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Welcome



PHOTOGRAPH OLIVER GORDON

WHEN I MET fabric designer Vanessa Arbuthnott she told me that her latest collection, called Artisan, started life when she was seeking inspiration during a week's break on a Scottish island with her artist daughters.

The designs are based on the Japanese art of Shibori, in which fabrics are compressed, folded and shaped by hand, then immersed in dye. This ancient technique was adapted and brought bang up to date with bold colour combinations including uplifting turquoise and saffron, and vibrant sweetpea and tangerine. All the designs have been printed onto 100 per cent Belgian linen, which has been woven in Scotland. The result is a striking range of contemporary geometrics and florals that includes wall coverings. You can see the whole range at vanessarbuthnott.co.uk or your local stockist (see top right to get a flavour).

Vanessa took a trip to Scotland to find the time and space to create something new; if you don't have the luxury of getting away to mull over new projects there's plenty to get you thinking inside this month's issue.

Whether it's lighting (p166), bedlinen (p80), flooring (p106) or decorating (p87) you're interested in, we have lots of inspiration, and our HB Project, Instant Updates on p99, covers quick ways to get a whole new look.

For Emma Allman-Shuttleworth, working with a kitchen designer who'd already produced something she loved took the stress out of revamping this key room in the house. See Out in the Open (p132) to discover how she managed to create a stunning and practical space, zoning cooking and seating areas and using colour links and vibrant accessories for a unified look.

If you're planning anything from a small update to a room revamp, browse the issue or find ideas online at housebeautiful.co.uk. And don't forget to take a look at the latest addition to our collection at DFS, the Lydia sofa. Launched recently, its modular design and built-in storage is proving to be very popular.

Julia

Julia Goodwin, Editor
Follow me on Twitter
@JuliaHouseBEd



1

FAVOURITE BUYS THIS MONTH

Beautiful updates for your home this autumn



2



3



4

1 Vanessa Arbuthnott's **Japonica Saffron** fabric livens up a sofa **2** Stockholm **bowl**, £8, Ikea **3** Put your feet up on Next's knitted **pod**, £60 **4** Aldwych **side table**, £355; **lamp stand**, £80; **shade**, £20; all Neptune



5

5 Oliver Bonas's Gold Grid **shoe storage**, £195, would bring glamour to a hallway **6** Cook up warming meals with Marks & Spencer's Chef Copper mini **casserole dish**, £19.50



6

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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Cover photo **Dan Duchars**
Styling **Hannah Deacon**
Find out how to get our cover look on p87

House Beautiful is available as a digital edition. Visit housebeautiful.co.uk/tableteditions

*Our cover stories are highlighted with an asterisk

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Don't miss

THIS MONTH



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

Design guru Sir Terence Conran talks about his influence on our style. See p34



JOIN OUR MASTERCLASS

Learn how to make the most of your home with advice from the House Beautiful team at this special reader event. See p123



WIN! £2000 WORTH OF FLOORING

See p177 for your chance to win fantastic oak flooring from Kahrs

next.co.uk/home

Rugs from £40
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Embroidered cushion £15








next
HOME



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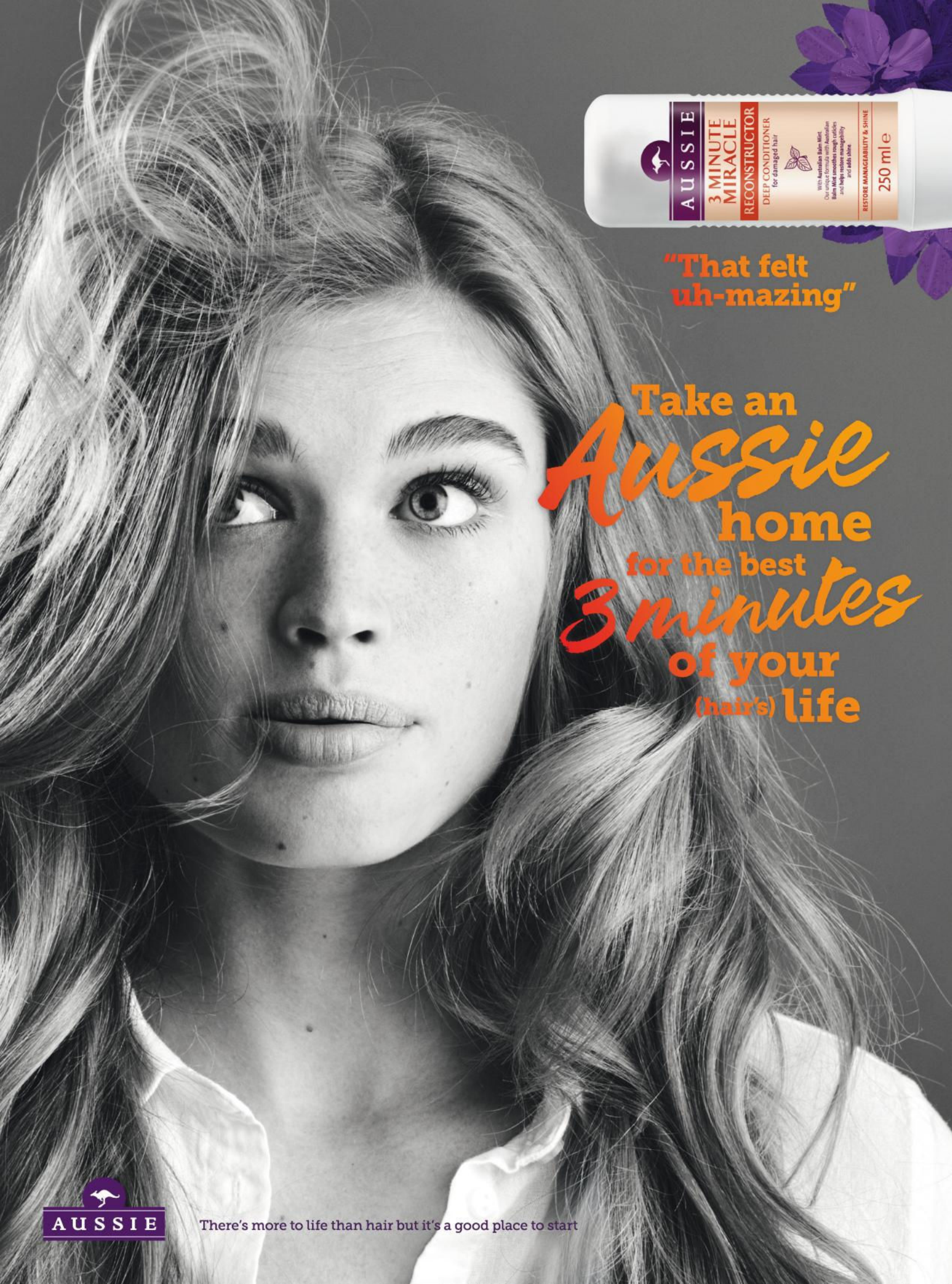
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STAR LETTER



NEW BEGINNINGS

Our children are grown up and we now have three spare bedrooms. My husband and I have just been accepted as foster carers and loved all the inspiration you've featured as it gave us some great ideas to make the bedrooms somewhere the children can play, sleep and study. Our only problem is our own children are bound to ask why we didn't make them so nice when they were all living at home!

Mrs A, via email

This month's prize

Our star letter writer wins a £100 bundle of Pyrex products including a casserole and Impression serving dishes @PyrexUKOfficial; pyrexuk.com

SET WORTH £100





I recently came across an article in House Beautiful that said some households are paying too much council tax. Having run through all the checks you suggested I decided to challenge our banding. We have just received a rebate of £2,000 and our banding has also been adjusted so that our monthly payments are lower too!

Emma Everton-Jones, via email

SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU

I'd like to thank Paul and Andy from Dream Doors in Chelmsford, Essex, for designing our new kitchen. After a bad leak left us with no kitchen for six months, they helped with planning and installing our new one. They were so friendly and professional and made the whole process completely stress free.

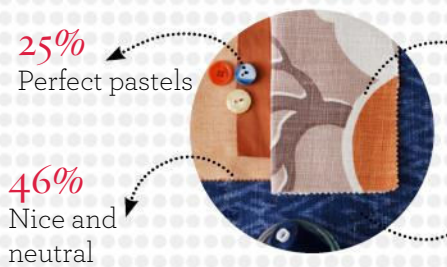
Julie Killington, Essex



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@HB TWITTER POLL... you told us

What is your favourite colour scheme?



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STRONG IS BEAUTIFUL

WHAT'S HOT



FLORA & FAUNA

The detail on this Woodland Toile **wallpaper**, £54 a roll from Sanderson, has been beautifully drawn in pen and pencil. Part of a range featuring motifs from nature, this **plate**, £6, Marks & Spencer, is perfect for serving cake or hanging on the wall for display

'For a sophisticated look, keep patterns to a minimum and add a touch of green so the scheme isn't too cool.'

KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES
INTERIORS EDITOR

NATURE STUDY

Woodland and butterfly motifs mix with natural wood and black for a modern edge



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1 Snuggle up on a chilly evening with this green Cobweave **throw**, £58, thebritishblanketcompany.com **2** These Chris Helliwell **bowls** have been created using traditional woodturning techniques, from £18, National Trust **3** Choose sleek lighting in a black and wood mix for a contemporary feel. Eikon **pendant**, £195.42, clippings.com **4** Add hints of the outdoors with this lovely Saskia **cushion**, £21, laredoute.co.uk **5** Fill this olive green Form **vase** with winter blooms, £40, Amara **6** Made from castor aralia wood, the Kami **cup** is a collector's item. It costs £55 from nativeandco.com **7** Standing on metal legs, the top of the Calia round dining **table**, £399, John Lewis, is crafted from wild oak **8** The Memento **paperweight**, £30 from twentytwentyone.com, shows the beauty of the yellow beggar moth in detail **9** Use this Holmegaard Palet **jar**, £49.95 from Cloudberry Living, for storage in your kitchen. It would add a lovely touch of colour on open shelving

WORDS LUCY BIRCH

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DESIGN NEWS

From colourful cushions to floral fabrics, here's a wealth of gorgeous styles to choose from

3 of the best...

RUGS



Juliol cotton flatweave, from £48 (60cm x 90cm) to £568 (150cm x 240cm), Anthropologie



Sintra pure wool rug, from £275 (120cm x 180cm) to £500 (240cm x 170cm), John Lewis



Dashes hand-knotted pure wool rug by Martha Coates, £800 (170cm x 240cm), Habitat

WORDS JULIA EVANS

SCOTTISH CHARM

Create a cosy colour clash with these pure wool tweed cushions made on the island of Bute. They come in vibrant combinations and cost £65 each from lanebypost.com.





NEW LOOKS

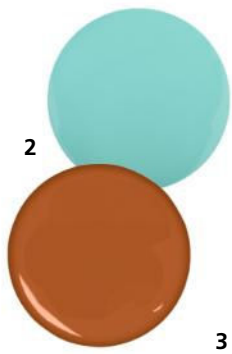
ABSTRACT ART

Add unusual patterns to mealtimes with Laura Slater's latest designs, which include this Grid placemat, £45 for four. Part of a new collection that also includes cushions, it's from uniqueandunity.co.uk.

HOT PICKS



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1 ONLINE ONLY
Minkinteriors.co.uk stocks beautiful and unusual items, such as this grey marble and grey painted wire-base side table, £220.

2 EARTH HOUR
Woven textures and natural warm materials such as wood and clay inspire the latest Natribes paint collection from Earthborn, developed with flooring company Kahrs. Colours include The Lido (top) and Pumpkin Pie, from £36 for 2.5L matt emulsion.

3 FASHION STATEMENT
Painterly florals and rich patterns from fashion brand Monsoon have been turned into upholstery fabrics for a collection of furniture in collaboration with Multiyork. The range includes the Cube footstool, which comes in this Calista Carnival linen mix, £149, as well as velvet designs.

4 TAKE A SEAT
This Chuckler hoop-back chair is made from solid birch with a mottled, not-quite-black painted finish. A pair costs £390 from Loaf.

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BARGAIN NEWS

A round-up of the hottest homeware – all at great prices



PERFECTLY FORMED

With a linden and rubberwood oak veneer, this Fluent stacking chair is designed to fit in small spaces. It's also available in White, Dandelion, Red, Smoke, Steel and Teal and costs £45 from House at John Lewis.

Treat yourself...



…to a cuppa in a Ladybird book mug, created using the iconic alphabet images from the original books. They cost £10 each from designedincolour.com.

WORDS JULIA EVANS



NEW IN



IN SEASON

Wake up to the colours of autumn with Harvest bedding and accessories. Embroidered cushion (above), £12; (left) Crop printed bedlinen, £20 for a double duvet set; pillowcases, £5 for two; grey knit throw, £25; ochre knitted cushion, £14; drum light shade, £10; floral ceramic jug, £12; all by Sainsbury's.

ACCENT PIECES









1 CRAFTED GRASS
Keep bits and bobs in this stylish woven basket (H40cm), £35. It's part of the new Global Artisan range at House of Fraser.

2 LET IT GLOW
As the nights draw in, bring a glow with Hestia Leaf tealight holders from the Alpine Lodge collection, £9 for four from the Lorraine collection, JD Williams.

3 INTO THE WOODS
Bring the hedgerow into your kitchen with painted kitchen ceramics such as these badger and fox egg cups, £4 for two from the Woodshed collection at George Home.

4 PRECIOUS METAL
Go for gold with this porcelain plate painted with a shimmering metallic New York city scene, £6.99. Matching coasters are also available for just £1.99 for four. Finish the look with the gold ombre glass carafe jug, £14.99; all from H&M.

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ON TREND


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PRECIOUS **SAFFRON**

Spice up your home with this rich and glowing shade

WORDS LUCY BIRCH

1 Play your favourite tunes wherever you are with this funky Vifa Copenhagen **wireless speaker**, £550, Amara **2** Pale wood and striking yellow are a match made in Scandi heaven. Create a display with mini Etna **candleholders**, £83.11 for three, clippings.com **3** British designer Margaret Howell has colour-matched this ochre yellow special edition Type 75 **desk lamp** to a 1970s original, £130, nest.co.uk **4** Lose the chintz and modernise teatime with this Loop **cup and saucer**, £17.50, Houseology **5** Update your sofa with a **cushion** in a textured amber shade, £30, Debenhams **6** Introduce an accent colour to a dining set with a highlight of amber. Picardie **glasses**, £12 for six, Heal's **7** Add this smart herringbone **throw**, £65, Holly's House, to your bed **8** The elegant Rydale Compact **sofa** is a statement piece in luxe velvet, £1,199, Marks & Spencer **9** Showcase tall blooms in this Phoebe column **vase**, £20, House of Fraser

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

DECO UPDATE



WONDERFUL WALL CLOCKS

Keep perfect time with these tasteful timepieces

1 Embrace the trends for geometric shapes and pale marble with the **Karlsson marble wall clock**, £60, HomePlace **2** Oliver Bonas's part-dipped **Elo wall clock** in Pink, £35, has a modern simplicity **3** The Contemporary Home's **Kitchen wall clock**, £35, is perfect for small spaces **4** An oversized design makes Marks & Spencer's **Loft clock**, £49.50, a great statement piece **5** The **Concrete pendulum clock** in Brass merges modern and traditional to perfection. It's £55 from Graham and Green **6** Libra's **Geo wall clock**, £42.50, would work wonderfully against a painted wall **7** Rockett St George's Brass white **flip clock**, £119, comes with a stand so could also sit on a desk **8** Pared back with bold details, the **Domeniconi Chalet clock** in Yellow, £203, by Houseology, is a new spin on the cuckoo clock **9** The **Time pill clock** in Black, £65 from The Conran Shop, is smart and chic **10** Cox & Cox's **metal-edged clock**, £140, pairs distressed wood with characterful detailing

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS JOANNA THORNHILL. **PHOTOGRAPHY** HEARST STUDIOS. WALL PAINTED IN ORANGE AURORA 21 INTELLIGENT EMULSION, £53 FOR 2.5L, LITTLE GREENE

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Berry lovely!

Bring together a glorious medley of raspberry, mulberry and blackcurrant shades for a chic and cosy scheme



Bold blooms
Dark magenta dahlias and astrantia contrast beautifully with lime-green foliage for a seasonal table centrepiece



Deeply dramatic A MULBERRY-RED SOFA CREATES A STUNNING FOCAL POINT IN THE LIVING ROOM. INCLUDE GRAPHIC PATTERN CUSHIONS AND WATERCOLOUR PRINTS IN NEUTRAL GREY FOR BALANCE

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Warm welcome

Make your hallway inviting by painting the lower half of your wall in a warm red hue with a sophisticated shade of grey above



Create contrast A PAINT-EFFECT MURAL MAKES A STUNNING BACKDROP TO A DINING AREA. KEEP THE LOOK INFORMAL BY TEAMING CHAIRS WITH A BENCH AND ADDING MISMATCHED CROCKERY IN TONING COLOURS

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Luxe layers INDULGE IN A SENSATIONAL COMBINATION OF FEELGOOD TEXTURES WITH CUSHIONS AND BLANKETS IN FABRICS SUCH AS LINEN, WOOL AND VELVET. INCLUDE A BUTTONED HEADBOARD FOR AN ELEGANT FINISHING TOUCH

Made to inspire

Let your imagination run wild in a study space decorated with a whimsical wallpaper. Simple furniture with clean lines allows the paper to be the star of the show



CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Relax and recline

Add layers of extra softness to a daybed with mattress-style cushions made up in berry-coloured linen. Use curtains with an intricate print to draw attention to a beautiful window



CONTINUED OVER PAGE

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Where to buy everything





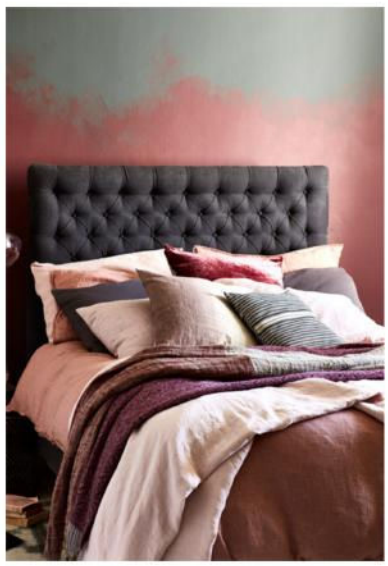
Deeply dramatic

Walls painted in Hardwick White estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Vittorio **sofa**, £899, Made. **Curtains** made up in Kansai Indium, £95 a metre, Romo Black Edition. **Canvases** in Peeling Paint III from the National Trust collection, from £145 each, Surface View. **Rug**, £135, Design Vintage. **Pouffe**, £98, Bohemia. **Coffee table**, £245; **floor lamp**, £245; both Loaf. **Cushions** (l-r): Striped, from the Injiri Collection, £70, Raj Tent Club; Berber Off White, £46.50, Holly's House; Concentric, £90, Niki Jones; Dusty pink, £40, Holly's House; Geocentric oblong and square, both £90, Niki Jones. Mango **wood plate**, £7.50, Holly's House. **Decorative figs**, £45 for 12, Cox & Cox. **Vase**, €35, Tine K. Iron **Etched bowl**, £39.50, Design Vintage. **Other items**, stylist's own

Warm welcome

Lower half of wall painted in Dragon's Blood matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Fired Earth. **Top half of wall** painted in Lamp Room Gray estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Wool Blocstripe Moon Mineral Bloc **runner**, £53.40 a sq metre, Alternative Flooring. **Table**, £360, French Connection. ***Honey Honey* print** (left), £55; ***A Rose is a Rose is a Rose* print**, £55; both One Must Dash. **Framed** in Ribba, £15 each, Ikea. Hemp **basket**, £69.95, Oggetto. Round knitted **pouffe**, £120, Holly's House. Naga **throw** in Wine Red by Vivaraise, £70, Amara. **Cushion**, £23, Bohemia. Pink **scarf**, £19.95, Nkuku. Grey **geometric vase**, £33.50, Design Vintage. **Small bowl**, find similar at Nordic House. Wild & Wolf Red Series 302 **telephone**, £51.95, Bloomsbury





Create contrast

Walls in Red Grunge wallpaper, £25 a sq metre, muralswallpaper.co.uk. Cooks **oak table**, £2,795; Fawn **chairs with black webbing**, £295 each; all Heal's. **Iron and wood chairs**, £205 each; Concrete-top **bench**, £485; all Out There Interiors. **Light**, £148, Design Vintage. **Rug**, £300, Rockett St George. Tourron **dinner plates**, £15 each; matching **aubergine bowls**, £12 each; all Amara. **Patterned bowl**, €20; matching **platter** (containing fruit), €27; **glasses**, €10 each; **tiles**, €8 each; all Tine K. Selena **napkins**, €12 each, Caravane. **Cutlery**, from £8.95 for a teaspoon, Nordic House. **Coffee pot**, £39.95; **sugar pot**, £14.50; both Holly's House. **Tall vase**, find similar at Bo Concept. **Smaller vases**, £29 and £59, Oggetto. **Wool throw**, £174, Larusi

Luxe layers

Walls painted in Down Pipe estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball; and Adventurer intelligent matt emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Valentin **double bed**, £1,000, sofa.com. **Pendant light**, £195, Heal's. Washed linen king-size **duvet cover** in Salmon, £297; matching **pillowcases**, £48 each; all Larusi. Stone-washed linen **flat sheet** in Rosa (used as throw), £79.99; matching **pillowcases**, £24.99 each; **pillowcases** in Charcoal, £24.99 each; all LinenMe. Bordo **wool throw**, £59.99, WoolMe. Mobali **linen throw** in Natural and Red, £79.95, Nkuku. **Chestnut cushion**, £25, Habitat. **Nutbrown cushion**, £80, Oggetto. **Stripe cushion**, £70, Raj Tent Club. **Pitcher**, £22, Cox & Cox. **Other items**, stylist's own





Made to inspire

Walls in Vine, from the Archive Trails collection, £76 for a 10m roll, Little Greene. Franco **table**, £450, French Connection. Utility metal-framed **chair**, £95, Rockett St George. Chromeo **lamp**, £95, Loaf. Hand-thrown **vases** in Charcoal, £29 and £59; both Oggetto. Fleur de Lys **goblet**, £8.50, Amara. Artisan **wooden bowls**, £8.95 and £12.95, Nkuku. **Vase**, find similar at Habitat. Archive **notepads**, £4.50 each; two-tone reels of **string**, £14.50 each; all Present & Correct. **Reading glasses**, stylist's own. Mobali **linen throw**, £79.95, Nkuku. Geo **cushion**, £7, George Home

Relax and recline

Walls painted in Hardwick White estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. **Curtains**, daybed **seat pad** and **bolster cushion** made up in Alyosha, Volga Red, £76 a metre; other daybed **seat pad** and **bolster end** in Plain Weave Linen in Crimson, £38 a metre; all Volga Linen. Curtain and bolster **trimmed** in Effluve 40040710, £40 a metre, Casamance. **Daybed** in Grey Wool, £1,419, Ferm Living. Tabitha **chest of drawers**, £595, Loaf. Iron **tray table**, £195, Design Vintage. **Berber rug**, £780, Larusi. Large **Dusty Pink vase**, €54, Tine K. **Striped vase**, £30, Habitat. Metal **desk lamp**, £170, Nordic House. Fleur de Lys **goblet**, £8.50, Amara. Geocentric **cushion cover**, £90, Niki Jones. Natural **wool throw**, £235, Oggetto. Suede **journal**, £24.95, Nkuku. **Other items**, stylist's own HB

STYLIST HANNAH DEACON. **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHEL WHITING

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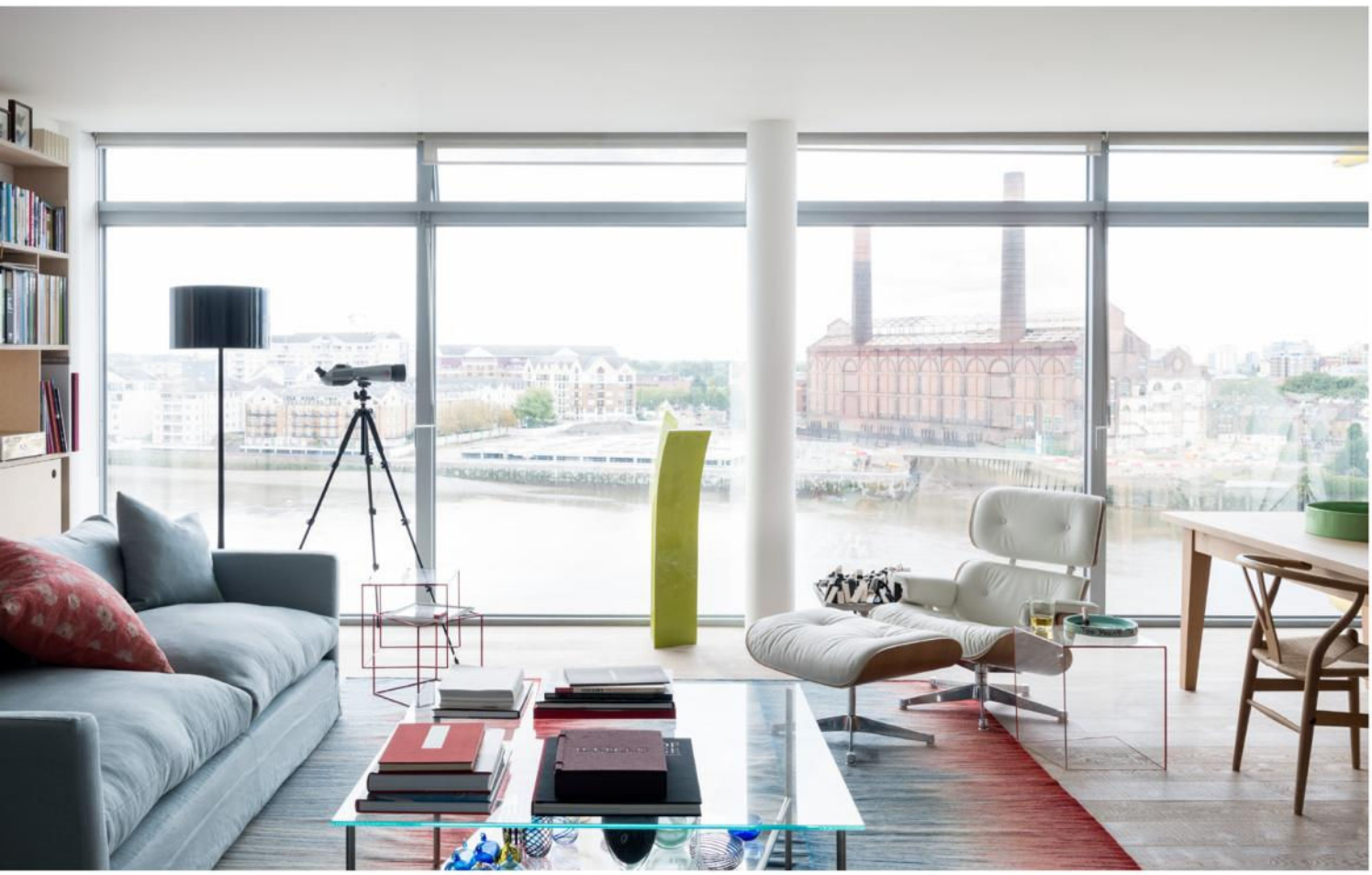
Handleless kitchen in Baltic & White © Copyright & Design Wren Kitchens.

▲Priced kitchen is for kitchen units only and does not include the price of worktops, shelving, appliances, sink, tap, props, accessories or small worktop appliances. Price taken 29.07.2016

In his own habitat

He revolutionised the way we furnish our homes and, six decades later, is still influencing how we live. So does Sir Terence Conran follow his own rules?

WORDS KERRY FOWLER



Step into Sir Terence Conran's London riverfront apartment and the light flooding in from the expansive picture window, with its seagull-eye views over the water to Battersea Power Station, is dazzling. Turn your back on the vista and the open living area is a design dream: pale sawn-wood flooring, woven Conran Shop rug, every chair chosen for its good looks and ergonomics (apart from the marginally damaged don't-sit-on-me Japanese geometric stunner – someone did) and the metres-long teak table, which is both beautiful and useful, of course.

It is a space that brims with Terence's creative ambitions and what he still at 85 this month – Cuban cigar and lunchtime gin and tonic in hand – wants for himself and his customers: homes that offer a comfortable and easy way of life. He has been perfecting it now for more than 60 years.

It's impossible to know where to begin in listing how Terence Conran – entrepreneur and creative retailer, furniture maker and architect, the man behind Habitat, Conran Design, The Conran Shop, the Design Museum, Benchmark Furniture and dozens of top-end global restaurants – has boosted our style confidence and shaped our homes through the decades.

Back in 1965, when he set up Habitat, it was the most exciting shopping experience in town: a seductive aspirational room-set store, clever lighting at every turn, ethnic throws, the smell of rattan, the scent of laid-back living inviting us to enjoy beautiful affordable things. One bedspread could turn a grim bedsit into a home, a simple wooden salad

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

ABOVE
With the fabulous backdrop of the Battersea Power Station and the Thames, Terence's London flat is dramatic, open and spacious

OPPOSITE
He's most at home at Barton Court in Berkshire







bowl – or, for the adventurous, a garlic press – could bring pleasure to the kitchen and to your life.

'It was the first time young people earned enough money to live independently from their parents,' says Terence, who was knighted for his services to design in 1983. 'They didn't want the same brown furniture and old-fashioned carpets, or a central light hanging down and a telly in one corner. They wanted open-plan living and a different life.

'When I started Habitat, people would buy a spaghetti jar for focus in the kitchen and duvets to free them from bed making. The idea was "A few things take my eye and are inspiration for change. I can't afford to do it all at once but can gradually."'

Terence, who has created his own design dynasty with three of his five children, Sebastian, Jasper and Sophie all in the industry, splits his week between the London apartment and his rural Berkshire home, Barton Court. He's seen design styles and interior trends move and shift with the way we've lived our lives through six decades and, he says, this way of setting up home works just as well now. Embrace the Conran mantra that 'objects have life and meaning' and you'll be on track for making your place very much your own. Know what you like.

'I'm passionate about bentwood. I have bentwood chaise longues and some very nice strangely shaped wicker chairs – they have pockets on the side to hold a drink or newspapers and good feather cushions to make them comfortable,' says Terence, who also likes immaculately presented displays in his homes. 'I have a big collection of objects, from ceramics to glass, things that I love.'

Gleaming copper pans hanging in size order, an extraordinary collection of model Bugatti pedal cars in his Berkshire home, and an exotic flight of framed butterflies in his riverside flat in the capital all provide a daily sense of background pleasure for him and his fourth wife Vicki.

So, along with being selective when buying items for our homes, what other advice would Britain's tastemaker in chief, as he's been called, give us? The first thing is not to be afraid of mixing contrasting elements. His classic combination of clean, crisp modern lines: 'plain, simple and useful' is a key Conran concept and the genius behind it has recently been commissioned to design a wallpaper range called that, along with distinctive globally inspired fabrics, rugs and textiles.

Combining pieces from different style periods is also something Terence is keen on. 'Ethnic pieces with gleaming industrial surfaces are very Habitat,' he says. 'Colour, pattern and texture have always been important to my enjoyment of life. I also like antique furniture and often find it an inspiration for modern design. I like mixing old and new.'

A major factor in his homes and the interiors he's designed is a sense of space. 'What I remember



'Colour, pattern and texture have always been important to my enjoyment of life,' SAYS TERENCE



of our family house in Hampstead is that my mother had created a large living room with beige linen comfortable sofas – she had a very keen eye. Having a room that's spacious is very important to me,' says Terence. 'Something I did at Barton Court was to make an open-plan room across the front of the house by demolishing two walls. Create as much space as you can rather than lots of little rooms. I also think it's liberating for people to get that green-space connection with their home. I'd always try to have a kitchen that has a big window and goes out to a patio so it's part of the outside.'

Light, nature, space, things you love, furniture that's well made, comfortable and functional, rooms that please the eye and make us feel at home – it's a simple template from a man who still wakes at 3am buzzing with ideas for his latest restaurant or finishing touches to the new Design Museum that opens this autumn.

