

EST. 1920

# Ideal Home

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING HOMES MAGAZINE

## Make your home merry & bright

*Relax • Indulge • Share • Celebrate!*

Simple style tweaks for festive magic in minutes

Get your dining space guest-ready in six moves

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pages of real home, kitchen and

THE  
**BIG**  
CHRISTMAS  
edit

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Kitchen Featured is Clerkenwell Gloss Grey & White



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Vanessa

Vanessa  
Richmond, Editor

# Welcome

I am so ready to crash into Christmas! It goes from full throttle in the run-up, to the Big Day itself – which flashes by – and, finally, into that weird but wonderful interlude before NYE.

That's my favourite part of the holiday. No plans, no pressure. Just mooching about, doing jigsaws, eating selection-box chocolates in our Christmas pyjamas (we get ours from TK Maxx every year!), chatting, bargain-hunting on the iPad with one eye on the telly, and just thoroughly enjoying being at home together.

It's a great opportunity for re-assessing how your home works (or doesn't, in our case – we need to convert the loft, pronto!) and starting to think about your plans for the coming year. 2017 is going to be a really exciting one for *Ideal Home* (more on that later!) but, for now, the team and I wish you a relaxing Christmas and a joyful New Year.

PHOTOGRAPH DOMINIC BLACKMORE STYLING SARBITA SHARMA

**WHERE TO BUY** Tobago wallpaper, £36 per roll, Clarke & Clarke. Sideboard, £799, West Elm. Lamp, £45, Next. Pineapple candle, £17.50, Marks & Spencer

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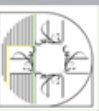
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# See more online

Find ideas for home-made gifts and seasonal home accessories in our Christmas craft videos



## FESTIVE PLACEMATS

Update your dining table

Give your Christmas table a personal touch and customise your placemats using a simple transfer trick.



## OATY BATH MILK

Make a gorgeous gift

This DIY bath milk would be an ideal present (or a fab treat for you) – all it takes is a few store-cupboard essentials.



## MONOGRAMMED GLASS

Reinvent old favourites

Christmas doesn't mean investing in a pricey new set of glasses – jazz up the ones you've got with this easy idea.



## MULLED-CIDER SACHETS

Tailor your perfect blend

Always wanted to brew your own? All you need is some spices, string and muslin, then steep in hot water to serve.



## SNOWGLOBE

Design your own scene

Is there anything you can't do with an old jar? This genius snowglobe idea might be one of our favourite upcycles yet.



## MAP COASTERS

Smarten up some cork discs

Finally, you can make use of those old Ordnance Surveys! Oh, and protect your tables from guests' hot drinks, too.



Find these videos, plus plenty of inspiring decorating ideas and house tours, at [housetohome.co.uk](http://housetohome.co.uk)

# Ideal Home

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**THIS PAGE** For a similar trolley, try a selection, Swoon Editions. Ice bucket and tong set, £45; star lights, from £25 each; margarita glasses; Martini glasses; all £35 for four; wine glass, £14; bar tool set, £30; tray, £48; car decorations, £10 each; cocktail shakers, £25 each; giftwrap, £5 per roll; Nutcracker decoration, £25; crackers, £15 for six; all House of Fraser



IN JANUARY

# *You deserve to party*

Happy holidays! It's time to call all those friends you don't see enough of and invite them over for an evening of Prosecco cocktails, silly party games and some serious catching up. Cheers!





**HANG ON A DOOR**  
Star decorations,  
£12 for three,  
Talking Tables

**SERVE UP SOME FIZZ**  
Silver confetti  
Champagne  
flute, £3.99,  
Dobbies



**ADD SPARKLE TO A SOFA**  
Sequin stag cushion,  
£24, Debenhams



**SEQUINS UP THE GLAM FACTOR**  
Glitz sequin cushion,  
£12, Very



**URBAN LIGHT**  
Light-up letter,  
£8, Primark

# HOW TO ADD *wow!*

Go on, pick something you love – because every room needs a magic ingredient that takes it from finished to *fabulous*

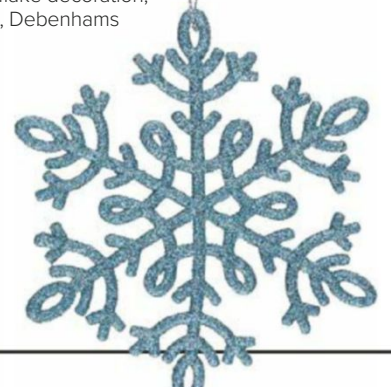


**BRING SOME THEATRE TO THE TABLE**  
Crystal candelabra,  
£49.99, HomeSense



**ELEGANT LOOKS**  
Serving cutlery, £12.99  
for a two-piece set,  
HomeSense

**GIVE YOUR TREE AN ICY FEEL**  
Snowflake decoration,  
£6, Debenhams



**STANDBY SEATING FOR EXTRA GUESTS**  
Rustic leather pouffe,  
£129, Cuckooland



**SHINE ON**  
Silver Radiance  
dinnerware, £40 for  
a 12-piece set,  
By Sainsbury's



**LET'S CELEBRATE**  
Silver Radiance Champagne flutes, £4 each; mini luxury crackers, £5 for six; all By Sainsbury's. For similar balloons, try the Jumbo numbers, £7.50 each, Bubblegum Balloons



**DRESSY CENTREPIECE**  
Pre-lit white glitter berry wreath, £25, Next



**MIX BLUE WITH SILVER**  
Blue snowflake bauble, £4.50; glitter band bauble, £4; both John Lewis



**A SPACE FOR FESTIVE COCKTAILS**  
Churchill wine table, £250, Riviera Maison range, Houseology



**PRACTICAL AND STYLISH**  
Silver beaded coasters, £16 for four, The White Company



**SUPER-CHIC STORAGE**  
Silver cobra basket, £22, Kelly Hoppen



**SPRUCE UP A GUEST ROOM**  
Aire bedspread, £450, Amara



**UPGRADE THE DRINKS TABLE**  
Drinks dispenser, £24, Next

FIND MORE LUXE BUYS IN IDEAL HOME'S COMPLETE GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS

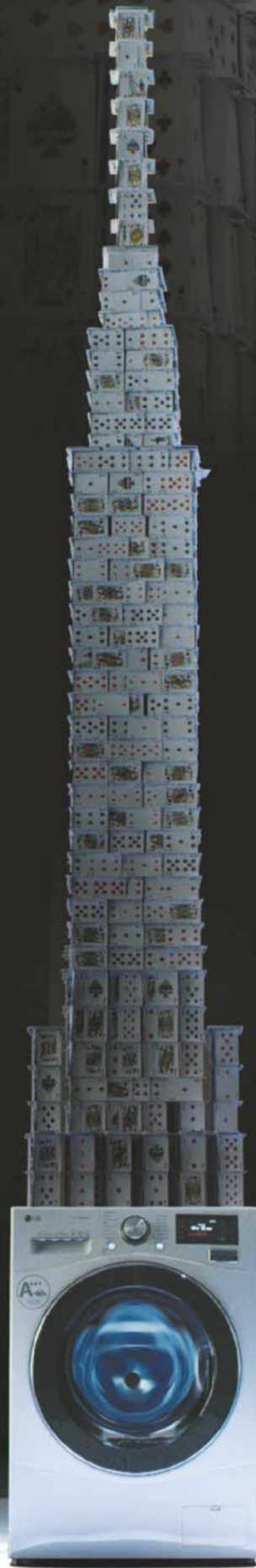


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# NEED TO *know*

We've been shamelessly snooping around the shops, so you don't miss a single thing that matters...

