton mix, 140cm wide, £58m, Sanderson. Cushions in Beaufort in Cocoa 44096 895 (brown) and Beaufort in Steel 44096 995 (grey), linen mix, 138cm, £90m, Travers at Zimmer+Rohde. Cushion in Patina in Carnelian M412/09 (rust), linen, 133cm wide, £85m, Mark Alexander. Upholstered cube in Sackville in Celadon BF10547 770, linen, 130cm wide, £89m, GP&J Baker. WALLS Kami-Ito wallpaper, £35m, Brian Yates. French Grey, Absolute Matt Emulsion, £37 for 2.5 litres, Little Greene.

**FLOORING For similar concrete flooring**, try CFS Concrete Flooring.

ACCESSORIES Edition Serge Mouille three-arm wall light, longest arm 225cm, £4,200, Tanguy Rolin. Large bowl in White, H9.5xdiam32cm, £45; Large jug in White, H22xdiam8cm, £30; both Mervyn Gers at Heal's. Natural Beaver tray, H7xdiam70cm, £79, Norr 11. Yong medium vase, H22.5cm, £69, Louise Bradley. Pearl Ware green vase, H25xdiam10cm, £155, The Conran Shop. Tony Soulié aquatint, H86xW69cm (framed), £1,134, Trowbridge Gallery. Al-Jumra rug in Black and White, wool, 240x305cm, £3,403.80, Sinclair Till.







This bedroom scheme has been created around a smart Italian striped wallpaper, which brings a calming sense of order to the space. It is complemented by the tailored style of the upholstered bed and the angular design of the floor lamp, which give the room a streamlined yet comfortable look. Accents of gold contribute an element of opulence.

FURNITURE Fossil armchair, H77xW71xD82cm, £2,650, Paolo Moschino for Nicholas Haslam. James bedside cabinet, H65xW45xD45cm, £2,880, Birgit Israel. King-size Devonshire mattress with wool deluxe divan, £3,415; headboard, H102xW150cm, and foot-end H65xW150cm, £2,400 plus 12m of fabric; all Vispring. Crillon bench in Buffalo Calf Gold, H43,5xW60xL185cm, £5,025, Soane Britain, FABRICS Roman blind in Ojus 40, viscose mix, 145cm wide, £128m, Missoni Home. Curtains in Nimes in Crème 04855/25, cotton, 134cm wide, £39m, Manuel Canovas at Colefax and Fowler. Bed in Amara 3601 07 44, viscose mix, 140cm wide, £79.20m, Casamance. Cushion in Dama in Amber 185726, 135cm wide, viscose mix, £187m, C&C Milano. WALLS Maremma Rigato Cement-Ivory wallpaper, £170 a roll, C&C Milano.

**FLOORING** Wool Iconic Chevron Charles carpet, **£58.70sq m**, Alternative Flooring.

ACCESSORIES Antwerp floor lamp, H173x diam20.5cm, £575; Krystalles print by Christopher Wilcox, 76cm sq. £1,985; both Jonathan Adler. French Ticking cushion in Clay and Charcoal, 30.5x51cm, £50.70, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Similar notebook, A6 gold embossed leather, £12, Paperchase. What is Art paperback by Leo Tolstoy, £9.99; both The Conran Shop. John Derian postcards, £1.50 each, Pentreath & Hall. Randy 100 quilt, 260x270cm, cotton, £416; Realeza cushion, 60cm sq, cotton mix, £184; both Missoni Home. Provence king-size flat sheet, £135; Provence standard Oxford pillowcases, £45 each; all The White Company. Beluga bowl, H10xdiam15cm, £90, Louise Bradley. Marlowe bubble-glass touch table lamp, H42, Sxdiam36cm, £120, Habitat. Snakes dish, H4xW16.5xL19.5cm, £54, Michael Reeves Associates. Horse platter, 29.5x43cm, £180; Yellow Bird Sitting on a Branch plate, diam35cm, £80; both John Derian at Designers Guild. 2m curtain pole and 16mm button pack, £86.10, Jim Lawrence.



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Classic and timeless, Arabescato marble with its striking veining embodies Italian elegance at its very best. Additional shades of grey on the blind and the wall ceramics bring cohesion to this simple, stylish look.

0

 FURNITURE Ottocento bath, H59.5xW178x D79cm, £6,552, West One Bathrooms. DC03
 Langley stool in Jet Black, H47xW48xD35cm, £710, David Chipperfield for e15 at Viaduct.
 WALLS Strong White, Estate Emulsion, £38
 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Similar marble, Arabescato Cervaiole marble wall slabs, from £354sq m, Lapicida.
 FABRICS Blind in Ziggety Zag in Black and White, viscose mix, 137cm wide, £116m, Fret Fabrics at Holland & Sherry.
 FLOORING Latte White floor tiles, 30.5cm sq. £42,95sq m, Harvey Maria at John Lewis. ACCESSORIES White ceramic soap dish, £4.50; Chevrefeuille soap beurre, £2.50; Hay wooden hair brush, £22; Khadi & Co Black and White bath towel, 150x65cm; all The Conran Shop. Acqua Di Parma Colonia Essenza eau de cologne, £87 for 100ml; Acqua Di Parma Iris Nobile eau de parfum body cream, £49 for 150ml; Acqua Di Parma Colonia Essenza hair and shower gel, £29 for 200ml; Acqua Di Parma Iris Nobile eau de parfum, £72 for 50ml; all House of Fraser. (On wall) Tanager, Crow and Woodpecker dish, 33x 25.5cm, £150, John Derian at Designers Guild. Snakes dish, H4xW16.5xD19.5cm, £54, Michael Reeves Associates. WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 167

# STYLISH CHILDREN'S ROOMS

From contemporary cool to pretty and practical, the latest schemes incorporating a study zone, smart storage and fun decorative effects are sure to be loved for years to come

N T

**IN FULL SWING** You can afford to be a little more adventurous in a child's room with fun and unusual features, such as this swing, which adds a playful touch to a whimsical bedroom. An eclectic mix of bohemian patterns and retro charm complete the look. For a similar swing, try the Lilagunga swing, €149, Finnish Design Shop, *finnishdesignshop.com*.

### H&G DESIGN IDEAS

▷ **WORLD VIEW** Add some visual interest to a study area with a striking mural that is also educational. This feature wall will have particular appeal for budding explorers, who can stick mementos on the map to show where they've been, or mark where they would like to go in the future. World Map wallpaper, 396x264cm, £124.95, Stanfords, 020 7836 1321, *stanfords.co.uk*.



△ CHALK IT UP Bring a touch of light-heartedness to organisation with a blackboard calendar. To recreate this look, lay out a grid using masking tape and apply adhesive letters that can be peeled off once you've filled in the squares with paint. Try Ecos Organic Paints, 01524 852371, ecosorganicpaints. co.uk, which sells chalkboard paints in a range of 180 colours, £32.70 for 1 litre. ▶ **PICTURE PERFECT** Encourage creativity by dedicating a wall in a child's bedroom to their best drawings and paintings mixed with other images of their choosing. Leaving some of the pictures unframed keeps the look informal and is a stylish match for an industrial desk and stool. You can source similar vintage furniture from Elemental, 020 7247 7588, *elemental.uk.com*.





### ADVICE **STORAGE SOLUTIONS** Choose designs with longevity

FREE-STANDING The benefit of this sort of furniture is that it allows a room to be reconfigured as your child grows up. Pieces can be repositioned to create specific zones: for example, a study area can be made using a wardrobe or bookshelf as a room divider with a desk placed against it. Low-level storage for books and toys only tends to be useful for younger children, so it makes sense to select inexpensive products. "It's often better to choose standard furniture rather than pieces from children's ranges. It may cost a little more, but your children will grow into the pieces and you can also use the furniture elsewhere in the home at a later date," says Charlie Marshall, founder of Loaf, 0845 468 0697, loaf.com. "Ample storage for toys and knickknacks is also vital, so look for accessible pieces, such as colourful stackable boxes."

