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Welcome to our APRIL ISSUE!

Photo Lizzie Orme



Is it just me or is this year flying by? I can't believe that it's almost Easter already! If you're planning on giving your home a bit of a spring update over the long bank holiday weekend, then look no further for a host of gorgeous projects, reader homes and beautiful decorating schemes to inspire you.

Our decorator's moodboards this month show how to combine fresh spring shades

with on-trend metallics to give your home a subtle luxe feel. While over on page 79, our beginner's guide to DIY will lead you step by step through all those basic decorating projects you've always wanted to tackle, such as hanging wallpaper, applying tiles and painting your walls like a pro. You'll be amazed at what you can achieve – there's no better feeling than knowing you've done it yourself!

If a thorough spring clean is also on your bank holiday agenda, then take a look at our handy hacks on page 86. These time-saving tips will have you whizzing through the grime like a Mrs Hinch hurricane!

We're always trying to make **HomeStyle** tick all of your boxes, and I love hearing about what you enjoy and what you'd like to see more of. So, when you next sit down with a cuppa, take a few moments to turn to page 75 and fill in our reader survey. As a thank you for sharing your thoughts, there are also six Love2shop gift cards up for grabs in our prize draw! I look forward to hearing from you, but in the meantime, I hope you have a very happy Easter!

Auna-Liza

PS. Don't miss out

on our next issue of **HomeStyle**, on sale 31st March!



COULD YOU BE OUR COVER STAR?

Reckon you've got what it takes to be a future **HomeStyle** cover star? A creative home and a smile is all you need! Email us a quick snap of yourself in your fave room to homestyle@immediate.co.uk. We can't wait to hear from you!

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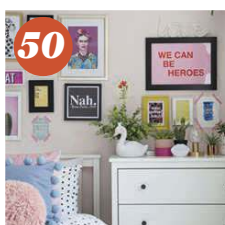


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Put a twist on springtime shades by introducing metallics to the scheme on page 63



Making

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John Lewis & Partners

CUTE KITSCH

An explosion of colour and print will enliven any bedroom



House by John Lewis
tray, £15



Glazed dip bowl, £6



Artisan dinner
plate, £10



Hex table lamp, £25



Build cushion, £20



Tiger cushion, £20



Molten-effect
bottle vase, £25



Diagonal stripe wallpaper, £30 per roll; Wiggle Chilli throw, £35; tiger double duvet cover set, £35; diagonal stripe mineral double duvet cover set, £35; jersey cushion steel, £5; Marcus Walters Bauen/Aufbau unframed print, £10 each; table lamp, £20, all House by John Lewis

SHOP THE HIGH STREET

Here's our pick of the best bargain buys the high street and web have to offer

Dunelm

SPRING SPREAD

Put on the ultimate Easter breakfast with pastel crockery and an abundance of daffodils

ALL
£40
OR UNDER



Clara velvet moss cushion, £12



Large ochre leaf plant pot, £7



Colleen glass pendant, £35



Blush pink planter and wood stand, £14



Large bamboo lantern with hairpin legs, £20



Be calm wire word ornament, £10



Blue tumbler, £4

Recycled glass carafe, £8; daffodil spray, £18.90 for a pack of 12; country heart egg cup, £2; stoneware green bowl, £1.75; polylinen napkins, £7.50 for a pack of four; Purity dinner plate, £2.25; Lyon mug, £1.50; woven placemats, £4.25 for a set of four; gold cutlery, £25 for a 16-piece set, all Dunelm



HOW TO style the look

1 Clashing doesn't have to be limited to colours – you can clash prints too. As a nod to the trend, try combining patterns in classic colour pairings like blue and white. For full impact, combine two or more vibrant prints – the bolder the better in our opinion!

2 For a sense of continuity among the varying prints and patterns, try threading one dominant colour throughout the room. It doesn't have to be neutral; a bright hue like yellow will tie the room together nicely.

Very

INDUSTRIAL CHIC

Experiment with ceramics, candles and pampas grass for an eye-catching feature wall



Ombré **wine glasses**, £25 for a set of four



Gallery walling **clock**, £40



Popcorn **cushion**, £19.99



Plain check **woven throw**, £19.99



Textured **planter**, £29.99



Telford industrial **round lamp table**, £29



Leather band **candle holders**, £40 for a set of two; arthouse wooden **shelf**, £35; East End Prints oh baby **artwork**, from £40; glazed faceted **vase**, £18; decorative **pots**, £14 for a set of three, all Very

HOW TO style the look

1 Dark colours work wonderfully with industrial-style accessories. Try mixing navy blue or dark grey with metallic accents and hardwearing materials like concrete.

2 For simple but effective sideboard styling, make sure you combine items of varying heights and textures. A couple of tall candlesticks perfectly offset a trio of small votive candles, and a print never goes amiss.



Mint green **bin**, £16.99; eyelash **wall art**, £39.99; cactus **wall ornament**, £5.99; **dog bowls**, £4.99 each; checked **dog bed**, £12.99; wicker **basket**, £7.99; neo mint white wicker **basket**, £12.99; neo mint small white **plastic basket**, £4.99; neo mint small **plastic basket**, £4.99, white **metal stool**, £14.99, set of three **buddy hooks**, £9.99, all HomeSense

HomeSense

MINT TINT

Try layering multiple shades of mint for a fresh new look



Ribbed cream **jug**, £12.99



Small drop shape vase
black metal **pedestal**,
£7.99



Magnolia mint silicone
spatulas, £4.99



Neo mint green
polka dot **bin**,
£14.99



Pastel zest light-up
message board,
£9.99



New population blue white
gold **teapot**, £9.99



Neo mint and marble
photo frame, £5.99

SHAKER

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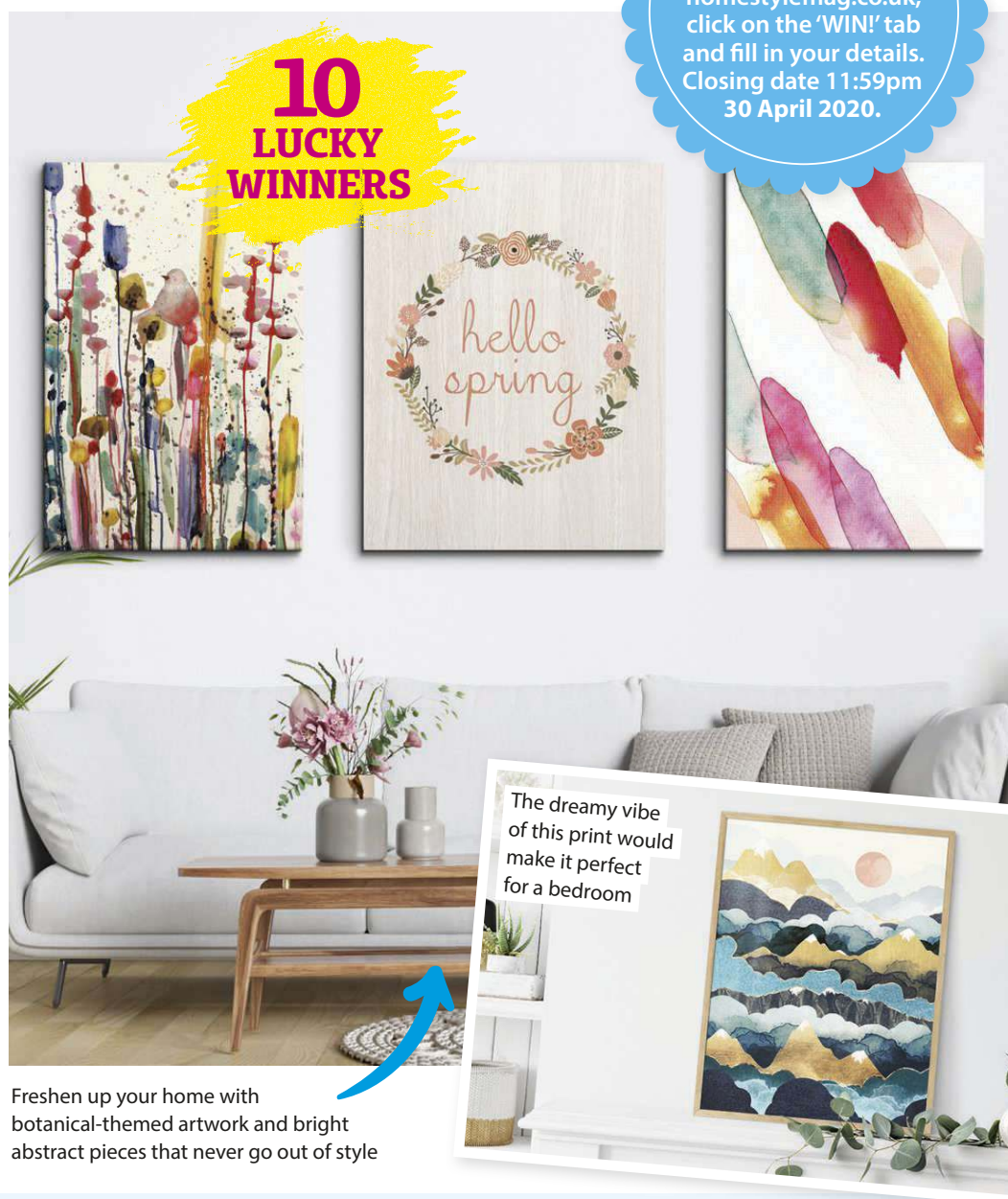
AMAZING PRIZES UP FOR GRABS!

WIN A £100 POSTERLOUNGE VOUCHER

This month, 10 lucky winners will receive a £100 voucher to spend at the online art shop, Posterlounge, where you will be seriously spoilt for choice. From the great masterpieces to modern graphic designs, vibrant photographs and even vintage educational prints and maps, whatever your style is, you'll find something to suit your taste.

Once you've chosen your favourite images from the vast collection on offer, you can have them printed on a great range of materials, including canvas, wood, acrylic, glass and aluminium, or opt for a premium poster. Whether you want a tiny print to remind you of a special holiday or a showstopping high-impact artwork, you can make something really individual for your home. Why not update your wall décor according to the season with floral motifs or go chic with Japanese-inspired watercolours?

See the full range at
posterlounge.co.uk



Freshen up your home with botanical-themed artwork and bright abstract pieces that never go out of style

TO ENTER

It's so easy! Head to homestylemag.co.uk, click on the 'WIN!' tab and fill in your details. Closing date 11:59pm 30 April 2020.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS 1 Promoter: Immediate Media Company Bristol Limited. 2 The promotion is open to all residents of the UK, including the Channel Islands, aged 18 years or older, except the Promoter's employees or contractors and anyone connected with the promotion or their direct family members. 3 By entering the promotion, you agree to be bound by all the rules of the promotion including these terms and conditions. 4 The Promoter may share the details of the winner with the prize provider for the purposes of fulfilling/delivering the prize. 5 The Promoter excludes liability to the full extent permitted by law for any loss, damage or injury occurring to the participant arising from his or her entry into the promotion or occurring to a winner arising from his or her acceptance of a prize. 6 The Promoter reserves the right to amend these terms and conditions or to cancel, alter or amend the promotion at any stage, if deemed necessary in its opinion, or if circumstances arise outside of its control. 7 Only one entry per prize draw will be permitted per household, regardless of method of entry. Bulk entries made by third parties will not be permitted. Entries received after the closing date of the promotion will not be considered. 8 No responsibility accepted for lost, delayed, ineligible or fraudulent entries. 9 The prizes are non-refundable, non-transferable and not for resale. The prizes cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers, promotions or discounts. There is no cash alternative. The Promoter reserves the right to substitute the prizes with other prizes of the same or greater value. 10 Closing date for entries is 11.59pm on 30th April 2020. 11 Winning entries will be chosen at random (after the closing date) from all entries. 12 The winners will be notified of their win within 28 days. 13 Winners must claim their prize within 28 days of notification. In the event that a winner cannot be contacted or fails to claim their prize within 28 days, the Promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to another entrant, or to re-offer the prize in any future promotion. 14 The Promoter's decision as to the winner is final and no correspondence relating to the promotion will be entered into. 15 There are 10 prizes in total, comprising a £100 voucher to spend at posterlounge.co.uk. The vouchers will be valid until 31st December 2023. 16 Entrants must supply to Immediate Media Company Limited their full name, email address or daytime telephone number. The Promoter will use entrants' personal details in accordance with the Immediate Privacy Policy (immediate.co.uk/privacy-policy). 17 The surname and county of residence of the winners will be available upon request by sending an SAE to Posterlounge Giveaway, HomeStyle, Eagle House, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4ST within two months of the closing date of the promotion. The Promoter will contact the winners before releasing this information and provide the winners the opportunity to object or limit the amount of information shared. 18 The promotion is subject to the laws of England.

LATEST RELEASE

Ever had to struggle to squeeze furniture through the door or lug it up a narrow flight of stairs? Here to address all your furniture logistical problems is Swyft, a British brand offering sofas in a box that need no tools to put together. Unlike other flat-pack furniture, Swyft's sofas are simple to construct and provide top-quality comfort akin to any pre-assembled version. The unique Swyft-Lok technology allows you to build the sofa single-handedly as all the mechanisms simply and securely lock into each other. Consisting of a three-seater, two-seater and an armchair, Swyft's collection is easily adaptable and will fit comfortably into smaller spaces. We're head over heels for the velvet finish! Prices start at £595, swyftthome.co.uk.



Model 01 velvet two-seater **sofa**
in Vine, £895, Swyft



The WISH LIST...

New this month: exciting collections, collaborations, colours and more

NEW COLLECTION

You can never have too many bedding sets, right? Clarissa Hulse is back with some beautiful new prints to brighten up your bedroom. Injecting neon shades and a tropical vibe brings about a more contemporary version of classic florals. Inspired by the life and vibrancy of Costa Rica's tropical rainforest, Clarissa's new pieces are designed to stand out from the crowd.



Jungle **cushion**, £40; jungle **bed linen**, from £60, all Clarissa Hulse

SPECIAL SPACES

To elevate your living area to the next level, take notes from Athena Calderone, the curator of this stunning book full of airy, inspiring interiors photographed by Nicole Franzen. Guiding you through the process of creating a unique, well-designed home, Calderone explores the design journey of 19 creatives and offers useful tips so that you can learn to live beautifully in your own home.



Live Beautiful
by Athena
Calderone,
£30, Abrams

JUST LANDED!

A new take on the classic metro tile, the Picket Tile from Walls and Floors is a hexagonal beauty. The striking shape is accompanied by a wide range of colours and effects; we love the marble version, but if you want something a bit subtler, the petal pink or navy options could be for you.

Picket bevelled navy **tiles**, from £33.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors

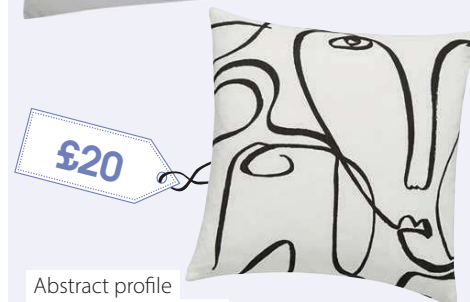
SPEND VS SAVE

Check out these Picasso-style pillows



Face abstract **cushion**, M&Co

£12.99



£20

Abstract profile **cushion**, JD Williams

WE ARE LOVING...

Planters are all the rage at the moment, and we're huge fans of Ian Snow's beautiful terrazzo ones. The flecked pattern is created from marble chippings poured into cement – it looks stunning against solid background colours.



COLOUR CRUSH

Sherbet shades are having a moment. In anticipation of lavender season, try infusing a touch of lilac throughout your home. A versatile colour, purple can either be used subtly to create a muted and soft ambience or as a bold statement via large pieces of furniture and paint. Paired with grey-toned, modern materials like concrete and marble, lilac can be taken from pretty to punchy.



Pompom edge **cushion**, £12, Next



Clock by Maria Kritzas, £30, Art Wow



Bohemia enamel **hanging planter** lilac, £16, Bohemia Design Limited



Lilac bud **vase trio**, £28, Mint & May



Lavender **wine goblets**, £20 for a set of four, Dibor



Habitat Romana lilac stonewashed **king-size duvet cover** with shell-stitched edge, £90, Habitat



Welcome to my home

A bit about me

I'm Laura Sawyer, 41, an art director and creative consultant. I live in Croydon, South London, with my Burmilla cat, Albin.

Where I live

My home is a one-bedroom flat in a converted Victorian semi-detached townhouse, built in 1905. I've lived here for nearly four years.

What I wanted to change

It was a huge task to refurbish the place. It included installing new electrics and heating, as well as a kitchen and bathroom.

How I made it my own

I changed the windows and hallway, and added in features such as architraves, coving and ceiling roses.

My favourite part

With its mix of vintage and luxury, the bathroom is by far my favourite room.



Soft pinks and gold accents complement the spacious living room's light and airy feel

Living room

This space has been given a boutique hotel feel with high panelling, soft pink walls, tropical foliage and an incredible collection of mid-century furniture. 'There is lots of vintage in here, including the armchairs, ceiling light, table lamps, paintings, sideboard and, of course, my flamingo,' says Laura. 'You can probably tell I love a good Sunday morning vintage market!' In keeping with her classical style, Laura also added panelling and the dado rail in this room. The mid-century feel of the flat is reflected throughout this space, with retro pieces, such as the sideboard and shelves, adorned with an assortment of curios, giving a charming, unique look.



Style idea

Add a cosy feel to wooden flooring with an oversized rug

I need a sense

Moody pastels combine with minimal lines to create a cool,

The walls, painted in Soho House by Mylands, make a pretty backdrop for Laura's collection of eclectic furnishings, including the statement Anthropologie rug and matching set of shelves from Swoon Editions

'I had an architect friend help me with the layout to get the most out of the space'



SHOP
Find Art Deco
lighting on
page 22

of calm in my home

laid-back and contemporary feel in **Laura Sawyer's** converted London flat



A handpainted hall table adds a bright pop of colour to Laura's soft pink and gold scheme

My story...

The flat was previously owned by an elderly gentleman who was my neighbour for 12 years. I lived in the flat downstairs – which I had previously renovated with help from my dad – and we became very friendly as he didn't have any family. I became like a surrogate granddaughter to him. Before he died in 2016, I acquired the flat with his blessing.

It needed a lot of work and I wanted to do it justice; he hadn't done any renovations since he had moved in some 25 years prior and he was a big hoarder. It took me about a year to get through probate and sort through all his belongings. I had promised his things wouldn't just go to a house clearance or skip so I wanted to take my time.

The builders started in 2017 and the structural changes included remodelling the shape of the bathroom to make it wide enough to fit a bath widthways, as well as adding windows to the kitchen and bathroom and squaring off the hallway. I worked with a fibrous plasterer to match the original coving, adding it where it was missing and repairing it where it was broken. Plus, I added ceiling roses and designed the architrave, skirting board and panelling, as well as the doors which were all made bespoke.

In addition to this work, I made all the doors taller and wider to really maximise the ceiling height and flood all the rooms with as much light as possible. With the inclusion of cast-iron radiators and double doors in the kitchen, the flat feels more like it's in Paris than London, which I love.

'Shop for vintage pieces if you want something unique and less expensive. I love a good Sunday morning market!'



This 1950s sideboard is a radiogram and has built-in speakers. Laura uses it for storage and to display an array of favourite pieces, including trinkets picked up on her travels and her white pineapple from Pols Potten at Amara



MAKING
Create a cat
trinket dish
on page 25



Laura discovered a collection of French hat boxes on one of her vintage market trawls. 'Inside there were retro policeman's hats, which is very Wes Anderson,' she says



As a self-confessed cat lover, Laura picks up cute kitty-themed pieces wherever she goes. This trinket tray is from Oliver Bonas, and the terrazzo tray is from John Lewis & Partners

Elegant shelving is beautifully styled with a combination of high street, charity shop and vintage finds, including plant pots, candlesticks and jugs. Display units help create a sense of order in the flat. 'I like my accessories to have their place,' says Laura



Painting the architrave in a crisp white is an easy way to freshen up a space

Kitchen

'The kitchen scheme was a difficult decision and, in the end, it was a friend that talked me into the minty green,' says Laura. 'I had it as an option but was nervous about the decision. I had decided on the white doors long before and knew exactly what panel detail I wanted to have on them, which includes the very elongated look on the top cupboards.' The kitchen is an IKEA base with Aerugo Green doors sourced from Superfront, a Swedish company that specialise in front panels to go over IKEA kitchens.

Style idea

Gold accents throughout the kitchen help to create a cohesive scheme

'I get my interiors inspiration from reading magazines, looking at Pinterest, visiting stately homes and watching my favourite films'

Steal my style

Get Laura's cool contemporary style with these buys



Maximise a small space

Make sure you get it right with this sound advice

- Cluttered countertops and cabinets can look messy. Integrate kitchen appliances to achieve a sleek, streamlined look and paint high cabinets in a pale shade to make them blend into the wall.
 - Reintroduce the original features, such as a floor you love, high skirting, panelling and ceiling roses. It will make such a difference to the feel of a space.
 - Plain-coloured tiles create the illusion of a larger floor
- space in the bathroom, but don't be afraid to take a risk with colour either. Even if it's in something small, like a patterned curtain or a coloured wall in a compact space, it will make all the difference.
- You can update your kitchen really cheaply by replacing cupboard door handles and/or having the doors resprayed. So, if you hate your cabinetry but can't afford a total kitchen makeover, this is a quick and cheap solution.
 - Avoid cramming furniture into a room, or ornaments into a corner or up against a wall. Even in the smallest rooms, give your pieces a little space and the whole place will feel bigger.



Laura sourced the light fitting and headboard from eBay. They fit in perfectly with the mid-century-style bedside tables from West Elm and curtains from John Lewis & Partners

Bedroom

'I wanted this room to be light and airy, so I chose to keep it calm and minimal with neutral walls,' says Laura. 'I love pink and think, in small doses, it feels feminine and luxurious. The elements of this room really come from my Wes Anderson film obsession, as well as my own passions and background. Birds and bird-watching are a big love of mine, so you'll see lots of them dotted around the flat, with a few in the bedroom too. I also like curved lines and circles, as they really soften an interior, so I think the headboard, cushions and ceiling roses work so well together.' In order to create a turn-of-the-century vibe, the architrave, skirting board and panelling were all custom-made, while the herringbone floors add to the European feel.

'I wanted to keep this room light and airy, so I chose to keep it calm and minimal with neutral walls'





Laura has mixed luxury with vintage finds in the bathroom. The basin, mixer taps and shower are from Aston Matthews, while the mirror is a charity shop buy



Gold finishes give the ex-display tub from Bathstore an instant update, while trailing green foliage complements the shower curtain, made from House of Hackney fabric



Laura has put doors on an IKEA bookcase to create extra storage. A Bush radio and Mark Manzi print finish the look

What I learned...

- New cast-iron radiators that look white are actually just primed unless you ask for them to be painted white. Annoyingly, my radiators are a little off-white.
- I wish I'd found extra cash to double glaze the original sash windows, as I get a lot of condensation on them. In retrospect, I should have budgeted better to ensure I had enough money left to do this.
- In the kitchen, my under-sink bin is a disaster. It's shoddy and awkward to use and my dishwasher door doesn't want to stay put. If I do a kitchen again, I'd think more carefully about these elements because they're so important – you have to live with them every day!



See homestylemag.co.uk
for more great real homes

GLOW GETTERS

Use graceful curves and blush tones to create a graceful retro-look lighting scheme, like **Laura**

See how Laura uses statement lighting in her home on page 14



£29

Yesterhome

Effortlessly simple but brilliantly effective



£35

JD Williams

Oodles of fringing will make any room feel glamorous



£69.99

H&M Home

Spread the glow with two points of light



£275

Graham & Green

This retro piece oozes Twenties glamour



£99

MADE.com

This arc shape is great for hallways



£75

BHS

This dramatic chandelier was inspired by Miami in the Seventies

£25

Dunelm

Pretty petals on an easy-fit shade



£50

Wilko

Gentle light for a bedside table



£160

houseof

Adjustable pendants are perfect for dining areas



£85

M&S

The pink tint of this light will cast a flattering glow



£18

IKEA

Surround your mirror and feel like a film star



£55

John Lewis & Partners

Our love for terrazzo isn't going anywhere



£250
Habitat

These pill-shaped bulb covers are absolutely on trend



Be inspired at danetti.com



Luxury
Finishing Touches

danetti
THIS IS LIVING



Make the look...

TRINKET DISH

This feline accessory is purr-fect for keeping jewellery to hand and bringing the cute factor to your home, like **Laura**

You will need

- * Pencil
- * Small ceramic dish – heart or oval shapes work well
- * Cloth
- * Ceramic pens

1 Wipe the dish with a cloth to make sure it's clean and free of dust.

2 Draw the cat's face on the dish with a pencil. Start with the nose in the middle, followed by the mouth, whiskers, eyes and ears.

3 Neatly go over the pencil lines with ceramic pens. If you make a mistake, simply wipe it off before the paint dries and reapply.

4 When you're finished, allow the dish to dry for three days to fix the paint before using.

Heart-shaped porcelain **soap plate**, £8, The White Company. Marabu porcelain **painter pens**, £4.10 each, Jackson's Art Supplies. Tassel quilted circle green cotton **cushion**, £29.50, Oliver Bonas

Top Tip

To give your make a glamorous touch, line the edge of the dish in gold metallic. It will give a professional finish and complement your jewellery too.





Welcome to my home

A bit about me

I'm Danielle Le Petit, a maternity care assistant. I live with my husband, Martin, who's a carpenter.

Where I live

My home is a classic four-bedroom Victorian semi-detached house. It dates from 1894 and is situated in the leafy Surrey suburbs.

What I wanted to change

Apart from putting my own stamp on the place, I wanted to change a lot of the finishes, such as the worktops, tiles, fascias and flooring.

How I made it my own

We converted the loft into an en suite guest room and revamped the kitchen, then filled it with furnishings and finds I'd already collected over time.

My favourite part

How the living/dining area has blended together. I feel like I've got the cosy and elegant combo just right there.



The tan leather, club chair and sofa were bought a few years ago at DFS. To the side stands an impressive tripod lamp called the Chicago in antique copper and gold from Made.com. The Afaw Berber-style rug is by La Redoute and is fast becoming a modern classic

SHOP

Find antique-look buys on page 34



'My style is a mixture of vintage and modern that creates a relaxed, boho vibe'

I'm anything

Trinkets collected from her travels and random vintage



Living/dining room

'The living and dining room at the front of the house is one of my favourite spaces. As in most Victorian homes, it was obviously once two separate rooms that have since been knocked through, so I wanted the space to work as one while also feeling like distinct areas. We have used two Farrow & Ball grey shades here – Worsted and Mole's Breath – along with two different yet complementary wallpapers to clad the chimney breasts around each of the fireplaces. I think it's helped achieve the effect we were going for.'

but minimalist

treasures help make up **Danielle Le Petit's** eclectic, boho home



In the hallway, Martin has applied his carpentry skills to lay beautiful new wooden parquet flooring

My story...

It's not often you find a house that really is the perfect blank canvas, but this place was it. Structurally it was in great condition, and had even been replastered and repointed prior to selling. Inside, the whole property had been decorated in shades of cream and light beige, so it really was like buying a clean sheet of paper, ready to make my mark.

When we first came here, it was to upsize with growing teenage kids, which is why we converted the loft for an extra bedroom. Since they've all flown the nest, I've had a chance to pull the décor together, and a lot of it has been inspired by what's become a small community of like-minded interior enthusiasts I've encountered on Instagram.

Inside, we've changed a lot of the surfaces and finishes to create more texture and interest. My lovely husband laid the new wooden parquet flooring in the hall in his spare time. We also stripped off some dodgy stone cladding in the conservatory to expose the brickwork underneath and laid a slate floor in the kitchen. Meanwhile, we were able to revamp the kitchen just by replacing the doors and fitting new oak-block worktops and wall tiles.

On top of this, the décor and furnishings are just things I love and have accumulated over the years; mirrors, vintage signs, retro lamps, studio pottery, all the things I can never resist. However you'd describe my interior style, the one thing it's not is minimalist!

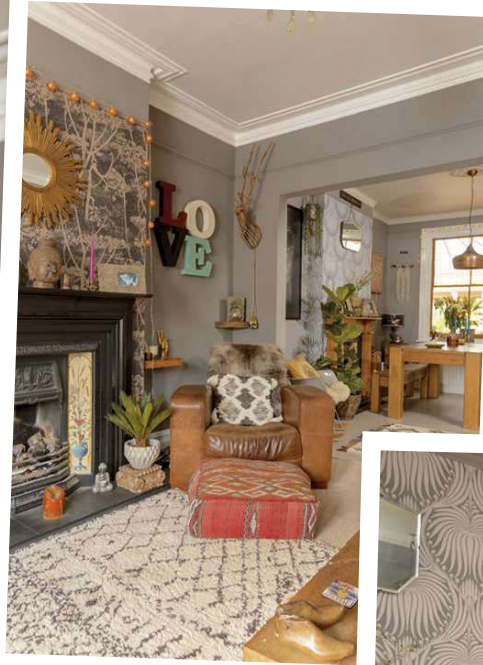
Style idea

A sunburst mirror is a great way of creating a vintage vibe



Farrow & Ball's Mole's Breath has been paired with Cow Parsley wallpaper from Cole & Son over the chimney breast. The gold gilt mirror above the fireplace from Graham & Green adds detail

‘Spending time at home with my family and friends is now one of my favourite ways to relax’



This long room has been opened up from two smaller Victorian spaces and now features two hearths and distinct zones. The rear is a cosy dining area dominated by a sturdy table and benches, all made from Quebec pine from Indigo Furniture

The dining area's walls have been painted in the warm grey tone, Worsted, with pattern and interest added by the elegant Lotus 2061 feature wallpaper on the chimney breast, both by Farrow & Ball



Above the dining table hangs one of Danielle's favourite buys, a gorgeous, retro-style copper pendant lamp which she found for £99 at Atkin & Thyme

MAKING
Create your own pouffe on page 36

Steal my style

Get Danielle's boho-chic style with these bargain buys



£5.95

Marrakesh **mezze bowl**, Rex London



£60

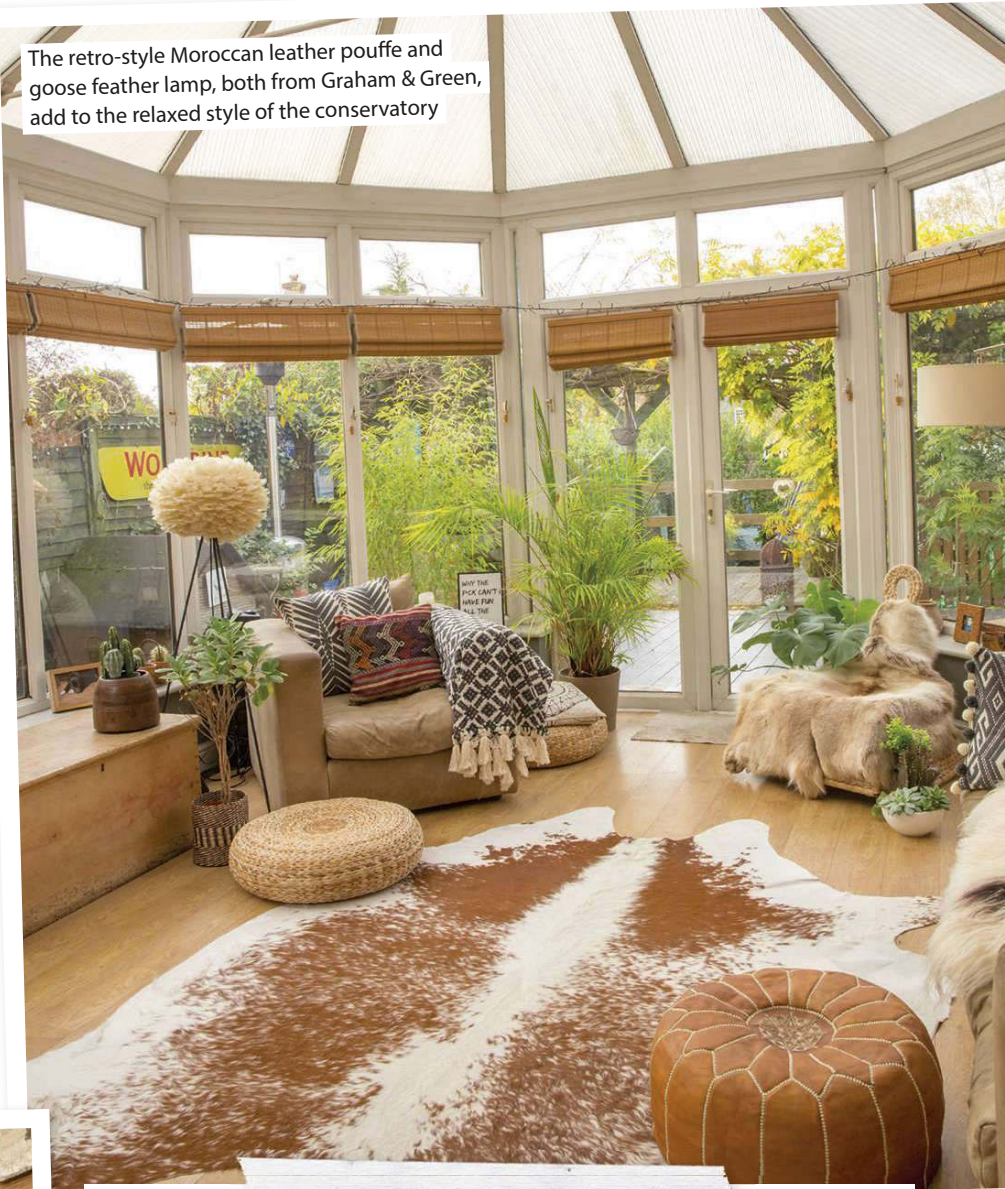
Large faux **buffalo skull**, Kinfolk Decor



Kalimanta bamboo **hanging shade**, Abode Living

£94

The retro-style Moroccan leather pouffe and goose feather lamp, both from Graham & Green, add to the relaxed style of the conservatory



Danielle loves the way the oak-block breakfast bar area links the conservatory and kitchen spaces together



Expert advice

How to get the eclectic look

Make your home unique by transcending the trends

- Danielle's home is proof that with the right styling, neutral tones are anything but bland. Opt for a palette of warm rather than cool greys to help interiors feel cosy, as well as elegant. For extra drama, introduce feature walls decorated with patterned papers that add a bold, graphic element while sticking to the monochrome scheme.
- Patterned wood flooring is both timeless and stylish and looks wonderful in any interior space. For those on a budget, engineered parquet, which is

made from layers of hard wood with a plywood core, is a great budget alternative to wood parquet. Once laid, it's almost impossible to tell the difference.