## Bemz recruits Romo

Not only have the clever folk at Bemz been creating covers for Ikea furniture for more than 10 years, giving us the option to switch up our style without replacing our Ektorp or Klippan, but they've also

teamed up with some of the best designers in town. The latest collaboration is with Romo, offering 14 gorgeous textiles from its Linara range of linen-blend fabrics, prices start at £35 for a cushion cover.



Stocksund cover in Linara Peach, £309, Romo range, Bemz

## Anyone remember La Redoute?

The 150-year-old French catalogue company used to be a go-to name for fashion and homeware, but it dropped off our radar. That all changed when we saw its latest ranges, though. Check out its website, [laredoute.co.uk](http://laredoute.co.uk), (it still does a paper catalogue, too) and seek out the Seventies-style rattan headboards, marble-topped tables, bedding, rugs and desks. All the pieces are classic but on trend, and there are lots of little design twists to make them different to things you'd find on the British high street.

Tables, from £129 each, La Redoute



### WE KEEP SEEING...

*...things that light up!*



**FOR A TWINKLY TREE**  
Lit letter decoration, £6, Next

**GIVE IT SOME GLOW**  
'Let It Snow' light-up cushion, £19.50, Marks & Spencer



**POP IN THE WINDOW**  
'Most Wonderful Time' LED light box, £22.95, The Farthing

**THE BIG CHRISTMAS edit**



## Swarovski gets set to bring sparkle home

The renowned jeweller has launched homeware brand *Atelier Swarovski Home* – think the same level of wow as its crystal jewels, but in vases, lanterns, candlesticks and bowls. Designers including Ron Arad have added to the range, which is on sale at a pop-up in Selfridges, with more launches due online later in 2017.



Amazon Beat 2; Velvet Ribbon 2; both from £28 for 2.5ltr, Dulux Amazing Space

## Brilliant or bonkers?

### PARTY IN A PINEAPPLE

*Just what every table needs – a celebratory pineapple! Filled with six streamers, party blowers, horns, hats and more, the golden pineapple alone is a great centrepiece – but the goodies inside will ensure your party goes with a bang!*

Party in a pineapple, £12, Marks & Spencer



## Let Dulux do the hard work for you...

We'd all love to have Kelly Hoppen on speed dial, à la *Ab Fab*'s Eddie, but maybe Dulux's new Amazing Space Design Service ([paint.duluxamazingspace.co.uk](http://paint.duluxamazingspace.co.uk)) is the next best thing? For just £75 per room, fill out its questionnaire about the space you're doing up, send pictures, colours, fabric samples or some Pinterest boards, and let the experts come up with a new look that suits your style and budget.

### Ideal

ALL EYES ON THESE ALTERNATIVE TREES



**WITH 40 LED LIGHTS**  
Lit hanging tree, £25, Next



**MAKE IT YOUR OWN**  
Wall hanging branches Christmas decoration, £12, Matalan

## Introducing the Mandle (that's a man-candle)

Although masculine, woody fragrances have always been out there, it seems that 2017 is being hailed as the year of the 'Mandle' – with both high-end and high-street brands jumping on the bandwagon. With that in mind, here are three new mandles 'pour homme' that could be the perfect Christmas gift – whether you're shopping for the main man in your life or the dreaded Secret Santa, these fragrant beauties are sure-fire winners (and better than a pair of socks).

▼ **ONE OF THREE SCENTS**  
Unity candle, £40, Legna London

▼ **MADE FROM AN OLD BOTTLE**  
Soy wax candle in Merlot, £25, Rewined

▼ **SMART BUY**  
British Expedition signature candle, £30, Charles Farris



FEATURE HOLLY WALSH





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## WHAT'S NEW



### HERITAGE PIECE

Neoclassical teardrop, £25, Wedgwood



### LONDON LANDMARK

Liberty building decoration, £29.95, Liberty



### JUST LIKE JEWELLERY

Golden crystal ornament, £49, SCS range, Swarovski



### PAINTED PORCELAIN

Christmas tree, £52, Royal Crown Derby

## THE SHORTLIST

# 8

## Heirloom decorations

### TO GIVE, COLLECT AND CHERISH



### DESIGNER CREDENTIALS

Glass bell, £16.95, Marcel Wanders range, Alessi



### CUTE COLLECTABLE

Bell with snowflakes and Harrods charm, £12.95, Harrods



### CRAFTSMAN-MADE GLASS

Annual snowstar crystal ornament, £45, Waterford



### DAINTY TEA SET

Tea tray ornament, £25, Fortnum & Mason

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

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THE IDEAL HOME EDIT

# Best gifts for homebodies

FOR THE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE WHO LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN CURLING UP IN THEIR HOMES, GETTING COMFY AND ENJOYING A LITTLE BIT OF ME TIME...



**SNUGGLE UP**  
Heavenly honeycomb throw in Rose, £56, AtNo67



**WARM WELCOME**  
Wooden heart sign, £4, Wilko



**PAMPER TIRED HANDS**  
Resurrection Aromatique hand wash, £27 for 500ml, Aesop



**CALMING SCENT**  
The Ritual of Light extra-large candle, £42.50, Rituals



**HAVE A BREW**  
Calico teapot in Dove Grey, £55, Burleigh



**MAKE IT COSY**  
Square panel beaded cushion, £10, Matalan



**LUXURY LOOK**  
Marble and wood coasters, £19.50 for four, Marks & Spencer





**SLEEP EASY**  
Anti-ageing eye mask  
in Birds, £60, Holistic Silk



**IDEAS & INSPIRATION**  
*The Creative Home* (Cico Books),  
£19.99, Waterstones



**SOOTHING SOAK**  
Bath salts jar and  
scoop set, £8, Joules



**FOR LOUNGING**  
House cardigan,  
£79.99, H&M



**JUST ADD CANDLES**  
Gold star tray, £37,  
Rockett St George



**WINE TIME**  
Metallic band carafe,  
£29, West Elm

THE  
**BIG**  
CHRISTMAS  
edit



**TO THE LETTER**  
Framed alphabet print,  
£20, Next



**COFFEE BREAK**  
Star mug,  
£4.99, H&M



**TREAT FOR FEET**  
Moraeen slippers in Chestnut,  
£80, Ugg range, Amara

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

FIND MORE BRILLIANT GIFT

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THE IDEAL HOME EDIT

# Best last-minute gifts

LEFT THE CHRISTMAS SHOP A LITTLE LATE THIS YEAR? AVOID A LAST-MINUTE PANIC BUY WITH OUR PICKING LIST OF GIFTS YOU CAN GET YOUR HANDS ON IN A HURRY

## SAME-DAY DELIVERY



### POSH POT

Copper kettle, £7.99, Heart of House range, Argos



### POSITIVE ENERGY

Gold glitter diary, £5, Next

### JEWELLERY HOLDER

Alphabet jewellery dish, £4, Matalan



### WELCOMING WALL ART

Home Sweet Home glass sign, £8, Debenhams



## COLLECT PLUS



### URBAN STYLE

Hello cushion, £20.99, Lovely Decor range, Handmade at Amazon



### FRESH SCENT

Limited Edition Tabac Noir diffuser set, £32, Biba range, House of Fraser



### SEASONAL TIPPLE

That's the Spirit hip flask, £10, Paperchase

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI

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CLICK & COLLECT



**SCANDI KITCHEN**  
Nordic stacking mugs,  
£9, George Home



**CRAFT TIME**  
Knit Your Own set, £25,  
Marks & Spencer



**ZESTY ZIP-UP**  
Lemon cosmetics bag,  
£4.99, TK Maxx



**CHEF IN THE MAKING**  
Children's mini kitchen,  
£50, John Lewis



**CHOCs AWAY**  
The Merry Christmas Collection,  
£15, Hotel Chocolat

**FAST DELIVERY**

**SAME-DAY DELIVERY**

Order by a set time (usually midday) for home delivery later that day.

