

More Ideas ♥ More Tips ♥ More Style What's inside matters most...

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING
HOMES MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2015

Ideal Home

987
INSPIRING
ideas inside!

DESIGN SCHOOL

TAKE OUR PATTERN
MASTERCLASS
+ CREATE STYLISH
KIDS' ROOMS

The STORAGE ISSUE

- ♥ Built-In & Bespoke
- ♥ Modular Systems
- ♥ Clever Furniture
- ♥ Small-Storage Essentials

ALSO
INSIDE!



New On The
High Street



Student-Proof
Laptops



Quick &
Easy Bakes

Stretch
your space

Steal ideas from...

- ♥ 2 Wow Extensions ♥ 3 Super-Sized Kitchens
- ♥ 5 Storage-Packed Homes ♥ 2 Budget-Luxe Bathrooms





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In this issue...



...prepare for the new season ahead by bringing *Scandi style* to a home office (page 10); embrace urban luxe with chic, industrial designs (page 18) and discover how to *decorate with pattern* on page 90. This month, the Ideal Home team has been busy compiling the best *storage solutions*, so calm and order can reign in your home once more. Find *family friendly* storage ideas for every room (page 78); see how one family seamlessly incorporated *bespoke storage* into their compact flat (page 114) and check out our *essential edit* of smart products that make *staying tidy easy* on page 138. Let's banish the clutter for good!

10

Bring order to a home office



Swipe
FOR MORE



READ THIS ON YOUR TABLET

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ON THE COVER VOLUME 191 ISSUE 1

- Be inspired by the best of the high street with our favourite finds
- From graphic prints to dainty florals, discover how to be a pattern pro
- Liven up a kid's bedroom with fun-filled fabrics and wallpapers
- Find decorating ideas inside five readers' homes
- Make the most of your space with these clever storage solutions
- Take a look at the top tech buys for getting ready to go back to school
- Whip up tear-and-share treats with tempting traybakes
- See how five readers reinvented their kitchens and bathrooms



STYLING SARITA SHARMA PHOTOGRAPH DOMINIC BLACKMORE



26
Put a modern
twist on mid-
century design

SHOPPING IDEAS

- 10 Mood Of The Moment
- 18 Cash Clever
- 22 High Street Heroes

HOME IDEAS

- 26 'We Gave Our Sixties Home A Modern Spin'
- 38 'Our Home Has Adapted With Us'
- 52 'We Had Big Ideas For Our Small Space'
- 64 'I Wanted A House With A View'

DECORATING IDEAS

- 78 Attack And Conquer The Clutter Danger Zones
- 86 Pick The Perfect Pattern
- 90 Pattern Strategies For The Risk Averse
- 94 Colour School: Old Gold & White
- 100 Be Inspired By Our Moodboards

18
Choose industrial
buys for urban cool



94
Opt for timeless style
with gold accessories

PROPERTY IDEAS

- 105 Property Projects
- 108 Extreme Transformations
- 114 Make Your Space Work Harder
- 118 'It's Perfect For Our Growing Family'
- 122 'We've Given It Lots Of Personality'
- 126 'The Units Were Made By Hand'
- 130 'We Wanted To Keep It Simple'
- 134 'Marble Tiles Add A Luxury Feel'

SEASONAL IDEAS

- 138 Ultimate Storage Edit
- 146 Share The Love With A Traybake
- 150 In The Kitchen
- 152 In The Garden
- 186 Six Fashion-Forward Flower Bulbs

GIRL ABOUT TECH

- 155 What's New
- 159 You'll Love This: Quiet Washing Machine
- 161 You'll Love This: Two-In-One Laptop
- 162 Clothing Care

REGULARS

- 7 Editor's Letter
- 50 Subscribe Today From Just £27.99
- 165 Save 20% At Muji
- 169 Get 20% Off At Dwell



SHOPPING DIRECTORY
FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS
FEATURED IN IDEAL HOME, TURN TO **PAGE 184**



BE INSPIRED AT HARVEYS

Toulouse painted round extending table with slatted chairs from £795, large sideboard from £395, and corner display unit from £429.

harveysfurniture.co.uk

Harveys
the furniture store



My to-do list for September

The things I'll be planning, doing and shopping for this month

Much as I love summer, I always look forward to the feeling of transition and new beginnings that September brings...

GETTING COLD FEET I know summer's on the wane when I start wearing socks in bed again. As someone who always seems to have icy toes, there's a brief window between June and September when the bed socks are cast aside (although if the summer is particularly 'British', that might not happen at all). I discovered the Holy Grail of bed socks in January and I'm glad to see they're still available, and in more colours, too: washable cashmere from Marks & Spencer, they're a guilty pleasure at £30 a pair, but – ooh – are they a treat (especially if you've had your heels on).

THE GREAT ANNUAL CLEAR-OUT Rooting in my sock drawer for the first time in a while or turning out the understairs cupboard to find the slippers I kicked off some time in May and haven't seen since, usually initiates a frenzy of reorganisation. What Ma Richmond calls 'the urge to purge' possesses me and I'll spend a weekend chucking out chipped mugs, checking tights for holes and marking anything that doesn't move fast enough with my Dymo label maker (a life essential for control freaks everywhere). The only area to escape a thorough going-over will be my bedside cabinets, which have been

claimed by two of the littlest Richmonds as their own. They use them as hiding places for their most precious belongings (*Mr Men* books, plastic tiaras, etc), to protect them from their baby sister, sometimes fondly known as 'Captain Destructo'. **MAKING LISTS** All this activity usually results in a flurry of list-making: replacement things to buy; stuff that needs fixing in the house; ideas for Christmas gifts (I start early!); storage needs identified. Storage is a hot topic of conversation around the Ideal Home office – so much so that we've compiled our ultimate edit for this issue. It features many of the team's personal picks, although we didn't have enough pages for all our favourites – including these metal trunks from Cox & Cox (right) that I'm going to order for my overflow of 'mummigans' (my brother-in-law's name for the long, drapery cardies I seem to favour). Take a look – it's on page 138. You might find something you didn't know you needed!

Vanessa

Vanessa Richmond, Acting Editor



The change of seasons is a good time to sort things out and declutter



Pure cashmere heavyweight socks in grey marl, £30, Marks & Spencer

Metal trunks, £250 for two, Cox & Cox

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HELLO, WE'RE IDEAL HOME!

Together, we are a team of... multitasking mums, independents, wise empty-nesters, single ladies ('all the single ladies...'), attached ladies, fierce Millennials, mellow mid-lifers, property owners, free spirits, animal lovers, star bakers, crafters, DIY champions, health nuts, sofa slobbers, geeks and goddesses... but, above all, we're passionate home makers. Nice to meet you!

♥ Go to housetohome.co.uk/idealhomemagazine to see more of what we do – you can sign up to our treat of a weekly newsletter there, too...

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loreal-paris.co.uk/perfectage



Don't forget to be colour safe
becoloursafe.com



*I*t's taken over 60 years
to look this good!
Helen Mirren.



IDEAL HOME

Shopping Spy

See Acting Style Editor Michela's edit of what's in the shops this month



Follow my blog
homeshoppingspy.com

Sharp styling

Ideal for keen crafters
Iron and brass-plated scissors, £13.80, House Doctor range, Sisters Guild



Keep it together

Pretty and practical
Gold numbered bulldog clips, £8.50 for 10, Papermash



Light fantastic

Good task lighting is a must at a desk
Trumpet lamp in green, £195, Folklore

MOOD OF THE MOMENT...

Back to school

Summer is fading and we've got that excited new-term feeling, so polish your shoes, sharpen your pencils and get your affairs in order!

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Old school

Retro style in American white oak
Stockholm desk dressing table, £299, Tesco Direct

Neat as a pin

Keeps tape and string tidy
Giant gold safety pin (52cm long), £19.99, Papermash



Tea run

Expect colleagues to covet this two-tone mug
Koichi mug, £19, Toast



Rubbish collection

Even the most utilitarian items can be attractive
Wire basket, £14.99, H&M



Brush off

Designed to clean both keys and screen
Computer brush, £20, Labour and Wait



Home comfort

Support your back if you spend a lot of the day sitting down
Rustic linen cushion cover, £19.95, Nkuku



True blue

Add cheer with a vase of flowers
Blue bubble glass vase, £13.75, Berry Red

To the letter

The oak trays are removable
Dania letter tray, £99, Skagerak



All in a day's work

Invest in some sturdy oak office furniture that will stand the test of time

Office desk in oak, £499; office chair, £350; Barrett task lamp, £95; all Croft Collection range, John Lewis

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£6

Jot down fresh ideas

Triangles large kraft exercise book, Paperchase

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com



Fancy flourish
Add opulence with an intricate shade
Inlight cut-glass single pendant, £25, George

Aged appeal
Get the country look
Butterfly print with mirrored frame, £225 for four, Graham and Green



Wild flowers
Beautiful blooms
Amelie double bed linen set, £49.50, Marks & Spencer

Everybody's DOING...

Flea-market chic

There's no need to trawl antiques markets – vintage style is all over the high street

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Pretty pair
Complete the table
Pink lustre candle holders, from £8.50 each, Star by Julien Macdonald range, Debenhams



Caged beauty
Display a house plant inside it
Extra-large teal birdcage with stand, £40, BHS



Time to reflect
An elegant, frameless design
Large Art Deco mirror, £25, Oliver Bonas

Faded blooms
Bring soft colour to a white sofa
Beatrice cushion, £55, Laura Ashley



Sweet tin
Brighten up a kitchen shelf
Vintage Pharmacie tin with anemones, £10, Berry Red



For the mantel
...or a bedside table
Lyon Art Deco mantel clock, £59, Atkin and Thyme



Anyone for tea?
Show off your best bakes
Vintage tea stand, £45, The Contemporary Home

GET THE LOOK IN 3 BUYS

Farmhouse kitchen

£5

Country casual

Put all your eggs in this basket
Wire mesh basket, Boutique Provençale

Gastro-pub dining
Serve up the perfect ploughman's
Slate paddle board, Wilko



£9.50



£395

Space saver

Butcher's block and storage in one
Kitchen station (H90cm x W80cm x D65cm), Within Home

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!



£50

This industrial-style seat is made of sustainable cork
Sinnerlig dark-brown stool, Ikea

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com



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LOVE
WILL STAY SOFT FOR LONGER

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SO HOT *Right Now*

Splash out on paint-effect accessories

£45

Modern art
Make a Jackson Pollock-style statement

Grey splatter cone shade, Heal's



Bowled over

Each hand-made piece is individual

Splash cereal bowl, Da Terra range, Unique & Unity

£14



£12

Brush strokes

This is backed with velvet for a touch of luxe

Abstract stripe cushion, Next

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

£32



Leather handles for easy carrying
Woven storage basket, Berry Red

See more finds on Michela's blog homeshoppingspy.com

THE NEXT BIG THING

The art of storage

Designers are creating storage solutions that are both practical and beautiful

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



Pure and simple

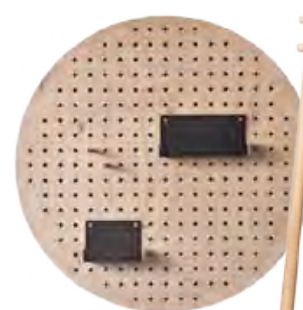
Stack these individual boxes in a combination that fits your space

PS 2014 storage modules, £20 each, Ikea

THE STORY SO FAR From wall hooks to entire modular systems, furniture designers are redefining storage as something to admire rather than just a practical necessity. And with the need for multi-use spaces more pressing than ever, why not make a feature out of what can't be hidden away?

WHERE WE'VE SEEN IT The bespoke wall systems at Brilliant Project can be adapted to suit your space and style, and the modular shelving at String offers lots of flexibility, from a single shelf to a whole wall of drawers, cupboards and even desks. Bethan Gray's Genevieve hanging rail and Normann Copenhagen's Toj are wood-framed upgrades of the metal clothes rail.

LATEST RELEASES Wooden pegboards are back – find them at Kreis Design, Block and Kukka – and for unusual shelving, check out the Gridy Fungi and Cage shelves at Menu. Skagerak has addressed compact living with the Cutter mini wardrobe, while the Zutik by Alki is a horizontal oak beam to which you can add or take away components as needed.



Peg it
Hang up tape and scissors above a desk
X Holes Round, from £84, Kukka

On display
Show off your favourite clothes

Genevieve hanging rail (H176cm x W114cm x D50cm), £399, Bethan Gray range, John Lewis



Tidy corner
Made for a compact hallway

Cutter mini wardrobe, £225, Skagerak range, Hus & Hem



Cool curves
Ideal for scarves

Mobe hanger, £11.99, Dan Hoolahan range, Great British Designs



FREE SINK
BASE CABINET OFFER*



BUY A KITCHEN AND THE SINK CABINET IS ON US...

We're giving away a free sink cabinet worth up to £975 when you spend £8,000 or more on any kitchen.

All you have to do is choose the style, colour and which accessories to combine it with - take a look at neptune.com

*Free sink base cabinet offer closes 31st August 2015. For full details please ask in-store or visit neptune.com/offers

N
NEPTUNE

3 of the best PLANT POT



£10.95

Show your metal
Copper accents add glamour
Copper plant pot, Mia Fleur



From
£20

Cunning disguise
Dress up any old plant pot
Dot Dash print storage pot
in Indigo, Bohemia Design



£6.99

Galvanised finish
This comes ready aged
Metal plant pot, H&M

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

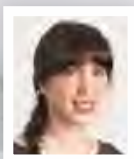


£15

Hang it in the utility room
'One load at a time' laundry bag,
The Contemporary Home

*See more finds on Michela's
blog homeshoppingspy.com*

This month we love...



Michela Colling, Acting Style Editor

'Neptune's Chichester dresser
in Blakeney Blue, for a striking
contrast against fresh white'

FOR WHERE
TO BUY ITEMS
SHOWN, TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY

Chichester 4ft open-rack
dresser in Blakeney
Blue, £1,695; Harrogate
extending table in Lily,
from £1,140; Harrogate
dining chairs in Charcoal,
from £215 each;
Tennyson pendant lamp,
£85; all Neptune

IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget



£219

Minimalist design
**Top the trend charts with this
marble and brass model**
Marble wall clock, Menu range, Heal's



£40

Against the grain
**Cool and contemporary,
with slim silver hands**
Marble wall clock, Laura Ashley



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Create some urban hipster cool with mismatched industrial-style furniture and striking prints

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Sunny delight
Splashes of vivid yellow
liven up the scheme
Plain velvet cushion
in Sulphur, John Lewis

£25

Clear winner
Go for utility chic
with chunky glass
Glass vase, H&M

£5.99

Cut above
Look for unusual,
standout artwork
Scissor print,
Rifle Paper Co range,
Northlight Homestore

£18.80

£65

Top table
Practical and stylish
Factory side table in zinc,
Urban Outfitters

£50

Totally tactile
Ideal for softening the look
Laundered throw in Graphite
Grey, Secret Linen Store

£70

Light up
Add city-
slicker polish
Ned shaded
lamp, £70, BHS

IDEAL **V** GREAT DEAL

Get the look whatever your budget



£372

Retro cool
We love its
blend of angles
and curves
La Lampe Gras
in black satin,
Houseology

£35

Glow on
A compact
size, perfect
for by the bed
Truman task
table lamp,
Made.com

Keep the backdrop
simple with white or
pale-grey walls and
bare floorboards to
mimic the look of
an uber-trendy New
York loft apartment



YOUR RECEIPT

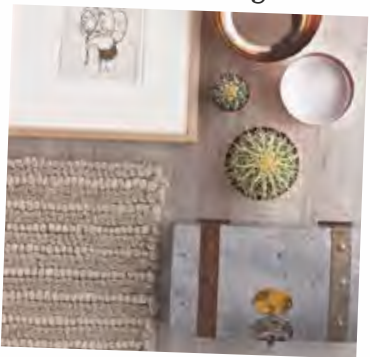
Velvet cushion, John Lewis.....	£25
Glass vase, H&M.....	£5.99
Scissor print, Northlight Homestore....	£18.80
Table, Urban Outfitters.....	£65
Throw, Secret Linen Store.....	£50
Lamp, BHS.....	£70

TOTAL £234.79



Group your favourite
black-and-white prints
for a unique display
on a feature wall

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Loft Living



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 100

See all the details & more shopping inspiration over the page ▶

Find more luxe loft style on the high street

Love this trend? Whether you want to try a lot of it or a little, here's where to shop...

Keep the look pared back and industrial with unfussy pieces in wood, leather, metal and stone.

TRY IT IN THE DINING ROOM

Barker & Stonehouse's Savannah dining-furniture range balances sleek, contemporary shapes with an aged-oak, salvaged feel.

...OR IN THE BATHROOM

Add character with Dunelm's chic accessories in smoky glass and distressed wood and metal.

...OR IN THE LIVING ROOM

A statement leather chair from House of Fraser has the right chilled-out vintage vibe.



All square

Blocky wood furniture is ideal for an industrial feel

Dining set, £1,143 for a table, three chairs and a bench; display cabinet, £959; all Savannah range, Barker & Stonehouse

Feeling cagey

Looks great with the light on or off

Open wire pendant, £12, Wilko



Knock on wood

Add character with rough-hewn wood

Charlie three-drawer chest, £499, Barker & Stonehouse



Shade of grey

Choose accessories in muted tones

Large velvet cushion in Charcoal, £12, George



So solid

Concrete is the ultimate urban, outdoors-in material

Vase, £75, Raft



Clock watch

Opt for a traditional timepiece on the wall

Wooden clock, £15, Wilko

FIND ALL THE DETAILS

FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

For a similar **bed**, try the Charlie low-end double bed frame (H129cm x W148cm x L208cm), £645, Barker & Stonehouse. For a similar **bedside table**, try the Industrial kitchen trolley, £249, Rockett St George. **ON BED** **Bed linen** in white and grey, from £27 for a pillowcase; wool sham **cushions**, £49 each; wool **throw**, £119; all in green/grey; washed sham **cushions**, £49 each; washed **bedspread**, £149; both in grey; all Urban range, Lexington Company. For a similar **small**

vase, try the small bottle vase, from £3.50, Lindsay Interiors. For a similar **bottle vase**, try the glass vase, £5.99, H&M. **ON BEDSIDE TABLE** For a similar **lamp**, try the Truman table lamp, £35, Made.com. For a similar marble **pot**, try the ceramic bowl, £6.99, H&M. **ON WALL** For similar **prints**, try Bodie and Fou or Rockett St George. **ON WINDOWSILL** For a similar **lamp**, try the Ned large shaded, £70, BHS. For a similar **photo frame**, try the high-gloss photo frame, £7, Wilko. Brass **mist sprayer**, £14, Waitrose Home

Hot seat

Sink into luxe leather

George chair, £1,299, Living by Christiane Lemieux range, House of Fraser



FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

Not too hot
Not too cold
Just right



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HIGH STREET *Heroes*

Sue Roberts

Meet the design director behind the successful home brands at House of Fraser

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



BRAND CUSTODIAN
Sue (second from right)
heads up a team of three
other in-house designers

An established high-street name for more than 150 years, House of Fraser has grown from its humble beginnings as a drapery store in Victorian Glasgow into an international department store that sells everything from high-end designer fashion to quality pieces of furniture. Set up in 1997, the homes department now has a range of brands thanks to the company's design director for home, Sue Roberts, and her team.

Since joining the company in 2004, Sue has developed the portfolio of in-house-designed brands from just one to six – and she's about to launch a seventh, Gray & Willow. 'I started out on the Linea Bed and Bath range and it has grown a lot since then,' she says. 'I've been heavily involved in bringing

all the house brands to life. I'm seen as the brand custodian.'

GET TO KNOW HER SIGNATURE

STYLE Sue works across such a diverse product range that it's difficult to pinpoint her signature style, but she admits to a love of good design, vintage textiles, Fifties classics and a mix of old and new. 'I like to use traditional pieces as a strong base and layer more contemporary items on top,' she says. 'Having studied textiles, I'm definitely more of a fabric person at heart, but these days I get excited about everything from lighting and dinnerware to the glaze on a vase.'

The new Gray & Willow range, which launches in store in September, is a personal favourite of Sue's. 'It's something I've been wanting to do for a while,' she says. 'Its got a Scandi feel

DESIGN CHOICE

Create a stylish dining area with rustic furniture

Dining table, £1,599; bench, £499; both Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser



60-SECOND BIOGRAPHY

■ Born in 1972 in Consett, County Durham, Sue moved to Darlington when she was three.
■ She studied Textile and Pattern Design at Cleveland College of Art and Design.
■ Her first job was as a freelance textile designer.
■ Sue moved to London in 1997

and worked for Marks & Spencer.
■ She joined House of Fraser in 2004 and has since launched seven home brands. The most recent, Gray & Willow, goes on sale in September.
■ Sue lives with her husband, Jack, and their children, Albie, four, and Wren, one.

and is inspired by relaxed, modern living. It definitely chimes with my own personal style.'

THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LOOK

Brought up in northeast England, Sue has fond memories of spending time sewing and knitting with her mother. 'My mum was always on the sewing machine and I really enjoyed making things with her,' she says. 'I've

FEATURE KAREN BRAY



FINER DETAILS
Team wood with ceramics
for simple, laid-back style
Kitchen accessories, from £6
each, all Gray & Willow
range, House of Fraser

“Being involved in the launch of so many house brands in such a short space of time has been an amazing opportunity”

always loved embroidery and spent a lot of time drawing, too.’

Sue did A-level Art and a foundation course before studying Textile and Pattern Design at Cleveland College of Art and Design. ‘When I left college, I rented a studio in an art centre and worked as a freelance textile designer for nearly four years,’ she says. ‘There wasn’t a strong design industry up north, so I came to London in 1997. I got a job with the lingerie team at Marks & Spencer and became one of their fabric researchers. I visited mills and yarn fairs with the design team, working out what the emerging trends would be and which fabrics would be popular. It was a great experience.’

Sue joined House of Fraser initially as a design co-ordinator. ‘When I was growing up, House of Fraser was the only big department store near where I lived, so I was quite familiar with the brand,’ she says. Now she and her team are responsible for the home brands and all product development. ‘Working with such a variety of products means

that lots of different themes need to be brought together, so we travel quite a lot to experience different cultures and to visit trade shows and mills,’ says Sue. ‘We look at what’s happening on the high street and carry out market research. We also buy vintage pieces each season and develop them into new designs. We’re really fortunate to be able to design a lot more in house now – I think it’s made a huge difference to the success of the brands.’

The biggest challenge for Sue is maintaining her home-life balance.

‘I’ve got two small children and, with all the travelling, it can be a lot to juggle, but being involved in the launch of so many house brands in such a short space of time has been an amazing opportunity,’ she says.

THE SUE ROBERTS PHILOSOPHY

‘Invest in good design, the right flooring, top-quality paint and classic pieces. This is the base on which to layer seasonal interest. Then, when you want to update your scheme, you can just change the final layer.’

OUR FAVOURITE BUYS

Refresh your home with House of Fraser’s new Gray & Willow range



CREATE A STIR
Put these out on display
Acacia utensils, £12 each,
Gray & Willow range,
House of Fraser

WRAP UP WARM
Ideal for keeping cosy
Basket knit throw, £100,
Gray & Willow range,
House of Fraser



DISH IT UP
Comes in
a range of sizes
Rectangular
roasting dish,
from £30, Gray
& Willow range,
House of Fraser



FINAL COURSE
Serve cheese in style
Marble cheese
board with dome, £55,
Gray & Willow range,
House of Fraser



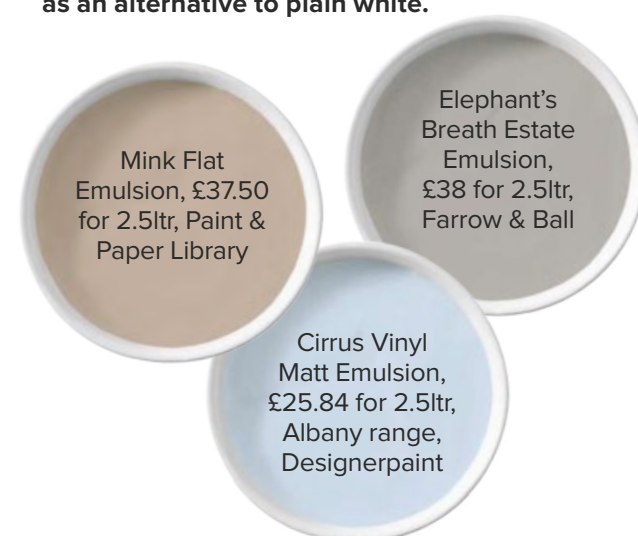
Steal her style SOFT NEUTRALS

Create a calm, contemporary living space with Sue’s gentle palette of soothing shades

USE THEM as a backdrop in living and dining areas to create a laid-back ambience that’s perfect for relaxing in.

MIX THEM with furniture in natural wood tones and pale grey or white accessories for a Scandi-inspired feel.

TRY THEM on exposed floorboards, as an alternative to plain white.



Mink Flat
Emulsion, £37.50
for 2.5ltr, Paint &
Paper Library

Elephant’s
Breath Estate
Emulsion,
£38 for 2.5ltr,
Farrow & Ball

Cirrus Vinyl
Matt Emulsion,
£25.84 for 2.5ltr,
Albany range,
Designerpaint



A natural collaboration

Designed with Ilse Crawford, the new SINNERLIG collection from IKEA is made using organic and natural materials. From cork to seagrass, bamboo to hand blown glass, it's a collection designed to appeal to all your senses.

SINNERLIG collection starts from £4.50



THE WONDERFUL EVERYDAY

‘We gave our Sixties home a modern spin’

A mix of contemporary and mid-century-modern design can work well, as the Rickerbys’ pavilion-style property shows

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big **CHANGE**

RENOVATING AND
REMODELLING A SINGLE-
STOREY HOUSE TO CREATE
OPEN-PLAN LIVING
SPACES AROUND
EXISTING ORIGINAL
FEATURES





① Kitchen-diner

To suit the style of the house, the couple went for matt-white kitchen units with American walnut worktops and classic mid-century-style seating

For similar white units, try the Orlanda K, from £20,000 for a kitchen, Leicht range, Kitchens International. Eames DSR white chairs, £226 each, The Conran Shop. Hay About A Stool bar stools, £149 each, Utility Retail

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£430,000	£48,500	£540,000



THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, pavilion-style, Sixties bungalow, near Edinburgh. The owners bought it in 2013.

WHAT IT COST

Plumbing and heating.....	£10,000
Electrics.....	£4,000
Kitchen.....	£20,000
Bathrooms.....	£8,500
Flooring.....	£6,000
TOTAL.....	£48,500

WHO LIVES HERE

Irina and Thomas Rickerby, with their eight-month-old daughter,

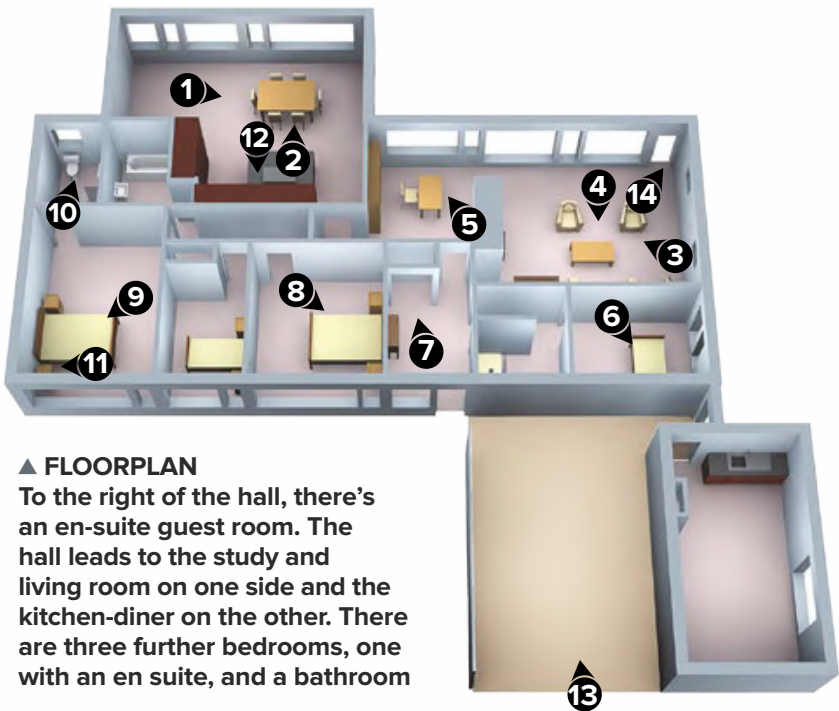
Ruby. Irina works in banking and Thomas is a business development and sustainability consultant.