BUILT-IN If you're tight on space, built-in furniture is an effective solution. Raising a bed and integrating a desk space, wardrobe, drawers and shelving underneath or building a wardrobe or a desk area in an alcove makes good sense. "The main consideration should be the position of the large pieces of furniture now and in the future," says Barbara Genda, founder of Barbara Genda Bespoke Furniture, 020 7978 2349, barbara-genda. com. "First, think about the ideal place for a bed and then plan the other elements around it. Specify adjustable height rails and removable shelves to change the internal configuration of wardrobes." Built-in furniture is often made of better-quality materials than off-the-peg pieces and wooden designs can be refinished if damaged, whereas laminates will be difficult to recover.

**ON A HIGHER LEVEL** In compact rooms, raising the bed and installing storage beneath is a practical solution. Simple bespoke cabinetry ensures the space doesn't become cluttered, while a vertical striped wallpaper makes the ceiling feel higher. Sandbone, 020 8617 0939, sandbone.co.uk, can create made-to-measure built-in furniture like this.

# IG WALLPAPERS FOR CHILDREN'S ROOMS 4 Creature comforts.

1 Twinkle, twinkle. Stars in Navy, £92 a roll, Bobo Kids, 020 7838 1020, bobokids.co.uk



Stripes in Cream and Green, £60 a roll. Paperboy Wallpaper, 020 7193 9135, paperboywallpaper.co.uk

3 Fun florals. Daisy Patch in Lemongrass, £38 a roll, Designers Guild, 020 7351 5775, designersguild.com.

roll, Hibou Home,

Portraits, £70 a

01580 243188,

hibouhome.com



Scribbler in Vintage/ Multi, £36 a roll, Sanderson, 0844 543 9500, sanderson-uk.com



△ **RIGHT ANGLES** This clever combination of storage and beds makes good use of every inch of space, while bursts of vivid yellow, which can always be painted a more neutral shade later on, add a bright contemporary note. This is the Nidi Collection by Italian design firm Battistella, around £4,500 for the configuration shown, at Go Modern, 020 7731 9540, gomodern.co.uk. ▼ RAISE THE ROOF Innovative use is made of the eaves space in this shared bedroom, with the top bunk sitting above a doorway, beyond which is an ensuite bathroom. The lower bunks also have handy pull-out beds for sleepovers, leaving plenty of floor space for play. This five-bed bespoke structure by Barnes Vanze Architects, *barnesvanze.com*, cost around £13,500.



### EXPERT VIEW CREATING A SCHEME TO LAST

URSULA

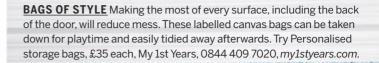


WESSELINGH, interior designer and founder of Room to Bloom, 07590 403997, room-to-bloom.com,

■ Invest in getting the basics right to make updates easier. Check you've got enough sockets for the room's current and future uses to avoid trailing cables and extension leads. Moving radiators or choosing vertical ones opens up more options for furniture placement, but changing their position can mean taking up floorboards, so do it before putting down new flooring.

Durable surfaces are key to longevity. Neutral flooring is best, with timber a practical choice as it is hard-wearing and easy to clean, however, sound insulation will be required in the floor void, as it conveys more noise than carpet. A washable rug can be easily updated and will soften the look. Furniture is best finished with paint. varnish or lacquer that can be wiped clean. Select a washable emulsion for walls and eggshell for woodwork. Decorative details such as prints and pictures are easy to update, especially if displayed on a ledge, or left unframed and casually stuck on walls with Washi tape, for example (use it cautiously on wallpaper, though). Fairy lights, garlands, bunting and pom-poms make inexpensive finishing touches. When buying furniture, go for classic or modern styles with clean lines in neutral finishes. Avoid agespecific themes, patterns or cut-outs and child-sized wardrobes, as you'll need more storage before you know it. Vintage pieces, such as wrought-iron beds. school furniture and French armoires, can be charming. Ceiling spots are useful for lighting specific areas, but don't install them in a grid-like fashion as it has an energydraining effect. Ensure the main light is dimmable to signal a change of pace as bedtime approaches. Although sconces can provide indirect light, they can limit layout changes, so it's worth considering

clip lights, which work just as well.





### SHOPPING FABRICS FOR CHILDREN'S ROOMS

and SI



**1**| Feathered friend. All Over Plume, cotton, 160cm wide, £30.40m. Casa Deco, 0844 369 0102, casadeco.fr/en.

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2 Figures of fun. Peopleton in Indigo, linen, 142cm wide, £68m, Cloth & Clover, 020 7013 0847, clothandclover.com



3 Geometry lesson. Kaleidoscope in Bright Multi, cotton, 137cm wide, £32m, Harlequin, 0845 123 6815, harlequin.uk.com.



4 In full bloom. Multi floral, cotton, 125cm wide, £19.50m. Lulu & Nat, 07527 812260, luluandnat.com.



5 Fine pedigree. Hot Dogs in Blue, cotton, 138cm wide, £38m, Jane Churchill, 020 7318 6000, janechurchill.com.

### H&G DESIGN IDEAS

#### **FURTHER** CONTACTS

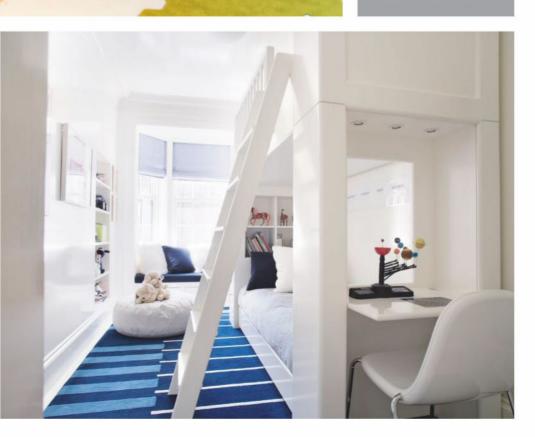
These companies also sell furniture and accessories for children's rooms. Aspace, 0845 872 2500, aspace.co.uk. Blabla, blablakids.com. Bouf, 020 8816 8284, bouf.com.

bout.com. Feather & Black, 01243 380600, featherandblack.com. Ferm Living, fermliving.com. Great Little Trading Co, 0344 848 6000, gltc.co.uk. Molly Meg, 07971 691327, Molly Meg. 079710010 mollymeg.com. Noa & Nani, 01303 872957, noaandnani.co.uk. Olive Loves Alfie, 020 7241 4212, olivelovesalfie.co.uk. Olii Ella, 020 7713 8668,