Back in the 1950s when he shared a workshop with his friend, acclaimed sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi, Terence put his first pieces of furniture together: 'they were all welded metal and rope – very easy and cheap to make, with an old door on trestles for a table.' None of it would look out of place now.

● ***My Life in Design*** **by Terence Conran is published by Conran Octopus, £30**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID BEBBER/THE TIMES/NEWS SYNDICATION; DAVID GARCIA; PAUL RAESIDE/TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM; DAVID SANDISON/EYEVINE

OPPOSITE
Displays of copper pans and wire cooling racks bring rustic charm to the kitchen at Barton Court

ABOVE
Terence relaxing in his previous apartment above the Conran + Partners office in London's Shad Thames

LEFT
A collection of restored vintage Bugatti pedal cars at Barton Court provides daily pleasure

CONRAN WISDOM

Follow Terence Conran's philosophy of 'plain, simple, useful' to give your home a stylish new look

Be creative with lighting

* When you're buying a new home make sure you see each room in natural light, observing how it falls and what it highlights.
* For evening and night-time, think about uplighters, downlighters and spotlights – all have their qualities to bring different effects and moods to a room.
* If you have an object or collection you particularly like, illuminate it so it glows on a shelf. Create pinpoints of light.
* In my room I get an overall light from small LEDs, my umbrella lamp has a ball of light that spreads over the ceiling, and there's a chandelier with dandelion clocks, as well as side lamps. I put them on at different times. Play around with light, it will change a room.

Buying the perfect table

The super-long teak table in Terence's flat had to come up the fire-escape stairs and only just made it into his living room. If you are thinking of buying an extra-large table, check it will fit through the front door and whether the legs will come off or if it can be broken down into sections. Here's his other advice on choosing a quality design:

* Looking under a table tells you all sorts of things. Ensure that the legs are fitted well and see what supports there are – mine has crossrails – to stop it from dipping or cracking, particularly if it's a long table.
* Check the quality of workmanship: look at the joints to see how well they're constructed.
* Timber moves, especially if it gets damp and then has the heat of the sun on it. Teak is good because it's such an oily timber – water doesn't get into it.





TOP Conran Monty pendant, £149, Marks & Spencer ABOVE Oscar dining table, £3,300, Benchmark



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A HAPPY BLEND
Julia and Patrick love searching out retro treasures

Old-school STYLE

Vintage shop fittings, taps made from copper piping, tabletops from a chemistry lab – this couple's home puts a modern spin on traditional design

WORDS KATRINA BURROUGHS **PHOTOGRAPHY** VICKI COUCHMAN





OPEN-PLAN LIVING
The addition of doors between the two first floor rooms means the space is now flooded with light from windows at each end

CONTINUED OVER PAGE


'It's really important to make sure a design fits the way you live,' SAYS JULIA



LIVING AREA
Previously the kitchen, the room has been furnished with mid-century Danish sofas which, with their small proportions and simple lines, suit the elegant room perfectly



EXTERIOR
The flat occupies the first and second floors of a beautiful Georgian building

Even before they met, Julia Wolfe and her architect husband Patrick Lewis shared a love of reclamation yards, car-boot sales and flea markets. When Patrick, 37, and Julia, 31, got married in 2013, they held their reception at a treasure house of architectural salvage in Vauxhall, south London.

So it's no surprise that their home together, a two-bedroom flat in Clerkenwell, an area rich in historic buildings, is a reflection of their taste for vintage china and retro pieces. There are even references to the 19th-century tradesman who built it.

Their apartment takes up the first and second floors of a grade II listed townhouse on a captivatingly pretty road, lined with costume-drama street lighting. Julia looks through the sash window of the kitchen and points out the lampposts. 'I'm fairly obsessed with this type of Georgian property,' she says. 'I've always wanted to live in one. This was in a sad state when we bought it, but it was lovely that it still had the old shutters and windows.'

Originally, the house was built by John Ramsay, a tailor from Lambeth, between 1829 and 1832. According to a contemporary document, his work created 'considerable difficulties with poor materials and construction'. This, says Patrick, was the beginning of the era of the amateur bricks-and-mortar entrepreneur. 'People think of property developing as a new concept, but it's how a lot of London streets were built. This parcel of land was divided up by speculators. As a merchant, you could buy a couple of plots and do them up as a project. A survey carried out at the time stated that the building had been completed by a tailor and was below standard. It's important to say the building is now in great shape!' he adds.

The couple spent five months between March and July 2015 living in their new home, before setting about refurbishing the property, preserving period details such

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'Most people have a fitted style, but we were keen that ours would be a kitchen made from objects,' SAYS JULIA



KITCHEN
Cupboards from British Standard have been painted in Farrow & Ball's Down Pipe and shelves were made from chemistry lab countertops sourced at Retrouvius. The antique vitrine takes pride of place



SPLASHBACK
A smart finish was created with Bridgehampton Marble Basketweave Honed mosaic tiles from Fired Earth

as shutters, windows, cornices and skirting, and transforming the run-down rooms into welcoming, warm spaces.

The tailor's legacy is commemorated in a herringbone motif created with the kitchen floorboards. Designed to resemble stitching, the pattern formed by the reclaimed oak strips – salvaged from the BBC's Bush House – also marks the transition from the cooking to the dining area. The detail illustrates the couple's genius for blending a celebration of the past with modern ways of living.

'One of the key things that comes across through all our projects is making sure a design fits the owner's lifestyle,' says Julia, who was also an architect. She now works as a letterpress printer, but is still involved in Patrick's practice. 'You might see images of a beautiful minimalist home and think, "Ooh, wouldn't it be lovely if that was mine?", but it's important to consider how you actually live in a space.'

She practises what she preaches. 'We're certainly not minimalist,' she says, standing in front of a wooden-framed display case laden with china from Middleport, Poole Pottery and TG Green, as well as silver cruets and vintage decanters – it's a real cabinet of curiosities. 'We have loads of random things that we buy because we like them, and we want to be able to see them.'

The haberdasher's vitrine, or glass-topped cabinet, acquired for £800 from a family in Hackney who advertised it on eBay, is the centrepiece of the couple's kitchen. This room, at the front of the first floor, has a view over the street through spectacular floor-to-ceiling windows. Initially it was used as a living room, but after six months the couple recast it as the kitchen. At the same time, a doorway was created between the two first floor rooms so that both sides of the house could share daylight throughout the day.

'Most people have a fitted kitchen,' says Julia. 'We were keen that ours would be a kitchen made

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BEDROOM
A mix of decorative objects highlights the couple's eclectic tastes

'We're not minimalist. We have loads of random things that we buy because we like them and we want to be able to see them,' SAYS JULIA

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BASIN AREA
Copper piping makes unfussy but stylish taps



BATHROOM
A rolltop bath from The Cast Iron Bath Co and geometric encaustic tiles have created an elegant sanctuary

from objects.' Their unusual approach has created a space that looks stylish and was extraordinarily good value, costing about £8,000 to put together. To accompany the haberdasher's cabinet, they found a vintage Hungarian shop fitting on eBay that was ideal for storing everyday crockery and glassware.

In the next room, a 1970s kitchen was ripped out to reveal a perfectly proportioned, snug little space and a brick fireplace that had been completely obstructed with blockwork. The couple chose living room furniture that was comfortable but small-scale, including two mid-century Danish sofas. In the corner, continuing the retro feel, they set up a turntable to play their growing vinyl collection. 'With vinyl, you choose to listen to it more,' says Julia. What's the soundtrack in this house? 'Quite a bit of reggae!'

The star of the second floor is the new bathroom, where a rolltop tub sits on encaustic tiles, and the walls are painted in a soft grey to make the most of the light. The glassed-steel basin is a classic industrial design that emits a sound like torrential rain on a tin roof when you run the taps. These have also been created to the couple's designs and made from plain copper pipes that have already aged beautifully.

'We love not having shiny chrome,' says Julia. 'The copper is liveable, it's unfussy. You don't spend your life polishing copper pipe taps, do you?' She speaks the truth. Not only are the taps handsome and original, they'll also leave the couple with more time to search for vintage treasures, listen to Bob Marley, and enjoy their first child, due imminently. It's a home that undoubtedly fits exactly the way they live. HB

● **Find out about Patrick's architecture practice at patricklewisarchitects.com**

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LIVING ROOM
The family love living in their new home

COLOUR BLOCK

Clever design and bold paint choices help bring a cosy feel to a large open-plan house

WORDS CAROLINE FOSTER **PHOTOGRAPHY** CHRIS SNOOK

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KITCHEN
Roz designed her own kitchen and the cabinets were built by Naked Kitchen in oak-faced plywood. The Plume pendant lights in Smoke Blue are from Made

HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE
Roz Robinson, 37, a research scientist and the owner of Roz Robinson Designs, her husband Simon, 37, an actuary, and their children Lyra, six, and Cassie, four

THE PROPERTY
A five-bedroom malt house barn conversion in Nutfield, Surrey. The barn was built in 1895 and converted to residential dwellings in 2000

PRICE £650,000

MONEY SPENT £100,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW
£900,000

It was while they were searching for a new home close to a good school for their children that Roz and Simon Robinson first spotted the barn conversion for sale in the village of Nutfield in Surrey.

'We fell in love with Nutfield, which has a lovely village school, and restricted our search to properties in the area,' says Roz.

A regular Rightmove watcher, she'd seen the barn conversion six months previously. 'It was out of our budget at that time and I wasn't convinced the layout was right as two of the bedrooms were very narrow and long,' she says. 'Then I noticed that it was still on the market several months later and when we viewed the property, we knew it was the one.'

The interior had already been refurbished up to a certain point and walls had been removed to create a bright open-plan space downstairs. 'There were some contemporary additions, such as the oak and glass staircase, which I loved,' says Roz.

'I particularly liked the combination of traditional architecture and a modern interior. Simon and I worked out our finances and, with a little help from our parents, increased our mortgage to secure the deal,' she adds.

However, the survey revealed a leaking roof that needed urgent attention. 'Our estate agent introduced us to NK Design & Build, a company that had already quoted the previous owner to repair it,' Roz recalls. 'They did a fantastic job and we employed them for all the refurbishment work we did to the property over a three-year period.'

Updating their home in stages, the Robinsons landscaped their courtyard garden CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE



LIVING ROOM
Deep hues create a cosy family living space: the feature wall is painted in Basalt absolute matt emulsion by Little Greene. The grey and purple Feng sofas from Ligne Roset pack a visual punch



HALL
A vibrant purple vinyl matt paint finish by Crown contrasts with the Ikea shoe cupboard, which Roz painted yellow. A custom-sized storage unit follows the slope of the staircase



MAIN BEDROOM
A stunning blue feature wall has been painted in Starlit Night 2 matt emulsion by Dulux. The bed is framed by two Cohen floor lamps in white from Made, while the Hanna II oak bedside tables are from Habitat

‘I chose a bold palette but used the colours in blocks to create statement walls,’ SAYS ROZ



ENSUITE BATHROOM
Roz sourced all the products, including a freestanding bath tap, from Crosswater and a designer bath from Castello



VANITY UNIT
The teak cupboard from Finwood Designs has been oiled to make it more durable



MAIN BEDROOM
Remaining walls were painted white to balance out the blue feature wall



DOWNSTAIRS WC
Flamingo wallpaper, Roz's own design, adds a quirky touch

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BEDROOM
A bespoke bed, which includes drawers and a shelf unit, makes the most of the space in Lyra's bedroom



STUDY
Roz designed Lyra's desk, which has been cleverly positioned under the eaves in her bedroom

and tidied up the interior of the house by painting rooms in a white finish as a priority. 'That was our first main project and the following year we redecorated the girls' bedrooms and the study, as well as our bedroom, ensuite and dressing room,' says Roz. 'The last big job was supposed to be the kitchen, but before we could tackle it, we had the unexpected expense of renovating the downstairs bathroom. Whenever it rained, the low-angled plumbing caused the bathroom to flood so we had to replace it, which meant a complete refurbishment.'

To compensate for this blow to their budget, Roz and Simon looked to cut costs in their kitchen makeover, opting to design the layout themselves and get the units made up by a company that provides an affordable, bespoke service.

'I designed the dresser and had all the units made slightly taller as Simon's over six foot tall. We re-used many of our existing appliances and shopped around. The biggest savings were achieved by waiting for sales so we could get the things we wanted at a fraction of the price,' says Roz.

Decorating a large open-plan area has its challenges, but Roz's approach was to use a colour scheme that would help to unify the spaces. 'I chose a bold palette but used the colours in blocks to create statement walls, which were balanced out by painting the remaining walls in a plain white,' she explains. 'The strong purple in the hall and landing is similar in tone to the sofas in the living room. I also painted blue rectangles on some of the walls to break up the long, white expanses and create an art-gallery effect.'

The girls' bedrooms are both blue with a solar system theme. 'I also made teepees, cushions and toy boxes out of material I designed myself,' says Roz. 'I started making the fabric for friends and family, but it's turned into a business that I run from our barn conversion.'

With the home interior finished, Roz is convinced that the project's success was down to the massive amount of planning she and Simon did before the building work started. 'I have a keen interest in design, but also in maths, and love to work in 3D to make each interior as efficient as possible and also to make it flow well. I find it interesting how spaces can relate to each other,' she says.

'The area that's made the biggest difference to our lives is the kitchen, because the island has become the hub where we all gather, and the layout works well. When I was designing it I thought about how we'd use it in several years' time when the girls are older, so hopefully it will continue to be a room we all love spending time in.

'We have so much more space now and it's true to say that this was the perfect move for our family.' HB

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HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE
Kate Yelland, 44, a family support worker and freelance journalist, husband Mike, 50, a chartered quantity surveyor, and their children Charlie, 15, Grace, 13, and Teddy, three

THE PROPERTY
An extended four-bedroom Victorian semi in St Neots, Cambridgeshire

PRICE £280,000

MONEY SPENT £115,000

WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW
£450,000



Ready for CHANGE

This Victorian house has been imaginatively adapted to suit the needs of a growing family

WORDS KAREN WILSON **PHOTOGRAPHY** FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT



KITCHEN
Alcoves and retro finds make the kitchen feel open and friendly. Simple budget units from builders' merchant Ridgeons were teamed with handles from Ikea and thick Corian worktops

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DINING SPACE
White pendant lights and dining chairs from John Lewis keep things simple in the dining space, with striking artwork providing bold, bright colour. The door leads to a new utility room



EXTERIOR
The Victorian house is in a conservation area so the couple opted for wooden windows and painted the doors in Farrow & Ball's smart grey Down Pipe



DINING
Kate has created a 'Scandi corner' with a stag's head from Sass & Belle and Yoko tray bringing decorative detail to an old wooden school desk and chair

It was third time lucky for Kate and Mike Yelland, whose home on the outskirts of Cambridge has proved to be their best buy yet. Over the past 10 years they've adapted and extended three different houses to fit with each new stage of their lives.

'Our first house was a new-build starter home, which I never really loved. Then we moved to a small Victorian semi where we converted the attic,' says Kate. This house confirmed the couple's passion for older properties, but they soon outgrew it when Charlie and Grace came along. 'It had a separate kitchen and dining room so the space didn't flow well and the back garden was the size of a postage stamp,' she explains.

Then an unexpected opportunity arose when close friends announced they were moving to New Zealand. Having always admired their double-fronted pale brick Victorian home a few streets away, Kate and Mike agreed a private sale before it went on the market. 'We were really fortunate as it would have been snapped up,' says Kate. 'It's a lovely house and had the potential for further changes, including a better connection to the large garden.'

Initially they set about redecorating the children's bedrooms and revamping the bathroom before working on a new kitchen diner a few years later. 'There was a dining room in the middle of the house off the hallway and a separate kitchen at the rear,' explains Kate. 'So we decided to swap them around and make the entire space open plan. There was no need to extend as we could knock down the old kitchen and use the same footprint to rebuild the new dining area with a vaulted ceiling and patio doors along two sides.'

At the same time, a ramshackle outhouse was converted into a downstairs toilet and utility

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

‘I love the combination of modern alongside vintage and antique pieces,’ SAYS KATE



LIVING ROOM
Black vases from The Conran Shop and a colourful limited edition *Shapeset Alphabet* print by Tim Fishlock complement the Ercol sideboard found in a Norfolk antiques shop

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

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RETRO LOOK
Kate's passion for mid-century design is evident in the living room where original pieces include an Ercol daybed



SOFA STYLE
A carefully chosen palette links cushions from John Lewis, Designer's Guild and Habitat with the map and painting on the walls

'The space is so much more sociable and we spend lots of time here as a family, plus it's great for parties,' SAYS KATE

room and linked to the dining area with a new door. As Mike's a quantity surveyor, they had help from an architectural technician and a building company he'd worked with before. 'Using an architectural technician was a cheaper option as it cost about £2,000 compared with 10 per cent of the project price for an architect,' explains Kate. 'But it only works if you know exactly what you want.'

Although Mike had a good idea of the anticipated costs, Kate was still surprised when the quotes for the work came in at about £50,000. 'I had a few sleepless nights thinking maybe we shouldn't bother and wondering if it would really make much difference to our lives,' she admits. 'But luckily it's turned out to be the best decision we made. The space is so much more sociable and we spend lots of time here as a family, plus it's great for parties.'

Kate opted for an all-white kitchen with an eyecatching mix of vintage and retro accessories providing bold bursts of colour. 'My brother advised me to buy budget units but make them look more expensive with good-quality thick worktops,' she says. 'I wanted it to look as little like a kitchen as possible, so the builders fitted shelves in the alcoves rather than wall

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MAIN BEDROOM
The soft greens, blues and greys of posters – *The Pineforest* by Wallmark Formstudio and *Pear Harvest* by Darling Clementine – are picked up in the cushions and duvet cover



ANTIQUE PIECE
A Victorian chest of drawers provides useful storage and echoes the period of the property



BATHROOM
Kate salvaged the red letters from her local Woolworths

units. This has meant we're probably a bit short on storage space but I don't mind as it looks so much better.'

Although they hadn't expected to make any more major alterations to the house, that all changed four years ago when Kate became pregnant with Teddy. 'It was a bit of a surprise and Mike was keen to move somewhere bigger but the rest of us didn't want to,' says Kate. 'So we made more space by extending over the garage to gain an extra bedroom.'

This involved knocking down the detached concrete garage and building a new attached one instead. 'It was quite ugly and had asbestos in the roof so we were glad to see it go,' says Kate. With limited space available, the couple cut a corridor through their bedroom, which would become Teddy's room, and created an ensuite bedroom for themselves above the new garage.

The project cost £60,000 and took almost four months to complete. 'Thankfully it's much nicer than our old bedroom, and living with teenagers has made the ensuite invaluable,' says Kate. Her taste in interiors has changed from house to house. 'In our last home it was all chintz and checked blinds,' she recalls. 'These days I love the combination of modern alongside vintage and antique pieces. I don't do wallpaper – I prefer simplicity with plain walls and accent colours through accessories and I'm quite fussy about details,' she adds. 'Mike laughs when I move something by a millimetre and I've even colour-coded the books in our living room, but I don't worry about the house being immaculate all the time. It's definitely a lived-in family home.' HB

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EXTERIOR
Black mathematical tiles create a wow-factor first impression

LIGHT WORK

A former fisherman's cottage has been brought up to date with a mix of timeless style and modern technology

WORDS AND STYLING CLARE WALLACE **PHOTOGRAPHY** FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT

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HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE
Claire Winchester, 48, a garden designer
THE PROPERTY
A two-bedroom Georgian mid-terrace in central Brighton
PRICE £350,000
MONEY SPENT
£100,000
WHAT IT'S WORTH NOW £540,000





It was while she was selling her home in Brighton that Claire Winchester stumbled across an unusual but neglected Grade II listed property. 'It was a probate sale through the estate agent I was using to sell my house. It was very unloved and in need of a complete overhaul,' says Claire. 'What attracted me to it was the central location, with really good light and an outside space on each of the four floors, which is unusual in Brighton. I also loved the exterior with its black facade in what are known as mathematical tiles.'

Buying it wasn't straightforward though. When the sale of her home fell through, she lost the house to another buyer. However, it went on the market again. 'I was able to rebid and was successful – it took nine months in all!' she says.

The houses in this street had originally been fishermen's cottages. Claire's had been bought in the 1960s by a lighting designer who changed it radically. 'He glammed it up to be quite grand and completely remodelled the back of the house to turn what was a dark interior into a bright space,' explains Claire. 'He introduced the latest in lighting technology and the house was featured in a couple of books he wrote in the 1970s. In addition he changed the position of the stairs from the ground to the lower ground floor, extended the living room area and installed Crittall windows at the back.'

Once it was hers, working with local company Pisani Designs,

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LIVING ROOM

Muted earthy tones are the perfect backdrop to the colourful artwork supplied by Pisani Designs. The Nils sofa by Didier Gomez and Pebble coffee table designed by Nathan Yong are from Ligne Roset, and the grey cow head on the wall by Abigail Ahern was from Debenhams

COSY CORNER

A Highland plaid Roman blind from Dunelm, leather seat and reclaimed parquet floor all bring a cosy warmth to the room

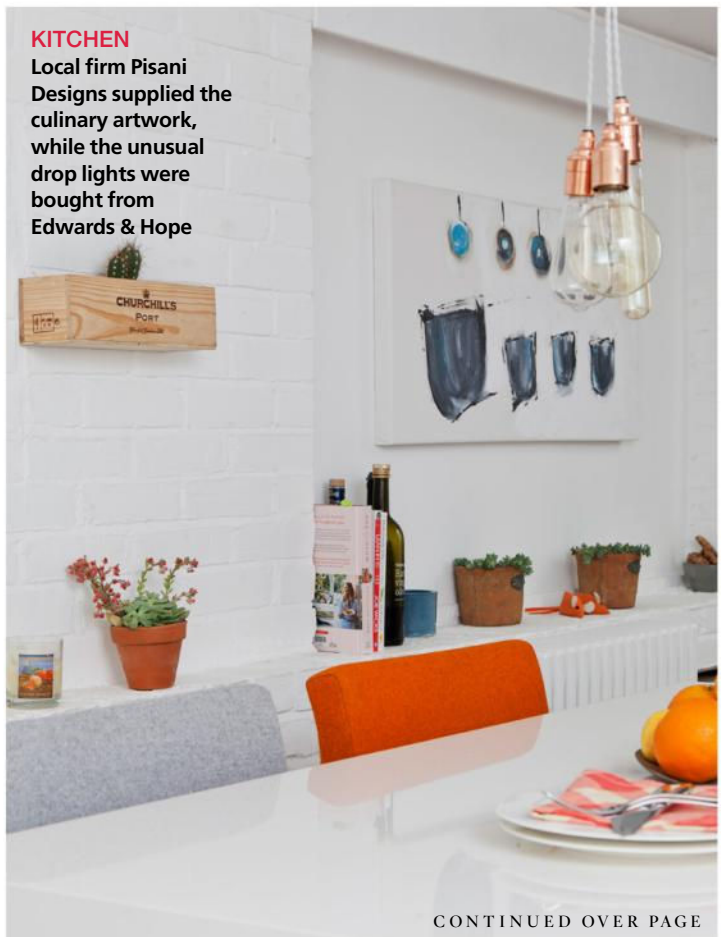


KITCHEN/DINER
Bespoke units from Parker Kitchens are beautifully streamlined. They've been painted a cool blue that has been perfectly balanced by the orange chairs. Claire chose the Doppio dining table from Ligne Roset





OUTSIDE SPACE
The kitchen leads out to a stylish covered courtyard



KITCHEN
Local firm Pisani Designs supplied the culinary artwork, while the unusual drop lights were bought from Edwards & Hope

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Claire set about an extensive renovation. 'They did a great job of making up detailed plans for the house, which were initially used to make the applications for Listed Buildings Consent, Building Control and the Planning Application for a replacement window,' says Claire.

'I wanted to keep the best of the previous owner's alterations while bringing back some character so I installed a reclaimed parquet floor, refurbished the Crittall windows and replaced the second floor dormer window, as well as putting in a marble worktop in the kitchen and restoring the original brasswork on the front door.

'Cast-iron radiators were also added as they encompass the old and the new – it's a vintage style that's come back into fashion.' She also had the house rewired and replumbed and new central heating put in as well as sound insulation and damp-proofing.

Considering the amount of work done, Claire encountered few problems, which she credits to the organisational skills of the designers. 'The actual works were completed within three months. However I had to wait for planning permission to replace a window on the top floor and also Listed Buildings Consent for all works, which held back the start date by a couple of months.' Everything was finally completed in June 2015 and the results are stunning.

The stylish living room is light and spacious and full of interesting features, especially the beautiful

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

OFFICE
The second bedroom doubles up as a workplace, with a neat desk and shelving unit and an orange swivel chair from Ligne Roset. The eyecatching artwork is from Pisani Designs

OUTSIDE SPACE
A Crittall door leads from the living room to a small decked courtyard




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reclaimed walnut parquet flooring that runs throughout the house. Installing it proved to be a labour-intensive process, but Claire loves it.

Walls throughout are painted in a crisp white, which adds to the sense of space and creates a clean backdrop for her collection of large colourful pieces of art.

Downstairs is the contemporary kitchen/dining room, with powder blue units lined along one wall. 'Pisani Designs helped me to achieve a more bespoke look by suggesting that I have a marble worktop and copper handles from a company in Sweden,' says Claire. 'I also had the copper lighting in the kitchen made, which I feel gives it a very individual look.' The restored Crittall patio doors lead onto a private courtyard area, which is perfect for entertaining in the warmer months.

Upstairs, the second bedroom doubles as a workspace. Claire's main bedroom is on the top floor, furnished in subtle and soothing pale greys, white and teal, with one wall lined with neat wardrobes. French doors open out onto a balcony. 'I guess you could say my style's eclectic and colourful,' says Claire. 'I love mixing the old with new, and I have a passion for using good quality materials as well as a few recycled items here and there.

'It's proved to be a fantastic home; regardless of the season it's a joy to spend time in.' HB

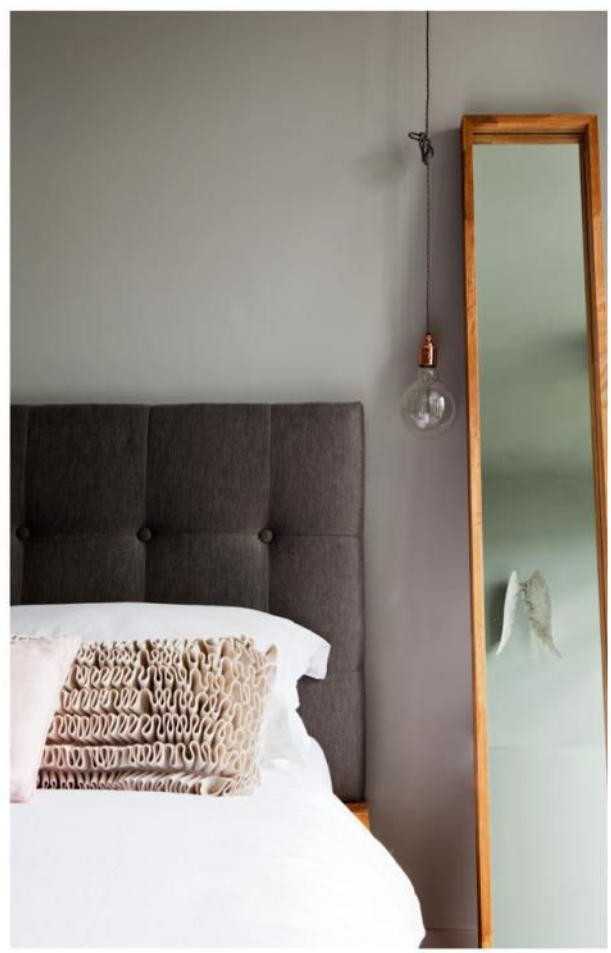
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MAIN BEDROOM

A soft pink, grey and blue palette features Farrow & Ball's Lamp Room Gray on the walls and Dix Blue on the door frame. The curtains have been made in teal Kintore fabric from Romo and hung from a bespoke copper rail, which tones with the industrial-style copper-edged light by the bed

ALL IN THE DETAIL

A luxurious dark buttoned headboard and textured cushion are offset with bedding from The White Company









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Time for bed

Update your bedroom with beautiful, new season bedlinen – and the perfect accessories to complete your scheme



MIX AND MATCH

Layer bedlinen, cushions and throws in a variety of patterns and textures for an eyecatching effect. Burnt orange, yellow and monochrome create a stylish autumnal look. **Felix bedstead, £1,140; Global Artisan duvet sets, £80 each; cushions, from £20; throw, £60; bedspread, £80; frames and vases, from £12; all Linea Home at House of Fraser**









Eclectic collection

1 PRINTS CHARMING

Bring a touch of luxury to your bedroom with elegant, ornately patterned bedlinen and accessories in timeless stylish greys. **(From top) cushion, £45; pillowcases, from £16; throw, £150; bedspread, £225; all Altana by Bedeck 1951**

2 RUSTIC WARMTH

Combine faux fur and sheepskin throws with bold bedlinen and a geometric rug for a cosy, contemporary scheme that's bursting with character. **Shaker bed, from £289; Artisan bedlinen, from £25; throw, £19; sheepskin rug, £159; Shelby rug, from £59; mirrors, from £99; Naples lamp, £39; basket, £24; all Very**

3 GLOBAL CHIC

For a warm, welcoming look, add a hint of Moroccan style and plenty of texture. Choose soft bedlinen and fluffy high-pile wool throws and cushions. **Hampden bed, £529; Sequin Shaggy throw, £69; Batik duvet set, £39.50; cushions, from £25; Mila chandelier, £299; tufted storage basket, £39.50; all Marks & Spencer**

4 NATURAL SELECTION

Combine navy with burnt orange to create a rich autumnal scheme. Enhance with wooden and wicker accessories and metallic touches. **Maze double duvet cover and two pillowcases, £120, Christy. Similar mirrors, from a selection, Graham and Green**

GET THE LOOK









From top Geo block-print double **duvet set**, £12, George Home. Industrial Buddy **desk lamp**, £125, Loaf. Berber-style cotton-mix shaggy bolster **cushion**, £25, Marks & Spencer. Bright snug felted wool **slippers**, £69, Toast

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

GET THE LOOK









From top Autumn room **diffuser**, £27, The White Company. Crisp Gant Twill Stripe Egyptian cotton **bedlinen** in Elephant Grey, £25 for a pillowcase; £125 for a double duvet cover; both Houseology. Silk **eye masks**, £6.90 each, Soak & Sleep. Minimalist chic Esme **bedside unit** in White Ash, £129, Made


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Serene simplicity

1 PASTEL PALETTE

Pale colours are easy on the eye so choose dove grey and dusty pink for a restful scheme. A dark grey throw adds contrast. **Wardley four-poster bed, from £1,995; Sophie bedlinen in 500-thread-count cotton, from £27; Cley striped throw, £140; Larsson chest of drawers, £875; Low Water prints, £70 each; all Neptune**

2 FADE TO GREY

Pure linen is cool in summer, warm in winter and gets softer with every wash. Its crumpled look is part of its charm so no need to iron. Mix grey, charcoal and white for Scandi chic. **Linen double duvet sets, £79.99 each; linen valance, £39.99; blanket, £49.99; all H&M**

3 LUXE LINENS

For a subtle layered look, dress your bed with linen Housewife and Oxford pillowcases in a mix of neutral colours. **(From top) Dove Grey housewife, £30; Lens Charcoal Oxford, £37.50; Duck Egg Oxford, £37.50; Classic White housewife, £30; Dove Grey Oxford, £37.50; all The Linen Works**

4 THE WHITE STUFF

Crisp white cotton bedlinen is perfect for a cool, calm scheme. For super-soft sheets, opt for a high thread count (300 or above). **White Ladder Lace and White Sateen Stripe 400-thread-count cotton bedlinen sets, £45 each; quilted throw, £30; quilted cushion, £16; all Sainsbury's**

‘Capture this autumn’s pared-back, natural trend by mixing linen and cotton bedlinen in layers of muted neutrals.’