THE LOOK

Modernist inspired, with white walls, mid-century-modern furniture and distinctive artwork.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Any experienced renovator will advise you to have a good contingency fund and be prepared to spend on quality materials, particularly on surfaces that are on display.”



▲ FLOORPLAN

To the right of the hall, there's an en-suite guest room. The hall leads to the study and living room on one side and the kitchen-diner on the other. There are three further bedrooms, one with an en suite, and a bathroom



② *Dining area*

Having restored all the cedar-framed windows, the couple decided to go without curtains to make the most of the clean lines and lovely views

Radius table, £750, Habitat.
E27 pendant lamps, £45 each, Muuto range, AmbienteDirect.com





Get the
LOOK
PAGE 37

Nestled in a quiet enclave in a pretty coastal village close to Edinburgh, this striking house marked the end of a long search for Irina and Tom Rickerby. 'After nearly two years of looking for the right property, we knew we were onto something special when we finally saw this,' says Irina.

Something of a historical gem, the house was designed by renowned Scottish firm Morris and Steedman Associates, which was a UK pioneer of the post-war modern architecture seen in America during the Fifties and Sixties. 'Our house came with an attractive architectural heritage, even if the interior

fittings and fixtures were starting to look a little bit dated,' says Tom. 'We were delighted when our offer was accepted.'

The couple bought the house in early 2013 and rented elsewhere for four months while the worst of the work was being done. Their brief was simple: bring it up to date in a fresh, modern way, while being sympathetic and complementary to the original Modernist design philosophy. 'We were fortunate in that my cousin, Jamie, is a property developer and runs a very tight ship,' says Tom. 'He project-managed the work using his own team, which meant the project was relatively problem-free.'

The building was taken back to its basic shell to give as much flexibility to the new interior ➔

③ *Living room*

The copper panelling is an original feature. 'We used it as a starting point for the décor, adding subtle, warm metallic touches throughout the house,' says Tom

Wood-burning stove, £650, Charnwood. Model 427 lounge chairs, from £250 each, Chairs+Skyscrapers

‘We are quite selective over what we display, and try to avoid accumulating lots of stuff’



4 Living room

‘Mid-century furniture is great to collect,’ says Tom. ‘We bought a few pieces and our existing furniture just looked wrong, so we kept on buying’

For a similar lounge chair with ottoman, try the Eames style, £795, Vita Interiors

5 Study

The Danish desk and vintage lamp are both from Bra Bohag – a mid-century-furniture shop in Edinburgh

For similar shelving, try the Jai wide ladder unit, £170, Habitat. For a similar lamp, try the Lloytron in antique brass, £19.99, Homebase





‘We travel a lot and always try to pick up something for the house while we are away’

layout as possible. ‘Cooking and entertaining are important to us, so we wanted to create a sociable, open-plan living space,’ says Irina.

Starting almost from scratch gave the couple the opportunity to insulate and rewire throughout. They also installed LED lighting. ‘Making the house energy efficient was an important part of the renovation, so we also replaced the old hot-air heating system with a modern, efficient wet system,’ says Tom.

The whole project was done amazingly quickly, thanks mainly to Jamie and his team’s efficiency. ‘However, it’s also testament to the quality of the workmanship put in when the house was originally built,’ says Tom.

The Rickerbys both have a keen interest in design and a knowledge of mid-century furniture and architecture, which they explored fully to ensure the house was appropriately

furnished and accessorised. Tom took on most of the research and would present Irina with his three favourite options for every item. ‘He’s a self-confessed control freak,’ says Irina, who found that out the hard way, when she once bought some cushions without consulting him. ‘We’re back on speaking terms now though!’

Keen to make a feature of the original cedar-framed windows throughout the house, Tom restored them to their natural-wood finish himself. ‘It started out as a labour of love, but two months of endless sanding nearly broke me,’ he says. ‘It was worth it in the end, but I’m not sure I would do it again.’

Decoratively, the couple went for a clean, pared-back look, with a nod to *Mad Men* – the TV show about New York’s advertising industry in the Sixties. ‘We like the purity and minimalism of white,’ says Irina. ‘It accentuates the space ➔

6 Guest bedroom

With its unfussy décor, minimal furnishing and floor-to-ceiling windows, this room is a lovely retreat for friends and family

For a similar bed, try the Annabel, £329, Marks & Spencer. Nyponros double duvet cover set, £25, Ikea

7 Hallway

A teak mid-century console table is a handy place to keep keys and post hidden from view

For a similar desk, try eBay. Cucù clock with bird, £250, Diamantini & Domeniconi range, John Lewis

8 Guest room

A painting by Irina and Tom's friend, Edinburgh-based artist Paul Muzni, hangs above the bed in this guest bedroom

Artwork, from a selection, Paul Muzni. Striped orange cushions, £25 each, Habitat



SMART STORAGE SOLUTIONS

If you have the space, keep a hallway clear of clutter with a built-in wardrobe for coats, shoes and umbrellas



3 of the best MODERN PRINTS

From £14.50

Be motivated
Seize the day with this bold A4 print, which is also available in pink
Carpe Diem unframed print, Of Life & Lemons



£59



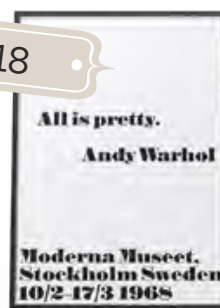
Moonstruck

We love this giclée print
La Lune framed wall art (H54cm x W43.5cm), Oliver Bonas

£18

Word play

A simple, smart design
All is Pretty unframed art print (H100cm x W70cm), Andy Warhol range, King & McGaw





‘We like the purity and minimalism of white – it accentuates the space and light’

and light, and provides a great backdrop for our artwork. It also brings out the natural textures in the house’s wooden elements.’

The new layout flows seamlessly from space to space, incorporating a contemporary finish with a mix of modern and mid-century furniture and some stunning original features, such as the copper-panelling installation surrounding the fireplace. The house is the perfect backdrop for the couple’s neat furnishings and many individual pieces.

‘We travel a lot and always try to pick up something for the house while we are away,’ says Irina, who comes from Russia. ‘We are quite selective over what we display, and try to avoid accumulating lots of “stuff”.’ Instead, the pair surround themselves with a distilled collection of objects that tells a story and holds emotional and aesthetic value.

Even the front-door number has a story. ‘On Google, I found a website called dwr.com,’ says Irina. ‘It was selling metal house numbers in the font that one of our favourite architects, Richard Neutra, had created to number his own houses. We both agree that they make the perfect finishing touch to our home.’

9 *Main bedroom*

Even the main bedroom channels a chic, Modernist vibe thanks to its smart bedside tables and design-led wall lights

Laslo bed, £895, Sofa.com.
Tolomeo lamps, £242 each, Artemide range, AmbienteDirect.com

10 *En suite*

‘Our bathroom was originally completely clad in pine, so we decided to put in the cedar feature wall as an homage to this,’ says Tom. ‘It’s one of my favourite things in the house’

For similar cladding, try the Western red cedar No2 shiplap cladding, from £49.73 per sq m, Silva Timber Products



11 Main bedroom

The bedside table was made by D Meredith – a main manufacturer of domestic furniture in the Fifties and Sixties. For similar D Meredith furniture, try eBay.



12 Kitchen

The couple fitted a walnut shelf in the kitchen to display their eclectic collection of prints and vintage finds. For typographic art, try AllPosters.co.uk.

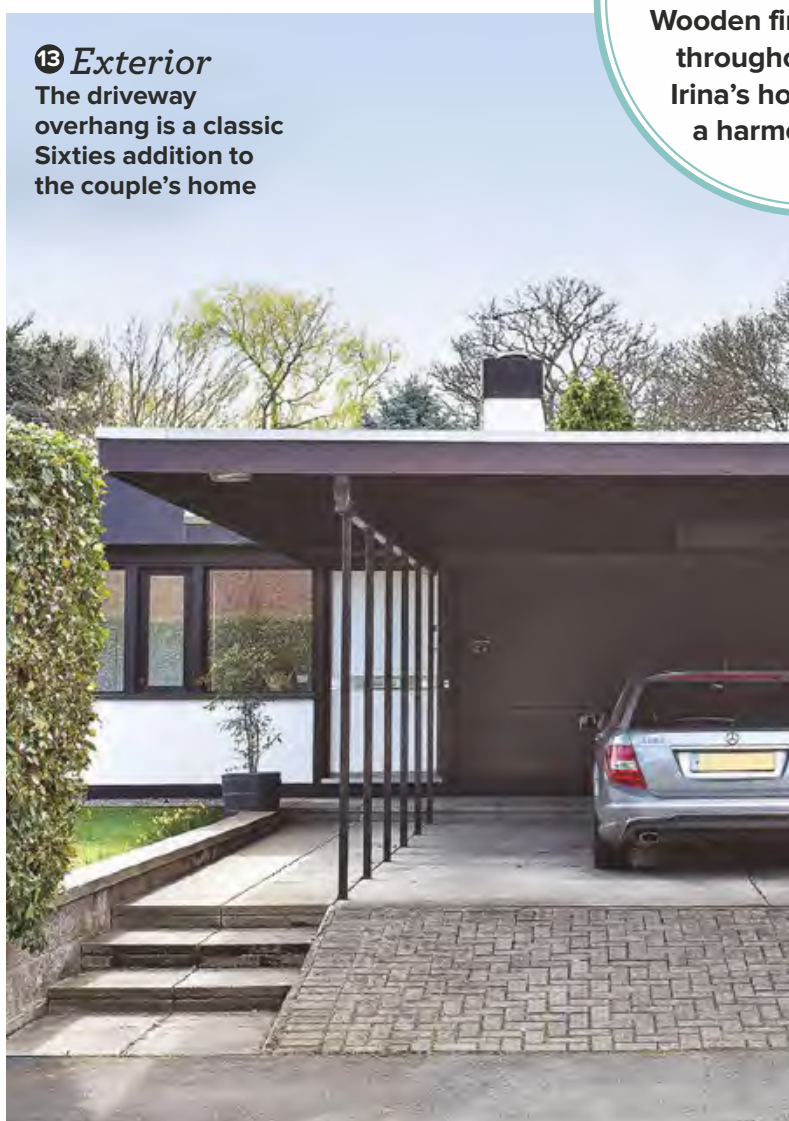


DON'T MISS
the details

Wooden finishes feature throughout Tom and Irina's home, giving it a harmonious feel.

13 Exterior

The driveway overhang is a classic Sixties addition to the couple's home.



14 Living room

'We bought the chair at a Mumbai flea market and had it restored and shipped back here,' says Irina. For a similar chair, try the Capri with rattan seat, £325, Corido.



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Get Irina's look

Bring a mid-century vibe to your living room with iconic buys

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

IDEAL

Sit back

This oak and leather chair is a timeless choice

Loft armchair (H80cm x W70cm x D80cm), John Lewis

£750



£44

Striking style

Screen-printed by hand on natural linen

Geometric print cushion, Peris & Corr



£199

Tri it on

Sturdy solid-ash tripod legs look great with an oversized shade

Tripod floor lamp, West Elm



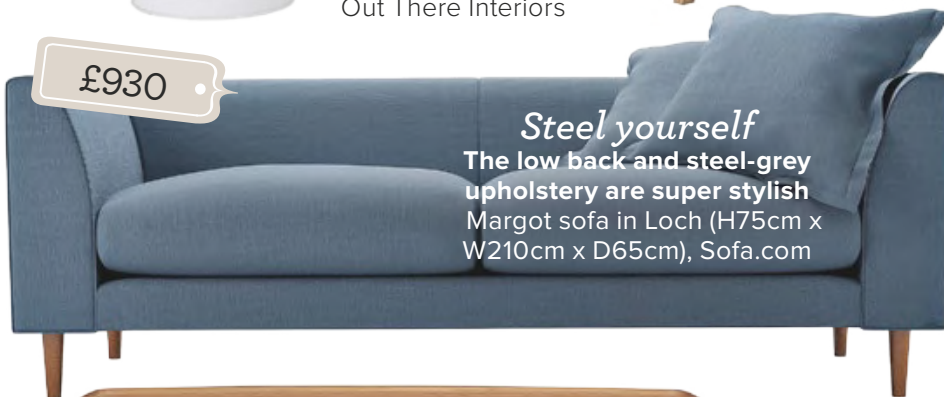
£145

Subtle good looks

White and wood is an easy-to-live-with combo

Wood/metal desk lamp, Out There Interiors

£930



Steel yourself

The low back and steel-grey upholstery are super stylish

Margot sofa in Loch (H75cm x W210cm x D65cm), Sofa.com



£349

Shelve it

We love its handy contrasting shelf

Bampton coffee table (H46cm x W105cm x D50cm), Conran range, Marks & Spencer

GREAT DEAL

Double take

An affordable copy of a classic

Hans J Wegner-style GE 290 armchair (H74cm x W75cm x D84cm), Vita Interiors

£389



£18

Here we geo

Muted tones at less than half the price

Crewel Work Geo cushion, Next



£59.99

Plainly put

A natural linen-look shade will give a softer, diffused light

Kitty tripod lamp, Homebase



£28

Small is beautiful

Find space for this compact design in any room

Peeta white metal and wood desk lamp, Habitat

£400



Copypat chic

Just the right moody-grey tone and sleek shape – at a bargain price

Brooklyn large sofa (H78cm x W203cm x D88cm), Argos

Warm wood

This walnut finish would work with soft neutrals

New York coffee table (H45cm x W110cm x D52cm), Wilko



£120



❶ **Living area**

Celine and Jim removed a wall between the dining room and the living room to create a sociable, open-plan space

For similar dining chairs, try the Arne Jacobsen-style Series 7, £99 each, Vita Interiors



‘Our home has adapted with us’

Stay ahead of your family’s needs by creating a flexible space, like Celine Lynch and Jim Prior did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

The big CHANGE

REMOVING WALLS,
RECONFIGURING THE
GROUND-FLOOR LAYOUT
AND DECORATING WITH
CALM NEUTRALS
THROUGHOUT



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£630,000	£150,000	£1.8 million

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, Victorian terraced house in west London, bought in 2005.

WHAT IT COST

Building work.....	£83,000
Kitchen.....	£30,000
Roof, windows and garden.....	£37,000
TOTAL.....	£150,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Celine Lynch and her husband, Jim Prior, with their children, Maisie, 15, and Rory, 10. Celine owns online interiors store homeaddress.co and Jim works for a design and branding agency.

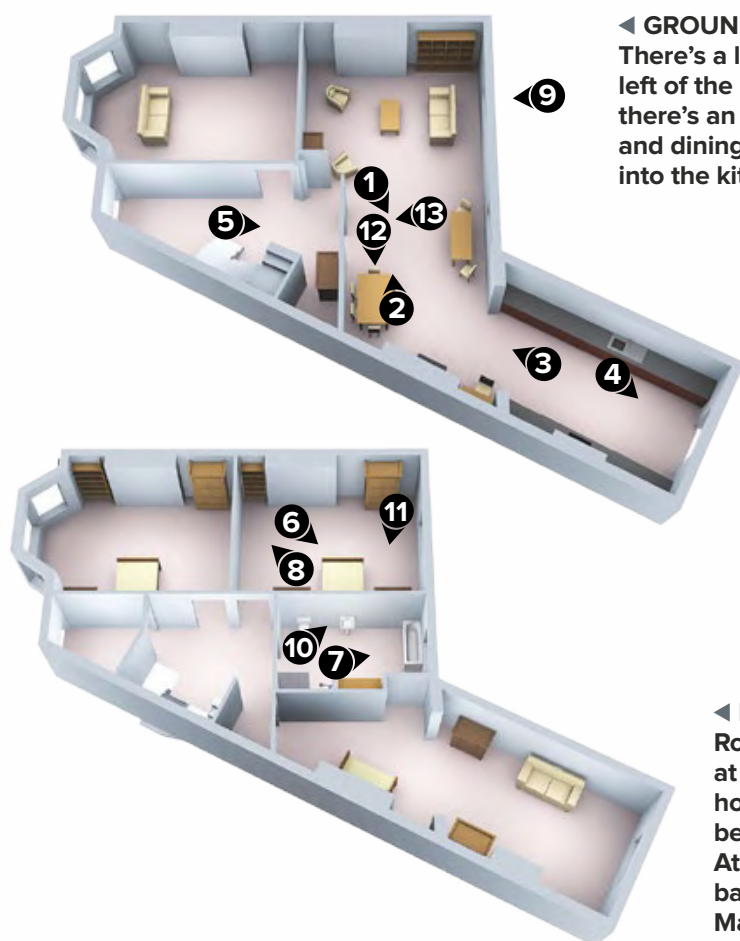
THE LOOK

Cool and calm, with a palette of soft greys and neutrals, elegant displays of artwork and a mix of traditional and mid-century pieces.



LESSONS LEARNED

“I discovered a combination of slab units and granite worktops was best to create a timeless look in the kitchen.”



GROUND FLOOR

There's a living room to the left of the hall. At the back, there's an open-plan living and dining space that leads into the kitchen at the rear

FIRST FLOOR

Rory's bedroom is at the front of the house, with the main bedroom next to it. At the back is the bathroom and Maisie's bedroom



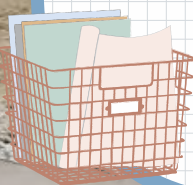
② Living area

With its comfy seating and book-filled shelves, this is a great space for Celine and Jim to relax. The children have been given their own retreat at the front of the house

Signature sofa, from £4,867, George Smith.
Berber Beni Ouarain rug, from £700, Larusi

SMART STORAGE SOLUTIONS

Make a feature of books by storing them in bespoke alcove shelving





‘I think it’s important that a house adapts to a family’s changing needs – a harmonious home has to work for each of us’

When Celine and Jim Lynch bought their four-bedroom, end-of-terrace house in west London a decade ago, they knew they had a big job on their hands. ‘This building had been a rooming house and it was a mess, but the advantage was that we could rip everything out and start from scratch,’ says Celine. ‘I’d renovated our two previous homes, so I had a pretty good idea of what would be involved.’

The house occupies a wedge-shaped plot, which the previous owners had taken advantage of by adding a rear extension at an angle to the original property. ‘When we

bought the house, the extension was used as a dining room, but I transposed the kitchen and dining areas, and demolished the wall that divided it from the rear living room, creating one big living space,’ says Celine.

The front and rear living rooms had been knocked through by a past owner, but Celine reinstated that wall to create a separate room at the front of the house. ‘I used to use it as an office, but now it’s a retreat for our children, Maisie and Rory, and their friends,’ she says. ‘I think it’s important that a house adapts to a family’s changing needs – a harmonious home has to work for each of us.’

Celine has decorated the whole house in understated colours, adding texture with ➔

③ Kitchen

Celine teamed modern slab units with granite worktops for a simple, fuss-free look. Parquet flooring adds character and timeless appeal

For similar slab units, try the Metod with Hågeby doors, from £54 for a W600mm base unit; Bekväm step stool, £13; both Ikea



4 Kitchen

The couple replaced the house's UPVC glazing with traditional French windows that lead out to the rear garden. The appliances are positioned in a tall bank of units at one end of the kitchen

For a similar fridge-freezer, try the E442BRX4, £1,149, Fisher & Paykel range, John Lewis

5 Hallway

A combination of off-white walls, a simple mirror and an antique chest of drawers painted in chalky white creates understated style

For a similar mirror, try the dark birch black square wall mirror, £65, Habitat

3 of the best WOVEN BASKETWARE



£18

On display

Perk up a shelving unit with a textural piece
Weave vase, George

From
£39.95

Rustic storage

This rattan basket comes in three sizes

Rattan open weave basket, Nkuku



From
£60



Well handled

Made of sturdy jute with leather handles

Indra coil jute cotton basket, John Lewis



6 Main bedroom

Folding shutters fit in with the period style of the house, while an upholstered headboard adds boutique-hotel style

For similar shutters, try the San Francisco, from £87.44 each, Tuiss. Original 1227 desk lamp, from £175, Anglepoise

Get the
LOOK
PAGE 49

‘I’ve chosen items that I think add warmth and personality’

furniture and accessories. In the open-plan kitchen, living and dining area, she used a pale putty shade on the walls, painting the wooden panelling in the dining area in a slightly darker tone. She has also expertly mixed different styles of furniture; a hand-crafted George Smith sofa sits opposite two classic armchairs in the living area, while at the other end, vintage Arne Jacobsen chairs, bought on eBay, are arranged around the dining table.

Celine has made a feature of open shelving in the living area, with a wall of storage filled with books and magazines creating a homely feel. The alcoves to either side of the wood burner in the dining area have also been put to good use, with shelves on one side providing storage for wine bottles and logs, and a desk on the other side creating a small area for working at a laptop, with shelves above and below keeping everything organised.

‘It helps keep the dining table clear of clutter and it means I can quickly check my emails without having to disappear upstairs to my office,’ says Celine, who runs online interiors store Home Address (homeaddress.co). ‘I source a range of beautifully made products for the home. I’ve chosen items that I think add warmth and personality.’

Celine has an eye for detail, so when it came to choosing a new kitchen for her home, she ➔

7 Bathroom

Celine chose an Edwardian-style basin to match the salvaged roll-top bath

For a similar bath, try the Shakespeare, £599, Victoria Plumb



8 *Main bedroom*

White-painted floorboards, skirtings and brickwork provide a contrast to the shimmering wallpaper. Asuka wallpaper, £56 per roll, Osborne & Little range, Select Wallpaper. For a similar chair, try the Finntorp, £55, Ikea





‘On summer evenings, it’s lovely to have drinks around the table outside the living room and then move over to the terrace to eat alfresco’

had firm ideas regarding the design. Keen to create a look that is timeless and practical, Celine selected off-white slab-front units and dark granite worktops. The hard-wearing finishes of the stainless-steel appliances and granite worktops are balanced by Celine’s collection of decorative artwork and photographs displayed in the dining area.

Base units are fitted along either side of the kitchen in a galley-style format, with double ovens and a fridge-freezer housed in tall cabinets at the far end. On the rear wall, French windows lead outside. ‘The garden extends across the width of the house, which is wider at the back than at the front,’ says Celine.

The family have two outdoor dining areas, one on the terrace outside the kitchen and another adjacent to the French windows that lead out from the living area. ‘On summer evenings, it’s lovely to have drinks around the

table outside the living room and then move over to the terrace to eat alfresco,’ says Celine.

On the first floor, Celine has stripped out all traces of the property’s past life as a rooming house. ‘The one thing that was worth saving was a claw-foot bath, but everything else had to go,’ she says. ‘I didn’t want a clinical-style bathroom, so I chose a lilac shade for the walls and sourced traditional sanitaryware to complement the bath. A voile blind softens the look without cutting out natural light.’

Celine chose similar muted tones for the main bedroom, where a metallic floral wallpaper contrasts with white paintwork. Plantation shutters keep the look simple and uncluttered, while an upholstered headboard adds a touch of luxury. ‘I had visions of lying back in comfort and catching up on my reading, but most nights I’m asleep before my head touches the pillow,’ says Celine. 

9 Garden

French windows in the living area open onto an outdoor terrace.

A wrought-iron table and chairs makes an inviting spot for a drink at the end of the day

For a similar outdoor dining set, try the ornate steel bistro set, £39.99 for a table and two chairs, Greenfingers Trading



10 Bathroom

Soft pastel walls have a calming effect
For a similar paint, try the Gentle Lavender matt emulsion, £21.29 for 2.5ltr, Dulux



11 Main bedroom

Dark wood storage and white bed linen allow the soft gold wallpaper to shine
Malm chest of drawers, £49, Ikea

DON'T MISS the details

Celine has set a soothing mood throughout her home by decorating with neutrals in all rooms



12 Dining area

Celine made a feature of the panelling on the walls by painting it in a putty shade
Panelling painted in Old White Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball



13 Hallway

Off-white walls and wooden flooring create a timeless look
For similar flooring, try the QSM034, £16.49 per sq m, Quick-Step

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ASK CELINE

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME?

'That the space and furniture suit the needs of the whole family, without compromising on aesthetics, such as our elegant sofa that's also sturdy enough for the kids to bounce on.'

■ DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS

'Elegant, considered, sensual, practical and authentic.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOME BUY?

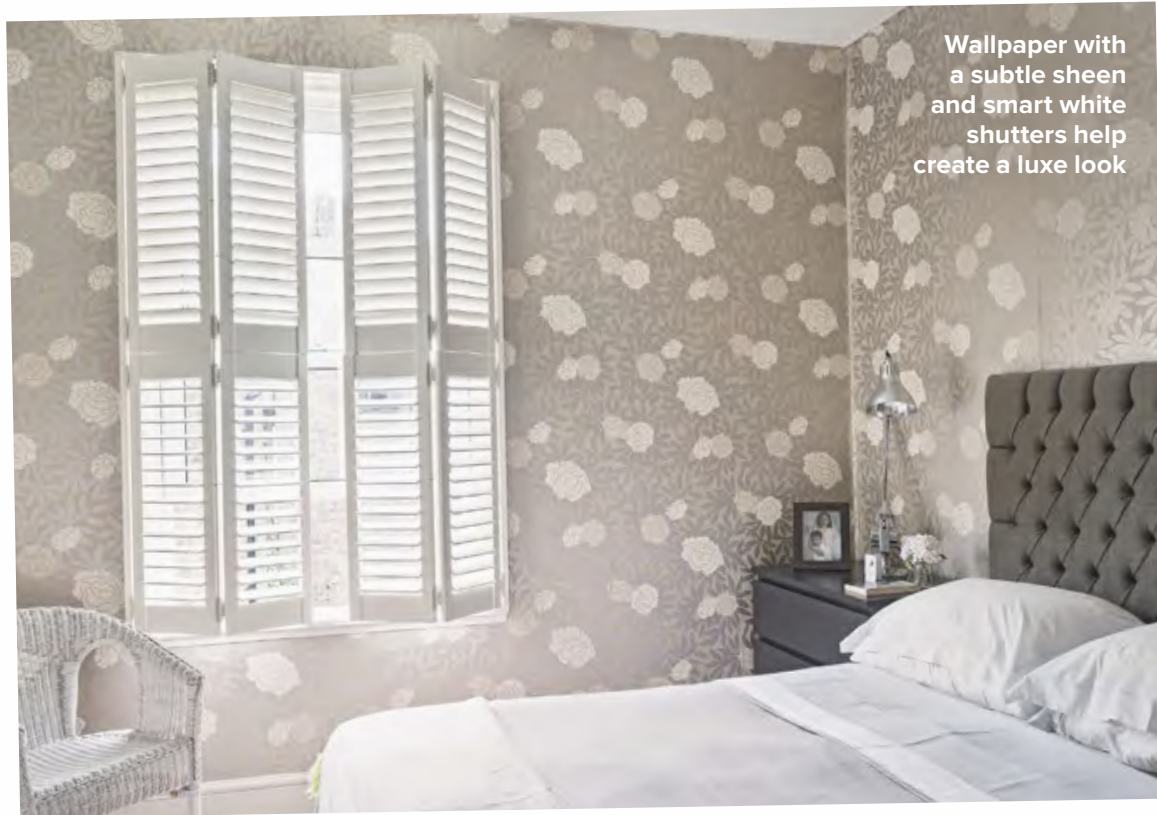
'The wood burner – there's nothing quite like a fire to make you feel at home.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE INTERIORS STORE?