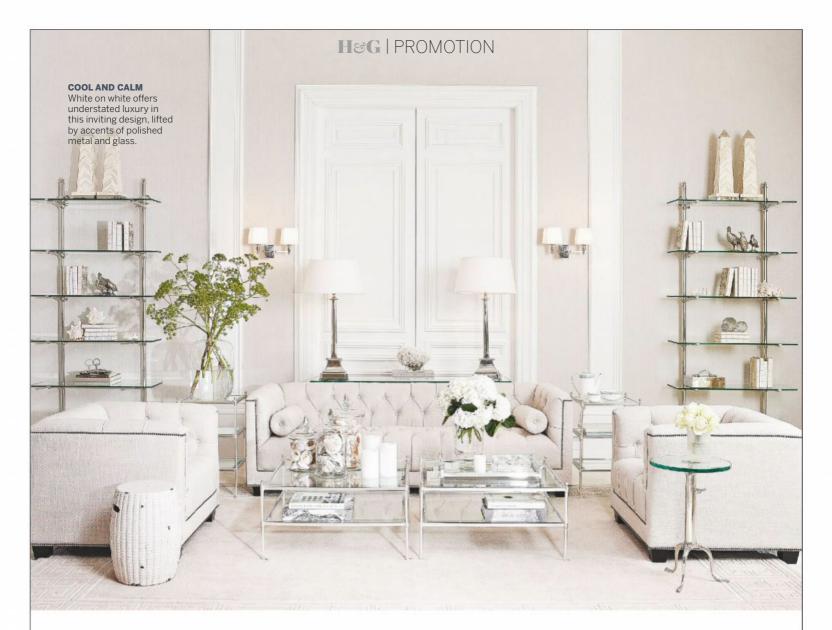
olliella.com. Roddy & Ginger, roddyandginger.bigcartel.com. Rose & Grey, 0161 926 8763, rodgrey.co.uk. **Smallable**, 020 3445 0146, The Kid Who, 0845 548 5440, *thekidwho.eu.* **The White Compan**y, 020 3758 9222,

△ MADE FOR FUN This interactive and playful space features built-in circular seating and a climbing wall. Recessed shelving and a wall of storage units ensure the floor is left clutter free, with a striking rug for comfort. This concept was designed by Roselind Wilson Design, 020 3371 1779, roselindwilsondesign.com, and Michaelis Boyd, 020 7221 1237, michaelisboyd.com.

**SLIM FIT** Bespoke bunk beds that are narrower than usual make the best use of space in this long bedroom, with a striped carpet giving the illusion of width. A compact study area, which is well lit with spotlights for evening homework, is also a neat solution. Box Room Beds, 0114 230 7003, boxroombed.co.uk, specialises in modifiable designs for small spaces, try the Trendy Whitewash bunk bed, from £419. □







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esigning your home's interior can be immensely satisfying and an opportunity to express your creativity and personal style, but investing a lot of time and money in a project can be a worry. With this in mind, it's good to know about Houseology, the online site powered by professional interior designers, which provides everything you need to demystify the decorating process and help you make informed decisions for your home.

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# SIMPLE window treatments

From soft, tactile linens to elegant shutters, our stylish ideas will finish contemporary room schemes beautifully

STYLING LORRAINE DAWKINS PHOTOGRAPHS JAKE CURTIS

For a striking look with a summery feel, combine two different coloured pieces of linen in the same weight in a 2:1 ratio.

(top), 140cm wide, £32.75m and Washed linen in China White, 140cm wide, £26m, both Tinsmiths. Snooze chair in Pewter, H92x W76xD104cm, £4,920; Snooze stool in Pewter, H40x W50xD25cm, £1,308; both Ochre. Cosmo cushion, 50cm sq, £66.60, Sahco. Summertime wool throw in Soft Pink, 140x180cm, £495, The Conran Shop, Capellini thin black table, H51xW46xD47cm, £984; Karimoku colour wood table in Pink, H39xdiam60cm, £580; both Viaduct. Pleated clay vase in White, H21xdiam10cm, £175, Lisa Firer at The Conran Shop. Diamond Berber rug, 240x170cm, £320, John Lewis, Flowers,

Con

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Curtain in Sackville in Linen, linen, 130cm wide, £89m, GP&J Baker. Recessed curtain track 6243, from £50, Silent Gliss. For similar Crittall windows, try D&R Design. Grand Prix chairs, H80.5xW50xD50cm, £456 each; wooden spoons, from £3.50; Everyday bowls in Pink, £25 each; Wonki Ware side plates in Sand White, diam21cm, £14.95 each; all The Conran Shop. Vintage linen sheet (used as tablecloth), from £20, Wayward. Sheet dyed in French Lavender, £3.25 a pot, Dylon. Aeon bowl, H30xdiam40cm, £1,100, Joel Parkes at Mint. Twig Triwood chair, H68xW35.5xD44.5cm, £1,500, Porta Romana.

### Painting a skylight recess is an effective way of introducing an accent hue to a hallway or landing.

Skylight recesses in Cracked Clay 1, matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Bertoia Diamond chair in Black, H75xW85xD75cm, £1,080; Soft Pink cushion cover, 40x50cm, £35; both The Corran Shop. Etch Baguette cushion, 26x56cm, £60, Margo Selby. Crosshatch structured backpack in White, H37xW27xD10cm, £19.99, New Look at Asos. Glass bowl wall lights, H20xdiam13cm, £235 each, Tom Dixon.

A plain blind can be easily updated by adding a smart border trim. For a cohesive feel, echo the colours of key pieces of furniture or accessories elsewhere in the room.

Blind in Linum 2682-09, linen, 145cm wide, £79.60m, Sahco. Printemps Chevron border in Ebony, acrylic, 3.8cm wide, £31m, Samuel & Sons. Tog Tubo desk with Carrara White Marble Top, H72xW110xD70cm, £2,100, Sam Hecht and Kim Collin; Twiitter table lamp in Nude, H55xdiam30cm, £120; both Heal's. Softer Than Steel/695 chair, H79xW40.5xD50.5cm, £409, Nendo for Desalto at Viaduct. The Notebook, £14.95, The Conran Shop. Edmund de Waal book, £59.95, Phaidon. Super Ferby graphite pencil, £4.50 set of three, Folklore. Clipiola paperclips, £5.95 for a tin of 125 clips, Cavallini & Co at Liberty. Similar picture frame, try Dark Birch stained wooden picture frame, 60cm sq, £32, Habitat. Walls in Monument Grey, matt emulsion, £24.90 for 2.5 litres, Dulux.

### H&G DESIGN INTERIORS



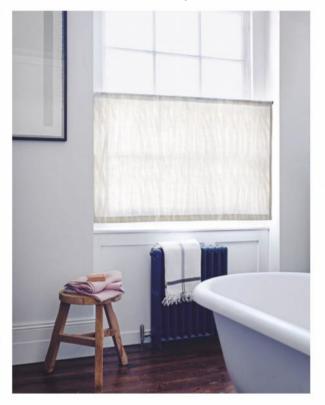


### ⊲ A coarsely woven linen blind, loosely gathered, has a beautiful texture and offers a relaxed feel for a bedroom.

Blind in Russian in Linen, linen, 90cm wide, from £5m, Wayward. Caribou chair in Mushroom, H80xW53xD58cm, £1,704, Ochre. Osaka lambswool throw, 140x190cm, £295, Margo Selby. Vintage linen sheet, from £20, Wayward. Viaduct blue cushion, 45cm sq, £58, Imogen Heath. Moses pleat cushion B063-P4, 50cm sq, £500, Bruno Triplet. Walls in Monument Grey, matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux.

 $\bigtriangledown$  Half curtains are a stylish way to add privacy to a bathroom window. Choose a lightweight linen that will filter the light. Using a drapery arm would allow the curtain to be opened when not in use.

Curtain in Breakwater in Smoke, linen, 134cm wide, £110m, Christopher Farr Cloth. 12mm Button dormer rod in Matt Black, from £44.40, Jim Lawrence. Offcut stool in Natural, H44xdiam46cm, £150, Tom Dixon. Similar bath, Audrey free-standing bath, £4,000, Fired Earth. Typographic Ornament Series framed print, 38x76cm, £400, Mr Smith at The New Craftsmen. Waffle bath towels, linen, 70x130cm, £35 each; Artisan de Provence soap, £2.50; Hammam towel in White and Black, 90x180cm, £55; all The Conran Shop.