SARA ERIKSSON, CONCEPT DESIGNER, H&M HOME



LINE OF BEAUTY

Ticking stripes have timeless appeal. In blue they create a summer feel, so at this time of year opt for subtle grey stripes in alternating widths. **Ercol Devon bed, £795; Ercol Devon bedside table, £295; Ledbury Stripe bedlinen, from £14; Hanbury cushion cover, £20; Hanbury throw, £80; Hampton looped wool rug, £295; frames, from £20; all The White Company**

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‘Pink doesn’t have to be overly feminine and can give an elegant edge to a scheme. Combine it with soft greys, charcoal and navy for a cosy feel.’

JULIE HALL, HEAD DESIGNER, MURMUR



WINNING COMBINATION

Choose subtle geometric and graphic patterns for a contemporary look. Add contrast with textured throws and embroidered cushions and accessorise with country-style ceramics and simple rustic furniture. **Tile bedlinen in Blush Pink, from £17; Still pillowcases, £25; Chevron cushion, £50; Ikat cushion, £35; Flint throw, £120; pitcher, £32; plate, £13; mug, £10; candle, £25; all Murmur. Similar table from Another Country**


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Graphic elegance

1 DOUBLE DELIGHT

Reversible bedlinen with geometric patterns on each side gives you the option of two graphic looks. Plaster-pink walls and accessories provide a stylish backdrop. **Digna cotton percale bedlinen, from £8; pink cotton percale pillowcase, £6; Jimi bedside table, £29; all La Redoute**

2 RETRO VIBE

Take inspiration from the 1960s with striking bedlinen in retro colour combinations and matching wallpaper in coordinating shades. **Lohko bedlinen, from £12; Lohko cushion, £25; Sula throw, £95; Lohko wallpaper, £49 a roll; all Scion**

3 BRIGHT IDEA

Choose plain, neutral bedlinen with a vibrant accent colour – zingy lime works well with pale and warm mid greys in a mix of textures. **Vancouver brushed cotton double duvet cover, £75; Vancouver brushed cotton pillowcases, £25 for two; Also Home**

4 MONOCHROME MOOD

Set a contemporary tone with a bold diamond print that combines Scandi and Moroccan influences. Team it with white, pearlescent and grey accessories for a sophisticated look. **Organic Fading Diamond jacquard bedlinen, from £14; cream tufted wool rug, from a selection; all West Elm**

WORDS ELLIE TENNANT

GET THE LOOK









From top Graphic Mini Cut **cushion** in Rose, £49, Ferm Living. Contemporary Leff Brick copper **clock**, £269, John Lewis. Distinctive hexagonal Balleby wool **rug** (150cm x 130cm), £179, Urbanara. Eyecatching woven stripe Pom Pom **throw**, £75, Oliver Bonas

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Henry **coffee table**, £320, French Connection. **Iron tray**, find similar at Design Vintage. Twelve decorative **figs**, £45, Cox & Cox. Arles Navy Stripe **napkin**, £11, The Linen Works. Recycled glass **tealight holder**, £8, Heal's. Arctic **vase**, £20, Nordic House. **Swatches** (l-r): Salvage wallpaper, £85 a roll, Cole & Son. Reflet Pink, £99 a metre, Casamance. Sudara Lino, £75 a metre, Designers Guild. Molene Ancolie, £36.30 a metre, Camengo. Joy Magenta, £91.70 a metre, Casamance. Miramar F6770-18; Miramar F6770-02; both £72 a metre, Matthew Williamson at Osborne & Little. Ramie in Raspberry, £36 a metre, Scion. Drop **cushion** in Dusty Pink, £40, Holly's House. **Scissors, buttons** and **spools**, all stylist's own

Get the look Team cushions in a selection of berry pink fabrics and include one or two with a luxe metallic sheen – they'll stand out beautifully against mid-grey upholstery and weathered wood furniture

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Walls painted in Peignoir estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. **Curtains** made up in Plain Weave Linen in Rose Taupe, £38 a metre, Volga Linen. Bluebell three-seat **sofa** in Ash Soft Wool, £1,680, sofa.com. The Descartes **armchair**, from £780, sofa.com. Henry **coffee table**, £320; leaning **shelves**, £310; **rug**, £155; all French Connection. Hampshire **mirror**, £299, Brissi. Lina **side table**, £65, Cox & Cox. Miller **floor lamp**, £230, Holly's House. On sofa: Ralph **blanket**, £70, Northlight Homestore. **Cushions (l-r):** Copii brocade, £275, A Rum Fellow. Blush velvet tassel, £58, Amara. Dusty Pink Drop, £40, Holly's House. Coyolate bolster, £255, A Rum Fellow. Mirage, by Harlequin, £65, Amara. **On side table:** Graceful vase, £39.95, Nordic House. **On coffee table:** Iron tray, find similar at Design Vintage. Twelve decorative figs, £45, Cox & Cox. Arles Napkin, £11, The Linen Works. **On mantel (l-r):** Tealight holder, £8, Heal's. Arctic vase, £20, Nordic House. Blue Dots vase, £30, Cox & Cox. **On shelves** (from top) Concrete candleholder, £25, Holly's House. Vase, £9.95 for two, Nordic House. Vase, £15, Cox & Cox. Fruit bowl, £12, Amara. Candlesticks, £10 each, Northlight Homestore. Bloomingville Heavy Structure vase in Orchid, £48, Out There Interiors

Living room Create a cosy feel with plum, raspberry and rose blush and add subtle grey to ground the scheme. Go for pale pink walls and plain curtains in a darker shade. Add a modern touch with sculptural accessories



Multi-coloured
A rug will look fantastic on bare boards. Pick one that includes all the colours of the scheme for a decorative focal point. **Diamond kilim rug, from £139, Marks & Spencer**



Tonal fix
Ticking the boxes on the ombre and berry trends, this cushion will liven up a scheme. **Velvet cushion, £27, Oliver Bonas**

Pleats please
Two colours from Little Greene's paint collection have been screen-printed inside and out. **Twin Tone lampshade in Light Peach Blossom and Carmine, £65, Lane**





Warm and cosy
Introduce subtle pattern with this beautiful blanket made from Shetland wool. **Windowpane Berry throw, £75, Bronte by Moon**



Recycled and redesigned
Metal legs and a weathered top crafted from reclaimed elm give this piece industrial chic. **Chopper coffee table, £295, Loaf**



Forever on trend
The geometric form of cut diamonds inspired the design of this votive. **Korridor concrete candle holder, £23, A Splash of Colour**



Retro rays
Add vintage charm with this classic lamp. **Oscar table lamp, £57, Soak & Sleep**

Hint of a tint
This shapely vase will bring subtle colour. **Rose Blush vase, £12.50 for a pair, Nordic House**





Step and store
Perfect for a traditional or modern home, this useful piece can be used as a bookcase or display unit. **Mandara ladder bookcase in white, £295, Lombok**



Investment buy
Soft grey upholstery is the ideal base for colourful cushions and throws. **Howard two-seater sofa, from £2,375 plus fabric, The Sofa & Chair Company**

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

Get the look Create a rich palette of winter violet, damson and rose offset against hints of charcoal and grey. Geometric patterns and watercolour prints work beautifully with this colour scheme



Jars Tourren small **fruit bowl** in Aubergine, £13, Amara. Small Rose Blush **vase**, £9.95 for two; Arctic **tealight holder**, £8.50; both Nordic House. **Swatches, clockwise from bottom left:** Esme Eucalyptus grey floral, £50 a metre, Romo. Plume striped wallpaper, £75 a roll; Puzzle pale geometric wallpaper, £110 a roll; both Cole & Son. Gotska Indigo hexagons, £25 a metre, Studio G at Clarke & Clarke. Knightsbridge velvet in Winter Violet, £60 a metre, Art of the Loom. Amlapura Damson spotty fabric, £45 a metre, Designers Guild. Squall in Blush, £25 a metre, Clarke & Clarke. Acacia Rose Quartz, £39.50 a metre, Romo. Allegro Mono black, white and grey wallpaper, £75 a roll, Imogen Heath. **Background fabric:** Plain weave linen in Lilac, £38 a metre, Volga Linen. **Buttons, ribbon, postcards, paintbrushes and scissors,** all stylist's own







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Antonio Scroll **bed**, £199; Watercolour double **duvet set**, £16; Watercolour floral **cushion**, £8; Geo **cushion**, £7; faux fur **throw**, £30; Iridescent **table lamp**, £25; Honeycomb barrel **vase,** £6; all the Glacier collection, George Home

Bedroom Snuggle up in a chic combination of stylish watercolour-print bedlinen and a soft faux fur throw. Make the bed the focal point of the room by keeping furniture pared back and walls neutral

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Clear winner
Simplicity at its best, with a glass-blown base and smart white linen shade. **Flagon large table lamp, £95, Loaf**

Direct light
This painted and distressed heavy-duty metal wall lamp has a practical adjustable shade. **Rozalia matt black wall light, £135, Out There Interiors**





Multi-tonal
White blends with dark blackberry, rose, indigo and grey for a beautiful painterly look. **Crystal Flower rug, from £295, Woven**

Natural order
Place a couple of these realistic stems in a big vase for impact. **Artificial pussy willow, £7.50, Marks & Spencer**





Movable feast
This neat side table has a handle so it's easy to put where you need it. **HAY's DLM black side table, £119, Future and Found**



Impressionist print
Add a splash of colour with this watercolour-effect cushion. **Romo Niumi cushion in Aster, £79, John Lewis**



Nostalgic drama
Curl up and read a book in this curvy retro-inspired design. **Peggy armchair in Rose house linen, £460, sofa.com**

Inky tones
Keep this by the bed for your water, or fill with a small posy. **Hammered tumbler, £8, Gray & Willow at House of Fraser**





Sleep smart
This has a timeless elegance that would suit any style of home. **Burdock double bed frame in Mole fabric, £545, Button & Sprung**

Fabulous faux
Keep snug as a bug by adding a luxuriously decadent extra layer with this oh-so-soft tactile throw. **Arctic Wolf faux fur throw, £178, Bohzaar**

SHOPPING COMPILED BY SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH. **LIVING ROOM SHOT AND MOODBOARDS: PHOTOGRAPHY** DAN DUCHARS; **STYLING** HANNAH DEACON

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STYLING JOANNA THORNHILL. **PHOTOGRAPHY** HEARST STUDIOS

20 Urban Ears wired **headphones** in Orange, £49, Printer + Taylor **21** TubeAudio series Piet Hein Eek Bluetooth **speaker** in Copper, £129, Rockett St George **22** Kate Spade Gold Dot **agenda planner**, £25, Quill London **23** Spectre 13-v000na **laptop**, £1,149, HP **24** Copper storage **jar**, £25 for three, Printer + Taylor **25** A4 **mood books**, £15 each, The School of Life **26** Reflex pocketbook **brass set**, £16 for four, Tom Pigeon **27** Gold zigzag design **coffee cup**, £27 for four, The Contemporary Home **28** Kaweko **fountain pen**, £20, Nook **29** Bold Breton weekly planner **desk pad** by Betty Etiquette, £11, notonthehighstreet.com **30** Lexon yellow **stapler**, £13, Printer + Taylor **31** Emotional Baggage **pencil case** in Yellow, £12, The School of Life **32** Dot **tablet pouch**, £30, Future and Found HB

- **Secretary desk Hyppolite, £595; with metal box drawers, £39 each; all Future and Found**
- **Wall painted in Gauze 106 intelligent emulsion, £53 for 2.5L, Little Greene**

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HB PROJECT

INSTANT UPDATES

QUICK CHANGES THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

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PHOTOGRAPH GAP INTERIORS/JULIEN FERNANDEZ



Corner seating has a streamlined look that's more relaxed than a traditional arrangement of separate sofas. Pembroke corner group in soft wool mix in Shadow, £3,120, Arlo & Jacob

PLAN A QUICK CHANGE

Take a fresh look at your room to identify the simple changes that could give it a stylish new feel

By making a few well-considered alterations, whether that means just adding new accessories or replacing a piece of furniture, you can completely change the look of your space. And it's often the simple solutions that have the most impact – giving the room a new coat of paint, dressing up a sofa with a pile of colourful cushions, replacing bedlinen or adding a rug, can all bring a whole new look to a room.

Clever colour scheming

Whichever room you want to update, creating a great colour scheme is a guaranteed way to transform it. For maximum flexibility, stick with neutral white, off-white or grey for the backdrop and essentials such as bedlinen and crockery. This ensures that future updates will be a quick and easy matter of simply bringing in extra elements of colour. Introduce a limited palette of one or two new hues, such as blue and white, coral or teal for a coordinated scheme.

Wall change

Decorating the walls can be time consuming but it will have a huge impact on the overall look of your space.

Before beginning a painting project, invest in several sample pots to help you choose a shade, even if you're going for white or a neutral, that will work well with your furniture and accessories. 'Consider the furnishings you have in the room,' says John Sims-Hilditch from Neptune. 'For instance, if there's a lot of colour, a cooler white with undertones of blue will help to balance the scheme.'

For a dramatic change that's a modern take on a traditional country-house look, add panelling to the walls. Some ranges can be simply glued in place before painting.

Wallpaper is unbeatable for adding pattern. Cover all four walls for impact or select just one to create a stunning focal point. This looks particularly effective if you choose the fireplace wall, the wall behind a bed headboard or the main one you see as you enter a room. And if you can leave it clear of furniture or pictures so much the better.

Murals are a big trend at the moment and can make a dramatic difference to a room. Surface View has a huge selection of paintings, views, enlarged images and textured finishes that can be made to measure in various finishes. And Sandberg has beautiful oversized motifs printed across three or four widths of wallpaper to fit an alcove or section of a wall.

Grab some attention

There are lots of ways to refresh a room that hasn't been decorated from scratch for a while.

One option is to create a 'tablescape' on a console table or mantelpiece. Group together favourite pieces, such as a vase or sculpture, a pair of lamps, colour coordinated objects or photo frames, and complete the effect with a beautiful picture or mirror on the wall above.

A new footstool, armchair or sofa will also make a difference.



Window film is decorative and provides privacy. Ampoletta, from £30, The Window Film Company

Measure up carefully to make sure it will fit the available space.

Rearranging furniture can refresh a room without any cost. Try placing the sofa and chairs in a group rather than simply facing the TV. Or perhaps the bedroom might work better with the bed placed against a different wall.

Distinctive windows can be highlighted with a swoosh of colour from new curtains, blinds or shutters. 'Brightly coloured shutters are a great alternative to a feature wall,' says Chrissie Harper, of California Shutters. 'Bold statement colours such as blue, orange and pink are ideal for creating a focal point.'

Don't underestimate the effect of small-scale additions that pick up on the latest trends for texture. Natural woven or wire pieces, metal finishes, embroidered and stitched surfaces all subtly change a scheme. The feel of a deep-pile rug to curl toes into on a cold morning, knitted wool throws on the bed and felted cushions on a favourite chair are all part of the appeal.

Fabulous fast fixes

* To revamp a dresser or bookcase, decorate the inside back panel by removing the shelves and wallpapering it or painting it a bright colour.
* Replace a headboard with an on-trend buttoned version. The Headboard Workshop has a good selection that can be customised.
* Put the focus onto vintage furniture by rubbing down with sandpaper, then painting the outside and inside in contrasting colours. Find specialist paints and online paint tutorials at Annie Sloan.
* Loop back curtains with a tieback with tassels, pompoms or beads for an opulent look.
* A long hall wall is perfect for family photos. Paint the frames to create a matching set then lie them on the floor to test out the look of the arrangement. The Bosch Quigo Cross Line Laser will help you plot it accurately.
* Add an easy-fit pendant light shade for a smart new look – no need to call in an electrician.

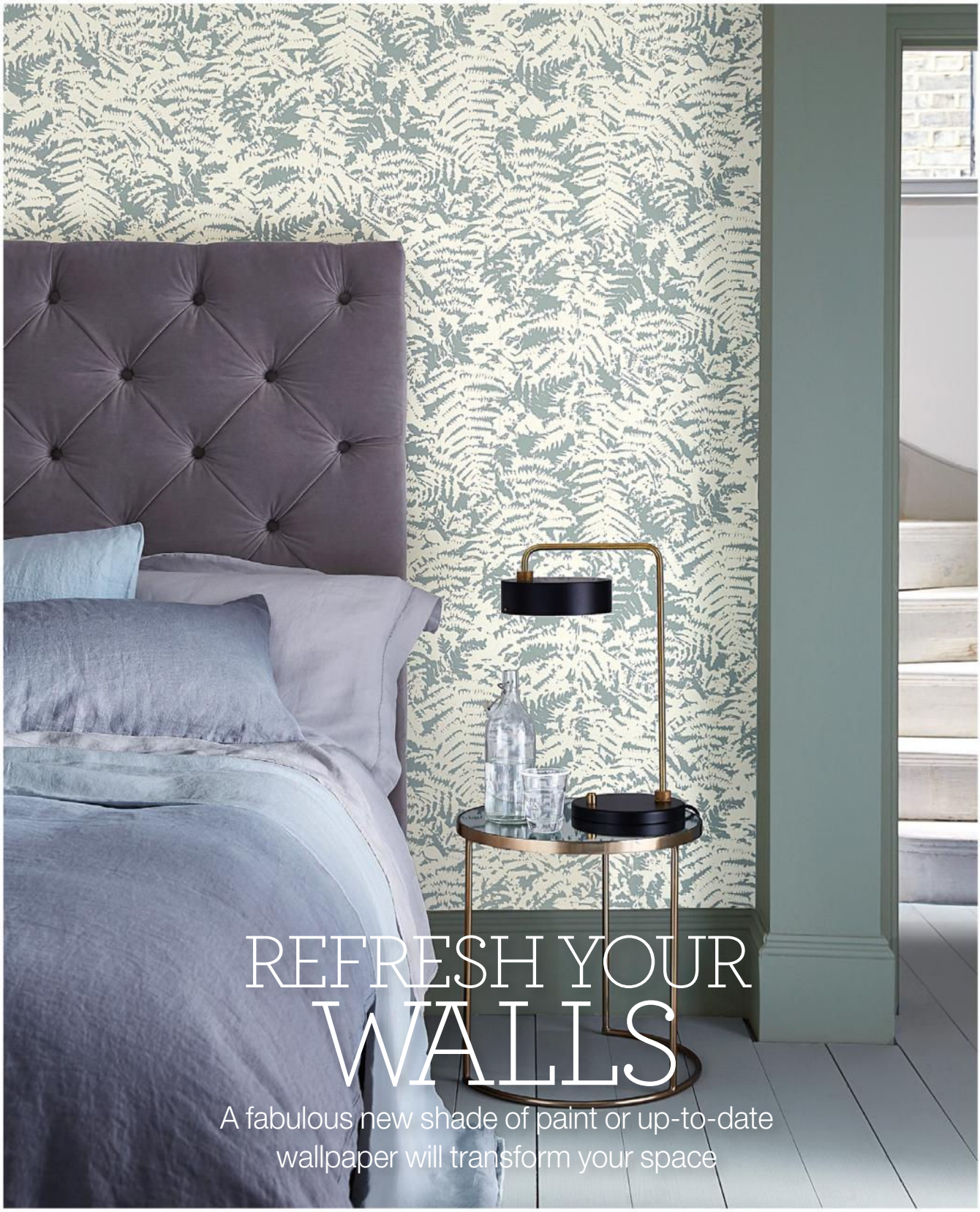


A blue back panel shows off plain white china. Shaker cupboard, John Lewis of Hungerford

* Coloured glass splashbacks look smart but must be templated and professionally cut to allow for sockets. Try Ikea's Fastbo melamine panels, from £10 (not suitable behind a gas hob).
* Dust and grime dull the colours in carpets and rugs. Contact a local carpet cleaning contractor through the National Carpet Cleaners Association (ncca.co.uk).

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS CAROLINE RODRIGUES



REFRESH YOUR WALLS

A fabulous new shade of paint or up-to-date wallpaper will transform your space

A fine tradition ● Choose a delicate repeat design for a restful bedroom. This type of pattern works well if used either on all four walls or just behind the headboard ● Muted tones will enhance a classic setting. Fern Sage Blue wallpaper, £66.50 a roll ● Ground the scheme by painting the skirting, architrave and other woodwork a coordinating shade such as Livid Intelligent eggshell, £54.50 for 2.5L ● If your floorboards are in good condition, painting them will instantly revitalise the space ● Bone China Blue floor paint, £28 for 1L; all Little Greene



Modern classic ● This beautiful simplified damask wallpaper was inspired by a 19th-century print and has recently been given an update in three new colourways, including Peignoir and Worsted, above. Tessella BP 3601 wallpaper, £86 a roll, Farrow & Ball ● Alcove cupboards and shelves have been painted in a complementary colour. Choose vases and crockery in simple shapes and neutral tones to keep the look refined and unfussy



Standout style ● Draw attention to a rich, deep colour by framing it in a pale painted border. This will create impact without being too dark. Use the lighter shade on the ceiling and paint the skirting board and coving white for a crisp feel. Cover the walls in the pale shade first and when dry use Frogtape to define the darker area. Paint up to the edge of the tape ● Plimsoll 655 and Wattle V 565 pure flat emulsion; both £42.50 for 2.5L, Paint & Paper Library



Utility chic ● Magnetic Blackboard wallpaper is a great alternative to chalkboard paint and isn't just for children's rooms – it's ideal for a home office or study area but you could also use it in the kitchen or hallway ● Iron particles in the vinyl paper make the surface receptive to magnets so you can hang notes or photos on the wall and it's suitable for scribbling reminders in chalk too ● Magnetic Blackboard wallpaper, £32.50 for a 100cm-long roll, Sisters Guild



Graphic impact ● Capture the geometric pattern trend by painting a design of large shapes in complementary shades. Draw out your design in pencil and protect edges with masking tape before painting ● Allow each colour to dry for at least four hours before starting the next. Orchard Pink, Graphite, Skylon Grey, Storm and Yes Your Honour matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5L; all Fired Earth

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Clean lines ● Create subtle impact in the hallway by painting the top and bottom halves of the wall in two shades of the same colour ● Keep the look stylish by choosing tones from a soft palette ● Section off the wall and paint the lower half and the skirting board in the darker shade and the paler one above ● Warm Welcome (bottom) and Sneaky Peak (top) matt emulsion; both £20 for 2.5L, Crown



Natural opulence ● Blooms don't have to be bold and bright. Mandaleen from the Flora Sandbergica collection brings a sense of tranquility with delicate pencil-drawn peonies for a subtle take on a traditional style ● Using a different print from the same collection, such as Growing Garden, in an adjacent room will create a coherent look. They both cost £68 a roll from Sandberg ● White woodwork keeps the look simple and chic



Contemporary drama ● The elegance of this near-black wall is taken up a notch by the addition of a shelf painted in the same dramatic shade – Rainy Slate emulsion, £36 for 2L, and eggshell, £23 for 0.75L, Paint by Conran ● A metal hanging rail provides a handy space for utensils ● Keep accessories simple – a few well-chosen pieces can have an amazingly sculptural look positioned against such a dark backdrop



Refined elegance ● Make the ceiling seem higher by painting the skirting boards the same colour as the walls. Spotswood Teal aura matt, from £21.50 for 0.94L ● Highlight a cupboard door with darker, toning Everard Blue advance high gloss, from £21 for 0.94L, and add a surprise inside a cupboard with Damask Yellow aura eggshell, from £23 for 0.94L; all Benjamin Moore



Vintage adventures ● As an alternative to papering an entire wall with a repeat pattern, you could use a large-scale antique-style map mural as an eyecatching and interesting feature ● Boston Harbour comes on a roll of five 45cm-wide pieces to cover an area 225cm wide by 174cm high and is easy to apply with wallpaper paste. It costs £153 for a set from Lexington

WORDS JACKY PARKER

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

TRANSFORM YOUR FLOORS

From carpets and rugs to vinyl and laminate, these are the season's latest looks



Striped carpet in bold colours instantly adds personality to the stairs, hallway and landing and can make the space feel larger than it really is. WFS1 Wool Audrey Sunrise, £140 a sq metre, Crucial Trading

CARPET

* Carpet for the bedroom can be in a lighter weight than elsewhere in the house as it won't be subject to so much wear. Living rooms on the other hand will need something more hardwearing * For an easy-clean solution, try stain-resistant polypropylene – especially if you have children or pets * Look for the Quality Mark, which guarantees that the suitability claims made by manufacturer are true. This can be found on products by Brintons, Brockway, Cormar, Ryalux, Ulster, Victoria, Westex and Woodward Grosvenor * Don't forget to factor in the cost of underlay and fitting when planning your new carpet. Quality underlay and a professional fit will keep your floor looking good for longer













1 **Easy clean** Sublime Saxony textured silk-like carpet has a super-soft feel. In 100 per cent Polyamide and 14 colours, it's available in a five-metre width for larger rooms and costs £29.99 a sq metre, the House Beautiful carpet range at Carpetright 2 **Subtle appeal** You can't go wrong with a grey carpet, which will create a smart backdrop for a colourful or pared-back scheme. Bell Twist in Mineral, £39.99 a sq metre, Brintons 3 **Floral flair** This design is a gorgeous modern twist on a classic pattern. Bloomsbury in Tea Rose, 80% wool, 20% nylon, woven Axminster is £63 a sq metre from Ulster's Boho collection 4 **Tartan touch** Haldon Forest plaid could tie in with a cosy or contemporary scheme. It's 80% wool, 20% nylon, and costs £64 a sq metre, The Myth & Moor range, Axminster Carpets 5 **Designer collaboration** This fabulous design by Margo Selby is £99.95 a sq metre from Alternative Flooring 6 **Seeing stripes** Give hallways and landings a makeover with striped carpet. Wool BS110 in Biscayne Pacific is a bold colourway and costs £67 a sq metre from Crucial Trading

A pale plain carpet or rug will help make a room seem more spacious, whereas a patterned one adds interest and a more cosy look

Rugs

* Measure up the space before you buy and choose the largest size that will fit. Ideally the rug should be big enough to line up with a sofa or large piece of furniture * Before buying check the cleaning instructions and consider how easy or difficult it will be to mop up any spills and stains * Flatweave or low-pile styles are practical as they're easier to vacuum







1 **Sun worship** Cover up old scuffed floorboards or scruffy carpet with a rug in subtle shades that brings dreamy sunsets to mind. The Ember ombre-effect rug in wool and viscose costs from £179 for 60cm x 120cm from Woven 2 **Flower power** This free-flowing and painterly design will add life to a neutral scheme. Tetbury Meadow hand-tufted wool rug, 140cm x 200cm, £375, Bluebellgray 3 **Neutral thinking** A rug in a natural colourway and texture can look fantastic on a wooden floor. Colours Claudine Grey Thick Knit Rug, 120cm x 170cm, £70, B&Q

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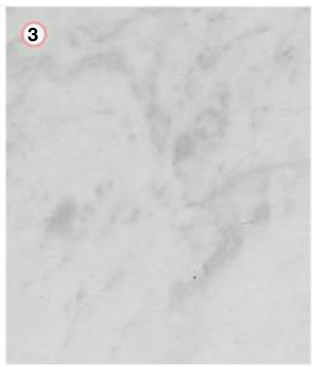
WORDS HAYLEY GILBERT

LVT, VINYL & LAMINATE

* LVT is a luxury vinyl tile that imitates the character and grain of real hardwood or the texture of natural stone and is much more cost-effective, long lasting and easy to clean than the real thing. For the best finish, have it installed by an experienced floor fitter * Laminate also copies the look of timber or stone but can be installed by a competent DIY-er as most designs come in a click-together format. It can also be laid over existing flooring with a sheet of underlay beneath * Sheet vinyl is the best choice if you're on a modest budget. It comes on large rolls and can be cut to fit your room perfectly, usually with no seams or joins, for a durable and waterproof finish













1 **Wet zone** Gerflor's Primetex range of loose-lay sheet vinyl is extra-tough yet cushioned for comfort. It's slip-resistant, waterproof and has an anti-fungal layer, so is perfect for kitchens and bathrooms. In Verone Grey, it costs £19.99 a sq metre 2 **Just an illusion** For a wood-effect laminate with a stony look, Tile Giant's Impressive Concrete Wood Effect Light Grey Laminate costs £19.99 a sq metre 3 **Bargain buy** Lifestyle Floors' Designer Floors collection includes a range of wood- and stone-effect LVT. Italian Marble from the Galleria range, £16.49 a sq metre, has a natural stone look 4 **Pale and interesting** A competent DIY-er should be able to install this laminate flooring. Quick-Step's Impressive collection includes Natural Pine, £19.99 a sq metre 5 **Modern style** Bilbao, a pale grey herringbone wood-effect sheet vinyl from Leoline's Stonemark collection, costs £24 a sq metre 6 **Dark matter** Use the same flooring throughout the downstairs for a continuous look that can really open up the space. Van Gogh Wood Reclaimed Redwood LVT flooring, £34.99 a sq metre, Karndean

ENGINEERED WOOD

* Engineered wood flooring has a decorative hardwood layer on top of layers of wood or board fixed at right angles to minimise the effects of humidity and movement * This makes it more suitable for kitchens and bathrooms than solid wood, as it won't expand and contract as temperature or moisture levels change * The general rule when fitting the floor is to lay the planks in the direction that makes the room look bigger – so across for more width or longways for more length

Engineered wood can be sanded and refinished once or twice to revive it after everyday wear and tear







1 **Space enhancing** Create a busy pattern with narrow planks. Oak Arctic is a one-strip engineered oak floor with a brushed finish, bevelled edge and matt lacquer prefinish. It's £46.80 a sq metre from the Kahrs Spirit Unity collection at Carpetright 2 **New England style** Brighten a dark room with Hygena Soft White click-together engineered wood planks, £29 a sq metre, Homebase 3 **Great oak** Stay traditional with a simple surface design. Woodland Wild Mushroom oak planks have a subtle sanded and oiled finish, £69.95 a sq metre, Fired Earth

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



Use vinyl floor tiles to create a rug effect in the centre of the room. This Lattice design by Dee Hardwicke for Harvey Maria is shown in Cherry Red and costs £42.95 a sq metre

SPLASH OUT ON A SOFA

Find the perfect mix of style and comfort for your relaxation



Introduce some Scandi cool with the Elton Snuggler, from £640, Arlo & Jacob

CORNER SOFAS

* These family-friendly designs offer flexible seating options. Stretch out in comfort on a sofa with a chaise end or choose one with a matching footstool that can be moved around as needed * Modular sofas with individual left- and right-hand pieces, corners and armless sections can be rearranged as you wish, or separated to be used as chairs. Opting for different fabric covers for the separate sections can look stunning * To check that the sofa isn't too large, won't block your way through the room or interfere with the opening of a door, cut out and tape together a newspaper template of the shape of the sofa and lay it on the floor. But bear in mind that this won't give a true idea of the sofa's bulk * If you're shopping for a version with a sofa bed option, test the mechanism in store to make sure it's easy to operate and that, when it's closed, you can't feel the bed frame through the seat cushions



1 **New direction** The addition of the chaise on this Snowdrop sofa in Teal Belgian linen (H90cm x W224cm x D166cm), updates a classic English shape, £2,150, sofa.com 2 **Classic style** Sink into this generous sofa from the House Beautiful collection at DFS. Four scatter cushions and two bolsters are included and there's a choice of chrome, pale or dark wood feet. Sophia three-seater corner group in Grey combination (H91cm x W252cm x D303cm), £1,998, DFS 3 **Sleep tight** Trundle out the base of the Albie corner storage sofa bed in Denim Haze (H90cm x W247cm x D147cm), £999 from Made, and everyone gets to put their feet up; or make it up as an occasional bed. The chaise end includes storage 4 **Contemporary style** Tapered oak legs complement the tailored shape of this sofa. Pimlico lounger in Reading Grey (H80cm x W227cm x D150cm), £885, Sofas & Stuff 5 **All change** Switch the sections of the Soderhamn Corner 2+2 sofa in Finnsta Turquoise (H83cm x W291cm x D291cm, £1,195), Ikea, or add a footstool or a one-seat section. The covers are in hardwearing, machine-washable microfibre 6 **Comfy combo** A timeless design adapted as a corner arrangement, Ashford sofa in Belgian Soft Twill Light Natural (H96cm x W265cm x D159cm), £1,450, Next