- Apply feature walls to tiled areas in bathrooms or even kitchens. Contrasting more expensive decorative, patterned tiles with largely plain ones delivers understated style, while also being budget-friendly.
- Mixing different eras of style is a great way to create exciting décor. Although anything goes, it's useful to remember periods that form the link between others. For example, if you're mixing Tudor with Victorian, bridge them together with Georgian elements.

When the couple moved in, they replaced the kitchen, but, happily, the original units were good enough quality to keep, meaning they just had to choose new doors, fascia panels and handles. They selected these in a Shaker style from Howdens in a French Grey colour.

'Take your time and just enjoy the process. Try to be patient and save up for real quality items that make a lasting difference'



Style idea

An extra worktop from the kitchen into the conservatory makes a useful breakfast bar area

Kitchen

'The existing kitchen was nearly new when we moved here, but it was almost entirely cream. Thanks to it being in such good condition, we were able to revamp the space without ripping it out. We simply changed the fronts for doors and panels in a Shaker style from Howdens. We chose a delicate French Grey shade, which works well with the new slate flooring and the monochrome feature tiles I treated myself to on the splashback behind the sink. When we put the new oak-block worktop on, we extended it slightly around the corner into the conservatory to help bring the two rooms together.'

The couple's bright and spacious double bedroom features a generous wrought-iron bed that was purchased several years ago from The Iron Bed Company

'Think along the lines of timeless style by buying vintage pieces'

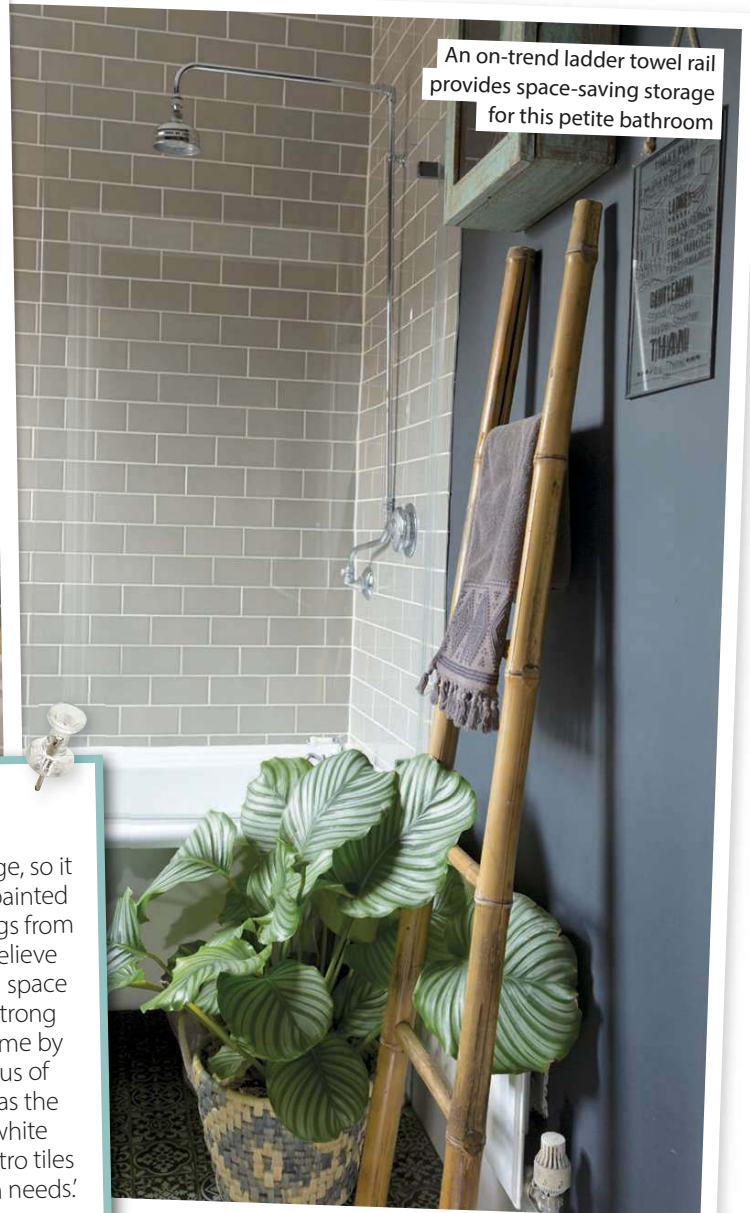
Master bedroom

'Sticking to one of my favourite combinations again, we painted the walls warm grey and incorporated a feature wall with monochrome-patterned paper behind the bed. This time I went for a very warm, light grey, with enough brown that it's almost the colour of putty, and offset that with a paper that's dominated by cool mid-greys. I think the natural tones of the wood floor that we exposed and sanded and the bamboo lampshades really complement the scheme in here. Similar-coloured throws and cushions on the bed are the finishing touch.'





The Woods & Pears wallpaper from Cole & Son provides an earthy backdrop for the bedroom



An on-trend ladder towel rail provides space-saving storage for this petite bathroom

Bathroom

'Our bathroom isn't particularly large, so it might be a bit of a surprise that I painted the walls in this dark colour, (Railings from Farrow & Ball). However, I really believe that, while plain white will make a space feel bigger by reflecting light, a strong dark shade like this can do the same by absorbing it, with the extra bonus of adding more tones and interest as the light levels change. I think the white bathroom suite and light grey Metro tiles provide all the lightness this room needs.'



The modest-sized bathroom was revamped using classic bevelled grey Metro tiles and encaustic monochrome floor tiles, both from Tons of Tiles

What I learned...

- Take time to shop and research online to find imaginative alternatives to the expensive luxury items we all love. It's super satisfying when you find great substitutes for a fraction of the price, and it's become part of what's defined my style.
- Whether it's on the shelf, mantelpiece or sideboard, make room to display all the things you've collected over a lifetime that you really cherish. This is what makes a house a home, rather than a showroom.
- When you're putting together an interior, it's just as important to think about using interesting, complementary textures as it is to consider matching colour schemes.



See homestylemag.co.uk for more great real homes

CHARACTER *DRIVEN*

Give your home a lived-in look, like **Danielle**, with time-worn and vintage-style pieces



Get creative inspiration from Danielle's eclectic home on page 26

£25

Scaramanga

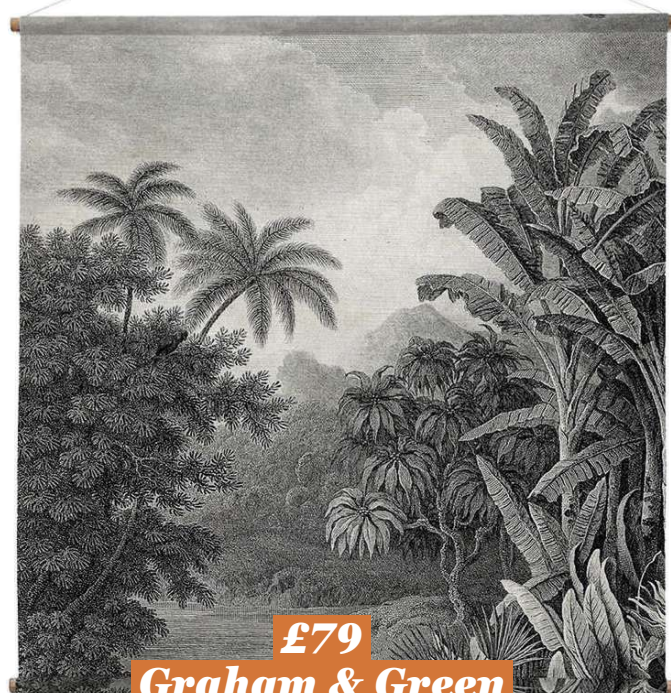
This old lamp would make a great terrarium



£6

Yester Home

Hand-forged with iconic Gothic styling



£79

Graham & Green

Feel like an intrepid explorer with this wall hanging



£349

Cult Furniture

Inspired by the classic furniture of mid-century designer Robin Day

£195
Loaf

Keep essential items within arm's reach





£360
Laura Ashley

Create the feeling of extra space
with a window-like mirror



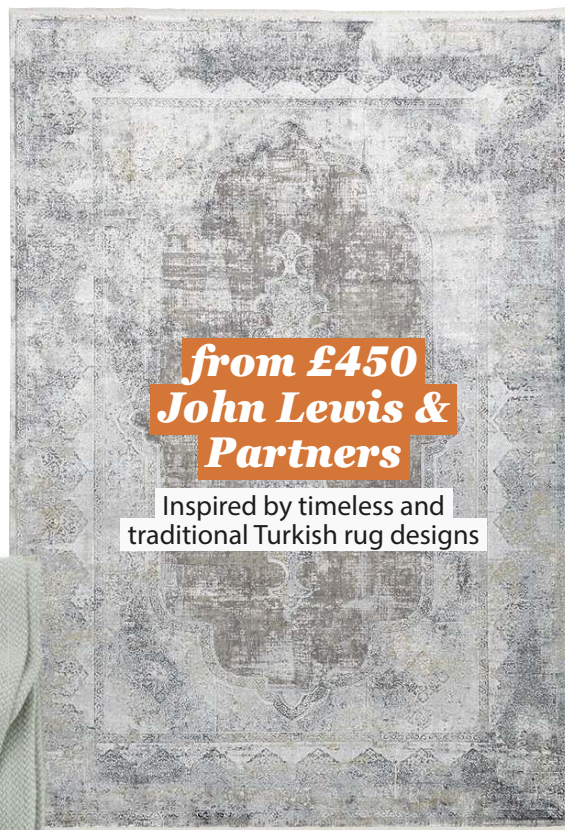
£75
Habitat

18th-century design for
the modern age



£59
Industville

These factory-style lights are
available in a range of colours



from £450
John Lewis & Partners

Inspired by timeless and
traditional Turkish rug designs



£279
IKEA

Show off your vintage finds



£17.99
H&M Home

A soft and handsome
jacquard-weave throw



£18.50
Willow & Stone

These French numerals
will make your doorway
très chic!



£149
Dunelm

Discreet storage for
landings and hallways



Make the look...

FLOOR CUSHION

Give guests plenty of options for lounging like **Danielle**, and bring this square-shaped pouffe into the mix

You will need

- * 1.5 metres of patterned fabric
- * 62 x 62cm square seat cushion/foam block
- * Measuring tape
- * Scissors
- * Pins
- * Sewing machine
- * Needle and thread

1 Measure and cut the fabric into two squares to cover the top and bottom of the cushion, both with a 1cm seam allowance on each edge. Measure and cut four pieces for the sides, all with a 1cm seam allowance on each edge.

2 With right sides facing, pin one of the side pieces to one edge of the first square. Sew together, removing the pins as you sew, and repeat with the next side piece. Continue until all the edges are attached to the square.

3 Next, pin and sew the ends of the side pieces together, then pin and sew the other square piece in place, leaving one side open.

4 Turn the cover right side out and place the cushion inside. Finally, neatly hand-stitch the opening together with a needle and thread.

Top Tip

Don't worry about the pouffe matching with the rest of the room. Instead, choose a bold patterned fabric that will liven up any space!



Duvholmen 62 x 62cm cushion, £20; Fransine cushion cover, £10, both IKEA. Star pink earthenware plant pot, £18; Lara yellow ceramic mug, £10, both Oliver Bonas



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Welcome to my home

A bit about me

I'm Amy Shirlaw, and I run my own interior design business, Amy Shirlaw Interiors. I share my home with my little black cat, Angostura Bitters.

Where I live

My home is a two-bedroom Victorian ground-floor apartment in Edinburgh. I moved in a couple of years ago.

What I wanted to change

My flat had been a rental for many years. It was a bland magnolia box with no personality. I wanted to inject colour and life into it.

How I made it my own

With the help of a decorator, I painted all the walls in various hues of rich sea greens and deep blues which made a huge difference.

My favourite part

It has to be the Andy Warhol wallpaper I have in the kitchen. It's a screen print called 'Where's Warhol.'



Living room

'I would describe my style as eclectic, unique and humorous. Thankfully, this look is highly compatible with bargain hunting. I also believe that the much-maligned, old-fashioned brown furniture is coming back, so I'm collecting it,' Amy shares. 'The green velvet sofa and the rug in here are probably the only things in my flat that I have bought full price; almost everything else is from Gumtree, eBay or antique shops. I do look out for chain store bargains as well; for instance, the green decorative vase by the window is from the Jonathan Adler range at H&M Home. I also love a TK Maxx find,' she admits.

SHOP

Animal-print accessories on page 46

Style idea

Don't overmatch. Amy's number-one rule is – if you like it, it works

I'm inspired

With a background in events and hospitality, **Amy Shirlaw**

The living room is filled with personal touches that show Amy's character. 'Homes should reflect your personality and requirements,' she says. 'Don't follow the trends if they don't appeal or work to how you use the space'



'I wanted to use my home to experiment with colour and flex my interior design muscles'

by boutique hotels'

draws on past experiences to create her signature dramatic interiors

The round dining table in the bay window is from eBay. Amy has matched it with classic 1970s dining chairs that she found at Drum Farm Antiques in Edinburgh. The trio of faux rugs underneath are from IKEA and the cheetah skin is from Amazon



My story...

I was brought up in a home drenched in colour and pattern. My mother was a hotelier and a pioneer of the boutique hotel movement here in Edinburgh, so I have been immersed in exotic wallpapers and bold paint colours since I was a small child.

I went on to study art history and worked in events for over ten years, mainly comedy festivals, creating fun, temporary spaces for stand-up comedians. I realised that I wanted to put my energy into creating more permanent spaces, so I then retrained as an interior designer and bought this flat at the same time. Having had quite a nomadic lifestyle, I decided to settle down and realised that my flat would be a showcase for my work as a designer.

I wanted to create a colourful environment with lots of fun touches. You can't work in comedy for ten years without developing a sense of humour! As an art historian, I loved studying the Pop Art movement and I wanted my flat to have some kitsch, tongue-in-cheek elements, despite its grand Victorian proportions.

The Victorian period features serve as a backdrop to a masculine, mid-century layer, which acts as a foil to my more frivolous, feminine tendencies. The result is a dramatic yet quirky interior, achieved on a tight budget. For instance, there are no curtains. I couldn't afford the acres of fabric required for these windows, particularly in a fabric I actually liked, so I have learnt to love the working shutters. My aim was to create an interior where friends and clients would feel welcome to drop by at any time for a chat, and maybe even a cocktail!



The walls, painted in Inchyra Blue by Farrow & Ball, create a dramatic backdrop for the space

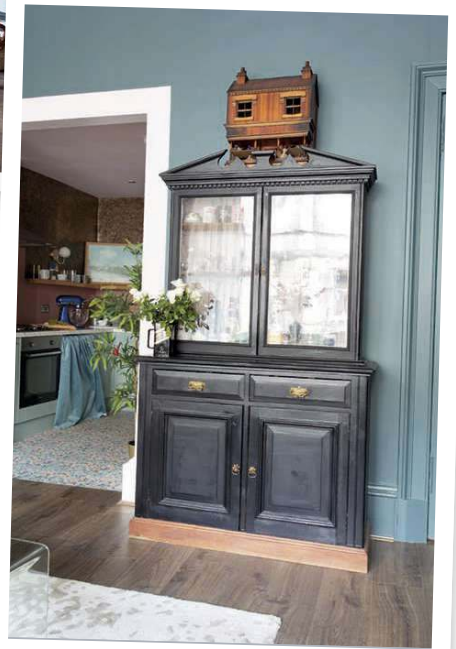
'I love the height of the ceilings in here; the sense of space is very freeing'



The framed prints above the mantelpiece include a Franz Kline design. It's from the now-defunct art.co.uk, though it still operates in the US as art.com. The online UK company, King & McGaw, has a similar selection

MAKING
Create quirky wall art on page 48

The large dresser was a gift from Amy's parents' neighbour when she moved in. 'They were getting rid of it and I knew it would be perfect in here,' says Amy. 'I painted it in Rust-Oleum Carbon furniture paint'



The snuggle chair is from Gumtree and Amy bought the contemporary glass coffee table on Facebook Marketplace. It fits in perfectly with the eclectic collection of furniture that Amy has collated

Steal my style

Get a touch of Amy's sumptuous style with these luxe velvet buys

Orange round velvet cushion, Mint & May

Red velvet and brass pendant, HomeSense

£25

£19.99

£365

Velvet and chenille chair, Oliver Bonas

The faux wisteria is from Amy's mum. It sits on an onyx occasional table from nearby auctioneers, the Inverleith Salesroom



Expert advice

How to buy art

Make your walls look pretty as a picture with these top tips

- Try looking on the internet; lots of galleries have an online space now. While it can be hard to judge the scale of the work, make sure to examine the small print for the dimensions and double-check that it will fit in the space you have in mind. The internet is especially useful for buying art prints.

- Every June, the art school in your nearest city will have a degree show where most of the students' work will be for sale. Buying from a student will give them a real confidence boost and if they become a well-

known artist in the future, you will have made a great investment to treasure.

- Display posters and prints from exhibitions, gigs and events that you've gone to. They often make great pieces of artwork at the fraction of the price of a painting and it's a great way to remember a special occasion.

- If you don't like the idea of wall art, you could always look at pottery, vases, and bowls. There are lots of local artisans where you can pick up unique, handcrafted and thoughtful pieces that you can bring into your home. Homemade pieces like these are sure to bring a spark of personality to a space.

Amy customised the tall Hemnes chest of drawers from IKEA by painting the front in a deep navy gloss for a sleek look



'Look at hotels and restaurants for useful interior inspiration; the finishes they use need to be hardwearing as well as luxurious'



Style idea

Symmetry is a useful styling tool and can help unify quirky finds and random collections of artwork and furniture

Master bedroom

'This room was included in my blue and green painting sweep in the first week I moved in. I have since painted a lot of the woodwork the same shade for a more complete look, leaving the space above the picture rail white. I feel this gives a light, airy look to the room, balancing the intensity of the deep-blue walls. I was looking to achieve a nostalgic and warm style that could happily house my ephemera and evolve over time. The Sophie Abbott painting above my bed was a bucket-list buy for me; I feel it finishes off the room perfectly.'

Amy has dressed the Malm IKEA bed with pretty pink bedding from Habitat. A faux fur throw from Dunelm and TK Maxx cushions make it instantly cosy

The desk is made up from a leftover kitchen worktop balanced on filing cabinets from IKEA, one of which has been spray-painted turquoise



Spare bedroom

This pretty room serves as a working design studio for Amy. Fabric and wallpaper samples are stored here and she has a wonderful library of art and design books, which she refers to for inspiration. The couch makes an excellent spare bed for friends and offers an ideal spot for dreaming up gorgeous design ideas. 'It's taken me a while to settle into a routine as a self-employed designer,' Amy admits. 'I've discovered that I am a morning person. I get up early and get a lot done in here, then I typically take the afternoon off and seem to complete my day's work in the evening; I often have client meetings after office hours.'

The shimmering wallpaper is by New York-based brand Flavor Paper. The screen print called 'Where's Warhol?' is a source of daily joy to art-loving Amy



Although the kitchen is small, the working triangle Amy has designed is perfect for cooking even the most elaborate meals. The patterned vinyl flooring was an investment buy from Atrafloor. The walls and ceiling are painted in Ballet Shoes by Crown to match the pink Kinect tiles from Topps Tiles, which were a bargain bin-end buy. 'I had to drive to several stores to get enough,' Amy says



Kitchen

'I have really splashed out in this little space, probably because it opens out to the living room, so I didn't want it to look too 'kitcheny'. Instead of cabinets, I've chosen open shelving and invested in designer wallpaper and flooring. I searched high and low for gorgeous tiles that I could afford and painted the walls a glamorous, soft pink. I found a piece of green velvet to curtain the front of the washing machine and picked a fun faux marble worktop called Calcutta. I chose it to celebrate the time Scotland beat England in a Six Nations game – the winner is awarded the Calcutta Cup!'

The patterned vinyl flooring from Carpetright goes well with the sanitaryware from Victoria Plum. The round light-up mirror from Pebble Grey adds a glamorous, fun feel to the space



What I learned...

- Incorporate quirky storage solutions into your home. I have used a mix of bespoke fitted solutions for tricky corners and upcycled junk shop finds to create unique pieces. Never underestimate the amount of storage you'll need!
- There's no need to be a slave to the architecture of your home. Just because this is a Victorian building does not mean my home décor has to be Victorian in style. I have layered mid-century items over the beautiful period backdrop and added iconic pieces of 1970s furniture as a finishing touch. Your style and décor is meant to and should evolve over time.

 See homestylemag.co.uk for more great real homes

WILD THINGS

Fill your home with natural wonders, like **Amy**, with these bold animal print accessories



£21

Sophie Allport

A unique design that features the endangered Grevy's Zebra



£28

Quail Ceramics

Sprinkle on some fun with these cute salt and pepper shakers



£38

French Connection

A subtle nod to the trend



£49

Cult Furniture

Rewild the forgotten corners of your room



from £4

George Home

Make bathtime a joy with these bright towels



£35
Urban Outfitters

This bath mat will definitely
earn its stripes



£24.99
H&M Home

Serve up a bite to eat
on a crocodile print tray



£18
Next

Get ahead with a clever
geometric cushion



£19.95
Mint & May

Make your boots and
shoes spotless



£8.95
Vibrant Home

Go wild in the great outdoors with
vibrant melamine tableware



£10
George Home

Escape to the country with a
cow print duvet set



£65
Audenza

Glittering gold sequins will
make a glam addition



Make the look... **WALL ART**

Fill your walls with one-of-a-kind art pieces, like **Amy**, for a look your guests won't see twice

You will need

- * Template
- * Paper
- * Scissors
- * Pencil
- * Masking tape
- * Acrylic paint
- * Spray mount
- * Frame

1 Go to homestylemag.co.uk to enlarge and print the lightning bolt template on two sheets of A4 paper. Stick them together, then cut out.

2 Place the lightning bolt template in the middle of a sheet of A3 paper and mask around the outside with tape. Remove the template and mask off the first horizontal section within the shape.

3 Paint the section with acrylic paint, and allow to dry before removing the tape and reapplying new tape to create the next section.

4 Continue painting the horizontal stripes in different bright colours.

5 When dry, carefully remove the masking tape from around the outside and place the art inside a frame.

Top Tip

Go for strong, vibrant colours and metallics, then surround the lightning bolt with a black frame to really make it stand out.



Pebeo acrylic paint, £2 each, Hobbycraft.

Ribba 61 x 91cm black frame, £19, IKEA

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MEDIA REF: HS120



Welcome to my home

A bit about me

I'm Liz Levett, and I live with my husband, James, and our children, Henry, 15, Violet, 11, and Joseph, who's 7.

Where I live

We live in a three-bedroom 1950s house in Colchester, Essex – though we use a reception room as a fourth bedroom.

What I wanted to change

The house had already been extended which meant the footprint was pretty much perfect for us. I just wanted to tweak the décor to suit our family.

How I made it my own

I have decorated every room with a neutral colour palette and an abundance of art, plants and accessories.

My favourite part

The sun-flooded, open-plan living area makes me so happy. It's cheery, social and perfect for spending time together.



Living Area

'When we moved in, the living area had purple wallpaper at the far end, which we stripped within the first week of being here,' says Liz. 'We also blocked up the door adjoining the two ground-floor reception rooms to create a much-needed fourth bedroom. The gallery wall was in the works way before we started decorating the room, with the Andy Warhol print being my starting point. The navy velvet sofas were ordered almost immediately after we exchanged contracts, so we didn't hang around. The palm print wallpaper went up a few months later, creating a second and more vibrant feature wall.'



'If you surround yourself with things you love rather than being driven by trends, I think you'll always be happy in your home'

I made my own

With a little love and a lot of paint, **Liz Levett**

'The best thing about living here is the space we have, the quiet road and peaceful garden,' Liz says. 'Every time I come home I think to myself how much I love living here, and how lucky we were to find it'

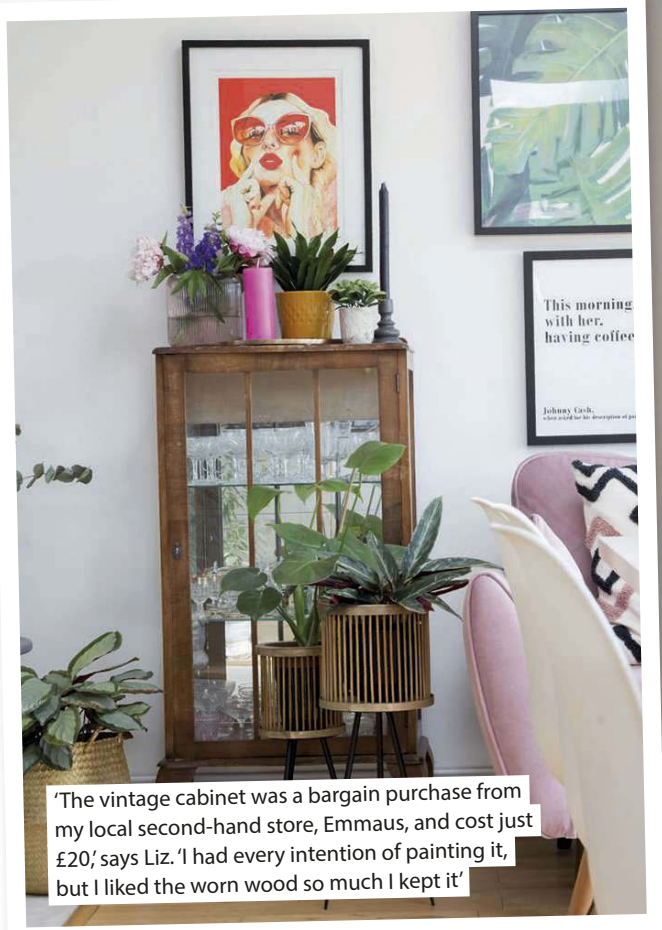
Style idea

Create your own low-cost wall art by typing up, printing and framing your favourite quotes and sayings



happy place

turned a 1950s house into her family's forever home



'The vintage cabinet was a bargain purchase from my local second-hand store, Emmaus, and cost just £20,' says Liz. 'I had every intention of painting it, but I liked the worn wood so much I kept it'

My story...

To my complete surprise, our previous home sold within 24 hours of it being on the market, to the very first people that viewed it. This meant that the pressure was on for James and I to find somewhere to move to, but we weren't prepared to settle for something that wasn't a good fit for us.

Luckily, our buyers were happy to wait while we searched high and low for our ideal home. After viewing a number of places that weren't quite 'us', this one came on the market in our preferred location of Colchester. It was full with stuff the first time we viewed it, but all we could see was its endless potential. It didn't even compare to the other houses we had seen. It had a large corner plot garden, a garage, a drive and was situated on a lovely, quiet road. The one downfall was that it only had three bedrooms when, ideally, we'd have four for comfortable family living. However, an additional downstairs reception room and potential to extend into the loft meant we were able to make the space work. We put in an offer the very same day and it was accepted right away. It felt like it was meant to be.

The house was almost unrecognisable on moving day, without the hoards of belongings boxed up throughout. In its emptiness we could see it was much more spacious than we had originally thought. The vastness made the furniture we brought with us from our Victorian semi look like pieces from a doll's house.

Within a week of living in our new home, we had decorated all three of the children's bedrooms, and had made a start on the master. Over a year later, and we have hung up our paintbrushes... for now, anyway.



'My favourite piece in the whole house has to be my neon sign from Aaos,' says Liz. 'The words 'this must be the place' seemed fitting for our situation, having found our perfect family home. I love it against the botanical wallpaper in the lounge'



'The gallery wall was in the works before we moved in,' says Liz. 'I laid all of my prints on the floor before hanging to settle on a formulation of sorts, but it has grown and evolved since then. I'm always sneaking another pretty print into the scheme'



'My favourite thing about the dining area is the way the sun spills into the room through the skylight and bi-fold doors,' says Liz. 'We wanted to keep the décor fairly neutral so that the space flowed seamlessly from the kitchen, which meant removing the garish purple wallpaper and painting all of the walls white. I created another gallery wall for colour and I also treated myself to this gorgeous pink velvet sofa'



'I love social spaces that feel fresh, bright and full of energy,' says Liz. 'Luckily, our kitchen already had these characteristics when we moved in, so it needed very little updating'

Steal my style

Brighten your home with pops of colour, like Liz, with these buys



£16.99

Olive Rose
burgundy
velvet lamp,
TK Maxx

Leonie bowls, set of
four, Habitat

£12



£12.99

Pastel zest yellow
jug, HomeSense

'I'm not a fan of wall cabinets, and how they can make a room feel cluttered and enclosed,' says Liz. 'The bright, airy feel is what made us fall for this house, so we stuck with open shelves for additional kitchen storage'



MAKING
Make a painted
plant pot
on page 60



Greenery is a focal point of Liz's kitchen. Along with providing colour from decorative containers, it also links the inside space to the garden, just beyond the bi-folds



Expert advice

How to style children's bedrooms

Decorate the perfect scheme for your little ones

- Children's interests change frequently, so to avoid opting for décor they will grow out of within weeks, consider choosing a neutral base scheme that can easily be tweaked over the years. Keep walls and large furnishings relatively simple, and layer with artwork, textiles and accessories in their current favourite hue or motif. When they become tired of the look, switch the finishing touches for different ones. If you have more than one child or your friends

have children with similar interests you could let them trade items.