### ⊲ Wooden shutters in the same shade as the walls add an architectural elegance to a room. For a more dramatic look, paint them in a different colour.

Similar shutters, solid panel wood shutters in Bright White, from £290sq m, Shutterly Fabulous. Orwell armchair in Divina Melange and Lewis Wool, H132xW74xD57cm, £2,845; Junction floor lamp in Black, H153xdiam8cm, £185; both Heal's. Jesmonite tactility table, H46xW50xD40cm, £650, Stephanie Tudor; Espresso cup and saucer, H6xdiam5cm, £55, Akiko Hirai; Ladder detail cushion, 45cm sq, £350, Susie Gillespie; all The New Craftsmen. Cubist cushion, 56cm sq, £84, Margo Selby. WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 167

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### DINING AND KICCHEN TABLES Our choice of designs from statement pieces to laid-back classics



### **DINING TABLES**

5

6

1| Fayland table in oiled European oak, H75xW210xD100cm, £3,820, David Chipperfield for e15 at Viaduct. 2| Broby table in Cloudy Oak, H76xW285xD110cm, £5,195, William Yeoward. 3| Harrogate table in Blakeney Blue, H73xW170xD90cm, £810, Neptune. 4| Armand table, H76.5xW200xD105cm, £2,990, Didier Versavel at Roche Bobois. 5| Frame table, H74xW200xD90cm, £1,530, Wrong for Hay at Liberty. 6| Toscana extendable table, H75xW335xD100cm, £2,455, Oka. 7| Carrara marble refectory table, H72xW180xD100cm, £2,950, Lapicida. ▷ 7

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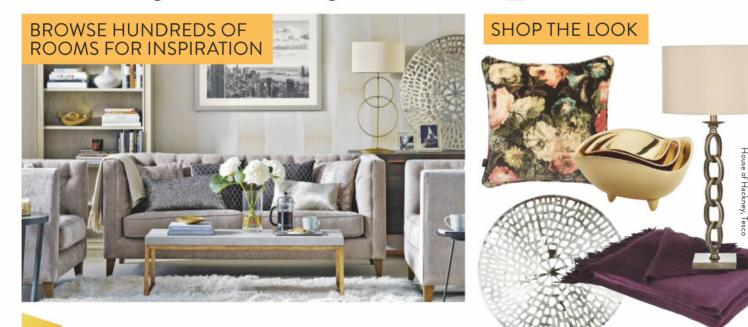




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# HOUSE CLINIC

Our expert Celia Rufey answers your interior design questions and decorating dilemmas



**PROFILE** Celia Rufey has been the *Homes & Gardens* decorating expert for more than 30 years. She has a wealth of interiors knowledge and has also designed her own range of fabrics.

# WHO MAKES BESPOKE LINEN

**LAMPSHADES?** We've redecorated our living room and need new shades for existing lamp bases. I'd like ones in a particular printed linen, but I haven't found anyone who will make them in my fabric. Do you know a company that can? **EK, Horsham, West Sussex.** 

The following bespoke shade makers are all happy to use your fabric, but if the linen is heavy or has a design that can only be read one way, it will limit the shape you can choose. A Shade Above, 01273 881130, *ashadeabove*. *co.uk*, suggests a drum shade (below) or, if you would prefer a flared design, a light gather on an Empire shade. Prices for a 45cm

diameter shade start at around £170. Caroline Buck at Caroline B Designs, 020 8255 9783, *carolinebdesigns. co.uk*, would back the linen if it's heavy and a 45cm drum shade would cost

£50 or £150 if gathered and hand-stitched on an Empire shade. Iberian Lighting, 01424 428161, *iberianlighting.co.uk*, known for its super-sized shades, also has more modest sizes; a 45cm diameter drum shade with hand-rolled edge in your linen would cost from £30 and a gathered Empire shade, from £33. Each company will need to see the exact fabric to offer further advice on shade shapes and quantity of fabric required.







**CAN WE USE WOOD FOR OUR BATHROOM FLOOR?** We're about to redesign our bathroom and we would like a timber floor. Are certain woods more suitable than others? **CG, Camberley, Surrey.** 

As long as the bathroom is well ventilated and the floor is properly sealed, it is possible to use most timbers in a bathroom, explains wood-flooring specialist Vanessa Garrett from Broadleaf, 01269 851910, broadleaftimber.com. The objective is to prevent the wood from absorbing moisture, as that will make it expand. If you prefer solid wood, choose a narrow plank or parquet blocks, Vanessa says, as these have less propensity to move and are more stable than wider boards. You could also consider an oily timber, such as merbau (above), which is naturally resistant to moisture. Engineered boards, where a top layer of solid timber is fitted over layers

of wood or ply running in the opposite direction, help prevent movement in the wood as the humidity changes. If you opt for solid or engineered timber flooring that's supplied with a surface finish, the gaps between the boards or blocks won't be sealed. Vanessa advises choosing unfinished or semi-finished flooring, as it will allow you to put a suitable top coat over the whole floor after it's been fitted to give a hermetically sealed finish, which will better resist moisture and changes in humidity. She suggests a hardwax oil finish, as it's easy to apply, locally repairable and has a much less slippery surface than lacquer or varnish. ⊳

# **INSIDER'S TIP**

"In summer, I like to place single flowers in pretty bottles so that they have the appearance of botanical specimens."

JUNE SUMMERILL, Summerill & Bishop, 020 7229 1337, summerillandbishop.com.



# WHICH COMPANIES MAKE

**SIMPLE KITCHEN DRESSERS?** We would like to put a pared-back dresser in our kitchen, but can't find any in the style we like. Do you know where we can find one? NB, London N3.

Barnes of Ashburton, 01364 653613. barnesofashburton.co.uk, has a good reputation for bespoke free-standing pieces, including dressers, and could create a one-off piece, designed in consultation with you and made to fit the space. Much of its work is now in the more contemporary style you are looking for. Another bespoke kitchen company is Roundhouse, 020 7297 6220, roundhousedesign.com, which offers free-standing cabinets in this aesthetic. Its designers would talk through ideas and put together a dresser design and elevation for your approval before making it in its own workshops. Alternatively, consider the Joyce cupboard (left) from Pinch, 020 7622 5075. pinchdesign.com, which can be used as a dresser in a kitchen. In the standard width of 132cm, with lacquered exterior and interior in cherry, oak or black walnut, it costs £6,500, but can be commissioned in any length.

### WHAT SORT OF BLINDS ARE THESE? I've seen a picture of some blinds that I

would like to use in our garden room, but I am not familiar with the style. Can you tell me what they are called and which companies make them? **RF, London SW4.** 

From the picture you sent in, I can see that these are Swedish blinds operated by a cord system and, if you happen to sew, these are the easiest to make. Each blind is attached to a top batten and dowelling is sewn into a channel at the bottom of the blind, so that when the cording is operated, the blind rolls up at the front to reveal a plain or complementary fabric on the back. Most soft-furnishing companies will make this style of blind and Vanessa Arbuthnott, 01285 831437, *vanessaarbuthnott.co.uk*, offers made-to-measure blinds in a wide range of designs, including these linen blinds (right) in Pretty Maids in Mushroom, Teal, Winter and Plain Check in Smoke.



### HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION

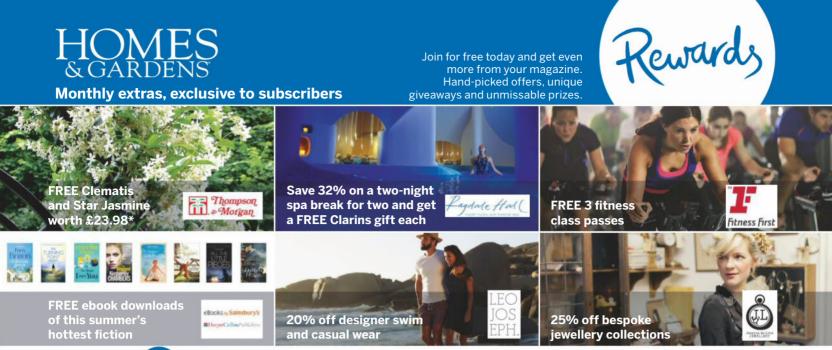
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Celia Rufey can also help you create an individual design for any room in your home, with ideas for colours, fabrics, paint, wallcoverings and flooring. For full details, visit housetohome.co.uk/ decorationservice.

### WHERE CAN I FIND A NEW AWNING CANOPY? We have

an awning along the south side of our house that is used all the time. The frame is fine but we need to replace the canopy. Is there a company that will make just the canopy to fit an existing mechanism in either a grey-and-white or black-and-white stripe? KF, Isleworth, Middlesex.

Kayospruce, 01489 581696, kayospruce.com, supplies acrylic canvas for awnings and its Sauleda- N Striped acrylic, 120cm wide, £14.71m, comes in a grey-and-white and a black-and-white stripe. For making up the new canopy, you could try tarpaulin and cover manufacturer The Protective Textile Company, 020 8974 1271, protectivetextile.co.uk. If you can remove the canopy and either deliver it or send it, they will quote for making a new canopy in one of Kavospruce's stripes. Fabric UK. 0121 359 2349, fabricuk.com, stocks Block Stripe awning canvas in grey and white, black and white, and grey and stone, 120cm wide at £19.99m. It offers a making up service and, for a replacement canopy, would require the old one to be sent in or can work from a detailed measured sketch  $\Box$ 



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# **PERFECT TERRACES**

Offering space to relax or enjoy a beautiful view, a well-designed outdoor area can also help define the look of your garden

### **POINTS OF INTEREST**

Installing a reflective rill and slices of year-round greenery will give focus to a terrace. To link it with the rest of the garden, select plants that are repeated elsewhere and include herbs, such as rosemary, which will release their fragrance as you brush by.







### $\lhd$ URBAN RETREAT

A large balcony can be transformed into a stylish terrace with lightweight stone tiles, timber decking and artificial grass. Edge the terrace with aluminium planters, and include large shrubs, such as *Euonymus europaeus*, and a contemporary awning to shade the seating area.

### $\bigtriangledown$ seaside snug

Blur the boundary between a coastal garden and the beach itself with a terrace wrapped in grasses, such as *Leymus* and *Festuca*, which mirror those that thrive on sand dunes. Using pea-shingle for ground cover adds texture and has a satisfying crunch as you walk on it.





### $\triangleleft$ in full bloom

Surrounding a terrace with lush, flower-filled borders will allow you to enjoy both the colour and the perfume of the plants at close quarters. Choose a range of seasonal varieties that will sustain the show from spring though to autumn – try alliums, irises, roses and grasses. CLUB MED Here the planting on a terrace helps to set the tone for the whole garden. Consider a Mediterranean theme with olive trees planted in raised beds, which will provide the drainage they need to survive the winter outside. A soft haze of purple-flowered catmint softens the angular beds.











GETTING WARMER This terrace next to a wall is a peaceful place for relaxing, with the added benefit that the stone will absorb heat from the sun during the day and release it as night falls. A vine-clad pergola will provide some wind protection, creating a temperate spot for long summer evenings.

# △ MORE IS MORE

In a formal setting, lay a flagstone pathway throughout the garden, widening it at strategic points to fashion a series of terraces enclosed by clipped box walls. You can then take advantage of sunny areas away from the house for morning coffee and alfresco meals.

VORDS ZIA ALLAWAY PHOTOGRAPHS MMGI/MARIANNE MAJERUS

LOCATION, LOCATION Work with your surroundings and you will be richly rewarded. A terrace in this hillside garden makes the most of the panoramic views of the valley below. Timber decking blends seamlessly into a natural setting, while cascading pools suggest the sound and movement of a tumbling stream.

# H&G GARDENS





# RARE EVERGREEN SCENTED MAGNOLIA

### Buy two and SAVE £12

Highly sought after, *Magnolia grandiflora* 'Exmouth' is still a relative newcomer to UK gardens. One of a handful of evergreen magnolias, it has the benefit of flowering when young and thrives as a specimen wall shrub where it is sheltered from wind and heavy snow, which might damage its branches.

Due to its exceptionally strong growth, glossy evergreen foliage and buds that yield large, heavily fragranced goblet-shaped cream flowers in August, *M*. 'Exmouth' is a winner of the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

This superb plant has a height and spread of up to 15m, but can be successfully pruned to the required size. It's supplied in a 1-litre pot.

# BEAUTIFUL NEW HELLEBORE HYBRIDS

### Buy three and SAVE £27.50

Perfect for the English garden, hellebores provide a magical touch of colour and finesse throughout late winter and early spring with their elegant nodding blooms and striking architectural foliage.

Preferring rich, well-drained soil in dappled shade, these perennials are surprisingly easy to grow and will add interest to herbaceous borders and patio pots alike. The majestic specimens on offer have a height and spread of up to 35cm and are supplied as young plants or in 9cm pots.

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ONLINE Visit www.hayloftplants.co.uk/ ROHS15. BY PHONE Call 01386 426245 and quote code ROHS15. **BY POST** Please fill out the order form below and send it with your payment (cheques only) to Homes & Gardens Magnolia & Hellebores Offer, PO BOX 2020, Pershore, Worcestershire WR10 9BP. Offer closes 31 August 2015 and is open to UK residents only. Your contract for supply of goods is with Hayloft. Terms and conditions available on request. Offers are subject to availability.

Title Initial Surname	PRODUCT		PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
Address	ROHS15-27PTMG01 1×M	lagnolia 'Exmouth'	£17		
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Telephone number (including code)	ROHS15-27YPHH06 6 x Yo	oung new hellebore hybrid plants	£15		
Email address	ROHS15-27YPHH12 12 x 1	Young new hellebore hybrid plants	£17.50		
I enclose a cheque made payable to Homes & Gardens	(SAV	/E £12.50)			
Offers (no cash, please) for the sum of $\pounds$	ROHS15-27PTHH01 1 x No	ew hellebore hybrid in pot	£15		
Or please charge my Mastercard/Visa/Maestro Card NoCSV code	ROHS15-27PTHH03 3×N (SAV	lew hellebore hybrids in pots /E £27.50)	£17.50		
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FOOD FOR FRIENDS

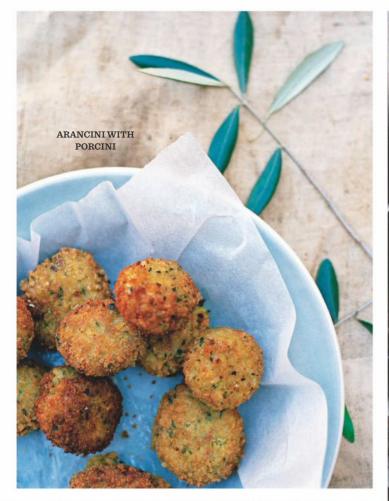
# A relaxed Italian fedst

Alice Hart's flavoursome, rustic menu celebrates the joy of food that is fresh, plentiful and eaten in the company of those we love

PHOTOGRAPHS CON POULOS

AUGUST 2015 | H&G |

wo or three decades ago Italian food seemed so exciting, so exotic. Perhaps the novelty has worn off slightly, but what remains is a dear and well-loved friend. A free hand with fresh herbs, extra-virgin olive oil, garlic and ripe, seasonal vegetables has certainly influenced and enhanced my own food greatly and I've yet to find a better style of cooking for friends and family. These rustic, yet elegant, recipes will be just the thing for relaxed supper parties or lunches in the garden with your nearest and dearest.