FOOTSTOOLS

* Go for contrast. An upholstered footstool is great for adding pattern and colour to a neutral scheme and, unlike a sofa, is easy to re-cover or replace if you want a change * To gain additional storage select an ottoman, which is simply a footstool with a lid and hollow interior * A design with legs will have an elegant look that's great for smaller rooms. Solid legs suit a rustic, country feel, while turned legs with castors are classic and stylish, as are X-frame supports. Metal legs have contemporary appeal * A large footstool can double up as a coffee table and is an excellent option for using with L-shaped sofas

If you intend to supply your own fabric, check its suitability with your furniture supplier first



7 **Circular motion** The Astley barrel-shaped pouf is neat enough to be able to tuck out of the way when not in use (H47cm x 42cm dia). In neutral Astley Grey fabric it has buttoning and piping and costs £150 from Laura Ashley 8 **Mid-century modern** Inspired by G Plan designs from the 1950s and 1960s, this eyecatching design is upholstered in a bright fabric from a choice of 16, and has American walnut finish legs. G Plan The Fifty Three footstool in Fleck Blue (H38cm x W66cm x D51cm), £310, John Lewis 9 **Printed finish** Everyone gets to put their feet up at once on this extended design. Myers Designer large bench stool in Poppy Pod Saffron and Crystal Smoke (H40cm x W150cm x D45cm), £405, Barker and Stonehouse

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Change the look of your room by introducing patterned upholstery. Designer Large sofa in Designers Guild Brera Linen Denim, £4,175; Petite chair in Designers Guild Perosita Indigo, £2,155; Tableau Large footstool in William Yeoward Kinvara Indigo, £710; all Delcor

SMALL SOFAS

* Even when buying a small sofa, consider the access to your living room. Measure the height and width of doorways and note any awkward turns in passageways or on stairs * Some styles come with removable arms or legs that can be attached once delivered, which helps if the access is tight. Take accurate measurements and, if in any doubt, show photos of the space to the salesperson in store * A design with legs extends the view of the floor, making the room appear bigger * The depth of a sofa can be as much as a metre, so opt for a shallower style to save more space * Compact designs are perfect as extra seating in a dining area, hall or bedroom. Look for something simple that's designed for occasional use * Though traditionally made sofas cost more, the price reflects the quality of the frame, the springing and the natural materials used to build up layers of padding, which is often done by hand * Sprung seats and backs have a firmer feel and a tailored appearance, while feather cushions give a more relaxed look



1 **Style setter** The curved arms of this retro design take up very little space allowing more room for the comfy sprung seat. It comes in five colours and a coordinating armchair is also available. Momo two-seater sofa in Teal Blue (H83cm x W150cm x D83cm), £395, Habitat 2 **Clever texturing** Neat arms give more seating space in the angular Cameron small sofa in Brisk Teal (H86cm x W154cm x D93cm), £799 from Sofa Workshop 3 **Relax back** This design has flared arms and a contemporary style that you can adapt by choosing from a vast number of fabrics. Also available in medium size and as an armchair, Small Arlo sofa (H88cm x W154cm x D83cm), from £499, John Lewis 4 **Two tone** The mid-century-styling on this seat includes a large-scale Zeno dogtooth patterned fabric from Designers Guild and piping and button detailing. Le Cocktail two-seater sofa in Noir (H74cm x W94cm x D52cm), £585, Oliver Bonas 5 **Investment buy** Available in a range of sizes, this style has a solid hardwood beech frame. Chelsea medium fixed-back sofa (H86cm x W157cm x D96cm) in Romo's Linara Reef fabric, £4,691, Delcor 6 **Little wonder** With a high back and neat shape, this would fit into a small space. Alpine sofa (H86cm x W127cm x D83cm), from £839, Multiyork

LOVESEATS & SNUGGLERS

* Wider than an armchair and narrower than a standard sofa, a loveseat or snuggler is ideal for a smaller space, such as an alcove * The seat height and depth make a big difference to comfort, especially if you're short, so rather than checking measurements online, visit a showroom and try before you buy * Pick an unusual shape, bright or patterned fabric, or contrast piping and buttons to create a fabulous focal point

Try before you buy! Make sure you can sit right back and still have your feet on the ground



7 **Cosy up** Snuggle into the feather-wrapped foam seat cushions of the Flapjack Loveseat in Midnight Plush Velvet (H85cm x W119cm x D100cm), £1,245, Loaf 8 **Two timer** There's plenty of room for sharers on this buttoned beauty manufactured in the UK. Bloomsbury Loveseat in Harbour Wedgwood (H76cm x W147cm x D102cm), £1,256, Harveys 9 **Ultimate comfort** Whether upholstered in the cool Dove Grey cotton/linen shown here or in warm wool, the Marlborough Snuggle chair (H80cm x W130cm x D95cm), £795, from Within, is a striking piece

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS CAROLINE RODRIGUES

TREAT YOURSELF TO A NEW BED

Statement style or pared-back chic – sleep soundly in the perfect choice for your scheme



Set off a new bedstead with layers of warm blankets, bedspreads and faux fur throws. Foxtail upholstered bedstead in Elk, £825, Button & Sprung

DIVANS AND BEDSTEADS

* Carefully consider the size of bed you need. Standard doubles are about 135cm x 190cm, but if you or your partner are tall, a king size gives an extra 10cm in length while a super king is the same length but 30cm wider * Where possible, buy the divan base and mattress together to get a good feel for how firm and comfortable the mattress is * Bedsteads offer more decorative options than divans. A base with static slats gives firm support, or choose sprung slats if you want more give * Measure up before you buy to make sure a new bed won't overwhelm the space. However, if you have a large bedroom, buy the biggest bed your budget allows for extra comfort



1 Elegant appeal Upholstered by craftsmen in Wiltshire in a choice of house linen, linen cotton or cotton, a double Neston bedstead costs from £809 from Willow & Hall **2 Natural thinking** Get your mattress just right with fleece wool and cotton overlaying Vispring's springs in a choice of tensions. Double Elite mattress and base, £2,420 **3 Classic charm** For a traditional look, try an upholstered frame with scrolled head and footboards. The Avoca is £1,179 from Darlings of Chelsea **4 Subtle style** An understated design will complement any scheme, whether modern or traditional. Classic Curve bed with two drawers, £720, Bed Monkey **5 Retro vibe** With its tall profile, this Burnt Orange bedstead, £579 from Stay In Bed, will add impact. It's also available in other colours **6 Night-time drama** A truly imposing bedstead that doesn't cost a fortune. It looks fantastic with plain white bedlinen. Double Rococo Noir bed, £499, Newtons Furniture

An upholstered bed in a strong colour, with a tall headboard or ornate frame, will dramatically change the look of your room

STORAGE BEDS

* Keep clutter at bay by storing spare bedding and pillows in practical underbed drawers * Alternatively, go for a standard bed frame and buy your own storage boxes to slot underneath. The Holding Company and Ikea both have good ranges * Other options include lift-up bases, where the entire base of the divan is used for storage



1 Easy access The Roomie storage bed comes with handwoven baskets to fit the recesses beneath. Leave it super simple or add a headboard. Double base, £745, Loaf **2 Lift off** Store masses in the Hypnos Pillow Top Sapphire mattress divan base, £3,897, with the Eleanor-Slim headboard, base and mattress **3 Flexible design** Open up half the base for storage. The Studio range has many colour and style options. Double bed with pocket memory mattress, £799, Silentnight **4 Comfort zone** Dark grey is a bold neutral and makes a relaxing base for a scheme. The Ardennes double divan with Tempur mattress has four drawers, £1,939, Furniture Village

WORDS HAYLEY GILBERT. * ALL PRICES ARE FOR A DOUBLE BED, EXCLUDING MATTRESS, UNLESS STATED

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WOODEN BEDSTEADS

* Wooden bedsteads tend to have a contemporary look * As there's no bulky base they're easy to move and assemble and create a spacious look in a room * Most come with sprung slats or solid timber slats for a more sturdy feel. Both allow the air to circulate freely * If you don't want to overpower the decor, choose a pale finish, or to make a statement, go for a dark wood, painted or lacquered finish * The frame should last a lifetime so all you'll need to do is update the mattress every eight to 10 years * The most cost-effective timber is pine and as it's fairly neutral it will work well with most schemes



1 **Mid-century chic** Inspired by 1950s furniture, the walnut Novak king-sized bed, £1,895 from Heal's, is imposing but not overwhelming 2 **Pure and simple** The Ashwell double bedstead, £750, Laura Ashley, comes in five colours, including Duck Egg. It has matching freestanding bedroom furniture 3 **Retro choice** An updated classic, the Wardley four poster, 216cm high, in chalked oak, costs £1,995 from Neptune 4 **Eco option** Warren Evans handcrafts its beds from FSC UK-certified wood in its environmentally friendly workshop in London. Beds are made with mortise and tenon joints for strength and longevity. The Verona double costs £510 with half-length fitted drawers at £105 each 5 **Well crafted** For high style on a budget, Ercol has teamed up with Next to produce a sophisticated range that includes the Hartwell bedstead, which has a slim spindle design on the headboard. The king size is £799, Next 6 **Classic beauty** For a coordinated look try classic oak furniture with a matching wardrobe, chest of drawers and bedside table. Arlingham bedframe, £675, Corndell Furniture

Great for a small room, the slim outline of a bedstead with a floor space underneath means it doesn't look bulky

METAL BED FRAMES

* Although metal has a retro feel, styles do include contemporary, classic and industrial * Aluminium is lightweight so easy to move around; iron beds are usually ornate and more expensive; brass is the most traditionally used metal and is a mid-priced, mid-weight solution



1 **Boudoir style** In classic black or ivory gloss, this traditional Harlow metal bed frame, £149, Very, has a lovely fleur de lis detail and bold finials 2 **Metallic trend** With its slim profile and brass finish, the Alana double bed, £399 from Made, is a modern take on a classic 3 **Old school** Get the *Bedknobs & Broomsticks* look with the Castello bedstead from Marks & Spencer. In Cream, Black or Pewter, the Edwardian-style cast-steel frame comes with gold-coloured finials and sprung-beech slats. It costs £399 for a double

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



Create a chic look with the French-inspired Etienne low-end sleigh bedstead, £1,100. The Décor Matelassé throw is £65, Lotus flower pendant shades, £30 each, and Rose Mist bedside table, £275, all from John Lewis



Colour splash
Change your room to reflect the seasons by adding cushions and throws in warm autumnal hues and an arrangement of pretty plates above the bed. Penzance plates, from £6; Timmy bird plates, £15 each; Beech Leaf jacquard double duvet cover, £80; pillowcases, £30 a pair; Evie Triangle bedspread, £120; Intarsia Ditsy bedspread, £100; Multi-weave throw, £75; embroidered flower cushion, £35; all from Dickins & Jones Home at House of Fraser

ADD FINISHING TOUCHES

A few carefully chosen pieces will create a beautifully coordinated room





Beautiful accents

1 Gold rush
Choose a fabulously bold colour such as yellow and introduce it in a few key items. Rectangular Mustard cushion, £35; Riley side table, £475; Zandi feather wall decoration, £295; Cabe brass and wood pendant light, £115; all Graham and Green

2 Smart choice
Lift a plain bathroom with accessories and patterned towels in rich, neutral hues. Copper Striped and Duck Egg Diamond towels, £6 each. Soap dispensers in Diamond, Aqua and Copper, from £3.50; all George Home

3 Quiet zone
Jazz up a work area with contemporary colour-linked accessories and let your inspiration flow! Wild Wood clock, £29.95; Task light, £69.95; 746 phone in Marble, £64.95; all Wild and Wolf. Geo Circles print, from £40, Roddy & Ginger

4 Home gallery
Create a photo gallery with monochrome frames. 12 App frame, £100; Grey wooden frame, £35; Drink champagne framed poster, £45; Year in Memories frame, £180; all The White Company

5 My old china
Display stylish crockery and utensils on open shelving. Fokus black and white tray, £62; Siirtolap black and white storage jar, from £39; Wild & Wood serving board, £45; Just my Cup of Tea cups, £13.50 each, Harlequin and Zigzag Coffee mugs, £13.75 each; all Amara

6 Tribal gathering
Transform a neutral scheme into something special with striking accessories with a hint of the global nomad trend. Shard cushion (left), £50; Dorado cushion, £20; wooden bowls, from £35 each; Sloan rug, £99; all Barker and Stonehouse

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Off the wall Rugs with particularly eyecatching patterns can make wonderful wall hangings, too. A lightweight one could be fixed with self-adhesive Velcro. Team with similarly themed patterns and colours for added impact. Kalkan rug (on wall), £160; Diamond Shadow pouffe, £120; Navy cushion, £40; Faro cream bobbly cushion, £45; Secto Victo pendant, £585; all John Lewis





Special effects

1 Shelf life
Update your storage with a touch of utilitarian chic such as this black iron wine rack, £98; there's also a set of two matching baskets, £55; House Doctor at Design Vintage

2 Prints charming
The simplest way to give your bedroom a spruce up is with beautiful bedlinen. A patterned set can add real impact to a scheme. Marks & Spencer's Loft range is good value and there are plenty of pieces to mix and match. Loft Bed in a Bag double duvet set, £35; Floral cushion, £12; Geometric cushion, £15; Diamond woven throw, £29.50; Graphic kilim, £59; Soft mirror, £35

3 Natural element
Dress up simple white shelves with a carefully curated display of vases and plant holders. Rattan baskets add a warm, rustic feel to the clean white space and look gorgeous with lush green plants. Earthy coloured vases complement the natural fibres. Baskets from £24; vases from £12; all Bloomingville at House Envy

4 Sing the blues
A plain white bathroom can be refreshed with a blast of colour, and adding a laundry basket is an easy and inexpensive way to do this. Team with towels in a similar tone to balance the look. First Dibs laundry basket, £65, Loaf

5 Bit on the side
Create a stylish arrangement on a sideboard, combining wooden finishes and warm tones. A large mirror anchors the arrangement. Patsy copper mirror, £175; Nottingham copper floor lamp, £195; Apex faceted glass lamp, £60; Taka earthenware vase, £35; Fenick colour drip vase, £20; Willis check rug, £170; all Habitat





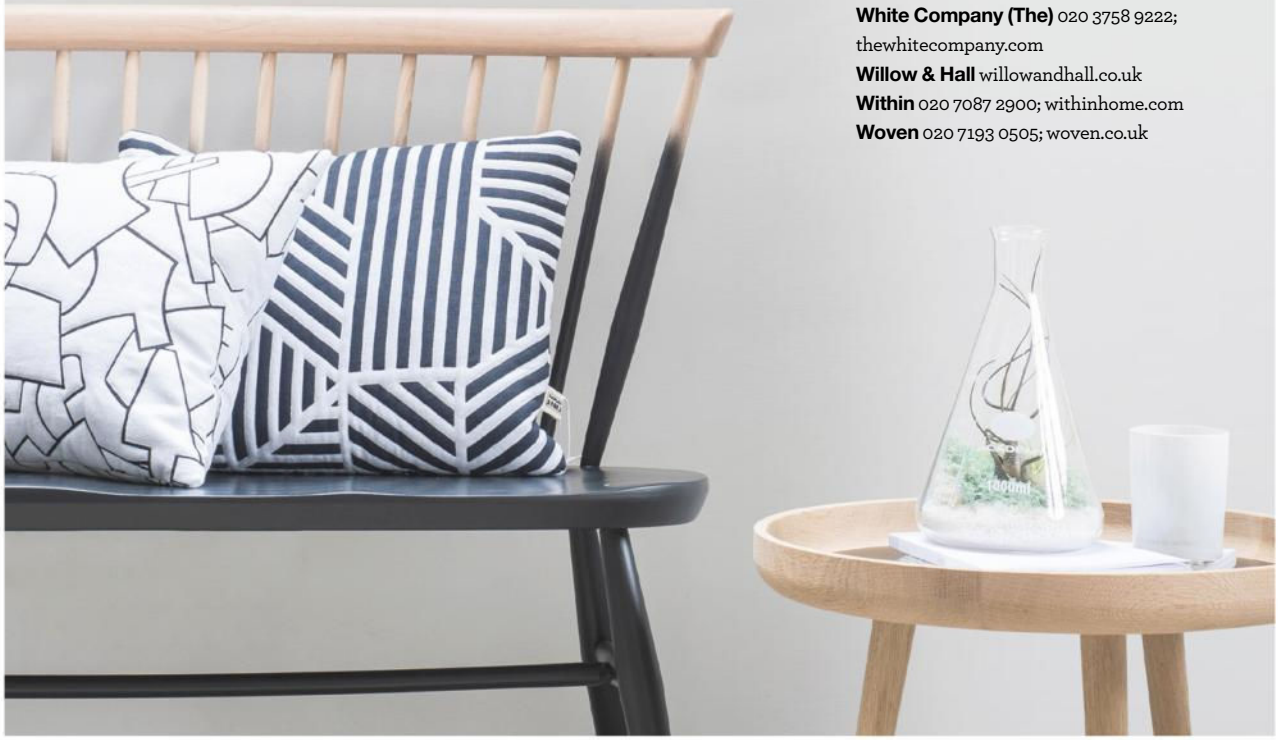


WORDS JACKY PARKER

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WHERE TO BUY

Alternative Flooring 01264 335111; alternativeflooring.com
Amara 0800 587 7645; amara.com
Axminster Carpets 01297 630650; axminster-carpets.co.uk
B&Q 0333 014 3098; diy.com
Barker and Stonehouse 0333 920 6705; barkerandstonehouse.co.uk
Bed Monkey bedmonkey.com
Benjamin Moore 01753 575756; benjaminmoorepaint.co.uk
Bluebellgray 0141 221 0724; bluebellgray.com
Brintons 0800 505055; brintons.co.uk
Button & Sprung buttonandsprung.com
Cormar Carpets cormarcarpets.co.uk
Corndell Furniture corndell.com
Crucial Trading 01562 743747; crucial-trading.com
Darlings of Chelsea 020 7371 5745; darlingsofchelsea.co.uk
Delcor delcor.co.uk
Design Vintage 01273 558675; designvintage.co.uk
DFS 0808 250 8287; dfs.co.uk
Farrow & Ball 01202 876141; farrow-ball.com
Fired Earth 01295 814396; firedearth.com
Furniture Village 0800 804 8879; furniturevillage.co.uk
George Home 0800 952 3003; george.com
Gerflor 01926 401500; gerflor.co.uk
Graham and Green 020 8987 3700; grahamandgreen.co.uk
Habitat 0344 499 1111; habitat.co.uk
Harvey Maria 0845 680 1231; harveymaria.co.uk
Harveys 0344 847 2626; harveysfurniture.co.uk
Heal's 020 7896 7451; heals.com
Homebase 0345 077 8888; homebase.co.uk
House Envy 01656 863412; house-envy.co.uk
House of Fraser 0345 602 1073; houseoffraser.co.uk
Ikea 020 3645 0000; ikea.co.uk
John Lewis 0345 604 9049; johnlewis.com
Kährs 023 9245 3045; kahrs.com
Karndean 01386 820100; karndean.co.uk
Laura Ashley 0333 200 8009; lauraashley.com
Leoline leoline.co.uk
Lexington 00 46 8 54 55 58 00; lexingtoncompany.com
Lifestyle Floors lifestyle-floors.co.uk
Little Greene 020 7935 8844; littlegreene.com
Loaf 0845 468 0698; loaf.com
Made 0344 257 1888; made.com
Marks & Spencer 0333 014 8555; marksandspencer.com
Multiyork 0333 358 3567; multiyork.co.uk
Neptune 01793 427450; neptune.com
Newtons Furniture newtonsfurniture.co.uk
Next 0333 777 8000; next.co.uk
Oliver Bonas 020 8974 0110; oliverbonas.com
Paint & Paper Library 0845 880 5844; paintandpaperlibrary.com
Paint by Conran 0845 094 9030; paintbyconran.com
Quick-Step quick-step.co.uk
Roddy & Ginger roddyandginger.co.uk
Sandberg 0800 731 9622; sandbergab.se/en
Silentnight 0800 242 5481; silentnight.co.uk
Sisters Guild sistersguild.com
Sofa Workshop 0808 256 3586; sofaworkshop.com
sofa.com 0345 400 2222
Sofas & Stuff 0808 178 3211; sofasandstuff.com
Stay in Bed stayinbed.co.uk
Ulster ulstercarpets.com
Very 0844 822 2321; very.co.uk
Vispring 01752 366311; vispring.co.uk
Warren Evans 020 7693 8988; warrenevans.com
White Company (The) 020 3758 9222; thewhitecompany.com
Willow & Hall willowandhall.co.uk
Within 020 7087 2900; withinhome.com
Woven 020 7193 0505; woven.co.uk



PHOTOGRAPH GAP INTERIORS/DAVID CLEVELAND

READER EVENT



Learn how to create your own room scheme



From planning to perfection

Join us for a style masterclass... and enjoy a fantastic day out

Meet the House Beautiful interiors team and the designers at DFS for an exclusive, fun day out and discover how to transform your space. With advice from the experts, you'll create your own moodboard and learn how to choose the perfect sofa for your home. There'll be the chance of a one-to-one consultation with interior stylists and the House Beautiful team will talk you through the secrets of styling your room. By the end you'll have all the knowledge and confidence to achieve your dream look.

* There will be time to visit the nearby DFS showroom where you can choose your favourite sofa with help from HB.

* To apply for tickets: please email events@housebeautiful.co.uk stating how many tickets you'd like and giving a daytime phone number. We will call you to take your credit card details. The minimum age is 18.

* Please note that the DFS photographic studio where this event will be held is a fabulous but old building with limited facilities for people with mobility requirements. Please discuss before booking if necessary.

ALL THE DETAILS

Date Tuesday 15 November 2016
Venue The Mill, Darley Dale, Derbyshire
Time 10.30am-3pm
Cost £40 to include welcome coffee, light lunch, expert talks, moodboard materials plus a generous £150 discount voucher from dfs.

In association with dfs

COLOUR confident

Industry experts tell us why green should always be seen in our homes



PRECIOUS PIGMENTS

Select vibrant shades to add a sense of luxury

Choose this feel-good colour as a reminder of summer all year. Invisible Green (above) works well with Rose Pink or pair with Stone White for high contrast. Team with rich brown or burgundy red leather upholstery for statement style.

EDWARD BULMER
NATURAL PAINT

Mad King George is a versatile jewel-like hue that's a joy to have in your home. Use it as an accent in a palette of charcoal and soft grey for a contemporary look, or take the plunge and have it wall-to-wall, adding bright red or hot pink accessories.

SARAH FOSTER
FIRED EARTH



Invisible Green natural emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint



Mad King George matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Fired Earth



OCEANIC HUES

Make your space deep and meaningful with soulful greens

Flamboyant in bright light, Vardo (above) is a wonderful teal that works perfectly with reds or dark greys. It also has a fabulous depth and richness when used in darker areas. Partner with Down Pipe and copper accessories for a sultry scheme.

CHARLOTTE COSBY
FARROW & BALL

Shades of jade and emerald create an opulent feel, so are perfect for using in bedrooms and relaxation areas. For a sophisticated look, paint areas flooded with natural sunlight in Amalfi Coast and complement it with pale pinks and whites.

KASIA WIKTOROWICZ
VALSPAR



Vardo estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball



Amalfi Coast matt emulsion, £26.98 for 2.5L, Valspar at B&Q

FRESH OR SULTRY?

Greens fall into these two camps. If you opt for the fresh side of the palette, use accessories with clean lines and add in funky, floral motifs. If the sultry side of the spectrum appeals, keep these moody hues lively with bursts of colour-clash pinks and yellows.



LEAFY TONES

Consider options that suit classic and contemporary schemes

Ubud Forest (above) is a laid-back hue with blue undertones that's particularly good for living rooms with a lack of natural daylight. It's perfect for creating a cosy space and is a beautiful and unusual backdrop for pastel shades.
TREVOR BRADFORD
COLOUR AND PAINT

This colour was a favourite of the Victorians but is equally suited to modern homes when used with fresh white or plum. A fabulous alternative to grey, Sage Green is deeply serious in shady corners and lighthearted in sunnier positions.
DAVID MOTTERSHEAD
LITTLE GREENE



Ubud Forest deep flat matt, £33 for 2.5L, Mr & Mrs Smith at colourandpaint.com



Sage Green absolute matt emulsion, £38 for 2.5L, Little Greene



NATURAL STYLE

Go for soft and sophisticated tones with hidden depth

Bring spaces in your home to life and add a vibrant sense of warmth with this bold and saturated colour. Stokes Forest Green (above) is a bright, leafy shade that works well against crisp white and with muted pinks, lilacs, and browns.
HELEN SHAW
BENJAMIN MOORE

A matt emulsion finish emphasises the beauty of this sumptuous shade, inspired by the yellow shrub Dyer's Broom mixed with blue. Partner Apple Smiles II with a fresh green and off-white to create a wonderfully peaceful space.
RUTH MOTTERSHEAD
PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY



Stokes Forest Green regal select matte and flat, £18 for 0.94L, Benjamin Moore



Apple Smiles II pure flat emulsion, £42.50 for 2.5L, Paint & Paper Library

WORDS JO ATKINSON

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE ★ FIND MORE COLOUR INSPIRATION AT **housebeautiful.co.uk**



GREEN LIGHT

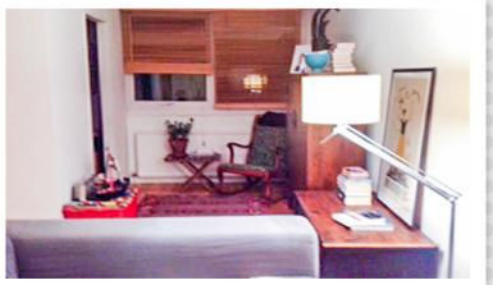
Deciding it was time to get rid of a bright rug led one couple to transform their living room.

Rebecca Jones and her husband Thomas, both in their mid-forties, live with their children Hazel, 12, and Edwin, 10, in a 1960s three-storey townhouse in Twickenham, south-west London. They bought the property in October 2012, having relocated to the UK from the United States for work 13 years ago. Some time after moving in, they set about re-planning the living area.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

CONTRASTING COLOUR
A black floor lamp ties in with both the tables and the frames of the prints that inspired the colour scheme

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

SHIP FURNITURE FROM AMERICA

SELECT A LOCAL INTERIOR DESIGNER TO HELP

INSTALL BUILT-IN CUPBOARDS AND SHELVING

DECIDE ON A MAIN COLOUR



CURTAINS
With large windows, too much volume or a complicated pattern could have looked fussy, so the neat curtains in a plain textured fabric are perfect

RUG
The seating area is defined with a black and white rug, which is a strong but neutral base for the green theme

CHAIR
An old but sound Parker Knoll chair bought on eBay has been reupholstered in colourful woven fabric

FLOORING
Oak is a practical choice that gives a feeling of age and looks smart with the off-white walls



CLASSIC DESIGN
Using a new sofa as the starting point for the design, Rebecca opted for a mid-century style in keeping with the age of the house



STORAGE
The television is concealed in a cabinet

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SAYS...

'The look is up to date and individual with a relaxed feel helped by the fitted storage. Keeping the scheme green with black and white accents has given a fresh look.'

Were you looking for a 1960s house?
Not particularly – we're not hung up on older properties; we're more interested in space and light. Before this we lived in a 1950s flat, so this was a great opportunity to buy a house with lovely big rooms set on several levels. The living room is on the first floor and runs the depth and most of the width of the house, so it has windows at both ends, and there's plenty of potential to create zoned areas. We didn't do anything to it at first, but eventually decided it needed to be sorted.

Tell us what your priorities were...
I absolutely didn't want the television to be the focal point – but in a place that is comfortable for viewing and hidden away when not in use. Also I was keen to bring colour and character into the room.

Why did you employ an interior designer?
Both of us have demanding jobs, so I met up with a local interior designer, Becky Hayes, who was recommended to me. She suggested a bank of units and shelving, built to our specifications. She also had good local contacts, advised on online shops where we could get great deals, and narrowed down the choices for fabric.

Had you used a designer before?
No, but I'd definitely do so again. My aunt Jane is an interior designer, so the process was familiar to me. The cost was modest, considering it took away so much of the work. As Americans we didn't have an instinctive knowledge of where to go and buy the things we wanted.

Were there any important pieces to include?
There were three pieces shipped over from America that we wanted in the room: a wooden cabinet, my grandmother's rocking chair; and an old decorated box. Everything else was new as we needed to replace furniture we bought when we first moved here.

What inspired the colour scheme?
One thing we thought worth keeping was a big red and white rug but, as Becky said, it was such a statement piece we either needed to plan our whole scheme around it or get rid of it – so we sold it. We decided on the 1950s-style sofa and chose a lovely olive green for it. Becky suggested bringing up from the kitchen two framed pictures by Kitty Wingate that have green in them and this became the starting point.

You found a clever solution for the TV...
The built-in shelving and cupboards along one wall have a custom-made section where the television is hidden behind doors. There's also plenty of room to store DVDs and CDs, as well as display special photographs and pottery. As we have family so far away it's nice to place pictures of them where we can see them every day.

What were your thoughts about the study area?
We aimed to keep it separate but not closed off, so we carried the oak flooring all the way through and painted the walls the same colour. I'd always wanted an orange filing cabinet, and in the end we moved the opening along slightly so we could fit in a good-sized one. We decided to really go for it and added some geometric wallpaper along one wall.

Was it tricky to dress the windows?
Not once I found a great local soft-furnishing company that made up the curtains and blinds. The windows at the front of the house are very large so a lot of pattern would have looked too busy. I love the simplicity of the full-length curtains in a green textured fabric with their traditional pinch-pleat curtain heading. For the smaller windows overlooking the garden, we had plain cream blinds made, which finish off the look beautifully.

● For information on Becky Hayes, visit rebeccahayesinteriors.co.uk or call 0771 042 9352

IN DETAIL



FURNITURE
The wooden cabinet was shipped over from America, while the 60s rocking chair has been reupholstered. Artwork by Steve Keene reminds the couple of America



STUDY AREA
A filing cabinet in a bright orange accent colour fits in well with the rest of the scheme

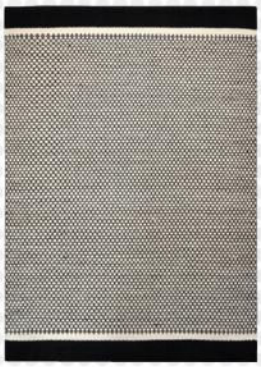
GET THE LOOK



Zuse **armchair**, £189, Very



House Doctor DK **magazine rack**, £36, At No67 Concept Store



Beau **rug** (120cm x 170cm), £219, Furniture Village

WHAT IT COST

Living room

Paint	£118
Furniture	£3,829
Cabinets and shelving	£1,675
Flooring	£2,080
Curtains and blinds	£2,500
Fabric	£340
Rug	£230
Lighting	£390
Total	**£11,162**

Study

Wallpaper	£184
Desk	£400
Rug	£150
Filing cabinet	£200
Total	**£934**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

THE NEW LAYOUT

Giving the room a new colour scheme and linking it with the small study has created a cohesive space



SHOPPING LIST

LIVING ROOM Walls painted in Shaded White estate emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Mistral four-seater **sofa** in Boucle Wool Olive, £1,995; Asko **rug** by Linie Designs, £230; both Heal's. Holly **armchair**, £730; **footstool** in Olive cotton matt velvet, £340; both sofa.com. Parker Knoll **chair** reupholstered in Cocota Peony, £85 a metre; **cushions** made up in striped fabric, Umbala Peony, £85 a metre; both Romo Fabrics. **Curtains** made up in Geneva Vintage Sapling; **rocking chair** re-covered in Geneva Vintage Rioja; both £30 a metre, Villa Nova. Engineered pre-oiled oak **flooring**, £51.99 a sq metre, The Natural Wood Floor Company. Marset Funiculi **floor lamp**, £230, Nest. Akari **table lamp**, £160, Aram. Ercol Originals **coffee table**, £419; **nest of tables**, £685; both Barker & Stonehouse. **Radiators**, £725 each, Heat and Plumb. **STUDY AREA** Orange **filing cabinet**, £200, Bisley. Prism **wallpaper** by Cole & Son, £92 a roll, Wallpaper Direct. Copenhague **desk**, £400 in sale, Nest. **Rug**, £150, John Lewis HB

WORDS STEPHANIE SMITH. **PHOTOGRAPHY** COLIN POOLE. **PLAN** CHRISTOS PINIATIDES


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Sofa Workshop head office: 2nd floor, Mill Pool House, Mill Lane, Godalming, GU7 1EY.