- Choose wall paint that can be wiped clean – or whiteboard paint – and machine-washable textiles for less stress if your little ones have a tendency to be, ahem, creative...

- Involve your child in the makeover by asking their colour preference or encouraging them to create their own artwork to hang in their room.

- Create play areas that suit your children and their hobbies and interests. For example, if your child likes to draw, a desk with easily accessible notepads and pens would be a great idea. Likewise, if Lego is their jam, storage boxes within reach of small hands is helpful.

'My schemes tend to evolve organically. I will often buy something I like and it will develop from there'

The world fascinates me.

Andy Warhol

**Moderna Museet,
Stockholm Sweden
10/2-17/3 1968**

SHOP
Typography
wall art
on page 58

Henry's Bedroom

'The first time we viewed the house we could barely see this room – which is now Henry's bedroom – as it was filled with bookcases, games and toys, and dominated by birdcages with noisy inhabitants,' says Liz. 'It was painted yellow, so it was really satisfying to take the paint rollers to it. We opted for a Valspar colour-match of Farrow & Ball's Downpipe and kept the scheme smart and sophisticated with a metal double bed, IKEA bedding and an Andy Warhol print. The other side of the room is a teenage boy's haven, complete with a gaming chair and Xbox.'

'Before we redecorated, Henry's bedroom was a second reception room at the front of the house,' says Liz. 'We blocked the door between the two reception rooms to create bedroom number four, which is now a private and spacious teenage room'

'Artwork is a staple in every room for me,' says Liz. 'The two prints above the bed are both from Junique, a go-to for statement pieces. I also source prints from brands I have found on Instagram, including Disko Kids and The House of Neon'

'I'm drawn to colour, and if I like something I will buy it whether I think it'll fit in with the house or not'



Master bedroom

'The master bedroom was a bright turquoise colour with wooden shelves on the walls,' Liz remembers. 'There were no curtains or blinds, so for a little while we had to peg up duvet covers to cover the large bay window at night, which must have looked glorious to the neighbours. I knew I wanted to go with a dark colour in this room after seeing so many dark interiors on Instagram, where I like to share my own home journey @audrey_apple_. Eventually, we settled on a navy blue Farrow & Ball hue that we had colour-matched by Valspar. I went for crisp white bedding from River Island to contrast with the walls and purchased a gorgeous jungle wall hanging from Love Frankie.'



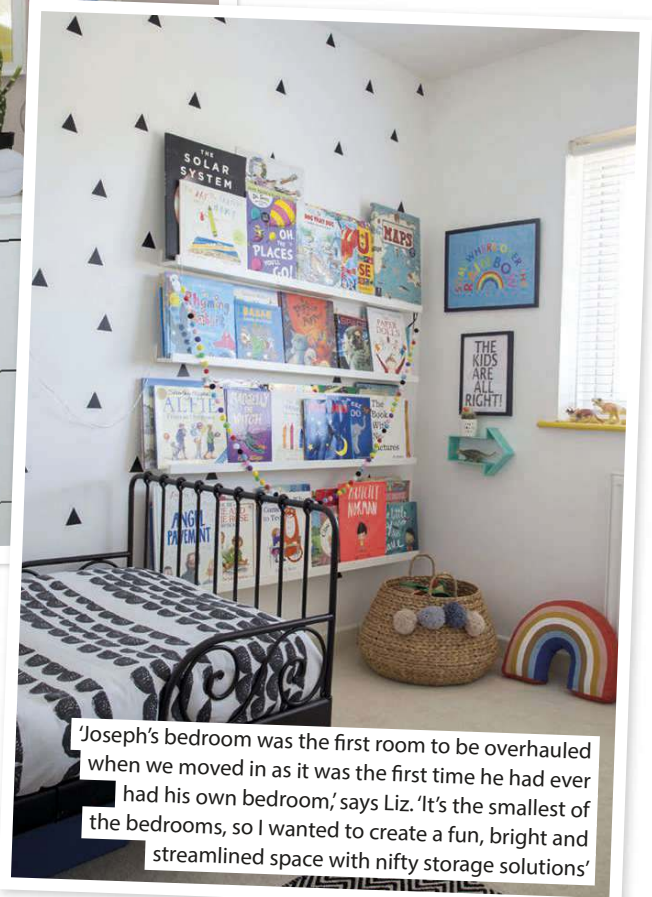
Violet's Bedroom

'I really wanted this room to grow with Violet and last into her early teenage years,' says Liz. 'We went for pastel pink walls – a Valspar colour match of Farrow & Ball's Calamine – and created a gallery wall with empowering quotes and prints, perfect for a budding feminist. We chose timeless white furniture that we can easily update with a lick of paint – in fact, I plan on painting the wardrobe teal – and added plants and accessories of varying textures.'



'Once we have the money, I want to overhaul the bathroom,' says Liz. 'For now, I've decorated it with lots of plants, nice towels and typography bath mats'

Liz wanted Violet's bedroom to be a hub of inspiration, so she gave her the opportunity to choose the colour scheme and hung feminist prints on the walls



'Joseph's bedroom was the first room to be overhauled when we moved in as it was the first time he had ever had his own bedroom,' says Liz. 'It's the smallest of the bedrooms, so I wanted to create a fun, bright and streamlined space with nifty storage solutions'

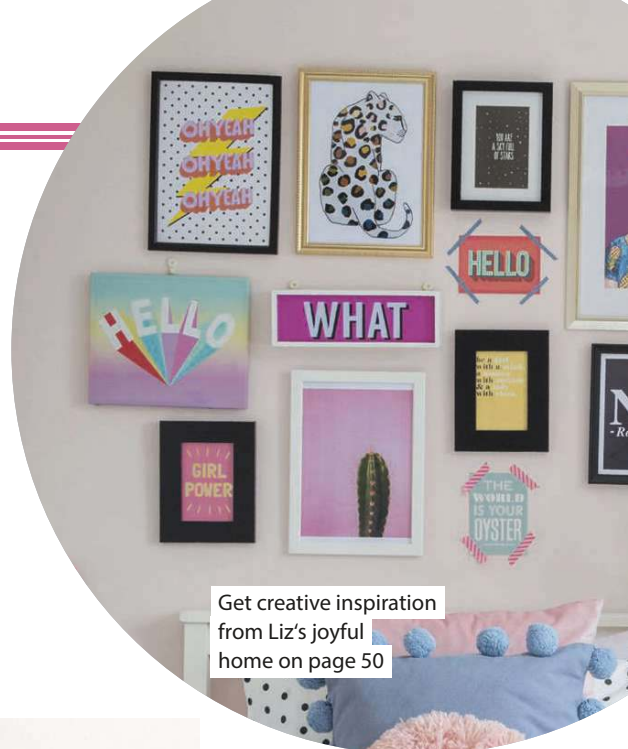
What I learned...

- Hold out for the things you really want. Don't rush and cut corners as you'll end up paying out twice.
- Just because something looks sensational in someone else's home, doesn't mean it will look the same in yours, so use caution when taking inspiration from different Instagram accounts.
- Steer clear of fleeting interior trends. Fashion will come and go but if you stick to what you personally like, you are more likely to create a home style that will last over the years.

See homestylemag.co.uk for more great real homes

WALL OF WORDS

Spread a little positivity, like **Liz**, with a collection of optimistic and affirming wall art



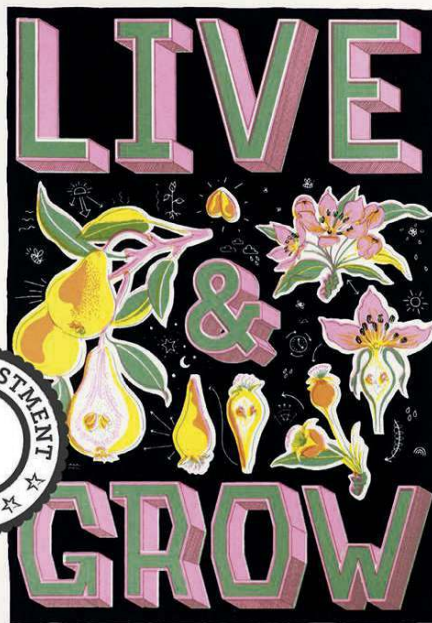
Get creative inspiration from Liz's joyful home on page 50



£15

Of Life & Lemons

Personalise this print to reflect your family



£80

Jacqueline Colley

Remind yourself that you're still growing



£35

Habitat

Let them know that you care



£10

Small Smart

You can rearrange these letters to suit your style

As if

£16

Mint & May

Get rid of the negativity

£5.95
Posterlounge

This classic quote is sure to motivate you

Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts.

- Winston Churchill



£29

Urban Outfitters

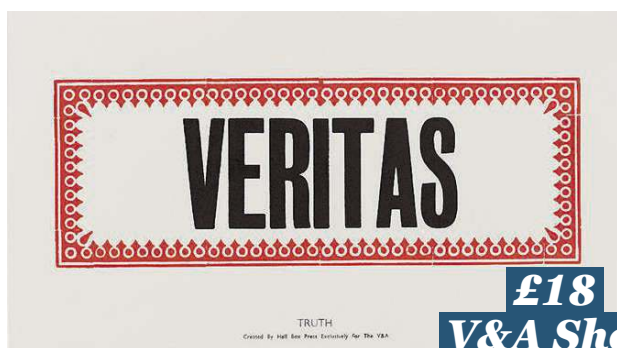
Start the day with a positive message



£14.95

The Letterroom

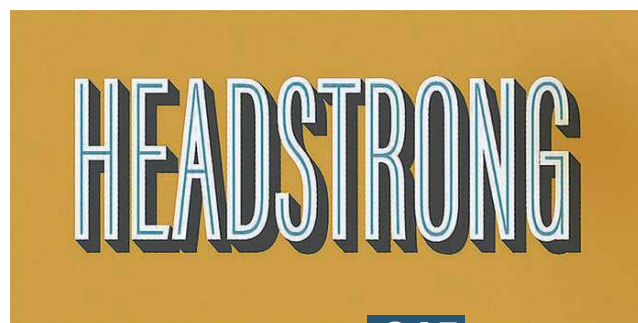
Add a touch of glitz to any room



£18

V&A Shop

Live your truth



£45

Not on the High Street

Channel your favourite literary heroines



£30

Graham & Brown

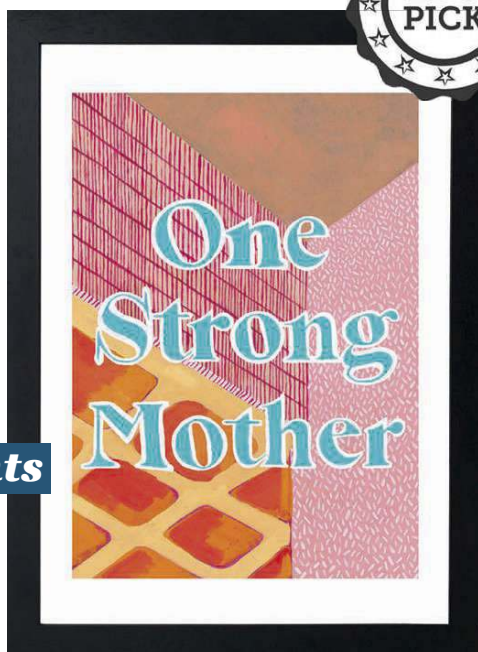
A little spirit-lifting work of art

£14
Gayle Mansfield Designs

Let this print do the talking



Feature Hannah Tribe



£19.95

East End Prints

You're made of the tough stuff

£39.50

Oliver Bonas

Show your mischievous side





Make the look...

PAINTED POTS

Display your plants in an eye-catching pot like **Liz** with this fun trio of colour-popping planters

You will need

- * Terracotta plant pots
- * Tester pots of paint
- * Masking tape
- * Paintbrush

1 First, make sure the pots are clean, dry and free of dust. For the blue pot, simply apply the paint with a brush around the entire outside of the planter and leave to dry. Apply a second coat if required.

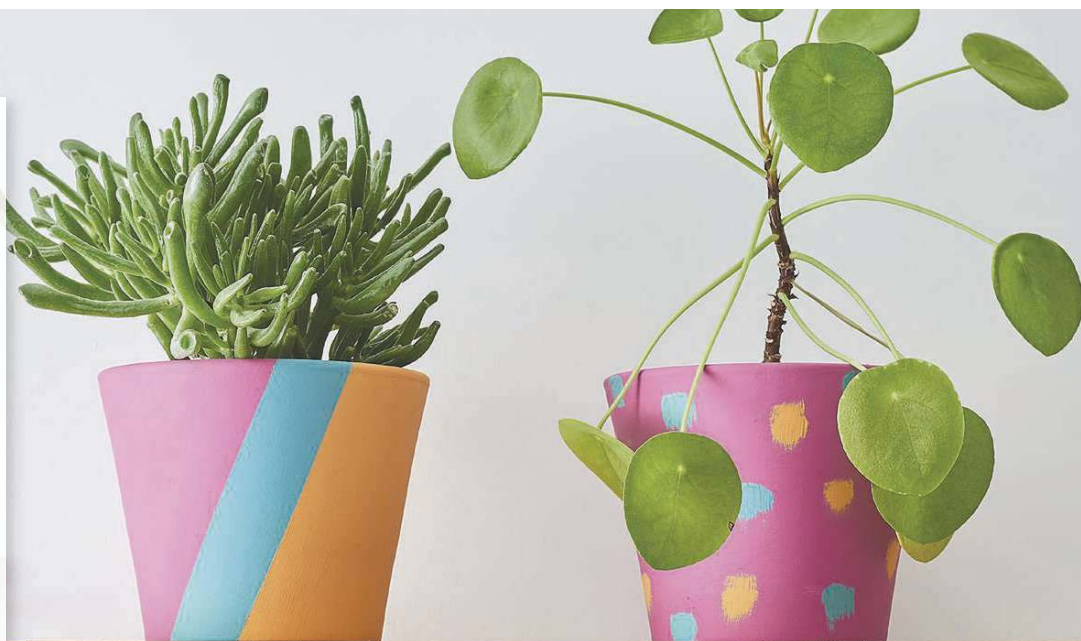
2 For the spotty design, apply a coat of pink paint to the pot and allow it to dry. Next, add orange and blue spots with the tip of the brush and leave to dry.

3 For the stripe design, mask off half of the pot with tape, applying it on a slight incline. Paint this section pink and leave to dry. Remove the tape, then mask off a wide stripe next to the pink and paint the section blue. When dry, mask off the remaining section and paint it in a bright orange shade.

4 Leave the pots to dry thoroughly before filling them with a selection of different houseplants.

Top Tip

If you want to use the pots outdoors, seal the paint with acrylic varnish.



Ingefära **plant pots**, from £2.50 each; Tillsyn **hourglass**, £7, both IKEA. Mischief, Marigold and Canton absolute **matt emulsion**, £4.75 per 60ml, Little Greene



National
Trust

Dear future green-fingered
growers, plant protectors
and nature nurturers
I leave this place for you.

When you leave a gift in your will to
a place that's special to you, you're
protecting it for the next generation.

Where you choose to support is up to
you, and you'll help make sure unique
places live on for years to come.
Your gift could look after trees that
have stood for centuries, help repair
paths by a favourite beach or rebuild
a historic castle – and so much more.

To request your free gifts in wills guide visit:
nationaltrust.org.uk/gifts-in-wills, call 01793 817699
or email **legacies@nationaltrust.org.uk**.

It's useful for us to know where you heard about leaving
a gift in your will to the National Trust, so if you can,
please quote **J20207**.



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REGULATOR**

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A style guide to the *outside*

Industry expert and founder of Out and Out Original, Daniel Fairburn, brings you this season's best deals on designer furniture.

Visit www.outandout.com or call **02037 728 752** for more exciting deals and discounts.



Chesterton - Corner Rattan Set

The luxurious Chesterton corner sofa and matching glass-topped coffee table set is perfect for entertaining outdoors. Generously proportioned with deep, comfortable cushions you can seat 5 people with ease. It's so easy to look after – the seat, back and side cushions all feature removeable covers (see website). With a maintenance-free construction of thick polyrattan and a galvanised steel frame, the set can even be left out all-year round, making it the ideal addition to your outdoor space this year. Normally £599, now available at an amazing **£399***, but only when you quote your **£200 discount code HSMAR20** at checkout.



Marbella - 5-Seater Corner Lounge Set

The ideal addition to your outdoor space, this stunning outdoor lounge set offers comfort and style at an affordable price. Normally £599, it's now available for **just £399*** when you quote **discount code HSMAR20**. Bang on trend in gorgeous shades of grey, this set is designed with a contemporary feel. It's hardwearing, woven in strong polyrattan on a galvanised steel frame. The comfy cushion covers can be removed and hand washed with care. The sofa and armchair seats 5 easily, and includes a tempered, glass-topped coffee table so you can entertain outside with ease. Virtually maintenance-free.

Madrid - Rattan Dining Set

This fabulous outdoor dining set is ideal for entertaining and seats 8 in comfort. The large 2 metre aluminium dining table features a grey polywood table top and, with poly-rattan chairs, this designer set is maintenance free. Perfect for outdoor living and a great way to spend more time in your garden this year. Normally £999, the Madrid is now available at an incredible **£499***! To receive your £500 discount, please **quote code HSMAR20A** at checkout.



To receive your **Early Bird Discount** on any of these products **quote discount code** at checkout at www.outandout.com or call **02037 728 752** before 31.03.2020.

*Excludes delivery

Decorator's MOODBOARDS

Give your home a shiny new update for spring with this selection of yellow, pink and green metallics. Which one will catch your eye?



P64 Metallic yellows

Think springtime yellow can't get any happier? Team with metallics for ultimate cheer

P66 Metallic pinks

Put a glamorous twist on any shade of pink with a touch of shimmering gold

P68 Metallic greens

Glam up a green scheme for spring with eye-catching metallic accents

Metallic YELLOW

Give this sunny shade a touch of glamour with shimmering gold, copper and silver finishes



Enigma wallpaper in Yellow, £105 per 10m roll, Farrow & Ball

Get the look



Folie wallpaper in Marly, £85 per roll, Cole & Son

GoodHome feature wall Coachella metallic-effect emulsion, £15 for 2L, B&Q

Potentilla fabric in Honeycomb/Turmeric, £92 per m, Clarissa Hulse



Hicks' Hexagon wallpaper, £85 per roll, Cole & Son

Shop the moodboard

(Clockwise from left) Botanica Summer wallpaper, £40 per roll, Graham & Brown. Wooden circle from a selection at The Range sprayed in PlastiKote Metallic Copper spray paint, £6.99, The Range. Metallic Vitreum Argentum tile, £1.28 each, Fired Earth. Wooden circle from The Range painted in India Yellow

No. 66 matt emulsion by Farrow & Ball, £47.95 for 2.5L, Homebase. Gracia Acacia fabric; Gracia Dapple fabric, both £80 per m, Villa Nova. Mineral silk opal fabric, £80 per m, James Hare. Wooden circle painted in Aconite Yellow matt emulsion, £42 for 2.5L, Fired Earth. Orissa silk fabric in Pistachio, £36 per m, James Hare. Edo toile mustard wallpaper, £60 per roll, Graham & Brown. Ribbon, stylist's own.

WHY YOU'LL *love this look*

- It's bold and beautiful and not for the faint-hearted. A strong graphic-style wallpaper that shimmers would be an eye-catching way to incorporate the look.
- Create more light with a large-scale design with a metallic finish. It will reflect the light with dazzling effect!
- Rooms that are north-facing can be warmed with metallics like rose gold, gold and brass. Use tones that glow.
- If you don't fancy a full-on wallpaper design, consider a stripe with a thin strip of gold or silver running through it. It's a great way to introduce metallics as a new element without being a strong look.
- For a modern look, choose a geometric design with a shimmery copper or silver finish. If you prefer a more classic style, then opt for a figurative design.



Metallic PINKS

Whether it's a soft blossom, a peachy coral or a pretty pastel, all shades of pink will shine with a bit of sparkle

WHY YOU'LL *love this look*

- Coral and gold look spectacular together. For an on-trend, modern look, team with white accessories.
- Choose a pink wallpaper and team it with gold accessories for an elegant and glamorous scheme.
- Why not paint one wall in a gold paint? Then paint your woodwork pink for a boudoir-style bedroom.
- If you don't feel brave enough to change your walls, update your bed linen instead. It's the perfect way to update a look for spring on a budget.
- Silver and gold both give pink tones a vibrant feel and you can team different shades together – blush, pastel and coral all look great in the same room.

Phoebe Art Deco Sequin **double duvet**, £110; **pillowcase**, £30 for pair; **blush cushion**; **champagne cushion**, both £25, all from the Tess Daly Home range, a Clarke & Clarke collaboration, exclusively at Next



Soprano concrete pendant light, from £63, Pooky

Get the look

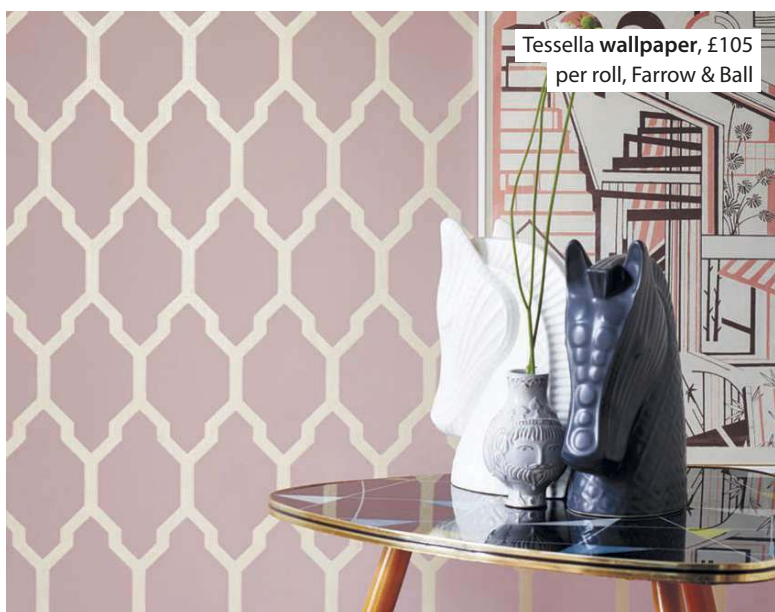


Leaf **wallpaper** by Erica Wakerly in Nude Pink and Gold, £96 per roll, Limelace

Paint in Rose Gold Metallic, £35 for 1L, Graham & Brown



Poise **fabric** in Blush, £37 per m, Harlequin at Style Library



Tessella wallpaper, £105 per roll, Farrow & Ball

Shop the moodboard

(Clockwise from left) Floret Cherry **wallpaper**, £60 per roll, Graham & Brown. Wooden butterfly from a selection at The Range, painted in Rangwali No.296 estate **emulsion**, £47.95 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Astoria Rosedust **fabric**, £44 per m, ILIV. Stipa Blush **wallpaper**, £85 per roll, Villa Nova. Wooden butterfly painted in Zoffany Faded Rose elite

emulsion, £49 for 2.5L, F&P Interiors. Double **fringe** in Feather, £20 per m, James Hare. Terrazzo **fabric** in Pastel, £82 per m, James Hare. Nyiri **wallcovering** in Wild Rose, £99 per roll, Romo. Hoxton **tile** in Pale Pink, £88 per sq m, Stone & Ceramic Warehouse. Bamboo BP 2161 **wallpaper**, £125 per roll, Farrow & Ball. Wooden butterfly sprayed with PlastiKote **enamel spray paint** in Chrome, £4, Wickes. Luxor **fabric** in Rosedust, £34 per m, ILIV.



Metallic GREENS

Make a green scheme shine bright with touches of gold to give your interiors a modern, edgy feel

Walls in Suzuri wallpaper 112201, £69 per roll; chair in Entity Plains fabric 143275, £30 per m, all Harlequin at Style Library

Get the look

Spectrum Chameleon fabric, F1062/04, £20.50 per m, Clarke & Clarke

Striking Metallic paint, from £19 for 1.25L, Crown

Anthology Modulate wallpaper, 111872, £100 per roll, John Lewis & Partners



Harvard storage cabinet in Green, £399, John Lewis & Partners

Shop the moodboard

(Clockwise from left) Gracia wallpaper in Alpine, £59 per roll, Villa Nova. Spoon from the Tropical wooden cutlery set, Talking Tables, sprayed with Plastikote Gold Leaf enamel spray paint, £4.93, The Range. Morandi Grey double fringe, £20 per m, James Hare. Floris wall covering in Soleil, £97.50 per roll, Romo. Spoon painted in Mister Toad

clay paint, £43 for 2.5L, Earthborn. Electron fabric in Emerald, £19 per m, Harlequin at Style Library. Spoon painted in Soft Lime Breatheasy coloured emulsion, £18 for 2.5L, Crown. Ives Adriatic fabric, £65 per m, Villa Nova. Tourbillon BP4808 wallpaper, £125 per roll, Farrow & Ball. Esther fabric in Azure, £31 per m, ILIV. Cody wallcovering in Eden, £59 per roll, Villa Nova. Metallic Vitreum Aurum fan tiles, £13.22 each, Fired Earth.

Berea wallcovering
in Verdigris, £59 per roll;
chairs in Fitzroy Alpine, £60
per m; Marka Teal rug, from
£340, all Villa Nova

WHY YOU'LL *love this look*

- It looks great in a green kitchen with gold pull handles, or with a ridge of gold above kitchen units.
- For a cohesive look, choose a wallpaper with a matching fabric or one that has similar tones in it.
- If you're a fan of upcycling, then paint a vintage find in a soft green and spray the legs and handles gold; it will give it instant style appeal.
- Look out for cushions and throws that have a metallic thread; they may have a subtle shimmer or a design using sparkling sequins. Pop them on your sofa and watch them catch the light!



Jute-covered lamp

Add a rustic touch to your home
by revamping an old shade



Top Tip

If you can't find
twine in the colour
you want, then feel
free to paint it
to match your
home décor.

This upcycled shade from *The Mindful Maker* book is a quick and easy way for you to achieve the rustic look. Just buy a frame or simply strip the fabric from an old one you have at home, then select twine that complements your interior.

Takes 2 hours

You will need

- * 2-ply and waxed linen twine in three colours
- * Wire lampshade frame
- * Scissors

1 Unwind around 6m of twine and wrap it into a long thin shape that you can pass through the spokes of the frame. This length should make a stripe about 7cm wide and 15cm tall. Tie the end around the top ring of the frame, then take the twine diametrically across it.

2 If you're using a frame like the one pictured, run the twine to the circle at the end of the top straight section. Take the twine under the wire towards the back and wind it around to the front.

3 Run the twine to the base of the frame, taking it under the rim and back to the top. Bring the twine over the top and start

the sequence again. Continue wrapping it around in this way, making sure you push the strands tightly together at the top.

4 As the lamp frame splays out in a cone shape, the twine will have gaps in between them as each piece comes down to the bottom. Space these out evenly.

5 When you want to change the colour, cut off the string after bringing it to the inside of the frame to where it is level with the top. Let the twine go so that it falls down and out at the bottom. Join a different coloured twine to this end with a knot.

6 Trim the ends to 2cm, then take them back to the top to start winding again. If you do this each time you change colour, the ends will all be at roughly the same level near the top.

7 When you've covered the whole frame, untie the first strand that's across the top and attach it to the last piece of wound string. Position the knot down from the top on the inside so that it doesn't show, then trim the ends to 2cm.

8 If you're using a simple cone-shaped frame, the instructions are the same, except you should wrap the twine from the top to the bottom. The knots are best placed in the same position, about 3cm down from the top on the inside.

Shop the look

Use your home-made shade to shed some light on these fab accessories



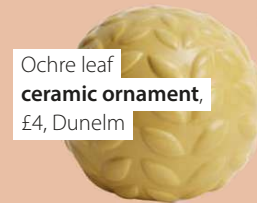
Macramé hanging, £22, Very



Succulent pattern pot, £4.50, Sainsbury's Home



Shell hanging frame, £26, Oliver Bonas



Ochre leaf ceramic ornament, £4, Dunelm

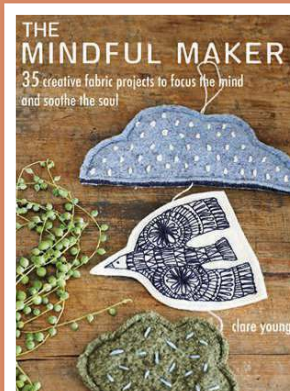


Pink gloss bottle vase, £20, Habitat



Woven photo frame, £16.50, Oliver Bonas

Get the book



The Mindful Maker (£12.99, CICO Books) includes 35 great creative fabric projects! You can buy the book for the special price of £10 with free UK p&p.* To order, go to MAKEetc.com and use the code **HOMESTYLE10** at the checkout.

*Offer valid until 30th June 2020



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Home update

Amazing Furniture Makeovers by Jen Crider (Page Street Publishing Co., £16.99) contains numerous easy DIY projects which transform thrifty finds into beautiful custom pieces. Find a project from the book in our Spring Special, out on 31st March.

QUICK-DRY FINISH

Refresh your old wood, melamine and MDF homeware using Wilko's chalky finish furniture paint. Choose your favourite colour and purchase a quick-dry tin of paint for a steal at just £8 from wilko.com.



Get a handle

Annabel James has some gorgeous new gifts available, including this selection of vintage silver-plated herb markers. These quirky upcycled cutlery handles are a real bargain at just £14.95 for a set of six from annabeljames.co.uk.



FABULOUS FURNITURE

The Wooden Furniture Store offers a range of unusual upcycled makes created from reclaimed wood, which are all great for adding character to your home. Why not start your upcycled collection with this urban chic plant stand which doubles as a lamp table? You can invest in this unique buy for £235 at wooden-furniture-store.co.uk.

UPCYCLING

Revamp your home with these tip-top purchases and workshops

NEWS



Pretty porcelain

On Saturday 4th April, head along to Heal's in London for a day of vintage china upcycling. The workshop will teach you all you need to know about using the right tools and materials to create a beautiful design on a piece of porcelain. After the class, you'll be armed with the skills and knowledge to go home and continue revamping more antique finds – what's not to love? Book your workshop today at allevents.in.



BATHROOM GLITZ

Pep up those plain white tiles with a bit of sparkle using ready-mixed glitter grout from hemway.com. This trend is all the rage at the moment, and rightly so – it's one of the best ways to update your bathroom without spending a fortune on stripping away the tiles. The mixture comes in a rainbow spectrum of colours, and it doesn't have to weigh too heavy on your purse at just £39.95 a pot.

Grow Buckets of Cut Flowers this Year!

Enjoy weeks of beautiful,
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ONLY £11.95 plus FREE P&P!

It's incredible to think that for a fraction of the cost of a single florist bought bouquet, you can fill your home with fresh flowers for weeks on end - from late summer to late autumn. These nine different Chrysanthemums have all been chosen for their diversity of colour, form and long vase life.