'Home Address. Every product it sells has been thought through and earns its place in the home.'

■ WHICH ROOM DO YOU LOVE MOST?

'My favourite space is the kitchen, dining area and living room, which all flow into one.'



Wallpaper with a subtle sheen and smart white shutters help create a luxe look

BEDROOM

Colonial cool

Keep the window treatment unfussy with white shutters

White two-panel shutters, Shutterly Fabulous

£290
per sq m

Dark side

A flat-fronted design will bring a modern lift to a traditional scheme

Malm chest of drawers in black-brown (H50cm x W84cm x D17cm), Ikea

£49

Quick chic

Dress up crisp white bed linen with this herringbone throw

Altea Merino blanket, Urbanara

£99

Wall flowers

Use shimmering, floral-print wallpaper to make walls stand out

Avellino 36438, Feature Walls collection, Harlequin

£51
per roll

Smart angle

A sophisticated version of a classic lamp

Anglepoise Type 75 mini desk lamp in brushed aluminium, Design 55

£105

£549

Statement snooze

Up the drama and make this upholstered bed the focal point

Finlay storage bed in Midnight Black (H120cm x W150cm x L209cm), Made.com

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‘We had big ideas for our small space’

Outgrown your home? Think about extending – Anna Tobin and Justin Plasett did just that with great results

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The big **CHANGE**

REMOVING THE FRONT
OF THE COTTAGE AND
EXTENDING ON BOTH
FLOORS, THEN
REDECORATING
WITH A VIBRANT
SCHEME



① Living area

Moving the front of the building forward just 3m has created lots of extra space for the family. A vivid rug and seating in bold shades bring life to the cool, modern scheme of oiled-oak flooring and white-painted walls. Oiled-oak engineered wood flooring, £45 per sq m, Edwards Brothers Construction. Snug armchair, £695, Rose & Grey.



Take the **60-SECOND TOUR**

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£320,000	£106,515	£750,000



THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, Edwardian cottage in Barnet, north London. The owners bought the property in August 2003.

WHAT IT COST

Building and decorating.....£90,000
 Flooring.....£5,000
 Furniture.....£11,515
TOTAL.....£106,515

WHO LIVES HERE

Anna Tobin and Justin Plasett, with their daughters, Ella, 10, and, Lily,

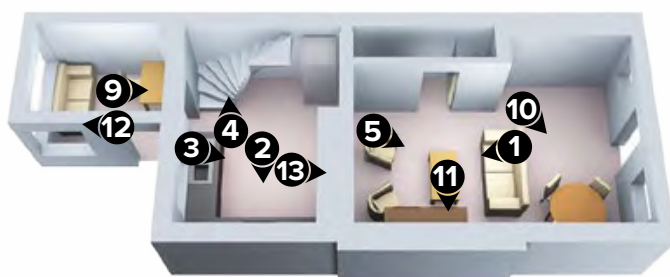
seven. Anna is a journalist and Justin is a recruitment consultant.

THE LOOK

Bright and cheerful, with colourful furnishings and accessories against white walls and wooden flooring.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Being granted planning permission doesn’t give you free rein to build. The Party Wall Award can take years to reach agreement on with your neighbours, as we discovered.”

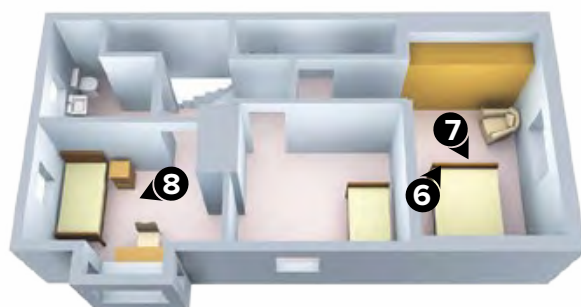


◀ GROUND FLOOR

The front door opens into the living/dining room, which leads into the kitchen. A study-cum-playroom can be found at the back of the house

FIRST FLOOR ▶

Upstairs are the children’s rooms, the main bedroom with its small en-suite shower room, and the family bathroom





2 Kitchen

The couple's old units were relocated from what is now the dining area, then repainted and given new worktops

Shaker kitchen, from £25,000, John Lewis of Hungerford; painted in Summer Medley 4 matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Paint Mixing range, Dulux

Anna Tobin and Justin Plasett bought their two-bedroom cottage in Barnet, north London, over a decade ago. 'We could have gone for a sensible four-bedroom, new-build house with lots of rooms in one of the many developments just outside London,' says Anna. 'Instead, for the same amount of money, we opted for this tiny, run-down cottage, which didn't have a hallway, let alone much else.'

Soon after they moved in, baby Ella arrived, and when Anna became pregnant with Lily a few years later, they put the house on the market, as they were already outgrowing the property. 'It was on the market for six months and everyone who viewed it said the same thing: they loved it, the price wasn't a problem, but it was too small and wasn't suited to 21st-century living,' says Anna. 'So we decided to apply for planning permission to move the front of the house forward by 3m to create more living space downstairs and a third bedroom upstairs.' A rear extension wasn't an option because that part of the house can be seen from the nearby conservation area.

What they soon discovered, however, is that having permission isn't always all you need. 'Within days, our neighbours started a legal battle against the work, involving the Party Wall Act,' says Anna. 'It took five years of expensive legal advice before we could get going.'

During this time, the family had no choice but to adapt to living in a tiny space. Lily ➔



③ *Kitchen*

When the girls have their friends over, the drop-leaf table is pulled out to seat up to six

Suki folding dining table, £195, Habitat. Retro chairs, £70 each, Graham and Green. Teacups, £10 each, Anthropologie

④ *Kitchen*

'We were so lucky that our builders worked out a way for the fridge-freezer and larder unit to go under the stairs, where our TV used to be, and I found some wicker basket drawers online that fit exactly,' says Anna

Wicker basket drawers, £48 each, Buller

⑤ *Living/
dining room*

Anna and Justin have used the sofa to section off the living and dining areas

For a similar sofa, try the Jonah two-seater in Cobalt, £599, Made.com. Gem glass coffee table, £495, Habitat

‘I’ve used bright, contrasting shades to ensure maximum vibrancy against the white walls’



slept in the same room as her parents for a year, then moved in with Ella. 'As Ella's room was cramped, we had to move her wardrobe into our room to make space for Lily's cot,' says Anna. 'Downstairs, the buggy took over the kitchen and, in the evenings, we had to look through the clothes airer to watch TV!'

Once they had permission to go ahead, the couple hired architects Brill & Owen, whose staff have specialist knowledge of building in a conservation area, and building firm Edwards Bros, who made the project run like a dream. With help from the two companies, the pair decided to rip out the kitchen, refit it in the

centre of the house and have an open-plan living and dining room where the old kitchen used to be. 'The windows were replaced in the extended walls and the fireplace was repositioned in the new living area,' says Anna. 'We also had our sofa re-covered and the dining room curtains turned into blinds for the study.'

As it's still a relatively small house, Anna painted the walls white to maximise the light. 'However, I've used bright, contrasting shades to ensure maximum vibrancy,' she says. In the main bedroom, the look has been toned down to create a feeling of calm. Here, white and taupe are the base colours and these are →

'I took time to figure out how the house would work. I had to ensure that every part of every room would have a purpose'



⑥ Main bedroom
A local company that a friend recommended built the fitted wardrobes. 'I was delighted that they could incorporate walnut into the design to tie them in with the beams and the bed,' says Anna. The chair is a vintage Parker Knoll that the couple had reupholstered. Fitted wardrobes, £4,000, Bedroom Design Studios



7 *Main bedroom*

'Previously, we'd had chunky cabinets for the girls' clothes by our bed, so it was a luxury to choose bedside tables for their looks rather than how much they could hold,' says Anna

Bumble side tables, £65 each, Habitat. Piet mirror, £215, Graham and Green. Irisa cushion (on bed), £25; beaded cushions, £25 each; all John Lewis

3 of the best **COLOURFUL CHAIRS**



£275

Slice of lime
Trad looks in a
vivid modern shade
Chloe chair in Lime,
Within Home



£585

Coral pop
Gorgeous retro curves,
ideal for a bedroom
1958 armchair in Coral,
Oliver Bonas



£299

Cool blue
Smartly tailored
for sleek style
Quentin armchair in
Glacier Blue, Made.com



8 *Ella's bedroom*

The school desk was bought on eBay. 'It had 1945 graffiti and ancient gum stuck on it,' says Anna, who changed the existing cream carpet for a more practical mink one. Mink Strand carpet, £48.10 per sq m, Brintons range, Quality Carpets Direct

9 *Study*

Doubling as a playroom, the study has shelving for the girls' toys and board games. The ceiling was removed here to expose the beams, which were stained to match the floor. For a similar chair, try the natural rattan, £269, Bloomingville range, Amara

warmed up with splashes of the burnt orange and bubble-gum pink that bring life to the rest of the house. 'We decided to sacrifice the loft space here and stained the exposed beams walnut to match the bed and wardrobes, and to make a feature of the pitched roof,' explains Anna. 'The idea was to create a grown-up space away from the bustle of family life, but that's backfired, as our girls tell me that the double-height ceiling and large floor area make it the best place to practise their footie skills.'

Before and during the build, Anna built up a huge repertoire of tips for living in a small house, which inspired her to start a space-saving advice blog *Don't Cramp Our Style* (dontcrampourstyle.com). 'Our five-year wait gave me time to figure out how I wanted the house to work,' she says. 'I had to ensure that every part of every room would have a purpose, and I'm delighted with how it has ended up.'



10 Dining area

The seats of these chairs have been woven with colourful rattan-style ribbons for a unique look
Thonet chairs, £95 each, Rachael South



11 Living area

The sideboard has reversible doors in different colours, so it can be updated whenever the family fancy a change
Moodi 130 sideboard, £1,785, Zweed range, Chase & Sorensen



DON'T MISS
the details

12 Study

An old Designers Guild sofa was reupholstered in vibrant lime to create an additional cosy seating area
PS 2012 side table, £35, Ikea



Use blocks of bold colour to add personality to a small space without crowding it with fussy pattern



13 Kitchen

Anna had the shelf cabinet painted cool blue to match the kitchen units
Shelf unit, £385, Ella's Kitchen Company

Quinine from the Congo



Bitter Orange from Tanzania



Lemon Thyme from Provence



Lemons from Sicily



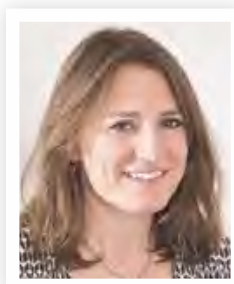
We Love Gin & Tonic

Love it a lot. Love it so much we were worried about it. We were worried the gin was being mistreated, being smothered with mainstream tonic that masks its delicate flavours with artificial sweeteners like sickly saccharin. Gin deserves better, we thought, so we started Fever-Tree. We personally went to the ends of the earth to find the best natural ingredients for a tonic water. Quinine from the Congo, bitter orange from Tanzania and subtle botanicals from Provence. The result is a tonic like no other, one that sets the complex flavours of gin free.

So, if $\frac{3}{4}$ of your gin and tonic is tonic,
make sure you use the best.

Charles & Tim
Fever-Tree Co-Founders





Get Anna's look

Mix vintage and modern to create a cheery kitchen-diner

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IDEAL

Perch perfect

Add extra seating around the table with this neat stool
Penn oak stool, Made.com



£69

Sculptural shape

Make this oak ribbon-effect pendant the focal point of your room
Skipper pendant light, Tom Raffield range, Amara



£185

Weigh in

Keep these traditional scales out on your kitchen worktop
Vintage retro-style mechanical kitchen scales, Salter



£29.99

Artisan style

Colourful painted ceramics will brighten up shelves
With a Twist teacup, Anthropologie



£10

Space saver

Folds up when not in use
Suki folding dining table (H84cm x diameter 100cm), Habitat

£195



£72

Dual purpose

The wooden lid doubles up as a bread board
Bread bin, Nigella Lawson range, Unique & Unity



GREAT DEAL

Take a seat

Get a set of two stools for less
Natural wooden kitchen stool, Argos



£29.99 for two

£65

Curvy detail

Create a similar effect with this elegant folded design
Alvin wood veneer ceiling light, John Lewis



Measure for measure

In stainless steel and plastic with an easy-to-read circular display
5kg cream kitchen scales, Sabichi range, George



£15

Flowery brew

Comes in assorted designs, so you can mix and match
Cinnamon Flower stoneware teacup, Dotcomgiftshop



£5.95

Neat fit

Similar, but with a square tabletop
Newbury dining table (H74cm x W80cm x D80cm), Next



£110

Well bread

A melamine lookalike with a bamboo top
Zeller 25351 bread box, Amazon.co.uk

£29.59





‘I wanted a house with a view’

Can't find your dream home? Michelle Johnston created hers by building it from scratch

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The big
CHANGE

DEMOLISHING A
THIRTIES BUNGALOW
AND BUILDING AN
ULTRAMODERN HOME
ON THE SITE

1 Living room

'The windows slide all the way open and the balcony is big enough for me to sit out, admiring the view,' says Michelle, who had the house built to her requirements

Velfac 200 windows, from £360 per sq m, Velfac. Antique mirror, from £300; Howard chair, from £1,250 plus fabric; both Inspired Interiors. Cushions, from £20 each; Kai throw, £99; all John Lewis



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

BOUGHT FOR	SPENT	NOW WORTH
£485,000	£517,000	£1.4 million



THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, detached house in the Sheepscombe valley, Gloucestershire. The old bungalow was bought in October 2012 and the new-build house was completed in 2014.

WHAT IT COST

Planning and site services...£77,000
Ground work, structure and brickwork.....£187,000
Roof, glazing and render....£91,000
First and second fix and external work.....£136,000
Kitchen and bathrooms.....£26,000
TOTAL.....£517,000

WHO LIVES HERE

Michelle Johnston, who is a retired financial adviser.

THE LOOK

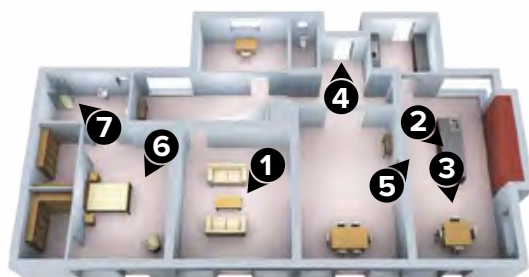
Contemporary, with floor-to-ceiling windows, unfussy, modern décor, an eclectic collection of antique and modern furniture, and colourful soft furnishings.

LESSONS LEARNED

“You need a proper understanding with your architect before you start, so that each of you knows who is responsible for what.”

GROUND FLOOR ►

Leading off the hall, there are three bedrooms, one with an en suite. There's also a bathroom, an entertainment room and a boiler room



◄ FIRST FLOOR

The house is entered from the first floor. The main door is at the back of the house and leads into the hall. On the left is the kitchen-diner and utility room, ahead is the dining room and, to the right, the living room, study, cloakroom and main bedroom with en suite



② Kitchen

Michelle now has an impressively kitted-out kitchen, complete with induction hob, three ovens, a wine cooler and tons of storage. Kitchen, from £25,000, Schüller range, Dajon Interiors. Quay pendant lights, £150 each, Original BTC. Copper saucepan from £75, John Lewis





‘I feel very privileged to have found such a site. This is no longer a project, but a home, located in an idyllic setting, that takes care of me’

When Michelle Johnston retired as a financial services consultant in 2006, she embarked on a new career in property restoration.

Having revamped a Seventies house in Bath using glass and steel to great effect, she started looking for a contemporary property for herself. ‘I wanted a modest house with a view,’ she says, ‘but all I could find were large manor houses or properties that had been extended piecemeal and lacked coherence.’

After years of looking online for her dream home, she came across a tired Thirties bungalow overlooking the stunning Sheepscombe valley in Gloucestershire. ‘I already knew the area and

was attracted to the site as it was on a private road, so building work would cause disruption to just a handful of neighbours,’ says Michelle, who decided to knock down the old bungalow to make way for her contemporary new-build.

The position was perfect because its sloping site faced northwest and Michelle was aware that, in a house with glazed walls, ‘if you face south, you are going to fry by 2pm. Here, the sun hits the front of the house in the afternoon’.

Michelle bought the property in October 2012, then hired an architect and a planning consultant to ensure that all the plans were accepted. ‘He emphasised that the top part of the new house should be no higher than the gable height of the old bungalow, so we had to dig down into the hill,’ says Michelle, who ➔

③ Breakfast area
Steel, leather and glass are perfect materials for the breakfast area, as they reflect the industrial style of the kitchen. Porcelain floor tiles are a sleek, easy-care option

Walls painted in Felt 111 flat emulsion, £36 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library. Fabrica Blanco porcelain floor tiles, £26.33 per sq m, Mandarin Stone. For similar dining chairs, try the Delta, £89 each, John Lewis

④ *Entrance hall*

Because of the sloping site, the entrance is at the rear of the property and the kitchen and living room are on the first floor. Troy marble floor tiles, £57.60 per sq m, Mandarin Stone. Bespoke wall-hung table, £885, Inspired Interiors

⑤ *Kitchen*

The glass doors leading out to the patio and a row of windows ensure the room is filled with light. Stools at one end of the island create a handy space for casual meals. For similar stools, try the Gloss Coco, £38.50 each, Atlantic Shopping

SMART STORAGE SOLUTIONS

An island is the perfect place for those little luxury extras, such as a prep sink, wine fridge or breakfast bar





‘I already knew the area and was attracted to the site as it was on a private road’

6 *Main bedroom*

The floral feature wall gives the room a more traditional feel. Michelle used the same curtain fabric as in her previous house. ‘I loved it so much that, when I used it again, I asked my curtain maker to turn the offcuts into pillowcases,’ she says
Peony Place wallpaper, £56 per roll, Nina Campbell range, Highclere Interiors

was delighted when planning consent was agreed in January 2013. Four months later, the old existing bungalow was knocked down and the new-build was constructed in three stages, with local site agent Steve Potter overseeing the completion of the property from a shell.

Work finally finished in February 2014 and the result is an impressive house that, as Michelle wanted, emphasises the natural light and the view of the valley. Floor-to-ceiling windows rise up to 7m in some places, glazed panels are featured in several internal doors, windows slide open onto a glass balcony at the front and there’s a glass panel in the hall roof, flooding the space with light.

The kitchen is also exactly what Michelle imagined. ‘I wanted it to be very modern and to reflect the style of the house, so there are no stand-alone units,’ she says. As a keen cook,

Michelle required a functional space. Local company, Dajon Interiors, came up with a design that includes a recessed bank of cupboards to hold three ovens, a pantry, a fridge and a freezer, as well as storage, and an island that contains a wine cooler, dishwasher, induction hob and more cupboard space.

When it came to the decorating, Michelle was helped by painter and decorator PS Timbrell. The cool, contemporary grey and black used for the kitchen units, furniture and soft furnishings are broken up by splashes of orange in artwork and cushions, while the bedrooms have a more traditional feel with floral feature walls.

The result is that the house more than lives up to Michelle’s expectations. ‘I feel very privileged to have found such a site,’ she says. ‘This is no longer a project, but a home, located in an idyllic setting, that takes care of me.’ 🏡



7 *Main en suite*

Marble wall tiles and a large showerhead add a sense of luxury to Michelle's bathroom

Shower screen, £700, Aqata range; shower valve, Crosswater range; shower head, VADO range; £600 for the set; all Dajon Interiors

8 *Guest en suite*

In a departure from the house's modern feel, this bathroom has a more classic look thanks to the patterned floor, traditional basin and white metro wall tiles

Vanity washstand and taps, £1,600, Imperial Bathrooms range, Dajon Interiors. Encaustic floor tiles, £225 per sq m, Fired Earth



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£19.50
for two

Basket case
Storage with style
Woven baskets,
Marks & Spencer



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In the frame
Add a pop of pink
Zig Zag bone frame,
Oliver Bonas



From
£29



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Get Michelle's look

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ASK MICHELLE

■ WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT YOUR HOME? 'The fact that every opportunity has been taken to bring the outside environment and lots of natural daylight into all of the rooms.'

■ DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE IN FIVE WORDS 'Calm, clean with unfussy lines.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE NATIONAL OR ONLINE INTERIORS SHOP AND WHY? 'Julian Chichester, because its design ideas are strong and robust.'

■ WHAT'S YOUR DECORATING SECRET? 'Use decorators who also understand the creative side of their work.'

■ WHAT INSPIRED YOUR COLOUR SCHEME? 'I tried to avoid the expense of changing my furniture, so I chose wall colours that would work with all my existing pieces.'



Choose stand-out accessories to bring a simple scheme to life

LIVING ROOM

Made to last

A trad scroll-arm sofa in a neutral shade of grey is a classic choice
Helena large scatterback sofa in Pumice, Arlo & Jacob

£75



Gold star
Give plain walls a focal point with this glam mirror
Sunburst resin mirror (diameter 55cm), Debenhams

£1,620



Smart weave

Add pattern to neutral upholstery with this herringbone throw
Zig Zag woven throw, Next

£25



Bottle it

Glassware is an easy way to bring in an accent colour
Pols Potten Pill glass vase in red (H30cm), Amara

£32



Colour burst

Introduce bright pops of colour with vibrant graphic prints
Figueria Sunburst cushion, John Lewis

£30



£575



X factor

Sleek angles give this steel and glass coffee table contemporary cool
Plaza coffee table (H38cm x W70cm x L130cm), Oka

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30% off

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Luca



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Salvador

ASTOR 3 seater leather sofa. Was £795 **Sale £695** LUCA Glass table and 4 chairs. After Sale Price £599 **Sale £499**
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Be your own INTERIOR DESIGNER

If you love the stylish schemes in Ideal Home, but aren't sure how to transform your own rooms, *we're here to help*. All great looks start with inspiring images, so *indulge in a research session* with our decorating section, then *build a moodboard* for your project.

We'll show you how on page 100.

For all the inspiration you need, turn the page...



Child's play
Check out fun
wallpapers and
fabrics for kids'
rooms, page 86



Pretty palette
Team old gold
with fresh white
for an elegant
scheme, page 94



Prints charming
Learn how to use
pattern in our
masterclass,
page 90



Stylish storage
Discover our chic
ideas for clearing
clutter, page 78

FIND INSPIRING MOODBOARDS ONLINE AT
housetohome.co.uk/moodboards

ATTACK AND CONQUER THE Clutter danger zones

Banish the build-up of household mess and maintain order for good with these easy-to-live-with storage solutions

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 84



Create a cheerful welcome with a statement bicycle-print wallpaper in duck-egg blue

ALL THE IDEAS AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **SLIMLINE SHOE CABINET** Keep frequently used shoes out of the path to the front door by stowing them in a shallow unit.
- ◆ **PEG RAIL FOR COATS** Leave just one jacket per person in the hallway – move out-of-season coats to a bedroom wardrobe.
- ◆ **WALL CUBBY UNIT** Hang a cubbyhole unit in the hallway to keep pens, diaries, notebooks and sets of keys close to hand.
- ◆ **BASKET FOR THE CAR** Store the kids' wellies in a basket that you can easily pop into the car.

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD *Baskets & Bicycles*



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 100

ALL THE IDEAS AT A GLANCE

◆ UNDERSEAT DRAWERS

Choose a hard-working bench that provides deep storage for extra kitchenware.

◆ PULL-OUT BASKETS

Put spare cushions and table linen in easily accessible baskets that can be tucked beneath furniture.

◆ ORGANISER PEGBOARD

Keep letters, bills and invitations off the kitchen table by sorting them into wire baskets that can be attached to a pegboard.

◆ GRAB-AND-GO STORAGE

Pop blankets and mats that are suitable for picnics in a basket near to the back door.

Team a graphic-print wallpaper with white and pale oak furniture for an easy-going, Scandi-style vibe



Tip A neat corner bench adds extra seating without cluttering a compact space with lots of chairs

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Graphic Florals



For details of this moodboard, turn to page 100

ALL THE IDEAS AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **WALL OF STORAGE** Use a basic freestanding unit (like these Hemnes cabinets from Ikea) in multiples to create a bank of storage to fit your space.
- ◆ **BASKETS NEAR SOFAS** Leave out large baskets for the kids to put their toys in, so they're not left strewn across the floor.
- ◆ **PRACTICAL COFFEE TABLE** Choose a table that has a shelf and drawers underneath, so it's easy to keep the top clear.
- ◆ **BOXES ON TOP OF UNITS** Put rarely used items inside boxes that blend in with the walls and store above eyelevel.

Tip Fill glazed shelving units with plain white box files, then add accessories in two bright accent colours

Combine a soothing mid-grey backdrop with happy-go-lucky patterned fabrics in a mix of muted mid-century shades



IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Mellow Mid-Century



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 100

ALL THE IDEAS AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **PEG RAIL** Store toys or pairs of socks inside cotton bags and hang on a peg rail painted in the same shade as the walls.
- ◆ **PULL-OUT DESK** Choose a desk on castors that can be pushed beneath a high sleeper bed when not in use.
- ◆ **STORAGE BENCH** Keep favourite clothes within easy reach by putting them in crates that fit neatly beneath a bench.
- ◆ **STACK OF BASKETS** Add bold colour with a set of woven baskets in a mix of bright shades.

Paint walls in a soft shade of blue, then up the fun factor with a mix of bold, geometric prints in bright shades

Tip Display colourful prints and large books on an adjustable pegboard

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD
Pattern Playtime



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 100

ALL THE IDEAS AT A GLANCE

- ◆ **PEGBOARD** Hang up essential stationery, such as scissors and staplers, on large pegs.
- ◆ **DISPLAY SHELF** A picture ledge is ideal for lining up pots for those odds and ends.
- ◆ **MAKE USE OF MUGS** Keep pencils to hand by putting them in brightly coloured mugs.
- ◆ **MULTIFUNCTIONAL STORAGE** Look for a children's desk that also serves as a shelving unit.

Match artwork and accessories to the colours in your wallpaper



Prop up prints on a peg rail, so you can easily swap them



THE INSPIRATION YOU NEED

Scandi pattern

LOVE IT Feel-good Scandi prints can bring an uplifting feel to any room in your home, whether you choose to use energising bold brights or laid-back, muted, mid-century tones.

USE IT wherever you want to add a sense of light-hearted fun. Lively, graphic prints work well in larger rooms that are used for entertaining, such as living rooms and kitchen-diners, while kids will love to see

upbeat pattern in a bedroom or playroom. You could even use a cheerful motif-print wallpaper in the hallway to welcome guests as soon as they step through the front door.

WHERE TO BUY IT Hus & Hem has a huge selection of patterned cushions, while the bed linen at Mini Moderns is ideal for an instant Scandi update. For fabrics, check out the graphic designs at Scion and Vanessa Arbuthnott.

Choose your base colour

MID GREY This warm shade creates a soothing blank canvas that works well in any room.

DUCK-EGG BLUE Team with coral or tangerine accessories for a real pop of colour.

APPLE GREEN Try this zingy colour on a feature wall or chimney breast.