**CLICK & COLLECT**

Order online and collect the next day from a high-street store.

**COLLECT PLUS**

Order online for next-day delivery to a local convenience store.

**NEXT-DAY DELIVERY**

Order before a set time for delivery to your home the next day.

**NOMINATED-DAY DELIVERY**

Choose a day for home delivery that is most convenient to you.



**FUN FOR A LITTLE ONE**  
Wheelybug mouse,  
£83, JD Williams



**SEAFOOD SUPPERS**  
The Great Cornish Fish Book,  
£17.99, Seasalt Cornwall



**LOVELY LOTION**  
Hand care gift set,  
£10, Joules

FIND MORE BRILLIANT GIFT

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THE IDEAL HOME EDIT

# Tech gifts for everyone

LEFT IT LATE TO START YOUR SHOPPING?  
DON'T FRET, AS THESE GADGETY GIFTS  
CAN BE SNAPPED UP DAYS OR EVEN  
HOURS BEFORE CHRISTMAS MORNING\*



#### WHISKY STRATEGY

Bliss out a baker with this tough and powerful mixer – it's even got a nifty retractable cord for easy storage

Hand mixer, £58.50, Dualit



#### CORNY STOCKING FILLER

Surprisingly loud for a 2in speaker, this cutie can control a phone camera, too  
Mighty Animal Bluetooth speaker and shutter remote, £19.99, Firebox



#### WIRELESS WORKOUTS

These snug-fitting, sweat-resistant earphones are perfect for a gym bunny  
Relay Sport wireless earphones, £79.99, Sol Republic range, HMV



#### HANDBAG HERO

An LED-lit compact mirror that can also fully charge a smartphone. Winner!  
Hyper Pearl compact mirror and USB battery pack, £29.99, Carphone Warehouse



#### EASY LISTENING

Treat them to a wider choice of stations on this great-value DAB radio, which can be powered by the mains or two AA batteries  
Elan E3 DAB/FM radio, £49.99, Argos



#### GIVE IT A SPIN

This budget turntable treats discs with respect and runs at 33-1/3 or 45 RPM  
Audio-Technica X UO AT-LP60 pink vinyl record player, £129, Urban Outfitters



#### CAMERA UPGRADE

Clip these lenses onto any smartphone for better landscape and close-up shots  
3-in-1 universal clip camera lens kit, £9.95, RED5





**GOLD BLEND**

Takes A Modo Mio capsules, which come in 14 varieties. The lever at the side lets you select an espresso or a longer drink  
Minù Glam coffee machine, £75, Lavazza

THE **BIG** CHRISTMAS edit



**MOBILE PRINTER**

Any Instagrammer would be chuffed to receive this phone case, which prints out photos instantly onto Zink sticker paper  
Prynt case for iPhone, £130, John Lewis



**DYNAMIC DUO**

Pair these speakers up and listen in rich stereo, or split them for multiroom music  
YoYo Medium stereo speakers, £300, Cambridge Audio range, Richer Sounds



**COVER UP**

Protects their shiny new phone and has a mirror inside for pre-selfie preening  
Knowane mirror folio case in Porcelain Rose, £35, Ted Baker



**ROUTING FOR YOU**

Scooter riders can navigate the urban jungle with ease using this satnav, which offers up traffic and incoming-call alerts  
VIO scooter satnav, £150, TomTom



**BREAKFAST CLUB**

It's glamour on toast! Buy the matching kettle, too, if you're feeling generous  
Curve VTT787 four-slice toaster, £69.99, Breville range, Currys



**PET DETECTIVE**

Animal lovers can watch, talk to and treat their pets via their phone and this webcam  
Wi-Fi pet camera and treat dispenser, £135, Petzi range, Amazon.co.uk



**POWER NAP**

Is the Apple Watch Series 2 top of their wish list? This bedside charger will be their second-favourite present  
Apple Watch charging dock, £50, Amara



**ONCE YOU POP...**

Turns kernels of corn into a moreish snack in three minutes using only hot air  
Gourmet Gadgetry retro popcorn maker, £25, Debenhams

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE  
\*SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

FIND MORE BRILLIANT GIFT

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Round here, we do  
things your way



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our craft, your creation

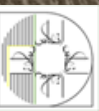
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# Look what we found!

A few of the Christmas decorations the *Ideal Home* team just can't resist this festive season...



## Vintage-style glass baubles



DECORATING EDITOR  
NICKY PHILLIPS LOVES  
LIBERTY'S MINI DIMPLED  
GLASS BAUBLES,  
£14.95 FOR SIX

“Nostalgia is a huge part of Christmas for me. I've collected tree decorations since I was little, so every year when I unwrap the baubles, the memories come flooding back! These little glass ones are an exact replica of the baubles that were handed down to me from my great grandmother. They're just so pretty and timeless.”



## The perfect topper



HOUSES EDITOR RUTH  
CORBETT HAS FALLEN  
FOR THE ANGEL TREE  
TOPPER, £12, OSTRAVIA  
RANGE, JOHN LEWIS

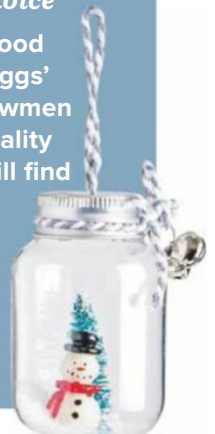


“I'm from a hotel family and I lived in hotels growing up. My brothers and I would help Mum decorate the hotel's tree with miles of tinsel and our favourite old-fashioned angel – so when I saw this one, I just had to get it!”

## SPECIAL SNOWMAN

The Conran Shop's snowman in a glass bottle, £5, is Sub-Editor Sophie Thrower's 2016 decoration of choice

“My favourite childhood book was Raymond Briggs' *The Snowman* and snowmen have held a magical quality for me ever since – I still find the film mesmerising! This year will be my first Christmas in my own flat, so this snowman bauble will have pride of place.”



## A Christmas menagerie



VANESSA RICHMOND, EDITOR, IS STOCKING UP ON FELT MOUSE DECORATIONS, £3.99 EACH, DOBBIES

“The year my twin nieces were born, I started a new theme for my Christmas tree – a woodland look. Every year I buy three new animals – one for each twin, plus one for their baby sister – and mark them with each girl’s initial. We’ve got an impressive family of hedgehogs, badgers and other critters now, and this year these mice will join them.”