A best-selling mix of outdoor sprays and blooms, they'll be **delivered from mid May** as well rooted cuttings (approx. 8-10cm/3-4in from root to tip) ready for growing on in 9cm pots before planting out. Loved by florists, these varieties are very easy to work with and last for ages without the petals dropping. They are superb garden varieties too, blooming profusely in the border without the need for a greenhouse to grow them.

- ✿ Excellent garden performers, enjoy weeks of late summer colour from September onwards
- ✿ Cut and come again blooms, the more you pick the more flowers you get
- ✿ Chosen by florists for their long vase life, the flowers last up to 3 weeks once cut

Enjoy weeks of cut flowers
9 Plants **ONLY £14.95**
Buy two packs and **SAVE £6**
18 Plants for **£23.90**



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HomeStyle READER SURVEY

Welcome to our reader survey! This is your chance to tell us what you think about HomeStyle magazine and help shape how it moves forwards in the future. The more we know about your likes and dislikes and your interests, the more enjoyable and relevant we can make the magazine for you.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Anna-Lisa De'Ath, Editor-in-Chief

COMPLETE OUR READER SURVEY BELOW OR ONLINE

A. MAGAZINE READING BEHAVIOUR

Q1. How often do you read HomeStyle magazine?

- Always - I am a subscriber ☐ 1
Always - But don't subscribe ☐ 2
Almost always (3 out of 4 issues) ☐ 3
Quite often (1 or 2 out of 4 issues) ☐ 4
Occasionally (less than 1 out of 4 issues) ☐ 5
Not in the last 12 months (GO TO Q6) ☐ 6
This is my first issue (GO TO Q6) ☐ 7

Q2. Approximately how long have you been reading HomeStyle magazine for?

- Less than a year (GO TO Q4) ☐ 1
Between 1 and 2 years ☐ 2
Between 2 and 3 years ☐ 3
Between 3 and 5 years ☐ 4

Q3. Compared to a year ago, do you buy HomeStyle magazine...

- More often ☐ 1
Less often ☐ 2
Same as always ☐ 3
I read someone else's copy ☐ 4

Q4. On average, how long do you spend reading an issue of HomeStyle magazine?

- Under 30 minutes ☐ 1
Between 30 minutes and 1 hour ☐ 2
Between 1 and 2 hours ☐ 3
Between 2 and 3 hours ☐ 4
Between 3 and 4 hours ☐ 5
Between 4 and 5 hours ☐ 6
More than 5 hours ☐ 7

Q5. On average in the past year, how many other people have read or looked at your copy of HomeStyle magazine for longer than 2 minutes?

- Nobody else ☐ 1
1-2 people (please tell us who) ☐ 2
3-4 people (please tell us who) ☐ 3
5 or more people (please tell us who) ☐ 4

Q6. How often, if at all, do you read the following magazines?

	Always - I am a subscriber Always - But don't subscribe Almost always (3 out of 4 issues)			Quite often (1 or 2 out of 4 issues)		Occasionally (less than 1 out of 4 issues)		Not in the last 12 months Never	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
Your Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Style at Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
House Beautiful	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Good Homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Real Homes	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Ideal Home	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Country Living	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Country Homes & Interiors	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

B. ABOUT HOMESTYLE MAGAZINE

Q7. Which of the following best describe why you read HomeStyle magazine? Please choose up to 3 reasons that are the most important to you.

- Design/styling inspiration ☐ 1
To see real homes ☐ 2
DIY content ☐ 3
Upcycling/crafting ideas and advice ☐ 4
Recipes ☐ 5
Competitions ☐ 6
Shopping tips ☐ 7
Latest trends ☐ 8
I just enjoy reading it ☐ 9
Other (please tell us more) ☐ 10

Q8. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about HomeStyle magazine?

	Definitely agree	Tend to agree	Neutral	Tend to disagree	Definitely disagree	Don't know
	1	2	3	4	5	6
The homes and people featured are attainable and relatable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The magazine contains advertising that is relevant to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The items featured are affordable	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The room makeover budgets are realistic for me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The articles are practical and useful	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The magazine is aspirational	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The competition content is important to me	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
The magazine looks good	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q9. Thinking generally about content coverage in HomeStyle magazine, what do you think of the balance on the following topics?

	It's about right	I'd like more	I'd like less
	1	2	3
Room makeovers	☐	☐	☐
Competitions	☐	☐	☐
Shopping suggestions/tips	☐	☐	☐
Real homes	☐	☐	☐
DIY	☐	☐	☐
Upcycling and crafting	☐	☐	☐
Recipes	☐	☐	☐
Styling tips	☐	☐	☐
Consumer news/advice	☐	☐	☐

Q10. How much did you enjoy this issue of HomeStyle magazine?

- Very much ☐ 1
Quite a lot ☐ 2
Not very much ☐ 3
Not at all ☐ 4
Haven't read this issue yet ☐ 5



WIN ONE OF SIX
GIFTCARDS!

Please return the completed questionnaire to the freepost address provided on the next page by **30th March 2020**, or alternatively you can fill it in online at immediateinsiders.com/uc/homestylesurvey

Overseas readers can complete the survey online too. As a thank you for your feedback, UK residents who complete our survey can enter our prize draw for a **chance to win one of six Love2shop giftcards!** First prize will win a £250 giftcard, and five runners-up will win a £50 giftcard each. Full terms and conditions can be found at immediateinsiders.com/uc/hsterns

Q11. As a result of reading HomeStyle magazine, have you ever done any of the following?

- Please tick as many as apply.
- Visit HomeStyle's website ☐ 1
Visit a homes show/exhibition ☐ 2
Redecorate part/a room/all of your home ☐ 3
Visit the website of an advertised product or service ☐ 4
Visit social media of an advertised product/service ☐ 5
Contact an advertiser ☐ 6
Buy a product featured/advertised in the magazine ☐ 7
Go online to research an idea further ☐ 8
Be inspired to try a new look or idea in your home ☐ 9
Made one of the recipes ☐ 10
Tried one of the upcycling/crafting ideas ☐ 11
Consider/reconsider a brand I wouldn't have otherwise ☐ 12
None of these ☐ 13

Q12. Approximately how often do you visit the following social media platforms?

	Several times a day	Once a day	A few times a week	Once a week	Once or twice a month	Less often	Never
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Facebook	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Twitter	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Instagram	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pinterest	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
YouTube	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Snapchat	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

C. DECORATING & LIFESTYLE

Q13. Have you or someone else in your household done any decorating or DIY in your home or paid someone else for home improvement work in the last 12 months?

- You can tick more than one answer.
- Yes - personal decorating and DIY ☐ 1
Yes - paid someone else ☐ 2
No (GO TO Q16) ☐ 3

Q14. How much did you spend on the below in the last 12 months?

	DIY Materials	Professional work
	1	2
Under £50	☐	☐
£50 - £99	☐	☐
£100 - £199	☐	☐
£200 - £299	☐	☐
£300 - £599	☐	☐
£600 - £999	☐	☐
£1000 - £1999	☐	☐
£2000 or more	☐	☐
N/A	☐	☐

Q15. What inspired you to redecorate most recently?
Please tick one answer that best matches your main reason.

Moved to a new house

☐ 1

Just wanted to do something new/different (what most inspired you?)

☐ 2

Part of ongoing renovations

☐ 3

Updating/modernising a room/rooms

☐ 4

Refreshing a room/rooms

☐ 5

Preparing to sell

☐ 6

Preparing for a baby

☐ 7

Saw an idea and wanted to try it (where was this idea?)

☐ 8

Other (please tell us more)

☐ 9

Not sure

☐ 10

Q16. Have you used any of the following in the last 12 months to find interiors related information and/or inspiration? *Please tick all that apply.*

Print magazines

☐ 1

Shopping channels

☐ 2

Books

☐ 3

Friends/family

☐ 4

Magazine related websites

☐ 5

Non-magazine related websites

☐ 6

Clubs or classes

☐ 7

Pinterest

☐ 8

Facebook

☐ 9

Instagram (which accounts specifically?)

☐ 10

YouTube

☐ 11

Magazine apps

☐ 12

Non-magazine related apps

☐ 13

Blogs

☐ 14

Advertising

☐ 15

Other (please tell us more)

☐ 16

None of these

☐ 17

Q17. How often, if at all, do you shop for homewares (whether in store or online) from the following? By homewares we mean items like furniture, utensils, and decorative objects.

Once a fortnight or more

Once a month

Once every 2-3 months

A couple of times a year

Less often

Never

1

2

3

4

5

6

H&M Home

☐

☐

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Next Home

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George at Asda

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☐

Sainsbury's Home

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Ikea

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Dunelm

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Wilko

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Homebase

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TK Maxx/Home Sense

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Tesco Home

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☐

M&S Home

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☐

John Lewis

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Wayfair

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Q18. How often, if at all, do you shop for DIY-related and hardware items (whether in store or online) from the following?

Once a fortnight or more

Once a month

Once every 2-3 months

A couple of times a year

Less often

Never

1

2

3

4

5

6

B&Q

☐

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Wickes

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Screwfix

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Ikea

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Homebase

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Wilko

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Brewers

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☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Wallpaper Direct

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Q19. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about shopping?

Definitely agree

Tend to agree

Neutral

Tend to disagree

Definitely disagree

Don't know

1

2

3

4

5

6

It's worth paying extra for quality goods

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I look for the lowest possible prices when I go shopping

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Shopping online makes my life easier

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I would be prepared to pay more for environmentally friendly products

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I always look out for special offers

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Product reviews have a major influence on my purchasing decisions

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Once I find a brand I like I tend to stick with it

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Q20. Below are a variety of lifestyle-related statements. We're after your first instincts so don't overthink it, just answer with your immediate response when you read the statements and tell us how much you agree or disagree.

Definitely agree

Tend to agree

Neutral

Tend to disagree

Definitely disagree

Prefer not to say

1

2

3

4

5

6

How I spend my time is more important than the money I make

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

My faith is really important to me

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I like to enjoy life and don't worry about the future

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I don't want responsibility, I'd rather be told what to do

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I like to keep up with the latest fashions

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I have a keen sense of adventure

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I like to have control over people and resources

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

It is more important to do your duty than to live for your own enjoyment

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I like to pursue a life of challenge, novelty and change

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I like taking risks

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

I think we should strive for equality for all

☐

☐

☐

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☐

I like to stand out in a crowd

☐

☐

☐

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I don't like to judge other people on the way they choose to live their life

☐

☐

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☐

I consider myself to be a spiritual person

☐

☐

☐

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☐

☐

I look on the work I do as a career rather than just a job

☐

☐

☐

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I want to get to the very top in my career

☐

☐

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☐

It is important to respect traditional customs and beliefs

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

D. ABOUT YOU

Q21. Are you?

Male

☐ 1

Female

☐ 2

Other

☐ 3

Prefer not to say

☐ 4

Q22. Are you?

Single

☐ 1

Married/living as a couple

☐ 2

Separated/divorced

☐ 3

Widowed

☐ 4

Other

☐ 5

Prefer not to say

☐ 6

Q23. Which of the following best describes your household?

Couple with child/ren

☐ 1

Single adult with child/ren

☐ 2

Other type of household with child/ren

☐ 3

Couple without child/ren

☐ 4

Single adult without child/ren

☐ 5

Other type of household without child/ren

☐ 6

Other

☐ 7

Prefer not to say

☐ 8

Q24. Is your home?

Mortgaged

☐ 1

Owned outright

☐ 2

Rented

☐ 3

Other

☐ 4

Q25. Do you have any children?

Yes (**GO TO Q26**)

☐ 1

No (**GO TO Q27**)

☐ 2

Prefer not to say (**GO TO Q27**)

☐ 3

Q26. How old is your child/children? *If you have more than one, please choose all that apply.*

0-4

☐ 1

5-9

☐ 2

10-15

☐ 3

16+

☐ 4

Prefer not to say

☐ 5

Q27. What is your working status?

Employed full time

☐ 1

Employed part time

☐ 2

Studying full time

☐ 3

Studying part time

☐ 4

Retired

☐ 5

Not working/unable to work

☐ 6

Q28. Which of these best describes the main wage-earners' occupation in your household?
If retired, please tick the box describing your/their former occupation.

Professional

☐ 1

Senior management

☐ 2

Middle management

☐ 3

Small business owner

☐ 4

Junior management

☐ 5

Office/clerical

☐ 6

Skilled manual

☐ 7

Semi-skilled manual

☐ 8

Unemployed/unable to work

☐ 9

Student

☐ 10

Q29. What is your total household income before tax?

Under £20,000

☐ 1

£20,000-£29,999

☐ 2

£30,000-£39,999

☐ 3

£40,000-£49,999

☐ 4

£50,000-£69,999

☐ 5

£70,000-£99,999

☐ 6

£100,000-£149,000

☐ 7

£150,000+

☐ 8

Prefer not to say

☐ 9

Q30. Which age group are you in?

Under 16*

☐ 1

16-24

☐ 2

25-34

☐ 3

35-44

☐ 4

45-54

☐ 5

55-64

☐ 6

65-74

☐ 7

75+

☐ 8

Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this survey. If you would like to be included in our free prize draw, open to UK residents aged 16+ only, please fill in your name, email address and phone number clearly in the spaces below.

NAME:

EMAIL:

PHONE:

Please post your survey by **30th March 2020** to **FREEPOST DataGems Market Research**. You don't need to put anything else on the front of the envelope.

*Full terms and conditions can be found at **immediateinsiders.com/uc/hsterns**



1965 Rolex GMT-Master Pepsi
Estimate: £15,000
William George & Co



George IV silver candlesticks
Estimate: £350-520
Adam's



Coffee table, Herman Miller
Estimate: £760-1,150
Wright



William de Morgan (1839-1917)
Large ruby lustre vase, ca 1900
Hammer price: £10,500
Lyon & Turnbull



Andy Warhol, Mick Jagger
Estimate: £30,000-50,000
Sotheby's



Pumpkin, Yayoi Kusama (b.1929)
Hammer price: £550
Forum Auctions



Hermès bag Kelly
Starting price: £7,500
Stockholms Auktionsverk



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May Day V, Andreas Gursky
Estimate: £450,000-650,000
Phillips



Mahogany dresser
Estimate: £500-660
Uppsala Auktionskammare



Swivel chair by Hans J. Wegner
Estimate: £2,460-3,300
Bruun Rasmussen



Style of Serge Mouille, ca. 1950s
Estimate: £300-460
Rago Arts



Edwardian Art Nouveau frame
Estimate: £200-300
Tennants



Emerald cut diamond ring
Fixed price: £27,400
Once Upon A Diamond



Liam Roberts
Estimate: £420 - 550
The Auction Collective



Edwardian arm chair, ca. 1910
Fixed price: £3,850
Wick Antiques

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A beginner's guide to **DECORATING**

Want to style up your new home but not sure where to start?
Begin here with our foolproof instructions

1 Imagine you've just bought your first home and have moved in all of your furniture, but there's a snag... You want to put your own stamp on the place but there's not enough budget left in the pot to get every room decorated professionally *sigh*. But don't be disheartened just yet, because that's where we come in, along with three experts from Annie Sloan, Graham & Brown and Topps Tiles, to give you the simple guidance you need to do up your new digs.



Teaming off-white and subtle grey with a pop of pink on your bathtub is a great way to add colour to a blank canvas. Scandinavian Pink and Old White **chalk paint**, £21.95 per L; Country Grey **wall paint**, £41.95 per 2.5L, both Annie Sloan

Top tip

Start with a neutral base, then add colour rather than the other way around. Remember that dark neutrals exist: olive tones act as a sophisticated neutral that drops into the background, or they can be the shining star of a colour scheme. It's also recommended to go for no more than two bold colours per room, unless you're prepared to think very carefully about what accessories you bring into your home.

Annie Sloan

How to

PAINT LIKE A PRO

Painting can take time and patience, but if it's done right, it can really polish off a room. Turn the page to follow colour expert Annie Sloan's step-by-step guide to achieving a professional finish



Keep spring alive all year round with this calming colour scheme. Crystalline **paint**, from £24.50 per 0.94L, Benjamin Moore UK

YOUR GUIDE TO PAINTING

You will need:

- Dust sheets • Masking tape
- Wall filler • Paintbrushes • Paint

1 Begin by removing what you can from the room and covering anything remaining with a dust sheet – this includes the floor!

2 Tape off the edges of any items you don't want to paint, like skirting boards, light switches and plug sockets.

3 If you have any holes or cosmetic cracks, you can rectify them with a filler then sand flat to ensure a smooth finish.

4 Brushes with a high bristle count work best as you can load more paint onto them, allowing you to give large areas good coverage. Plus, they don't use as much product as rollers do. Now you're ready to crack on with the painting!

Tranquil Dawn might be a current trend, but that doesn't mean it won't stand the test of time in your home. This versatile shade will create a calm atmosphere in the living area, provide warmth in the bedroom and cool down the kitchen space.

Colour of the Year 2020

paint Tranquil Dawn, £29.16 per 2.5L; Heart Wood **paint**, £1.90 per 30ml; Chocolate Fountain **paint**, £1.90 per 30ml, all Dulux

We say you can never have too much pink! Pair a blush wall with a slightly darker pink hue and a bright white palette to keep the room looking fresh. Pleasant Pink **paint**, £86.50 per 3.79L, Benjamin Moore UK



Chalk paint in Antibes Green, £21.95 per 1L, Annie Sloan

Wall paint in Duck Egg Blue, £41.95 per 2.5L, Annie Sloan

Chalk paint in Antibes Green, £21.95 per 1L, Annie Sloan

Chalk paint in Antibes Green, £21.95 per 1L, Annie Sloan

How to

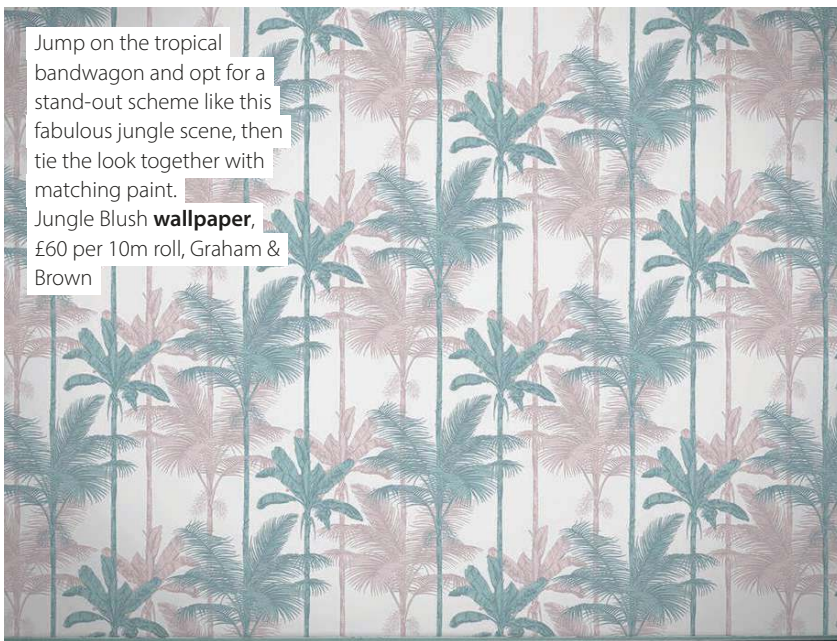
HANG WALLPAPER

James Hughes, the in-house director at Graham & Brown, shares his super-simple step-by-step guide on adding wallpaper to your home

Make a style statement with this anything-but-subtle design. Treasure Island **wallpaper** in Pink, £175 for three 3m rolls, MindTheGap



Jump on the tropical bandwagon and opt for a stand-out scheme like this fabulous jungle scene, then tie the look together with matching paint. Jungle Blush **wallpaper**, £60 per 10m roll, Graham & Brown

**Top tip**

When decorating with a wall mural, use the colours on it as a guide for accents elsewhere in the room. The mural should be the focal point, so try accessories in slight tonal variations of the key colours to avoid fighting against the design. Textured wallpapers are also a great go-to idea; they're understated yet beautiful, and instantly add depth and definition.

Nicki Baldwin, senior brand manager at Graham & Brown

If you know you're prone to changing up a room fairly frequently, then a pretty and removable wall mural, like this one, may be the way to go. Olive Green plants **mural**, £32 per sq m, wallsauce.com



Ludic blush pink pineapple **wallpaper**, £75 per 10m roll, Woodchip & Magnolia



Filaires art deco geometric **wallpaper** in Pink, £16.99 per 10m roll, Cult Furniture



Tropical leaves trail **wallpaper** in Pink, £15.99 per 10m roll, Cult Furniture



Go for a 1920s-inspired look with a geometric design and touches of pink, purple and gold, alongside a marble effect. Marble geometric **wallpaper** in Pink and Grey, £12.99 per 10m roll, Cult Furniture



This Orient-inspired wallpaper features a beautifully tranquil design of Japanese crane birds perched on bonsai branches. Crane Bird Forest Green **wallpaper**, £85 per 10m roll, Woodchip & Magnolia



Want to create an uplifting space? This wallpaper is perfect for the job! Its delicate foliage and floral motifs are ideal for creating a calming, therapeutic space, and it's easy to match with other pastel tones too. Springtime Floral **wallpaper**, £75 per 10m roll, Woodchip & Magnolia



YOUR GUIDE TO WALLPAPER

You will need:

• Wallpaper • Wallpaper paste • Paintbrush • Smoothing brush • Ladders • Spirit level • Knife or wallpaper scissors

1 Draw a line at the top of the wall that's equal to the width of the wallpaper and add a quarter inch. Next, start at the ceiling and place the spirit level at 90 degrees against one end of the line you've made, then make adjustments until the bubble shows that the plumb line is perfectly centred. Draw a line with a pencil along the level's edge, then move it down and repeat this process to connect the lines down to the bottom of the wall.

2 Apply the paste liberally to the wall – ideally with a roller as it's quicker. Paste over the plumb line and make sure you add a couple of centimetres so that it's wider than the wallpaper you are about to hang; this means you can put up the second lot of wallpaper without worrying about getting paste on the first.

3 Use a 5cm paintbrush to add paste at the top of the wall, around the sockets, and just above the skirting; this will ensure an even coverage in difficult areas and prevent the wallpaper from lifting up when dry.

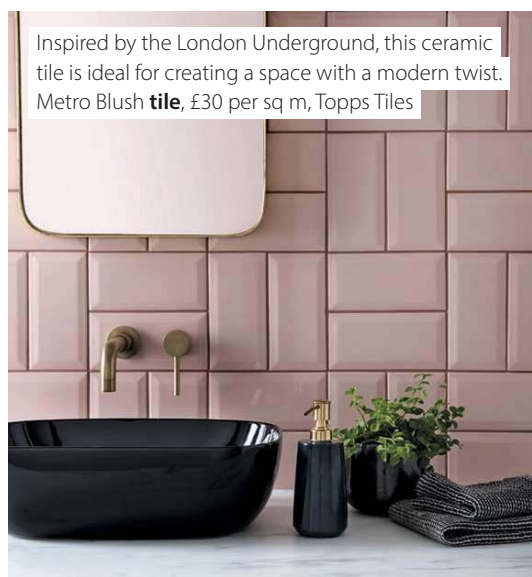
4 The wallpaper can be hung dry straight from the roll. Use ladders to get to the ceiling or coving and allow a little extra product, around 2 to 3cm, at the top. As you hang from the roll, lightly brush it into place as you go down to the skirting board – you can carefully push the paper against the wall too. Use a smoothing brush on the paper from the centre to the edges of the roll. Cut the excess paper at the top and bottom with a knife or wallpaper scissors.

5 For the second drop, look to see where the paper matches; the point at which the design fits together along the edges of the wallpaper. Starting at the top, match the paper as you hang it from the roll, lightly brushing it to the wall as you go. The paper will slide into place on the paste. When you get to the bottom of the wall, check the pattern and that there are no gaps. If there are bubbles or mismatches, just loosely pull the paper back and brush it back down.

How to

APPLY WALL TILES

Brand communications manager and tiles consultant, Harriet Goodacre, is on hand with tips and an easy tutorial on how you can get to grips with tiling



Inspired by the London Underground, this ceramic tile is ideal for creating a space with a modern twist. Metro Blush tile, £30 per sq m, Topps Tiles



The metro tile is all the rage right now – it's a great way to finish off a contemporary bathroom. Metro white tile, £20 per sq m, Topps Tiles

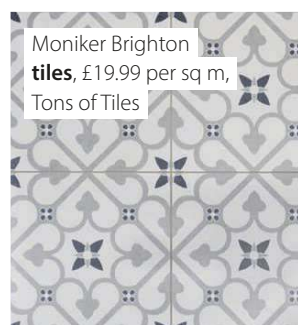
Top tip

When tiling a floor or wall, it's worth considering the different laying patterns available to you. Opting for a creative one, such as a herringbone or brick format, can add depth and texture to your space. Also, if you need a tile for a bathroom floor, you should consider one with a high slip-resistance and make sure it's suitable for wet areas.

**Harriet Goodacre from
Topps Tiles**



If you're looking for a design that's truly unique, check out these star-pattern tiles. They're a brilliant choice for creating a feature wall in your kitchen or bathroom. Scintilla Silver Star pattern tile, £21.64 per sq m, Walls and Floors



Moniker Brighton tiles, £19.99 per sq m, Tons of Tiles



Briana Rose floor tiles, £15.99 per sq m, Tile Mountain



Kyoto green pastel wall tiles, £44.88 per sq m, The London Tile Co.

YOUR GUIDE TO TILING

You will need:

- Spirit level • Stanley knife • Hammer and nails • Tape measure • Rubber gloves • Eye protection goggles
- Sponge • Bucket • Square-notched trowel • Marker pen • Grout float • Grout • Tile nippers • Tile adhesive
- Tile spacers • Tiles

1 Ensure all surfaces are clean, dry and free from dust and debris, then mark out where to place the tiles. Remember to check for any cracks or bumps on the surface, as this can become a problem when fixing the tiles later on. If you're starting at ground level, you can't guarantee that the floor is the same height the whole way along, so attach a level batten and work from this to achieve a balanced design.

2 Apply an even layer of adhesive to a notched trowel then, starting from the corner, spread the product over two or three tiles at a time. Place them firmly on the adhesive using tile spacers to ensure they stay even. Wipe off any splashes of adhesive with a damp sponge as you go – if you let it dry, it'll be very difficult to remove.

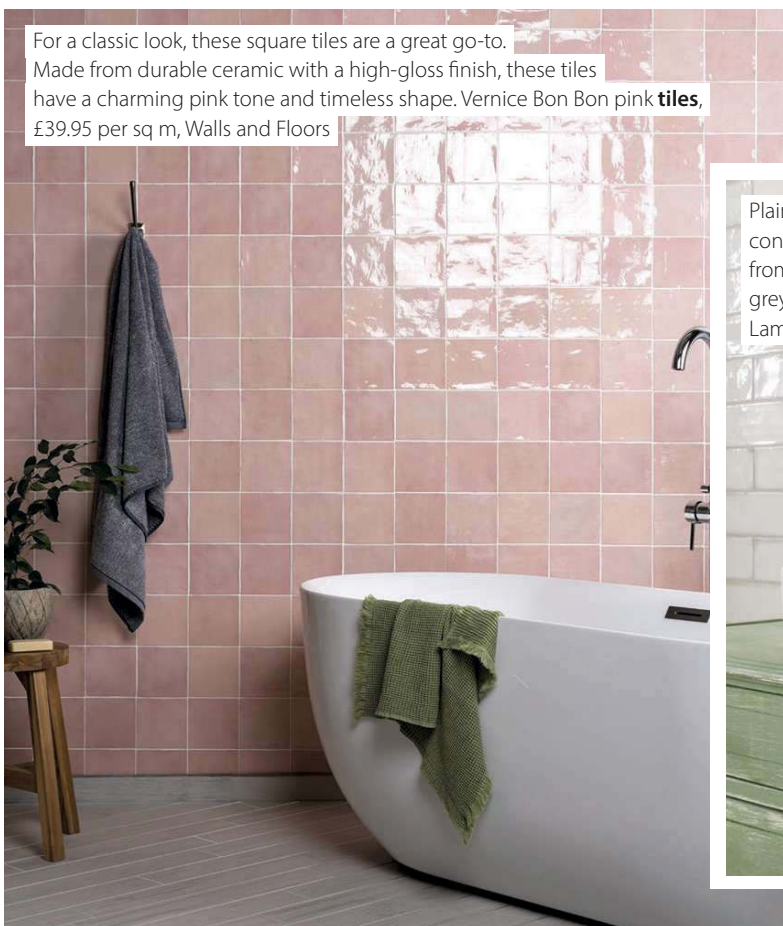
3 Allow the tiles to dry for 24 hours, then fill the spaces in between each using grout and a grout float. Work across the surface methodically and push it deep into the joints. This will prevent moisture from getting behind the tiles, which is particularly important if they're being laid in areas where water is present, such as the bathroom or kitchen.

4 A top tip is to hold the float at a 45-degree angle to the wall, working the grout into the joints using the edge of the tool. If you hold the float flat, it can smear the grout over the tiles and not get into all of the gaps. Once finished, wipe them down at a 45-degree angle along the surface.

Terrazzo seems to be more than just a trend; it's a style that's standing the test of time. Why not add a touch of this pretty pattern to your bathroom wall? Dollymixx Plum Blush terrazzo-effect tiles, £39.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors



For a classic look, these square tiles are a great go-to. Made from durable ceramic with a high-gloss finish, these tiles have a charming pink tone and timeless shape. Vernice Bon Bon pink tiles, £39.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors



Plain white tiles don't have to be associated with contemporary bathrooms; the Lampas Collection from Topps Tiles has uneven rustic edges and a soft grey outline to channel rugged country vibes. Lampas Cloud tile, £59.56 per sq m, Topps Tiles



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Seven smart SPRING CLEANING TIPS

'Hinch' your house with our top-notch advice for keeping your space spick and span

1 If you want to scrub up your home, then it's best to begin with the floor. Most of us just use a vacuum on the carpet to remove dust and dirt, but there's an unusual tool which you may not have thought of that even Mrs Hinch claims does a more thorough job: the squeegee. Once you've blitzed your space with a vacuum, use a squeegee over the carpet to remove any embedded hair and dust. You don't have to do this every time you clean, but giving it a go once in a while will keep your carpets looking spotless.



2 Next step: the windows. Ensuring the glass remains sparkling and streak-free is less about the elbow grease and more about using the right tools for the task. Vinegar shouldn't be reserved for your salad; it should be part of your cleaning cupboard too! If you live in a hard water area, mix white vinegar with distilled water to prevent any streaks. When it comes to the soap, be sparing with it – you don't need much to get rid of those grimy fingerprints. Now all you need to do is dry the windows; your morning read is actually brilliant for cleaning glass, so banish paper towels in favour of black and white newspaper. If there's still a streak or two left behind, buff them with a microfibre cloth.



3 The third item on your checklist should be to dust down those window dressings. A quick, easy and cost-effective way to do this for blinds is by using an old, damp sock over your hand, then running it over each slat. Once you're done, simply pop it into the washing machine ready to be used again and again. For curtains that aren't too heavy, soak them in cold water, then wash in the machine on a delicate setting, according to the fabric type, for a short spin. If you need to iron them, then it's best to do so when they're still damp, while simultaneously stretching the fabric to stop the seams from puckering. Hang them up while they're slightly damp too, so that they drop back down to the correct length.





5

If we're cooking a microwavable meal, then it usually means we're in a hurry. And, once the door shuts on the grime inside, we tend to forget about it until we can't ignore the mess any longer. But rather than spending time scrubbing away, try our simple trick which will have your appliance looking spotless in no time. Simply combine lemon, vinegar and water in a bowl, leave it on the highest setting for three minutes in the microwave, then with the door still closed, allow the steam to work its magic for another 10 minutes before wiping the inside down with a wet cloth or sponge.