Lamp Room
Gray Modern
Emulsion,
£42 for 2.5ltr,
Farrow & Ball

Brighton
Absolute Matt
Emulsion,
£37 for 2.5ltr,
Little Greene

Green Almond
matt emulsion,
£39 for 2.5ltr,
Sanderson

Find all the details IN THESE PICTURES

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY



p78 HALL DECORATION AND FURNITURE Cykel 111100 wallpaper, £38 per roll, Scion. Rubber studded flooring in Peppermint Cream, £49.95 per sq m, Harvey Maria. Norwich runner, £169, WovenGround. Hemnes shoe cabinet, £80, Ikea. Pigeonhole wall shelf and hooks, £80, Great Little Trading Co. **ON/NEAR WALL SHELF** (from top, left to right) Personalised framed picture, from £60; child's drawings/messages framed pictures, £65 each; all Sarah & Bendrix. Umbra owl cannister, £15, Debenhams. Notebooks, from £11.50

each; Swedish clogs, from £62.50; all Hedgehog. Tealight lantern, £11.95, Orla Kiely range, Wild & Wolf. Vase, £8, Ben Di Lisi Home range, Debenhams. Tealight lanterns, as before. **ON/NEAR SHOE CABINET** Hector medium dome table light, £150, Original BTC. Cuckoo clock, £49.95, Muji. Owls personal organiser, £16, Paperchase. Rice storage basket, £29, Cloudberry Living

p79 KITCHEN-DINER DECORATION AND FURNITURE Levande Saldo wallpaper, £38 per roll; blind made in Lotta Apple, £28 per m; border made in Plains One in Citrus, £30 per m; all Scion. UF1246 flooring, £31.99 per sq m, Arte collection, Quick-Step. Buckland bench, from £1,765; Somerton baskets, from £145 each; all Neptune. Lance dining table, £150; Jerry dining chairs, £80 each; all Habitat. Padstow sideboard, £499, Marks & Spencer. Shoreditch industrial ceiling light, £69, Atkin and Thyme. **ON TABLE** Tray, £25; Loft Clear vase, £34, LSA International range; both Heal's. Glass, £4, Jane Foster range, Hus & Hem. Vacuum jug, £51, Stelton range, Cloudberry Living. Pasta bowls, £14.50 each; serving bowl, £44, Sophie Conran range; large mat, £9.50; all Ceramica Blue. **ON/NEAR BENCH** Cushions, from left:

made in Plains One in Aqua and in Wagtail, both £30 per m, Scion; Mello Blue, £26; made in Cirkelblomma (front), £22.95 per m; both Hus & Hem; made in Plains One in Citrus (back), as before; made in Brick Aluminium, £43 per m, Kirkby Design; Mello Coral, £26, Hus & Hem; made in Plains One in Powder Blue, £30 per m; made in Hetsa Apple, £28 per m; made in Plains One in Citrus, as before; all Scion; Mello Yellow, £26, Hus & Hem. Rice storage basket, as before. Ants runner in Warm Grey (in basket), from £59; Honey Pale Turquoise runner (in basket), from £62; both Pappelina range, Cloudberry Living. **ON WALL** (from left) British Coast prints, £90 for three, Bold & Noble. Ribba frames, from £6 each; Ribba picture ledges, £7.90 each; all Ikea. Pegboards, from £25 each, Block. **ON PEGBOARDS** (from top left) Twine, from £2.95 each; bobbins, from £2.95 each; all Wild & Wolf. Copper hook rack, £38, Marquis & Dawe. Scissors, £1.75, Paperchase. Familjen cups, £28 for two, Isak range, Cloudberry Living. Twine, as before. **ON SIDEBBOARD** Jive Retro DAB radio, £75, Kitsound range, Tesco Direct. String in a tin, £9.95, Wild & Wolf. **ON WINDOWSILL** Mervyn Gers jug, £30, Heal's. For a similar vase, try a selection, LSA International



p80 LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Inox 224 Intelligent Matt Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Sisal Fine Boucle flooring in Fossil, from £36.50 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. Coates stripe rug, £95, Habitat. Great White coffee table, £395, Loaf. Quartz Chaise sofa in Grey, £998, DFS. Hemnes cabinets with glass doors, £250 each; Hemnes glass-door cabinets with three drawers, £300 each; all Ikea. Drew side table, £40, Habitat. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Acrylic

one-drawer case, £6.95; coloured pencils, £2.95 for 12; all Muji. Iris fruit bowl, from £35, Heal's. Rectangular tray, £50, Kreis Design. Bird mugs, from £9.95 each, Jane Foster range, Hus & Hem. Jars Jardin side plate, £16.50, Ceramica Blue. Durdle vase, £18, Habitat. **ON SIDE TABLE** Copper and white lamp, £99, Marquis & Dawe range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Picture frame, £8, Ben Di Lisi Home range, Debenhams. Pretty bowl, from £6, Ceramica Blue. **ON SOFA** Cushions, from left: made in Cykel, £28 per m, Scion; Mello Coral, £26, Hus & Hem; Plains One in Wagtail and Aqua, both £30 per m, Scion; Spira Juline, £19.95, Hus & Hem; made in Cykel, as before; made in Hetsa Seaglass/Chalk/Mink, £28 per m, Scion; Spira Juline, as before. **ON CABINETS** Paper storage baskets, £30 for three, Cox & Cox. Sylt throw (in box), £65, David Fussenegger range, Heal's. **IN CABINETS** (from top left in each cabinet) Orange photo box, £9; large Alva storage box, £13.95; both The Holding Company. Lotta vase lantern, £40, LSA International range, Heal's. Arch lever files, £3 each, Paperchase. 'Bonjour' poster, £18, Sarah & Bendrix. Ribba frame, £6, Ikea. Acrylic stand, £12.95; pencils, £2.95 for 12; all Muji. Fiona magazine files, £11 for three, The Holding Company. Candle holder,

£25, Ben Di Lisi Home range, Debenhams. Owl money box, £27, Ceramica Blue. Three-drawer slim organiser, £24.95, The Holding Company. Acrylic stand; pencils; as before. Inge white boxes, from £13 each, The Holding Company. Spearmint Love bowls, from £8 each, Ceramica Blue. Glass bottles, £27 for two, Very. Magazine files, £11 each, The Holding Company. Decorative vase, £35 for three, Very. Pretty bowl, as before. Large Alva storage box, as before. Aggie tall pink reactive vase, £30, Habitat. Arch lever files, as before. Acrylic two-drawer narrow box, £7.95, Muji. Fox money box, £27, Ceramica Blue. Spearmint Love bowl, as before. Small Alva storage box, £10.95, The Holding Company. Acrylic two-drawer wide case, £10.95, Muji. Small Pretty bowl, as before. Teal vase, £32, Betty Jackson. Black range, Debenhams. Ribba picture frame, £2.25, Ikea. Inge white box, as before. **ON WALL** 'Birds Around Britain' print, £45, Bold & Noble. Ribba frame, £12, Ikea. **ON FLOOR** Muuto storage baskets, £63.99 each, Smallable. **INSIDE BASKETS** Natural guitar, £21; retro Ludo game, £8.60; both Hedgehog. Bear cushion, £31.59, Ferm Living range, Smallable. Sylt throw, £65, David Fussenegger range, Heal's



p82 BEDROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Gentle Sky 102 Intelligent Matt Emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. UF1235 flooring, £27.99 per sq m, Perspective collection, Quick-Step. Octo rug, £95, Habitat. For a similar peg rail, try the hanging rack, £35, Croft Collection range, John Lewis. Linus high bed, £499; Linus stool, £49; both Made.com. Storage bench, £165, All Things Brighton Beautiful. Wall-mounted pegboard,

from £198, Kreis Design. **ON/NEAR BENCH** Mello Coral and Mello Blue cushions, £26 each, Hus & Hem. Stacking toy box, £27, Great Little Trading Co. **ON DESK** Magnetic memo board, £13.99, Retreat Home range, Notonthehighstreet.com. **ON/NEAR BED** Folk pillowcase, £39 for a single set with duvet cover, Made.com. Kossan quilt cover and pillowcase, £13, Ikea. Bear cushion, £31.59, Ferm Living range, Smallable. Rice storage baskets, £29 each, Cloudberry Living. For a similar cushion, try the Village, £18.70, Made In Design. **ON MEMO BOARD** Pipkin framed animal prints, £39 each, Made.com. Apple memo notepad, £4.90, Hedgehog. **ON WALL** Guitar, £21; bow and arrow set, £10; all Hedgehog. Fabric bags, made in (from left): Cirkelblomma, £22.95 per m; Klippan Tulip; Klippan Bird; both £29.95 per m; all Hus & Hem. Gesso doll's house shelf, £65, Cox & Cox. 'Me and My Animal Friends' set, £25, Sarah & Bendrix. Pipkin animal prints, as before. Darcy clock, £25, Marks & Spencer

p83 KITCHEN DECORATION AND FURNITURE Levande Saldo wallpaper, £38 per roll, Scion. Padstow sideboard, £499, Marks & Spencer. **ON WALL**

Pegboards, from £25 each, Block. Ribba picture ledges, £7.90 each, Ikea. British Coast print, £90 for three, Bold & Noble. **ON PEGBOARDS** Copper hook rack, £38, Marquis & Dawe. Scissors, £1.75; stapler, £5.50; both Paperchase. Teddy keyring, £65, Steiff. Magnetic memo board, as before. **ON LEDGES** Twine, £2.95 each; wooden bobbins, £2.95 each; all Wild & Wolf. Familjen cups, £28 for two, Isak range, Cloudberry Living. Pear memo notepad, £4.90, Hedgehog. 'A Day To Remember' keepsake box, £9, Sarah & Bendrix. For a similar organiser, try the recipe organiser, £14.50, Zinc & Co. **ON/UNDER SIDEBBOARD** Jive Retro DAB radio, £75, Kitsound range, Tesco Direct. String in a tin, £9.95, Wild & Wolf. Cat mug, £9.95, Hus & Hem. Fiona magazine files, £11 for three, The Holding Company. Cushion made in Hetsa Apple, £28 per m, Scion.

DETAIL SHOT OF BEDROOM Wall paint; flooring; rug; pinboard; prints; bag; toy box; bench; cushion (on bench); all as before. Doug house unit on castors, £160, Habitat. Cushion made in Terrazzo Sky, £43 per m, Kirkby Design. French knot cushion, £25, Marks & Spencer



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PICK THE Perfect pattern

Need inspiration? Check out the best of this season's fabrics and wallpapers

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Find fun-filled prints for kids

WHY WE LOVE THEM

Decorating your child's bedroom is the perfect excuse to choose a scheme that's bright, bold and full of fun. There's an amazing choice of child-friendly designs that will create a stimulating and magical environment.

WHERE TO USE THEM If the room is on the small side, keep intricate wallpaper patterns to a minimum. Start with a feature wallpaper and pick a bright colour from the design for the other walls. An adventurous fabric can look fabulous on curtains or Roman blinds.

HOW TO USE THEM To stop bold patterns and colours from clashing and overpowering the

space, the basic rule is to combine a simple fabric pattern with a bold wallpaper, or vice versa. Alternatively, play it safe and choose from the same collection – most design houses have wallpapers and fabrics that are created to work together. Encourage your children to get involved in the decisions – it's a great opportunity for them to express their creativity.

HOW TO ACCESSORISE THEM

Select a colour from the wallpaper or fabric, and reflect this in the accessories and artwork. Your child could even create his or her own collage using leftover fabric, wallpaper and paint samples, so that it complements the scheme.

3 places to buy KIDS' PRINTS

Great Little Trading Co

The colourful children's wallpapers have a practical, wipe-clean finish and cost from £25 per roll.

Mr Perswall Check out the Hide & Seek collection of wall murals that provide an educational backdrop for children of all ages, costing £30 per sq m.

Voyage Decoration The Voyage Enfant collection features a wonderful selection of storybook-inspired wall art and fabrics, at £24.50 per m and £40 per m respectively.

MAKE BELIEVE

Little girls will love these magical trees filled with woodland animals

Going Batty wallpaper, £36 per roll; curtains made in Appledore, £26 per m; both Abracazoo collection, Little Sanderson range, Sanderson



D'YA-THINK-HE-SAURUS Teach your child all about dinosaurs with the help of this fab wallpaper Dinosaur, £19.95 per roll, Boys & Girls collection, Galerie

'The huge range of prints on the market will lure the kids away from designs featuring the characters in the latest blockbuster'

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

TOP 10 Wallpapers

Prints for youngsters

Pick a design that will stimulate their imagination

1

Elephant trail

This jolly motif will brighten up a playroom

Elephants & Trees in cream, green and orange, £9 per roll, B&Q

2

Streets ahead

Colourful houses on a pretty pink background

Happy Street Pink Multi WP31255, £9.95 per roll, Fun4Walls range, I Love Wallpaper

3

Explore all avenues

Encourage your child's adventurous streak with this fun navigational map

Forager wallpaper, £10 per roll, Graham & Brown

4

Road block

These brightly coloured trucks and cranes are ideal for mini engineers

Road Works Ahead 11051, £12.50 per roll, Holden K2 Kids range, Wilko

5

Jurassic world

A delightful prehistoric print for dinosaur enthusiasts of all ages

Dinosaurs wallpaper, £20 per roll, Laura Ashley

More over the page...



▲ WILD WEST

These cowboys on horseback will look great on a feature wall

Cactus Cowboy wallpaper, £70 per roll, Hibou Home



Grosvenor chair made in Jane Churchill Alphabet Beatrix Potter Pink, £929, Multiyork

IDEAL **V** GREAT DEAL

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SHINING BRIGHT Stars and stripes

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Starboard in Marine 1361/721, Be Happy collection, Prestigious Textiles

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per m



STARRY EYED A constellation of colourful stars to brighten up your window

Multi Stars, John Lewis

£16
per m

THE TOP 10 WALLPAPERS ...continued

‘Children’s bedrooms are often on the small side, so keep intricate patterns to a minimum’

Karen Bray,
Acting Features Editor

6

Robot wars
Computer-crazy kids will love this character Reggie Robot 110532, £32 per roll, All About Me collection, Harlequin

7

Personal touch
This pretty paper can be personalised with your child’s name The Bird Cage, £39.99 per roll, Prints 4 Your Tiny Creatures

8

Love to skate
Illustrations by Quentin Blake make up this colourful unisex design Skateboarders, £44 per roll, Zagazoo collection, Osborne & Little

9

Spray attention
An ideal choice for a teenager’s bedroom Graffiti 2800062, £46 per roll, Stars and Stripes collection, Paper Moon

10

Happy feet
Teen girls will be drawn to this flocked design Shoes Scarlet, £55 per roll, Barbara Hulanicki range, Graham & Brown



Feather Grass wallpaper, £110 per roll; woodwork painted in Pointing Estate Eggshell, £53 for 2.5ltr; both Farrow & Ball

FEATURE KAREN BRAY PHOTOGRAPHS RHAPSODY MEDIA

WHAT’S NEW AT

Farrow & Ball

Discover the British brand’s distinctive new range of Dorset-inspired papers

Blostma (top); Hornbeam; both £95 per roll, Farrow & Ball

THE COMPANY Founded in 1946 by paint pioneers John Farrow and Richard Ball, Farrow & Ball started life in a factory in Dorset. Since then, the company has supplied paint for Ford Motor Cars, Raleigh bicycles and even the War Office, later developing a series of National Trust paints. A selection of artisan wallpapers followed, which were produced using block and trough printing methods to create the luxurious textures the company is now famous for. **THE NEW COLLECTION** Inspired by Farrow & Ball’s rural beginnings, the Latest and Greatest collection features

hazy grasses and pretty blossoms, each in a range of seven colours. A large-scale border, Feather Grass, has been included for the first time, with a natural print reminiscent of idyllic meadows. The statement Hornbeam design features the bold outlines of pruned hedgerows, while the more delicate Blostma evokes petals floating softly in the breeze. **WHY WE LOVE IT** Marrying the beauty of nature with the charm of Dorset’s scenery, these artisan papers make a delightfully stylish statement with a calming country feel.

Be relaxed.

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Be comfortable.



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Visit our Comfort Station™ Adaptive in store or book an appointment online at bensonsforbeds.co.uk.



PATTERN STRATEGIES

for the risk averse

Choosing the best style, scale and colourway (factoring in the furniture, flooring and light levels you're working with) is harder than you'd think. Follow these first steps in pattern picking and you'll take your room scheme to the next level without having to live with a decorating regret...

**FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY**

LIVING ROOM DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Caramel Sand 4 vinyl matt emulsion, £24.99 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. For similar **flooring**, try the Morning Oak Light UFW1535 laminate planks, £27.99 per sq m, Perspective Wide collection, Quick-Step. Kaleidoscope **rug**, £175, Plantation Rug Company. **Curtains** made in Mariam Sorbet, £19 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Jasmine **sofa**, £2,450; Deep Dream **armchair** in Natural Art Lima (right), £1,350; weathered-oak step **shelf units**, £495 each; all Graham and Green. Mellby **armchair** (left), £195, Ikea; covered in Plains One Jasmine, £30 per m, Scion. Baya **coffee table**, £625, Lombok. Postino **side table**, £165, Loaf. Round upholstered drum **stool**, £130, The Dormy House; covered in Pretty Maids Sweet Pea and Winter, £48 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. Regolit floor **lamp**, £55, Ikea. **ON COFFEE TABLE** For a similar **lantern**, try the Hampton, £25, India Jane. Rattan basket-weave **boxes**, £8 for three, George. For similar small **tumblers** (with plants), try the 365+ clear glass tumblers, £2.50 for six, Ikea. Rectangular sisal **bread basket** (used as a tray), £19.50, Marks & Spencer. 1ltr bee **jug**, £18; bee **tumbler**, £5; both La Rochere range, John Lewis. White textured **vase**, £15, Ben de Lisi range, Debenhams. **ON SOFA** Cushions, made in (from left): Stockholm Stripe in Sweet Pea and Winter, £48 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott; Mariposa Pink; Pink Stars; Mandir Olive; all £19 per m, Clarke & Clarke; Geneva Vintage in Lipstick, £30 per m, Villa Nova; Green Elephant, £19 per m, Clarke & Clarke. **ON LEFT SHELF UNIT** (from top left) Wild Meadow **vase**, £14 for two, Next. Small rattan **box** (just seen), £8 for three, George. Retro white **vase** with lid, £25.50, Nordic House. Scalloped bone **picture frame**, £15; small pink bone **photo frame**, £10.95; both Graham and Green. Maison limed-wood **photo frame**, £20, John Lewis. **ON RIGHT SHELF UNIT** (from top left) Maison limed-wood **photo frame**, £18, John Lewis. Wild Meadow **vase**, as before. Grey **tealight holder** (part of Stylish Votive tray), £109, Nordic House. For a similar white **pot**, try the Kardemumma, £1.50, Ikea. Large floral **ornament**, £12; Scrolls in a **bell jar**, £12; both George. Wild Meadow **jug**, £12, Next. Ashcroft medium rectangular **box tray**, £27, Neptune. **ON LEFT ARMCHAIR** Cushions made in (from left): Jali in Sorbet, £19 per m, Clarke & Clarke; Stockholm Stripe, as before. **ON RIGHT ARMCHAIR** Cushions made in (from left): Mariposa Pink, as before; Geneva Vintage Lipstick, as before. **ON SIDE TABLE** Ceramic bottle table **lamp**, £195, The White Company.

TIP

Match pattern style to your furniture style, such as trad or modern. It will give a room a clear design identity

FIND A FABULOUS COLLECTION

Take a tip from stylists and choose several fabrics from one collection instead of trying to make ready-made cushions, curtains and blinds from different places work together. You'll have to get pieces made (or sew them yourself), but because the patterns are designed to go together, you can mix them with confidence.

FEATURE VANESSA RICHMOND STYLIST SARITA SHARMA
PHOTOGRAPHS DOMINIC BLACKMORE, TIMEINC/CONTENT.COM



STAY IN NEUTRAL

Take colour co-ordinating out of the equation and choosing pattern gets a whole lot easier. If you have a neutral backdrop (walls, flooring and/or upholstery), pick a print in the same neutral on a paler background. You can even mix patterns in the same neutral shade and they'll go together fine.



Tip Less can be more: one bold but fabulous patterned armchair or rug can have as much impact as a feature wall would

KEEP IT SIMPLE WITH STRIPES

The pattern that's almost not a pattern: narrow, non-detailed stripes are style-neutral, so you only have to worry about getting the colour right. Pin or ticking stripes in two subtle colours won't dominate the room or fight with other pattern you might want to add.



START WITH THE PATTERN

Adding pattern to an existing scheme is tricky, so if you're taking on a makeover project, it's the perfect opportunity to build it in from scratch. This gives you free licence to go for the busiest, boldest, most colourful pattern you like... then let it dictate the scheme by picking out one or two colours from the design to use elsewhere in the room.



STICK TO JUST TWO COLOURS

Start with what you can't change – usually the flooring – and make that one of your colours. Pick another colour that works with it (if you're starting with a neutral, it can be anything). Repeat these colours throughout, using both plains and patterns, but keep the shades and pattern genre (ikat, floral, geometric, etc) the same. This technique has real visual impact if you like a bold look, and works well with bare wood furniture – which effectively acts as your accent colour.

Tip In a simple, two-colour decorating scheme, use contrasting hues – harmonious or tonal shades will look blurred without a third colour for definition

IDEA

Check what hues are big on the high street before picking a wallpaper, so you can get accessories that match

COLOUR SCHOOL

Old gold & white

Create a soothing, sophisticated scheme with this timeless colour pairing

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

This soft shade of yellow has a *brown undertone* that makes it richer than bold lemon or egg-yolk tones, but fresher than mustard or ochre. *Mellow and warm*, it contrasts gently with all neutrals, but looks particularly elegant with off-white. It's such an *easy-going colour*, don't be afraid to make it more than 50% of your colour scheme, but do add in pops of *dark brown*, *bronze or gold* for a little more definition

Golden glow

Display on a
white console
Calabash table
lamp, £125, Oka



Gilded cage

Pop a candle inside
Gold lantern terrarium,
£30, Oliver Bonas

Looking good

Choose from a white
or antique-silver finish

Madison wall
mirror, £195, The
White Company



Country appeal

Fill with white blooms
Large off-white
ceramic jug, £34, The
Contemporary Home



Natural charm

An abstract
floral print
Yellow bloom
cushion, £65,
Woven Oak

Rule botanica

Adds a
formal touch
RHS Lillian
Snelling print,
from £50,
John Lewis



Button up

Relax in elegant,
classic seating
Natasha chair,
from £840, Delcor



Mellow yellow

Choose white and
gold accessories
Arabella bowl cup,
£6.50, Houseology

IDEAL HOME ♥ MOODBOARD

Old Gold & White



For details of this moodboard,
turn to page 100

THE PALETTE

Feel at ease with
these calm colours

PALE WHITE

Softer on walls
than brilliant white

NEUTRAL TONE

This sophisticated
shade has plenty
of natural appeal

MIDAS TOUCH

Warm gold gives
an opulent feel

Wimborne
White Modern
Emulsion,
£42 for 2.5ltr,
Farrow & Ball

Abercorn
Ochre marble
matt emulsion,
£38 for 2.5ltr,
Mylands of
London

Ming Gold
matt emulsion,
£39 for 2.5ltr,
Sanderson

Create a refined look with faded gold and antique white, mixed with traditional prints



See all the details & more ways with old gold over the page ▶

More ways with old gold

Try it with... PALE GREY

Put a contemporary spin on old gold by teaming it with grey. A lustrous wallpaper will add glamour and lemon accents will help shades of gold to shine out

Circle line
Add subtle pattern
Persia wallpaper in Smoke, £22 per roll, John Lewis



Cool hue
A light grey will set a tranquil feel
Tuffet Claypaint, £35 for 2.5ltr, Earthborn

Flock on
This print has a modern feel
Flight fabric in Lemon Gull and Chalk, £39.50 per m, Scion



Give a colour boost to a monochrome scheme



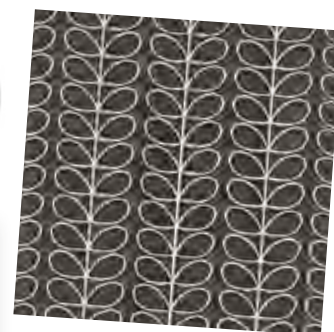
Old-gold highlights add depth and interest to pale-grey walls

Try it with... BLACK & WHITE

The fail-safe pairing of black and white is given a punchy edge with the addition of old gold. Combine plain white upholstery and flooring with gold walls beneath the dado rail. Add bold pattern, using black as an accent colour

Gold star
Add warmth
Print Room Yellow Modern Emulsion, £42 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

Pale flooring
Go for white laminate
IMU1859 laminate flooring, £27.99 per sq m, Impressive collection, Quick-Step



Graphic leaf
Uniform curves
Linear Stem wallpaper in Graphite, £49.50 per roll, Orla Kiely range, Harlequin

DECORATION AND FURNITURE Walls painted in Ming Gold matt emulsion, £39 for 2.5ltr; **blinds** made in Cheslyn Citron/Cream 232030, £53 per m; both Sanderson. Biscayne Mascarpone BS116 **carpet**, £73 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Snowdrop three-seater **sofa** in Shell brushed linen cotton, £1,340; Snowdrop **armchair** (right) in Shell brushed linen cotton, £670; both Sofa.com. Verona **armchair** in Harlequin Plains One Lemonade (left), £1,289, Multiyork. Contemporary **footstool** (H100cm x W89cm x D35cm), from £250, The Dormy House; covered in Harewood Acacia, £24 per m, Clarke & Clarke. Cube **stool**, £105, The Dormy

House; covered in Grasmere Dijon, £26 per m, Ashley Wilde. Tolsey Plaid **rug** in off-white, £340; Aldwych Snow rectangular **side table** (left), £160; both Neptune. Braganza **side table**, £338, Homes In Heaven. Large **console** in white, £459, Out There Interiors. Chiswick framed **prints**, £92 each, Neptune. **ON FOOTSTOOL** Box file, from £28, Harris & Jones. Patterned **tealight holder** (used as vase), £25, Lombok. Corinium **platter**, £36, Neptune. **Cafetière**, £35, House of Fraser. For similar **cups and saucers**, try the white ceramic, £25 for two, Sophie Conran. Gold leaf trinket **dish**, £12.50, Cox & Cox. **ON SOFA** **Cushions** made in (from left): Harewood Acacia;

Cheslyn Citron/Cream; both as before; Plain Check Hay, £46 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott; Grasmere Dijon, as before. **ON CONSOLE** Edie glass **lamp**, £175, Cox & Cox. Photo **frame**, £36, Lombok. Ashby apple and pear **ornaments**, £6 each, Neptune. Ribbed **pitcher**, £21, Graham and Green. **ON LEFT ARMCHAIR** **Cushion** made in Harewood Acacia, as before. **ON RIGHT ARMCHAIR** **Cushions** made in Grasmere Dijon; Plain Check Hay; both as before. **ON SIDE TABLES** **Lanterns**, from £35 each, Petersham Nurseries. Corinium **jar**, from £48, Neptune. **Tealight holders**, from £18 each, Lombok. For a similar **glass**, try the Godis, £1.30 for six, Ikea



Country classic

Bake in style with beautifully decorated kitchen accessories

Board meeting

Enjoy fuss-free measuring
Worktop pastry guide, £15, Laura Ashley



Four score

Go for the matching set
Ceramic cups, £26 for four, Laura Ashley



'Team lovely florals with a classic colour palette for a fresh and timeless feel'

MICHELA COLLING, ACTING STYLE EDITOR

Pretty piece

With illustrated measures inside
Measuring jug, £18, Laura Ashley



Sweet style

A neat storage solution for bakes
Cake tins, £28 for two, Laura Ashley



Floral fancy

Protect hands with this dainty design
Oven glove, £10, Laura Ashley



Be inspired to BAKE AT HOME

Rediscover the joy of baking with the beautiful new Sweet Briar range from Laura Ashley

Whether it's glazing a big batch of freshly made buns or dusting icing sugar onto a plump Victoria sponge, there's a special sense of achievement that comes from making your own pastries, breads and cakes. From kitchen novices to confident cooks, Laura Ashley's new Sweet Briar range has something for everyone to get baking at home.

Featuring measuring cups, utensils and jugs, the extensive selection of bakeware is the ideal way to indulge in your favourite

hobby, while enjoying the best of Laura Ashley's quintessentially British style. The range also offers co-ordinating accessories, including a stunning apron, an owl storage jar, a floral rolling pin and a worktop pastry guide, as well as a selection of handy baking tools.

So, whether you are spending the afternoon trying out a new recipe, or gathering the family for a much-loved favourite, the inspiring new Sweet Briar range is the perfect way to delight in baking at home this season.

For more information...

DISCOVER THE FULL SWEET BRIAR COLLECTION AT lauraashley.com

LAURA ASHLEY

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Cannot be used alongside any other offers or promotions - ends at midnight on 01.09.15.