POLENTA TERRINE WITH MOZZARELLA AND TOMATOES

# PLANNING THE MENU

Long and leisurely is the mantra behind this meal, which offers several courses best enjoyed in an unhurried manner. Dishes such as the arancini, polenta terrine and Naomini bars can be made ahead, while the lamb is simple to prepare and requires slow cooking. **APERITIVO** Arancini and olives.

**ANTIPASTI** Italian charcuterie and cheese, and polenta terrine.

**PRIMO** Griddled courgette primavera. **SECONDO** Roast lamb and potatoes with olives. **CONTORNO** Stuffed artichokes. **DOLCE** Nanaimo bars.

STREET STREET

### ANTIPASTI

Today the UK is full of great Italian delis, often with an online arm, so don't be put off by London-centric listings. Supermarkets also offer some excellent antipasti options.

**CURED MEATS** A whole leg of prosciutto di Parma is a wonderfully extravagant addition to an antipasti selection. It's not cheap, but should keep for up to two months if stored correctly. Nife is Life, *nifeislife.com*, has a range of Parma and San Danielle hams (for many, the finest Italian prosciutto). Try Melbury & Appleton, *melburyandappleton. co.uk*, for a selection of cured meats and sausages from speck, bresaola and coppa di Parma through to a variety of salamis. If you're in London, pop into to Lina Stores, *linastores.co.uk*, in Soho, while Valvona & Crolla, *valvonacrolla.co.uk*, has been supplying Italian deli goods to Edinburgh since 1934.

**CHEESES** Good-quality Parmesan, pecorino stagionato, burrata or buffalo mozzarella makes a nice complement to other antipasti. If you are in the capital, visit La Fromagerie, *lafromagerie.co.uk*, (in Marylebone or Highbury), where the range of cheeses is second to none. Online, Natoora, *natoora. co.uk*, is hard to beat and also stocks Italian fruit and vegetables.

**OLIVES AND MORE I** Camisa, *icamisa.co.uk*, in Soho, London, is brimming with Italian produce, including olives and other marinated vegetables, or try online retailer Fratelli Camisa, *camisa.co.uk* – the bright green Nocellara olives from Sicily are particularly delicious. Breads, such as crisp sticks of grissini, soft focaccia and wafer-thin Sardinian pane carasau, are perfect alongside really good olive oil, meats and cheese and most of the delis mentioned are excellent sources of these bakery goods.



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### CHOOSING THE WINE

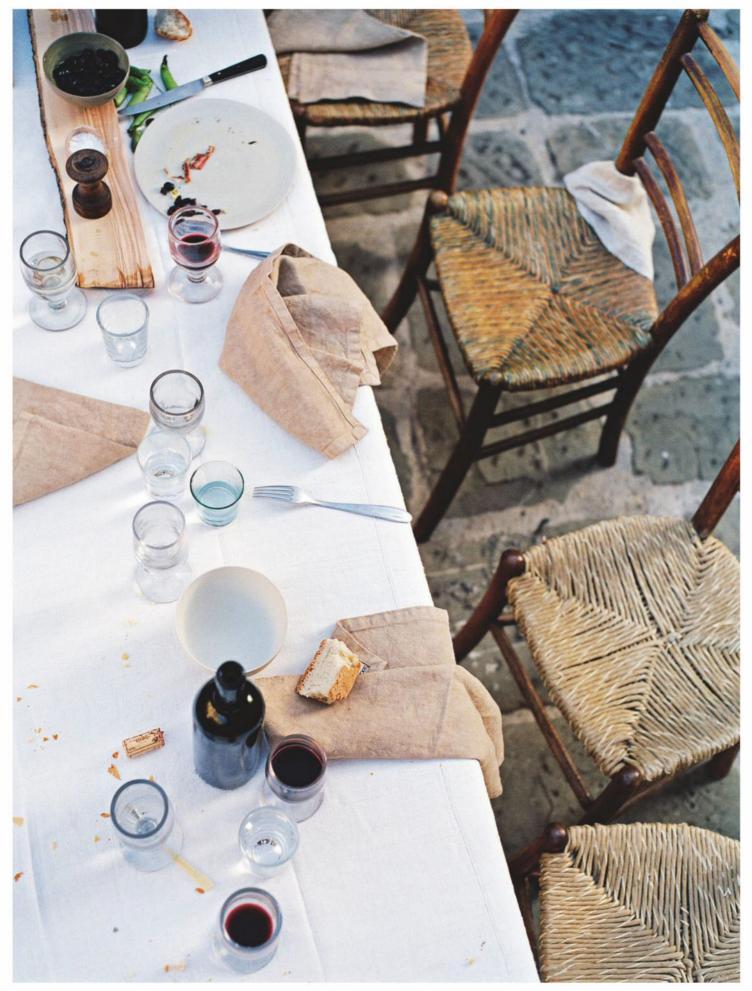
Prosecco is a great way to whet the appetite and awake the palate. A good bet is the fresh, citrussy Valdo Oro Puro Superiore, £13.49, Waitrose, *waitrose.com*. For a white option, Ascheri's refreshing Gavi di Gavi 2013, £11, Sainsbury's, *sainsburys.co.uk*, is a match for all sorts of summery fare, from salads to seafood. A versatile red is the delicious, cherry-imbued De Forville Dolcetto d'Alba 2014, £8.99 each when you buy two bottles, Majestic, *majestic.co.uk*.





NANAIMO BARS

"These delicious, rich treats topped with a chocolate and coffee butter will make a perfect finale for the sweet-toothed members of the party."





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# RECIPES



ARANCINI WITH PORCINI Makes around 22 These risotto balls with molten mozzarella filling are a delight.

1 litre vegetable or chicken stock 15g dried porcini mushrooms 50g butter

1 small red onion, peeled and finely chopped 275g Arborio risotto rice 150ml dry white wine 25g Parmesan, finely grated 1 medium egg, lightly beaten Handful basil, finely chopped 125g mozzarella cheese, cut into around 22 cubes

150g dried white breadcrumbs 1 litre sunflower oil, for frying

Put the porcini in a small bowl and cover with a little boiling water. Leave to soak for 10 minutes or so. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a deep frying pan and add the onion. Cook over a low heat for 10 minutes, stirring often until soft, but not coloured.

Bring the stock to the boil in a saucepan, then cover and simmer gently. Drain the porcini, adding their soaking liquid to the stock. Chop the mushrooms finely.

■ Increase the heat slightly under the onions and add the rice, stirring to coat for about a minute. Pour in the wine, allowing it to almost entirely evaporate. Stir in the mushrooms and a ladleful of stock. Simmer, stirring, until the stock has all but disappeared before adding another ladleful. Keep stirring, simmering and adding stock in this way for about 15 minutes, until the rice is tender, but retains a bit of bite. The risotto should be very thick, rather than liquid. Remove from the heat, stir in the Parmesan and season to

taste. Cover with the lid and set aside to cool completely, then stir in the egg and half the basil. ■ With wet hands, take 1 heaped tablespoon of risotto and flatten it in your palm. Place a cube of mozzarella in the centre and completely enclose with the risotto mixture. Shape firmly to form a round ball, flatten it slightly and set aside on a plate. Repeat with the remaining mixture and mozzarella to form around 22 arancini. At this stage, the arancini can be covered and refrigerated for up to 12 hours.