7

All homes tend to show a bit of wear and tear now and again, but don't bother getting the paint out to cover up those marks; just use fabric conditioner instead. A product used for this purpose by the Queen of Clean herself, Mrs Hinch, fabric conditioner has been proven to remove the most stubborn stains on walls and skirting boards, plus it won't strip off the paintwork.

4

Limescale can be a real pain when it comes to your kitchen and bathroom taps, but rather than wasting time and energy by scrubbing them, we've got a smart solution for you. All you need to do is fill plastic bags with white vinegar, then secure these to the grime with a hairband. Just make sure that the spot which needs attention is completely covered in the vinegar and you leave it for at least two to three hours, or overnight for a really thorough job. Et voilà – the limescale should wipe off easily!



6

No one ever likes the thought of cleaning the bathroom, especially the toilet! So, here are some hacks to speed up the process and get your sanitaryware looking ship shape. Spritz the toilet, including behind and under the seat, with antibacterial spray, leave for 10 minutes, then wipe it down. Next, you should make a concoction of white vinegar and some bicarbonate of soda to use in the pan – leave this for a further 10 minutes before flushing.



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PICK THE BEST AGENT FOR *your perfect pad*

Nervous first-time buyer or rookie renter? Our guide to finding a good agent will start you off on the right foot

Choosing a good property agent, whether you're buying or renting, will not only give you a head start on finding the perfect home but it will also make the process a whole lot easier and less stressful too. Our essential guide will help you in your search for the right one.

WHAT DOES AN ESTATE AGENT DO?

Before you begin, have an idea of what a good estate agent will do. As well as showing you properties that fit with your needs and not wasting your time by getting you to view homes that are unsuitable, they will also negotiate on your behalf with the seller, and once an offer is accepted they will monitor the chain if there is one; deal with all the paperwork and liaise with your solicitor through the entire process, from offer to completion.

They don't tend to sort out the property survey – for this you will need to instruct your own independent surveyor – but most agencies will be able to recommend one if you're unsure where to begin. They can usually also suggest a good solicitor, as well as put you in touch with a mortgage broker if you need one.

To give yourself the widest possible choice when searching for somewhere to buy, register with as many estate agents as you like. Start by looking in their windows and websites to see the types of property they market and if they sell the sorts of places you're interested in – in your price range. Pop in for a chat about what you're looking for and register your interest so they can contact you as soon as anything new comes onto the market. Make sure they have your landline, mobile and email to cover all bases and tell them your maximum budget – keep in mind the fees you'll need to pay for the solicitor, surveys and so forth – as well as the number of bedrooms, style

An estate agent showing potential buyers around the Loom Wharf development by JP McGuire Developments in Leigh, Greater Manchester



of property, location and any other must-haves. You can also ask family and friends for recommendations. Avoid agents that have encouraged gazumping, time wasting or not been in regular contact.

Find out if the estate agents belong to an ombudsman scheme. They should be part of an industry body such as the NAEA (National Association of Estate Agents), which ensures the agent operates under a good code of conduct with professionalism at all times. In order to get the best from them, make sure they know you are a serious buyer. Have your finances in place and if you are also selling, it's best if you already have a buyer in place too. If you're currently renting, that's even better as you are chain-free, so make sure the agent knows this from the start.

It's also good to be aware of some of the tricks an agent might have up their sleeve. For instance, steer clear of discounts or incentives to buy a new-build property. If someone is offering to pay the stamp duty or moving costs, it sounds like a good deal, but you'll be paying for it in some other way

What you can expect to pay

- The good news is that if you are buying a property, there should be no estate agents fees involved. It's only the seller that pays a percentage of the selling price to the agent.
- If you're renting, it used to be the case that you would be charged an admin fee for credit checks and references but this is no longer legal.
- The only costs you will be charged for are the rent, utilities and council tax, a refundable deposit capped at six weeks' rent, a refundable holding deposit capped at one week's rent, any changes to the tenancy if you request it, capped at £50, early termination of the tenancy if you ask for it and any defaults such as fines for late rent payments or lost keys.

such as the asking price. Never be rushed into making an offer or panicked into a bidding war. Just walk away – there will be other properties. Don't take their word for it when it comes to things like whether it's a quiet area on a Saturday night – drive round and see for yourself. And don't be afraid to make a sensible offer. Make sure the agent puts it to the seller – you never know.



With online estate agents you can search for your ideal property from the comfort of your sofa

HOW ARE LETTING AGENTS DIFFERENT?

If you're looking for a place to rent rather than buy, you'll need a letting agent as their role is to find a suitable tenant for a property on behalf of its owner. Start by registering with agents in your area. Tell them what you're looking for and make sure they have all your contact details. They should never charge you for registering or for giving you information on properties so avoid anyone that tries to do this, as it's illegal. Keep an eye on their showroom window for new properties as well as their own website and other property sites such as Rightmove, Zoopla and On The Market.

Check the agency meets professional standards – it should belong to one of these organisations: Safeagent, ARLA (Association of Residential Letting Agents), UKALA (UK Association of Letting Agents) or NAEA (National Association of Estate Agents). If your rights aren't met, you can report them to the relevant body who can help resolve any dispute.

Your lettings agent is not only responsible for collecting the rent but they will also arrange any repairs on the property. If there is something you're interested in, check the agent has all the details. Ask how much the rent is and how often it has to be paid, what the deposit is and whether it's returnable at

the end of the tenancy. Check how long the rental agreement is for and how much notice you need to give. Also, find out if there's a break clause, which means you or the landlord can end the tenancy early.

Using a letting agent gives you several advantages over going it alone. They will also act as a go-between should any issues arise between you and the landlord. Keep in mind that the agent works for the landlord, so it's up to you to keep up to date with your rights. Check that they have client money protection and get a receipt for your deposit as well as rental payments. Ask if there are any other costs before you sign on the dotted line. A holding deposit to secure the property while checks are done is standard, as is a tenancy deposit, which should be protected with a deposit protection scheme. You should never be asked to pay fees for things like credit checks or references.

If any repairs need to be done before you move in, ask the agent to confirm in writing that these will be sorted out. It's best to have an inventory at the start of your tenancy, as this can resolve any deposit disputes later on. As a quick checklist, a good agent should be able to answer all your questions and show you all aspects of

a property including working appliances, central heating, hot water and windows. They should provide you with up-to-date copies of gas and electrical safety, and energy performance certificates, a tailored tenancy agreement and your landlord's name and address.

Expert advice

What services should you be getting?

- When you're looking to buy, estate agents should be friendly and approachable with good local knowledge of the area and the current housing market.
- They should ask lots of questions to find out the type of property you're interested in – your lifestyle, how many bedrooms you want, how much natural light, open-plan kitchen or separate dining room, parking, garden, location and price.
- Don't waste time with an agent who tries to show you unsuitable properties. They should also ask for your feedback on any viewings to get a clear idea of exactly what you do and don't want.
- For those who are renting, make sure your letting agent answers all your questions fully, has all the information you need and is willing to show you all aspects of a property including demonstrating things like appliances and central heating. They should never rush you into making a decision.
- Avoid any agents that try and charge you an admin fee or a cost for registering with them, as this is a criminal offence.

Extra services

- A good agent, whether you're buying or renting, should be able to show you a wide range of properties within your budget.
- Ideally, they will be able to recommend a good solicitor and surveyor as well as any advice on finding the right mortgage.
- They should also be able to secure a property for you quickly once you've made a decision, lowering your risk of missing out.



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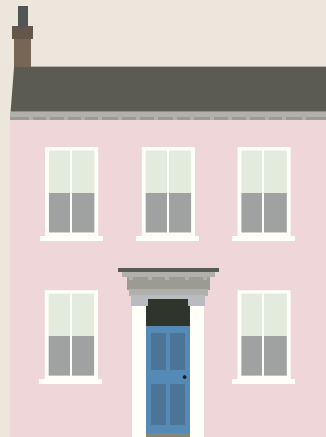
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'This space is now one of my favourites in the house. It feels bright and calm; a little home haven for me'

Jemma proves that you don't have to redo your whole kitchen to make a statement. By reducing and reusing existing cabinets and adding open shelves, she has managed to create a modern atmosphere with vintage charm that feels stylish, warm and inviting

Style idea

Jemma made a feature of the hob by moving it from the right-hand wall to the back



Mustard colour pops set the tone

Wanting to create a lighter, brighter and more colourful space, **Jemma Watts** pulled out the old beige cupboards to bring a lively, sunny energy to her new kitchen



A bit about me

I'm Jemma Watts, a food and interiors photographer. I live with my boyfriend, Martin, and our dog, Tiggy. Our two-bedroom cottage is in Woodbridge, Suffolk.

My room...

My problem kitchen

The house originally belonged to my grandparents, and the kitchen was the first room I wanted to modernise. As well as all the units being old-fashioned and beige, the layout just didn't work. There were too many cabinets, which left only a small space for a two-seater table.

How I made it work

Pulling out the wall-hung cabinets, built-in fridge and double oven reduced the number of floor-standing units so that there was room for a decent-sized table. I installed an under-counter fridge and open shelving on the wall to keep the light, airy feeling. I had the cupboards resprayed and I found a concrete-effect worktop. The builders also added underfloor heating and new tiles.

My favourite part

Having space to seat more than two of us at the dinner table! The table was my grandmother's originally, so it's really special.



Before

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try
in your own home



Work with what you've got

'To change your kitchen completely, you don't always need to buy new cabinets. Mine are simply resprayed with new handles. We used Farrow & Ball colours but didn't use the paint, which kept costs down.'

A new lease of life

'Mix old and new furniture for a unique, personal style. After my mother passed away, I kept many of her pots and special pieces that she loved using in her kitchen. I love having these precious items around the space and using them for all sorts, such as sugar or tea bags and as plant pots.'



Bargain hunt

'Make time to search online for what you want but at a good price. I would see designer pieces that were way out of my budget and look high and low until I found something similar. For example, all the designer sinks had square corners, not round. So, after much searching, I found a small company that made sinks with square edges that were affordable.'



A firm believer in mixing old and new to create a balance, Jemma has incorporated her grandmother's dining room table into the design of the improved space

'It's lovely having special pieces around my kitchen that remind me of my mum and granny'



Concrete-look worktops bring an understated edge to this kitchen, while Jemma's natural wooden accessories add warmth and a lived-in feel



My experience...

Before renovating this house, I had no decorating experience, other than painting walls. When I moved in here, I spent many evenings planning new layouts and designs. After lots of different ideas, I'm really pleased with how I've managed to reduce the cabinets but still have enough space for everything I need.

I took out the wall-hung cabinets, double oven unit and fridge and installed a new oven below the hob and an under-counter fridge. This was to economise on space and keep the room light. Next, I sprayed the cabinet doors and changed the handles, and then replaced the worktops and retiled the space. Finally, the builders did the flooring and installed underfloor heating and new floor tiles.

There were, of course, challenges. The house is very old and when we placed the new worktop into position it wouldn't sit flush with the walls because they weren't straight. I also discovered that the floor was not level either, so the tiler had quite a difficult time laying the tiles – I guess this is why my granny had put down the lino! This space is now one of my favourites in the house. It feels bright and calm; a little home haven for me.

My shopping list

Concrete-effect laminate **worktop**, £400, Howdens. **Kitchen units** painted in Farrow & Ball Hague Blue, colour-matched at Valspar at B&Q, £32 per 2.5L. Matrix Alaska white **tiles**, £18.67 per sq m, Topps Tiles. Smeg KSED65NEE **cooker hood**, £309; for a similar oven, try Smeg SF6341GVX **built-in oven**, £545.99, both John Lewis & Partners. For a similar tap, try brushed **brass tap**, £69, Plumworld. For similar floating shelves, try Lack **wall shelves**, £9 each, with Ekby Valter **brackets**, £2 each, both IKEA. For a similar sink, try modern stainless steel **kitchen sink** 1.5 bowl left-hand drainer square waste kit, £144.99, ManoMano. Case Study **planter** in White, £201, SCP. For a similar metal shelf trolley, try tall industrial **shelf trolley** with drawers, £295, The Farthing. Satsumas **plant stand**, £25, IKEA. For a similar yellow lamp, try Bronx giant **floor lamp**, £129, Made.com. Macramé **planter**, £26, Urban Outfitters.

Tableware, from a selection at Vanil.

**TURN TO PAGE 128
FOR STOCKIST
DETAILS**



£39
MADE.com

Keep an eye on the time with this modernist clock



£129
Barker and Stonehouse

Shine some light with this retro floor lamp



£28
Wild & Wolf

Keep coffee in this Orla Kiely ceramic jar



Display colourful prints and mags in this wire rack, £21, Dibor

Get the look SUNNY SIDE UP

Jemma pairs bright yellow and green accessories with wooden accents to create a natural and welcoming kitchen space for spring



Cocktail shakers at the ready: glass holder shelf, £65, Nest



£29.95
Nkuku

Flaunt your fruit in a wire bowl



£19.98
Amara

This fish bottle would also work as a vase



£11
Bohemia Design

Invest in multi-purpose canvas storage pots

£9

Nordic Nest

Rise and shine with this mustard mug



£15

Amara

Fill this hanging basket with a trailing plant



STYLE ADVICE

Wooden accents

Light wooden features create a homely atmosphere and go perfectly with bursts of green from potted plants for a natural, calm space.

Utilise surface space

Wall racks and trolleys are stylish storage solutions for a kitchen space. A magazine wall rack can also double up as a place to display cute prints or recipe books.

Introduce a mirror

Add space and light to your kitchen with a large mirror that will make a stylish statement and help soak up those extra morning rays.

£43

Parlane

Give your greenery some height with this planter



£14.50

Oliver Bonas

Give your photos a golden touch



‘Macramé hanging baskets are perfect for plant lovers who are short on space’

£45

La Redoute

Show off some blooms in this cactus vase



£55

The Conran Shop

Add a pop of colour to your shelf with this jug



Brighten your mornings with this mustard tablecloth, £26, La Redoute



£186

Maisons Du Monde

Add extra storage with this utilitarian trolley



***'I'm over the moon
with the finished
results. It's cool, calm
and a great place to
just chill out'***

Style idea

Lots of cushions and
throws in different
textures and colours
bring a plain sofa to life

The new soft scheme works a treat. Jennie has mixed lots of different materials, creating a cosy space that's perfect for chilling out in at the end of the day



TOTAL
£3,120

I wanted the space to be rustic and weathered

Jennie Roe's living room renovation involved new paint techniques and salvage buys to get the seaside vibe she craved



A bit about me
I'm Jennie Roe, 33, an event consultant. I live with my partner, Greg Lawson, 42, a firefighter, in a three-bedroom end-terrace home in Brighton.



Before

My room...

My problem living room

The whole space was lacking in character and style. The staircase in the centre of the room was ugly and dated, and as for the glossy wooden flooring – it had to go.

How I made it work

We opened up the old fireplace, exposed some of the original brickwork and fitted a stove. Sadly, we couldn't move the staircase as it would have meant we'd lose space upstairs, but we replaced the steps for a more rustic feel. A clean, seaside, rural-inspired décor adds character and makes the room feel large and spacious.

My favourite part

I love the fireplace. The brickwork is amazing, and the unpainted plaster works really well as it adds an original feel to the space. The old metal antique shelf was a bargain buy at a local salvage yard.

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try
in your own home



Consider window treatments

The large windows provide lots of light, but the downside is they look out onto a busy road with passers-by. 'We didn't want to block the light with having full shutters or heavy blinds,' Jennie explains. 'We added some frosted film to the bottom row of window panes to keep the room feeling private, while still letting light flood in.'

Choose multi-use furniture

With the sea nearby, the couple expect lots of visitors, so making the room usable to overnight guests was a priority. 'We found this multifunctional corner sofa from IKEA,' explains Jennie. 'It has storage for bed linen with two lift-up seats, and the chaise section pulls out into a double bed.'



Create your own flooring

Jennie wanted a rustic wood floor, but soon realised it was out of their reach. 'Our cheapest option was to sand back the original flooring, which just took a day with an industrial sander,' Jennie explains. 'We then applied many coats of floor paint and finished off sanding back several areas for a more rustic feel.'

The newly opened fireplace was a big expense, but the results are exactly what Jennie had in mind. The exposed brickwork is really effective, and the unpainted plaster has the perfect rustic feel that complements the new wood-burning stove

Style idea

Exposed walls are on-trend this season and really add a rustic effect to any room. They are easily achieved if you have an older house, but many companies offer wallpapers which give a similar feel



Jennie mixed old and new with rustic and reclaimed furniture from local shops in Brighton



My experience...

We bought the house in October 2019 as we'd always wanted to live near the sea. The living room felt like it was just a long space with very little function, due to the bulky open staircase in the centre of the room.

We had toyed with the idea of moving the stairs, but the architect said it would be a massive cost with little return. So, we decided to work with them and came up with the idea of replacing all the steps with reclaimed scaffold boards, which Greg cut to shape. He also spray-painted the steelwork white. It really makes it a feature of the room and now they don't seem so intrusive.

The fireplace was the next big project. We wanted to open it up and make it a focal point that would also heat the space. Fitting a wood-burning stove instantly made a difference. We left the brick exposed and I found an old metal shelf to go above the stove.

We painted the walls in an off-white but used a specialist paint on the wall down into the basement to create a textured effect. It's a clever yet simple process and gives a weathered feel to the wall, which matches the look we've tried to create with the doors and salvaged furniture. I'm over the moon with the finished result – it's cool, calm and a great place to chill out.

My shopping list

Walls painted in **Grey Day** for Valspar, £24 per 2.5L; floors painted in V33 Renovation white satin **floor & stair paint**, £36 per 2L, both B&Q. Fresco **weathered-effect paint**, from £12.99, Fusion Mineral Paint. Phoenix Firewren 4kW **stove**, £1,108.80, Woodwarm Stoves. Silver Etch Frosted **window film**, from £19 for a 0.5 x 1.2m sheet, Brume. Rush natural **storage basket**, £18; Camden blue **throw**, £24; duck egg **cushion**, £7; Waves seafoam **cushion**, £9; blue watercolour stripe **cushion**, £15; rustic wooden **lantern**, £30, all Dunelm. Vallentuna combination **sofa**, £985; cow hide **rug**, £179, both IKEA. For a similar lamp, try Theatre **table lamp** by BePureHome, £75, Cuckooland. For a similar trunk, try Adamo recycled mango wood and acacia **chest**, £186, Maisons du Monde. For a similar **side table**, try Katelynn **coffee table**, £85.99, Wayfair.

'The flooring was a big job, but the finished result is great. We didn't want it to look perfect'

**TURN TO PAGE 128
FOR STOCKIST
DETAILS**



Hanging around: Blake rusty metal mirror, £55, Maisons du Monde

£54
The Den & Now

Take the spotlight under this pendant



£299.95

Trade Furniture Company

Look sharp with this edgy wooden sideboard



£19.99

Festive Lights

Add a personal touch with a wooden letter light



£16
Next

Throw some shapes with this geo cushion



£5 for 125ml B&Q

Achieve shabby-chic style in just a few strokes



£80

La Redoute

Bring the seaside vibe in with this driftwood coat rack

Get the look SEASIDE STUDIO

Stripped-back textures complement industrial-style furniture in **Jennie's** coastal home

STYLE ADVICE

Quality over quantity

To achieve a minimalist look, pick just a few decorative accessories to stand out. Woven baskets, modernist lights and a floor mirror are always winners.

Banish the blues

Avoid a cold, bare atmosphere by piling up cosy cushions and draping a blanket on the sofa, then rolling out a soft rug.

Steel the look

Get the industrial aesthetic with metal accessories. Nail the look with wire cage lampshades and exposed steel stools.



£159
PUJI

Pull up a seat with this adjustable stool



£9.50
The Den
and Now

Frame up your fave shots or inspirational quotes



£129
Cult Furniture

Get camera ready with this studio floor lamp

£24
Matalan

Light up this lantern for a warm glow



'A shabby-chic room partition is a great compromise if you're unable to strip back the walls'



Oh so toasty: Be Modern Ohio black solid fuel stove, £694, B&Q



£89.95
Hartleys Direct

Break up a room with this whitewashed screen



*'I'd describe the look
as global meets boho.
It's very relaxed and
easy to live with'*

Sinead has cleverly mixed different styles by sticking to a uniform colour palette. Her budget divan bed from Dreams has been dressed to impress in sumptuous layers, while a second-hand blanket box provides ample storage for additional bedding

I was determined to banish the bland on a budget

An eclectic mix of second-hand and high street buys helped **Sinead Gulless** turn a lacklustre bedroom into a colourful, cosy and welcoming retreat

Style idea

A feature wall is an easy way to change a room's look

My room...

My problem bedroom

The bedroom was a blank canvas, so it really was a matter of starting from scratch. There was a built-in wardrobe, but apart from that it was a featureless box. I knew we needed to inject some character and style into the space.

How I made it work

Our limited budget meant we had to get creative when decorating and furnishing the room. Rather than buy everything new, we chose to upcycle and add vintage finds. The look was inspired by a need to marry different styles, and our desire to incorporate a few favourite souvenirs from our travels abroad.

My favourite part

It has to be the designer wallpaper, which I'm proud to say I hung myself! It was actually an end-of-line bargain buy. It's since been relaunched under a new name and in slightly different colourways.



A bit about me

I'm Sinead Gulless, a psychologist. I live with my partner, Sami, who's a gardener, in a two-bedroom, single-storey detached house in Wiltshire.



Before

TOTAL
£897.77

Style advice

Three simple tricks to try
in your own home



Go boho on a budget

To save money, Sinead refreshed second-hand pieces using leftover paint. 'I spotted my £15 bamboo bedside tables in a junk shop, and the £40 blanket box and £5 chairs were bought on eBay,' she says. An old cupboard, donated by her parents, was also given a new lease of life by decorating it with offcuts of wallpaper.

Add a focal point

For designer style without the price tag, Sinead added a luxury wallpaper. 'Two rolls cost £80, which was more than enough for one wall,' she says. Despite being her first attempt at hanging paper, it proved easier than anticipated, due to the fact there were no tricky corners to contend with.



Use wall space

Sinead has made the most of her walls by adding a number of decorative shelves. These are not only great for storage and display, but also help inject a more homely, lived-in feel. Her handy wall shelf with hooks, bought at a vintage market, is also used to hang outfits ready for the morning, or a night out with friends.



A bold wall painted in Little Greene's Canton is just one of a number of blue and green tones used to add depth and interest to Sinead's scheme. Her choice of a neutral carpet also allows for any décor changes in the years to come

'The room is accessorised with sentimental items collected from our travels'



Style idea

Paint furniture in a shade that fits in with your room's colour scheme



The couple already had this Moorish-style fretwork cupboard and it looks right at home in their global-inspired scheme

My experience...

Although keen to get started, our plans were delayed. After only a week of moving in, we had to call back the developer to replace the bedroom radiator. However, this did give me extra time to think about how we should address those white walls!

I'm a big fan of feature wallpaper and liked the idea that it would allow us to add interest without redecorating throughout. So, having trawled through hundreds of designs on the internet, I was delighted to spot our damask-inspired paper for half price in a local shop. As most of our collected bits and bobs are blue or green, the soft teal colourway was an easy choice, and the money saved was used to buy a coordinating paint for the opposite wall, to help balance the look.

To save money, we furnished the room with second-hand pieces, some of which I updated to match the new scheme. Sami wasn't convinced at first, as he likes to buy new, however, he soon changed his mind when he discovered I'd only spent £133 in total. Personally, I think that mixing things up has really helped add character and interest to the room. However, I have to admit that, when it came to the bed and carpet, I was happy to pander to Sami's preference for new. Both were bought on the high street and, thanks to a little research, we had enough money left to buy a made-to-measure blind.

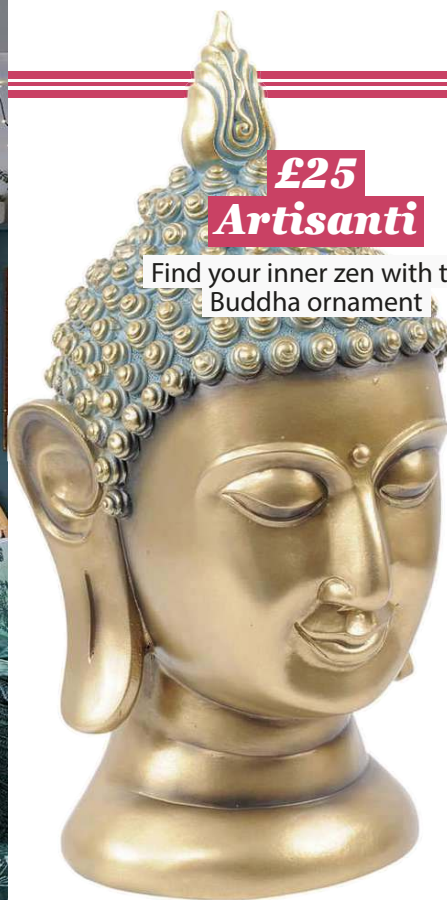
My shopping list

Walls painted in Canton absolute matt **emulsion paint**, £45 per 2.5L, Little Greene. Aurelia wide-width **wallpaper** by Harlequin, £87 per roll, Style Library. Primo Plus **carpet**, from £15 per sq m, Cormar Carpets. Brooke traditional spring **mattress** with divan base set, £279, Dreams. Made-to-measure **Roman blind**, £135.77, English Blinds. Jättevallmo double **duvet cover** and **pillowcase set**, £15; Ullvide plain **pillowcase**, £4.50 each; Snidad **rattan basket**, £25; Livslång **vase**, £6, all IKEA. Blue and white **cushion**, £30, Bianca Hall. Sequin-dipped **seagrass basket**, £23, Not On The High Street

**TURN TO PAGE 128
FOR STOCKIST
DETAILS**



Into the blue: Aqua bed linen, from £48, Clarissa Hulse



£25

Artisanti

Find your inner zen with this Buddha ornament



£31.50
Amara

Fill this blue glass vase with beautiful blooms

£30
Insidestore

Go eco with these recycled glass vases



Get the look GLOBE TROTTER

The world is at your fingertips with an explorer's-inspired bedroom like **Sinead's**

£16
Nordic Nest

This teapot doubles up as a quirky ornament



£54
Oliver Bonas

Tufted throws instantly make a room more boho



£14
Myakka

Bring some Moroccan style to your shelf



STYLE ADVICE

Vary the shades

Sinead sticks to a blue colour scheme in her room but mixes up the tone throughout the space for depth and interest. With up to three shades of one colour, you can create a complementary look that isn't too overwhelming.

It's all in the detail

Small accessories that are in line with the room's theme help to create an altogether stronger look. Vases, candles, lights and plants are just a few items that can bolster your room's aesthetic.

Build up textures

A mixture of patterns, fabrics and textures can add character and cosiness to a room. Consider how your wallpaper, bedding and rugs can work.

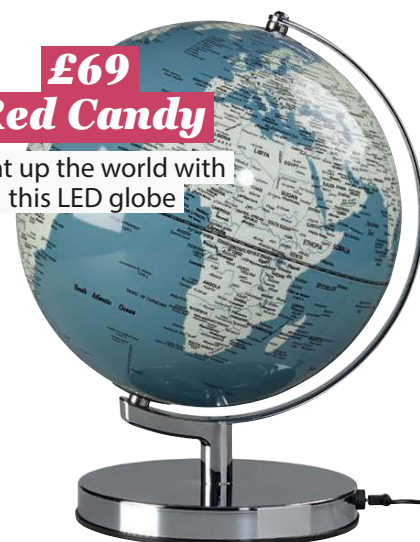


£49.50
Oliver Bonas

Pop a plant in this seagrass basket

£69
Red Candy

Light up the world with this LED globe



£20
Next

We can't resist a cute pom-pom pillow



£9.99
HomeSense

Store accessories in this Rwenzori-made basket



£79
Cult Furniture

This large basket would be great for your laundry

'Natural materials like wood and wool work well for a bohemian, worldly look'

Cabinet of curiosities: The Nine Schools oriental decorated **blue cabinet**, £339, Wooden Furniture Store



£180
Next

Keep your souvenirs safe in this exotic cabinet



£129
Cult Furniture

Create extra seating options with a stylish stool



EASY LIVING

All the latest products to make home life less complicated

A COLOUR LOVER'S CLOTH

Do you regularly throw away sponges and J-cloths? Cleaning needn't be cruel to the planet, especially when Swedish brand Iris Hantverk is here to help. Its Cotton Cleaning Cloths, made from a natural blend of cotton and linen, will stand the test of time and, as an added bonus, come in a great selection of colours. They're easily washable, so you won't find yourself needing to replace these cloths anytime soon. Thanks to the natural fibres, they can even be used on your face and body. Available to buy in a pack of three.



Iris Hantverk cotton cleaning cloths, £22.50, whitespacehome.co.uk



Swan-derful

Cooking dinner is often the last thing you want to do after a long tiring day, and luckily you don't have to. With Swan's Retro 6.5L Slow Cooker, you can have family dinners ready to be

dished up as soon as you get home. Simply prepare your preferred one-pot dish in the morning and leave to simmer, allowing the flavours to meld harmoniously. From warming stews to spicy curries, the glass lid makes it easy to check your dish's progress throughout the day. This slow cooker makes family life just that little bit less hectic. It's also available in smaller 3.5L and 1.5L capacities if you're only cooking for one or two. Available to purchase at swan-brand.co.uk.



Fuss-free flooring

Forget stained carpets, thanks to the newest release from Abingdon Flooring. The Maximus range is hardwearing yet handsome. It can cope with heavy domestic use – its 100 per cent bleach-cleanable yarn gives it a lifetime StainFree guarantee. Plus, with 16 colours to choose from, there's a shade to suit every taste.