Be inspired by our **MOODBOARDS**

We use expert interior-design techniques to create our decorating looks. Each starts with a moodboard, like the ones here.

Use one of these as a starting point for a stylish new scheme

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
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FIND MORE
MOODBOARDS
ONLINE AT
houseto
home.co.uk/
moodboards

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 94

OLD GOLD & WHITE

Create an elegant look with mellow hues

Fabrics, from top: Plain Check Hay, £46 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott; Harewood Acacia, £24 per m, Clarke & Clarke; Cheslyn Citron/Cream, £53 per m, Sanderson. **BS116 carpet**, £73 per sq m, Crucial Trading. **Ming Gold matt emulsion**, £39 for 2.5ltr, Sanderson. For a similar **print**, try the Leaf 4, from £14.95, Deborah Schenck range, King & McGaw



Design your own moodboard

Cheat your way to a professional finish

1 Choose your base colour

Whether it's flooring or a wall, the base colour will be the largest area of colour in your room, so place a generous sample of it onto your board. Including carpet samples will help you think about texture, too.

2 Add an accent tone

A dramatic contrast or an accent just a few tones away from your base colour? Use your moodboard to play with options and layer it with swatches of fabric, scraps of wallpaper and paint colour charts.

3 Find the right accessories

These will really set the tone in your room – go for ones that share an accent colour and stick to a single theme. Don't mix styles, or your finished scheme will look messy rather than effortlessly eclectic.

PUNCHY PATTERN

Go bold with statement prints

Fabrics, from left: Mariam Sorbet, £19 per m, Clarke & Clarke; cushion cover made in Stockholm Stripe, £48 per m, Vanessa Arbuthnott; cushion cover made in Pink Stars, £19 per m, Clarke & Clarke. **frame**, £18, John Lewis. **Wild Meadow vase**, £14 for two, Next. **Swatch** of linen sofa fabric, Graham and Green

LOFT LIVING

Put a luxe spin on urban style

IM1858 laminate **flooring**, £19.99 per sq m, Impressive collection, Quick-Step. Smoketree Lt **matt emulsion**, £39 for 2.5ltr, Sanderson. Golden Dreams VII framed **artwork**, £300, Carolina Piteira range, Degreeart.com. Braemar **rug**, £275; for similar **bowls**, try the copper bowl, £10; all John Lewis. Mini vintage **trunk**, £45 for two, Nordic House





SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 79

GRAPHIC FLORALS

Layer patterns in sky blue and grassy green

Polished Concrete Natural laminate **flooring**, £31.99 per sq m, Arte collection, Quick-Step. **Blind** (background) made in: Lotta Apple, £28 per m; Plains One in Citrus (border), £30 per m; both Scion. **Cushion covers** made in (from left): Hetsa Apple, £28 per m, Scion; Cirkelblomma, £22.95 per m, Hus & Hem. Levande Saldo **wallpaper**, £38 per roll, Scion. Familjen **cup**, £28 for two, Isak range, Cloudberry Living. **Scissors**, £1.75, Paperchase



MELLOW MID-CENTURY

Enliven greys with bursts of watermelon

Sisal Fine Boucle **flooring**, from £36.50 per sq m, Kersaint Cobb & Company. **Bowls**, from £6 each; **money box**, £27; all Ceramica Blue. **Cushion covers** (from left): made in Hetsa, £28 per m, Scion; Spira Juline, £19.95, Hus & Hem; made in Cykel, £28 per m, Scion. **Case**, £6.95; **pencils**, £2.95 for 12; all Muji

SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 80



SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 78

BASKETS & BICYCLES

Add Scandi styling to a practical scheme

Cykel 111100 **wallpaper**, £38 per roll, Scion. Rubber studded **flooring** in Peppermint Cream, £49.95 per sq m, Harvey Maria. Child's drawing/message **framed picture**, £65, Sarah & Bendrix. Tealight **lanterns**, £11.95 each, Orla Kiely range, Wild & Wolf. Swedish **clogs**, from £62.50, Hedgehog. Mini **tumbler**, £4.99, Falcon Enamelware. Inox **Intelligent Matt Emulsion** (in tumbler), £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Cuckoo **clock**, £49.95, Muji

Decorating?

FOLLOW THE 3 GOLDEN RULES

1 THE 70-20-10 RULE For a balanced scheme, keep 70% of the elements (say, walls and floors) as one colour, then add 20% in a second colour (fabrics) and 10% in an accent (accessories).

2 THE PATTERN RULE When mixing patterns, use large with medium or medium with small, never large with small. Pick prints that share a colour in common.

3 THE PAINTED BOX RULE The look of paint changes according to the time of day and the light in a room. Paint the inside of a large box with a tester to create a miniature 'room' and see how the colour changes within a 3D space.

♥ **AND FINALLY...** Always add a surprise. A focal point – whether it's a feature wall or a piece of art – is the short cut to a 'wow' room.



SEE IT IN
A ROOM...
page 82

PATTERN PLAYTIME

Opt for lively motifs in primary colours

White brushed pine laminate **flooring**, £27.99 per sq m, Perspective collection, Quick-Step. Pipkin framed **artwork**, £39, Made.com. **Fabrics**, from top: Klippan Tulip, £29.95 per m; Mello Coral cushion cover, £26; Klippan Bird, £29.95 per m; all Hus & Hem. Gesso **doll's house shelf**, £65, Cox & Cox. 'Me and My Animal Friends' **wooden set**, £25, Sarah & Bendrix. Gentle Sky **Intelligent Matt Emulsion**, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. Colouring **pencils**, £2 for 12; bear **highlighters**, £3 for five; all Paperchase

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PROPERTY PROJECTS

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'We installed energy-efficient triple glazing'

As part of a remarkable

eco-conscious renovation that turned a draughty Fifties house into a low-energy home, Rob and Karen Rickey swapped their existing windows for triple-glazed designs. The couple used Rationel AURAPLUS® windows, made from timber frames with external cladding attached by clips. The windows were installed in projecting plywood boxes that were aligned with the external wall

insulation to prevent cold bridging (when a break occurs in the insulation, resulting in heat being lost). Window openings were enlarged on the south side of the house to take advantage of the sun. Rob, who is a consultant in Passivhaus design and sustainable building for LHC (lhc.net), explains: 'If you position the majority of your glazing to the south, the windows will absorb the sun's rays and give you free heating in winter.'

FIND OUT MORE...

- Triple glazing has an extra pane of glass that helps to retain more heat indoors than double glazing, cutting down the amount of energy used.
- For even greater energy

- efficiency, install triple-glazed windows along with insulated window frames.
- Triple glazing works best in a house that is well insulated throughout.



SOURCEBOOK

Bespoke storage



Don't know where to start? Try our top five places...

IKEA 020 3645 0000; ikea.com/gb With Ikea's extensive choice of shelves, bookcases and display units in metal, wood and painted finishes, you can create your own solution for every room.

NEVILLE JOHNSON 0161 873 8333; nevillejohnson.co.uk Tailored to fit your specifications by experienced designers, the company prides itself on its hand-crafted quality. Its shelving and storage solutions are suitable for living rooms, bedrooms and home offices.

SHARPS 0800 789789; sharps.co.uk It has an extensive range of fitted wardrobes and home-office storage solutions to make the best of the available space. There's a wide range of styles, colours and finishes in hundreds of configurations.

SHELFSTORE 01628 782642; shelvingsystem.co.uk Shelfstore is a multipurpose bookcase, shelving and storage system, available in six depths, eight heights and seven widths.

STORE 0844 414 2885; aplaceforeverything.co.uk Store stocks the Elfa modular shelving and drawer system, which consists of racks, shelves, rails, hooks, hangers, baskets and a range of accessories that combine to create endless storage possibilities.



Wooden blind

As well as a stunning collection of shutters, Hillarys also offer a wide range of blinds too. For an on-trend and stylish new look choose Wooden blinds. Available in a selection of finishes, colours and slat widths, you'll be able to create a look that is as individual as you are. Plus, when you choose Hillarys you'll benefit from over 40 years' experience as the window coverings experts.

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CALL 0800 916 6501 OR VISIT
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Make a window. Make a room.



TOP TREND

Freestanding kitchens

In recent years, modern kitchen designs have tended to be sleek and streamlined, with built-in hidden appliances, but if you're after a more casual approach, why not go for freestanding?

By mixing different-sized cupboards, islands and open shelving, you can create a flexible design that suits the size of your kitchen and the way you use it. DeVOL Kitchens offers an extensive choice of freestanding sink cabinets, islands, pantries, butcher's blocks, dressers and pot cupboards, all custom-made to fit your needs, with carefully chosen accessories and finishes.



Real Shaker kitchen in Damask and Lead, from £25,000, deVOL Kitchens

Keep it handy

Clean grout lines and keep mould at bay with Scotch-Brite grout scrubbers. Made from a gentle but highly effective material, they're long-lasting, too.



Genius idea

Scotch-Brite grout scrubbers, £15.81 for eight, 3M Direct

Project KNOW HOW

If you want to know how much your house is worth or how much your neighbour's house recently sold for, take a look at propertypriceadvice.co.uk, which has a handy property-valuation tool and useful data on properties in your area



ON THE SURFACE Patterned tiles

Add a bold splash of colour and pattern to your kitchen or bathroom with these intricate Spanish porcelain tiles from Tile Mountain. Designed to replicate a vintage encaustic pattern with a matt finish, the 10 different variations produce a random effect that will create a wonderful design feature in your home. They measure 440 sq mm and are suitable for both walls and floors.



Skyros Delft Blue wall and floor tiles, £16.99 per sq m, Tile Mountain



Tier-on-tier shutters

Transform your home with made-to-measure shutters from Hillarys. Crafted to your exact requirements and made from the finest quality materials, Hillarys shutters will look simply stunning and will truly stand the test of time. And what's more, when you choose Hillarys you'll benefit from a free in-home appointment to discuss your design ideas, a no-obligation quote, and expert measuring and fitting too.

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EXTREME *Transformations*

With a rear extension and large areas of glazing, the bungalow now feels bright and modern



BEFORE

The bungalow had small windows that didn't make the most of the beautiful surroundings



AFTER

From dull chalet bungalow...

Angie Faulkner and De Carlson extended their Seventies home up and out, adding modern glazing to make the most of its river views

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom, detached Seventies chalet bungalow in a Somerset village.

WHO LIVES HERE

Angie Faulkner and her partner De Carlson. Angie works in finance and De is a dietetic assistant.

WHAT THEY DID

Extended the loft space with two dormer windows, converted the

garage, extended to the side and rear, and fitted bifold doors to the garden. Some internal walls were removed, and the bungalow was also rewired and replumbed throughout.

WHAT IT COST

Angie and De paid £350,000 for the bungalow in 2009 and have spent £150,000 extending and remodelling the property, which is currently valued at £750,000.



◀ **GROUND FLOOR**
There's an open-plan kitchen/dining/living room, two bedrooms, a bathroom, a utility room and a loo on this level



FIRST FLOOR ▶
Two new dormers enlarged the loft space, which is now a main bedroom with an en suite



When fully opened, the bifold doors seamlessly connect the bungalow and garden

to stunning modern home

For Angie Faulkner and her partner, De Carlson, the decision to buy their home six years ago was based solely on its Somerset location. The couple were living in a two-bedroom flat and wanted a more spacious home with a garden. When they first viewed the rather uninspiring Seventies chalet bungalow, it was tired and dated, with all the accommodation on the ground floor plus one poky loft room, which was little more than glorified storage space. However, its location, standing in a peaceful setting on the banks of a river, was superb.

'The views were outstanding, and the idea of living right on the river with our own mooring was very appealing,' says Angie. 'Although it's on the edge of a village, it's very close to both Bath and Bristol, so we bought the bungalow with the idea of renovating it in the future.'

Angie and De decided to embark on an ambitious plan to remodel the building

completely, inside and out. 'We'd been running a café in Bath, which was where we first met our architect, Jon Foulds,' says Angie. 'We didn't bother contacting any other designers because we knew Jon would do a fantastic job.'

CREATING SPACE Jon's architectural practice, Whitebox Architects (whitebox-architects.co.uk), devised a scheme that would extend the property both upwards and outwards. This involved converting the garage to create a utility room and form part of the new kitchen, building an extension to the rear and side, fitting dormer windows to extend the loft, and removing the back wall of the bungalow to install glazing and bifold doors so the couple could fully enjoy the views of the river.

'We were camping upstairs in the cramped loft room, which we later discovered was infested with rats,' says De. 'It was hot in summer and too low to stand up in, so the idea of extending the head height by adding two large dormers was exciting. Taking the pitched ➔



Angie Faulkner and De Carlson

*We love...
...the glazing
- adding so
much glass
has totally
changed the
whole feel of
the house'*



roof down and building a side extension would create a larger living room, and building a flat-roofed extension through the middle of the building would open up the hall.'

'Our aim was to make the house as beautiful as possible on a fairly limited budget,' says Angie, who sent leaflets to neighbours explaining their ideas prior to applying for planning permission. 'A top tip would be to really engage the planners and council – invite them to the house and look them in the eye to explain what you hope to do.'

Once planning permission had been granted, Angie, De and their pets moved into a guest cottage in the garden, which was purpose-built by the same builders who were working on the main house. This timber-clad building also overlooks the river and has one main room and an en-suite bathroom. It provided an ideal base for eight months, and meant that the couple were on hand throughout the project.

STARTING WORK 'Our builder was a local man with an excellent reputation,' explains De. 'Virtually everything was replaced, although we did manage to keep the roof tiles, which helped us to stay within our budget. The bungalow was stripped out and the rear wall demolished, with new aluminium-framed triple glazing installed. We had real problems with the glaziers though, which delayed work by about six weeks.'

The alterations give the illusion of space without dramatically changing the existing

footprint or imposing on the plot. The old galley kitchen was replaced by the new living room, and the kitchen was relocated to the other side of the house. Roof lights were fitted to bring natural light into the centre of the ground floor, which serves as an open-plan hallway and music room.

Externally, the front of the house and the new dormers were clad with larch boarding, which De stained before it was fixed in place. In contrast, a modern oak entrance door was fitted, matched by a panel of horizontal oak boarding to the rear of the house.

The building was rewired, replumbed and insulated. Underfloor heating was laid on the ground floor and internal walls were removed to create a contemporary, open-plan layout. A structural steel post in the kitchen was painted vivid orange to contrast with the white walls and off-white porcelain floor tiles.

Almost the entire ground floor is now dedicated to an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area, with two large sets of bifolds that can be pushed back to create a virtually seamless connection to the terrace.

Beyond the patio, a large lawned area gently slopes down to the riverbank and the couple's own private mooring. 'When the weather's warm, we like nothing more than to cruise our boat along to one of the riverside pubs for a leisurely lunch,' says Angie. 'Living here really does feel like being permanently on holiday.'





Dormers extended the vaulted main bedroom, which has a glazed balcony overlooking the river

RENOVATION KNOW-HOW

■ **Many alterations can be made under permitted development**, meaning you don't need to get planning permission. For more information on planning and building regulations, visit planningportal.gov.uk and always check with your local authority before making any major changes.

■ **Keep your neighbours informed** at all stages and you might need to obtain party-wall agreements, too. Check the advice given at planningportal.gov.uk.

■ **For extensions and major remodelling**, it's usually advisable to employ an architect to draw up accurate plans: the Royal Institute of British Architects (architecture.com) holds a directory of approved architects.

■ **Get at least three quotes for all major purchases**, including when you're hiring tradesmen and, whenever possible, negotiate fixed prices for each job rather than paying a daily rate.

■ **It's not usually advisable to undertake major roofing work on a DIY basis**. Go to the National Federation of Roofing Contractors' website (nfrc.co.uk) to find a reputable roofer to do the work.

■ **Remember to factor delays into the schedule** and always have a contingency pot of money to pay for those unforeseen expenses.



High-gloss units, maple worktops and ceramic floor tiles give the kitchen a sleek, modern look

‘A top tip would be to invite the planners to the house and explain what you hope to do’

IN DETAIL DORMER WINDOWS

See how Angie and De gained space with dormers

Angie and De's main bedroom has two new dormers, clad in stained larch boarding.

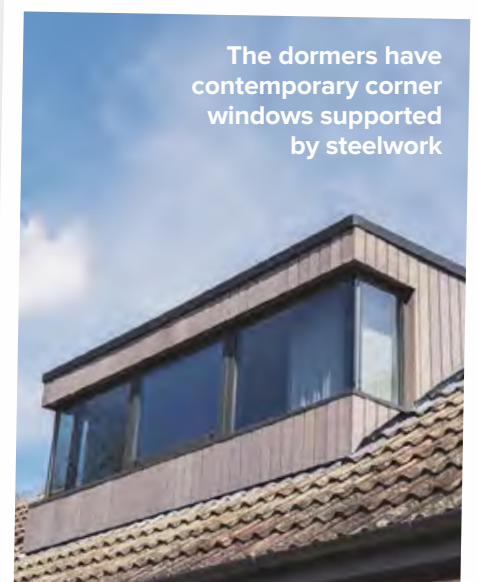
■ Extending upwards into the loft can be a cost-effective way to add space without encroaching on the garden, and is often the cheapest way to create extra room.

■ By installing dormer windows in the roof slope, you can increase head height and get the

maximum amount of usable space in your room.

■ Dormer windows can create a statement in their own right, and can be clad to match the house or in contrasting materials.

■ A loft conversion is considered permitted development and doesn't require planning permission, provided that certain conditions are met. See planningportal.gov.uk for details.



The dormers have contemporary corner windows supported by steelwork



BEFORE

EXTREME *Transformation 2*



AFTER

‘It feels so light and airy’

Penny and Douglas Dawson have given their traditional home an entirely new look with a contemporary glazed extension

When Penny and Douglas Dawson bought their Thirties house in Solihull, West Midlands, they knew they wanted to make some major improvements. After converting the garage and the loft, they decided to build a single-storey rear extension to create a kitchen, dining and living space. **NEW PLANS** The work came under permitted development so it didn't need planning permission, but the couple asked an architect to draw up the plans. 'It would have been cheaper to build a flat-roof extension, but we

felt that a pitched roof in the kitchen would create a more interesting space,' says Penny. 'The living room ceiling is inset with a large roof light, which means it's always bright.' **PROJECT SETBACKS** The position of existing drains meant that the builders had to create expensive piled foundations, and an old steel and concrete air-raid shelter was also uncovered and had to be removed. 'The foundations added an unexpected £4,000 to our costs, but the builders were very helpful and sorted out any problems,' says Penny.

Bespoke aluminium bifold doors from Origin (origin-global.com) were chosen for their durability and thermal efficiency. 'As soon as the doors were installed, the space immediately felt warm, and our heating bills have drastically reduced, even though the house is now bigger,' says Penny.

The two sets of bifolds are divided by a narrow brick wall, which provides additional support for the roof and allowed the Dawsons to incorporate a fully glazed gable end.

The house cost £290,000 in 2002, the extension – which took five months – cost £120,000, and the property is currently worth more than £550,000. 'It has totally changed the way we live,' says Penny. 'We have plenty of storage and more than enough space for entertaining. It's a pleasure to spend time here.'



Penny Dawson

Trials & triumphs...

■ What was the high point?

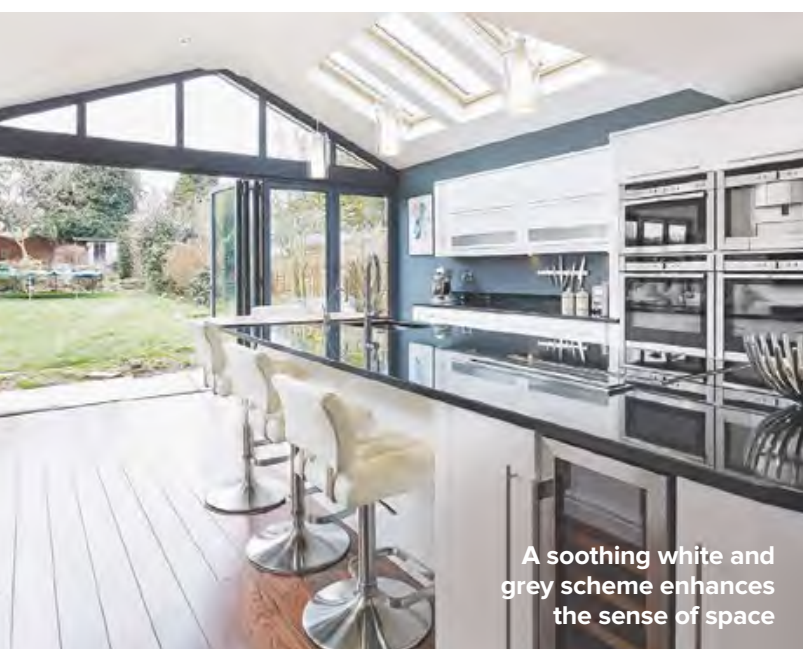
'When the floor was installed, the open-plan space was transformed.'

■ Any low points?

'Finding drains where we wanted to dig foundations.'

■ What was the project saviour?

'We wouldn't be without the kitchen's gadgets, like the boiling-water tap.'



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CRUCIAL TRADING

1 Storage divider

Teresa designed the double-sided storage unit to partition off the kitchen from the dining area. She can access the kitchen equipment and tableware stored inside it from both sides

For a similar shelving unit, try the Aspen, £695, Habitat

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

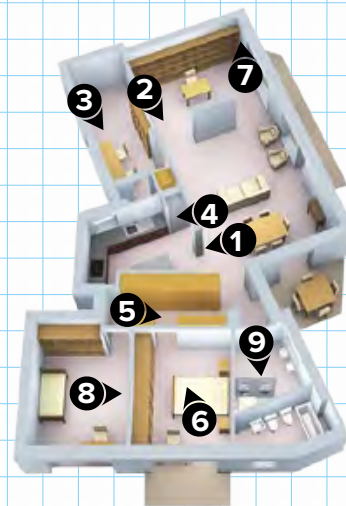
A two-bedroom apartment in Rome, Italy, built in 1958. The owners bought it in 1989.

WHO LIVES HERE

Teresa Paratore, with her husband, Fabio, and their son, Gianmarco, 13. Teresa is an architect and Fabio is a civil engineer.

THE LOOK

Sleek, with plenty of clever storage ideas ensuring it stays free of clutter. Bright artwork and furniture add colour to the all-white décor.



THE LAYOUT The entrance is via a galley workspace, which leads through to a home office. This can be partitioned off from the open-plan living and dining area, which adjoins the kitchen. There are two bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom, and a shower room

Make your space work harder



Bespoke, built-in storage and space solutions can transform the way you live. See the possibilities in action in Teresa Paratore's flat – it's a showcase of great ideas...

‘I worried about combining my office and my home, but sliding doors mean I can make the work space entirely separate when I need to’

② *Sliding doors*

The entrance hall leads to Teresa's office. When clients visit, she slides the doors across to screen off the rest of her home

For a similar desk, try the Malm, £99, Ikea



③ *Built-in desk*

The hallway has a slimline, built-in workstation, open shelving and a drawer unit. White-painted built-in cupboards at one end provide more storage and ensure the space looks sleek. Concealed lights just below the ceiling add atmosphere

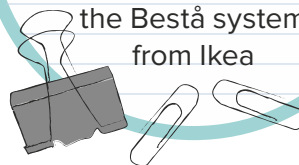
④ *Angled kitchen*

Teresa has installed a modern kitchen with handleless unit doors in what was once an awkward corner where a bathroom and a hallway used to be. Tall wall units and a breakfast bar make the most of every square inch of space



SMART STORAGE SOLUTIONS

For similar modular storage in a range of configurations, try the Bestå system from Ikea



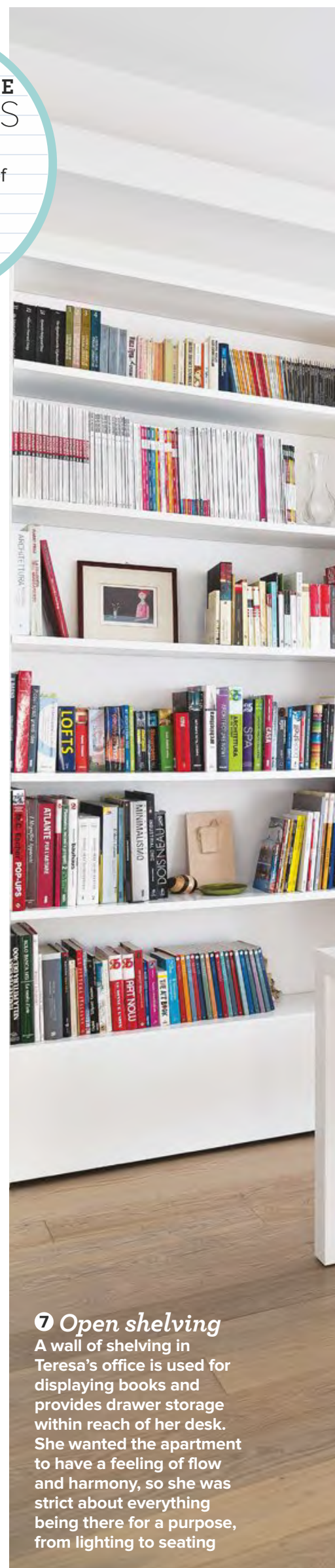
5 Wall of storage

The corridor that leads to the bedrooms is fitted with floor-to-ceiling cupboards that are kitted out with shelves and hanging rails. Painted to blend in with the all-white walls, they provide plenty of 'invisible' storage

6 Drawer units

In the couple's bedroom, all clutter is hidden away inside wall-hung drawer units, arranged in a neat formation with three storage cubes for books above them. The symmetrical arrangement brings a sense of balance and order to the space

For similar wall lights, try the Anglepoise 1227, £235 each, John Lewis



7 Open shelving

A wall of shelving in Teresa's office is used for displaying books and provides drawer storage within reach of her desk. She wanted the apartment to have a feeling of flow and harmony, so she was strict about everything being there for a purpose, from lighting to seating



‘It was important that, even though they share a building, my office and our family home can function independently of one another’



⑧ **Box shelves**

Wall-hung drawer units and open box shelves for books keep Gianmarco's bedroom free of clutter and create a sense of space by making more of the floor area visible

For similar box shelves, try the Duraline triple cubes, £17.99 for three, Homebase

⑨ **Storage tower**

In the bathroom, five floating cupboards hung in a stack ensure there are no cosmetics cluttering up surfaces. Teresa added castors to a storage stool to make it easy to move around – it can be pushed beneath the open basin unit when it's not needed



FEATURE ANDREA CHILDS, TERESAPARATORE COM STYLING CHRISTINA GIGLI
PHOTOGRAPHS FRANCESCA FALSETTI AT STUDIO DAIDO PLAN PERSONA-ID

'It's perfect for our growing family'

Transform your kitchen into a sociable, open-plan space, like Caroline and Tim Norris did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Smart design
Clever planning has created a spacious kitchen, dining and living area at the rear of the house, which means the family can relax and prepare meals together

Love their STYLE?

THE NORRISSES' INTEGRA
ASTRAL UNITS ARE FROM
MAGNET ££. FOR SIMILAR,
TRY HOWDENS JOINERY'S
CLERKENWELL GLOSS
WHITE £ OR SECOND
NATURE'S TOMBA
£££

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, Fifties house
in Hampton, southwest London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Caroline and Tim Norris, with
Tim's daughter, Maya, 14, Caroline's
sons, Stanley, 10, and Ted, nine,
and their daughter, Ada, two.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple knocked down
a conservatory and built an
extension across the back of the
house to create an open-plan
kitchen, dining and living area.

THE LOOK

Simple and contemporary, with
high-gloss units and textural tiles.

LESSONS LEARNED

“I was worried that a north-
facing extension would be too dark,
but thanks to a good architect,
cleverly angled Velux windows and
bifold doors, it's constantly light.”