Mix the remaining basil and breadcrumbs and spread out on a plate, then roll the rice balls in the mixture to coat. Put the oil in a deep saucepan (it should be no more than half-full) and heat to 180°C. A cube of bread dropped in should sizzle immediately. Add the arancini, working in batches of six, and fry each batch until golden and crisp (3-4 minutes). Drain on plenty of kitchen towel and keep hot in a low oven until all the arancini are cooked.



POLENTA TERRINE WITH MOZZARELLA AND TOMATOES Serves 8

Choose only the most flavourful tomatoes to serve with this.

580ml whole milk 250g instant polenta 75g butter, cubed 50g Parmesan, finely grated Handful basil leaves, chopped 80g Parma ham, finely chopped 3 balls mozzarella Handful of tomatoes, to serve

■ Lightly grease a 20x12cm loaf tin with oil and line the base with a strip of non-stick baking paper. Bring 520ml of water to the boil with the milk in a large saucepan. Slowly whisk in the polenta. Stir over a medium heat for around 15 minutes, until thickened and smooth. Stir in the butter and Parmesan. Remove from the heat and season to taste.

Spoon one third of the polenta into the loaf tin, smoothing the top. Scatter over half the basil and half the Parma ham. Thinly slice two of the mozzarella balls and lay half of this on top of the basil and ham, seasoning as you go. Spoon over another third of polenta, smoothing the top, and cover with the remaining basil. Parma ham and mozzarella slices. Finish with the rest of the polenta and set aside to cool. Cover and chill for up to 24 hours. Return to room temperature before slicing. When ready to serve, drain off any liquid in the loaf tin and slice the terrine thickly. Tear the remaining mozzarella ball into large pieces and roughly chop the whole tomatoes. Serve these, their juices and the mozzarella with the terrine slices, all anointed with extra-virgin olive oil.



GRIDDLED COURGETTE PRIMAVERA Serves 8 as a primi A simple and summery pasta crammed with green vegetables.

3 courgettes, trimmed 3 tbsp olive oil 500g spaghetti 1 bunch asparagus, woody ends removed and halved lengthways 350g green beans, trimmed 1 garlic clove, peeled and crushed

75g toasted pine nuts

### 75g pecorino, finely grated Handful of basil, roughly torn Extra-virgin olive oil, to serve

■ Slice the courgettes into thin strips lengthways. Toss with the olive oil and season. Place a griddle pan over a very high heat and, once smoking hot, cook the courgette in a single layer on both sides until marked with dark lines.

Bring a large saucepan of salted water to the boil and cook the spaghetti according to the packet instructions. Meanwhile, steam the asparagus and beans for 4-5 minutes, until just tender. Drain the pasta, but don't completely dry.
 Return the pasta to the pan and toss with the vegetables, garlic, pine nuts, most of the pecorino, basil and plenty of extra-virgin olive oil. Season to taste, then scatter with the remaining cheese and basil. Serve straightaway.



ROAST LAMB WITH ANCHOVY AND GARLIC Serves 8-10

Rosemary and anchovy have a particular alchemy with lamb, enhanced further here with lemon and sweet roast garlic.

2 small (1.8kg), bone-in lamb shoulders Olive oil

2 garlic bulbs, cut in half widthways 1 unwaxed lemon, sliced thickly 3 large rosemary sprigs 6 anchovy fillets in olive oil, drained

■ Pre-heat the oven to 230°C, gas mark 8. Rub the lamb shoulders with olive oil and put both on the same large, sturdy roasting tin, skin-side up. Rub with the cut sides of the garlic bulbs and lay

# RECIPES

these alongside, cut-sides down, then rub the lamb with the lemon slices and distribute around the tin. Bruise the rosemary and sit under and around the two shoulders. Drape the anchovy fillets over the lamb and cover the tin tightly with two layers of foil. Turn the temperature down to 170°C, gas mark 3, and place the lamb in the centre of the oven. Cook for four hours in total, removing the foil for the last 20 minutes. The lamb will be golden-skinned and extremely tender. Allow to rest before serving.



ROAST POTATOES WITH OLIVES Serves 8 Just a handful of olives pack a real punch when roasted; their salty and savoury notes become concentrated and pair perfectly with roast potatoes.

80ml olive oil

2kg floury potatoes, such as Cara, King Edward or Maris Piper, peeled and cut into chunks 125g pitted black and green olives

Pre-heat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6. Pour the oil into a large roasting tin and place in the oven. Meanwhile, bring a large pan of lightly salted water to the boil and parboil the potatoes for 5 minutes. Drain in a colander and leave to steam for 5 minutes. Carefully transfer the potatoes and olives to the hot tin and turn with a metal spoon to coat with the oil. Season lightly with salt. Roast for 45-50 minutes until crisp and golden. Season with a little more sea salt and lots of black pepper before serving.



STUFFED ARTICHOKES WITH PANCETTA Serves 8 There's no getting around it, fresh artichokes are a faff to prepare, but I promise they

are well worth it.

2 lemons, cut in half 1kg very young artichokes 5 tbsp olive oil 3 shallots, peeled and finely chopped 90g pancetta, finely diced 1 stick celery, trimmed and finely chopped 1 medium carrot, scrubbed and finely chopped Small handful flat-leaf parsley, chopped 1 large rosemary sprig 100ml dry white wine 200ml vegetable or chicken stock

Squeeze the juice from one lemon half into a large bowl of cold water and add two more lemon halves. Trim the stems of the artichokes to about 1cm; they will need to sit upright later. Starting at the base of each, pull the tough outer leaves off by hand, then pare the base of the artichoke with a small knife or vegetable peeler to reveal the outside of the pale green heart. Rub the cut surfaces with remaining lemon half. Pull out the purple-tipped leaves from the very centre. Using a small knife or a teaspoon, remove the furry "choke" in the middle and discard. Cut off the top half of the artichoke to remove the tough leaf tips. Place the prepared artichoke in the lemon water and repeat with the remaining artichokes. Pour 2 tablespoons olive oil into a large frying pan over a high heat

and add the well-drained artichokes in a single layer. Cook until browned on all sides, about 2 minutes. Remove to a plate and add the shallots, pancetta, celery and carrots to the pan. Turn the heat down slightly and cook for 10 minutes, stirring often, until soft, but not coloured.

■ Tip into a bowl, but don't rinse the pan. Stir the chopped parsley into the pancetta mixture and season with plenty of pepper and a little salt. Spoon this stuffing into the browned artichokes and return them to the cooking pan, stuffing facing upwards. Pop the rosemary into the pan along with the remaining olive oil, the wine and the stock.

■ Bring up to a gentle simmer, cover and leave to cook gently for 15 minutes, until the artichokes are almost tender. Uncover and simmer briskly for a further 5 minutes or so, until the wine has reduced by half. Serve with sourdough bread as a starter or alongside the lamb and potatoes.



NANAIMO BARS Makes 14 bars These delicious, rich treats make a perfect finale but are equally good alongside afternoon tea.

### For the biscuit base

100g digestive biscuits, broken into pieces 60g walnut pieces 40g cocoa powder, sifted 100g golden caster sugar 80g desiccated coconut 150g unsalted butter, melted, plus extra for greasing 2 medium eggs, beaten For the butter cream 100g unsalted butter, softened 2 tbsp custard powder <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> tsp vanilla extract 250g icing sugar 2 tbsp milk For the chocolate topping 150g dark chocolate, broken into pieces 25g unsalted butter 4 tbsp strong black coffee

For the biscuit base, pre-heat the oven to 180°C, gas mark 4. Grease a 23cm non-stick square brownie tin. Whizz the digestives and the walnuts to crumbs in a food processor. Add the cocoa and sugar and whizz again, then transfer the mixture to a large bowl and mix in the coconut. Stir in the melted butter, then the beaten eggs, stirring until well combined. Transfer the mixture to the tin and level the surface using your fingers or the back of a spoon. Bake for 15 minutes, then leave to cool.