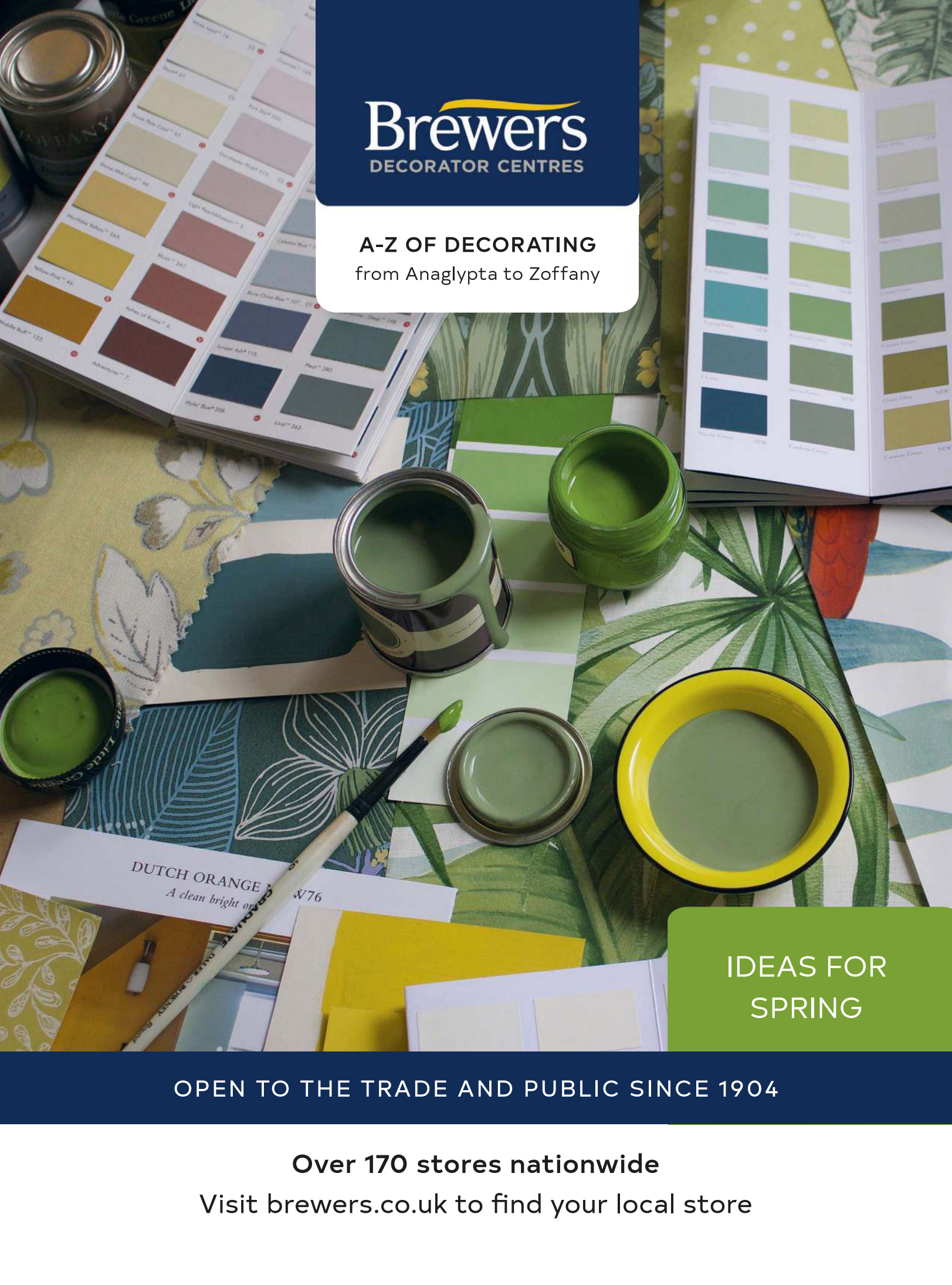
Stainfree Maximus Chantilly, from £27 per sq m, Abingdon Flooring

POWERED BY NATURE

Wilton London bring a little bit of luxury to the weekly chores. Not only does its range smell delicious – with scents including botanical grapefruit, eucalyptus and cedarwood – but it is also kind to the planet. This is an easy, eco-friendly swap that will leave you questioning why you didn't use plant-based cleaners before! And to top it off, they're all bottled up in recycled plastic and are gentle on the skin. So it's safe to say, Wilton London will update your cleaning routine for the better.



Wilton London vegan cleaning range, from £3.29, Lakeland



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COMING NEXT MONTH

HomeStyle

Steal the style
of real homes



Crafty makes
that dazzle



Fresh décor
trends to try



It's asparagus
season!



All features subject to change Images clockwise from main Colin Poole; Olly Gordon; Clarissa Hulse; British Asparagus

PLUS, DON'T MISS OUT ON...

- * HOW TO MASTER USING PATTERN
- * EASTER DECORATING IDEAS
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- * TASTY RECIPES FOR SPRING
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For your chance to grace our pages and win a fantastic prize, use the #myHShome hashtag on Instagram and tell us all about your pad and home style!

Get your copy! NEXT ISSUE on sale 31st March 2020

House Beautiful Thermashade™
Blackout Yellow Pleated blinds
with Serene Stone Voiles



SUBSTANCE AND STYLE

Hillarys Pleated blinds collection is full of on-trend designs and high-quality fabrics, for a versatile solution that works in every room

Blinds should be functional, but they don't need to be boring. The right window blinds don't just control the light, they also draw the room together and add that perfect finishing touch to your home. So, if you're looking for something modern, affordable and tasteful, Hillarys Pleated blinds collection will be right up your street.

This new versatile, made-to-measure range includes 175 fabrics inspired by trend-led prints, patterns, colours and

textures, which combine practicality with style, offering contemporary solutions for the whole house. Popular options include the delicate watercolour floral that is perfect for a bright and airy living room, or the gorgeous crush velvet effect that makes any bedroom feel that little bit more luxurious. And with plenty of blackout, sheer and Thermashade™ fabrics available, you'll be able to have control of the light and temperature in every room.

Design-inspiration

A highlight of the range is the 24 Pleated fabrics created in collaboration with the interior design experts at House Beautiful. These exclusive styles help create stylish living spaces that function beautifully. There are three main themes in this collection: opulence, which is inspired by dark jewel tones; calming spaces, designed to benefit personal wellness; and white-on-white, for a refreshing, sophisticated look. Whichever you choose, you can rest assured that your blinds will celebrate your style, not cramp it.

Relife Anthracite
Pleated blinds



Top: Crush Mist Green
Pleated Transition™ blinds.

Bottom: Zen White
Pleated Transition™ blinds



The perfect fit

Hillarys offers a made-to-measure fitting service included in the price of your blinds, so you can be sure that the finished look will be of a premium standard. Their advisors provide a wealth of expertise and advice to help you create the right look and there are options to suit every budget.

For more information and to browse the range visit hillarys.co.uk or call 0800 5876480 for a free home appointment

HILLARYS

You'll love what we do

WIN! A PAIR OF SHOW TICKETS

TO ENTER

It's so easy! Head to homestylemag.co.uk, click on the 'Win!' tab and fill in your details. Entries close at 11.59pm on 31st April 2020.



Image James Gordon

The Homebuilding & Renovating Show will inspire you to find the full potential of your home

**Homebuilding
& Renovating
Show**

40 PAIRS OF TICKETS TO THE SOUTHERN HOMEBUILDING & RENOVATING SHOW ARE UP FOR GRABS

If you are planning an extension, are halfway through updating your interior, or dream of building a sustainable house from scratch, a visit to the Southern Homebuilding & Renovating Show from 27-28 June at Sandown Park, Surrey, will give you practical help to turn your ambitions into reality. We're offering a pair of tickets, worth £24, to 40 lucky readers.

With insider knowledge from versatile property experts, a range of free talks and face-to-face consultations, this show could prove invaluable, regardless of your stage in the building or renovating process.

Through talks on key topics, including innovative products, extensions, conversions and home DIY, alongside personalised tips on your project, you will

leave with the confidence to maximise your home to its fullest potential. Take advantage of both show days to discover both national and local exhibitors, free daily bite-sized seminars that give practical answers and tailored masterclasses packed with advice. From small plots to big builds, the event is the place to pick up tips to transform any space into a home.

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Quick-fix cooking

Are you short on time and culinary inspiration?
You've come to the right place – turn over and get stuck in!

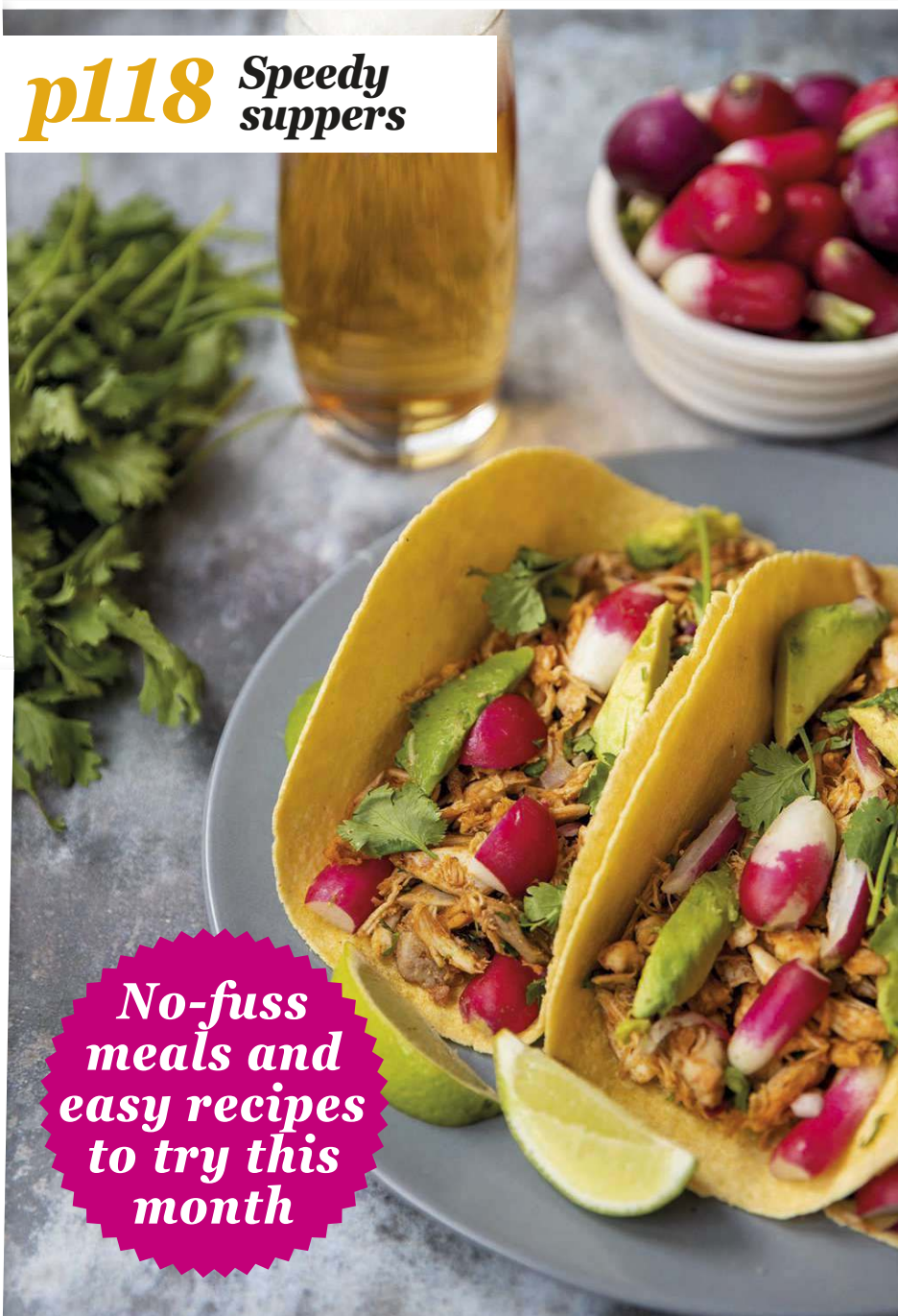


p120 Chinese
canapés



p122 Easter bakes
and treats

p118 Speedy
suppers



No-fuss
meals and
easy recipes
to try this
month

Super speedy suppers

Break free from the kitchen and claim back your evenings with our cheat's

Monday



Chantenay carrot and tomato pasta bake

Prep and cook time 30 MINS
Serves 4

Ingredients

- * 500g Chantenay carrots, quartered
- * 300g penne pasta
- * 500g tomato pasta sauce
- * 100g mature cheddar, grated
- * 100g Red Leicester cheese, grated

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/180 °C Fan/Gas Mark 6. Bring a large pan of salted water to the boil and add the penne pasta and Chantenay carrots. Stir occasionally and cook until the pasta and carrots are al dente.
- 2 Drain the pasta and carrots and pour back into the pan. Stir through the jar of sauce and season well.
- 3 Put it all into a baking tin. Top with cheese and cook for 15 mins, or until golden and the sauce is bubbling. Add basil leaves, if you wish.

Tuesday

Chicken baked with shallots, olives and thyme

Prep and cook time 40 MINS
Serves 4

Ingredients

- * 4 skinless chicken breast fillets
- * 12 shallots, peeled
- * 4 garlic cloves
- * 16 good-quality pitted green olives
- * 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- * 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- * 2 tbsp sherry vinegar

Method

- 1 Preheat the oven to 190°C/170°C Fan/Gas Mark 5. Arrange the chicken breasts in a shallow roasting tin or baking dish. Tuck the shallots, garlic and olives around the chicken and strip the thyme sprigs of their leaves, sprinkling over everything.
- 2 Drizzle over the oil and season with salt and pepper, then bake for 20 mins. Remove from the oven and drizzle over the sherry vinegar.
- 3 Cook for a further 10 mins, until the chicken is cooked through. If unsure, test with a knife and if the juices run clear then it's ready.

Tip: To ensure the chicken breasts don't dry out, cover with foil for the first 10 mins.



Wednesday



Prawn, broccoli, shallot and freekeh salad

Prep and cook time 40 MINS
Serves 2

Ingredients

- * 150g freekeh or bulgur wheat
- * 1 tbsp butter
- * 8 shallots, peeled and quartered
- * 200ml vegetable stock
- * 200g long-stemmed broccoli
- * 150g cooked tiger or king prawns
- * handful fresh parsley, roughly chopped
- * 1 lemon

Method

- 1 Soak the freekeh or bulgur wheat in cold water for 5 mins, drain and rinse under running water, allowing it to drain well. Melt the butter in a large pan, add the shallots and sauté over a medium heat for approximately 5 mins until they have softened.
- 2 Add the freekeh and vegetable stock, then simmer gently for 10-20 minutes. Note that the freekeh needs a little longer to cook than bulgur wheat and has a slightly chewy, nutty texture and taste.
- 3 Add the broccoli, cover and cook for 3 mins or so, then turn the heat off and allow everything to steam under the lid in the residual heat for another 5 mins.
- 4 Leave to cool a little before stirring in the prawns, parsley and a good squeeze of lemon juice. Season to taste.

Tip: This recipe is delicious when served with a spoonful of natural yoghurt or crème fraîche and a sprinkle of toasted pine nuts.

to whip up this week

food plan; these tasty recipes are simple to make and will delight all

Thursday

Mexican pulled chicken wraps

Prep and cook time 35 MINS
Serves 2

Ingredients

* 4 small chicken thighs * 2 tsp ground cumin * 2 tsp sweet smoked paprika * 1 tbsp olive oil * 4 small tortilla wraps (corn if available) * 1 avocado * 15 mixed radishes, quartered * small bunch coriander * ½ lime

Method

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas Mark 6. Place the chicken thighs in a bowl and add the ground cumin, sweet smoked paprika and olive oil, along with a pinch of salt and pepper. Mix well until all the chicken is well coated.

2 Place the chicken thighs on a baking tray and bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes, until cooked through and the juices run clear. Put to one side, then prepare the other ingredients.

3 Warm the tortillas in a dry frying pan, then peel and slice the avocado.

4 Once the chicken has cooled down, shred the meat off the bones and stir through any juices from the baking tray.

5 Serve the chicken in a warm tortilla, topped with the sliced avocado, radishes and fresh coriander. Finish with a squeeze of lime juice.



Friday



British asparagus and lamb chop tray bake

Prep and cook time 25 MINS
Serves 2

Ingredients

* 250g white potatoes * 2 tbsp olive oil * 4 lamb chops * a few sprigs of rosemary * 250g British asparagus * 260g frozen garden peas

Method

1 Preheat the oven to 200°C/180°C Fan/Gas Mark 6. Boil a medium pan of water while you chop the potatoes into 3-4cm chunks. Add them to the boiling water and cook for 10 mins, then drain.

2 Place a large frying pan on the heat and add 1 tbsp of olive oil. Once the oil is hot, add the lamb chops and sear on all sides until browned.

3 Place the potatoes onto a medium-sized oven tray and nestle the lamb chops in amongst them. Add the rosemary, asparagus and peas, then drizzle with the remaining olive oil. Roast in the oven for 10 mins until the asparagus is cooked and the potatoes are crispy.

Store cupboard essentials

- * Penne pasta
- * Olive oil * Sherry vinegar
- * Freekeh or bulgur wheat
- * Ground cumin
- * Vegetable stock cubes or bouillon
- * Sweet smoked paprika

Shopping list

- ☐ Chantenay carrots
- ☐ Tomato pasta sauce
- ☐ Mature cheddar
- ☐ Red Leicester cheese
- ☐ Chicken breasts
- ☐ Shallots
- ☐ Garlic cloves
- ☐ Pitted green olives
- ☐ Fresh thyme
- ☐ Butter
- ☐ Long-stemmed broccoli
- ☐ Cooked tiger or king prawns
- ☐ Fresh parsley
- ☐ Lemon
- ☐ Chicken thighs
- ☐ Tortilla wraps
- ☐ Avocado
- ☐ Mixed radishes
- ☐ Fresh coriander
- ☐ Lime
- ☐ White potatoes
- ☐ Lamb chops
- ☐ Fresh rosemary
- ☐ British asparagus
- ☐ Frozen garden peas



Want more inspiration?
For more delicious recipes, head on over to the **HomeStyle** website!
homestylemag.co.uk

Taste of the **ORIENT**

Stretch your culinary wings and dazzle your guests with these Chinese dishes

Spicy jackfruit and pineapple skewers

Prep and cook time 30 MINS
Serves 2 (MAKES 6)

Ingredients

* 1 tin young jackfruit (300g drained weight) * 300g pineapple, cut into 2cm cubes (18 pieces in total) * 1 tbsp vegetable oil * 1 tsp white sesame seeds

For the marinade

* 2 tbsp Wing Yip Light Soy Sauce * 1-2 tbsp Mai Siam Sriracha Sauce, depending on spice preference * ½ tsp Wing Yip Sesame Oil

You will also need

* 6 small skewers

Method

1 Soak the skewers in cold water for at least 1 hour before assembling. Drain the jackfruit and cut any large chunks in half so that you have 12 pieces.

2 Mix together the marinade ingredients, then add the jackfruit and pineapple. Mix well to ensure all of the pieces are evenly coated.

3 Starting with the pineapple, thread the pineapple and jackfruit onto the skewers so that you have 3 pieces of pineapple and 2 pieces of jackfruit per skewer.

4 Heat a frying or griddle pan over a medium-high heat and add the vegetable oil. When the oil is hot, lay the skewers carefully in the pan and cook for 2 mins on each side until they have started to caramelise and are hot.

5 Sprinkle over the sesame seeds and serve immediately.

Chicken lollipops

Prep and cook time

1HR (PLUS AT LEAST 1HR TO MARINADE)

Serves 24

Ingredients

* 24 chicken wings, prime joint * 2 tbsp Wing Yip Light Soy Sauce * 4 tbsp Wing Yip Sweet Chilli Sauce * 2 tsp Cook's Ketjap Manis * 1 tsp Shaohsing wine * 1 tsp cornflour * ½ tsp Wing Yip Pure Sesame Oil * 1 tsp garlic, finely chopped * 1 tsp ginger, finely chopped * ½ tsp black sesame seeds * ½ tsp white sesame seeds

Method

1 To prepare the chicken wings, carefully cut the skin and tendons around the smaller end of the prime joint, away from the bone. Using a sharp knife, scrape and push the meat down towards the thicker end of the joint making the shape of a lollipop. Cut off the cartilage knuckle from the end of the

bone. Repeat this process with the remaining wings.

2 To prepare the marinade, in a large bowl mix together the soy sauce, ketjap manis, Shaohsing wine, cornflour, sesame oil, garlic and ginger. Add the chicken wings and coat well. Cover with cling film and leave to marinade for at least 1 hour in the fridge. These are best left for 4 hours or ideally overnight.

3 Preheat the oven to 180°C/Fan 160°C/Gas Mark 4 and line a baking tray with foil or greaseproof paper. Arrange the chicken wings in a single layer, standing them up on the meat side. Press the wings firmly to help to create a flat bottom so that they stand up.

4 Bake the chicken wings for 20-25 mins, or until cooked through and the marinade has started to caramelise. Once cooked, remove from the oven and leave to rest for 5 mins.

5 Once the chicken wings have rested and cooled slightly, use a brush to glaze the chicken wings with the sweet chilli sauce. Garnish with the sesame seeds and serve.



Sweet and spicy pork meatballs

Prep and cook time

45 MINS

Serves 10 AS A CANAPÉ

(MAKES 20)

Ingredients

* 450g pork mince * 1 tbsp corn starch * 1 tsp ginger, finely chopped * 1 tbsp garlic, finely chopped * 2 tsp light brown sugar * 2 tsp Wing Yip Light Soy Sauce * 1 tsp five-spice powder * vegetable oil for deep frying * 2 spring onions, thinly sliced * 2 tsp white sesame seeds

For the sauce

* 3 tbsp Wing Yip Light Soy Sauce * 1 tbsp Wing Yip Dark Soy Sauce * 3 tbsp Wing Yip Hoi Sin Sauce * 1 tsp rice vinegar * 3 tbsp Mai Siam Sriracha Sauce * 1 tsp light brown sugar * 1 tsp Wing Yip Sesame Oil

Method

1 In a large bowl, combine the pork mince, corn starch, ginger, garlic, sugar, soy sauce and five-spice powder. It's best to use your hands to

do this to ensure that the spices are evenly mixed with the mince.

2 Roll 1 ½ tbsp pork mince into a ball and repeat until you've used all of the mixture. You should make about 20 meatballs.

3 Heat the vegetable oil to 180°C in a fryer, wok or large saucepan. Once hot, fry the meatballs for 3-4 mins until dark golden brown in colour and cooked through. Alternatively, heat 1 tbsp of oil in a frying pan and cook the meatballs in batches for 8-10 mins or until they have turned brown on all sides and cooked through.

4 To make the sauce, combine all the ingredients in a wok and heat gently until the sauce comes together. Reduce the amount of sriracha sauce if you don't want it to be too spicy.

5 Once the sauce has come together, add the meatballs and stir well to ensure they are thoroughly coated. Continue to heat until the sauce has reduced to a glaze, then serve. To finish, sprinkle over the sesame seeds and sliced spring onions for the garnish.

6 For canapés, the meatballs can be served individually on spoons, or they can be served on a large plate with toothpicks.



Easter Treats

Spoil friends and family over the bank holiday weekend



Tear 'n' share sticky hot cross buns

Prep and cook time 1 HR
Serves 12

Ingredients

* 390ml unsweetened soya milk * 60g dairy-free spread * 1 tsp apple cider vinegar * 400g strong white bread flour * 200g wholemeal spelt flour * 14g fast-action yeast * 75g xylitol sugar alternative (available as Total Sweet in health stores and supermarkets) * 1 tsp fine sea salt * 1 ½ tbsp gram flour * oil for greasing the bowl * 1 eating apple, peeled and grated * 1 orange, zest only * 50g mixed peel * 1 tsp ground mixed spice * 1 tsp ground cinnamon * ¼ tsp nutmeg * 50g raisins and sultanas * 50g 100% dark choc chips, sugar-free * flour for dusting

For the crosses:

* 3 tbsp white flour * drops of water to form a paste

For the glaze:

* 2 tbsp powdered xylitol, ground in a coffee grinder * a few drops of water

Method

1 Place the milk and dairy-free spread into a small pan and heat gently over a low heat until the spread melts. Do not allow the milk to boil or get too hot. Set the pan to one side, off the heat, and stir in the apple cider vinegar.

2 In a large bowl, add the white and wholemeal flour, yeast, xylitol, salt and gram flour, and mix together with a wooden spoon.

3 Once the milk mixture is lukewarm, make a well in the centre of the flour mixture and begin to pour the milk slowly into the flour while stirring with the wooden spoon. Continue until all of the milk has been incorporated into the flour.

4 Dust a clean work surface with flour and turn the mixture on to the surface. Knead by folding the dough into itself towards the centre, turning and continuing to fold into the centre until you form a smooth ball shape. This should take about 5 mins. The dough will be quite sticky to begin with.

5 Oil the bowl and then return the dough to the bowl, cover with a clean tea towel and leave to rise for 1 hr in a warm place.

6 After 1 hr, add the grated apple, orange zest, mixed peel, ground spices, raisins, sultanas and choc chips to the dough. Knead with clean hands on the same flour-dusted surface, folding

the dough into the centre until the added ingredients are evenly incorporated.

7 Make 12 equal-sized balls of dough by taking roughly 100g of the dough each time and forming a small round bun shape with your hands. Place each bun into an ovenproof dish, 3 in the middle and 9 around the perimeter, equally spaced. They will expand in the oven so don't worry if there is significant space between the buns.

8 Place a clean tea towel over the buns and leave to rise in a warm place for 1 hr.

9 Just before the end of this rising time, create a paste for the crosses by mixing the extra flour with a few drops of water until you reach a thick paste consistency. Put into a piping bag with a thin nozzle and draw crosses on each bun.

10 Place the dish in a pre-heated fan oven at 220°C/200°C Fan/Gas Mark 7 for 30 mins until the buns are golden brown.

11 Remove the hot cross buns from the oven and, while still warm, brush with the glaze of powdered xylitol which has been mixed with a little water to form a paste.

12 Leave to cool before serving with dairy-free spread. The buns are best eaten on the day of making or stored in an airtight container for 2-3 days.



Spring blossom loaf cake

Prep and cook time

1 HR 10 MINS

Serves 8

Ingredients

* 100g salted butter * 250g self-raising flour * 3-4 tsp ground cinnamon * 125g golden caster sugar * 2 Pink Lady® apples * 4 eggs * 1 tsp vanilla bean paste

To decorate:

* 100g fondant icing sugar * touch of pink food colouring (optional) * 1-2 tsp apple juice * generous handful of edible flowers

Method

1 In a large bowl, rub together the butter and flour until you have a breadcrumb consistency. Add the cinnamon and caster sugar, then mix well.

2 Peel and cut the apples into smallish chunks and stir into the dry mix so that it is evenly distributed.

3 Gently beat the eggs and vanilla paste in a small bowl. Add to the dry ingredients and mix well.

4 Place the batter into a lined loaf tin about 20 cm long, 10cm wide and 7cm high. Bake at 170°C/150°C Fan/Gas Mark 3 for 45 mins to 1 hr, until cooked through, risen and golden on the top. Leave to cool on a rack while you prepare the icing decoration.

5 Mix the fondant icing sugar with 1-2 tsp of apple juice and a touch of pink food colouring until it's a runny consistency. Drizzle over the cake generously, allowing the icing to drop over the sides. Adorn the top of the iced loaf with apple blossom.

6 The loaf cake will keep for 3 days in an airtight tin or box, but it's best eaten as fresh as possible. The edible flowers will begin to degrade after a couple of days.

Easter egg bark

Prep and cook time 30 MINS, PLUS SETTING
Serves 10

Ingredients

* 3 x 150g bars milk chocolate, broken into chunks
* butter, for greasing * 50g white chocolate, broken into chunks * 1 x 90g pack micro eggs or Mini Eggs
* handful Tesco Easter bunny & chick mallow

Method

1 Put the milk chocolate chunks into a heatproof bowl. Bring a pan of water to a simmer and set the bowl on top, making sure the water doesn't touch the bottom of the bowl. Leave the chocolate to melt, stirring occasionally.

2 Meanwhile, grease a tin about 20cm x 26cm in size and line with non-stick baking paper or clingfilm. Once the milk chocolate has melted completely, pour into the prepared tin and spread out to the edges. If you don't have a tin the right size, then lay a piece of non-stick baking paper on a baking tray and just spread the chocolate out to around the same size.

3 Clean the bowl, then add the white chocolate pieces and set over the pan of boiling water to melt. Once melted, drizzle over the milk chocolate and use a cocktail stick or skewer to swirl the milk and white chocolate together.

4 Bash the bag of micro eggs on one side to crush some of the eggs, then sprinkle the whole and crushed eggs over the swirled chocolate. Push in some marshmallow bunnies and chicks. Leave in a cool place to set, before breaking up into pieces.



Feature Catherine Smalley Recipes and photos Hot cross buns, www.thebalancedkitchen.co.uk; apple blossom cake, www.pinkladyapples.co.uk; Easter egg bark, realfood.tesco.com



Best buy

Looking for a bit more sizzle in your sausage? Powter's has a banger to suit everyone, including Spanish-inspired Chilli Pig – perfect for paellas! Find the full range at Tesco, Morrisons and Sainsbury's, priced £3 for a pack of six.

QUICK FIX

Supercharge your daily intake of vital vitamins, minerals and powerful antioxidants with Drink Me Chai Superblends. Each pack of powder can be used in not just your typical chai latte, but smoothies, granolas, bakes and more! Priced at £3.95 for 100g.



Fresh find

Marmite Crunchy Peanut Butter has been here since spring, but now a *smooth* version has hit the shelves. It blends velvety peanut butter with Marmite's distinctive umami taste. Priced at £2.50 per 225g jar.



RISOTTO IN A RUSH

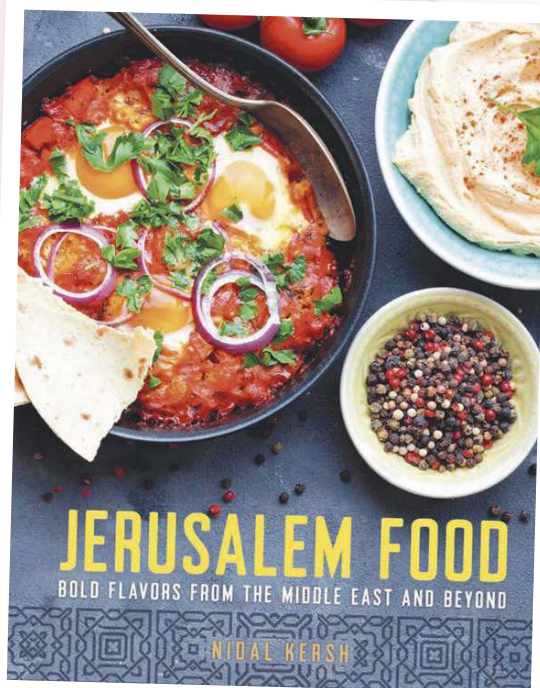
If you love risotto but can't be bothered with all that stirring, then you have to try Gallo's new My Risotto Perfetto. The range includes Mushroom, Four Cheese, Asparagus, Saffron, Truffle and even a Curry flavour. All you need to do is add water, simmer for 12 minutes and – hey presto – authentic Italian risotto is yours! At just £1.99 per 210g pack, and designed to serve two, this makes a perfect lazy midweek dinner.

FOOD NEWS

What's on our plates, in our kitchen cupboards and filling our shopping trolleys this month

Feasts from the East

Take a culinary journey into the heart of Jerusalem and discover the dishes that have sprung from this city's melting pot of cultures. *Jerusalem Food* by Nidal Kersh (Sterling, £25) is filled with tempting photography and if you've ever wanted to make your own falafel, houmous, tabbouli or baba ganoush, these easy-to-follow recipes will show you how. From mana'ish (an Arabic pizza) to schnitzel (from Jerusalem's Jewish community), the author introduces the reader to the language, tradition and cultural origins behind the food, often through his own personal family anecdotes, making this both a cookbook and an education.



SUGAR-FREE SAUCES

Did you know that standard Heinz tomato ketchup contains a whopping 22.8g of sugar and 1.8g of salt per 100g? It might be time to consider switching sauces. Real Good tomato ketchup (priced at £2.20 for 310g) contains just 5.7g of natural sugar and 0.32g of salt. Or give the Real Good Smokey BBQ a go, made with natural hickory- and oak-smoked water from the Deep South of Tennessee and priced at £2.49.

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#myHShome

Use the #myHShome hashtag on Instagram for your chance to appear on this very page!



Branching out

Our Victorian semi was originally a two-bedroom house which has been extended up and out. One of our favourite rooms is the kitchen-diner. It's perfect for entertaining with its dining space and bi-fold doors leading onto the garden. I love to experiment with the styling, often changing it with the seasons. I added the branch in the autumn, but it's become a year-round feature which changes with the seasons too. I'm really enjoying being a little more creative and experimental in this house! @theonebespoke

Leopard living

I'm an eclectic home stylist and have a variety of different décor styles throughout my home. This area though is my favourite. I'm a lover of animal print and when I saw this chair, I just knew I had to have it! I styled it with these gorgeous houseplants – another thing I can't say no to – to give it a natural vibe. I now spend most of my time either sitting here with a cup of tea or trying to keep my three little boys and their mucky fingers away from it.

@in_the_house_that_we_live



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Pink to make the...