THE LAYOUT There's a bank of base
and wall units to the right of the door.
The sink and hob are positioned in a
central island, beyond which is a range
cooker and more base units. There's a
living area at the other end of the room

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£8,769
Worktops.....	£3,800
Sink.....	£238
Tap.....	£1,150
Flooring.....	£2,800
Appliances.....	£9,842
TOTAL.....	£26,599

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Caroline and Tim created their new kitchen



When Caroline and Tim Norris were looking for their first house together to accommodate their blended family of six, they wanted to find somewhere with enough space for them all to be together. This meant that being able to create an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area was essential.

‘Before we made an offer on our house, I redesigned the ground floor on paper to make sure it could work for our needs,’ says Caroline. ‘When an architect friend, Shaun Knight, said my plans would work, it was all systems go.’ As soon as the house was theirs, the couple got

started. ‘I had a clear idea of how I wanted the house to be and Shaun mapped that out for us, adding his own suggestions,’ says Caroline.

With the building work underway, the couple shopped around for kitchens, finally deciding on white high-gloss units. ‘The idea for including a range cooker came while we were visiting the Ideal Home Show,’ says Caroline. ‘Tim felt that its classic style would contrast well with the contemporary units.’

They completed the modern scheme with steel bar stools and slate-grey pendants, plus a feature wall tiled in quartzite to add rustic texture. Caroline is thrilled with the result. ‘The open-plan layout works really well and enables all of us to spend time together,’ she says.

▲ *Textured touch*

Caroline and Tim’s wooden dining table adds colour and texture to the contemporary kitchen-diner. They converted an existing side extension behind the kitchen into a practical utility room

FEATURE AND STYLING DILLY ORME
PHOTOGRAPHS CLAIRE LLOYD DAVIS PLANS PERSONA-ID

Colour co-ordinated

A pale blue sofa echoes the colour of the retro fridge-freezer, helping to link the kitchen and living areas

▲ *All square*

The sleek, angular mixer tap perfectly mirrors the square undercounter sink set into the island

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Integra Astral White **units**, from £4,502 for a kitchen, Magnet. Cemento Silestone Spa **worktop**, £713 per slab (L306cm x W140cm x D3cm), Granite Quartz Store. For a similar **sink**, try the Subline 700-U, from £528, Blanco. Fusion square **tap**, from £1,150, Quooker. Black quartzite maxi **wall tiles**, £57.46 per sq m, Mandarin Stone. Wet Bianco **floor tiles**, £56 per sq m, Tiles of Wisdom. FAB30LFA **fridge-freezer**, £1,124; SI3644D **hob**, £548; SFP140 single **oven**, £729; all Smeg. For a similar **cooker**, try the three-oven dual-control, from £9,775, Aga. For a similar **fridge-freezer** (utility room), try the RS7667FHCWW, £879, Samsung range, John Lewis. Bifold **doors**, £5,600, Metal Window Renovations. Spinning BH1 **pendants**, £229 each, &Tradition range; Base Copper **floor lamp**, £845, Tom Dixon range; all David Village Lighting. Art **bar stools**, £99 each, Atlantic Shopping. For a similar **table**, try the Drio, £650; for a similar **bench**, try the Radius, from £225; both Habitat. Eames-style **chairs**, £59 each, Cult Furniture. Bagsie **love seat** in Cloud Blue vintage linen, £1,695; Pavlova **sofa** in Magnesium washed cotton linen, from £1,345; both Loaf. For similar **side tables**, try the Dream, £240 for three, Rockett St George

FOR DETAILS TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Design classic

The couple chose a range cooker to lend country style to the modern kitchen-diner



How we did it

“We employed Harper Kitchens to do the building work because we felt it would give us good value for money. The builders spent the first three months taking down the conservatory and building foundations for the new rear extension. We stayed with family for the following three months while the ground floor was reconfigured. The building work throughout cost £60,000, and the installation of the kitchen and utility room cost £2,596.”

Love their
STYLE?

THE COLLINSES' SPLASHBACKS
ARE FROM WILSON FINK £££.
FOR SIMILAR, TRY WALLS AND
FLOORS' MIRROR TILES £
OR TOUGHENED MIRROR
FROM CREOGLASS ££

‘We’ve given it lots
of personality’

Add character to a sleek kitchen with a modern mix
of materials, just like Debbie and Lee Collins did

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Unique mix
Dark-wood units add warmth to the modern kitchen, while antiqued mirrored panels have turned a structural pillar into an elegant feature

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, detached Thirties house in north London.

WHO LIVES HERE

Debbie and Lee Collins, with their daughters, Millie, eight, and Amber, five.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple knocked through the kitchen, dining room and living room, and extended across the back of the property to create an open-plan kitchen-diner and living space with glass doors leading out to the garden.

THE LOOK

Sleek and contemporary, with glossy, oak-effect laminate units, plus antiqued mirrored touches for interest.

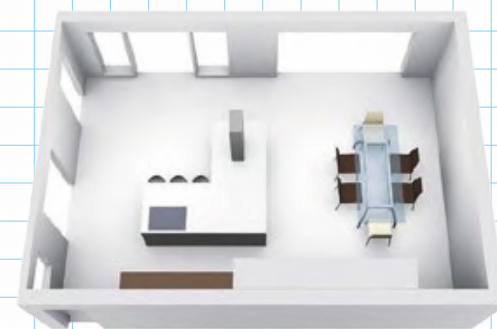
LESSONS LEARNED

“Take wall units up to the ceiling. My old ones stopped short and became a messy, dusty spot for storing unused jugs and vases.”

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£12,000
Worktops, splashback and wall cladding.....	£5,000
Sink and taps.....	£1,509
Appliances.....	£6,420
Flooring.....	£2,061
Lighting.....	£112
Furniture.....	£2,673
TOTAL.....	£29,775

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Debbie and Lee created their new kitchen



THE LAYOUT The hob is located in an L-shaped island, which is also used as a breakfast bar. A run of units on one wall houses the ovens and the sink. At the far end of the room, there's a dining area and doors leading to the garden



Debbie and Lee Collins' Thirties house was in such a shocking state when they bought it, they had to start renovating it as soon as they moved in. The house had been damaged by fire and hadn't been touched for 40 years, but its peaceful location won over the couple.

Debbie and Lee had big plans to turn the house into a spacious, modern home, complete with a super-sized kitchen, dining and family room on the ground floor, with direct access to the garden. They set to work at once. 'We knocked down internal walls downstairs and added an extension across the back to create an open-plan kitchen, dining and living area, with glass doors leading outside,' says Debbie.

When it came to the style of the kitchen, Debbie already had firm ideas. 'I wanted a modern, uncluttered, sleek look, with lots of worksurfaces, storage and appliances designed to help me cook for a crowd,' she says. 'I also

wanted it to have warmth because so many contemporary designs can look stark and cold.'

An open-plan layout was also an essential feature of the new kitchen. 'I love cooking and entertaining, and I didn't want a separate dining room – the idea of carrying serving dishes back and forth wasn't at all appealing, nor was the idea of missing out on the fun while everyone was in the other room,' explains Debbie. 'I also wanted space for the kids to play, rather than having a separate playroom, so we could all be together.'

To make the sleek new kitchen more homely, Debbie opted for a mix of tactile materials, including warm wood-effect laminate and glamorous antiqued mirrored glass, completing the look with decorative lighting. 'Now it's the room where I spend most of my time,' says Debbie. 'I did worry a bit about everyone watching me while I'm cooking, but I've become more relaxed about it because I feel very happy in here – it's such a sociable space.'

▲ **Centrepiece**
The L-shaped island creates a striking focal point, bridging the different zones of the room. A run of units along the back wall frames the space and houses the triple ovens at eyelevel



Smooth operator
Flat-fronted, handleless drawers provide a sleek, streamlined finish in the large kitchen island

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE STYLING SHANI ZION
PHOTOGRAPHS JAKE FITZJONES PLAN PERSONA-ID



▲ **Subtly hidden**
Discreetly installed in the worktop, the downdraft cooker hood simply rises up at the touch of a button when needed

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Kuhlmann handleless mirror gloss Fina Metal and wood-effect Finn Oak Wenge **cabinetry**, £500 for a W600mm base unit; Snow Storm quartz **worktops**, £4,000; antiqued-glass **splashback** and **wall cladding**, £1,000; all Wilson Fink. For similar **ovens**, try the HB78GB270B, £977 each; for a similar induction **hob**, try the EH845FL17E, £669; LD97AA670B cooker **hood**, £1,529; all Siemens range, Ao.com. For a similar **microwave**, try the CM633GBS1B, £773, Siemens range, BHS Direct. For a similar **fridge-freezer**, try the RF540ADUSX4, £2,100, Fisher & Paykel. Linus-S **tap**, from £355; Subline 700-U **sink** in Silgranit Alumetallic, £528; both Blanco. Basic boiling water **tap**, from £850, Quooker. For similar **floor tiles**, try the Florence, £39.95 per sq m, Spacers Tile & Wood Flooring. E wall **lights** in Rose, £56 each, Kartell range; Bombo **bar stools**, £399 each, Magis range; all John Lewis. For a similar **table**, try the Seven, from £1,008; for similar **chairs**, try the Boheme, £183 each; both Calligaris range, Design Icons. Betty round **vase**, £38, Brissi

**FOR DETAILS TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY**



Clear view
A glass dining table boosts the sense of light and space



How we did it
“The structural pillar in the centre of the room was the bane of our lives because we couldn’t make the layout work around it, nor could we remove it as it would have cost £5,000. But our designer, Andy Martin from Wilson Fink, cleverly suggested incorporating it into an L-shaped island and making it into a feature. He also offered us a great choice of modern materials. The work took about two months and the kitchen installation cost £3,600.”

‘The units were made by hand’

Copy Hazel and Stephen Perry, and create your dream kitchen by designing it from scratch

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£15,676
Worktops and upstands.....	£2,964
Splashback.....	£1,146
Appliances.....	£5,195
Sinks.....	£624
Taps.....	£716
Flooring.....	£2,400
TOTAL.....	£28,721

BEFORE

Bespoke design
Nearly 30 years after buying their farmhouse, Hazel and Stephen revamped its tired kitchen with traditional hand-crafted units and a seaside-inspired scheme

Love their
STYLE?

THE PERRYS' SHAKER-STYLE UNITS ARE BY WOODCHESTER CABINET MAKERS £££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY WREN KITCHENS' SCULPTURED IN PERIWINKLE £ OR MAGNET'S SHAKER CREAM ££

Hazel and Stephen Perry bought their Cornish holiday home in 1986, after years of visiting the area. 'We live in Bristol, but this house (harlynfarmhouse.co.uk) is in such a beautiful spot, we wanted to spend as much time as possible here while our children were small,' says Hazel. 'However, it took us nearly 30 years to update the kitchen.'

Originally the farmhouse dairy, the room had a galley layout, a low ceiling and an old electric oven. As the couple wanted the space to have a kitchen they could relax and eat in too, they decided to add an extension to the house before fitting it out with hand-made units. 'The colour scheme was inspired by the house's location,' says Hazel. 'From the windows, we can see rocks, sky, sea and sand, so we had the cabinetry painted blue. Even the granite of the worktops was picked for its resemblance to the rocks we get down here.'

So was the new kitchen worth waiting for? 'It has improved life here all round,' says Hazel.

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Hazel and Stephen created their new kitchen

Take the **60-SECOND TOUR**

THE PROPERTY

A 100-year-old, granite-built farmhouse in Padstow, Cornwall, bought in 1986.

WHO LIVES HERE

Hazel and Stephen Perry.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple built an extension to house an open-plan kitchen with living and dining areas, then installed a traditional hand-made kitchen and modern appliances.

THE LOOK

Classic Shaker style, with blue tones and limestone flooring that create a laid-back seaside theme.

LESSONS LEARNED

“It's vital to get on with the people you employ to do your build. I made a point of baking biscuits and buns for everyone on site each time we visited. They appreciated it and we think they worked even more enthusiastically as a result.”



THE LAYOUT The base units are arranged in an L shape around an island. There are two sinks – one beneath the window and the other in the island. There's a dining and living area at the other end of the room



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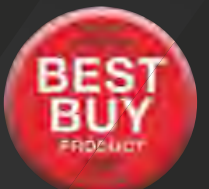
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Sociable space
The island, which has an additional sink, is ideal for preparing food while chatting to guests



FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS
PHOTOGRAPHS WILLIAM GODDARD PLAN PERSONA-ID



▲ **True blue**
Hazel had the interior of this wall unit painted dark blue to create a backdrop that contrasts with her white china



▲ **Table talk**
An extendable beech table from Ikea adds warmth to the scheme. Its simple lines complement the Shaker units



How we did it
“The extension for an open-plan kitchen with living and dining areas was a big part of a massive overhaul we gave the whole house. We asked architect Mark Gregory of MSG Arc Build to draw up the plans and our builder, Anthony Richards Construction, kept everything running smoothly. Woodchester Cabinet Makers designed, built and painted the units by hand. The building work and kitchen fitting took around nine months. Luckily, we could live in our house in Bristol at the time, so we didn't have to live with the upheaval going on around us.”

KITCHEN SOURCEBOOK WHERE TO BUY

Bespoke units, from £500 for a W600m unit, Woodchester Cabinet Makers. **Granite worktops and upstands**, from £400 per linear m, Trebarwith Stoneworks. **Wave splashback**, £1,622 per sq m, Steve Robinson. **RUX110 sink**, £243, Franke. **Oberon U tap** in Pewter, £358, Perrin & Rowe range, Just Perrin. For a similar **range cooker**, try the F1092DXEISS/C-EU, £3,855, Falcon range, Homecare Supplies. For a similar **extractor hood**, try the FHDSE1092SLN, £1,540, Falcon range, Appliances Direct. For a similar **dishwasher**, try the SN278101TG, £999, Siemens range, Ao.com. **Dijon tumbled limestone flooring**, from £42 per sq m, Mandarin Stone. **Flight blinds**, from £35 each, Scion range; Coastal Stripe **curtains** (on bifold doors), £25 per m; Pemberley **chairs**, £99 each; all John Lewis. **Norden extendable table**, £275, Ikea. For a similar **artwork**, try the St Ives canvas, £85, Iris Cleford range, Whistlefish

FOR DETAILS TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

‘We wanted to keep it simple’

Copy the Bannisters and go for a sleek, fuss-free look to turn your bathroom into a soothing sanctuary

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Love their **STYLE?**

JESSICA AND MARK'S BAYOU
FREESTANDING BATH IS FROM
BATHSTORE £££. FOR SIMILAR,
TRY THE RIO FROM
VICTORIAN PLUMBING £
OR THE KYOTO FROM
FIRED EARTH £££

Calm and collected

The couple teamed marble tiles and a freestanding bath with the original fireplace to create an elegant look. The pale colour scheme keeps the space feeling light and welcoming

BEFORE



Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom Victorian villa on the East Sussex coast, bought in October 2013.

WHO LIVES HERE

Jessica and Mark Bannister, with their daughters, Amelia, six, and Olivia, five.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple moved the door to the bathroom so that it became an en suite to the main bedroom. They installed new sanitaryware, moved the basin and bath, tiled the floor and painted the walls white.

THE LOOK

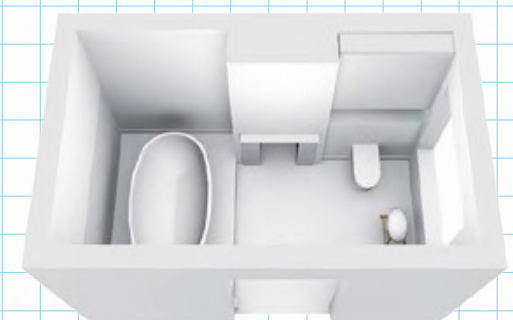
Timeless style, blending classic and contemporary elements to create a calm, soothing space.

LESSONS LEARNED

“I learnt that you shouldn’t overcomplicate the fabric of a room – keep it simple if you want to create a timeless look.”

WHAT IT COST

Bath.....	£1,499
Basin.....	£453
Loo.....	£396
Taps.....	£774
Tiles.....	£1,800
Cabinet.....	£125
Lighting.....	£115
TOTAL.....	£5,162



THE LAYOUT A wall-hung loo and basin are to the right of the door and the bath is to the left, on a raised step to allow for drainage

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Jessica and Mark created their new bathroom



FEATURE KAT NICHOLLS STYLING LOUISA TUBMAN
PHOTOGRAPHS ALISTAIR NICHOLLS PLAN PERSONA-ID

Jessica and Mark Bannister were in desperate need of a decent bathroom in their family home. Their main bathroom had no loo and its décor was tired, while the loo on the first floor was located in a small, unappealing shower room.

The couple wanted the new bathroom to serve two functions; to be a light, airy family space to use with their two daughters, but also to be a sanctuary where they could enjoy a relaxing bath. They decided to rejig the first-floor layout, turning the main bathroom into a family sized en suite to the main bedroom.

To get the right look, they asked interior designer Louisa Tubman for help. 'Louisa took

inspiration from the bathroom's original Carrara marble fireplace and chose wall and floor tiles to match,' says Jessica. 'All the fixtures we chose are sleek and contemporary, keeping the space simple and calm with a timeless feel. We also added clever touches, such as a motion-sensor light above the loo, so if we use the bathroom at night, we just wave our hands to activate a warm glow in the dark.'

Jessica also added rustic and period-style details, such as wooden hooks, a sheepskin rug and an ornate mirror, to add texture and interest. 'It's great because it's a practical space for bathing the girls, but I can close the door at the end of the evening once they are in bed and take time for myself,' says Jessica.

▲ *Smoothly does it*
A wall-hung loo, modern flush plate and mirrored cabinet keep the look calm and unfussy, with all essential items hidden away. The beautiful fireplace and the original sash window provide a classic contrast to the contemporary fittings

Old and new
With its streamlined curves, the bath makes a stunning contemporary centrepiece, while the classic marble tiles add a touch of timeless glamour



▲ *Finishing touches*

Rustic accessories, like a wooden stool and a sheepskin rug, add texture and interest to the room



Perfect arch

The sleek, simple curves of the basin mixer tap echo those of the freestanding bath and the floorstanding bath/shower mixer



How we did it

“The bathroom was next to the main bedroom, so we moved its door from the hallway to inside the bedroom. This allowed us to move the bath against another wall and fit in a loo. The position of the fireplace and plumbing restrictions dictated the layout, and we had to put in a step and raise the bath for the waste to work. It took three weeks to complete the work; the interior design and project management cost £800 and the building and installation cost £4,000.”

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Bayou **bath**, £1,499, Bathstore. Austen wall-hung **loo**, £295; Project **washbasin**, from £128; both Saneux. Kappa50 **flush plate**, £101, Geberit range, Bathroom Sensations. Elite single **bath/shower mixer**, £563, Hudson Reed. For a similar **basin mixer**, try the Storm side action, £151, Roper Rhodes range, Tap Warehouse. East Hampton marble **tiles**, £115 per sq m, Fired Earth. Mirrored **cabinet**, £125, John Lewis. For a similar **mirror**, try the Wilton Carlyle beaded grey, £173, One World Trading Co. For a similar **sheepskin**, try the Ludde, £30, Ikea. For a similar **basket**, try the iron storage basket, £49, Rockett St George. For a similar **tree ornament**, try the metal windswept wall art, £29.99, Primrose

FOR DETAILS TURN TO
OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

‘Marble tiles add a luxury feel’

Follow the Finleys’ lead and create a calming, spa-style bathroom using a natural stone

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE

Love their STYLE?

THE FINLEYS’ CLASSIC ROYALE
POLISHED-MARBLE TILES ARE
FROM MANDARIN STONE £. FOR
SIMILAR, TRY TOPPS TILES’
DEVON BONE ££ OR FIRED
EARTH’S WESTHAMPTON
MARBLE £££

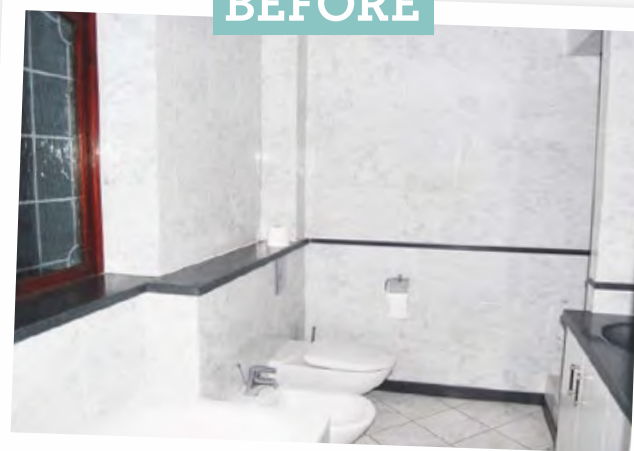
WHAT IT COST

Bath and mixer.....	£1,895
Shower.....	£1,696
Vanity unit and basin.....	£1,718
Basin mixer.....	£516
Loo.....	£577
Tiles.....	£3,640
Cabinet.....	£1,782
TOTAL.....	£11,824

Restful space
The couple turned a clinical en-suite bathroom into a tranquil oasis by tiling the walls and floor in marble



BEFORE



Claire and Robert Finley bought their house in the Cotswolds for its large garden and peaceful setting, rather than its layout. 'It was a warren of small rooms,' says Claire. 'Even though it was only 33 years old, it felt oddly dated and gloomy.'

The couple set about renovating the house, starting with the main bedroom's en suite. 'We wanted somewhere to relax, but it was a horrible, clinical space,' says Claire. The couple decided to knock down a wardrobe in the bedroom and use the space to turn the narrow, L-shaped en suite into a much larger bathroom. 'As soon as we'd squared up the room, it was much easier to work with,' says Claire.

Her next move was to screen the loo from the doorway. 'I didn't want it to be the room's focal point, so I hid it behind a shower wall,' says Claire. She chose natural stone wall and floor tiles to create a calm, spa-style scheme, then added touches of warm colour in the fittings and accessories. 'The blinds were chosen to complement the bedroom colours and to accentuate the tranquil mood,' she says. 'It's now a space where I can really relax.'

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Claire and Robert created their new bathroom

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom, detached house in the Cotswolds, Gloucestershire, built in 1980.

WHO LIVES HERE

Claire and Robert Finley.

WHAT THEY DID

The couple stole wardrobe space from the main bedroom to make the en suite a square shape, tiled

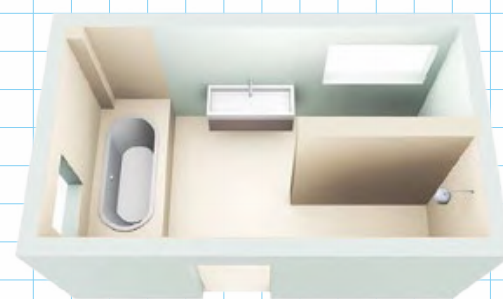
the floor and some of the walls in marble and replaced the suite.

THE LOOK

Luxurious, with marble tiles and contemporary fittings.

LESSONS LEARNED

“Keep it simple. The natural beauty of the marble can really shine, because it's not competing with lots of fussy details.”



THE LAYOUT The bath is to the left of the door, with a wall-hung vanity unit straight ahead. The walk-in shower is to the right, with the loo tucked out of sight behind it

You dream, we deliver

A black roll-top bathtub with chrome fixtures and a wooden chair in a bathroom setting.

Roll top
baths from
£199

VictoriaPlum.com
your home



▲ *Shelf life*

A neat, tile-clad niche built into the shower wall is handy for keeping toiletries within reach

BATHROOM SOURCEBOOK

WHERE TO BUY

Starlet Oval **bath**, from £1,800, Bette Baths range; for a similar **vanity unit with basin**, try the 646mm Royal Reflex in Truffle, £1,035, Keuco range; 210mm Rainshower **shower**, £237; for a similar **shower valve**, try the Atrio Jota thermostatic, £485; for a similar **handheld shower**, try the F Digital Euphoria, £974; all Grohe range; for a similar **basin mixer**, try the Silver 1 Hole, £223, Ideal Standard range; Designer **bath wall shower** with hose and handset, £95.21, Crosswater range; Laufen Pro wall-hung **loo** with flush plate, from £577; all UKBathrooms. Classic Royale polished **marble tiles**, from £34.62 per sq m, Mandarin Stone. **Walls** painted in James White Modern Emulsion, £42 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Blinds** made in Bella in Aqua 04791/04, £86 per m, Manuel Canovas range; lined in India 3713374, £42.70 per m, Casamance range; both Gramlick Designs. Edition 11 1,050mm **mirror cabinet**, £1,782, Keuco range, RSF Bathroom Designs. EL-20068 polished chrome **wall lights**, £48.99 each, Endon Lighting range, Online Lighting. **Extendable mirror**, £49, John Lewis

FOR DETAILS TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE STYLING SHANI ZION PHOTOGRAPHS JAKE FITZJONES PLAN PERSONA-ID



Chic stone
Wall-to-wall marble tiling gives the walk-in shower a hotel-style look



▲ *Discreet storage*

The vanity unit features a push-to-open drawer with lots of hidden storage



How we did it

“We wanted to make our en suite feel more luxurious, so we played around with ideas, talking to friends, our builder and architect. Once we’d worked out how to enlarge it by removing the bedroom wardrobe, the layout fell into place. The next decision was the tiles. I think stone instantly creates a feeling of luxury, and this marble’s veining is beautiful. It was a big expense, but it’s the thing that most makes the room feel like a sanctuary. The project took eight weeks, and the building work cost about £4,000.”

IDEAL HOME'S ULTIMATE STORAGE EDIT



We looked beyond the obvious to compile this list of the 45 cleverest storage products on the market. Could one of them change your life?

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

All storage is useful, but not all storage can claim 'genius' status. In compiling this list – which took weeks to research – the Ideal Home team aimed to draw up a definitive collection of brilliant storage products that can genuinely contribute to a smoother-running home. Many of them are not pretty, but all are 100% practical. Good looks were not on our list of criteria (although they're certainly

a 'nice to have'). We blinkered ourselves to pick only the products that have had particular thought and planning put into their design to make them not just 'handy' but indispensable – these are the solutions to facilitate the way you choose to live and you'll use them for years to come. In some cases, items are unique to certain retailers; in others, they are more generic. For the latter, we've chosen the version we think has an edge over its competitors in its design or features.

OUR KEY CRITERIA

Products had to tick more than one of these boxes...

- ☒ Style neutral
- ☒ Solves a specific problem
- ☒ Can be used in more than one room
- ☒ Multitasks
- ☒ Well designed and made
- ☒ Can be adapted or customised
- ☒ Uses space efficiently
- ☒ Can be bought 'off the peg'



Linnmon/Finnvard desk, £75, Ikea. For similar shelving, try the four-shelf chrome unit, £246; extra shelf, £33; Metro castors, £32 each; all The Holding Company. ON/UNDER DESK Wicker basket, £12; fabric storage basket, £7.99; large bronze basket, £12.99; all H&M. ON SHELVES (from top left) Vase, £4.99; small felt baskets, £7.99 each; small bronze basket, £7.99; large brass baskets, £12.99 each; grey fabric baskets, £7.99 each; white metal basket, £12.99; large felt basket, £9.99; all H&M



THE OVER-DOOR HANGER
WHY WE LOVE IT: Frees up space that bathrobes, bags, belts and coats would otherwise fill. Every door needs one – and no need to get the drill out!
 Enudden hanger, £1.95, Ikea

THE BATHROOM SLIM JIM
WHY WE LOVE IT: At 27cm wide, it slots in the gap between the loo/basin/bath and you can hide loo rolls, bath toys, cleaning stuff or unmentionables in it
 Bathroom storage caddy, £24.95, Scotts of Stow



THE MULTIPURPOSE TROLLEY
WHY WE LOVE IT: In the course of its life, you'll use it in every room. Fill it with tools, toys, craft kit, condiments, toiletries... its uses are endless
 Raskog trolley, £50, Ikea



THE ULTIMATE TOY BOX
WHY WE LOVE IT: Deep enough for big toys, it has wheels and a handle, so no lifting is required, and the flip lid won't come apart from the box (unless you want it to), so everything stays covered
 75ltr storage box, £12.99, Argos

THE PAPER CORRALLER
WHY WE LOVE IT: Put one anywhere that papers, magazines and paperwork collect. If you've no time to sort it, just sweep it all into this and you're done
 Wall-mounted chrome magazine rack, £20, The Contemporary Home



THE CLASSIC FILING CABINET
WHY WE LOVE IT: This slim (28cm x 38cm) version of the iconic Bisley takes up very little floor space. Plus, it comes in 17 colours for a less 'officey' look
 Nine-drawer filing cabinet, £144, Bisley Direct



THE FLEXIBLE WALL SYSTEM

WHY WE LOVE IT:

Comes with a wall panel and a range of shelf and peg options (including round-headed ones to hang coats), so you can create your own bespoke solution in any room – and change it as and when you need
Peg-it-all wall-mounted storage panel, £165; optional pegs, £165 for 12; all Kreis Design



THE BAG GALLERY

WHY WE LOVE IT: Put one on the back of a door for the bags you use every day or want to show off (and one inside the wardrobe door for the rest...)