■ For the butter cream, beat the butter in a large bowl for about a minute until pale and fluffy using an electric whisk. Whisk in the custard powder and the vanilla and then the icing sugar. Once the mixture appears crumbly, add the milk and continue to whisk until pale and mousse-like. Spread over the biscuit base using a palette knife and chill for about an hour until set.

To make the chocolate topping. gently melt the chocolate with the butter in a bowl set over a pan with a little simmering water in it, then whisk in the coffee. Should the mixture seem to separate, keep beating until it is completely smooth and glossy - this is important, if it appears oily the butter will harden as a film on the surface. If the glaze still seems oily after beating, whisk in 2 teaspoons of cold water. Smooth this over the surface of the butter cream. Loosely cover the tin with cling film and chill for several hours until set.

■ To serve, cut into bars about 3cm wide and half the width of the tin. They should keep well for several days and are best served chilled. □

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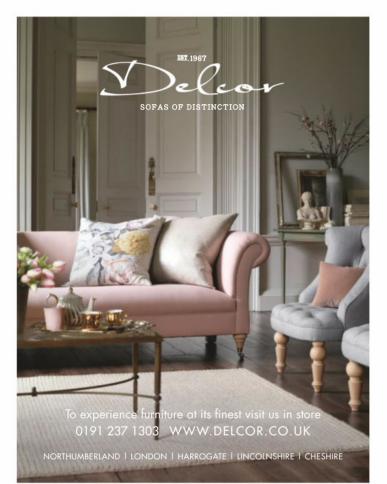






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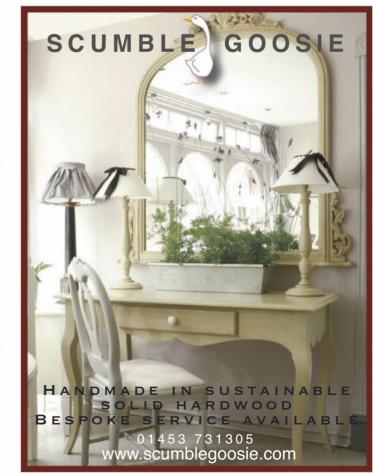
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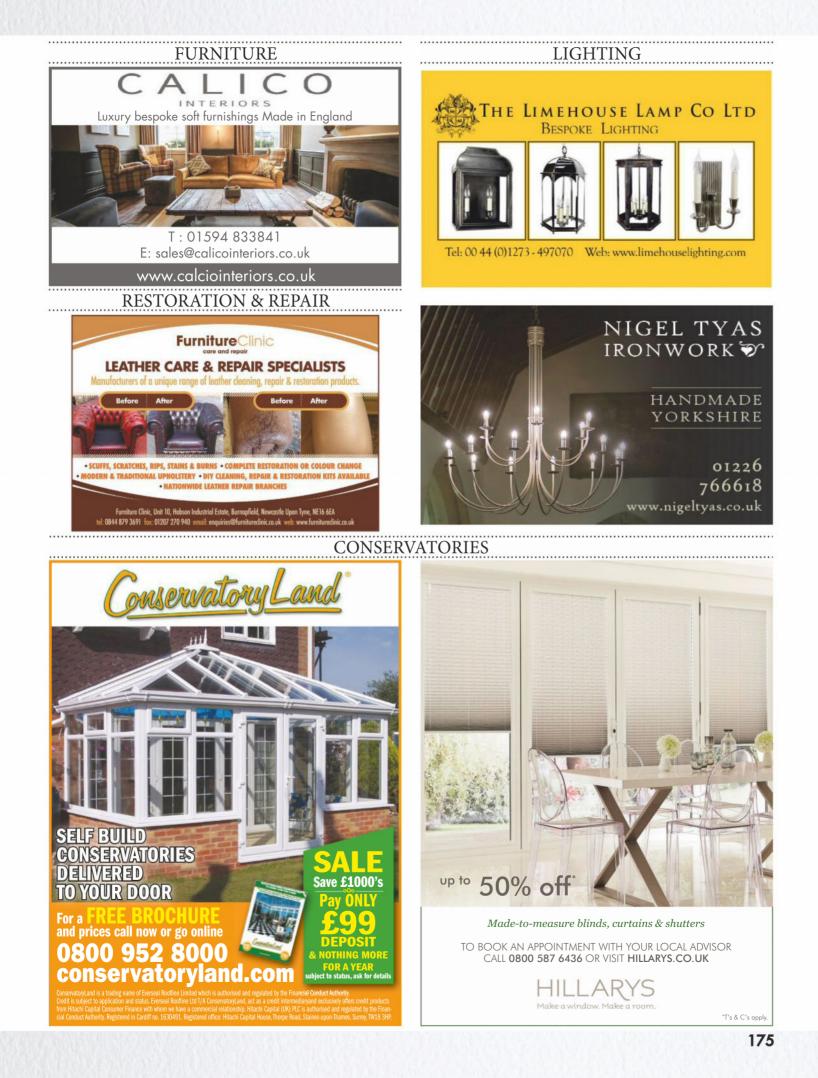


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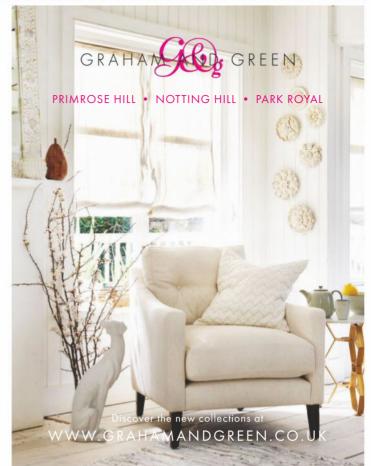


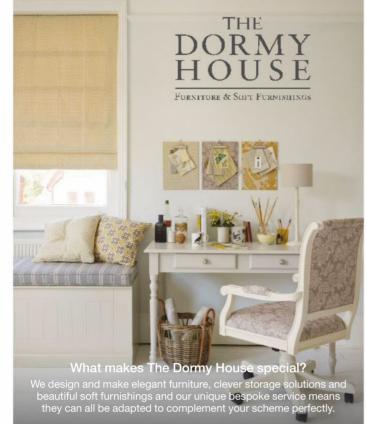




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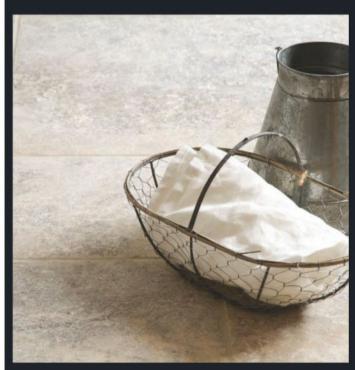


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A dramatic four-year restoration, completed last year, places the emphasis on light and space, while remaining true to the building's origins with vaulted limestone ceilings, stone floors and imposing fireplaces enhancing the sense of authenticity. London-based Alexander Waterworth Interiors led the renovation and carefully curated a selection of antiques, modern bespoke pieces, tapestries and artefacts from Italy and beyond to reflect Puglia's rich cultural heritage.

The luxurious en-suite bedrooms offer views of the Adriatic, while a walled citrus grove and private chapel add to the sanctuarylike ambience. Meals can be taken anywhere, from starlit dinners among the ancient olive trees to feasts around the vast banqueting table in the Trajan dining hall. A stay here is full of indulgent pleasures, whether that is lounging beside one of the two beautiful swimming pools or enjoying an early evening aperitif on the roof terrace.

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