My home is full of colour and pieces that make me smile. I love everything bold and nothing grey. My pink door has completely transformed the front of our home and really stands out on the street! @lucyhamiltonathome



A squeeze of lime

We took a leap of faith and opted for really dark grey walls – Railings from Farrow & Ball. It's made the whole room feel really cosy. I've attempted to offset the grey with colourful furnishings and a modern gallery wall with matching gold frames, which complement the combination of greens and pinks. The velvet dining chairs and ottoman bring texture and give a luxurious mid-century feel, while the geometric rug brings an Art Deco quality.

@at_home_with_harry





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Very very.co.uk
Vibrant Home
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Villa Nova villanova.co.uk

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Editor-in-Chief Anna-Lisa De'Ath
Features Editors Catriona Burns, Michelle Grady
Staff Writers Catherine Smalley, Hannah Tribe, Sophie Demetriades
Editorial Assistants Ella Rhys-Jones, Katie Dutton
Designers Sally Bufton, Emily Waite, Libby Parfitt, Beth Charlton Lucas

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Senior Ad Designers Andrew Hobson, Cee Piken

MARKETING AND PRODUCTION

Subscriptions Director Jacky Perales-Morris
Direct Marketing Executive Emma Hunter
Director of Licensing and Syndication
Tim Hudson
Syndication Manager Richard Bentley
Production Director Sarah Powell
Junior Production Coordinator Georgia Tolley
PR Manager Toby Hicks

PUBLISHING

Managing Director Marie Davies
Promotions and Partnerships Manager
Rosa Sherwood
Group Managing Director
Andy Marshall
CEO Tom Bureau

CONTACT

Contact HomeStyle at
Immediate Media Co, Eagle House,
Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST
Advertising Enquiries:
Tel: 0117 300 8805
Subscription enquiries:
Email: yourhome@buysubscriptions.com
Tel: 0330 135 8962 (Overseas: 01604 266373)
Editorial enquiries
Email: Yourhome@immediate.co.uk
Tel: 0117 927 9009

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IN CONVERSATION WITH

Clarissa Hulse

We speak to the homeware designer about her career

How did it all begin?

I graduated in textiles from Brighton Art College in the Nineties and moved to London to work as a freelance textile designer. It was here that I started my hand-printed scarf business. This took off really quickly and I got orders from Liberty London and New York department stores such as Barneys and Nieman Marcus. While I loved my scarves, I decided to widen my range and started to design home accessories in 2002.

Describe a typical day

Every day is different! I pack my two children off to school before heading into the studio. Then it can be anything from shooting a new collection, discussing updates to the website, printing and sampling, or organising events in the studio, or I can be out meeting suppliers or retailers. My job is so diverse, which is why I love it.

What is your style?

Definitely maximalist! I love old pieces of furniture that are full of character; I have collected many over the years and enjoy the eclectic look they create in my home. I also enjoy reupholstering pieces using my own fabric. Also, colour! I couldn't live without bright and beautiful colours in the home.

Why are plants important to you?

The evolution of plants, the different seasons and the wonderful colours they bring – it all fascinates me! My designs are often drawn from my nature photography, which is just as likely to originate from a tropical

rainforest as Highbury Fields, a stone's throw from the studio.

Who are you stalking on Instagram?

I love the delicate watercolour paintings of @rustlingleaf, the ceramics of @jowalkerceramics, and the nature photography of @sannalinn is just so beautiful.

Where do you find your inspiration?

My father was a diplomat, so my family moved around a lot when I was little. We spent time in Bangkok, Athens, Berne and Vienna, to name a few. My mother would make each house feel homely with beautiful textiles and handicrafts from local markets.

What is your proudest career moment?

Working with Harlequin was incredible as they were able to bring my designs to life and distribute them globally. I also feel very proud when people tag me in on house projects they have done using my fabrics and wallpapers – it's an honour!

How's 2020 looking?

In collaboration with Blinds 2go, I will be launching a big collection of blinds and curtains, with over 50 options to choose from! Last year we started running workshops in my studio in Highbury and they proved very popular, so we will be continuing with those too. I also have four new bed linen designs and a towel collection coming out, all inspired by my time travelling in Costa Rica.

For more from Clarissa, visit www.clarissahulse.com.



Clarissa's botanical designs capture her love of nature



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Welcome



At last spring is slowly bursting through the gloom of winter. What better time to refresh your décor and revamp your outside space ready to welcome warmer weather and longer days? We've filled this special magazine with plenty of inspiring ways to update your home both inside and out. Discover how to give your rooms a bright new look with our pick of the freshest

spring colour schemes – you're sure to find one you'll fall in love with. We also take a look at the latest home fragrance products designed to fill your rooms with uplifting scents and improve your mood. If you want to perk up your patio or garden, take a look at our edit of the most budget-friendly furniture for every outdoor space. We've even got growing tips for creating a stunning display in a small urban garden, along with our fave outdoor accessories that all cost less than £20. So grab a paintbrush, or a trowel, and get your home and garden ready for spring!

Anna-Lisa

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CONTACT

Contact HomeStyle at

Immediate Media Co, Eagle House,

Colston Avenue, Bristol BS1 4ST

Advertising Enquiries:

Tel: 0117 300 8805

Subscription enquiries:

Email: yourhome@buysubscriptions.com

Tel: 0330 135 8962 (Overseas: 01604 266373)

Editorial enquiries

Email: Yourhome@immediate.co.uk

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Pick a new PALETTE

Refresh your home for the season ahead with one of these sophisticated sherbet shades

Add hints of this refreshing colour with carefully chosen accessories. This is a great solution if you're on a budget or renting.

Elements blush **tumbler**, £5; Elements blush **lotion dispenser**, £7; Elements dots blush **hand towel**, £8; foxtail **grass in grey pot**, £16; blush pink hygge **candle**, £5, all Dunelm



Bring a touch of pink to your dining scheme with this sleek, modern chair. Zuiver pair of Albert Kuip retro moulded **armchairs**, £450, Not On The High Street



Team pink with a splash of golden yellow for a vibrant update. House by John Lewis bouclé stripe **cushion**, £15, John Lewis & Partners



This pale pink bedroom has been given a fresh feel with hints of mint green and metallic gold, while the palm leaf print keeps it bang on trend too.

Fringe lamp, £20; **pink lamp**, £15; palm leaf **cushion**, £7; Paradise Palm **duvet set**, from £10; woven **cushion**, £7; fringe **cushion**, £9; Swoop Splice **duvet set**, from £12, all George Home



Pink and gold are a luxurious combo that can revive your room with chic style.

Senio circular **stool** in Pink, £99.99, MY Furniture



Soft pink

Embrace the new season with a pretty pink scheme. This beautifully feminine shade creates a chic, calming look and can lighten even the darkest corners of your home. Use alongside a spectrum of greens to keep it light and bright, or add a modern vibe with deeper colours, such as navy or charcoal. Metallic touches can add depth to a predominantly pink scheme. Choose copper, gold or rose gold to bring an extra touch of warmth.



We love the vintage appeal of this pretty pink pressed glass mug. Embossed pink **glass mugs**, £16 for four, Dibor



A tonal scheme can provide depth and interest. Start from the floor upwards with this eye-catching rug. Carved linear **rug**, from £30, George Home



Introduce this springtime shade with statement pieces – it'll be the wake-up call your room's been crying out for. Four-seater chaise **sofa** in Blush, from £859, Sofology



Pale pink and fresh green are a great combination, giving a light and calming feel to any room in the house. Style Collection **small appliances**, from £50, Cuisinart



Get the look

Get Plastered emulsion and eggshell **paint**, £49.99 per 2.5L, Dowsing & Reynolds



Cole & Son Palm Leaves **wallpaper**, £85 per roll, John Lewis & Partners



Stain-free satin touch calico **carpet**, from £31 per sq m, Abingdon Flooring

Calm Leaf **fabric**, £18 per m, Prestigious Textiles

Beautiful hues of lilac and mauve bring a classic, feminine touch to your home.
Simply Burbidge Finsbury **kitchen** in Powder, from £11,000, Burbidge



An armchair in this refreshing hue can set the tone for the rest of the room.
Lily velvet **chair** in Lilac, £399, DFS



Place this pretty hue against a dark purple backdrop to really make the lilac pop.
Bella **double bed** in Dove Grey velvet, £1,310, Sofa.com



Group beautiful glassware to enhance a new colour scheme. Lilac, pink and yellow are perfect spring colours. Crystal Little Treasures amethyst **optic vase**, £20; Juno dusky pink **tall vase**, £24, both Dartington Crystal. Littala Kastehelmi **tealight holder**, £20, Cloudberry Living



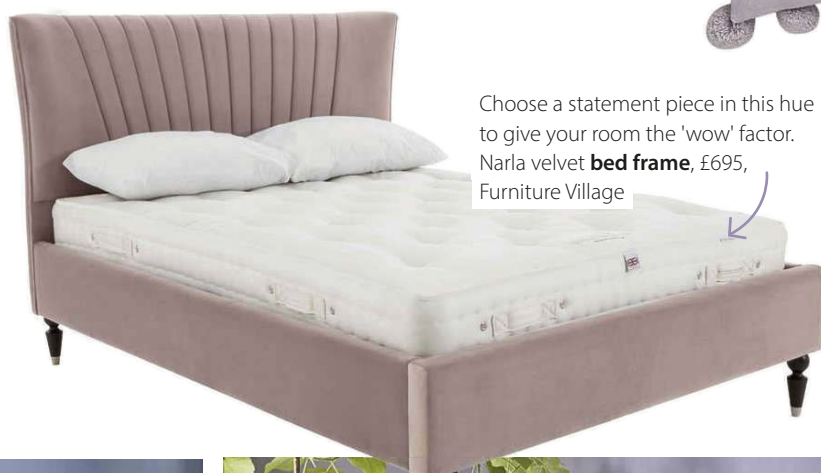
Lighting is a great way to introduce new colour combinations. Used with gold, lilac and pink gives a clean, crisp feel, while used with darker hues it can look bold and stylish.
La Forma Versa **table lamp** in Pink, £145, Cuckooland



Fresh lilac

Lilac is a versatile colour with a gentle, soothing feel. Perfect for reviving a room at this time of year, this pastel shade is a springtime favourite. Lilac can enhance a rustic setting with a simple colour palette, or highlight contemporary spaces when used with white to keep it clean and fresh. For a modern take, consider using lilac to lift dark, moody schemes – navy and pink are great additions.

We love the lilac and navy combo that's great for adding feminine feels with a modern edge – and who doesn't love a pompom? Pompom edge **cushion**, £12, Next. Barkweave navy **cushion**, £5, Dunelm



Choose a statement piece in this hue to give your room the 'wow' factor. Narla velvet **bed frame**, £695, Furniture Village

Get the look

Beauvoir silver **fabric**,
£33 per m,
Prestigious Textiles

Emile **chalk paint**,
£19.95 per litre,
Annie Sloan

Arthouse white-
washed wood panel
pattern **wallpaper**,
£9.99 per roll, I Want
Wallpaper

Lattice Hellebore
flooring, £46.80
per sq m,
Harvey Maria

This shade works brilliantly when
teamed with leafy green foliage
– let your green fingers grow or
invest in some faux arrangements.
iSense Splendour Saxony **carpet**
in Lilac, £26.99 per sq m, Carpetright



Mellow yellow

Yellow has been on our decorating radar for a while now, but it shows no sign of going anywhere as we see it in everything from wallpaper, to furniture and furnishings. It boasts a retro appeal when teamed with wooden tones and crisp whites in elegant, shapely forms, but channels warm, modern vibes when placed alongside pink and grey.

If you don't want to adorn your entire wall in this striking colour, consider colour blocks, a feature wall or half-height décor. Combine this with white, pale grey or pretty pink to keep it light and bright.

Grey **divan bed**, from £104; ivy carved **bedside table**, £89; Elements blume **duvet cover set**, from £12; Clara cotton dusky pink **cushion**, £12; chunky knit Breckon **throw**, £45; yellow painted wooden **tray**, £10; blush leaf pattern ceramic **vase**, £14, all Dunelm



Display new crockery to help enhance your decorating scheme – choose fun patterns alongside plains for an eclectic mix.

Green **stoneware**, from £2 each; **canister**, £8 each; wooden **coasters**, £8; lemon **trivet**, £8; lemon **plate**, £3.50; yellow **stoneware**, from £2.50 each, all Matalan



Yellow and pink are another great duo for this time of year; ideal for warming cold spaces and lifting your spirits.

Vittorio **two-seater sofa** in Le Mans Amber, £1,349, Sofology

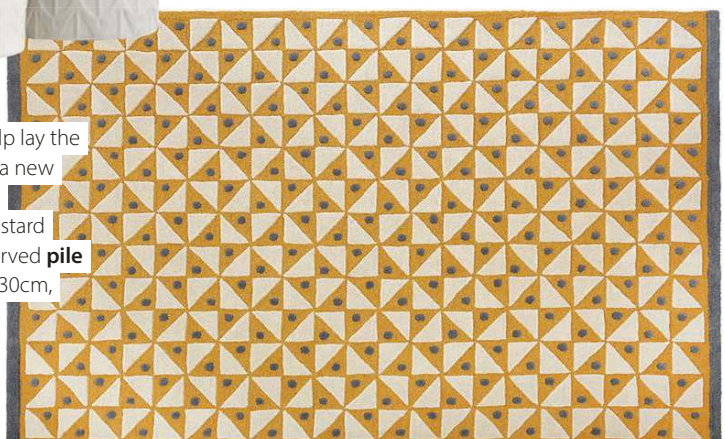
Yellow, white and grey are a winning trio for both modern and traditional homes.

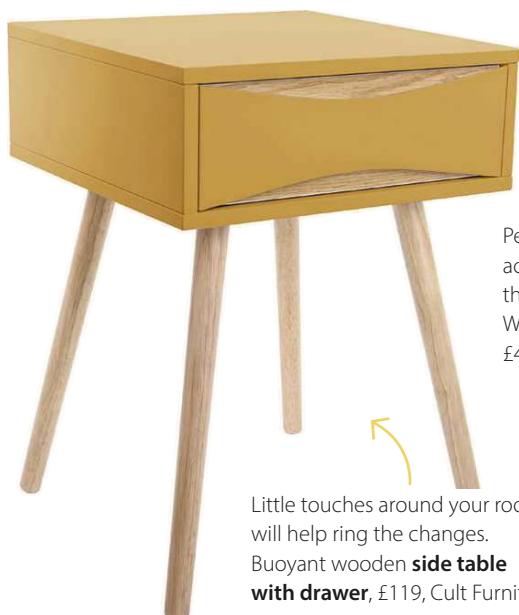
Tealight holders, £12 for three, Next



This rug will help lay the foundations of a new colour scheme.

Wyatt large mustard yellow hand-carved **pile rug**, 160cm x 230cm, £400, Habitat





Little touches around your room will help ring the changes. Buoyant wooden **side table with drawer**, £119, Cult Furniture

Perk up your bathroom with accessories in this trendy shade that don't have to break the bank. Woven bamboo **laundry basket**, £45, Oliver Bonas

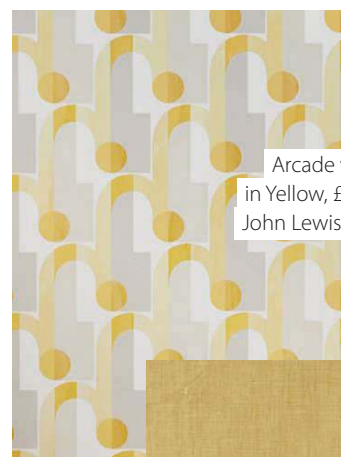


Whether you use it in the living or dining room, we love the mid-century style and yellow tone of this chair. Calvin **armchair** in Yellow Velvet and Linen, £399, Atkin & Thyme



A room refresh doesn't have to cost the earth. Introduce yellow in textiles and easily changeable items, such as side tables and lampshades, bed linen and cushions. Two-tier **shade**, £9; Bee Happy **wall art**, £14; etched dragonfly print cylinder **vase**, £8; ceramic bees & butterflies **frame**, £8; set of three **drawers**, £14; ochre allium **double duvet set**, £14; bee cushion, £6; ochre jumbo cord **cushion**, £10; grey jumbo cord **cushion**, £10; ochre bouclé **throw**, £18, all Tesco

Get the look

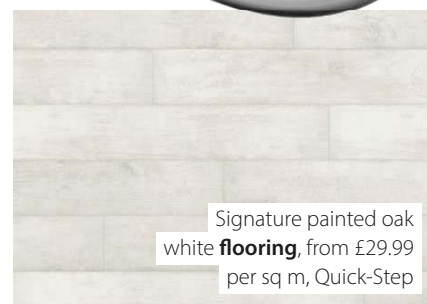


Arcade **wallpaper** in Yellow, £30 per roll, John Lewis & Partners

Angelo Saffron **fabric**, from £26.40 per m, Clarke & Clarke



Surrendered Skies **matt emulsion**, £29.16 per 2.5l, Dulux



Signature painted oak white **flooring**, from £29.99 per sq m, Quick-Step

Spring greens

As we head into the new season, foliage bursts back onto the scene and our surroundings become rich in this flourishing hue. So it makes sense to bring it indoors and breathe new life into our homes too. With so many shades to play with, there's always a colour to suit your home and your style. For more traditional homes, go for a pastel shade that can be kept light and airy when paired with white and light wooden tones. In a modern environment you can be bold, so adorn walls in a strong, leafy green and introduce other tones to provide interest. To soften the look, add pink to the mix.



A statement wall in a bold spring green can breathe new life into your home and be the perfect backdrop for your new look.

Multi bee **cushion**, £6; velvet geo **cushion**, £7; artificial rubber **tree**, £30; woven **basket**, £10; green velvet **cushion**, £5; two-tone check **cushion**, £7; cotton tassel **cushion**, £7, all George Home



Use a spectrum of greens for a full refresh, from lime to mint, turquoise, olive and moss, but keep the space grounded with warm wooden tones. Crystalline AF-485 and Cushing Green HC-125 Regal Select matte **paint**, from £23 per 0.94L, both Benjamin Moore

Green works particularly well with white and natural tones.

Green reactive **small canister**, £6; green reactive **large canister**, £8; mango wood-effect **frame**, from £3; recycled glass large **tumbler**, £3.50, all Dunelm



Don't forget to spring forward with this stylish addition. Newgate Clocks Mr Clarke **wall clock**, £65, Amara



Be bold and choose a piece of furniture that will add this hue with a punch. Sexton **two-seater sofa** in Retro Green, £399.99, My Furniture



Warm up a green scheme with touches of pink.
Turin 12-piece **dinner set**, £16; Turin **pasta bowl**,
£2.50; Turin **mug**, £1.50; heart recycled **vase**, £3, all Tesco



Foliage is the best way to introduce green into your home, and there are so many amazing faux options available, so you don't have to be Alan Titchmarsh to keep these going!

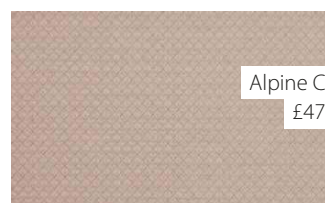
Trailing **faux houseplant**,
£8, Argos Home



Make mealtimes a stylish affair with new crockery in the perfect seasonal shade.
Estuary pad print **side plate**,
£3.75 each, Sainsbury's Home

Get the look

Alpine Coral **fabric**,
£47 per m, ILIV



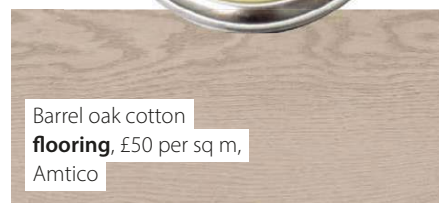
Grandeco Botanical
tropical leaves **wallpaper**,
£12.99 per roll (in the sale),
I Want Wallpaper



Crab-apple and Cuttings
pure matt **paint**,
from £22.50 per litre,
Fenwick & Tilbrook



Barrel oak cotton
flooring, £50 per sq m,
Amtico



Mix and match leafy
green cushions for added
interest on your sofa.
Ashleigh leaf **cushion**,
£8, Dunelm



Simple stylish collections can help you add hints of
this shade around the home. Green glass **candle
votives and vase set**, £37, Beaumonde



Team this pale hue with light wood tones and royal blues for a scheme that oozes sophistication and style. Scandi **dining chair** in French Grey, £299; Villa Nova Norland lined eyelet **curtains**, from £110; wired **hi-ball**, £7; **tumbler**, £5; spot stem **wine glass**, £8; **cereal bowl** in Denim, £9; artisan tall **salad bowl**, £30; artisan **dinner plate**, £10; artisan **side plate**, £8; artisan **pasta bowl**, £10; **dip bowl**, £5; linen **napkins** in Delft Blue, £14 for two, all John Lewis & Partners



An eclectic mix of cushions in plain pale blues and patterns make for an easy colour update. Blue tufted spot **cushion**, £8, George Home



We love the speckled pattern on these earthy blue plates – perfect for bringing this colour to the table. Olmo dinner **plate**, £10 each, Habitat



Pale blue and white keeps this room crisp, clean and light; ideal for seeing in the new season. Windmill Wings 2067-60 Regal Select matte **paint**, from £23 per 0.94L, Benjamin Moore



Be bold and add pattern and colour to your floors. The mix of pale blue and navy make this flooring a stylish choice. Eclipse 575 Eleanor vinyl **flooring**, £17.24 per sq m, Carpetright

Choose a beautiful blue kitchen for a classic refresh. Langton **kitchen** in Bespoke Pantone Placid Blue, from £14,500, Burbidge



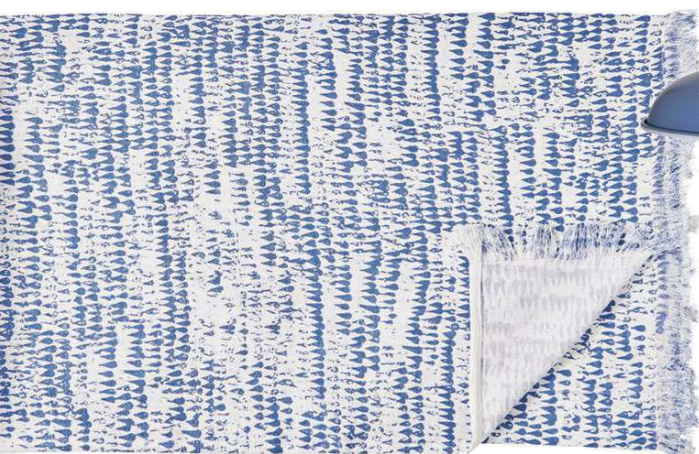
Pale blue

This refreshing shade is great for a room revamp, whether you go nautical, country or modern. Blue is a cool colour, so consider your space carefully before you commit the paint to the brush! Smaller, colder rooms that are north-facing won't be the best for a pale blue scheme, so keep it as a secondary colour or use it in warmer spaces that benefit from a lot of natural sunlight. To stop blue schemes becoming too clinical and stark, mix in warmer accents. Think neutral tones, pops of navy and touches of baby pink.

For a tonal scheme, the rich blue of this light will work perfectly against a pale backdrop. Toulon **pendant light** in Lulworth Blue Steel, £85, Garden Trading



Update an armchair, sofa or bed for the months ahead with this throw. Woven fringe-edge pigmented **throw**, £25, JD Williams Home

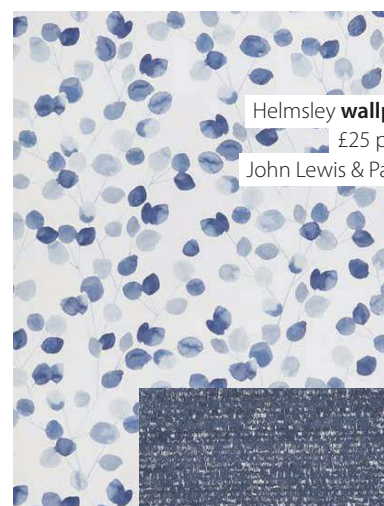


Revive floors with a rug in this must-have hue. Mirage Abstract blue **rug**, from £51.19, Carpetright



This budget-busting find makes refreshing your home a breeze. Blue Scandinavian **duvet set**, from £10, George Home

Get the look



Helmsley **wallpaper**, £25 per roll, John Lewis & Partners

Euphoria Indigo **fabric**, £24 per m, Prestigious Textiles



Mineral Mist **emulsion**, £7.20 per litre, Dulux



Signature cracked oak natural **flooring**, from £29.99 per sq m, Quick-Step

SPRING - IS IN - *the air*

Fill your home with the fresh scents of the new season

The heady perfume of bulb flowers, April showers on warming earth, new leaves unfurling, the first cut of the lawn and the aroma of sunshine on soil. All these fragrances tell us that winter has passed and a new season is beginning. Bring these fresh outdoor scents into your home with the latest fragranced candles and diffusers.



Spring candles, £20 small, £60 large; Spring home spray, £16; Spring diffuser, £27; Claydon bud vase, £6, all The White Company



Minty Bonbon candle, £36, Petits Rituels

BURN TIME: up to 40 hours
FRAGRANCE NOTES: Spearmint, lemongrass

A by Amara cut glass ball candle, £12, Amara

BURN TIME: 15 hours approx.

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Lemon, bergamot, jasmine, sandalwood, amber, musk, tonka bean, vanilla



Casa Zilli Rosemary candle, £25, Sacla

BURN TIME: 40 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Rosemary



Urban Apothecary London Special Edition luxury candle in Mandarin Glace, £40, Amara

BURN TIME: 60 hours approx.

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Mandarin, clementine, physalis, frankincense, Peru balsam, vanilla, toffee

Infused with a warm scent of suede and tonka, this real wax pillar candle is battery operated and emits a flickering warm white light.

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Suede, tonka bean

Energising candle, £26, Espa

BURN TIME: 40 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Peppermint, eucalyptus, lime, rosemary



Fellowstead Orange Peel & Ginger candle, £18, Royal Opera House

BURN TIME:

30 hours approx.

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Ginger, pepper, honey, coriander, orange



Glow Aromatherapy candle, £38, Kiss the Moon

BURN TIME: 50+ hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Orange, geranium



Hygge soft suede textured LED pillar candle, £8, Dunelm

Electronic **diffuser**, £65; Lime & Bay **fragrance oil**, £8 for 15ml, both The White Company



This chic ceramic and wood diffuser creates a delicate mist which fragrances the air.

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Mandarin, pink grapefruit, bergamot, orange, lime, lemon, jasmine buds, lime blossom, ginger, bay leaves, patchouli

The elegant pierced ceramic Sophie aroma diffuser emits a fragranced mist combined with a soft colour changing light.

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Pink grapefruit, violet leaf, jasmine, gardenia, vanilla, sandalwood

Optimism candle, £29, Eloise Hall

BURN TIME: 45 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Grapefruit, petitgrain



Four luxury candle, £30, No Secrets

BURN TIME: 25 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Lavender, geranium, neroli, ylang-ylang, patchouli



Sophie diffuser, £59.99; Spring Signature **fragrance oil**, £4.50 for 15ml, both Made by Zen



Wax Lyrical Sicilian Lemon Verbena candle, £7, Dunelm

BURN TIME:

38 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Lemon verbena



Wicks and Stones Infinity Pyrite candle, £39, John Lewis & Partners

BURN TIME: 60+ hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES: Lemongrass, florals, lemon, lime



Diffusers

Residence Cartise Fig and Olive Blossom reed diffuser, £34, Ted Baker

FRAGRANCE LIFECYCLE:

Up to three months

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Bergamot, fig, olive blossom, geranium, orange blossom, red cedar, musk, warm amber



Clean Cotton reed diffuser, £3, Primark

FRAGRANCE LIFECYCLE:

Up to eight weeks

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

White lilac, amber



Fig & Elderflower, Apricot & Wild Herbs, Sea Salt & Lemon diffusers, £10 for a set of three, Next

FRAGRANCE LIFECYCLE:

Up to four weeks

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Fig, elderflower; apricot, wild herbs; salt, citrus



Stardust candle, £12, Kiss Air

BURN TIME: 30-35 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Soft powder, bergamot, lily, musk, sandalwood



Grapefruit, Tonca & Yuzu candle, £25, Sara Miller

BURN TIME: 60 hours

FRAGRANCE NOTES:

Grapefruit, bergamot, yuzu, florals, tonka bean



Gardena's NatureUp! range of planters are designed specifically for urban spaces

BRIGHT IDEAS — FOR — *tiny gardens*

No matter how small your outdoor space, liven it up this summer with oodles of colour

Reach for the sky

One of the best ways to get the most out of a diminutive space is to make good use of any vertical surfaces that enclose the area. This may be boundary fences or the walls of outbuildings, sheds or your own property. Most upwardly mobile plants have a small footprint and therefore take up a small amount of overall ground space.

The one great advantage of climbing plants in full flower is that they can be appreciated at eye level, so opt for varieties that have beautiful fragrances such as climbing roses, of which many will happily grow in north-facing, shady positions. If the site gets some sun during the day, add clematis, annual sweet peas or morning glory to extend the flowering period, and make sure you deadhead regularly to encourage the production of new buds.

Green Basics **Drainpipe Clickers**, £5.79 each, Elho, are a great way to disguise an ugly pipe



Plants grown vertically in pockets are perfect for tiny spaces and add a welcome splash of colour. Mix in some herbs among the flowers for a mini kitchen garden

You will need to attach a series of horizontal wires or trellis panels to the fence or wall for the climbers to be tied into. Plus, when any new plants are getting their roots established, you should keep them well watered.

BLOOMS FOR YOUR BALCONY

Just because you only have a balcony, that shouldn't stop you from adorning it with beautiful plants. The clever Dutch designers at Elho have created a whole series of practical planters that clip onto balconies or railings, allowing homeowners to inject masses of colour into a small area. They have even designed nifty little pots called Green Basics Drainpipe Clickers. Costing just £5.79, they can be firmly attached to drainpipes and filled with seasonal bedding plants, herbs, small bulbs or hardy evergreens such as trailing ivy.

Free-standing, vertical planting

systems are another ingenious way of transforming a pocket-sized space into a fully-functioning mini garden. If you can position one in a sunny site, then don't just stick to growing flowers; incorporate a few edibles into your planting scheme such as Mediterranean herbs, cut-and-come-again salad crops, trailing tomatoes and juicy strawberries.

The NatureUp! system from Gardena is a product that's been designed with city dwellers in mind. It's perfect for those who have access to balconies, roof terraces, small patios and courtyard spaces. It consists of lightweight, weatherproof, plastic containers that can be stacked together vertically using a simple connecting system. Once they're all attached, the structure can be left free-standing or mounted onto a wall. Gardena tools and products are available from all good DIY stores and garden centres nationwide.



A hanging basket takes up minimal space and can still pack a hefty punch of colour

Add pops of colour

You don't have to rely exclusively on flowering plants to inject colour into a garden. Painted structures, statement pots and accessories such as ornate parasols or shade sails can enhance a landscape and unite it with the interior of the property. Painted walls or fences make wonderful backdrops for plants, especially when they're in close proximity to hanging baskets or beautifully-planted containers.

Bear in mind that less is more in a limited space, so don't be afraid to introduce a big, bold statement item rather than a collection of smaller pieces which may make the area look cluttered.

This Forest Garden Victorian Tall Wall greenhouse, £399.99, that's finished in a soft shade of pink, will enhance any garden where space is at a premium. It's supplied unpainted, giving you the opportunity to customise it to your own personal taste. For gardeners who enjoy growing plants from seed or taking cuttings but don't have space for a standard greenhouse, this is the perfect compromise.

An ornate structure, such as this, offers artistic gardeners the opportunity to use it in a variety of ways, from growing crops out of season to displaying collections of plants and even gardening ephemera such as old terracotta pots and vintage tools.