Modular handbag store, £25, Store



THE STACKABLE BASKET

WHY WE LOVE IT: Open for storing stuff that's in frequent use, but stackable thanks to its flip-up handles. The perforations let fabrics breathe
Chrome-handled plastic stacking baskets, from £11.95 each, The Holding Company



THE MAKE-UP MODULE

WHY WE LOVE IT: Part of an 18-piece range that you can mix, match and stack to create a tower of storage for small items – make-up, jewellery, accessories, buttons, Barbie shoes...

Acrylic one-drawer deep box, £8.95, Muji



THE VERSATILE FLATTIE

WHY WE LOVE IT: The narrow shelves are ideal for tall bottles without intruding into the room or cupboard you fix it up in. Great for bathroom, kitchen, utility or garage

Industrial-style metal shelves, £120, Cox & Cox

THE ADAPTABLE RAIL

WHY WE LOVE IT: Mix the finishes and fittings to suit your room and storage needs, free up worktop or desktop space – or just create a plant display!
Fintorp rail, from £6 for L57cm, Ikea



THE SECRET GAP-FILLER

WHY WE LOVE IT: This turns a few wasted inches in a kitchen or utility into precious storage space
Slide-out storage tower, £37.95, Scotts of Stow



THE DRAWER TAMER

WHY WE LOVE IT: Classier than plastic, and just as good for sorting any drawer
Expanding wooden cutlery drawer, £19.95, Scotts of Stow



THE IN-DRAWER SORTER

WHY WE LOVE IT: Designed for recycling, these bins come in different shapes and sizes for sorting just about anything behind closed doors
Variera waste-sorting bins, from £5, Ikea



THE UNDERSHELF RACK

WHY WE LOVE IT: Double your storage by sliding it onto a shelf to use the space underneath. Ideal inside cupboards, but pretty enough to be seen, it's great for kitchens and offices
Scandi undershelf storage rack, £17, Store



THE TENSION ROD

WHY WE LOVE IT: Often used for hanging shower curtains, you can fit them inside cupboards to hang anything from bottles to coats
Tension rods, from £3.30 for a 60cm length, Wilko



THE SUPERSIZE HOOK

WHY WE LOVE IT: Great for clearing floor space – these are strong enough to hold brooms and rakes, chairs, bikes and even ladders, with a foam sheath to prevent scraped paintwork

Garden furniture hooks, £9 each, Store



THE SMALL SORTER

WHY WE LOVE IT: All the loose bits that float around at the bottom of your 'random stuff' drawer belong in here. Also good for craft kit and small toys

A5 storage box with compartments, £5, Hema



THE MOVABLE HOOK

WHY WE LOVE IT: Pop it wherever you need it; move it as you like. It uses suction, so there are no screws and no sticky foam pads to contend with

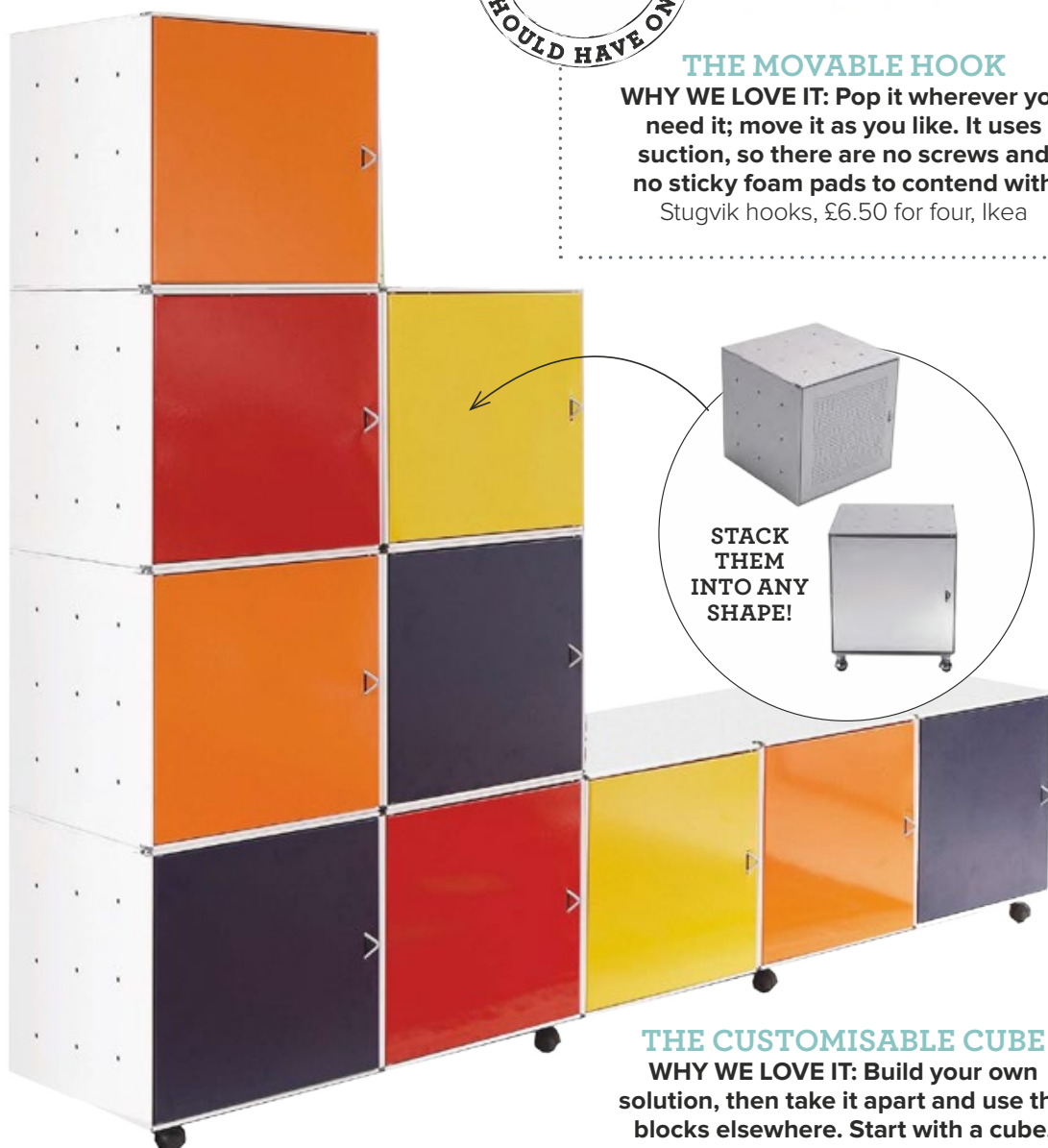
Stugvik hooks, £6.50 for four, Ikea



THE ULTIMATE MULTI-SYSTEM

WHY WE LOVE IT: Mix rails, panels, hooks and shelves in any combo, then change it as you need. Your under-stair storage will never be the same again...

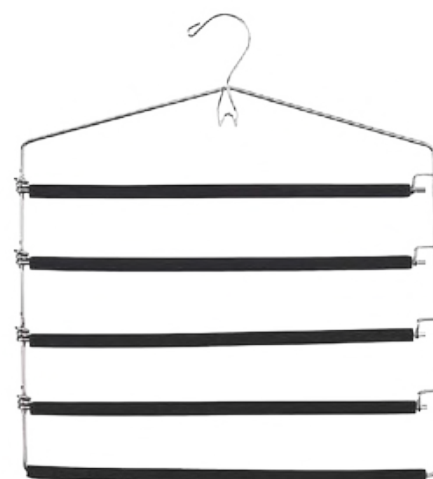
Elfa hallway/cloakroom system, £209, Store



THE CUSTOMISABLE CUBE

WHY WE LOVE IT: Build your own solution, then take it apart and use the blocks elsewhere. Start with a cube, then add optional doors and castors

Steel cubes, £49 each; coloured doors, from £24 each; all The Holding Company



THE TROUSER HANGER

WHY WE LOVE IT: Five pairs on one hanger equals massive wardrobe space-saving, plus it has swing-out bars so you don't have to keep lifting it in and out. You can also use it for spools of tape and ribbons if you're a crafter

Padded trouser hanger, £8.99, Lakeland



THE WHEELIE BIN

WHY WE LOVE IT: Designed for pet food, but could be used for bulk-buy dry goods, washing powder, Lego, ice grit or even coal for your open fire
Pet food storage container on castors, from £23.95 each, The Holding Company



THE FLIP HOOK

WHY WE LOVE IT: Great for tight spaces and on the back of doors – flips flat and looks sleek when closed
Bjarnum folding hooks, £9.50 for three, Ikea



THE MOBILE ISLAND

WHY WE LOVE IT: A supersize upgrade of 'The Multipurpose Trolley', with the added benefit of a work surface
Kitchen trolley shelves, £400, House Junkie



THE PAN-LID RACK

WHY WE LOVE IT: No more groping around at the back of the cupboard for lost lids with this hook-over holder
Overdoor pan lid organiser, £18, Store



THE CUPBOARD FILLER

WHY WE LOVE IT: Use the full height of your kitchen units with this interior shelf and stuff the grab-and-go boxes with loose packets and small jars
Shelf, £12.99; caddy stack caddies, £4.99 each; all Lakeland



THE OPEN-SHELF BASKET

WHY WE LOVE IT: It looks good enough to use on open shelves while being stronger and easier to clean than a woven design
Scandi kitchen storage basket, £22, Store



THE SHOW-OFF STACKER

WHY WE LOVE IT: The sleek design of these boxes means that they can be put on show and those bamboo lids help them stack into a tidy tower
Orthex smart store plastic boxes, £5 each; bamboo lids, £5 each; all John Lewis



THE UNDER-BED WHEELIE

WHY WE LOVE IT: The wheels help it glide over bedroom carpet, while the split lids mean you only have to half-pull it out to grab what you need
50ltr wheeled plastic underbed storage boxes, £19.99 for two, Argos



THE SECRET SHELVES

WHY WE LOVE IT: Makes the interior of any wardrobe or cupboard far more flexible to your storage needs
Neatfreak six-shelf organiser, £15, John Lewis



THE BIG LINEN PACKER

WHY WE LOVE IT: It's an essential, well-priced, moth-proof basic for storing out-of-season bedding and clothes in a loft or cupboard
Brown Peva two-piece blanket storage set, £6.99, Argos



THE TECH TIDIER

WHY WE LOVE IT: You can hide your chargers, multiplugs, adapters, etc, in it, but still keep them plugged in, if needs be, thanks to the lid slots
Cable organiser, £25.95, HomeArama



THE SLIM SIDE TABLE

WHY WE LOVE IT: At only 25cm wide, this storage box masquerading as a table slots in beside the sofa or next to the bed in a small bedroom
Pandanus side table, £109, The Holding Company



THE CLUTTER CUBE

WHY WE LOVE IT: Keep one in the corner of the living room, kitchen and/or hallway and just chuck all the abandoned toys, shoes and newspapers in it at the end of the day
Felt storage bag, £8, Hema



THE SHOE SORTER

WHY WE LOVE IT: Keeps shoes tidy in the bottom of a wardrobe or cupboard – or folds flat when you don't need it
Folding stackable shoe shelf, £11.95, HomeArama



‘Whether it’s under the bed or on top of a cupboard, these clever buys will ensure that you never let a prime storage opportunity go to waste’

Lisa Fazzani, Shopping Editor/Houses



THE CD STACKER

WHY WE LOVE IT: If you prefer to keep your CDs hidden, these wire units are ideal for putting inside a cabinet or drawer to keep your discs in order
Mesh CD storage tower, £12.95, HomeArama



THE PEG RAIL

WHY WE LOVE IT: Peg rails of all kinds are indispensable, but this one has the edge because you can move the pegs and it has various pots, holders and accessories you can add
PS 2014 wall rail with mirror and pegs, £20, Ikea



THE ANYWHERE CADDY

WHY WE LOVE IT: Put it up (or stand it) wherever piles of stuff tend to grow
Silver mesh pantry caddy, £8.95, Homearama



THE MULTIPURPOSE BOX

WHY WE LOVE IT: The sturdiest stacker we’ve found – and it has a ridge for holding suspension files
Really useful 35ltr plastic storage box, £12, B&Q



THE HAIRDRYER HOLSTER

WHY WE LOVE IT: Hate putting your dryer back in a drawer when it’s hot? This hotel-style holder is the solution
Over-cabinet hairdryer holder, £9, Store



THE ROW OF BOXES

WHY WE LOVE IT: A set of three in a pretty, neutral design fits perfectly on top of a wardrobe or beneath a console to hold shoes, bags and outdoor gear
Non-woven storage boxes, £9.99 for three, Argos



For this recipe, you
could swap the berries
for pitted cherries and
use dark chocolate
instead of white

Share the love with
A TRAYBAKE

Gladden the hearts and stomachs of hungry
schoolkids and workers with a tasty break-time treat

Plum & white chocolate traybake

MAKES 15 SQUARES **TAKES** 20MIN
PLUS 45MIN IN THE OVEN
COSTS 71P PER SERVING

■ 75g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing ■ 200g white chocolate, broken into pieces ■ 125g light muscovado sugar ■ 3 eggs, plus 1 extra egg yolk ■ 175g self-raising flour ■ 250g ricotta ■ 65g caster sugar ■ 1tsp vanilla extract ■ 300g plums, pitted and cut into wedges

1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5. Grease and line the base and sides of a shallow baking tin measuring 28cm x 20cm.

2 Melt the butter and chocolate in a pan. In a separate bowl, beat together the muscovado sugar, whole eggs and flour to make a paste. Stir in the melted chocolate and pour into the prepared tin.

3 Beat the ricotta with the sugar, egg yolk and vanilla, then spoon on top of the chocolate mixture. Use the end of a round-bladed knife to marble the two mixtures together lightly. Bake for 20min.

4 Distribute the plums on top and bake for a further 25min until set in the centre. Leave to cool in the tin before cutting into squares.

Cook's tip

Use firm berries as they will hold their shape better



Use Victoria plums in this bake for their pretty yellow flesh and pink skins

Berry blondies

MAKES 15 SQUARES **TAKES** 45MIN PLUS 2HR CHILLING **COSTS** 62P PER SERVING

■ 125g butter, plus extra for greasing ■ 200g white chocolate, broken into pieces ■ 125g caster sugar ■ 3 eggs ■ 1tsp vanilla extract ■ 100g ground almonds ■ 150g self-raising flour ■ 150g white chocolate chunks ■ 100g blueberries ■ 100g raspberries

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Line a 20cm x 30cm brownie tin with nonstick baking paper.

2 Heat the butter and 200g white chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of barely simmering water until just melted – do not stir the mixture or let the bowl touch the water. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for 5min.

3 Whisk the sugar, eggs and vanilla in a bowl until the mixture has doubled in volume. Sieve in the almonds and flour, then fold in the chocolate mix. Add 50g chocolate chunks and half

the berries, stir, then spoon into the tin. Top with the remaining berries and 50g of the chocolate chunks.

4 Put the brownie tin in the oven, then lay a sheet of foil loosely over the top, being careful not to let it touch the mixture. Bake for 30min until golden. Cool, then chill for 2hr in the tin. Melt the remaining chocolate, drizzle onto the bake, then leave the chocolate to harden. Turn out and cut into squares.



For this recipe,
use chocolate that
has at least 70%
cocoa solids for
the best results

Chocolate brownie squares

MAKES 20 SQUARES **TAKES** 40 MIN PLUS COOLING TIME **COSTS** 36P PER SERVING

■ 225g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing ■ 275g dark chocolate, broken into small pieces ■ 400g golden caster sugar ■ ½tsp vanilla extract ■ 5 eggs, beaten ■ 200g plain flour, sifted ■ Icing sugar, to dust

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Grease and line

a deep 20cm x 30cm baking tin with baking parchment.

2 In a saucepan, gently melt the dark chocolate with the butter. Remove from the heat and stir in the golden caster sugar and vanilla extract. Leave the chocolate mixture to cool down slightly.

3 When cooled, whisk the eggs in a little at a time, then carefully fold

in the sifted plain flour and a pinch of salt until you have a smooth mixture. Pour into the prepared baking tin and put in the oven to bake for about 25min.

4 Remove the brownie from the oven and leave to cool completely. Turn out of the tin, cut the bake into 20 squares and dust with icing sugar to serve.

Cherry & pistachio traybake

MAKES 15 TAKES 10MIN PLUS 45MIN IN THE OVEN COSTS 67P PER SERVING

- 250g butter, plus extra for greasing
- 250g self-raising flour
- 250g caster sugar
- 4 eggs
- 2tbsp milk
- 350g cherries, pitted and halved
- 100g pistachio nuts, chopped
- 10 sugar cubes, crushed

1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5. Grease and line a 20cm x 30cm tin with baking parchment. Beat together the butter, flour, sugar, eggs and milk. Stir in three quarters of the cherries and pistachios, spoon the mixture into the tin and level the surface.
2 Top with the remaining cherries, pistachios and the sugar cubes, and press lightly into the mixture.
3 Bake in the centre of the oven for 35-45min until the cake is risen, golden and just firm to the touch.
4 Remove from the oven and turn out onto a wire tray. Allow to cool, then cut into 15 squares.

Swap the pistachios for almonds or macadamia halves for a different flavour



Adding apple gives a fruity twist to the ever-popular flapjack



Cook's tip

Don't allow the flapjacks to overbake – they should be chewy, not rock solid

Apple & cinnamon flapjacks

MAKES 12 BARS TAKES 40MIN COSTS 45P PER SERVING

- 225g butter, plus extra for greasing
- 225g caster sugar
- 175g golden syrup
- 450g porridge oats
- 2 eating apples, peeled, cored and chopped
- ½tsp cinnamon

1 Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Grease and line the base of a 20cm x 30cm cake tin with baking parchment.

2 Melt the butter, sugar and syrup in a pan, stirring until all the sugar has dissolved.

3 Remove from the heat, stir in the oats, chopped apple and cinnamon, then spread the mixture into the lined tin and bake for 30min until golden.

4 Leave until cold before turning out of the tin. Cut into bars and serve.

In the KITCHEN

This month, we're cooking with tofu, enjoying sweet teatime treats, drinking frozen Pimm's and investing in a bread maker

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

Make cabbage the main event for lunch or supper. Find more Savoy cabbage recipes at goodtoknow.co.uk

To-do list for **SEPTEMBER**

EAT roasted Savoy cabbage. Cut a cabbage into wedges, brush with oil and roast until charred. Top with a mix of toasted breadcrumbs and chopped mint or parsley, plus a drizzle of cheese sauce.

DRINK Pimm's Frozen Summer Crush, £2.99 for 250ml, Tesco. Perfect for summer parties, it's a grown-up Slush Puppie in a pouch – simply freeze it for up to eight hours before serving.

TREAT yourself to a day at the Thame Food Festival in Oxfordshire on Saturday 26 September. For details, visit thamefoodfestival.co.uk.

Try a new taste...

SILKEN TOFU

Popular in Japanese, Chinese and Thai cooking, tofu is bean curd made from soya protein and is packed with amino acids, iron, calcium and B vitamins. Regular tofu and the creamier silken tofu come in soft, medium and firm consistencies – firm is best for stir-fries and grilled dishes.

HOW TO USE Heat 3tbsp sunflower oil in a pan. Toss 350g firm silken tofu chunks in 3tbsp seasoned flour and fry until golden and crisp – don't crowd the pan or the tofu will become soggy. Blot with kitchen paper and set aside. Heat 2tbsp sunflower oil in a wok until smoking hot. Add 1 sliced onion, 1 sliced red pepper, 150g sliced shiitake mushrooms and 4tbsp teriyaki sauce. After a few min, add 8 halved baby pak choi, 250g cooked ramen noodles and the tofu. Stir in the juice of 2 limes, some chopped fresh coriander and crushed toasted peanuts. Serve with extra lime wedges.



Add tofu to a stir-fry for a nutritious dish

3 of the best TEATIME TREATS

British classic

Enjoy the flavours of summer – delicious strawberries and cream in cake form

Strawberry & clotted cream cake (367g), Truly Irresistible range, The Co-operative



£2.75

Orchard fruit

A winning combo of cider and apples in a moist loaf

Devon cider & Bramley apple loaf (270g), Marks & Spencer



£2.50

Exotic touch

A traditional recipe with a tropical twist, which has no colourings or preservatives

Petit coconut cake with chocolate (175g), Bonne Maman range, Waitrose



£2

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Keep your kitchen running like clockwork with this magnetic railway-style timer

Eddingtons green retro magnetic kitchen timer (diameter 7.5cm), Flavour of Yorkshire range, National Railway Museum



£10

IDEAL GREAT DEAL

Bake fresh bread at home with one of these machines



£99.99

Rising star

This compact design has 12 settings and allows for two different loaf sizes
Small Space bread machine, Lakeland



£39.99

Good mixer

Wake up to the smell of fresh bread thanks to the overnight program
Cookworks XBM1128 bread maker, Argos

In the GARDEN

Make the most of your outdoor space this month with our expert tips and essential know-how

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO OUR SHOPPING DIRECTORY

To-do list for **SEPTEMBER**

PICK sweetcorn when the silks dry up, the ears are filled out and the end is rounded rather than pointed. Cook soon after harvesting to avoid starches building up.

PLANT container-grown shrubs and trees before it gets cold. Soak the root ball and add water to the planting hole. Allow to drain before planting the tree or shrub. Water thoroughly again.

SOW forget-me-nots in beds, borders and pots. They grow best in moist, well-drained soil, in sun or part shade. Rake the area and remove weeds. Remember to thin out young seedlings.

Prolific bloomers, forget-me-nots look best when planted en masse

Grow something beautiful...

SALVIAS

Valued for their brilliant colour options and long flowering time, salvias are a great choice for sunny areas in the garden. There are hundreds of varieties in a kaleidoscope of lovely hues – some are hardy, while others will need greenhouse protection over winter.

HOW TO GROW Plant between May and August in well-drained soil that gets lots of sun. If you don't have the right conditions, plant by a sunny wall or in pots on the patio. Try a mix of varieties and combine with grasses, *Verbena bonariensis*, penstemons and silver foliage. Salvias don't need feeding and thrive in poor soil. Prune after the first flush of flowers and cut back in spring. Pot up a few to overwinter in a greenhouse or sheltered spot, in case those left out don't survive the winter.

Salvias provide late-season colour and combine well with ornamental grasses



VARIETIES TO TRY

BEST FOR

Salvia x jamensis 'Hot Lips'



This half-hardy perennial has aromatic foliage with a blackcurrant scent and eye-catching bicolor blooms.

Patio pots or borders. As the colour has a tropical intensity, it goes well with exotic-looking foliage, too.

Salvia nemorosa



A compact and hardy variety that's hard to beat for impact. It has iridescent purple spires from June to October.

Attracting bees and butterflies to your border. It also makes a great edging plant and works well in gravel gardens.

Salvia curviflora



The candy-pink blooms flower from late spring until autumn. It grows in sun or part shade and likes moist, well-drained soil.

Colourful impact in a woodland-style garden or by an entrance. A good choice for containers with some shade.

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND!

Keep your tools close at hand with this gardening bag. A big compartment and six pockets provide plenty of room for a trowel, string and a notebook.

Gardening bag, Gisela Graham range, Mollie & Fred



Weekend project

WITH ROSEMARY ALEXANDER



Most bulbs can be grown in garden soil or in containers,

and they should be ordered now.

Highly scented and with a good vase life, daffodils flower in March and April. Avoid the trumpet daffodil and go

for more refined *Triandus* types, such as *N.* 'Hawera' or 'Thalia', which cope with light shade or full sun. Tulips follow in late April or May; lily-flowered varieties perform from early May. The vibrant orange *T.* 'Ballerina' clashes brilliantly with *T.*



'China Pink'. Tulips can be left until November to plant. **Rosemary Alexander VMM (RHS) is principal of the English Gardening School at the Chelsea Physic Garden**



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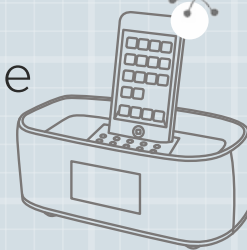
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TREND ALERT!

TALKING IS THE NEW TYPING

From phones to TVs, voice-search products are all the rage

WHERE WE HAVE SEEN THEM...

It all started with smartphone 'personal assistants' – Apple's sultry Siri, Windows Phones' wise-cracking Cortana and then know-it-all Google Now for Android. Now TVs allow us to search for our favourite show or genre just by saying its name. And if Waitrose has its way, we'll be adding items to our online shopping order by talking into one of its Hiku devices.

WHY WE LOVE THEM... There's no more tedious typing – simply start a

sentence with 'OK Google' or 'Hey Siri', etc. to ask your phone to text a friend, book a meeting or answer a question. Obsessing over our favourite stars is easier, too. Squeal 'Benedict Cumberbatch' to a TV with voice search and you'll instantly get a list of shows starring the dapper Mr C.

PRODUCTS WE LOVE... Siri may be super-efficient, but Cortana on Window Phones has a great sense of humour, while the new Fire TV stick lets you enjoy voice search at a bargain price.



£35

▲ **Vocal power**
Fire TV stick,
Amazon.co.uk

Plug this into your TV, download the app and search Netflix and Amazon Instant Video using only your voice



n/a

◀ **Shop talk**
Hiku, Waitrose

On trial at Waitrose, the Hiku device and app will add items to your online shopping basket as you speak into it

Vibrant
4K
screen

Just chat ▶
TX-50CX680B 4K
Ultra HD Smart TV,
Panasonic

Features a voice assistant, so you can control the TV just by talking to it



£999

£99.99



▲ **Smart PA**
Lumia 640,
Microsoft Devices

Includes Cortana, which can search the web, write texts and even tell jokes

GIRL ABOUT TECH'S MANIFESTO

I believe that tech should...

- Make your life easier
- Be super-simple to use
- Stand the test of time
- Look good and work brilliantly

FACT! 62% of people over 55 wash their sheets every week, but less than half of 16-24 year olds do



Two-in-one
wood-fired oven
and smoker,
£1,000, Fornetto

Object of
desire

Outdoor oven, Fornetto

This wood-fired beauty cooks everything from ciabatta to chicken

FEATURES WE LOVE

1 Pizza stone This smart-looking steel and ceramic-brick oven comes with a pizza stone, so you can bake an authentic crispy-based margherita in minutes or rustle up your own flatbreads.

2 Smoker facility You can use it to smoke fish, meat and more – just add smoked wood chips soaked in water to the removable smoker box, and it will

keep food moist while infusing it with tasty flavours, such as hickory, apple or maple.

3 Warming ability Not just a brilliant oven, this will give off enough radiant heat to keep you warm all year round, so you could even dine alfresco in winter.

4 Handy extras There's a condiment rack, plus a lift-up table where you can put hot dishes that have come straight out of the oven or food ready for cooking.

Family favourite

Smarter and more versatile than its predecessors, this redesigned classic grill has a deep bake pan that lets you cook omelettes, pizza or even a small stew, and a sear button that gives 90 seconds of 260°C heat, so you can brown meat and fish. Its stain- and fade-resistant ceramic plates are dishwasher safe and it's still got that trademark slope that draws away fat and grease to make healthier dinners.