## Decs for kids’ rooms

TARA ELARTE, CHIEF SUB-EDITOR/PRODUCTION EDITOR, HAS SPOTTED TERRANCE THE TIGER CHRISTMAS DECORATION, £8, PAPERCHASE

“To keep the tree in the living room tasteful, my eight-year-old daughter Poppy decorates her own mini one in her bedroom. Every year we pick a new decoration for her tree – I reckon this sporty tiger could be the one for 2016.”

## CELEBRATING A TRADITION

Sophie Payne, Deputy Chief Sub-Editor, will be buying the red skates tree decoration, £15, John Lewis

“In my family, we have a long-standing Christmas tradition of wobbling around the beautiful open-air ice rink at London’s Somerset House in our hats and mittens, so these mini skates are perfect for my tree. Plus, they’ll fit right into my red-and-white Scandi scheme this year!”

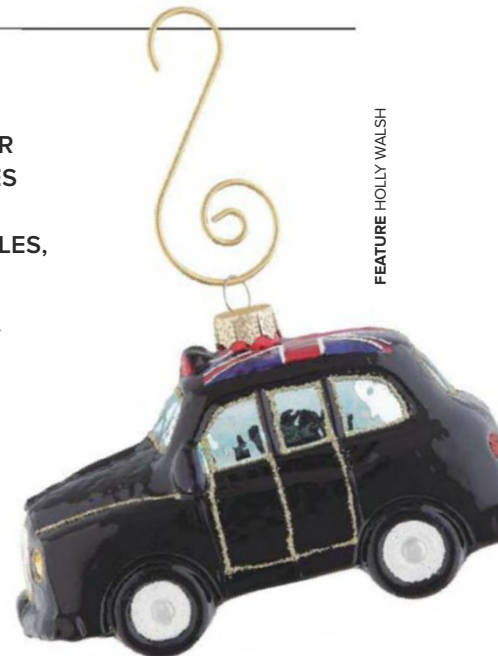


## Traveller’s tales



TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AMY CUTMORE LOVES MARKS & SPENCER’S LONDON ICON BAUBLES, £19.50 FOR FOUR

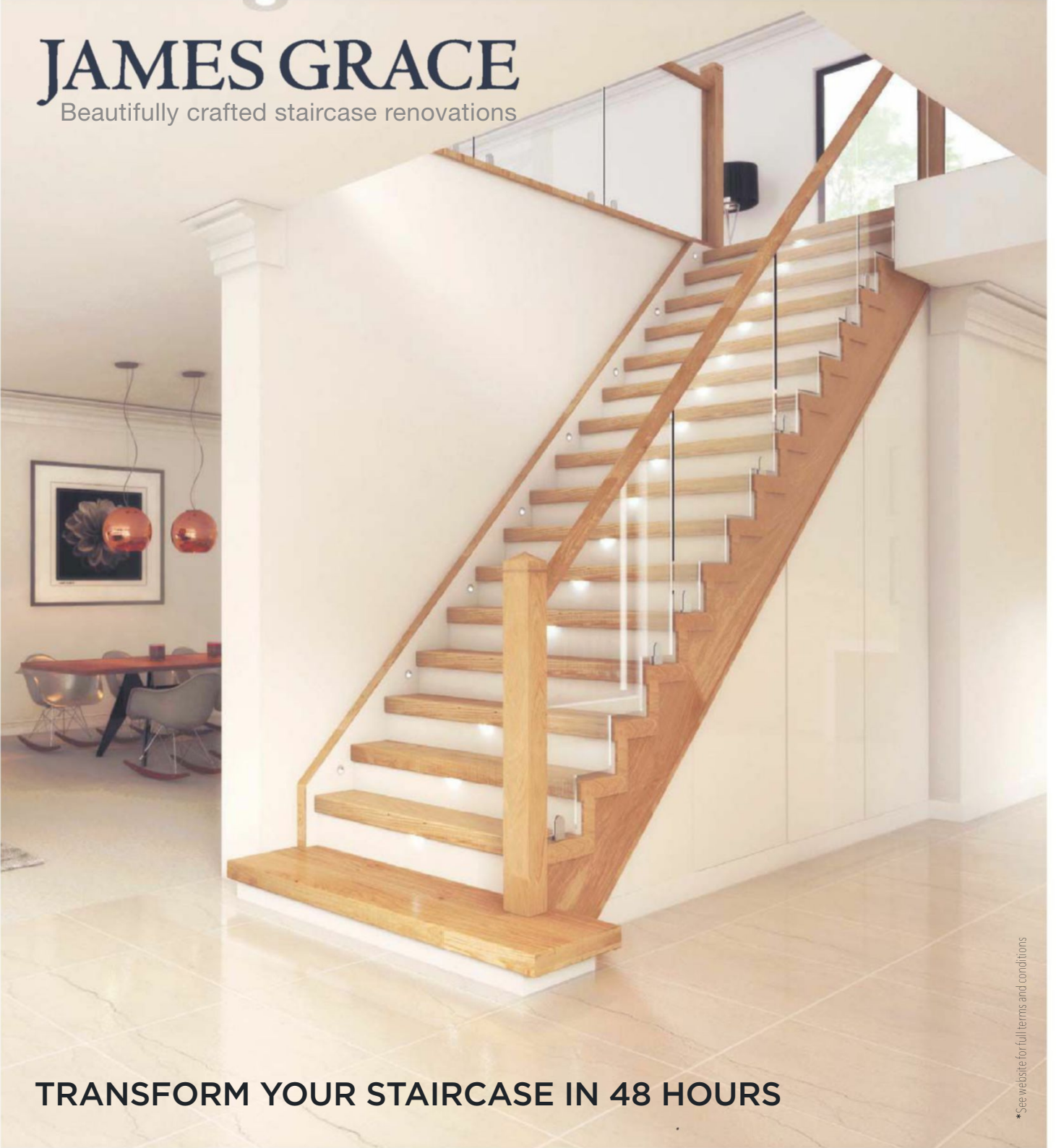
“I always buy baubles that remind me of my travels. My favourite is a cute yellow taxi I got at Macy’s department store in New York a few years ago. This year, I’m going to twin it with some mementos from closer to home.”



FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

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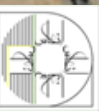
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# 'Simple Scandi style can be glam, too'



We tend to think of the Scandi look as neutral and rustic, but Marianne Haga Kinder has added rich colours and a layer of luxe to her Nordic schemes



**Mix rustic and luxe**

In the living room, Marianne has all the Scandi staples – simple sofa, solid pine table, trad armchairs – but has given them a twist with plush velvets, deep plum accents and touches of gold. ‘Contrasts play an important role,’ she says. ‘I like mixing dark colours, marble and brass with natural materials.’

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar gold side table, try the Quatrefoil, £199, The French Bedroom Company. For a similar armchair, try the Alderney, from £630, Sofa.com. For a similar coffee table, try the Jasmine, £229, Myakka

**Love**  
MARIANNE'S  
STYLE?

Turn to page 41  
to shop the look

**GIANT BOWLS**  
Perfect for extra  
cushions, throws  
and candles – or  
presents – at  
Christmastime



## Welcome to my home



Marianne Haga Kinder, a blogger, lives here with her husband Pål, and daughter Matthea, 10.

### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom brick house built in 1953 in Oslo, Norway.