Cushion IMPACT

Update your living room with eyecatching patterns and autumnal hues



DAWN SKY
Evoke the dramatic atmosphere of an autumn sunrise with a graphic print in layers of purple. Geo cushion, £7, George Home



INVITING TEXTURE
Traditional patchwork unites velvet and linen to make a bold statement. Geo block cushion, £65 from The Conran Shop



CARNIVAL FEVER
The South American pattern trend continues in more muted colours. Nenton Falseria cushion, £140, A Rum Fellow



GO GLOBAL
Embrace this season's trend for all things artisan with the tactile woven texture of the Chevron cushion, £32 from Oliver Bonas



EARTHY TONES
Sophisticated shades have been hand-printed onto linen and the cushion is hand-sewn. Dune, £55, Gail Bryson



AUTUMN LEAVES
Muted hues of dusk pink and olive green bring warmth to a neutral scheme. Sand Storm Kilim cushion, £52, Yonder Living



NATURE'S DREAM
Be inspired by the ethereal, painterly patterns in a winter's sky with the Abstract velvet cushion, £30, House of Fraser



TIMELESS STYLE
Woven in lambswool in West Yorkshire mills, Anna-Lisa Smith's Iro cushion, £95 from Liberty, is simple yet striking

WORDS AMY NEASON

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



OUT IN THE OPEN

A dramatic plan to remove a staircase and a ceiling opened up enough space to create a modern classic kitchen.

Emma Allman-Shuttleworth, 43, an interior designer, her husband Paul, 46, and their four children, Charlie, 12, Greta, 11, Rae, eight, and Lois, six, moved into their five-bedroom Victorian semi in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, in April 2014. After renovating the rest of the house, they turned their attention to the kitchen.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

FEATURE WALL
Emma has created a green wall with pots that hang from bars. The plants are mainly artificial and keep this corner looking bright

FLOORING
Pale oak panels unify all the areas on the ground floor

LIGHTS
Bringing an industrial touch, the simple fittings with exposed bulbs are eyecatching above the island

ISLAND
A slim unit with a breakfast bar runs along the kitchen area

STOOLS
Echoing the industrial feel of the lights, the stools are a mix of wood and metal

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

GET PERMISSION FOR EXTENSION

APPOINT DESIGNER AND FINALISE LAYOUT

DECIDE ON A COLOUR SCHEME

FIND TABLE AND CLASSIC CHAIRS



KITCHEN
The painted units have a pared-back classic look, brought to life with the colourful Spanish tiles



WINE RACK
Panels left over from the kitchen were used to build the base, with Victorian waste pipes that Emma found at a reclamation yard for £4 each

Have you done a lot of work on the house?
Yes, we've renovated every room and done everything from the electrics to replastering in a year-long project that has also included building an extension and putting in the new kitchen. We stayed in the house for the whole time it was being done, apart from seven weeks in the summer when we moved into a caravan.

Was it obvious what to do with the kitchen area?
The layout downstairs was a real mish-mash, so we had to think very carefully about how to create the open-plan living space we wanted. The couple who lived here before us were elderly, and the dated kitchen at the back had to go. It was used as an osteopath's practice at some point and a set of stairs led to a treatment room on the first floor, which was above the kitchen, making the ceiling low. I think the odd layout had put lots of potential buyers off, as the house had been on the market for two years.

Tell us what you did
We removed the staircase and the ceiling – it was a bit scary looking up and seeing nothing! Then we reinstated a higher ceiling and used the space where the staircase had been to install a proper kitchen and island unit. Around the corner was space for a dining table and, once we extended, it made a U shape looking out onto the garden.

How did you decide on the layout?
It made sense for the main run of units to go along the back wall and round under the window as before, but we were able to add a slim island with a breakfast bar for casual dining. We needed a new range cooker, but other appliances were in good repair.

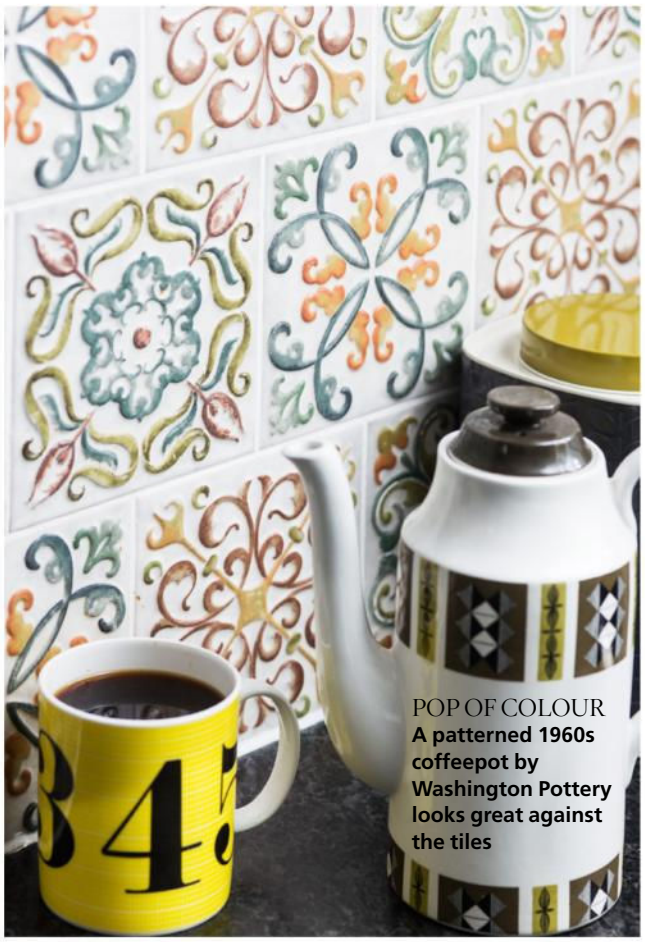
You've gone for quite a contemporary look…
In the past I've done retro and I've done modern, so this time I chose modern with a traditional twist. Painted wood appealed to me, and I used the same kitchen company as in my previous house because I was really impressed with its customer service. The insides of the units are all solid oak and really well made. I'd decided on oak throughout the ground floor, so I didn't want more unpainted wood.

The colours work well together
I avoided having anything too bright for the basics as it's easy to add colour with accessories, and I fancied very dark grey or black for most of the units. But I knew that would be too oppressive for the whole kitchen, so the standalone cupboard and the island are in a paler grey, as well as the walls and steps. The whole house has been painted in shades from the same palette of greys, so the kitchen easily links with the living room alongside. The units and island each have an icy-white worktop as a contrast.

You've managed to introduce some bright accents…
The Spanish tiles add plenty of colour. They have apple green to match the wall in the dining area, as well as blues and greys, which complement my mid-century crockery.

How long did it take and how much did it cost?
Although it was a year-long project overall, the kitchen/diner and extension must have taken up at least half of that. It cost about £30,000 for all the building work with another £2,000 for the kitchen fitting, plus, of course, all the units and appliances on top of that.

● **For details about Emma's business, visit decoretc.co.uk**



POP OF COLOUR
A patterned 1960s coffeepot by Washington Pottery looks great against the tiles



DINING AREA
A Victorian table has been upcycled by Emma and teamed with replicas of Verner Panton classic chairs

IN DETAIL

THE NEW LAYOUT

Reconfiguring the room by dividing it into user-friendly areas has resulted in a sociable space



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SAYS...

'The different living areas are separated so it doesn't feel like a vast open space. They have good colour links while the dark units with vibrant accessories work perfectly.'

GET THE LOOK



Stanza dual- fuel 90cm **range cooker**, £1,799, Britannia Living



Metal **wire basket**, £24 for a set of four, Quince



Bakula ceramic **tile** (12.5cm sq), £95.36 a sq metre, Topps Tiles

SHOPPING LIST

Walls painted (grey): Night Jewels 6, (dark grey) Night Jewels 1, (yellow) Tarragon Glory 4 matt emulsion, £18.99 for 2.5L; on woodwork (grey): Night Jewels 5, (yellow) Tarragon Glory 5 eggshell, £21.60 for 2.5L; all Dulux. English Revival modern **painted units** in Prosecco, Castle Grey and Anthracite, £24,000, Mereway Kitchens; quartz **worktops** in Blanco Star, £400 a sq metre; Rangemaster dual-fuel **range cooker**, £1,500; all Kite Kitchens. Mont Blanc **oak flooring**, £31 a sq metre, Goodfellow Inc. Porcelain **lights** with Edison bulbs, £42 each in sale, Blue Sun Tree. White Turner industrial **swivel stools**, £79 each, Cult Furniture. Victorian **dining table**, £299, House Clearance Emporium. Panton replica **chairs**, £59 each, Pash Living. Velvet **cushions**, £38.50 each, Parker & Arrol. Bygel **rails**, £2 each; white and green **pots**, 75p each; Fejka **artificial plants**, £3 to £6 each; green **clock**, £20; all Ikea. Sprouts **tea towel**, £11, Lush Designs HB

WHAT IT COST

Paint	£100
Units	£24,000
Worktop	£3,000
Range cooker	£1,500
Furniture	£969
Flooring	£930
Lights	£126
Total	**£30,625**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS STEPHANIE SMITH. **PHOTOGRAPHY** COLIN POOLE. **PLAN** CHRISTOS PINIATIDES



Bay Leather Republic
COLLECTION

harveysfurniture.co.uk

Woodford Chair in Olive leather from **£899** and Bryony Storage Coffee Table from **£369**

Harveys

Perfect PERCH

A high stool can be tucked away to save space, making it an ideal kitchen addition



SO STREAMLINED
A solid weathered oak seat and a simple frame offer pared-back style. Sahara bar stool, £128 from Sweetpea & Willow



SPINNING AROUND
The seat of the smart Twist stool can be adjusted to different heights. In Copper or Eau De Nil, it's £125 from Cox & Cox



COLOUR BURST
Available in 200 colours, the Cord Industries bar stool, £200, notonthehighstreet.com would suit any scheme



TRUE BLUE
Thanks to a hole in the seat, Ikea's Raskog bar stool is easy to move, and it's affordable too, at just £20



PERFECT CURVE
With a handmade look, the Talia stool, £85 from Habitat, has a curved seat that contrasts with its slim legs



UP AND AWAY
Rockett St George's angular Svalbard bar stool with mango wood seat is adjustable and costs £79



RAISE A GLASS
Inspired by a champagne cork, the Bouchon bar stool, £275 from John Lewis, would bring a fun touch



INDUSTRIAL LUXE
Featuring metalwork and solid wood legs the Woodpecker, £108 from Shabby Store, would add rustic style to a kitchen

WORDS CHIARA DESANTIS

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Textura kitchen in Sand Oak, with Zeluso matt Oyster units, from £10,000, Crown Imperial

SENSATIONAL SURFACES

Add an extra dimension to your space with advice from Tony McCarthy, commercial director at Crown Imperial

* Woodgrain-effect textured cabinets add character to a kitchen. Look out for designs ranging from classic oak to more dramatic walnut styles.
* Textured surfaces will also add a sense of luxury. When a subtle mix of finishes is used for units, worktops and flooring, it creates a layered look that can help to unify an open-plan room.
* Organise the cooking area with easy-to-reach open shelving and fit half-height wall units above to hide clutter and frame the space.
* However, when space is limited, use the full floor-to-ceiling wall height to maximise storage and integrate appliances for a streamlined look.
* Plan ahead and measure properly to ensure there's enough room around an island unit to open cabinet doors and the pull-down door of a dishwasher.
* Visit a showroom that enables you to try out innovative designs and interior storage fittings in store, so you can judge their practicality before you decide whether or not to incorporate them into your new scheme.

GOOD IDEA



WELL SERVED

Bring style to your table with this striking slate and acacia wood serveware collection from Judge Cookware. The smart contemporary designs, which include a serving platter with handle (above), £20; a cheeseboard with a dome, £30; and a Lazy Susan, £33; would bring a modern rustic edge to mealtimes.

WORDS ANDREA MANLEY

Kitchen NOTEBOOK

Best new trends, expert advice and timesaving innovations

Whirlpool's new SupremeClean dishwasher, £599, has a PowerDry option that eliminates steam and leaves everything completely dry when the cycle ends.

3 OF A KIND... FRIDGE-FREEZERS



▲ Trigger fast-freeze from the supermarket or activate energysaving holiday mode at the airport with this WiFi-enabled model controlled via an app. No need to defrost. **6th Sense Live Nofrost, £999.99, Whirlpool**



▲ With a side-by-side design, this option includes separate fridge and freezer temperature controls, two large fruit and veg drawers and a frost-free freezer. **AFF90185 American style, £629.99, Lec**



▲ This freestanding model comes in Red, Green and Water Blue and has a quiet 39dB noise level, LED lighting and Smartfrost technology to prevent ice build-up in the freezer. **Colourline, £499, Liebherr**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



LUXE RETREAT

Rejigging their bathroom, while remaining mindful of conservation area constraints, has given one couple a sophisticated space.

Karen Stonehouse, 48, and her husband Graham, 51, bought their Grade II listed house in west London, in 2011. Their ensuite was cramped, dated and dark so the couple removed a wall separating it from the adjacent shower room and transformed the area into a luxurious bathroom.

CONTINUED OVER NEXT PAGE

TILING
The walls around the double-ended bath have been partially covered in a pale grey tile that blends with the scheme

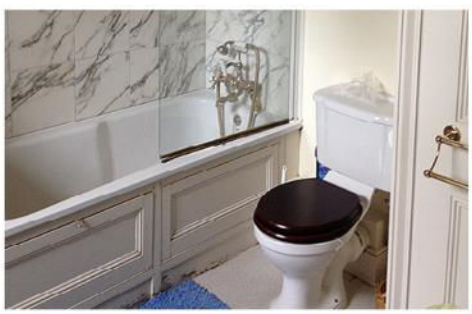
BATH RACK
Toiletries are easily accessible in the classic wooden tray

WALL UNITS
Mirrored fronts and bespoke cupboards help the room feel bigger

WALK-IN SHOWER
Karen felt that a flush-to-floor shower enclosure would be more practical than a wet room

FLOORING
Hardwearing porcelain tiles keep the room light and bright

BEFORE



ACTION PLAN

REMOVE WALL BETWEEN ENSUITE AND SHOWER ROOM

PLAN THE SCHEME AROUND TWO WINDOWS WITH HELP OF INTERIOR DESIGNER

MAXIMISE STORAGE



WINDOWS
Double-tier shutters let in plenty of light and fit neatly behind the bath mixer

HOUSE BEAUTIFUL SAYS...

'A made-to-measure vanity unit fits the space exactly, giving a streamlined look and masses of storage, while soft colours bring a sophisticated edge to the room.'

Why did you decide to create a bigger bathroom?
Our ensuite was small and an odd shape. Fortunately, there was a shower room right next to it so it seemed a worthwhile solution was to knock the two rooms into one. This would create the bright, spacious bathroom we were after.

Who helped visualise the new room?
I'm very lucky that my sister, Hilary White, is an interior designer and has fantastic spatial awareness. Since conservation area regulations meant the windows in the ensuite and old shower room couldn't be moved, Hilary used this as a starting point and came up with an innovative scheme. The walk-in shower is in front of the smaller window, now partially obscured with etched glass, while the bath is under the larger one.

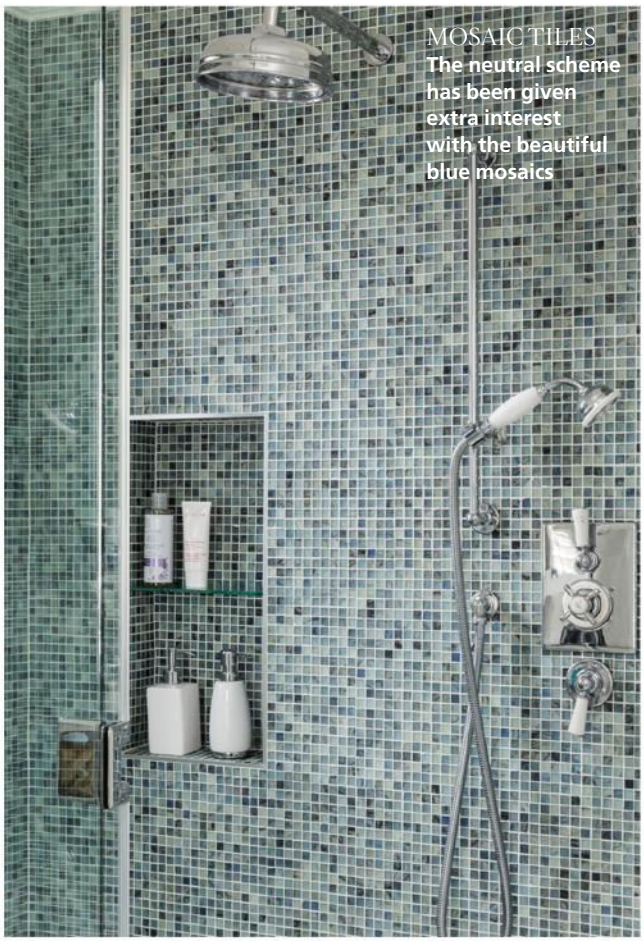
What were your priorities?
We wanted a generously proportioned space that would feel really restful – somewhere to unwind after a busy day as Graham and I both have very frantic working lives. It also needed to be practical, with a large bath, walk-in shower and plenty of storage space. Graham loves colour, while I prefer neutrals, so Hilary's compromise of a chalky palette with blue accents really appealed to both of us. Her 3D plan was incredibly helpful, while her ability to source good quality products within our budget definitely saved us from making expensive mistakes.

Who did the work and how long did it take?
The bathroom took about four weeks as part of an overall nine-month house renovation, and our architect recommended the builders. The rooms were gutted, the wall removed and a steel beam inserted before the bathroom was replumbed, rewired for the LED lights, replastered and fitted out. I was nervous about having a wet room since I'd heard stories about leaks so, instead, I went for a flush-to-floor shower tray, which I feel is more practical but still stylish. Keen to have plenty of good storage, we came up with the design for the bespoke double-basin vanity unit, which keeps everything neatly out of the way.

Being without a bathroom must have been difficult…
Thankfully, we were renting a property elsewhere at the time.

Is there anything you'd change?
Not a single thing! Hilary's choice of colour and the detail pulls everything together beautifully. Her practical suggestions of choosing off-white grout rather than pure white for the shower area was very sensible. We now have a bathroom that's bright, even on dull days. In the evenings when the lights are dimmed it becomes a relaxing, peaceful sanctuary.

Now that it's all done, what's your verdict?
I was keen to steer clear of a boutique hotel-style bathroom and feel that we've created an elegant, calm ensuite with an excellent configuration that works well for both of us.



MOSAIC TILES
The neutral scheme has been given extra interest with the beautiful blue mosaics



STORAGE
Lots of cupboards and drawers mean surfaces can be kept clear

IN DETAIL

THE NEW LAYOUT

Removing a wall between the ensuite and a shower room has created a luxurious space



GET THE LOOK



Attingham ceramic **wall tile** in Mist, £45 a sq metre, Topps Tiles



Mounted magnifying **sensor mirror**, £149, Simplehuman



Slim bamboo **bath bridge**, £22, Roman at Home

SHOPPING LIST

Starlet double-ended white **bath**, £937; Flush-to-floor white **shower tray**, £1,077; both Bette. Classic deck-mounted **bath shower mixer**, £846; Classic ceramic under-counter oval white **basins**, £307 each; Classic three-hole **basin mixers with pop-up waste**, £451 each; concealed Godolphin thermostatic **mixing valve with sliding rail and shower kit**, £1,126; Classic Apron Rose **shower arm**, £361; close-coupled complete **WC**, £1,315; all Lefroy Brooks. **Underfloor heating**, £275, Thermogroup. Fletching traditional heated **towel rail**, £499, JIS Europe. New England **shutters** painted in Farrow & Ball's All White, £460.76 a sq metre, New England Shutter Company. Bespoke **vanity unit**, £1,500; glass **shower door**, £1,650; both Ma.27 Llp Builders. Indian Ocean Mauritius Port Louis **mosaic tiles**, £134.98 a sq metre; Fenlands hand-decorated matt **wall tiles** in Heron, £269.29 a sq metre; for similar **floor tiles**, try Giotta tiles (59.6cm x 59.6cm), £79.78 a sq metre; all Fired Earth. Waterspring **LED lights**, £51.56 each, John Cullen Lighting HB

WHAT IT COST

Bath and mixer	£1,783
Vanity unit & basins	£3,016
Shower and fittings	£4,214
WC	£1,315
Tiles	£1,545
Shutters	£598
Total	**£12,471**

White **soap dispenser**, £25, Nordic House



FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS JANET MCMEEKIN. **PHOTOGRAPHY** SIMON MAXWELL. **PLAN** CHRISTOS PINIATIDES



GILTY PLEASURE
The Bristan Colonial basin taps, £54.99 from Homebase, come in a gold finish that brings a hint of opulence



RIGHT ANGLE
Angular lines look smart in an understated bathroom. Chrome-plated SimplyU basin mixer, from £418, Ideal Standard



ON A CURVE
With a sleek sweeping spout, the Sublime mini basin mixer, £189 from Bathstore, will sit perfectly in a contemporary scheme



WONDERFUL WATERFALL
The open spout on the Libero single-lever basin mixer, £274, CP Hart, creates a striking cascade effect

Free FLOW

Add wow factor with a basin tap that makes a statement



BEAUTIFUL BLUSH
Make a tap the focal point in any bathroom by choosing a bold metallic finish. Polished copper M-Line mixer, £320 from Ripples



POLISHED CHROME
Designed for a counter-top basin, the Staffordshire 11 mixer will add traditional style, from £597, Victoria & Albert Baths



DARK SIDE
Introduce contrast to a white bathroom with the Aalto basin mixer tap in black, £79.99 from victoriaplum.com



STAND TALL
The long spout on the Plumbsure Crystal 2 lever basin mixer tap, £48, B&Q, will bring an elegant touch

WORDS CHIARA DESANTIS

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EVERYDAY LUXURY

Update your bathroom and enjoy the benefits of a stylish and innovative shower toilet

To create a blissful bathroom that looks great and functions brilliantly it's essential to consider every aspect of your design. Combining state-of-the-art technology with contemporary styling, the chic Geberit AquaClean Sela shower toilet offers a natural way to keep clean that's easy for all the family to use.

The gentle, body temperature water spray is wonderfully refreshing and hygienic. It operates at the touch of a button, either via a control panel on the side of the loo or a handy remote control. There are five levels of spray intensity to choose from and an oscillating motion, so you can adjust the shower to meet your exact requirements for the perfect clean.

With the shower function hidden within the pan, the Geberit AquaClean Sela shower toilet has a space-saving, streamlined look that suits any style or size of room. And thanks to an integrated energy-saving function, the shower loo heats up automatically as you approach it, which means a minimal amount of energy is used, even in standby mode.

Created by renowned designer Matteo Thun, this innovation in loo technology is manufactured by the well-established, leading bathroom brand Geberit.





THE GENTLE, BODY TEMPERATURE WATER SPRAY IS WONDERFULLY REFRESHING AND HYGIENIC



Over the past 35 years Geberit has fine-tuned the shower function and spray – the centrepiece of any shower toilet – to absolute perfection. For added comfort many models also include a dryer, air purification and programmable features for a truly personal experience. The Geberit AquaClean Sela is available as a wall-hung or floor-standing model

To find out more about the benefits of using the Geberit AquaClean Sela shower toilet visit geberit-aquaclean.co.uk

GEBERIT



Camden bath, from £2,722; Henley Troon basin and stand, from £1,900; Arc basin mixer, £642; Hoxton mirror, £776; Henley WC, from £1,044; bidet, from £525; all CP Hart

MONO MAGIC

A black and white colour scheme is a versatile and stylish choice, says Dan Cook, designer at CP Hart

* Black and white's graphic style works particularly well in functional rooms such as cloakrooms and bathrooms.
* Teamed with white sanitaryware, black basins give a new dimension to traditional shapes and create stunning silhouettes.
* Consider including a feature piece of furniture or even a freestanding bath to inject an element of colour into a monochrome scheme. Opt for a strong shade for extra impact.
* The position of the soil pipe is normally the biggest restriction when it comes to re-designing a layout and it will dictate the position of other items in the room. Bear in mind that relocating it can take up a significant part of most budgets.
* It's important to create a sense of space if your room size is limited. Opt for a frameless shower enclosure and a large mirror, and reveal as much floor space as possible.
* For maximum impact underfoot, you could lay a checkerboard floor – plain tiles fitted in a geometric design give a classic, architectural feel.



LATEST TREND

RUSTIC CHARM

Featuring opulent patterns and rich berry shades, Matalan's Bohemian bathroom range is super stylish and great value. The fabric-lined laundry basket (H48cm), £20, patterned hand towels, £5, and ombre glass tealight holders would bring a gorgeous hint of autumn colour to update your space.

WORDS ANDREA MANLEY

Bathroom NOTEBOOK

New ideas and expert advice to refresh the look of your room

Combine sleek style and storage with Kartell by Laufen's towel frame range, which fits neatly beneath its washbasins and costs from £360 from Ripples.

3 OF A KIND... HEATED TOWEL RAILS



▲ This curved design has plenty of rails and includes a shelf for storing extra towels. In a chrome-plated finish, it suits a contemporary or traditional scheme and has a heat output of 866 BTU. **Curved rail (H1200mm), £129, victoriaplum.com**



▲ Ideal for ensuites or small bathrooms, this space-saving design fits neatly into a corner and comes in a Metallic Black or Soft White Matte finish. Its heat output is 761 BTU. **Zion corner warmer (H735mm), £495, Bauhaus Bathrooms**



▲ Vibrant and sleek, this steel ultra-modern design comes in more than 200 bespoke colours and would be a striking feature. Its 2450 BTU heat output makes it a good choice for a large bathroom. **Giuly (H1590mm), from £2,110, Iconic Radiators**

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

HOMES TRANSFORMED

CLASSIC • CONTEMPORARY

From whole house revamps to clever room makeovers, be inspired by these projects



HOME PROFILE

WHO LIVES HERE
Louise McBride, 42, her husband Martin, 49, and their sons Jack, 11, and Joseph, eight

THE PROPERTY
A three-bedroom, two-bathroom Victorian flat in Blackhall, Edinburgh



Stainless-steel elements and honey-coloured cedar shingles give a distinctive finish to the exterior and blend well with the brickwork



The bespoke corner glazing gives a wonderful view of the garden, which Louise and Martin landscaped and planted

LOST IN SPACE

The transformation of a tiny Edinburgh flat into a family home is a masterclass in maximising every bit of available room

WORDS CAROLINE EDNIE **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVID BARBOUR

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Many of the pieces around the house are from Habitat, including the sofa, wooden side table and candelabra



Minimal white units from Magnet create the perfect setting for a stunning glass dining table bought years ago by Louise in a Habitat sale

Louise and Martin relax in the living area with their sons Jack and Joseph and dog Nelson

Louise and Martin McBride's transformation of a Victorian apartment in Edinburgh wasn't so much a renovation project as a conjuring trick. The result is quite an illusion and extremely impressive – a tiny flat has been turned into a light, airy and spacious three-bedroom family home.

They tackled this project straight after finishing a major renovation of their previous home – a former grain store and stable in rural Perthshire – having relocated to Edinburgh to be close to Louise's family when she was pregnant with their first child. Although they are both architects, founders of Edinburgh-based Urban Creatures, even they felt they'd taken on too much.

'When we first saw the property the windows were boarded up and our hearts sank!' says Louise. 'It had lain derelict for a few years and had dry and wet rot as well as collapsed ceilings. There were holes in the floor, it had vermin and the toilet was sitting in the middle of the hall – it was horrific. But that was 10 years ago, during the housing boom, and we kept missing out on properties. So we decided to go for it even though it was tiny and we didn't want a flat – we were after a house for our growing family,' she says. 'But it did have a front and back garden and lots of potential.'

In the event the couple bought the flat for £200,000 and set about the transformation in two phases. The first involved knocking the original bathroom, dining room and tiny kitchen into one, forming a large dining-kitchen area. 'One of my pet hates is walking into a house and not being able to see through to the garden,' says Louise.

During these works a surprise was in store in the shape of an internal drainpipe in the small kitchen lean-to. This had been pouring water into the building every time it rained. 'All the mortar had been washed away and the stone was disintegrating, so the back was unsafe,' explains Louise. 'Our original intention had been to put a future extension on the other side of the kitchen but, when we discovered the stone damage it made sense to create the opening there instead and remove all the damaged masonry. It actually turned out to be a better decision as the kitchen was easier to plan.'

Embarking on phase two of their redevelopment became necessary when Louise became pregnant with their second child Joseph, and it was clear a third bedroom would be needed. Converting the existing lounge into a master bedroom and turning a cupboard into an ensuite,





Yellow accessories bring bold, bright accents to the main bedroom with its grey scheme and walnut headboard

as well as extending the living area, provided the solution. 'We wanted the new extension to be minimal, not too fussy,' says Louise. 'The best views at the back of the house look diagonally across the garden. We can't see any other buildings, just other gardens and high trees. You'd never know it's just 10 minutes from Edinburgh city centre, so we designed the large corner-to-corner glass window to take in this view.'

Additionally, and crucially, a large rooflight has also been fitted into the middle of the living area. 'They allow in 30 per cent more daylight than a standard window and, as the kitchen was internal, we wanted some light from above to bounce into the space. It's actually opaque glass and it glows,' Louise explains. The couple designed a white rendered boundary wall to reflect daylight into the extension and did a lot of the building work themselves – Martin was a carpenter/joiner before becoming an architect. During the past few years they've landscaped the garden to make it as low maintenance as possible. Finishing touches were added internally: 'I'm a huge fan of Habitat so the house has lots of items I've bought there over the past 20 years. It was great to bring the black wire and glass Habitat dining table out of storage as at last I had a kitchen big enough to hold it.'

The renovation cost about £110,000 and has significantly increased the value of the flat, which is now worth around £400,000. The family lived at home during the work. 'It's far from ideal staying on a building site with young children,' says Louise. 'But now they have their own den – a small area under the stairs to the flat above that they use as their video games room.

'We've employed every trick to create more room. Though it's a small flat, by extending at the back and creating open-plan spaces with direct access to the garden, it feels a lot bigger than it is.' HB

● **Urban Creatures Architects (0131 629 9454; urbancreatures.co.uk)**

WHAT IT COST

Extension	£60,000
Kitchen	£10,000
Structural work	£10,000
Bathrooms	£10,000
Windows	£6,000
Flooring	£4,000
Garden	£5,000
Decoration	£5,000
TOTAL	**£110,000**



The previous extension was too small

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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BRICKS + MONEY

Stay up to date with the latest property and financial advice

Giving a helping hand

Parents assisting children onto the property ladder is becoming common; these safeguards will protect you all



Thanks Mum! But don't sacrifice your own financial security

The 'bank of mum and dad' is now equivalent to the tenth biggest mortgage lender in the UK, according to research by Legal & General, while financial support from older family members features in one in four property transactions. The average purchase involves a parental contribution of £17,500. So how can parents and grandparents help without damaging their own financial future and retirement?

✶ DONATE THE DEPOSIT

This is the ideal way to assist, says Mark Harris, chief executive of mortgage broker SPF Private Clients. 'The bigger the down payment, the cheaper the mortgage rate. The easiest way is to gift this to the children to put towards their deposit. But it has to be a gift, not a loan, or the lender will factor the repayments into affordability, meaning the child will get a smaller mortgage.'

✶ REMORTGAGE YOUR PROPERTY

'Parents with equity in their home can remortgage or take a further advance to release money to put towards the deposit,' says Mark. Their age may be against them as mortgages usually have to be paid off before retirement, although some building societies – including major lenders such as Nationwide – are reviewing the upper age limits for lending and extending the cut-off to 80 or even 90.