George Foreman Evolve grill, Argos



£150

The hi-tech way to... light your home

Brighten up the place with
some app-controlled bulbs



£150

Flexible friend

Hue starter pack, Philips

Colour-match it to anything from a cushion to your eyes and program it to come on and off as you please



£79.99

Warning sign

Lifx Wi-Fi Intelligent
light bulb, Maplin

Works with other Smart gadgets, such as Nest Protect. The bulb flashes red if smoke is detected

Loud lighting

Playbulb
Original, Mipow

As well as lighting up, this Bluetooth bulb can play the music stored on your phone or tablet



£60



£79.98

Bulbs galore

Osram Lightify Gateway
and colour bulb, Tesco

Control up to 50 bulbs, including coloured ones and spotlights, from one app over your home's Wi-Fi

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE
FACT SOURCES BEKO, REALD

FACT! Watching films in 3D can increase the processing power of your brain by 23%



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- An experienced **tour manager**



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FROM
£1,999PP

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Make this the year that you pay a visit to gorgeous, vibrant South Africa.

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- A **visit** to the winelands with a cellar tour
- An optional overnight stay in a tented **safari camp**
- An experienced **tour manager** to escort you



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FROM
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Take our escorted tour and see beautiful Phnom Penh and the ancient city of Angkor.

SELECTED DEPARTURES OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2015 AND JANUARY TO NOVEMBER 2016. THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Stays in **four- and five-star hotels** with breakfast, plus five meals
- **Sightseeing** including the French colonial city of Phnom Penh and the ancient city and temples of Angkor in Cambodia, as well as Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam, by cycle rickshaw
- A **cruise** through Halong Bay and a visit to the Forbidden City in Hue
- A **stay in Ho Chi Minh**, formerly Saigon, including a visit to the Cu Chi tunnels
- An experienced **tour manager** to escort you



8 DAYS
HALF BOARD
FROM
£699PP

POMPEII, CAPRI & THE BAY OF NAPLES

This fully escorted tour visits the Sorrento Peninsula and the Bay of Naples, which is one of the prettiest parts of Europe.

SELECTED DEPARTURES UNTIL OCTOBER 2015 AND APRIL TO OCTOBER 2016. THE PRICE INCLUDES

- **Return flights**, taxes and transfers
- Seven nights half board in a hand-picked **three- or four-star** Sorrento hotel
- **Visits** to the island of Capri, Mount Vesuvius and the beautiful hilltop town of Ravello
- **Tours** of Sorrento, Naples' National Archaeological Museum, Pompeii and the dramatic Amalfi coast
- An experienced **tour manager** to escort you

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

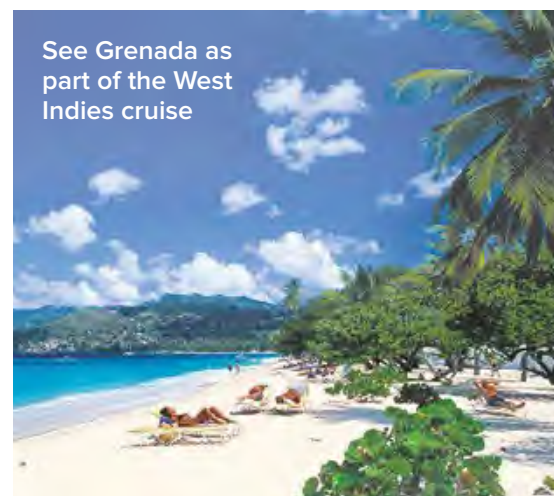




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Indies cruise



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for the Christmas
markets

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- Full-board accommodation on board Magellan from Tilbury in Essex – no flying
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CRUISE	DEPARTURE DATES	NIGHTS	OUTSIDE VOYAGER CABIN 1ST PERSON	OUTSIDE VOYAGER CABIN 2ND PERSON	INSIDE VOYAGER CABIN 1ST PERSON	INSIDE VOYAGER CABIN 2ND PERSON
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Autumn Gardens	25 SEP 2015	6	£1,079	FREE	£779	FREE
Scandinavian Cities	1 OCT 2015	8	From £1,489	FREE	£1,079	FREE
Land of the Northern Lights	9 OCT 2015	14	£2,549	FREE	£1,849	FREE
Canary Islands and Madeira	23 OCT 2015	15	£2,369	FREE	£1,719	FREE
Christmas Markets	13 & 16 DEC 2015	3	£479	FREE	£349	FREE
Amazon and West Indies	5 JAN 2016	42	£6,729	FREE	£4,849	FREE
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You'll love this...

Quiet washing machine

You'll hardly hear this muted machine as it works its magic tackling your loads of laundry



Does your washing machine sound like it's taking off? Then this new model will be music to your ringing ears. It reaches just 66dB on a spin, whereas most hit 78dB – big news given that a 6dB drop is perceived as roughly a halving of loudness.

What's more, the water and detergent are pre-mixed before spraying, meaning less rinsing is needed, plus the drum has been reconfigured, so laundry is less likely to get caught, keeping your clothes looking good for longer.

GIRL ABOUT TECH

TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



FSCR 80424 8kg
Supreme Care
washing machine,
£450, Whirlpool

OR TRY ONE
OF THESE...

Whisper-quiet appliances

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY



£469

Din-free dishwasher

SMS69M12GB SuperSilence Plus
freestanding dishwasher, Bosch

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Works at just 38dB, plus its efficient Auto Wash senses how dirty the dishes are and uses the right amount of water and time to clean them'

Considerate cleaner

USENERGY
UltraSilencer cylinder
vacuum cleaner, AEG

**GIRL ABOUT
TECH SAYS** 'This runs at just 61dB, compared to an average of 76dB. It's also A-rated for dust emissions and tells you when the bag needs changing'



£200



£1,475

Hushed hood

Aria NRS cooker hood, Falmec

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Although you pay a high price for its silence, this extractor works at 37dB as a minimum, and cranks up to a barely noticeable 53dB'

12 STUNNING WINES FOR HALF PRICE

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& FLUTES,
WORTH
£25.99

Ideal Home Wine, in association with Virgin Wines, is offering readers an exceptional half-price deal on 12 delicious wines, which have been carefully sourced from boutique, family owned vineyards around the world.

The case contains a selection of our finest wines, with a silky-smooth Spanish Rioja, a delightfully crisp Australian Sauvignon Blanc and a refreshing, Gold-medal-winning rosé from the Languedoc among the many highlights.

What's more, to bring a sparkle to your entertaining, we're including a bottle of Prosecco and two Dartington Crystal Champagne flutes (worth a total of £25.99) absolutely **FREE**. This light, elegant and refreshing fizz will add a celebratory feel to any day of the week.

With wines worth up to £12.99 per bottle, this case normally sells for more than £120, but it could be yours for just **£59.88 (plus P&P) – only £4.99 a bottle**. We have a limited amount of cases at this promotional price, so the offer is restricted to one case per customer on a first-come, first-served basis. Order now to secure your share.



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- 1 x Finca Los Principes La Canada Rioja
- 1 x Coorong Sounds Shiraz
- 2 x La Reserve Tolosane
- 1 x Silenus Reserve Coonawarra Cabernet Sauvignon
- 1 x Les Arbusiers Cinsault Grenache Rosé
- 1 x Blackfoot Daisy Rosé
- 2 x The Black Pig Single Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc
- 1 x Araldica d'Aria Moscato Secco
- 2 x Billy Bosch Western Cape Reserve Semillon Sauvignon
- **Plus FREE fizz and flutes, worth £25.99**

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TOTAL £			

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You'll love this...

Two-in-one laptop

Can't decide between a laptop or tablet for the student in your life? This portable powerhouse splits apart – for work *and* play



Acer's latest laptop-tablet hybrid is ideal for students, not least because of its price and a Gorilla Glass screen that's very difficult to break. Available in six colours, it packs a powerful processor – ideal for students who want to watch videos, browse the

web and type an essay all at the same time without a glitch. It comes preloaded with Microsoft Office 365 Personal, meaning Word, Excel and PowerPoint are all present and correct, and the Snap Hinge makes it easy to go from laptop mode for writing coursework to tablet mode for when they want to take a well-deserved break. Plus, the impressive 12-hour battery life is more than enough to get them through a full day of lessons.

GIRL ABOUT TECH,
TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AND BLOGGER



Aspire Switch 10E
10.1in 2-in-1 laptop,
£280, Acer

FEATURE LIBBY PLUMMER ILLUSTRATION MONIKA ROE

OR TRY ONE OF THESE...

Versatile two-in-one laptops

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN,
TURN TO OUR SHOPPING
DIRECTORY



Pen friend

Surface 3 10.8in 2-in-1 laptop,
Microsoft Devices

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'This well-designed tablet is available with a responsive Pen stylus (£44.99), handy for taking lecture notes. Opting for more memory and 4G ups the price, but this entry-level model is good value'



One to watch

Transformer Book T100 Chi
10.1in 2-in-1 laptop, Asus

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'With a tablet that connects via a strong magnet, this hybrid runs full Windows 8.1 and has an eight-hour battery life and a decent screen for watching HD videos'



Into the fold

Satellite Radius 11.6in
convertible laptop, Toshiba

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS 'Instead of a detachable keyboard, a 360° hinge lets the screen fold back into five positions. Battery life could be better, but it has a bigger display at a bargain price'

Girl About Tech explains...

Clothing care

Make sure you have the right gadgets to keep your new-season wardrobe in tiptop shape

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

I'm sure I'm not the only one that has a dry-clean-only top languishing at the bottom of my laundry basket, or a dress I'd wear far more if it didn't need ironing. Nor am I the first to have the colour run from new jeans, wrecking the whole wash. Well I can't be because, according to recent surveys, 27% of our clothes go unworn because we can't be bothered to press them*, and we'll damage £3,969 worth of garments over a lifetime of washing.**

WHY SHOULD YOU WORRY?

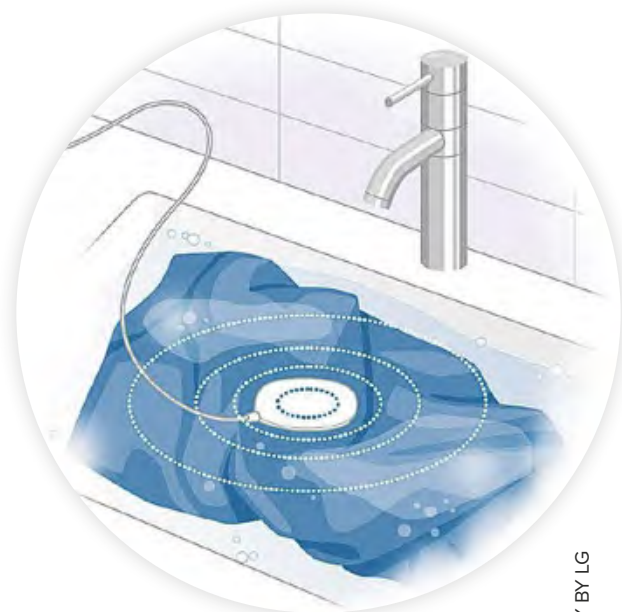
Just like it's worth investing in a trusty LBD, buying a few gadgets to take care of your outfits will save you money in the long term. Let's start with washing machines – older models aren't only less energy efficient and, therefore, more expensive to run, they aren't necessarily designed with delicate clothes in mind, either. For example, a new model may pre-mix detergent with water and air bubbles before injecting it into the drum, so that it's more evenly distributed and lessens the chance of 'raw' detergent staining your clothes. It may also have a drum with smaller holes that clothes can't catch on, or special Woolmark-approved cycles that take extra care of woolly jumpers and cashmere cardis.

Irons have also had a bit of a makeover of late – those with one 'optimal' temperature setting allow you move from one item to the next without worrying that the iron is too hot and might scorch the fabric. Some manufacturers are even daring to forget about traditional appliances and are coming up with new, gentle ways to get our clothes clean, with everything from a hi-tech 'wave-forming' pebble to a state-of-the-art washing wardrobe.



1 ENJOY WORRY-FREE IRONING

The latest irons automatically adjust to the right heat setting as they come into contact with different fabrics. These smart models come in two forms – standard steam irons and steam generators, which have a separate water tank that creates pressurised steam (as used by dry-cleaners) to smooth out creases quickly. This powerful steam is so good at flattening fabric that you can typically do the ironing in half the time, since you only need to press one side of a garment.



2 CHECK OUT SOMETHING BRAND NEW

There are all sorts of innovative products launching – take the Dolfi. Just fill the sink with water, add washing powder and this 'pebble' creates ultrasonic waves to remove the dirt from your clothes. Available through IndieGoGo, it costs \$109 (around £68) plus \$25 (£16) shipping.

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE ILLUSTRATIONS MONIKA ROE
*ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY TEFAL **ACCORDING TO A SURVEY BY LG



3 PICK A CARING APPLIANCE

Many new washing machines put the emphasis on looking after clothes. Drums in the latest Panasonic models have smaller dimples, so there's nothing for fabrics to catch on, while some machines – like those from Samsung and AEG – pre-mix the detergent with water before spraying it onto laundry. This means the water doesn't need to be as hot, so clothes are less likely to shrink and there won't be any undissolved detergent, which can stain. Finally, although they can be pricey, consider a machine with a steam cycle to refresh dry-clean-only clothes without detergent.

4 RETHINK THE WARDROBE

Currently only available in Asia, LG's Styler offers a glimpse into the laundry of the future. Pop clothes inside this love child of a wardrobe and a washing machine, and various programmes will quickly refresh your clothes with steam or give them a 90-minute 'sanitary clean'.



5 SKIP IRONING WITH A STEAMER

Are you the type of person whose hatred of ironing borders on pathological? Never iron your bedding, let alone your towels? Then get yourself a garment steamer. Ideal for any outfits too creased to get away with wearing, it can also refresh clothes – including dry-clean-only items – that have been worn just once. Compact models have a water tank built into the steam head, but these will only be able to steam one or two garments at a time. Larger steamers consist of a hand-held steam head, attached via a hose to a water tank – they often come with a telescopic hanging rack with clips that will hold your clothes in place as you steam them. Also, look out for fabric-brush attachments to use on thicker clothes and upholstery.



Try these...

WASH-DAY WONDERS



£699

Dream machine

L89499FL ÖKOMix washing machine, *AEG*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'It's the only machine that pre-mixes water, washing powder and fabric conditioner before spraying into the drum'

Clever closet

Styler, *LG*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'This cabinet refreshes your clothes with steam, shakes out creases, then dries them with warm air. Let's hope it will be available in the UK soon'

TBC



£200

Pressing matters

IS5042 CareStyle 5

steam generator iron, *Braun*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Let's you move from one item to the next without having to touch a temperature dial, and holds water for two hours of ironing'

Magic wand

Instant Steam

IS3361G0 garment steamer, *Tefal*

GIRL ABOUT TECH SAYS

'Ever wished you could wave a magic wand and the ironing would be done? Hold the steamer against crumpled clothes and watch creases simply drop away'



£100

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ROOMS FOR INSPIRATION



SHOP THE LOOK



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Display house plants in a wall-hung shelving rack



Organise your clothing with Muji's smart wardrobe systems

RECEIVE 20% OFF storage and homeware

Enjoy a fabulous spending spree at Muji and kit out your home thanks to this great offer

Founded in Japan in 1980, Muji was created to sell durable products made from the most suitable raw materials, which are sourced from around the world. Closely linked to the traditional Japanese aesthetic of 'su', meaning plain or unadorned, the idea behind Muji's practical, uncomplicated homeware is that simplicity is not merely modest or frugal, but is possibly more appealing than luxury.

With its high-quality products ranging from stylish storage and home accessories to comfy clothing and great beauty buys, Muji concentrates

on providing natural, innovative designs that will stand the test of time. By eliminating wasteful packaging and unnecessary production methods, Muji is able to provide consistently low prices on its high-quality products.

Ideal Home has teamed up with Muji to offer readers 20% off its products in store. To get your discount, simply visit one of the company's UK stores (there are seven in London, one in Guildford and one in Birmingham), choose your items, then present the voucher (right) to the member of staff at the counter. For product and store information, go to muji.eu.

HOW TO GET YOUR 20% DISCOUNT

To receive your 20% discount, visit any of Muji's UK stores (excluding concessions in Selfridges and House of Fraser), choose your products, then present this voucher at the checkout. This offer is available in store only

TERMS AND CONDITIONS This offer entitles you to receive 20% discount on all full-price items from 1 August to 7 September. Offer redeemable in all Muji UK stores (excluding Selfridges and House of Fraser) and excludes sofas/beds, sock offers and CD players. Only one voucher may be used per customer, per transaction, but a single transaction can comprise of multiple products. No minimum spend required. This voucher is not refundable and cannot be used with any other discount offer or exchanged in whole or part for cash. Offer is not valid online at muji.eu. Promoter: MUJI Europe Holdings Ltd, 8-12 Leake Street, London WC1X 9HT



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IN
ASSOCIATION
WITH
Ideal Home



About KLC School of Design

KLC specialises in interior-design and garden-design training. The school is world renowned for its high-quality, innovative and inspiring training. KLC's unique approach

immerses students in industry practice from the outset, ensuring that all courses are practical and career-focused. KLC has become recognised as a field leader in

online learning, so you can be assured of creative and inspiring tuition, stimulating interaction with other students and a highly enjoyable learning experience!

Design Your Own Home

14 September – 16 October 2015



Learn how to make your room look like the ones featured in your favourite homes magazines. *Design Your Own Home* will show you how celebrity designers and professional stylists work, while helping you develop your own personal style.

You will be taken through the design process from initial concepts for a space to a completed scheme. Subjects covered include colour, textiles, lighting, accessories, planning and sourcing.

Course costs £399

Save £100 when booking using code IH0814**

Successful Gardens

2 November – 4 December 2015



Do you have a garden that you would like to develop, but are uncertain where to start? Would you like to gain ideas and inspiration on how to design your garden to achieve the look you've always wanted?

Successful Gardens gives students the specialist skills needed to completely transform an outside space. The course explores the use of plants, focusing on colour, texture, and planting, while also giving advice on key garden accessories to help ensure a cohesive result.

Course costs £399

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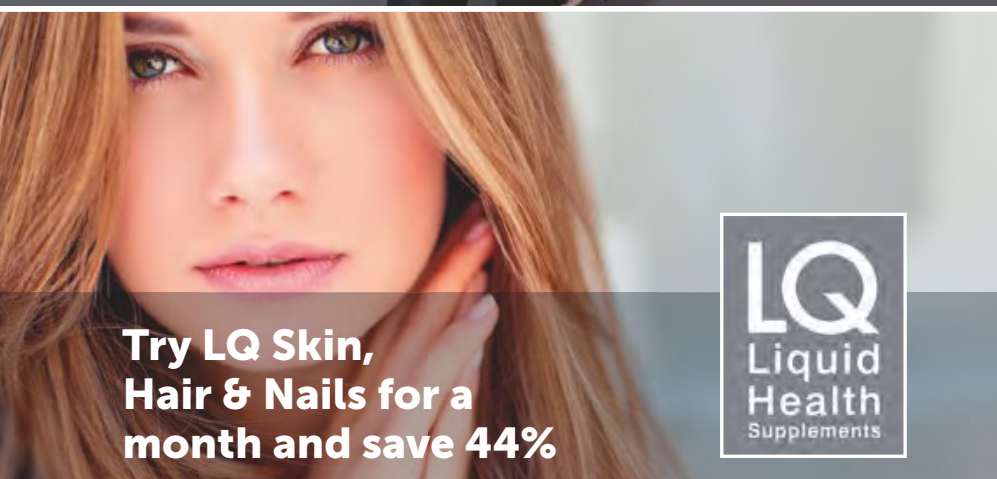
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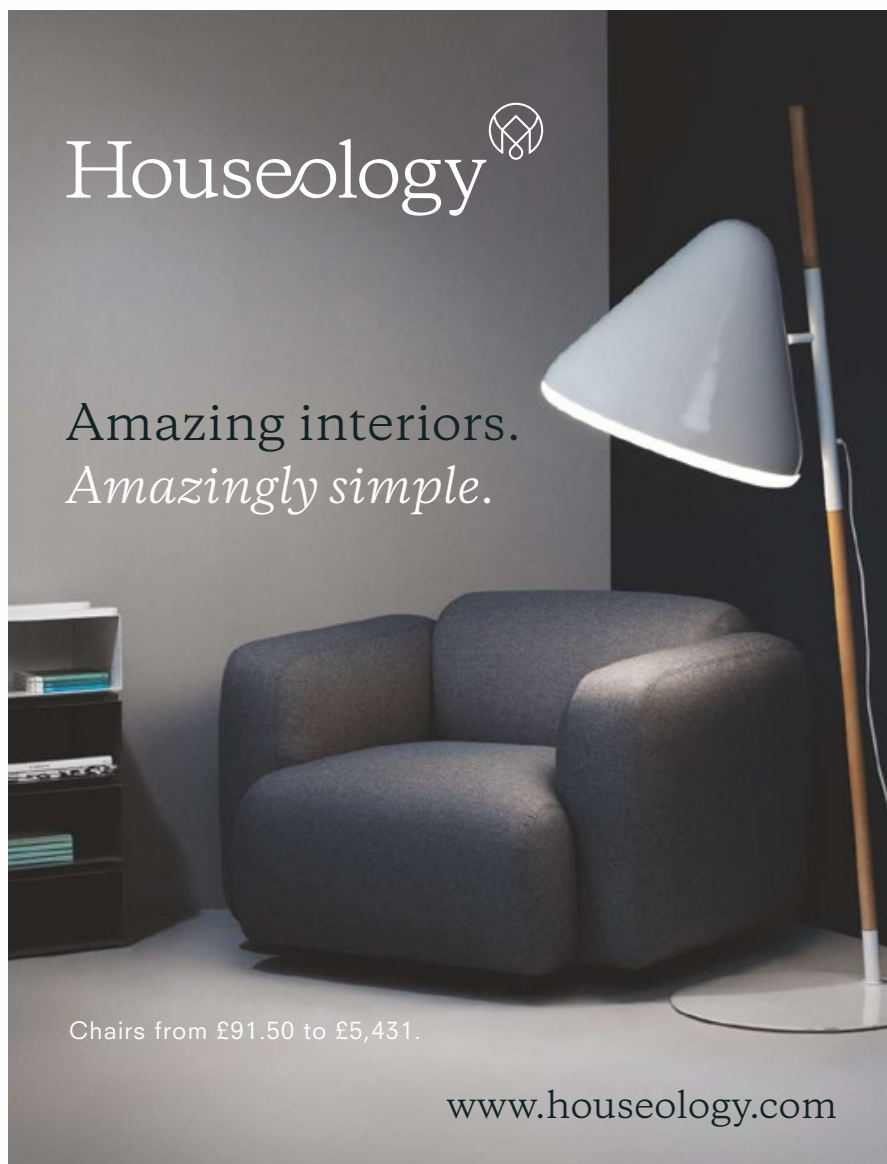
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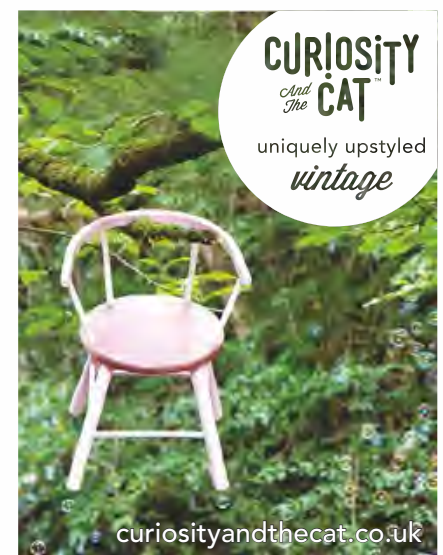
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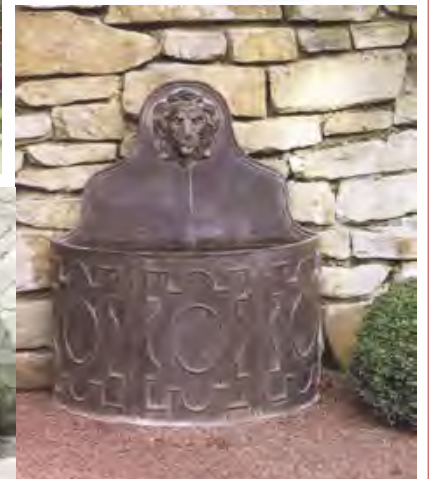
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Enjoy spring and summer colour with these bulbs, which trended at this year's Chelsea Flower Show

1 CAMASSIA 'MAYBELLE'

This compact cultivar flowers in late spring. The buds at the bottom open first, with those at the top flowering up to a month later. It's a good choice for heavier soils in sun or partial shade. Plant 10-15cm deep, 23cm apart, in groups of five or more. Leave the plants undisturbed for several years for the best blooms. After that, offsets can be removed and replanted in late summer or early autumn.
PLANT September-October
BUY £6.50 for five, Avon Bulbs (01460 242177; avonbulbs.co.uk)



2 NARCISSUS 'OAKWOOD'

An award-winning variety, this flowers in March and April, and has a smaller-than-average yellow cup. At about 40cm tall, it's a good choice for pots and borders. Plant the bulbs in fertilised soil in a sunny spot with good drainage, in holes that are three times the height of the bulb (about 15-18cm). After flowering, cut off the spent flowers and feed with a sprinkling of bone-meal fertiliser.
PLANT September
BUY £10 for 10, Walkers Bulbs (01406 426216; bulbs.co.uk)



3 TULIP 'FOUNTAINBLEAU'

Admired for its striking maroon blooms, which have a wide white margin at their edges, this mid-season tulip has a chocolate aroma. Just 15cm tall, it's a great choice for patio pots. Wearing gloves, plant bulbs 15-20cm deep and 10-15cm apart in fertile, well-drained soil, or a finger width apart in pots. Apply liquid tomato feed weekly for the first month. Deadhead when blooms fade.
PLANT September-December
BUY £6.60 for 10, Bloms Bulbs (01234 709099; blomsbulbs.com)



4 LILIUM 'TWYFORD'

This pollen-free double Oriental lily made the shortlist for RHS Plant of the Year 2015. Plant in a sunny, sheltered spot with well-drained acidic soil, lining 20cm-deep holes with grit to improve drainage. For impact, plant bulbs in clusters, allowing 20-25cm between them. Alternatively, grow in pots of ericaceous compost. The heavy blooms will need staking when they appear.
PLANT September-October
BUY £5.25 for three (plus p&p), HW Hyde (07557 530845; hwhyde.co.uk)



5 IRIS 'PARTING GLANCES'

One of a range of new irises from America, its flowers have dark-plum outer petals (known as 'falls') that soften in colour around violet beards, and old gold falls that are washed with lilac. These drought-tolerant plants grow from rhizomes rather than bulbs. These



need to be baked by the sun to produce flowers, so plant in a well-drained, sunny place, facing the sun, and leave them half exposed on the surface of the soil. Over time, irises form clumps and flowering can suffer from overcrowding, so lift the plants in late summer and discard the old centre of the clump, replanting only the young outer pieces that have a fresh fan of leaves.

PLANT Now until mid-October
BUY £8 each, Claire Austin (01686 670342; claireaustin-hardyplants.co.uk)

6 GLADIOLI 'PRIMA VERDE'

A vibrant option, this new gladiolus has spikes of funnel-shaped, green-yellow flowers, with a red throat and fine purple stripes in the open florets. Plant at fortnightly intervals to produce a succession of flowers, which can be cut for the vase from July to October. Grow in a sunny site with well-drained, fertile soil. If grown for cutting, dip the corms in fungicide before planting 10-15cm deep and 15-20cm apart on a layer of coarse sand. Stake the plants, putting the cane on the opposite side to the buds. Lift, dry and store the corms in autumn.

PLANT March-May
BUY Order now for delivery in 2016. £4.50 for 10, Pheasant Acre Plants (01656 664086; pheasantacreplants.co.uk)



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