**“I would describe my style as ‘glamorous bohemian’. It’s soft and eclectic, with a mix of old and new”**

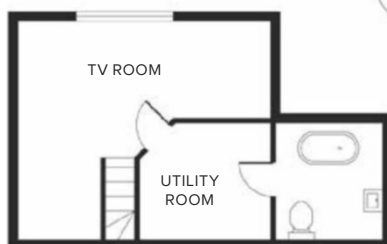
### Take a quick tour...



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



BASEMENT

Marianne and her husband Pål didn't fall in love with their Fifties house at first sight. 'We bought the property in 2014 because we loved the location and could see that it had potential,' she says. The arrangement of the rooms didn't suit their lifestyle, so they embarked on a reshuffle. 'Our aim was to make the best use of the space,' explains Marianne. 'We moved the kitchen up from the basement level to the ground floor, where we created an open-plan kitchen, dining room and living room. It has brought more light into the whole house.'

The couple had a bathroom and a utility room fitted in the basement. 'The work took longer than I expected, so I had to learn to be patient,' says Marianne. 'You have to listen to the professionals and to think ahead when renovating an entire house, as you'll have to live with your choices for years. It's useful to write a list of your needs at the start and how they might change.'

Before deciding how to decorate the different rooms, Marianne waited to see how her family used them. 'I think it's important that rooms are multifunctional, so that the whole house is lived in,' she explains. 'For example, there's an awkward space off the ground-floor living room that I didn't know what to do with. I noticed my daughter Matthea played there a lot, so I decorated it so that it could be used as a playroom, with a big cupboard for her toys. It also gets used as an office, a quiet nook for relaxing and a spare bedroom for guests.'

Marianne keeps track of her ideas on her Instagram account, @inspirasjonsguidennorge, which has become one of the most popular accounts in Norway. 'It's full of the things I love about interior design,' she says. 'I also have a blog, mariannehagakinder.com. They're great ways to save ideas you love and evolve your home's style.'



**GLAZED CABINET**  
This is the perfect  
accent piece – even  
in a small space.  
'I've actually used  
them throughout the  
house,' says Marianne

### **Control the clutter**

This look is far from minimal, but requires some control where clutter is concerned! Marianne uses strategically placed storage furniture and containers. 'It's a small house, so I try to keep it neat,' she says. 'When it becomes difficult to tidy, it's time to throw something away.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar cabinet, try the metal New York display cabinet, £513, Wayfair. Tolix stool, £59, Metro Furniture. Leksvik desk, £135, Ikea





**BLACK TRIM**  
A simple way to give a white space the wow factor

### **Be colour consistent**

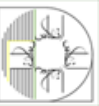
The open-plan kitchen, living room and dining area share a grey colour scheme. 'I think it's important that the whole house is kept in the same palette,' says Marianne. 'I chose a very matt paint, which creates a soft, sophisticated look. The rooms are cosier and the mix of furniture and accessories shows up better against the dark grey background.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Walls painted in Elephant Skin chalk paint, £57.50 for 2.5ltr, Pure & Original range, Nordshape. For a similar rug, try the Diamond shaggy, £249, Marks & Spencer



**SPACE-DEFINING RUG**  
Zones the living area in the open-plan ground floor





**Add a little polish**

Grey-painted units, pure white tiled walls... so far, so Scandi – but then Marianne has glammed things up with gold-finish pendant lights and cabinet knobs to give this functional space subtle sophistication.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For similar units, try the Suffolk, from £670 for a W420mm base unit, Neptune. For similar wall tiles, try the Metro white, £18.50 per sq m, Topps Tiles. For similar pendants, try the clear crystal bulb and pendant, £199 each, Lee Broom range, John Lewis

*“I think an inviting home must be personal. The inspiration for our colour scheme came from an old family photo in different shades of grey and black”*



**BOXED-IN EXTRACTOR**  
Painted to match the wall tiles, it ensures the cooker hood doesn't dominate the kitchen

**IDEAL HOME**  
*loves*

**Traditional range cookers**  
*'Ours is the heart of the kitchen,' says Marianne*





**CASSETTE FIREPLACE**  
All the cosiness of an open fire without giving up floor space to a hearth

**PALLET DAYBED**  
Covered in layers of cushions and faux-fur throws, this a great place for kids to crash



**GOLD TAPS**  
Warmer than chrome in a bathroom that gets no natural light

**Mix contemporary and quirkier finds**

In the basement TV room (which used to be a kitchen before the couple rejigged the space), Marianne has put a contemporary fireplace and glazed cabinets with talking-point pieces, like an industrial metal storage unit.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar metal cabinet, try the Halifax industrial two-door, £275, Viva Lagoon range, Furnish.co.uk. For similar fire irons, try the Loop companion set in black and brass, £39.25, The Fireside Shop

**Let the glamour loose**

‘This basement bathroom, with its marble tub and wide tabletop basin, shows how glamorous a windowless room can be,’ says Marianne.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar freestanding bath, try the Trend, £699, Bathstore. For a similar bath mixer, try the Heritage Glastonbury in vintage gold, £283, UK Bathroom Store. For a similar basin, try the Pegasus white marble, £400, Livingroc.co.uk

## ***Tell your story with style choices***

Marianne has given the TV room a global feel by working in finds inspired by her travels.

### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

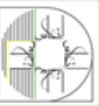
For a similar table, try the Mosaic, £275, Moroccan Bazaar. For a similar pendant, try the Marteau large brass ceiling light, £160, Habitat

### **JUJU HAT**

Texture, colour and humour in one accessory – try Rockett St George for a similar design

*“I’m very influenced by my travels, particularly in Marrakech, Paris and London”*

**MULTILEVEL TABLE**  
A coffee table with a place for everything! Replicate the look of this one-piece design with a nest of tables





## WHAT WE LEARNED

“It’s important for spaces to be multifunctional in a small house, so we waited to see how we used the rooms before decorating them”



**LADDER STORAGE**  
A home for tomorrow’s outfit, bags and scarves

### Choose calmer colours in bedrooms

Marianne has continued the eclectic look here with mixed textures rather than colours, using a Moroccan wedding blanket and a feather pendant to keep the luxe levels high.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar throw, try the Handira wedding blanket, £295, Maroque. Aurora Vita Eos pendant, £325; for a similar towel ladder, try the bamboo, £45; both Graham and Green

### Try a touch of blush pink

The house’s simple palette of greys, black and white is prettied up in Matthea’s room, with walls and textiles in a nearly neutral nude tone.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar bed canopy, try the Numero 74, £77.22, Smallable. For a similar chest of drawers, try the Dorset Hedgerow, £1,150, Laura Ashley. For a similar sheepskin, try the Luxury, £65, Graham and Green





**CANOPY**  
Turns a basic bed  
into one fit for a  
fairytale princess

**OVERSIZED MIRRORS**  
Go big, even in a small  
bathroom, for elegant,  
boutique-hotel style



### ***Always add pattern***

Elsewhere, Marianne has mixed patterns on soft furnishings, but in the bathroom she's given the plain space a lift with ornate floor tiles.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For similar floor tiles, try the Casa Moroccan, £91 per sq m, Livinghouse. For similar basins, try the Loop & Friends circular surface mounted, £323 each, Villeroy & Boch range, UK Bathrooms

FEATURE ANDRÉA CHILDS STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHS FRANCISKA MUNICK-JOHANSEN/HOUSE OF PICTURES PLANS AGENCY SERVICE

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# Make it work for you

## MARIANNE'S STYLE: NORDIC NOIR

Scandi style gets a grown-up edge if you work in a few lavish textures, dark tones and luxe metallic accents