This Victorian Tall Wall **greenhouse**, £399.99 from Forest Garden, has been given the 'wow' factor with a lick of sherbet pink paint

Stevie **parasol**, £399, East London Parasols



If space allows, squeeze in a small, colourful table and chairs set to give you a base from which to enjoy the fruits of your labour and enjoy some alfresco dining. Dress it up with pretty, soft furnishings, such as comfy cushions and throws on the backs of chairs for chilly mornings or evenings. A colourful parasol will provide much-needed shade on hot days, while also adding a touch of elegant opulence to the décor.

GET CREATIVE WITH YOUR GARDEN

The East London Parasol Company sells the most divine range of handmade parasols in an array of colours and decadent designs, with prices starting at £315. Its 3m wooden parasols are available with interchangeable covers, so you can swap your parasol whenever you fancy changing up your garden's theme or colour scheme.

Create some unusual, eye-catching focal points in your outdoor space by repurposing unused items from the house or garden and transforming them into planters. Old metal watering cans or vegetable racks that have plenty of drainage holes make great containers when filled with plants. Even an old wheelbarrow that is past its sell-by date can be given a new lease of life with a pretty display of seasonal plants. Plus, its wheels make it easy to move around the garden when more space is needed for entertaining.

Remember to be adventurous with pots and containers. Instead of leaving them on the ground at the same level, display them on a simple three-tiered plant stand, which affords a clear view of each pot and minimises the space they would have otherwise occupied on the ground.

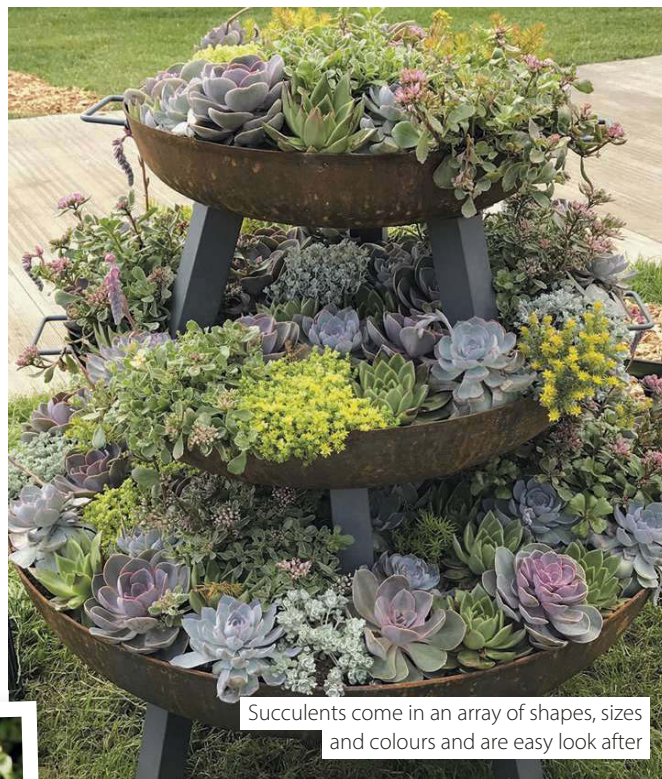
Plant fabulous foliage

Foliage plants can be a great asset when it comes to adding texture and contrast to a garden's overall appearance. In fact, several varieties could rival flowers with their flamboyant leaves.

Coleus are enjoying a huge resurgence in popularity, thanks to modern breeding programmes which have resulted in wonderful, brightly-coloured new introductions. These interesting plants have tactile, velvety leaves in a myriad of mixed shades, from lime green and pink to burgundy and vibrant orange. They are easy to grow and thrive well in sun or shade.

Thompson & Morgan sell the Coleus Freaky Leaves Collection, from £9.99 for five jumbo plug plants, which comprises a diverse mix of interesting colour combinations that have defined veined and crinkled leaves.

Look also to hardy foliage plants such as low-growing, ornamental grasses which have more than one season of interest and make great bed fellows when mixed with flowering plants of a similar size. Collections of hostas, succulents or evergreen herbs all make attractive displays when grouped together too, especially if you can find containers that complement the size and shape of the plants.



Succulents come in an array of shapes, sizes and colours and are easy look after

Display a variety of foliage shapes in a group of pots for added impact



TAKE CARE OF YOUR PLANTS

One important thing to remember with any plants that enjoy life in a container, is that they rely totally on the care given to them by their owners. Unlike plants that grow in the ground which can send out a network of roots to collect their nutrients and moisture, plants in pots will struggle to survive if they are overlooked for any length of time. Feed and water them regularly and they will repay you with a beautiful display, but if you forget about them then your investment will be lost.

Absent-minded or very busy gardeners may prefer to purchase a solar-powered watering system, which is easy to install and will automatically water plants on a regular basis. Alternatively, gardeners can plant into containers that have a reservoir of water in the base of the pot. Lechuza manufacture a wide range of self-watering planters for indoor and outdoor use that have a clever built-in sub-irrigation system that ensures the plants in the container always receive the correct amount of water. Prices start at £29.99 for the Lechuza Balconera Stone 50 in Graphite Black from Amazon.

Variegated Cordylines, from a selection at Squires Garden Centres, add structure and drama to small space planting schemes





Coleus Freaky Leaves, from a selection at Thompson & Morgan, add welcome interest with their unusual foliage

Go big with begonias

If you live in an urban environment or new-build property, chances are your outdoor space may not be generously proportioned. It may also be surrounded by tall fences and neighbouring buildings which cast shade across valuable planting areas. But don't look upon the negative aspects of your garden as a problem. Instead, turn them into an opportunity to create an oasis of beauty by using plants that thrive in partial shade and won't let you down whatever the weather.

Modern hybrid begonias take the highs and lows of summer in their stride. These robust, stalwarts of summer bedding displays show a willingness to flower in damp, dull, dry or hot conditions and unlike many other summer bedding plants that need the sun to flourish, they cope extraordinarily well in shady areas – in fact, they will even respond heroically to a little neglect.

For hanging baskets, window boxes and relatively tall containers, opt for the pendulous varieties that cascade freely, repeat flower and need a minimum amount of maintenance once planted.



Begonia Non-Stop Mocca Mixed, from £11.99 for 36 **plug plants**, Thompson & Morgan



Begonia Apricot Shades, from £9.99 for 24 **plug plants**, Thompson & Morgan

There are numerous varieties to choose from, but the popular variety, Apricot Shades, has large, cascading, double blooms in tones of orange, peach, amber and as the name suggests, apricot, which act like beacons of light in a shady corner.

As with all containerised plants, incorporate some slow-release fertiliser pellets into the soil at the initial planting stage because the nutrients in any compost diminishes within a few weeks of planting. Do also remember to water regularly, even after lengthy periods of rain, as the canopy of foliage and flowers can act like an umbrella and stop rainwater from getting to the roots.

KNOW YOUR BEGONIAS

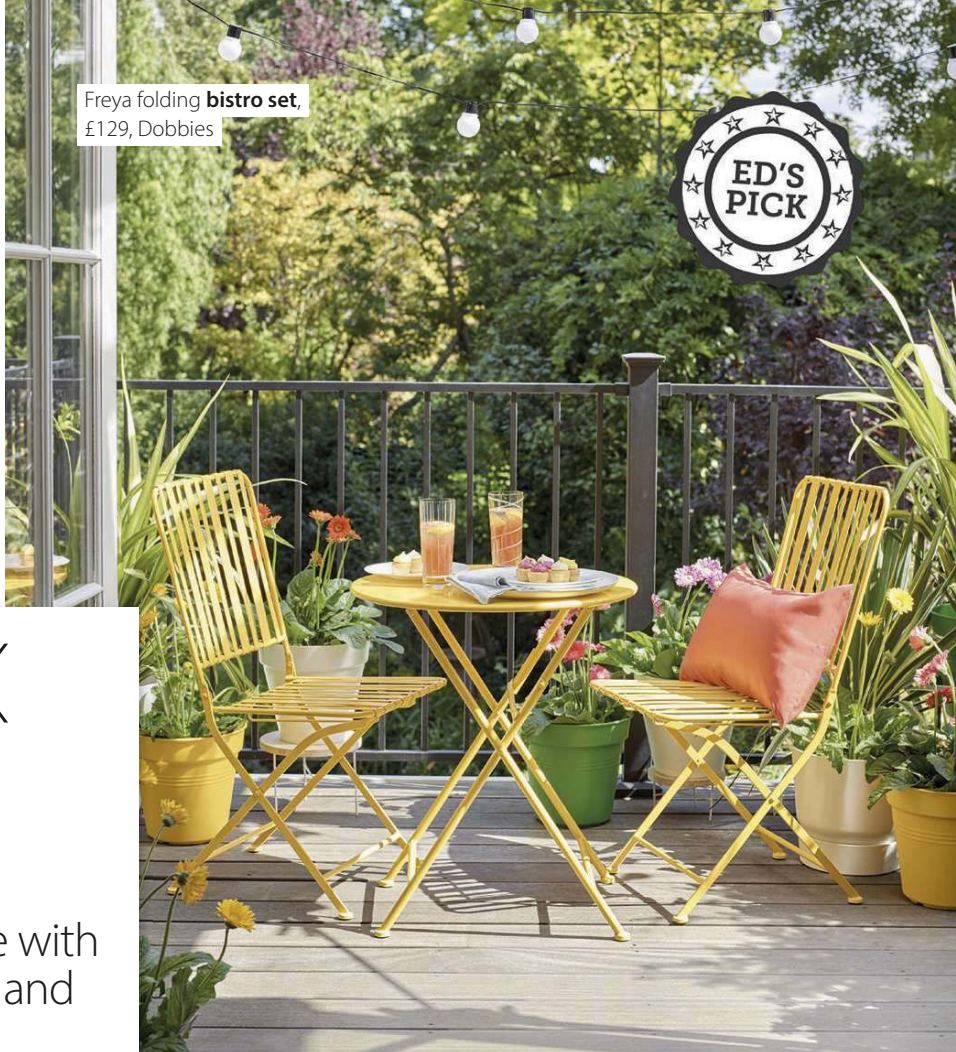
For borders and beds, the begonia Non-Stop Mocca Mixed grows to about a foot in height and width, and its double flowers, in a riot of bright colours, will cheer up any border until they are hit by frosts in autumn.

Buy the begonia plants in garden-ready plug form so they grow quickly as soon as they are planted and you can appreciate them sooner. However, you should hold back on exposing them to night-time temperatures until all chance of frost has passed, usually mid-May onwards, depending on where you live. Prices start at £9.99 for 24 begonia plug plants from Thompson & Morgan.



Mosaic **bistro set**, £100, Wilko

Freya folding **bistro set**,
£129, Dobbies



SIT BACK – AND – *relax*

Perk up your outdoor space with our purse-friendly garden and patio purchases

Spring is finally here – and we've got just the furniture to transform your outdoor area into a multipurpose haven for solo relaxation and entertaining friends. Let's start with our carefully curated selection of brand-new – and affordable – bistro sets.



Rive Droite **bistro set small**,
£120, Garden Trading



Helsinki Bronze **bistro set**,
£39, Dunelm



Kingfisher rattan-effect **two-seater bistro set**, £95, Dunelm



Wooden **deck chair** in Rainforest, £35, Argos



Nicodemus Zero Gravity **reclining sun loungers**, £64.99 for a set of two, Wayfair



Suntime Monte Carlo **sun lounger**, £85, John Lewis

Lounger love

No garden is complete without a sun lounger or deck chair to recline on and bask in the heat. Check out the selection of bargain buys we've pooled together from some of your favourite high street shops.

Cherine outdoor **sun lounger**, £73.99, Wayfair



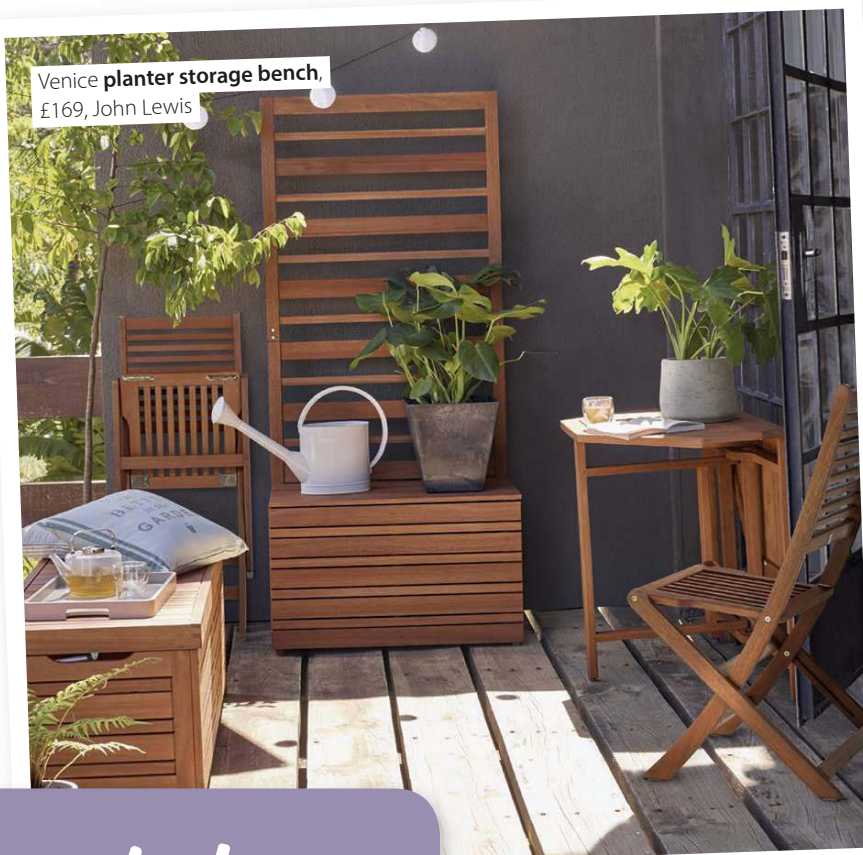
Miami garden **reclining chair**, £140 for a set of two, John Lewis & Partners



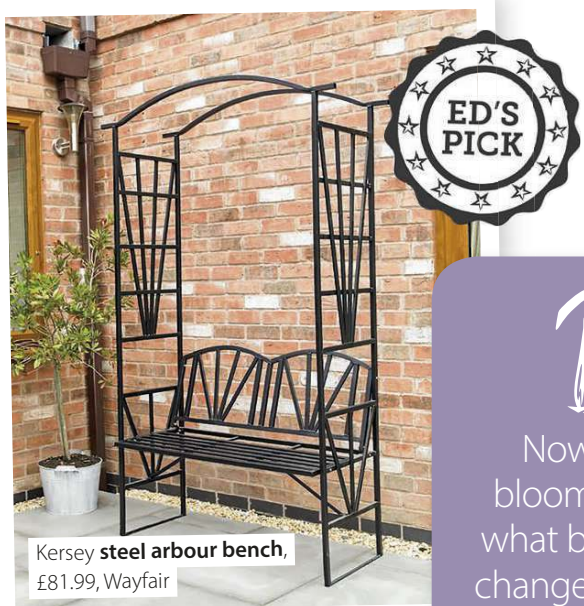
Millicent **reclining sun lounger**, £62.99, Wayfair



Steel wicker **two-seater garden bench** in Brown, £40, Argos



Venice **planter storage bench**, £169, John Lewis



Kersey **steel arbour bench**, £81.99, Wayfair

Bench life

Now is the season for budding blooms and buzzing wildlife – and what better way to sit and enjoy the changes in your garden than with an outdoor bench? Here are our budget-friendly buys that fit the bill...



Newbury wooden **two-seater garden bench**, £60, Argos



Steel wicker **two-seater garden bench**, £40, Argos



Country **metal bench**, £75, Wilko



Tott and Eling
four-seater dining set,
£107.99, Wayfair



Fris **four-seater dining set**, £146.99, Wayfair



Palma **rattan-effect lounge seat**, £175, Wilko

Altresco dining

When the day is bright and the weather is warm, that means it's time to invite a few friends over for a garden gathering. Cue our list of dining table and chair sets which will have you ready for some outdoor entertaining.



Bronze Helsinki **four-seater dining set**, £129, Dunelm



Rowlinson rectangular **wooden picnic table**, £95, Homebase



Plympt **four-seater dining set**, £195.99, Wayfair



A wide selection of animal habitats and feeders are available from the National Trust Shop



MAKE YOUR GARDEN A *wildlife haven*

The bee's knees

The first step to creating a wildlife-friendly garden is to encourage insects. They will be a rich source of food for larger animals, such as birds and hedgehogs, who will be tempted into your garden to feast. Provide food for the insects themselves by planting a range of native plants in pots or beds and sowing wildflower seeds into neglected corners. Choose nectar-rich species, such as cornflowers and red clover, and, if you have the space, foxgloves and borage. Wildflower seed mixes take the guesswork out of choosing which wildflowers to sow and you'll be able to find specific mixes that suit the soil in your area. It's also a good idea to stop weeding, as butterflies and other pollinators love feeding on nettles and dandelions.

Once you've got the food sorted out, they'll also need somewhere to live. Make a log pile by stacking up old sticks and untreated wood in a shady spot. Many insects will quickly set up camp in the rotting wood. Bee hotels also make great habitats for solitary bees and other small creatures.



Bat mix **seedball tin**, £6, Seedball

Beepot mini, £35, Green&Blue

Butterflybom **seedbom**, £3.95, Kabloom



A red admiral butterfly takes a drink from a nectar-rich buddleia, or 'butterfly bush'

Photo Getty Images

Top tips

- Raising your mower blades by a few centimetres will protect insects living close to the ground.
- Place tiles in sunny spots for cold-blooded species, such as slow worms, to warm up underneath.
- Avoid pruning shrubs and hedges in spring so that nesting birds aren't disturbed.

Birds of a feather

Covering bare walls and fences with climbing plants will give birds plenty of cover for nesting. Although it is often removed by tidy gardeners, ivy is one of the best plants you can use. Not only do the evergreen leaves provide year-round protection, the winter berries are devoured by thrushes, waxwings and blackbirds.

If you place feeders close to plants that provide shelter for smaller birds, they have something to duck and hide into when there's a predator about. Be consistent with your feeding routine as birds will rely upon bird tables and feeders when natural food sources are short. As a general rule, give your birds high-fat food in the winter months so that they can store enough energy to keep them warm. High-fat foods include peanuts and suet balls. During the spring and summer, birds need high-protein foods, such as mealworms and black sunflower seeds, to help them through the breeding season.



Wild Premium wild bird **feeding station**, £12, Wilko



Woodstone double house martin **nest**, £19.99, Gardenature



Plaited **nesting container**, set of three, £21.50, Manufactum



Male blue tits will try to woo potential mates with gifts of food, such as caterpillars

Photo Getty Images

Animal magnetism

Once you have an established community of insects and birds, mammals will start to move in. Hedgehogs will love the slugs that live around the wood pile and mice will nibble on seed dropped by untidy birds. Get an idea of who's visiting by filling a seed tray or an old baking tray with play sand. Level off the surface and place a shallow bowl containing a little cat or dog food in the centre. Put it out overnight and in the morning you should see the tracks of anything that's arrived for a midnight snack.



Stourhead Collection **bat box**, £22, National Trust Shop



Hedgehog **feeding tray**, £4.98, Riverside Woodcraft



Garden Trading **hedgehog house**, £40, John Lewis & Partners

ECOPOTS Brussels low round **flower pot** in White, £9.95, ashortwalk



Frogilo **frog and toad house**, £23.95, Eden Project Shop

Toad in the hole

Creating a pond, no matter how small, is one of the best things you can do to attract wildlife into your garden. It'll provide drinking water for birds and mammals, and a habitat for insects and amphibians. If you don't have the space to dig a pond, it's easy to make one in a large flower pot or bucket. Just make sure it's watertight first!

Place some large stones into the pot to create 'steps' out of the pond – this will give anything that accidentally falls in a way to get out again. Gaps between these stones will make great underwater hiding places for tadpoles and dragonfly larvae. Ideally, fill the pond with collected rainwater, as tap water can contain minerals that will make algae grow excessively. Add one or two aquatic plants to complete your pond. It's good to have a mix of submerged, marginal and floating plants.

REPURPOSE *a pallet*

Stay sitting pretty in your garden
on this upcycled seat

Top Tip

If you want to make the chair bigger, then simply add between 10 to 20cm to the main measurements.

Like the other projects in Hester van Overbeek's new book, *Pallet Wood Projects for Outdoor Spaces*, this picture-perfect chair is made from recycled pallet wood, so not only does it look impressive, it also takes the pressure off your purse and the planet! With just a few tools, some wood planks and a bit of know-how, you'll be able to whip up this chair in a couple of days, then you can sit back, relax and enjoy your handiwork.

Takes 2 days

You will need

- * 60 x 180cm outdoor plywood, 18mm thick
- * 12 pallet wood planks
- * pencil
- * ruler
- * jigsaw
- * palm sander
- * saw
- * drill driver with 4mm wood drill and countersink
- * 40mm wood screws
- * spirit level

1 To make the side piece, draw an L-shape on the plywood [A] to the following dimensions: back, 70cm; bottom, 60cm; front, 30cm. The seat bottom should be 30cm deep, as should the top of the 'L'

2 Soften the top and bottom corners of the front of the chair [B]. Use light

pencil marks so you can rub them out and adjust the lines as necessary. Shape the backrest by giving it a curve at the top and drawing a dip in the seat.

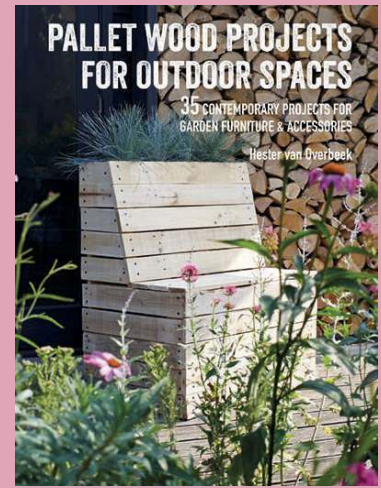
3 Cut out the shape with a jigsaw [C], then sand the cut edges smooth. You now have one side of the chair. Use this cut-out piece as a template. Place it on the remaining plywood sheet, trace around it, cut it out and sand the edges.

4 To make the slats, trim the pallet wood planks into 45cm lengths, then cut these planks in half widthwise and sand the raw edges. This chair used 51 slats, but the total number depends on how closely you fit them. Drill a 4mm hole at each end of the slats [D], ensuring they're 1cm in from the edge and are in the centre.

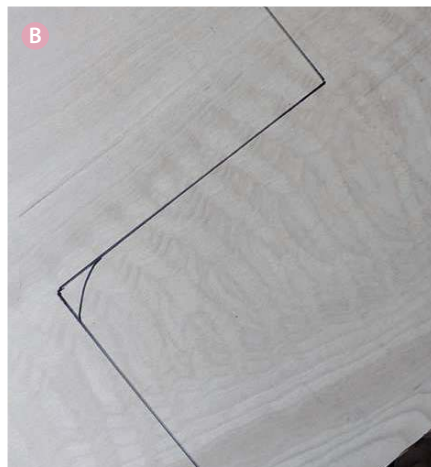
5 Use your countersink on each hole, then fix the slats to the plywood sides with the wood screws, leaving small equidistant gaps in between the slats [E]. It's important to make sure they are horizontal, so use a spirit level to check the first few are correct.

6 Keep going [F] until the entire chair is covered with slats, including the base. Finish off the seat by smoothing it down using fine-grit sandpaper.

GET THE BOOK



Pallet Wood Projects for Outdoor Spaces by Hester van Overbeek (£12.99, CICO Books) is a must-have for garden upcycling. Each make uses recycled pallet wood to create all kinds of professional-looking projects. To top it off, you can also buy a copy for just £10 with free UK P&P*. To order, visit rylandpeters.com and use the code PALLET10 at the checkout. *Offer valid until 1st July 2020.





£19.95
Annabel James

Sharpen your flower-trimming skills with these lime green snippers

£11.60
The Gifted Few

Sloths and succulents is our new favourite combo



£14.99
Crocus

These decorative gloves are RHS-endorsed

GARDENING - ACCESSORIES - *under £20*

Brighten up your garden with these bargain buys



£12 each
Garden Trading

Light up these miners lanterns when the nights draw in



£19
JD Williams

Feel all aglow with this candy-coloured lantern



£16.95
Rex London

Give your birds a caravan getaway

Outdoor scatter cushions from £8; rattan table, £10, both Sainsbury's Home



£14
Sainsbury's Home

Be transported to the savanna with this zebra planter



£15
Not On The High Street

Stretch out and relax on a pretty picnic blanket



Garden parasol, £18; Ipanema printed scatter cushion, £12, Argos Home

£12.99
Clas Ohlson

Transition seamlessly from day to night with these solar-powered lantern lights



£12
Habitat

A folding chair is great for limited space



£12
Albert & Moo

Spritz in style



£18
Beaumonde

Show off your plants in a stoneware pot



£15
National Trust Shop

Inject some modernity into your outdoor space with a contemporary plant pot

£4.95
Rex London

Bring Club Tropicana to your garden



Nich face pot, £9.99; Rounded face stoneware vase, £7.50; Glazed terracotta mug, £6.50; Ankara basket, £9.99; Tall face stoneware vase, £10, all Dobbies



£19
Dunelm

Update an old bench or chair with this bright outdoor cushion





SHOPPING GUIDE

Where to buy everything featured in this magazine

ABC

Abingdon Flooring
abingdonflooring.co.uk
Albert & Moo
albertandmoo.com
Amara amara.com
Amtico amtico.com
Annabel James
annabeljames.co.uk
Annie Sloan
anniesloan.com
Argos argos.co.uk
Ashortwalk ashortwalk.com
Atkin and Thyme
atkinandthyme.co.uk
Beaumonde
beaumonde.co.uk
Benjamin Moore
benjaminmoore.com
Burbidge burbidge.co.uk
Carpentryright
carpentryright.co.uk
Clarke & Clarke
clarke-cl Clarke.com
Clas Ohlson clasohlson.com
Cloudberry Living
cloudberryliving.co.uk
Content by Terence Conran
contentbyterenceconran.com
Crocus crocus.co.uk
Crown Paints
crownpaints.co.uk
Cuisinart cuisinart.co.uk
Cult Furniture
cultfurniture.com

DEF

Dartington Crystal
dartington.co.uk
Dibor dibor.co.uk
Dobbies dobbies.com
Dowsing & Reynolds
dowsingandreynolds.com
Dulux dulux.co.uk
Dunelm dunelm.com
East London Parasol
eastlondonparasols.com
Eden Project Shop

edenproject.com
Elho elho.com
Eloise Hall
eloisehall.co.uk
Espa espaskincare.com
Fenwick & Tilbrook
fenwickandtilbrook.com
Furniture Village
furniturevillage.co.uk

GHI

Gardena gardena.com
Gardenature
gardenature.co.uk
Garden Trading
gardentrading.co.uk
George Home
direct.asda.com
Green&Blue
greenandblue.co.uk
Habitat habitat.co.uk
Harvey Maria
harveymaria.com
Homebase homebase.co.uk
HomeSense
homesense.com
Hotel Chocolat
hotelchocolat.com
ILIV i-liv.co.uk
I Want Wallpaper
iwantwallpaper.co.uk

JKL

JD Williams jdwilliams.co.uk
John Lewis & Partners
johnlewis.com
Kabloom kabloom.co.uk
Kiss Air kiss-air.com
Kiss the Moon
kissthemoon.com
Lechuza lechuza.co.uk

MNO

Made by Zen
madebyzen.com
Manufactum
manufactum.co.uk
Matalan matalan.co.uk

My Furniture

my-furniture.com
National Trust Shop
shop.nationaltrust.org.uk
Next next.co.uk
No Secrets
nosecretsbeauty.com
Not on the High Street
notonthehighstreet.com
Oliver Bonas
oliverbonas.com

PQR

Party Delights
partydelights.co.uk
Petits Rituels
petitsrituels.com
Prestigious Textiles
prestigious.co.uk
Primark primark.com
Quick-Step quick-step.co.uk
Rex London rexlondon.com
Riverside Woodcraft
riversidewoodcraft.co.uk
Royal Opera shop.roh.org.uk

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Sacla sacla.co.uk
Sainsbury's sainsburys.co.uk
Sara Miller saramiller.london
Seedball seedball.co.uk
Sofa.com sofa.com
Sofology sofology.co.uk
Squires Garden Centres
squiresgardencentres.co.uk
Ted Baker tedbaker.com
Tesco tesco.com
The Gifted Few
thegiftedfew.com
The White Company
thewhitecompany.com
Thompson & Morgan
thompson-morgan.com
Trouva trouva.com

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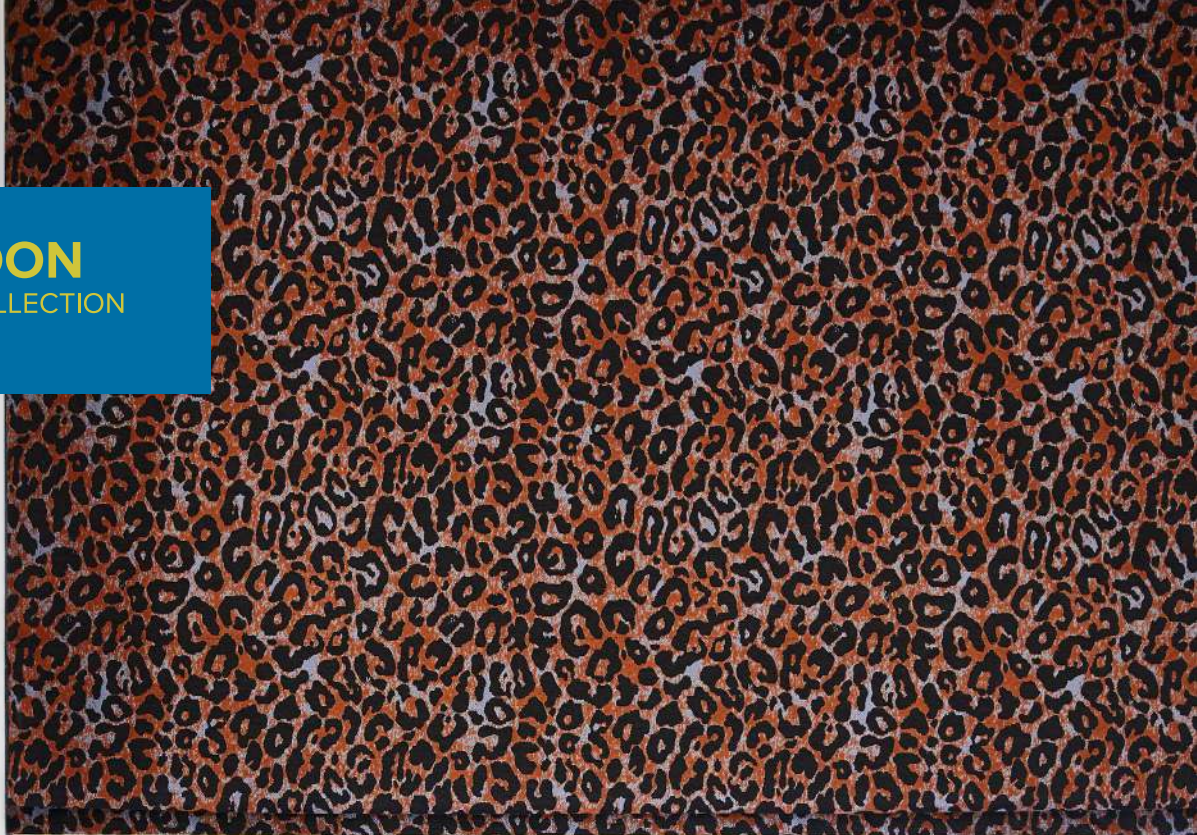
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