✶ KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

With the National Counties building society's Family Mortgage, parents can use equity in their home to assist their child without remortgaging. Instead the lender takes wider family assets into account so a child with only a five per cent deposit, for example, can benefit from a better mortgage rate than they would otherwise have done.

✶ GOVERNMENT TOP UP

A Help-to-Buy ISA can be opened with an initial deposit of up to £1,000 – which could come from parents or grandparents. Deposits of up to £200 a month can be added, with the Government topping up these savings by 25 per cent, to a maximum of £3,000. The Help-to-Buy ISA is tax free and can be opened from the age of 16.

✶ GIVE YOUR GUARANTEE

Lenders are no longer keen on parents acting as guarantors for children whose income is not high enough to get a mortgage, says Adrian Anderson, director of mortgage broker Anderson Harris. An alternative option could be Barclays' Family Affordability Plan, which is a joint borrower/sole proprietor mortgage. 'Parents aren't party to the property deeds but are liable for the mortgage, along with the child,' says Adrian. 'It gets around extra stamp duty or Capital Gains Tax, which could be chargeable to the parents if the property is deemed a second home. If the child can prove they can afford the mortgage in their own right at a later date, the parents can eventually be released from their obligations.'

Barclays also has the Family Springboard mortgage, where the borrower takes out the mortgage, while family members open a Helpful Start account into which they put 10 per cent of the property price. The borrower doesn't need a deposit. After three years the family members get their money back, plus interest.

✶ A WORD OF WARNING

Mark Harris says: 'Parents should seek legal and possibly tax advice too. It's important that you don't give away money you might need later for your own retirement.'

TWITTER TALK

Switch energy suppliers and reduce fuel bills says Claire Osborne, energy expert at uSwitch.com

@HB When should I switch?
@uSwitchUK Competitive deals are launched all the time, so shop around. The best deal will depend on things like location and average usage
@HB What info will I need?
@uSwitchUK A recent #energy bill will give the details you need
@HB What's the benefit of using a comparison site?
@uSwitchUK You can see the market's best deal for you in seconds and the #switch is handled for you
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@HB Does going dual fuel save me money?
@uSwitchUK Most suppliers offer a discount
@HB Can I switch if I'm in debt to my provider?
@uSwitchUK If you owe under £500 you can switch. If you owe more you could get a cheaper tariff with your current provider
@HB How long does it take?
@uSwitchUK Three days plus a 14-day cooling-off period
@HB What are the benefits of an 'all-inclusive' utility deal?
@uSwitchUK You only pay one bill and there could be discounts
@HB And the drawbacks?
@uSwitchUK It could be cheaper going to different providers, so shop around
@HB Will having a smart meter affect a switch?
@uSwitchUK You may lose the smart functionality of your meter if you move to some suppliers

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

FAMOUS connections

WARMINGTON, BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE



Surrounded by just over an acre of land, Cedar Bank is the former home of actor Richard Harris. There are three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen/breakfast room, dining room with countryside views, family room with woodburning stove and a first-floor sitting room.
Strutt & Parker, 01295 297106

STRATHAIRD, BROADFORD, ISLE OF SKYE



This six-bed house once belonged to Ian Anderson, lead singer in Jethro Tull. In an idyllic setting with views of Loch Slapin, this mainly Georgian home is packed with period features. There's a kitchen/breakfast room, dining room, drawing room, library and a self-contained annex.
Ballantynes, 01738 301798

ANGARRACK, HAYLE, CORNWALL

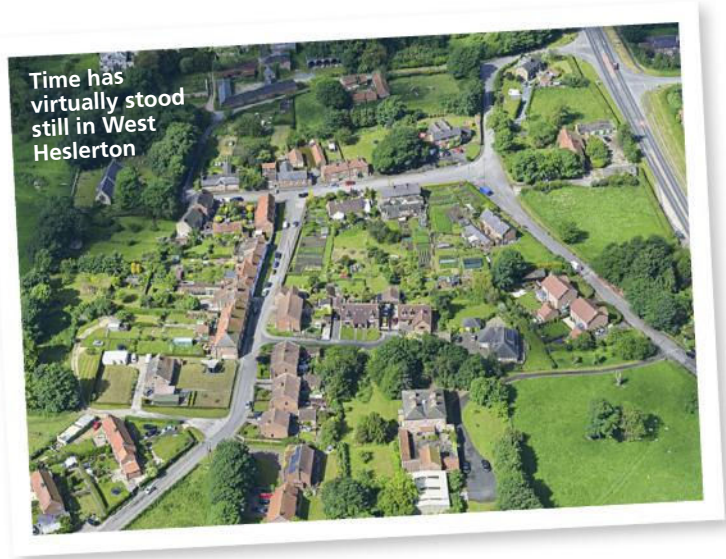


Actress Kate Winslet once owned this detached four-bed holiday home, less than 10 minutes' drive from the beach. Over three floors, it has an open-plan kitchen/dining/living room, bedroom suite with walk-in wardrobe and ensuite, and a self-contained studio in the basement.
The Modern House, 020 3795 5920

TRAWDEN, LANCASHIRE



Built by actress Penelope Keith as a holiday home 25 years ago, this three-bed property is surrounded by lovely gardens and has a stunning reception hall and feature staircase. There's a spacious lounge area, breakfast/kitchen and a garage/office, ideal for working from home.
Keenans, 01282 934076


Time has virtually stood still in West Heslerton

PROPERTY gossip

A whole village in North Yorkshire is up for sale along with a 21-bedroom hall, which hasn't been lived in for 30 years. The £20 million price tag includes 43 houses, a pub/restaurant, a garage, a sports pavilion and playing fields and more than 2,000 acres of countryside in West Heslerton, near Malton. It previously all belonged to the late Miss Eve Dawnay, who died five years ago.

'She was a wonderful lady,' says Tom Watson, a director of Cundalls estate agency, which is handling the sale. 'She was extremely kind and the property rents are, and have always been, very low, which helped keep a community with a mix of ages. Now there are endless possibilities to convert buildings, develop plots and explore commercial opportunities.'



PROPERTY FINANCE SPECIALIST
Melanie Bien
Money expert and founder of Bien Media

Can we take our mortgage with us?

We're thinking about buying a bigger house. Currently we're on a five-year fixed-rate mortgage and would like to transfer this when we move, but have heard this is becoming harder. Is it true?

Taking your mortgage with you when you move to another home is called porting. Borrowers may port their mortgage because they have a very good rate they want to hang onto, or they're locked into a fixed rate and don't want to incur early repayment charges to get out of the deal.

However, while in theory mortgages may be portable, it's at the lender's discretion. You could be refused if the terms have changed – if you need a higher loan-to-value, for example, to enable you to afford a bigger house. Or because circumstances have changed – your income is lower, or you have become self-employed. Affordability criteria are tougher since the Mortgage Market Review was introduced in 2014 so while you could 'afford' your existing mortgage when you took it out, under the new rules this may not be the case. It varies from lender to lender so you may be fine. Seek independent mortgage advice from a broker if your lender isn't prepared to be flexible.

WORDS JAYNE DOWLE. **PHOTOGRAPHS** ALAMY; CUNDALLS SWNS.COM

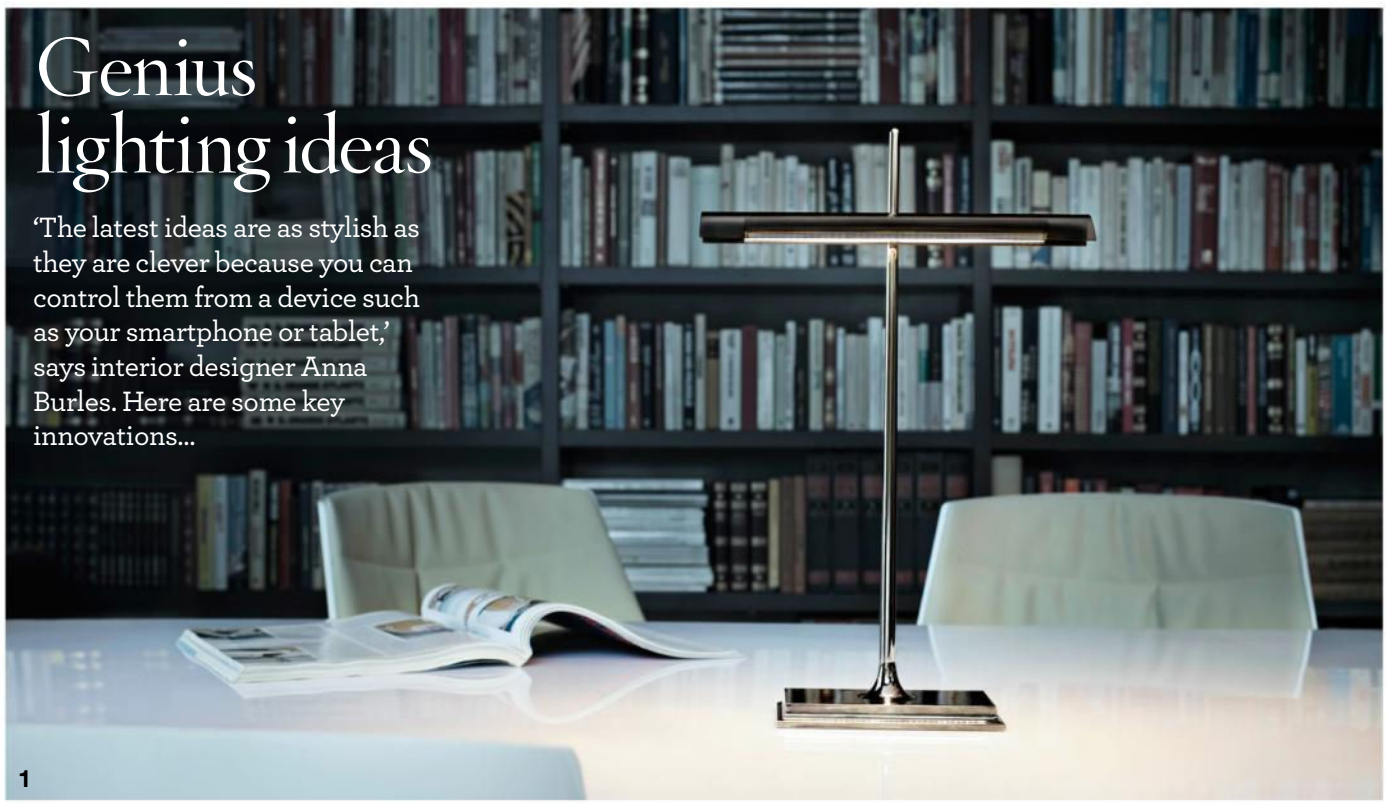

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SMART LIVING

What's new in groundbreaking home technology and the most stylish gadgets around

Genius lighting ideas

'The latest ideas are as stylish as they are clever because you can control them from a device such as your smartphone or tablet,' says interior designer Anna Burles. Here are some key innovations...



1

1 PORT OF CALL
Smart in the sense that it features a USB port to charge your smartphone, the Goldman by Ron Gilad lamp from Flos has classic good looks. It costs £355.

2 BRILLIANT BULB
British Gas's Hive Active Light is a great value bulb that's operated via a smartphone app. It costs £19 and comes with both screw-in and bayonet fittings.

3 SENSOR STYLE
Yet to launch in the UK, this multifunctional light by Sony is activated by sensors when you enter a room, while turning on the TV and sound system.

4 AMBIENT MOOD
Replace your current bulb with the energy efficient Avea



2



3



4



5



6



7

LED Bulb, £39.95, Elgato, to enjoy colourful mood effects controlled via your smartphone, iPad or Apple Watch.

5 SAFE AS HOUSES
The Awox 7W LED Wi-Fi CCTV lightbulb doubles as a security camera controllable from your smartphone or tablet. It costs £119.99 from Lighting Direct.

6 EASY WAKENING
You can set the bedside lights of the LightwaveRF system to come on slowly over an hour, projecting a very natural light effect. Prices start at £25, and go up to £1,000 for a system that will control your power, lighting, heating and more.

7 TOTALLY AUTOMATIC
Many car headlamps when set to auto mode will turn on and

off in response to light levels – and some hi-tech home lights such as the Wemo Smart LED Bulb, £24.99, belkin.com, do something similar. Using your smart device, you can programme the bulb to respond to sunset and sunrise.

8 IN THE MOOD
Precision Lighting provides warm LED lights emitting a candlelight glow that's dimmable. The art-gallery-style system has adjustable beams to pick out key features that you want to highlight. This top-of-the-range option costs from £2,500 for a track with 10 changeable beam and angle lights.





9 REMOTE CONTROL
Samsung's Smart Things system allows you to control and monitor the lights in your home along with the temperature and any small appliances connected to a Smart Plug. One nifty feature sets the lights to turn on when you come home and off as you leave. It costs £199 for a starter kit at smartthings.com/uk.

10 MADE TO MEASURE
Designers at John Cullen Lighting offer bespoke solutions for a single room or a whole house as part of one integrated system including iPad or tablet control. Prices start from £1,500.

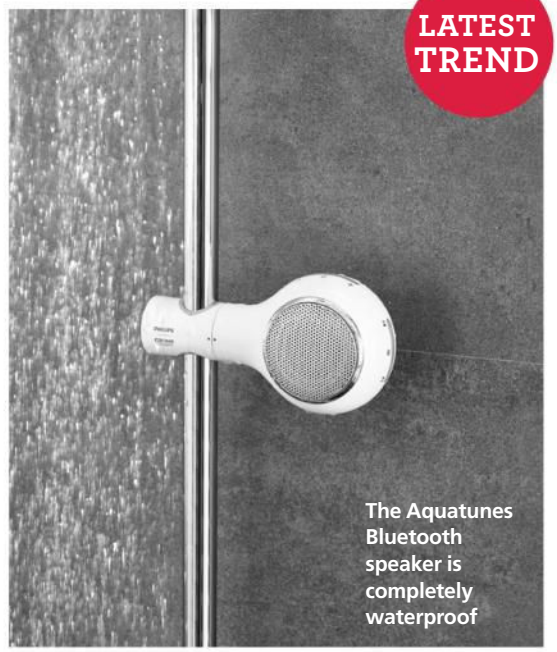
WORDS EMILY PECK

BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL

Anna Burles, of design studio Run For The Hills, offers lighting design advice for style and practicality

* Plan ahead to ensure you position spotlights in useful places – where you need bright light for tasks or to highlight a piece of art, furniture or architectural detail. And avoid arranging them in a grid formation throughout a room.
* Include a mix of side lamps, table lamps, overhead pendants and floor lamps to create layered pools of light.
* Consider light, temperature and colour before you decide on a particular fitting. With LED lights, the standard code for 'warm white' lamps is 3000K or 3000K Kelvin, but there's an even warmer toned lamp, the 2700K, which looks closer to the candlelight warmth of a traditional tungsten lamp.
* Do your research when it comes to bathrooms and wet rooms, which require specially rated fittings and lamps. For instance, not all fittings have to be IP65 rated. It's the proximity to water that determines the rating.
* If installing a mood-lighting control panel is beyond your budget, simply put all of the side lamps and floor lamps in a room on a 5-amp circuit, so you can control them with a single good quality dimmer switch for an instant 'mood control' effect. This creates pools of light throughout the room at the flick of one switch and saves you having to turn each lamp off at the end of the night.

LATEST TREND



The Aquatunes Bluetooth speaker is completely waterproof

SHOWER SOUNDS

Although the concept of singing in the shower may be nothing new, the way we can go about it now is. Warbling along to a favourite tune has just got a whole lot more fun with the launch of Aquatunes Bluetooth speaker by Grohe, £60. The company has teamed up with Philips Sound to design this waterproof speakerhead that sits neatly in your shower or bath and pairs with your smartphone and tablet so you can enjoy your digital music or radio wirelessly within a range of up to 10 metres. It features clearly marked buttons for on/off, volume up/down and previous/next track, which comes in handy when you've got soapy suds in your eyes...

3 OF A KIND... HOME TELEPHONES



▲ The BT 2600 Twin Cordless Telephone, £59.99 from Argos, features a Do not Disturb button that silences the phone when you want a little downtime, while its answer machine has call divert, three-way calling and call waiting.



▲ Simple and stylish, the Panasonic KX-TGK320E Digital Cordless Answering System has an elegant handset, incoming call and message indicator, a nuisance call block, and an energy saving eco mode. It costs £69.99 from Panasonic.



▲ Stunning in design, the iDect Boomerang Digital Cordless Phone, £49.95, John Lewis, would look great in a contemporary interior. Features include a 200 name contacts feature plus the option to check your messages while you're away.

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE ★ FIND MORE HI-TECH IDEAS AT **housebeautiful.co.uk**

Hidden depths

Maximise your space with clever multi-functional furniture



UNDER THE TABLE

Beneath the marble top of the Cook's dining table, £2,795, Heal's, is a sturdy oak base with three drawers on either side, giving lots of room for cutlery, table linen and other dining essentials



HIGH STANDARDS

This ladder-like storage holds plenty of books, with separate stands for magazines and accessories that can be added as you wish. In four on-trend colours and three neutrals, the lacquered ash Verso bookshelf costs £230 from Hem



ON THE BENCH

Lots of storage is hidden under the seat of this practical and stunning piece, which would work well in a living room, bedroom or hallway. Stocksund bench, £200, Ikea

OPEN SESAME

If you don't have space for a study, the Flapps wall desk, £157.50 from clippings.com, makes a nifty work station. Simply fold it down as required and fold away when you're finished



INSIDE JOB

Crafted in walnut, the slimline Hastings nest of side tables, £395, Habitat, offers a stylish way to add extra surfaces when needed





HIDE AWAY

Magazines, newspapers and remote controls can all be neatly concealed under the surface of the Hat Bellilia coffee table, £345, crowdyhouse.com

COVER UP

Perfect for smaller spaces, this chic desk will hide away the clutter of work. Simply close the lid and it transforms into a smart side table. Bureau desk, £1,450, clippings.com



SLEEP TIGHT

With handy storage space for bedlinen, the London sofa bed makes having guests to stay a breeze, £1,995, Furl



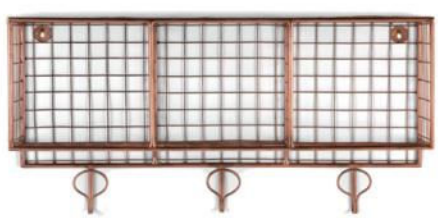


RING THE CHANGES

Based on a retro design, this quirky phone bench, £449 from Bloomingville, provides a place to perch and room to store small items

SQUARED UP

Great in a hallway or bathroom, the Amph wall storage rack, £89, Made, is a stylish shelf and hanging space



WORDS JACKY PARKER

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

- Built to your specifications
- Customisable in 20cm widths
- Endless configuration choices
- Large range of fabrics & leathers
- Adjustable seat & headrest options

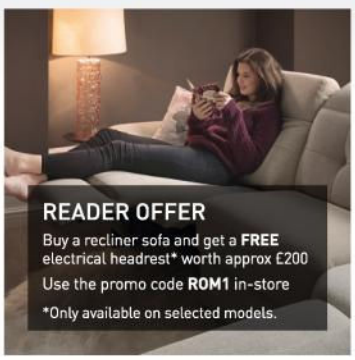
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BETTER THAN BESPOKE

A pine chest of drawers is transformed with 'aged' paintwork, vintage maps and classic metal handles



Wall painted in Mono, £38 for 2.5L, Little Greene. Books, from a selection at Persephone. Basket, find similar at Garden Trading. Corbin throw, £35; Zigzag vase, £15; both Habitat. Coastal mug, £5, John Lewis. Ines rug, from £275, Loaf

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

MAP A NEW WAY



Upcycling experts Jenny Lloyd and Jonathan Parkin give a substantial pine chest a completely new look.



Vintage maps add character to the drawer fronts

YOU WILL NEED

A chest of drawers If buying one, avoid painted or heavily varnished ones as they're much harder to strip.
Map For vintage maps try etsy.com, ebay.co.uk and secondhand bookshops. For new maps try stanfords.co.uk.
Handles Try half-moon shell drawer pull handles in bronze, £4.89 for 12, ebay.co.uk.

To strip the paint or varnish
Sandpaper only (sometimes it's all you need for thin varnish)
OR
Paint/varnish stripper
An old 2-inch paintbrush
A washing-up sponge with an abrasive side
Fine- and medium-grade sandpaper OR
For painted areas, dispense with the stripping and try 'no preparation' paint by Annie Sloan (see below)

To paint
Try Covaplus vinyl matt emulsion, £12.60 for 1L, Johnstone, mixed instore to match Farrow & Ball's Pointing or try Chalk Paint in Original, £18.95 for 1L, anniesloan.com
2-inch paintbrush

To finish the stripped and painted areas
Beeswax with lanolin – try Carr & Day & Martin's Leather Balsam, £13.30, amazon.co.uk
Soft cloths
Map
PVA glue
2-inch paintbrush
A fine file or craft knife and metal ruler
Clear lacquer spray, £6.99 for 300ml, Halfords

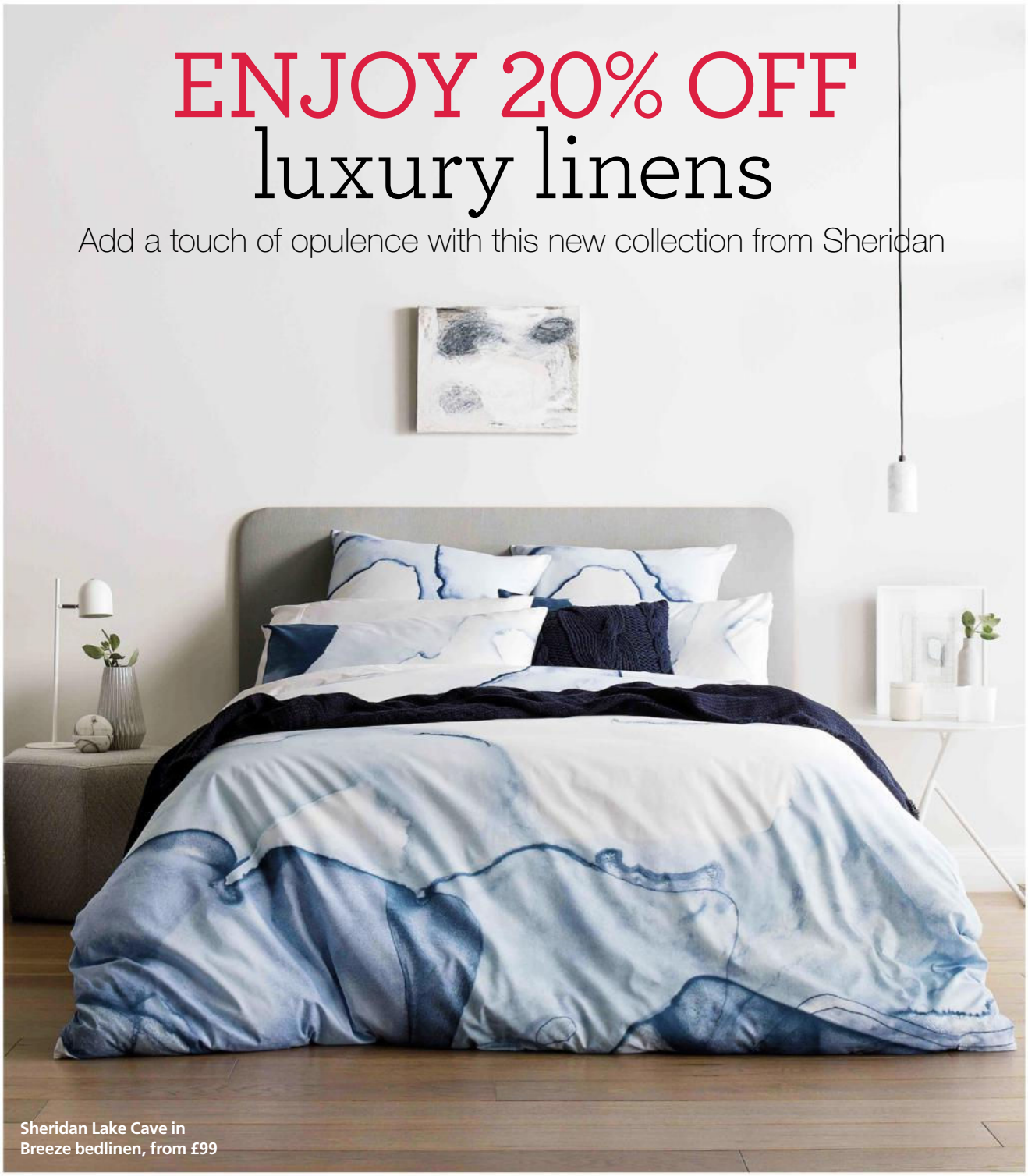
Work out the area you want to cover with maps and source them. For this chest we used four interlinking 1960s OS maps.
Remove the handles. Unless you're using 'no preparation' paint (follow the instructions supplied), strip everything to be painted back to bare wood with sandpaper or paint/varnish stripper (follow the directions given on the product) or a combination of both.
Apply the first coat of paint, taking care not to overload the brush and avoiding blobs and dribbles as much as possible. No masking is necessary, just paint slightly over into the areas you want to cover with maps. Once dry, smooth down any blobs with fine sandpaper and apply a second coat, aiming this time for complete coverage. When this is dry, go over all the paintwork with fine sandpaper until all visible areas are smooth.
Sand the chest top and drawer fronts with medium/coarse paper to provide a 'key' for the glue. Decide on the area of the map/s you're going to use. Lay them in position over the top, then drawer fronts, marking the areas with light creases along the area edges, then cut out leaving 20mm excess all round.
Mix some PVA glue 50/50 with water. Apply undiluted PVA to the wood (try not to go over the edges) and coat the back of the map with the 50/50 solution. This is easier with an extra pair of hands: align the first short edge and stroke flat with your hand, gently and gradually lower the paper down and smooth flat, pushing any bubbles to the edge (don't wrap the paper around the edges, leave it hanging over but not touching).
Allow to dry. Any slight imperfections in the surface should tighten when drying out. When it's totally dry, carefully file off the excess overhanging paper using a fine metal file at a constant 45 degrees round the edges (or use a very sharp art/Stanley knife to cut off the excess, closely following the area edge). Filing the map edges may catch on the paintwork and scuff it, starting off the 'ageing' process – if you don't like some bits, just retouch with paint and allow to dry.
Next, with fine- and medium-grade paper, work on the ageing process on the edges. Don't be scared of this; if you go too far you can just add some more paint and start again. Then move onto other areas, such as corners, that would naturally get wear and knocks.
Spray the map areas with two coats of clear lacquer, following the instructions and masking the edges with newspaper if necessary. Alternatively, you could use a clear matt varnish from DIY stores applied with a brush. Leave to dry.
Apply wax to painted areas with a cloth and remove all residue with a second, clean cloth, buffing to a shine. Attach original or replacement handles.
● **See more of Jenny and Jonathan's work at tiltoriginals.co.uk** HB

PHOTOGRAPHY RACHEL WHITING. **STYLING** KIERA BUCKLEY-JONES

FOR STOCKIST DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

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The home edit

Advice and solutions to help you create a streamlined home



The modular Valje system adapts to fit your space, from £17 for a wall unit, Ikea

FIND A HOME FOR BOOKS

If your collection threatens to overwhelm every shelf and surface, try these tips to slim it down

When you're trying to decide what to keep and what to get rid of, ask yourself three questions, suggests declutter expert Cherry Rudge of rainbowred.co.uk. Firstly, with encyclopaedias and travel guides, is the information out of date? Secondly, how relevant is the book to my life now, and how relevant will it be in future? Finally, if the book was a gift, what would the person who gave it to me say if they could see it's no longer being enjoyed?

Once you've weeded out the books you don't want any more, organise the remainder so they're themed to the room you use them in – cookery books in the kitchen for example, and reference books in the home office. Then they'll be to hand and you won't waste time searching for them.

Don't feel guilty about giving books away – it's great that they can be passed on and enjoyed by other people. 'I like to remind my clients that we can give books a new lease of life by handing them on to someone else who'll enjoy them as much as we have,' says house doctor Clare Parrack of clarifyinteriors.co.uk.

If you're struggling to let go, keep a notebook at your side as you declutter. When you come to a favourite book, jot down the title and ISBN number. Then, if you want it again in future, you can order a replacement copy.

PASS IT ON

* Choose five to 10 books that you've really enjoyed and donate them to friends * Leave books you've read at a local 'book swap' where other people can pick them up and enjoy them. Find locations through your local library, museum or art gallery, or see booksforlondon.org.uk * Donate popular or rare books to your library or a 'friends of the library' group * Offer books to a church or voluntary group * Sell through specialist sites such ziffit.com or webuybooks.co.uk * Donate some or all of what you earn from the sale of your books to a charity such as bookaid.org * Send educational and text books to help people in Africa – see books2africa.org * Oxfam and the British Heart Foundation have book stores

WORDS JAYNE DOWLE. **PRODUCTS** AMY NEASON

STACK IT UP... CLEVER SHELVING



▲ Turn your collection into a style statement with the **Hansen Low Accent shelves** (W50cm), £139.99, Wayfair



▼ Opt for a slim bookcase to increase the feeling of space. **Narrow Mid-Century bookshelf** (W56cm), £499, West Elm



▲ Choose smart designs to fill awkward spaces. **Daniel Tall Accent shelves** (W76cm at the base), £216, Wayfair



▼ Show off favourite coffee table books and treasured novels on the **Contemporary display unit** (W56cm), £160, cuckooland.com

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

LIGHT and SHADE

Choose a range of lighting options to help you create the right mood for your scheme, with the help of the experts



Colourful pendants are a stylish option for bringing ambient lighting to the dining area. Small Duck Egg Blue and Orange pendants, £38 each; large Navy pendant, £58; all Pooky

LOST IN TIME



SOPHIE AMINI, 47, joined Pooky when it was set up in 2014 and is now a lighting designer

Why is lighting so important?
Lighting is key for setting the right tone in your home. I like low lighting for bedrooms and living rooms with lamps that can be individually controlled. A kitchen needs task lighting plus ambient lighting for the dining area, so the room can easily lend itself to cosy dinners, family homework sessions or late-night movie watching. And it can all be achieved without costing the earth.

The big new trend
Customers have become more discerning. There's a demand for classic, timeless designs but many people come to us because they also want statement lighting they can live with, such as our elegant and eyecatching printed ikat shades.

Personal favourite
Our range of recycled glass designs is really exciting. They're utterly beautiful and extremely adaptable. We have pendant and wall light options and their delicate colour works with most decorative schemes.

My lighting at home
In our Victorian house in Acton, west London, which has original fireplaces and stained-glass windows, there's a mix of old and new. My husband is Iranian so we have lots of beautiful carpets and kilims. I mix them with modern coffee tables and an array of lamps, large and small, some passed on to us by my father-in-law after he left Iran in the late 1970s.

My childhood home
I grew up in the countryside in Suffolk. Our home was full of hand-me-downs and jumble-sale buys. I remember the wonderfully old and dusty, but nonetheless beautiful, heavy silk lampshades, and being aware of all the history that seemed to be contained within them.

*** Sophie's top tips**
1 Don't forget that lighting features will spend more time off than on, so should look great all the time.
2 You can change a lampshade quite inexpensively, so don't be afraid to be bold!



Björn's favourite, the Hektar pendant, is available in a bronze, white and dark grey finish, £39

NORTHERN LIGHTS



BJÖRN BLOCK, 42, is global range manager for lighting at Ikea

Why is lighting so important?
Good lighting is like good music – it can put you in the right mood, while bad music and bad lighting can ruin the atmosphere. Using the correct lighting for the activity is key and knowing how to adjust and change it can make a huge difference to your home.

The big new trend
Smart lighting, where you can dim all the lights, but also change the tones and scale, from warm to cooler. All styles have a place but our PS pendant lamps in copper and silver are especially popular.

Personal favourite
At the moment it's the Hektar (above), which is a versatile lamp design that fits into both modern and more rustic homes.