### INDUSTRIAL DISPLAY

Metal and glass cabinet, £765, Out There Interiors

### IDEAL



### STATEMENT LIGHTING

Molecular ceiling pendant, £171, House Doctor range, Amara

### GREAT DEAL

### SMALLER WOODEN VERSION

Malsjö glass-door cabinet, £275, Ikea

**BLACK AND BRASS CONTRAST**  
Tangle pendant light, £99, Made.com



**ADD A GOLD ACCENT**  
Koi gold side table, £650, Alexander & Pearl



**FANCY FRETWORK**  
Islington lamp table, £249, Harveys

### FESTIVE FINISHING TOUCH

Star light, £65, White Rabbit England



### PLUSH SEAT

New England Dukes armchair in Cabin Velvet Discovery, £735, Furniture Village



### MIX IN PATTERN

Rhombus rug (L240cm x W170cm), £495, John Lewis



### BUTTONED ALTERNATIVE

Velvet tub chair in Dusk, £445, Oliver Bonas



### CLEANER DESIGN

Natural Slumber berber (L230cm x W160cm), £130, Dunelm



### CHRISTMAS CLASSIC

Wooden light-up star, £15, Wilko



Paris leather armchair £899



LOUNGE

Oslo three seater sofa £899  
Rise extending coffee table £599



SOFAS

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Manchester | Oxford | Paisley | Preston | Reading | Slough | Southampton | Warrington

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## COLOURS WE LOVE

# Midnight blue

SOME BLUES ARE FRESH AND INVIGORATING, BUT OTHERS – LIKE THIS ONE – ARE AT THE DEEPLY ENVELOPING AND RELAXING END OF THE SCALE. IT TAKES A LITTLE COURAGE, ESPECIALLY IF YOU TEND TO PUT YOUR TRUST IN NEUTRALS, BUT TRY IT AND YOU’LL NEVER GO BACK TO BLAND BEIGES AGAIN...



**THIS PAGE** Wall painted in Stiffkey Blue Estate Emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Cleo desk, £750, House of Fraser. Arris espresso cup, £25; saucer, £15; both Wedgwood. Cutlery, £49.50 for a 16-piece set, Marks & Spencer. Baubles, from a selection, Wyevale Garden Centres. Vase, £20, John Lewis. Ribbon and giftwrap, from a selection, Berisfords and Paperchase



## A colour for every mood

A jack-of-all-trades shade, warm midnight blue will bring calm to a home office, or fill your living room with confidence and character. Try it on one or two walls in a small space, or go for all four if you have a larger room or high ceilings

## Stylist's note

“Dark blues lend themselves to a bold look, but adding natural textures will make the overall effect much softer”

NICKY PHILLIPS,  
DECORATING EDITOR

**WARM WALNUT**  
Rich wood tones  
come to life  
against vibrant  
blue tones

**THIS PAGE** Cleo desk, £750, House of Fraser. Antonio dining chair, £129, Dwell. Framed mirror circle artwork, £70, Next. ON TABLE Frame, £25, John Lewis. Arris cup and saucer, £45 for the set, Wedgwood. Mug, £20, Att Pynta. Roar + Rabbit terrarium (glass removed), £39, West Elm. Vase, £20; lamp, £145; both John Lewis



**THIS PAGE** WN226 flooring, £45 per sq m, Crucial Trading. **Curtain** made in Cherokee Denim, £37.99 per m, Prestigious Textiles. **Rug**, £499, Dwell. **Mistral sofa**, £2,499; **armchair**, £1,599; both Heal's. **Coffee table**, £499; **bookshelf**, £925; both House of Fraser. **Side table**, £375, Graham and Green. **Tree**, £409, Balsam Hill. **Decorations**, from a selection, Gisela Graham and Wyevale Garden Centres. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Champagne **saucers**, £42 for two, LSA International. **Coasters**, £24 for four; **candles**, £10.95 for three; all MiaFleur. **Candlestick holder**, £8, John Lewis. **Candle holders**, from £6.99 each, H&M. **Terrarium**, £39, West Elm. **Bowl**, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. **ON SOFA** Cushions, from left: Jacquard, £39, West Elm; Elixir Sapphire, £37, Voyage Maison; Block, £7.99, H&M; Peacock, £35, House of Fraser. **ON BOOKSHELF** Lantern, £29.50, Marks & Spencer. **Agate**, £40, John Lewis. **Frames**, from £14.95 each, Dwell. **Bowl**, £72, Graham and Green. **Thalassa vessel**, £52, Voyage Maison. **Vase**, £14 for three, Rockett St George. **Apple**, £14, MiaFleur. **ON/ABOVE MANTEL** **Garland**, £79, Balsam Hill. **Candlesticks**, from £22 each, Neptune. **Vase** (left), £55, Marks & Spencer. **Vase**, £59, Rockett St George. **Mirror**, £195, Graham and Green. **ON SIDE TABLE** Shade, £54.95, Graham and Green

**MATT GOLD**

The perfect accent, but go shine-free to avoid overkill if you're using sleek fabrics like velvet or silk

BE  
CANDLE  
SAFE



**THIS PAGE** Woods & Stars wallpaper, £78 per roll, Cole & Son. Tweed rug, £499, Dwell. Melrose drinks cabinet, £1,255, House of Fraser. Mistral armchair in Midnight velvet, £1,599, Heal's. Elixir Sapphire cushion, £56, Voyage Maison. **ON/IN CABINET** Plant pot, £24, Att Pynta. Large brass vase, £79, Dwell. **Display stand**, £8, Rockett St George. **Crackers**, £7 for six, Sainsbury's. Edge white wine glasses, £40 for two, LSA International. Lacquer tray, £54, West Elm. Arris teapot, £125; sugar box and milk jug, £95 for the set; cup and saucer, £45 for the set, all Wedgwood

#### PERFECT PATTERN

Go for a strong geometric if you're a 'power-glam' girl, or something subtler like this for a softer effect

#### Relaxed but vibrant

Deep blues are perfect for laid-back dining spaces where you want the conversation to flow. Supersoft velvet upholstery and an uncluttered space will encourage a mellow vibe



**Stylist's note**

“If you want to add a pattern, go for it! Miami-style animal prints, marbled waves and big block prints will all hit the spot”

**NICKY PHILLIPS,**  
DECORATING EDITOR

**THIS PAGE** Walls painted in Woad Absolute Emulsion, £38 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. U1000 flooring, £21.99 per sq m, Quick-Step. Curtains made in Solar Electric, £50 per m, Prestigious Textiles. Table, £740, House of Fraser. Chairs, £129 each, Dwell. Cocktail cabinet, £1,999, John Lewis. Pendant, £495, Out There Interiors. **ON DINING TABLE** Wine glasses, £45 for four; candle holder, £40; all Habitat. Champagne glasses, £40 for two; lantern (as bucket), £50; all LSA International. Chargers, £10 each, House of Fraser. Plates, from £26 each; bowls, £31 each; all Wedgwood. Cutlery, £49.50 for a 16-piece set, Marks & Spencer. Brass silhouette napkin rings, £26 for four, West Elm. Napkins, £6 for four, Debenhams. Mug, £20, Att Pynnta. Crackers, £7 for six, Sainsbury's. **ON CUPBOARD Vessel**, £62; bowl, £70; both Voyage Maison. Wreath, from a selection, Gisela Graham

**BLACK FLOORING**  
Brave, but easy to offset with all white above the picture rail



# Make it work for you

## MIDNIGHT BLUE: JUST ADD AN ACCENT

A dramatic décor made up of inky shades of midnight blue and metallics creates a wonderfully moody atmosphere



Cushions and throws, from a selection, House of Fraser, Prestigious Textiles, Voyage, Voyage Maison and West Elm

### WHERE TO BUY

**1. PENDANT**

Hue pendant shade, £29, Made.com

**2. BOOKCASE**

Billy bookcase with doors, £95, Ikea

**3. VASE**

Textured vase, £33, Bloomingville range, Amara

**4. LAMP**

Silver sea crane lamp, £85, Butterfly Home by Matthew

Williamson range, Debenhams

**5. ARMCHAIR**

Winston armchair in Midnight wool, £779, Swoon Editions

**6. RUG**

Enhance rug, from £99, The Rug Seller

**7. CUSHION**

Peacock-print cushion, £35, Biba range, House of Fraser





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Laura, Manchester



Posed by a model.



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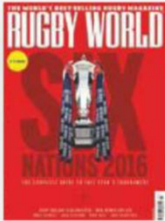
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# ‘Amazing interiors happen over time’



Liz Silvester is the woman behind Liberty’s spectacular

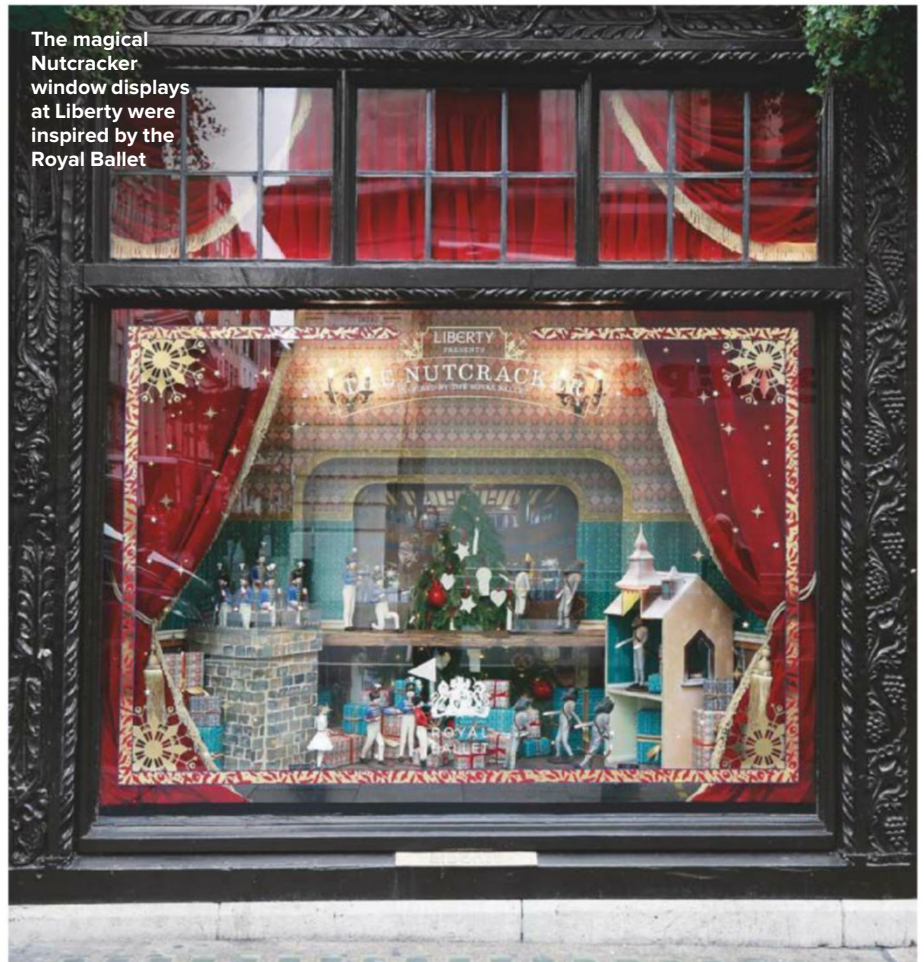
window displays, and if there’s one thing she’s learnt from 16 years in retail, it’s that you can’t rush perfection

Having previously created eye-boggling installations for Gucci, Prada, Selfridges and Harrods, Liz Silvester joined the team at Soho’s Liberty in 2014. The biggest job on her ‘to do’ list is to co-ordinate the historic department store’s legendary Christmas displays. She lives in a two-bedroom terraced house in Brighton with her cat, Lola.

**Christmas at Liberty is always a mammoth project.** This year, we built the window sets from scratch, and added chandeliers and claw-style lights to the building’s exterior. The atrium is decorated in red-velvet swags to make it look like the Royal Opera House, and the whole ground floor is covered in garlands infused with Diptyque scents. There are 80 Nutcracker-inspired Christmas trees dotted throughout the store. Once everything is in place in early November, I relax and plan a holiday.

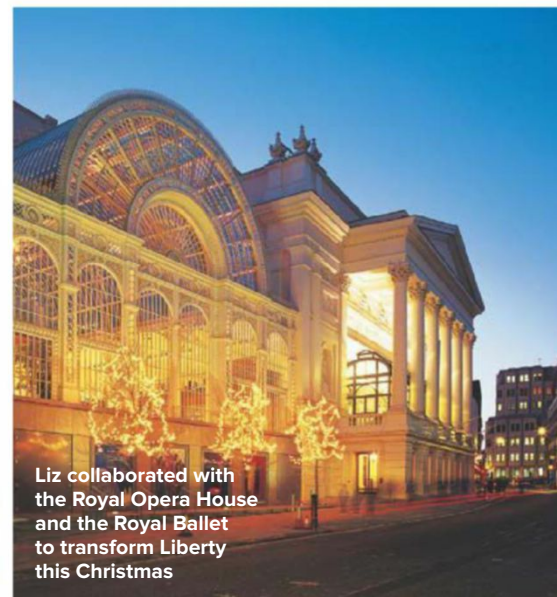
**Friends often ask me to make them Christmas decorations.** I use whatever’s lying around that is personal to them. They usually involve cuttings of foliage from the

The magical Nutcracker window displays at Liberty were inspired by the Royal Ballet



**Christmas cavalry**  
Nutcracker on horse decoration, £8.95, Liberty

**Classic Tchaikovsky**  
Nutcracker music box, £49.95, Liberty



Liz collaborated with the Royal Opera House and the Royal Ballet to transform Liberty this Christmas

## STYLE HERO

**A spirited swordsman**  
Nutcracker Soldier tree decoration, £10.95, Gisela Graham range, Liberty



**Festive scent**  
Epices et Delices holiday candle, £48, Diptyque range, Liberty



**'Fabric has always been a huge part of my life,' says Liz**  
Fabrics, from £22.50 per m, Liberty

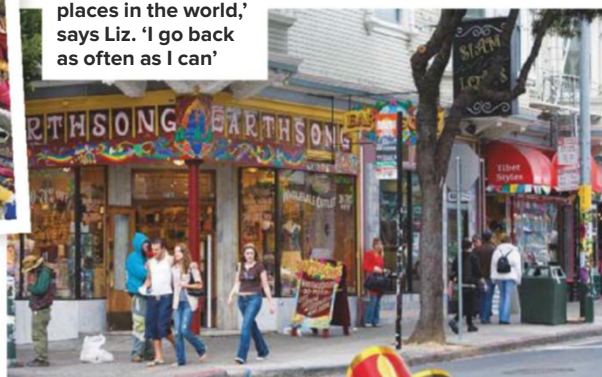


**Decorate your tree with bright colour this Christmas**  
Tree decorations, from £3.95 each; medium nutcracker, £39.95; large wooden nutcracker, £69.95; all Liberty

**'I'm obsessed with succulents,' says Liz**  
Faux succulents in bowl, £16.95, The Farthing



**'San Francisco is one of my favourite places in the world,' says Liz. 'I go back as often as I can'**



garden, which we will go out and pick together, plus some fabric that I've brought along.