My lighting at home
I live in Kullavik, south of Gothenburg. My lighting at home is a mix of new and old, and direct and ambient lighting for different moods and activities. I'm very proud that it's all LED, including the ceiling spotlights, as this is more energy efficient than traditional lighting such as fluorescent and incandescent options. It feels great to use modern technology and I can't wait to upgrade my whole house to a smart lighting system.

My childhood home
I grew up in a suburb of Stockholm. I've always loved furniture design and improving my surroundings. We had a fantastic antique chandelier above the dining table, which gave the most wonderful glow.

*** Björn's top tips**
1 It's worth installing more light spots than you think you'll need.
2 One ceiling lamp in the centre of the room isn't enough to create a cosy space.
3 It's essential to be able to change and adapt your lighting to suit a variety of activities and occasions.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Retro influences with the Brass lever-arm table lamp, £29.99, and a selection of LED bulbs from Dunelm

INDUSTRIAL CHIC



ALEX CARPENTER, 35, is senior designer at Dunelm

Why is lighting so important?
The right light can enhance a room, make a statement, complete a scheme or simply light a space appropriate to its function.

The big new trend
The salvaged/warehouse look has become a staple. An easy way to achieve this is with our Retro bulbs and Charlie twisted cable flex kits.

Personal favourite
Our autumn theme is Regeneration, where natural influences meet industrial, with glass clusters and retro tripod camera lamps.

My lighting at home
I have a Victorian house in Leicestershire, which is undergoing a renovation. The living room has plenty of height so I plan to install an oversized rattan pendant.

My childhood home
I spent a lot of time at my grandparents' Scandinavian-style house. It had blonde wood floors and period furniture. I remember a turned oak floor lamp with a twisted fabric cable and a gathered muslin shade – when the lamp was lit the filament shone through.

★ Alex's top tip
Create flexibility with a ceiling light and lamps; use combinations to suit your needs.

GORGEOUS GLASS



CHRIS JORDAN, 36, has been involved with Christopher Wray since buying the company in 2013

Why is lighting so important?
It changes the mood of a room and enhances the colours of everything, from the walls and floors to the furniture and art. It can also be decorative in its own right – a chandelier can be a visually stunning centrepiece, while wall lights can both illuminate and be focal points.

The big new trend
Advances in integrated lighting systems and the move towards LED technology. In terms of design, metal finishes such as polished nickel, bronze and copper are popular. Our bestsellers are modern takes on classic styles such as our Art Deco-inspired Jaunt collection.

Personal favourite
The Murano glass Scuola di Pesca, a new addition to our range, is based on a school of fish. It's a work of art as well as a light fitting.

My lighting at home
I live in a converted Victorian flat in Chelsea. My living room has a Flemish-style chandelier; in the kitchen there's a mix of downlights and our Asteroid suspension pendant above the table, while in my bedroom is my favourite Henley desk lamp in polished nickel.

My childhood home
I grew up in a 1930s semi in west London. My mother was a fan of Tiffany-style lights and I remember rooms that were warm with a soft glow. It inspired my philosophy that lighting should be stylish – not purely functional.

★ Chris's top tip
Lights can look great in a photo but before buying always see them close up to check the finish and construction stand up to scrutiny.



Christopher Wray's stunning centrepiece Porler chandelier, starts at £455. This size is £2,995



The contemporary lines of Norr 11's Line Two brass and marble floor lamp, £529, Heal's, add a stylish finishing touch to a scheme

MIXED MATERIALS



ELENA PAPAROZZI, 28, is the lighting buyer at Heal's

Why is lighting so important?
It's such a brilliant way of injecting colour or personality into any room at minimal cost. Whether it's a set of pendants in a hallway or a classic reading lamp in the study, using lighting to update a space and set the mood is easy and can be an affordable option.

The big new trend
We're seeing far more mixing of materials, such as combinations of metal with wood or ceramic for a softer take on decorative lighting for example. Our beautiful new Bend table lamp has a geometric wooden frame with a brushed metal shade, while our Freja pendant combines coloured glass and metal in varied proportions for a modern take on a traditional spotlight.

Personal favourite
At the moment I love the new collection of oversized floor lamps by upcoming brand Norr 11 (above) with the oxidised anthracite finish being my favourite. The rawness of the aluminium combined with its vast scale feels really fresh and on-trend – and for something so stunning it's not as outrageously expensive as you'd expect.

My lighting at home
I live in a modern new-build flat in New Cross, south east London, with my boyfriend. The flat is minimal with solid wooden floors, a clean Scandinavian-style colour palette and lots of natural light, thanks to its high ceilings. Using our well-travelled classic Anglepoise table lamp in place of spotlights and drawing on my hoards of cushions and throws, we've made the place feel like home.

My childhood home
Leicestershire is where I grew up in a large family home where my parents and brother still live. It's a fantastic living space with a great garden and large kitchen. With so many children running around, my parents always invested in sturdy classic furniture and lighting, and taught me to 'buy once and buy well', a mantra that has stuck with me and I always think of whenever I'm sourcing new products.

*** Elena's top tips**
1 The colour tone of a bulb can change the ambience of a room, so always test your new paint shade with and without a light on to see how it changes.
2 People think LED gives out a harsh light so look out for tinted LED bulbs that emit a warmer glow. HB

WORDS JULIA EVANS



A spiral staircase with open treads has a sculptural quality and brings wow factor to a room, but it wouldn't be the best choice for all homes

TRADE SECRETS... INTERIOR STAIRCASES

Whether you're making repairs or replacing or repositioning stairs, follow these tips from the professionals

1 REPAIRING OR RENOVATING

It's rare for the structural part of a staircase – the treads and framework – to need replacing. Even wooden staircases that are more than 100 years old tend to stay in good working order. Generally, it would only be if woodworm or dry rot affected it that the whole structure would need to come out, or if a homeowner wanted to reposition it.

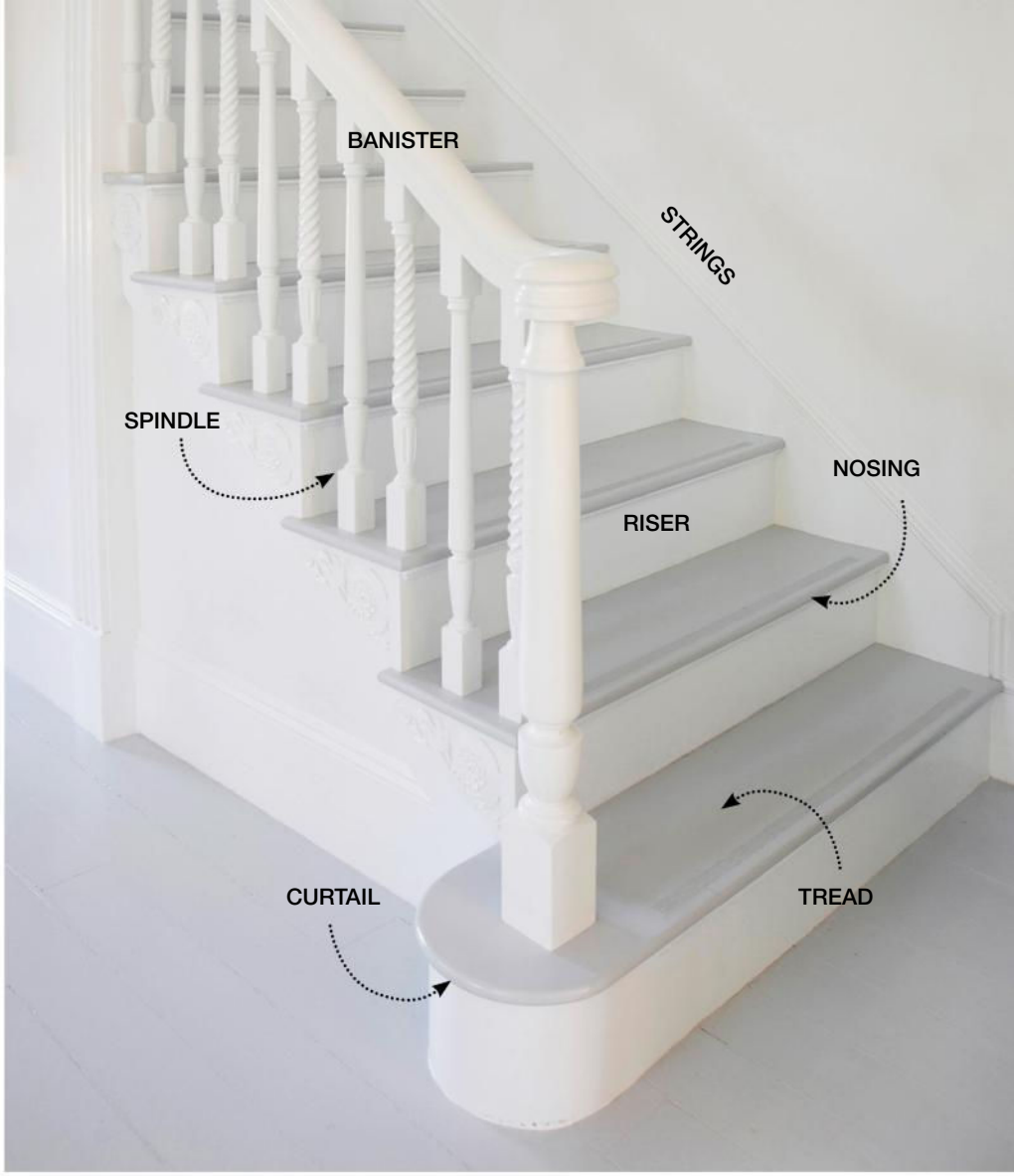
Renovations and repairs tend to focus on the newel posts, spindles and hand rail and can usually be finished within two days. A wobbly handrail or spindle is an obvious sign you need some repair work.

If you have a Ranch-style staircase that doesn't meet current building regulations, you may need to update this. Typically, this 1960s/1970s balustrade features two or three planks of wood, with large spaces between them, tacked onto the newel post. The gaps mean that it's not a particularly safe option, especially if there are young children in the house.

You can rethink a staircase design without committing to the expense of a brand new one by adjusting just some of the components. Hardwearing oak treads can be fitted to replace a stair carpet, for example. Or improve light levels by replacing dark timber spindles with a sheet of glass.

A staircase is such an integral part of the home it's essential to choose a firm that works with high quality materials. It's also important to check that the grain on the wood being used to make the newel posts, handrails and spindles all visually works together.

ROBERTA JERVIS, MANAGER, NEVILLE JOHNSON



2 OFF THE SHELF

A staircase is made up of various components: the **tread** is where you step, the **riser** is the vertical piece between each tread that's sometimes left open, and the **strings** are the boards supporting the steps. **Nosing** refers to the projected edge of the tread, and **bullnose** or **curtail** refers to the shape of the first step if it is wider and more rounded than the others. The **spindles** are the vertical posts that hold up the **handrail**, which then attaches to the **newel posts** at the bottom and top of the stairs. Collectively all three are known as the **balustrade**.

The framework of staircases is usually made of wood but it can be built with steel or concrete. The balustrade can be timber, metal or glass in a variety of shapes, sizes and designs – mixing materials gives a wider choice of staircase options.

A top tip for anyone who wants a striking look but doesn't have the budget for a completely solid oak staircase, is to combine white spindles and newel posts with an oak handrail. Opting for a softwood staircase is also a cost-effective alternative. Choose stairs with smooth timbers and a uniform grain so you can apply a range of paint or stain finishes. Another way to make your staircase a focal point is to add thicker oak spindles, oak treads and a volute handrail. This is a curled ending to the handrail that leads down to an extended first step and creates a dramatic upward sweep.

When it comes to installing the stairs every millimetre counts, so it's crucial that the space is measured correctly. Even if the stairs are a straight flight, it's essential to go to a staircase specialist company as it will employ fully trained stair technicians to ensure you get the right fit and that the installation follows regulatory standards.

If the staircase leads up to a new loft conversion or is in a new-build house then we would work from the architectural drawings, but we'd still take our own measurements once the project reached a point where this was possible. Every project will differ slightly from the plans so it's important to make final checks before installation.

GEORGINA CAMPBELL, HEAD OF MARKETING, JELD-WEN

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

3 BUYING BESPOKE

A staircase should be designed to integrate with and last the lifetime of the property. It's key to the flow of the house so it may be worth asking yourself if your home would work better if you altered the position of the staircase. Knocking down walls between rooms, building an extension or changing the purpose of a room could all mean a change to the direction of traffic. When planning a new staircase think about which room you are most likely to approach it from.

With open-plan living a staircase may be visible within the whole space so you may wish to make a feature of it.

Cantilevered staircases have treads supported by a hidden stringer in the wall and appear to float in mid-air to produce a light, open look. **Helical** or gently curved stairs give instant wow factor but work best in plenty of space. **Spiral** stairs wind around a central pole and are good for small spaces, but they can be awkward to use and a problem for children, the elderly or infirm.

Concrete staircases may appear to be cheaper on paper, but could cost more than timber and steel in the end because of problems with casting and accuracy. **Timber and steel** can be manufactured to millimetre precision and designed with open treads. **Concrete and steel** staircases can be clad with timber, stone or marble and you may wish to consider MDF treads if you intend to carpet the stairs. **Timber** has natural warmth and beauty and there are many grades and finishes to choose from for treads and handrails. Hardwood handrails are more expensive than softwood but they're more durable and tactile. **Glass** balustrades are fantastic for letting in light but show up dust and fingerprints. Check how the glass and handrail will be fixed – a bespoke design won't have visible fixings. Two types of glass are commonly used – standard glass with a slightly green tint, and the more expensive low-iron glass, which has superior optical quality and reduced tint.

In Georgian times, staircases were slim and elegant and a similar effect can be achieved by using a steel carcass. Staircases from the Art Nouveau period featured sinewy curves and balustrades inspired by nature with, for example, iron flowers, leaves and tendrils. Art Deco saw a move towards more robust and chunky designs with sharper, stronger lines.

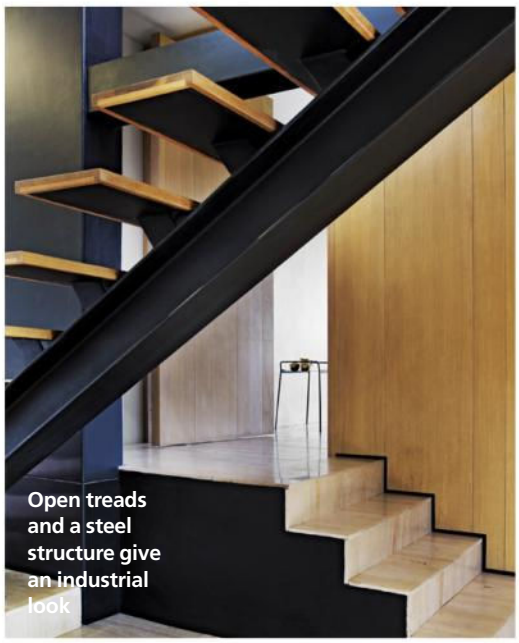
There are very important safety aspects to be taken into account when designing and installing staircases, and they must conform to Building Regulations and British Standards. See: building-regs.org.uk/part_k.html. HB

RICHARD MCLANE, DESIGN DIRECTOR, BISCA

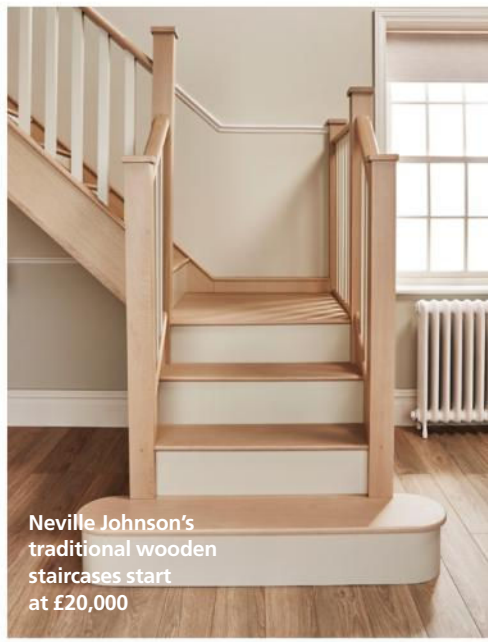
WORDS JANE CRITTENDEN. **PHOTOGRAPHS** GAP INTERIORS/COSTAS PICADAS; GAP INTERIORS/HOUSE AND LEISURE/PHOTOGRAPHER ELSA YOUNG/STYLING LEANA SCHOEMAN



With a gently curving frame, Bisca's Hyatt staircase, from £22,000, is a stunning feature in a modern open-plan space



Open treads and a steel structure give an industrial look



Neville Johnson's traditional wooden staircases start at £20,000

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Inventive EXTENSIONS

Create extra space at home with these innovative alternatives to the usual garden room, conservatory or loft conversion

GARDEN DOME

Whether used as a greenhouse, playroom or pop-up conservatory, this PVC igloo offers a fun and futuristic way to create valuable space without the need for disruptive building work. Weatherproof and rust-resistant, it's surprisingly rigid despite having no internal upright supports.

Assembly is relatively easy – no tools are required – and can be done by one person in just a couple of hours, but a patio or firm surface is recommended rather than a lawn. If you're concerned about overheating in the direct sun, there's an additional canopy cover, which costs £299, that can transform the igloo into a shaded outside room. When not needed the garden igloo packs down to the size of a suitcase and when it reaches the end of its useful life all the components can be recycled.

You'll need a reasonably big garden to make the most of the igloo. Don't expect it to keep you warm when the sun goes down, but you can enjoy it as a fun and spacious alternative to a summerhouse or traditional gazebo.

● **The Garden Igloo (H2.2m x 3.6m dia) costs £629, bouf.com**

A PVC garden igloo is a fun and spacious alternative to a summerhouse



The Armadilla is a well-insulated garden pod made from FSC-certified sustainable timber

DETACHED LIVING

Like an upturned fishing boat in a far-flung beach resort, the Armadilla is a beautifully crafted unique garden pod that fits equally well in a traditional or contemporary garden. Made using FSC-certified sustainable timber, it comes fully insulated with underfloor heating, LED lighting and full double glazing, which means it has a tiny carbon footprint and is extremely efficient to run.

Available in 20 configurations, varying from simple open-plan fitness studio and playroom, to home office and spare bedroom, the Armadilla has been designed to fall within permitted development rights and, unless you live in a conservation area or have a tiny garden, shouldn't require planning permission. The pods are built with a rigid steel frame so they can easily be transported on the back of a truck and moved into place with a crane or forklift. The company estimates that installation takes about an hour. 'You can even take it with you if you move house!' says Archie Hunter, managing director of Armadilla.

The clapboard-covered teardrop design is a welcome change from the usual boxy garden room, but the shape does limit headroom if you're not planning on sitting at a desk all day.

● **Prices for the A10 pod (H2.9m x W2.75m x L3.7m) start at £13,150, armadilla.co.uk**



Constructed in a factory, the Moduloft is craned into place

MOVING UPWARDS

Getting the loft converted is one of the best ways to increase space and add value to your home, but the work is disruptive. Thanks to modular building specialist Moduloft, you can now have your loft conversion built in a factory and craned into place.

The innovative Moduloft units are made offsite in controlled factory conditions, so no matter how bad the weather, the project can still stay on schedule. Everything is assembled ahead of installation and homeowners can select fixtures, fittings, kitchen and bathroom units, and even the paint colour in advance so the loft arrives complete.

Construction takes about six to eight weeks in the factory, but installation can be completed in a phenomenally quick four days.

'We're the only company currently offering this service,' says Lissa Johnson from Moduloft. 'It's up to eight times quicker than traditional methods so your everyday lives can continue with significantly less disruption.'

As with any extension, additions of up to 50m³ (40m³ for a terraced home) fall under Permitted Development, but you will need planning permission in conservation areas or for listed buildings or if you're altering the roof height or shape.

● **Every project is costed individually, so to find out more about pricing visit moduloft.co.uk**

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



Ideal for glamping, the i-hut can be towed to different locations



The Snoozy can be installed permanently or packed up and relocated

ON TOW

This has to be one of the most stylish caravans on the market! The i-hut would make a fantastic spare room, luxury office, teenager's den or self-contained flat in the garden. Because it's mounted on a chassis – legally it's a caravan, conforming to British Standard 3632 – it can be towed into place, and depending on where you site it and whether you plan to rent it out for holiday lettings, you shouldn't need planning permission.

So much more than a simple garden room, the large W2.4m x L10.9m i-hut, handmade in Devon, contains a double bedroom with another separate double bed in the loft space, a shower room, a kitchen, a dining area and a living room. Alternatively, the smaller design, measuring W2.4m x L5.4m, has a double bed in the loft space and room for a cot or single bed in the main living area.

● **The small i-hut costs from £29,754, i-hut.co.uk**

BLOW-UP BEDROOM

Perfect for unexpected guests, the Snoozy is a flat-packed portable luxury bedroom that can be erected almost anywhere. More like a mini hotel room, the Snoozy sleeps two to four people and has a lightweight aluminium frame, rubberised floor and ingenious inflatable outer skin that provides excellent temperature and sound insulation.

Kitted out with sliding aluminium door, beds, USB chargers and LED lights, the Snoozy can have all of its components integrated into the frame, so nothing extra is needed – apart from a duvet! Snoozy's sister company AirClad also offers larger inflatable structures that can be used as offices, pop-up shops, or even as a temporary home extension – handy if you need extra floor space for a particularly big party. Almost any size pod can be made to suit your needs.

'No foundations are needed and it's easily built in a day on your own, or by our team in a few minutes,' says Nick Crosbie, founder of AirClad. 'Snoozy can be installed permanently or packed up and relocated.' As a temporary structure (the smallest unit is just $1m^3$) the Snoozy doesn't require planning permission, and it folds down to just 30cm high, ideal for storing in the garage when not needed.

● **Prices from £5,995 + VAT, airclad.com** HB

WORDS CHRIS HASLAM

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THREE CHANCES TO WIN!

Oak Oyster, from £88.80 a sq metre, is just one of the designs from the Artisan collection

WIN £2,000 of beautiful oak flooring

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Choosing a new floor will transform any room, so why not bring some bespoke luxury to yours with the Kährs Artisan collection?

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Designed in Sweden from sustainable European oak and maple, the flooring comes in a wide-plank format, featuring Kährs multi-award-winning eco-construction, and can be laid over underfloor heating.

Three House Beautiful readers will each win £2,000 worth of stunning flooring from the collection to update a room of their choice.

For more information, visit kahrs.com, call 023 9245 3045 or email sales@kahrs.com.

HouseBeautiful

Kährs

FOR A CHANCE TO WIN text **HBCOMP** followed by a space and then your answer to the question below and your name and address to **88600** (£1.50 plus usual network operator rates), or call **09057 890 103** (80p a min plus your telephone company's network access charge) and give your answer. Calls should last no longer than two minutes. Lines open **1 SEPTEMBER 2016** and close **31 OCTOBER 2016**. Or post completed coupon to House Beautiful/CPHSBN16467, Worksop S80 2RT for receipt before **3 NOVEMBER 2016**.

QUESTION In which country are Kährs floors designed?

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS Calls from mobiles and other networks may cost more. If you phone or text your entry after the advertised closing date, you won't be entered but will be charged. Entry is open to residents living in mainland UK. Only one entry per household. Winners will be selected at random from all correct entries after the closing date. Service provider: Spoke (0333 202 3390). No purchase necessary. The prize is as stated and is not transferable. No cash alternative. Prize does not include installation or dismantling/removal of current floor. For full terms and conditions turn to p8. DATA PROTECTION We will use the information you supply to process your competition entry. For our privacy policy, visit hearst.co.uk/dp.

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MAKING CUTBACKS

The very idea of pruning the plant you've spent all year growing can be daunting. But in most cases cutting back is important and leads to a healthier plant. Three good reasons to get out your secateurs are…

* the plant's in poor shape or in the way of something else;
* stems are dead, damaged or diseased;
* you want to encourage more fruit or flowers next season.

In the first two instances you can prune at any time apart from during extremes of temperature. Before you make the first cut, try to move the stem out of the way to see what the plant will look like once it's gone. In the third case, the general rule for shrubs is that if the plant flowers after May you can cut it back in the autumn. Most buddleja, caryopteris and hydrangeas can be pruned now as they will put on new growth early next year and the flowers will form on those stems.

Plants such as flowering quince, flowering currant and magnolias bloom before May on old growth. This means that if you prune stems now you'll be cutting off next year's flowers, so wait until they've flowered next year before cutting them back.

Hardy perennials will be dying down at this time to spend winter underground, so whether you cut them back now or in the spring won't usually affect the plant.



Most buddlejas can be pruned now, though for 'White Profusion' it's best to wait until spring

BACK TO SCHOOL

MyGardenSchool offers a huge range of online garden-related courses including design and photography. For a 20% discount, visit housebeautiful.co.uk

Garden NOTEBOOK

Seasonal tasks, planting ideas, shopping and expert advice to make your garden grow



Lift your spirits

Apple trees, which give pleasure in spring with their beautiful blossom, look just as amazing now. Look for red apples shining out against a blue autumn sky. Or for yellow ones, try 'Pitmaston Pineapple' apples (above), which have the fruity flavour of their namesake. With container, dwarf and wall-trained varieties available, there's a tree to suit every size of garden.

THREE OF A KIND BIRD FEEDERS



With a distressed painted finish and a stylish copper roof, this wooden bird feeder would look lovely in a traditional garden. **Bempton bird table, £39.95, arkwildlife.co.uk**



Looking like a modern house, this is made from moulded plastic and you can see the seed level through the windows. **Bird Cafe feeder, £30, Amara**



This shallow bowl made in solid oak comes with a rustic rope so it can be suspended from a tree. **Personalised Oak bird feeder, £84.99, getting personal.co.uk**



If you have one hour to spare...

…plant some spring bulbs. Create impact with 20-25 bold plants in groups of five or so. * Vibrant tulips will glow like jewels in the early spring light. *Tulipa* 'Apeldoorn' is a fantastic red. * Tall camassias are the purple queens of May and *Camassia leichtlinii* subsp. *leichtlinii* is one of the most regal. * Try Portuguese squill, *Scilla peruviana,* scilla's bigger, sassier brother.

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

WORDS CAROLINE TILSTON. **PHOTOGRAPHS** GETTY IMAGES; GAP PHOTOS/CLAIRE HIGGINS/ JULIETTE WADE

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Window dilemma

My partner and I are hoping to replace our windows but are a bit overwhelmed by the choice. Where do we begin?

The size of the glass should be no less than 10 per cent of the floor area

TOMMY WALSH SAYS

A good starting point is the original windows – what they are like and what they're made from – as they would have been designed to complement the building. If yours are not original, talk to neighbours to find out whose windows are.

After that you can make your selection. An important planning issue people often aren't aware of is that the size of the room governs the size of the glass in the window which should be no less than 10 per cent of the floor area. Modern plastic windows tend to have much heavier frames, mullions and glazing bars to give the windows strength, but these can considerably reduce the amount of natural light.

Take into account when your house was built. Windows in pre-war properties tend to be mostly made from wood or steel (for instance, Crittall windows). These can be replaced with like for like, but with super-thin double glazing, heavier lead weights should be used to replace the old cast-iron type for balance. Post-war buildings tend to have a mish-mash of different design styles, but I'd consider powder-coated aluminium frames with a wooden core and double or triple glazing. These are expensive but durable and virtually maintenance free.

Any south-facing windows will have problems with weathering, particularly strong sunshine. It's wise to maintain the whole exterior on a regular basis, redecorating every three to five years and making sure that water isn't getting in. Finally, while there are various new window design concepts, few are more practical and easy to clean than the box frame sash design.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

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Creating a healthy home office

I've just started working from home and would like to convert my spare bedroom into an office. What's the best way to do this?

OLIVER HEATH SAYS

Increasingly many of us are seeing our work and home lives blending together. Creating a dedicated home office is a great way to separate them and get a better work/life balance, while also allowing you to close the door for privacy and concentration.

It's important to have a healthy, happy and productive space to work in. A height-adjustable chair with arms, and a sit/stand desk will keep you moving and ergonomically well catered for, while a range of storage options will ensure the space is functional, clean and tidy. Include easy-to-reach shelves or desk tidies for items you use all the time, and long-term storage such as a cupboard or filing cabinets.

Turning appliances off at night or when not in use is the best way to prevent energy wastage, while fitting a thermostatic radiator valve will allow you to keep the space at a comfortable temperature.

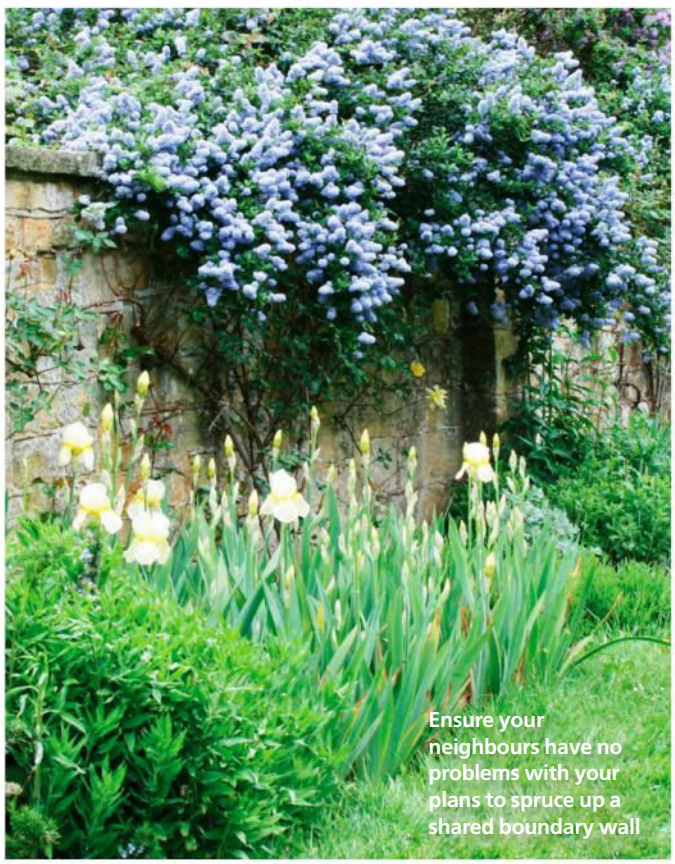
When it comes to improving productivity and creativity there are some simple, easy wins. Bring in more natural light by keeping windows clear of obstructions and bouncing light around the room with reflective surfaces. Natural and high levels of light will help improve mental energy and even aid sleep at night.

Use paint, wallpaper or styling items to inject shots of colour in energising hues of yellow, green, orange or red into the space, making it a fun and lively place to work in.

Studies have shown that views of greenery, even in your peripheral vision, can help you feel rested and rejuvenated, allowing you to focus for longer, so it's a good idea to position your desk with a view through a window. If the outdoor scene doesn't include foliage, position some plants around the room. They'll also improve air quality and remove carbon dioxide, which can affect mental energy.



Make the most of views of greenery as they can help you feel rested and so remain focused for longer



Ensure your neighbours have no problems with your plans to spruce up a shared boundary wall

Garden wall dispute

We share a garden wall with our neighbours. It looks dreadfully rundown, but despite us dropping hints they don't do anything about it! Who is responsible for it and what negotiating power do we have?

TEENA LYONS SAYS

The bad news is that when responsibility is shared there is generally nothing you can do to force your neighbour to make repairs to a boundary wall. Your house deeds may state that a boundary has to be kept in a good state of repair but, be warned, it's quite unusual for them to do so. Since there's no law that regulates the condition of boundaries, homeowners are rarely under any obligation to keep them presentable.

If your neighbours really dig their heels in, you could point out that if the wall becomes so dilapidated that it falls over onto your land, they'll be liable to pay for any damage caused by the collapse. You need to weigh up this combative stance against the fact that you live in close proximity. It's always preferable to keep neighbourly relations civil.

For the sake of an easy life you may decide to swallow your pride and get on with making – and paying for – the repairs yourself. If you take this option, don't forget to consult fully with your neighbours. Since you share ownership of the wall, you need to ensure they have no problem with your plans to spruce it up.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE

MAKE + MEND

Brush up your skills and gain confidence with our DIY expert Jo Behari

ABOUT JO



ENTREPRENEUR AND DIY CONSULTANT
Jo Behari
Championing women in the home improvement industry



Sanding down with a buffing wheel will give a good finish

Bath repair

Our enamelled bath has a chip – how can we fill it in and make it look more presentable?

Luckily retailers have a number of solutions to fix chips in ceramic/porcelain and enamel. Cramer sells a good one that comes in a great range of colours.

Before you begin, make sure the chip is clean and dry. Then apply the filling compound from the repair kit according to the instructions. Some kits tell you to mix the compound with a hardener before applying. Don't mix a large amount as, with filling any hole, it's better to apply a small amount in stages rather than overfilling it and having to remove it. Use a spatula to work the compound into the chip and scrape off any excess. Wait for the compound to dry as per the manufacturer's instructions and then apply another thin layer if needed. Once the chip is filled, use some very fine-grade sandpaper to smooth the surface.

Some repair kits will supply the correct sandpaper but if not, start with a 200-400 grit and work up to a very fine grit such as 2,000. If you have one handy you can use a buffing wheel to polish off the repair, as this will provide a really professional-looking finish. Silverline makes a polishing kit that can be used with a normal drill, which costs about £15 and would be a good investment to ensure the chip is finished as neatly as possible.

Lighting a real fire

This will be our first winter in our new home. There's a beautiful original Victorian fireplace in the living room – what steps do we need to take to get it prepared?

You need to contact a chimney sweep to help you with your fireplace – and you'll be pleased to hear the industry is still thriving. The National Association of Chimney Sweeps has a database of members and you can search its website to find one that covers your area.

A sweep will clear out the chimney and make sure there are no blockages. They will then check that smoke is funnelling through the chimney properly so it's safe to use. They will also check for cracks that may make lighting a fire unsafe, although most fireplaces are cast iron and hence are pretty robust.

It's a good idea to get advice from the sweep on how best to build a fire, what's the safe way to use your



fireplace and how often you should have it inspected, as well as what coals/fuels to use as most parts of the UK are in a Smoke Control Zone and only fuels on an authorised list can be burned. It's imperative to have a chimney swept after prolonged use as there may be blockages that you can't see that may cause soot fires or even force poisonous gases back into the room instead of up the chimney. HB

● Sign up for House Beautiful's free weekly e-newsletter by simply texting HB followed by your email address to **84499**
Texts to this number are charged at your standard network rate, never more. Standard network rates vary depending on your phone provider. By texting into this service you are opting in to receive messages from us by email and SMS. You can opt out from SMS by texting STOP to 84499 and from email by clicking Unsubscribe

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

COMPILED BY LIZ MURPHY. **PHOTOGRAPHS** ALEXANDER JAMES/THE INTERIOR ARCHIVE; JELTJE JANMAAT/HOUSE OF PICTURES; JAN BALDWIN; LIVING4MEDIA; IM SCRIVENER/REX FEATURES

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COUNTRY LIVING'S BUILD-A-BUSINESS COURSES

Do you have a hobby you'd like to turn into a business? Are you in need of the confidence, know-how and support to get started? Let *Country Living* help!

CHOOSE FROM OUR RANGE OF INSPIRING COURSES

1 BUILD-A-BUSINESS DAY

A day of talks and workshops, which are perfect for those who are thinking of launching a business or have recently done so and are looking to grow. It will cover:

- **'WHY THERE'S NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME TO START YOUR OWN BUSINESS'** Fiona Davies, business manager from WiRE, offers advice for taking the first steps.
- **'DEFINING YOUR BRAND & BUSINESS PLANNING'** Identify your USP and write a simple strategy to develop your business.
- **'HOW TO GET YOUR PRODUCT INTO COUNTRY LIVING'** Learn insider tips on how to get editorial coverage and have the chance to pitch to our magazine editors.
- **'DE-MYSTIFYING SOCIAL MEDIA'** How to use social media to expand your customer base.
- **'WE DID IT! TIPS FROM KITCHEN TABLE TALENT BUSINESSES'** Business owners who have been previously featured in CL share their stories and give advice.
- **'HAVE THE CONFIDENCE TO MAKE THE LEAP'** After 21 years building the Country Living brand, editor-in-chief Susy Smith shares her insight and experiences.

2 HOW TO REALLY MAKE MONEY

This one-off day is aimed at entrepreneurs who are already in business but are looking for ways to make their venture truly profitable. We'll show you how, with advice on funding, licensing, pitching, negotiation and writing a business plan.

3 DE-MYSTIFYING SOCIAL MEDIA

We take the fear factor out of social media and show how to harness its power to take your business to the next level. Our team will guide you through the key platforms.

4 MARKET YOURSELF FOR LESS THAN £5!

This day will give you all the tools you need to get your business noticed without breaking the bank. You'll receive advice on product images, exhibiting and attracting media coverage.

DATES AND LOCATIONS 2017

Build-a-Business Day
24 January
Hotel du Vin, Birmingham

Build-a-Business Day
26 January
Hotel du Vin, Bristol

Market Yourself for Less Than £5
1 February
Good Housekeeping Institute, London

Build-a-Business Day
7 February
Malmaison, Edinburgh

Build-a-Business Day
9 February
Malmaison, Leeds

How to Really Make Money
22 February
Good Housekeeping Institute, London

Build-a-Business Day
28 February
Hotel du Vin, Henley-on-Thames

Build-a-Business Day
2 March
Hotel du Vin, Tunbridge Wells

De-Mystifying Social Media
8 March
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SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Visit **countryliving.co.uk/buildabusiness**
The ticket price of £150** includes a goody bag, information pack, two-course lunch, afternoon tea and entry to a prize draw.
For enquiries, email hearstevents@hearst.co.uk

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Stylish and ecofriendly ideas for your home and wellbeing







SHADES OF **GREEN**

More companies are introducing planet-friendly paints – here's a guide to three of the latest

1 ECO PACKAGING

Well known for its stunning tiles, Bert & May now has a paint range. The 55 hand-mixed shades come in limewash and eco emulsion, a solvent-free, water-based, breathable matt. A concentrated pigment powder, it just needs to have water added, which means less packaging and a longer shelf life. **Eco emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5L, Bert & May**

2 PURER PAINT

Every drop of the Lakeland Paints collection, whether for masonry, wood, walls, floors – and even a super-tough Nursery range – is free from solvents, VOCs, pesticides, herbicides and toxins. In fact Lakeland has calculated that it's 7,000 times purer than standard low-odour paints. **Eco matt wall paint, about £43 for 5L, Lakeland Paints**

3 CARBON NEUTRAL

Iceland is the production centre for Eico, which manufactures low-VOC, water-based acrylic paints using renewable energy from geothermal and hydro-electric power stations. Its carbon-neutral acrylic paint comes in eight varieties including satin, gloss, matt and metallic. **Acrylic, £36.49 for 2.25L, Eico Paints**

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HEALTHY HOME

CLEAN **AIR**

Something as simple as opening the window can improve your family's wellbeing



Amena Warner, Head of Clinical Services for the British Allergy Foundation, reveals the dangers of indoor air pollution and what we can do to stay healthy at home

A recent report* suggested that indoor air pollution was responsible for 99,000 deaths across Europe in 2012. Is this really true?
Air pollution is very serious and causes health problems and, yes, unfortunately also fatalities for thousands of people each year. This is why it's an area we need to be more aware of.

What are the causes of indoor air pollution?
There are a number of factors. Fuel used within the home such as wood and coal, smoking and second-hand smoking are all responsible for a large number of deaths. Poor ventilation also causes significant indoor health problems, as do house dust mites, pet dander, fumes from candles, paint, flooring, carpets and cleaning chemicals.

Tell us about the health problems it can cause
These can include allergies, asthma and hypersensitive airways. Poor ventilation, for instance, can trigger asthma and allergic rhinitis. If you suspect that you have an allergy, make sure to have it checked out by your GP as it can lead to asthma if it's not treated.

What's the best way to improve air quality?
Opening the windows is a good place to start, but there are numerous other important precautions you can take, such as not smoking indoors, turning on the extractor when cooking and using an air purifier. In addition, remember that outdoor air isn't necessarily free from pollutants, especially in cities where levels of diesel fumes and pollen are high.

So what can we do to limit the amount of harmful air pollution in our homes?
Firstly, open the windows a couple of times a day for 5-10 minutes and keep your home uncluttered, as dust and house dust mites contribute to a poor indoor environment. Wear a mask and ventilate the room before and during DIY tasks such as taking down old wallpaper or removing carpets, as they could be harbouring mould. If possible also switch from carpets to hard flooring as this will reduce the number of dust mites in your home.

Which products can you recommend to help reduce airborne allergens?
Look for Allergy UK's Seal of Approval on paint, cleaning products, bedding and flooring etc. It means they've been scientifically tested to remove or reduce allergens.

And finally, if you do one thing to help improve air quality, what should it be?
It must be ventilation – it's so important!

● **Find out more at allergyuk.org**

*FROM THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PAEDIATRICS AND CHILD HEALTH



Take note

These stylish notebooks from Swedish designers Nuuna are printed on the finest quality 120g sustainably sourced paper. The latest range comes in fabulously vibrant colours with a metallic finish. They're £16 each from Stone Gift.

DIARY DATE

The Big Green Home Show at Swindon's National Self Build & Renovation Centre is a must if you're interested in eco building methods and renewable technology. 7-9th Oct, free in advance, £12 on the door, nsbrc.co.uk.



Cleaner candle

Made in Somerset from 80 per cent beeswax and 20 per cent vegetable wax, Just Bee's candles don't produce toxins, artificial chemicals or soot when burnt, so they're great for allergy and asthma sufferers. There are six gorgeous scents and they cost £24.

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BUYER'S GUIDE

NEW WAYS **WITH CORK**

Tactile and practical, this 70s favourite is making a comeback



PERFECT PARTNERS
White glass contrasts wonderfully with the natural texture of cork in this simply stunning Henderson ceiling lamp, £50, Habitat



CORKING IDEA!
These bone-china Pinboard Pots have cork lids that you can attach a label to so you know what's inside, £20 each, notonthehighstreet.com



TOP TABLE
Ilse Crawford's Sinnerlig collection for Ikea features a cork-topped dining table, £250; stools, from £50; bench, £100; and coffee table, £85



GEOMETRY UPDATE
These thoroughly modern pastel placemats link together in an endless range of designs. Euro 21.21, DaWanda



FUTURE FABRIC
Surprisingly soft, the Rio Rectangular cushion is made from very thin sheets of cork, boiled down and fused onto cotton, £95, Mind The Cork



SMART CONTRAST
New from Bloomingville, this range of ceramic and cork vases is available in Copper, Moss Green, Navy and Black. From £32 each, Quince

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE



TWITTER TALK

Get the right insulation with help from John O'Brien, associate director for construction innovation at BRE (Building Research Establishment)

@HB With so many different types of insulation available, where's best to start?
@BRE Go for the cheapest product that gets the best result. Start at the loft and work down
@HB How do we choose the right material?
@BRE Depends where you're using it. In the loft, for instance, if there's no disturbance, lots of cheap mineral wool is brilliant
@HB Do unusual materials such as sheep's wool and hemp work as well?
@BRE They all work well if used correctly. But it's important to have it installed properly
@HB Does using natural and recycled insulation help reduce the carbon and chemical footprint of a renovation?
@BRE We need to cut the oil we use, so alternative materials are vital. Using by-products also helps and all insulation reduces energy in the long run
@HB We've heard cork is now being used
@BRE Yes – it's renewable, fire proof, and can be made into a range of insulation
@HB What would it be best suited for?
@BRE Cork is breathable so may benefit older houses where the walls need to breathe. Wood fibre has a similar effect
@HB Which natural insulation products would you recommend?
@BRE Depends on the house but mix it up – combine the best natural options with the latest hi-tech materials
● **bre.co.uk; 0333 321 8811** HB

WORDS CHRIS HASLAM. **PHOTOGRAPH** GAP INTERIORS/BUREAUX/PHOTOGRAPH GREG COX

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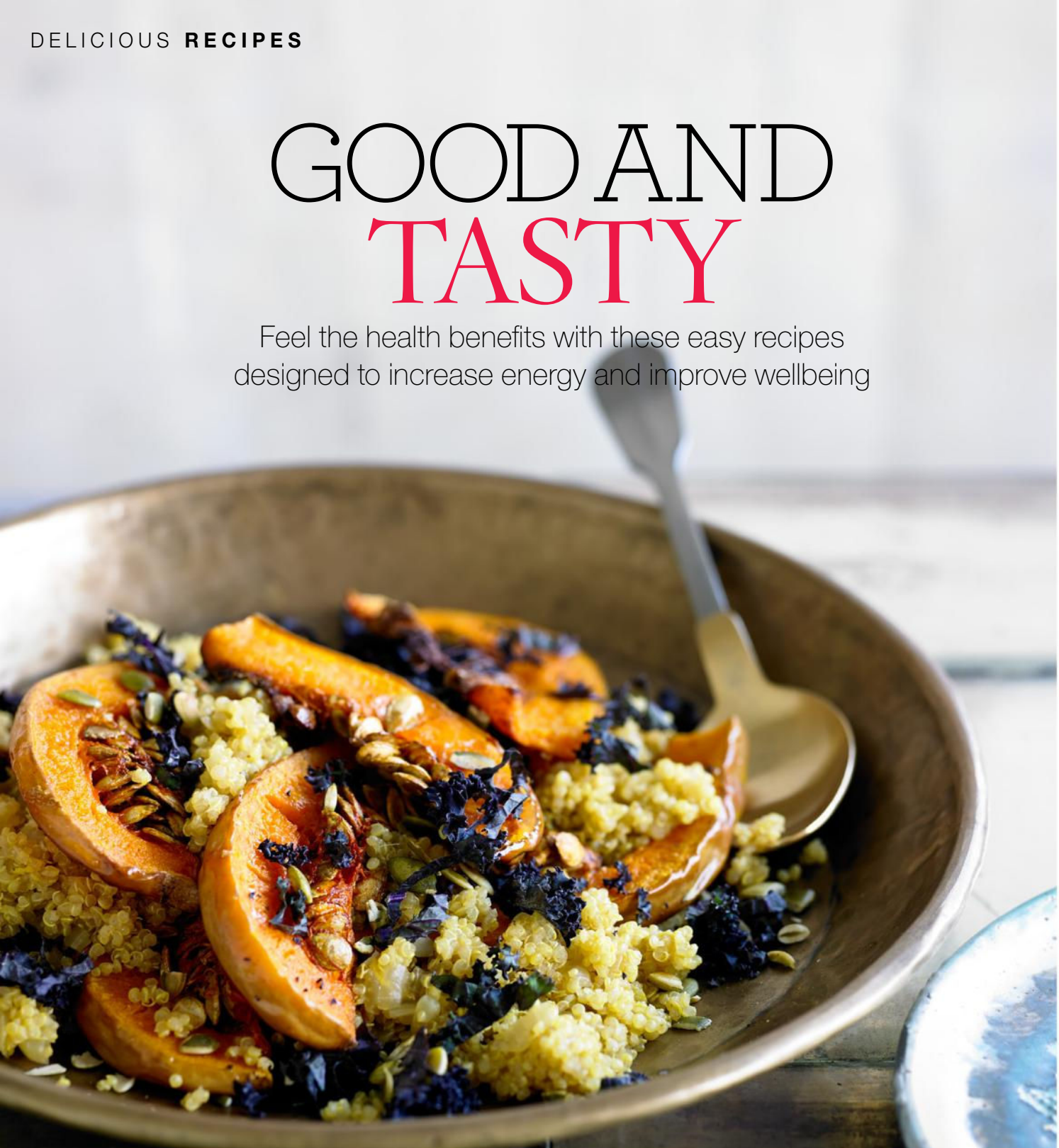


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GOOD AND TASTY

Feel the health benefits with these easy recipes designed to increase energy and improve wellbeing



Baked pumpkin, quinoa and kale

SERVES 4

500g pumpkin, cut into thin wedges
2tbsp ghee, melted
1 onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1tsp freshly grated ginger
1tsp freshly grated turmeric
1tsp ground coriander
200g quinoa, rinsed and drained
500ml filtered water
3-4 kale leaves, stems removed, chopped
40g pumpkin seeds, toasted in a dry frying pan, plus extra to serve
Celtic sea salt, to taste
Handful of coriander leaves, to serve (optional)
Freshly squeezed lime juice, to serve

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F) and line a baking tray with baking paper.
2 Spread out the pumpkin on the prepared baking tray, pour over half the ghee and toss to coat. Bake for 30 minutes, turning occasionally. Remove from the oven and set aside.
3 Heat the remaining ghee in a medium saucepan over medium heat and cook the onion for 2-3 minutes or until translucent. Stir through the garlic, ginger, turmeric and ground coriander, then cook for 1 minute.
4 Add the quinoa and water, bring to a gentle boil, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, for 12-15 minutes or until all the liquid has been absorbed and the quinoa is cooked. Add the kale, pumpkin and pumpkin seeds, and stir to combine.
5 Season with salt and serve topped with coriander leaves, if using, extra pumpkin seeds and a drizzle of lime juice.



Spicy lamb koftas

SERVES 4 **(MAKES** 8 **KOFTAS)**
8 bamboo skewers, soaked in water for 30 minutes
KOFTAS
500g minced lamb
1 small brown onion, chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
2.5cm piece of ginger, peeled and grated
1tbsp chopped mint
1tbsp chopped flat-leaf (Italian) parsley
1tsp mild paprika
1tsp ground cumin
1tsp ground turmeric
1tsp ground coriander
Celtic sea salt, to taste

1 Preheat a chargrill pan or barbecue hotplate to medium.
2 To make the koftas, mix all the ingredients in a bowl until well combined. Divide the mixture into eight portions and form each into a short sausage shape. Thread each onto a bamboo skewer and refrigerate for 15 minutes.
3 Place the skewers on the prepared pan or hotplate and cook for 10 minutes, turning halfway through. Serve with a garden salad and the coconut relish (see below).

COCONUT RELISH
MAKES 1 **CUP**
½ small green chilli, seeded and chopped
1cm piece of ginger, chopped
65g shredded coconut
125ml filtered water, plus extra as needed
2tbsp lime juice
1tbsp chopped coriander leaves
2tbsp ghee
½tsp black mustard seeds
½tsp cumin seeds
¼tsp asafetida
Celtic sea salt, to taste

Blitz all the ingredients except the salt in a food processor to your desired consistency, adding more filtered water if necessary. Season with the salt. The relish will keep in an airtight container in the fridge for 2 days.

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CORIANDER & MINT CHUTNEY

* Combine 65g mint, 80g coriander leaves, 1 green chilli, seeded, 2 garlic cloves, 2tbsp lime juice, 1 tbsp tamarind paste, ½tsp cumin seeds, 6 drops liquid stevia, pinch of salt. Blend to your preferred consistency.

Baked fish with flaxseed crust

SERVES 4

4 rainbow trout fillets, bones removed
2tbsp ghee, melted
50g flaxseed meal
1tsp dried rosemary
½tsp Celtic sea salt
Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste
Brown rice, to serve
Lime halves, to serve

1 Preheat the oven to 175°C (345°F) and line a baking tray with baking paper.
2 Place the fish skinside down on the prepared baking tray and brush with the ghee. Combine the flaxseed meal, dried rosemary, sea salt and pepper in a small bowl, then spoon the mixture over the fish and press it down gently.
3 Bake for 25-30 minutes or until the crust is golden brown.
4 Serve on brown rice with coriander and mint chutney (see above) and lime halves.



Indian infused chicken

SERVES 4
1.5kg chicken
Baby spinach, pine nut and pomegranate salad, to serve
INDIAN INFUSED MARINADE
2 garlic cloves, crushed
½ onion, finely chopped
2tbsp lemon juice
2tbsp sesame oil
2tbsp brown rice flour
2tbsp finely chopped coriander leaves
1tbsp ground cumin
2tsp freshly grated ginger
2tsp Himalayan salt
1tsp garam masala
1tsp sweet paprika
½tsp chilli powder
1-2tbsp warm filtered water

1 To make the marinade, combine all the ingredients with sufficient warm water to make a paste of spreading consistency.
2 Rub the marinade over the chicken, ensuring it's completely covered. Place in a roasting tin, cover with foil and marinate in the fridge for at least 1 hour but preferably overnight. Preheat the oven to 180°C (350°F).
3 Remove the foil and roast the chicken for 75-90 minutes or until the juices run clear when the flesh is pierced with a skewer. If the chicken starts to brown too much during cooking, cover with fresh foil. Rest for 10-15 minutes before serving.
4 Serve warm with the baby spinach, pine nut and pomegranate salad (see right). The chicken will be very moist and tender, and won't be spicy hot.

BABY SPINACH, PINE NUT AND POMEGRANATE SALAD
Whisk 80ml extra virgin olive oil, 2tbsp rice malt syrup, 1½tbsp filtered water, 1tbsp lime juice and a pinch of Celtic sea salt in a bowl to combine. Place 270g baby spinach, tough stems removed, 1 diced red onion, 50g toasted pine nuts, 5g flat-leaf parsley, seeds of 1 pomegranate, Celtic sea salt to taste, in a bowl, then add the dressing, toss gently and serve.

CONTINUED OVER PAGE



COOK'S NOTE

* These savoury spinach pancakes have all the flavour of Indian pakoras or bhajis but are made with healthier ingredients.

Spinach pancakes

SERVES 2

160g brown rice flour
Handful of coriander leaves, roughly chopped
250ml almond milk or rice milk
Celtic sea salt, to taste
2tbsp ghee
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1tsp freshly grated ginger
Handful of baby spinach leaves
Freshly cracked black pepper, to taste

FOR THE INDIAN-STYLE HUMMUS

400g tin chickpeas, rinsed and drained
2tbsp filtered water
2tbsp tahini
1½tbsp lemon juice
1tsp lemon zest
1tbsp extra virgin coconut oil, melted
1 garlic clove, crushed
1tsp curry powder
½tsp ground cumin
½tsp ground turmeric
Himalayan salt, to taste
Extra virgin olive oil, for drizzling

1 Combine the flour and coriander in a medium bowl. Gradually add the milk, whisking until smooth, or use a blender if you prefer. Season with salt. Set the batter aside for 15 minutes.

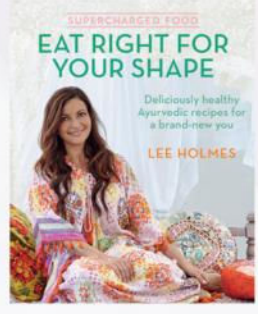
2 To make the hummus, blend all the ingredients except the salt and olive oil in a blender or food processor until smooth. Season with salt, transfer to a serving bowl and drizzle over the olive oil. It will keep in an airtight container in the fridge for 3-4 days.

3 Heat half the ghee in a medium-size frying pan over a medium heat, add the onion, garlic and ginger, and cook for 2-3 minutes or until the onion is translucent. Add the spinach and cook until it has wilted and the water has evaporated. Remove from the heat, cool, then stir into the batter with a spoon, reserving a little for garnish.

4 Heat a large frying pan over a medium heat and add a small amount of the remaining ghee. Once the pan is hot, drop in 60ml dollops of the mixture and cook until bubbles form on the surface, then flip and cook the other side. Transfer to a plate and keep warm. Repeat with the remaining ghee and batter.

5 Divide between serving plates, then top with hummus, pepper and reserved spinach. HB

Recipes taken from *Eat Right For Your Shape* by Lee Holmes with photographs by Steve Brown (£14.99, Murdoch Books)



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Bright IDEAS

These colourful cookware pieces put the fun in functional



COLOUR IN
With an impressive long-lasting non-stick performance and the option to customise, The Lab frying pan, from £20 at Pyrex, is both playful and practical



READY TO ROAST
Healthy fast food restaurant Leon is launching its first cookware collaboration exclusively at John Lewis. This gorgeous Terracotta roaster is just £25



PAINT POT
A natural leather handle and ash wood lid keep this practical piece looking smart and sophisticated. Utility container, £24, LSA International



STYLISHLY SERVED
These beautiful embossed serving bowls come in a range of tempting shades, including this blue. Prices start at £7.50, Home Address



SMALL DOSES
If you're a bit colour shy, try adding just a hint or trim to brighten up your kitchen. Wooden chopping board with pink edge, £18, Printer and Taylor



MIX IT UP
The biodegradable bamboo Zuperzozial never-ending bowls, £35, from Formahouse, are great for mixing, marinating or even serving, and they store away neatly too



SURFACE DESIGN
A decorative tray is a good alternative to a placemat. The Mera Scandinavian birch tray, £35, from Imogen Heath, adds a stunning layer of stand-out pattern



BUILT TO LAST
Perfect for preparing tasty homemade skewers, the Paprika Red Square grill pan, £49.99, is from the brand new Cast Iron range at Lakeland

WORDS AMY NEASON

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE **WHERE TO BUY** PAGE

NEW SEASON TRENDS



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Abby is a freelance illustrator who, as well as working commercially, has designed a range of prints and stationery based on her love of the British Countryside and its wildlife.
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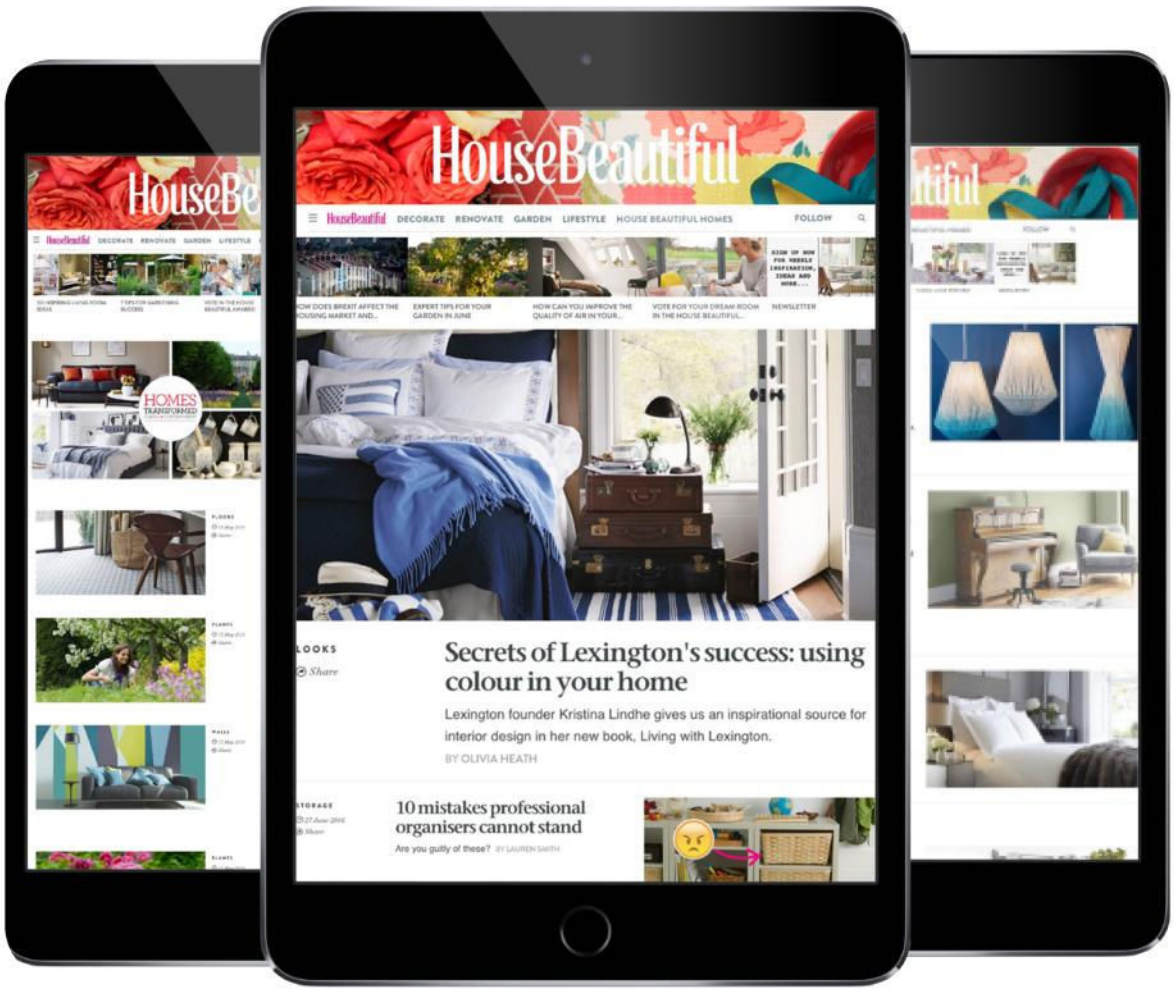
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MOLLY FRESHWATER

Founder and designer at the Secret Linen Store, Molly, 41, lives near Dulwich in London with her partner Spencer Bygraves, 41, and their nine-year-old daughter, Mabel



Dark colours feature in Molly's bedroom; she loves mid-century style, including Ercol furniture and her Fresco bedlinen, inspired by '60s textiles









Neutral decor shows off Molly's colourful pieces; Ottolenghi's recipes are favourites

WHERE I LIVE

Eight years ago we bought our two-bed flat on the ground floor of a beautiful Victorian mansion house in a quiet cul-de-sac. I was instantly drawn to the high ceilings and feeling of space. We have pretty much sole use of the large communal garden, which is perfect for Mabel. It's also enticed me to start growing my own vegetables.

The house had mainly dark colours, so as soon as we moved in we sanded the floorboards and painted the whole place white. Gradually, moodier hues have crept back in and we've gone for pale grey walls in the living room and dark grey in our bedroom. They're the ideal backdrop for our colourful, eclectic pieces.

My style is very mid-century. I like bright colour in textiles and upholstery and tend to buy classic pieces of furniture. For instance, we have an Ercol table and chairs in the kitchen, and I adore my pair of Ercol Windsor chairs in the living room, which I've recently had upholstered in grey herringbone fabric.

Rather than shop for specific things, I tend to buy something that catches my eye. Our London office is near Crystal Palace and during my lunch break I'll pop into the amazing five-storey antiques emporium nearby. It's packed with interesting finds, from lampshades to side tables. Also, over the years, I've received wonderful gifts from my family and these are the pieces I cherish most.

Our mid-century-inspired super-kingsize bed with its brand new mattress is terrific. I swap the bedlinen regularly when I want a different feel in the room and always pile it high with pillows and cushions – naturally, all from the Secret Linen Store.

MY INFLUENCES

I was lucky to grow up in a fabulous Victorian property in rural West Sussex with my three sisters. We had cats, guinea pigs, goldfish and I had a horse. When my grandparents got older we built an annexe for them next door. I've such fond memories of really happy times there. It was noisy, crazy and brilliant fun. My sister Harriet and I had our first taste of successfully working together back then in a cafe. She is now the Secret Linen Store's marketing director.

My mum, Pauline was, and still is, a real trendsetter. Our house went through lots of phases as she constantly redecorated. She gave us the freedom to decorate our bedrooms as we wanted, which was brave. I covered one whole wall in two-pence pieces and another in Marti Pellow posters!

I got my sense of an interior's importance from Mum. She's gone full circle in terms of her style and now lives in a mid-century-inspired house that isn't a million miles away from the look of our home. I'd happily move there and not change a thing.

When it comes to my designs for the Secret Linen Store, I'm genuinely inspired by everyday life and colour combinations. I also draw huge inspiration from nature and love going to art galleries and exhibitions. Agnes Martin is one of my favourite artists.

FAMILY LIFE

I really enjoy cooking and spending time in our recently updated kitchen. I'm a huge fan of chef Yotam Ottolenghi and, on a Friday evening, I like listening to Radio Four comedy while making one of his Middle Eastern-influenced dishes. The kitchen table is where Mabel does her homework.

When we all get together, it's normally chaos! As there are 15 of us in the immediate family, the challenge is finding somewhere large enough to fit everyone in. We often end up at my sister Rosie's home for a meal and games. It's always loud.

I love bedtime. Nothing beats that feeling of snuggling up, ideally under fresh sheets, after a busy day. It's my own little corner of the world where I read, or watch television, before drifting off to sleep, often dreaming of new designs. HB

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