**I have a ridiculous amount of fabric at home.** I've collected it since I was a little girl. When I studied at the Royal Academy, Paul Smith donated around 70 rolls of fabric to help me build my coursework. Rolls and stacks of fabrics are a common theme in my house. The one thing that gives me most pleasure in my home is seeing a beautiful array of fabric on seating.

**I live in a 170-year-old house in Brighton.** When I bought it five years ago, it was a wreck and I've been fixing it up ever since. I took up the floorboards to put in new joists and replaced all of the windows with traditional sashes. Now I'm about to start decorating the inside, which is the fun part!

**My house is a collection of all the things that I love.** There's no fixed trend or style; it's an extension of me and my personality. It's all quite pared back at the moment, but I'll be filling it slowly with all of my crazy furniture, collections of fabric, art and studio bits.

**Start with a great base, like an amazing colour.** It will be the backdrop you need to bring your objects to life, then you can build slowly from there. I'm a lover of colour and I'm not remotely scared to use it, but there's a limit, and in the past I've been guilty of pushing it too far.

**My favourite room is my bathroom.** It has a little window looking out onto the sea. With help from a plumber, I made the shower from reclaimed bits of pipe and hose taps from salvage yards. It looks like an outdoor shower, in copper and enamel. I plan to fill the bathroom with plants, from floor to ceiling.



**Christmas crackers**  
Nutcracker soldier crackers, £19.95 for six, Caspari range, Liberty



## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

*“It's important to take your time with decorating. It's okay to do a bit at a time and live with it and review it. One thing responds to another. Some of the most amazing interiors are put together over time”*

FEATURE GINEVRA BENEDETTI PHOTOGRAPHS AKIL ERKOSE. PICADE ILLC/REUTERS/YADID LEVY/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



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# *‘Sometimes you just have to go for it!’*



Desperate to put some life back into their Georgian-style house, Sacha and James Cole swapped its gloomy, traditional interior for a bright, contemporary look



### *Pick a modern mix of colours*

Sacha mixed a cool grey in the living room – Farrow & Ball's Cornforth White – with neutral upholstery before adding yellow and turquoise accents. 'I wanted this room to feel calm and relaxing, but introduced splashes of colour to brighten the grey,' she says.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Mirror TV, £3,300, Audio Visual Facilities. Falmouth driftwood coffee table, £1,000, Tristan Cockerill. Lamps, £220 each, Sacha Cole Interiors

**MIRROR TV**  
Not cheap, but it's the ultimate way to make your telly blend in

### IDEAL HOME *loves*

**Supersize rugs**  
Make sure they extend beyond the front legs of furniture to zone a large space



# Welcome to my home



Sacha Cole lives here with her husband James and their children, Zoe, 16, and Ollie, 13. Sacha is an interior designer and James is a company director.

## THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom detached house, built in 1997, in Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

## VALUE

Bought for £1.25million in 2011; now worth £2.5million.

**“I love bright and cheerful tropical colours”**

Sacha Cole loves bright colour – a far cry from the oppressive shades that dominated the house she bought with her husband James five years ago. ‘The décor throughout was very traditional and dated, with dado rails, heavily patterned curtains and a bathroom with gold fittings,’ she recalls. ‘It all seemed so dark and heavy, whereas I like lots of natural light and fresh, modern colours.’

Sacha, who is an interior designer (sachacoleinteriors.com), is used to working according to the tastes of her clients, so she relished the prospect of being ‘let loose’ in her own home.

‘I wanted the house to have a welcoming, lived-in look, which I planned to achieve by using a limited overall colour palette and adding lots of personal touches,’ she explains. ‘It was important for the house to feel as light and open as possible without losing any of its warmth and character as a family home.’

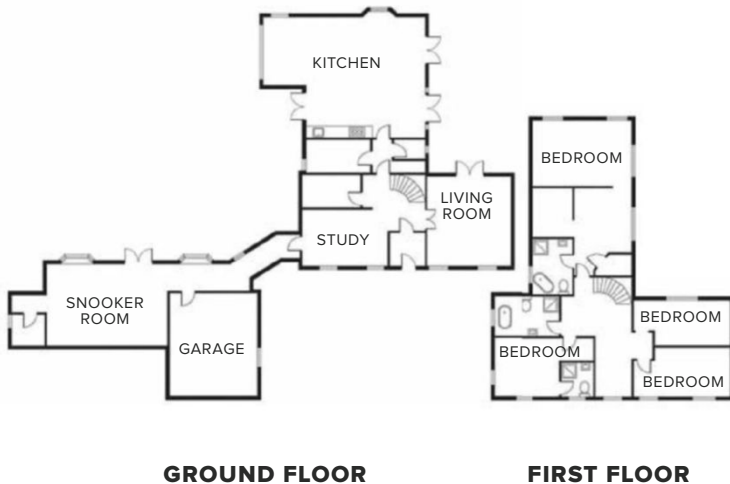
Sacha commissioned a team of builders to knock through the ground-floor interior walls to create a large, open-plan kitchen, dining and living space. The tatty carpets were removed and the downstairs floors replaced with

engineered oak. The dated bathroom fittings and kitchen units were upgraded and walls were stripped and reskimmed ready for painting, leaving Sacha a blank canvas on which to allow her colourful ideas and modern furniture shine. ‘I chose fairly understated colours before adding lots of “zing” with feature wallpapers, blinds, rugs and soft furnishings,’ she says. ‘I love tropical shades – they’re so uplifting and cheerful! I’ve used yellow, orange, green and red to create a bold, contemporary look.’

Much of the décor was inspired by a colourful picture that used to hang in the living room of Sacha’s childhood home. ‘It always reminded me of lazy summer days,’ she says. ‘Last year my dad gave it to me for Christmas. It completely ignited my passion for bright colours.’

Opening up the kitchen and replacing a dated conservatory leading of it with an orangery has transformed this part of the house, which is now Sacha’s favourite place to be. ‘I wanted the house to flow from one area to the next, rather than be a series of disconnected rooms,’ she says. ‘I’ve used similar tones and flooring but added lots of personal touches which have made our house a home.’

## Take a quick tour...







**RADIATOR COVER**  
Keeps this wall of built-in storage looking streamlined

### *Add accent colour with accessories*

'A home isn't a home without books, so I had a joiner make these shelves to my design,' says Sacha. 'They're perfect for displaying photographs and collectables, too.'

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Bespoke bookcase and radiator cover, £3,000, Sacha Cole Interiors



## IDEAL HOME *loves*

### **Slatted pendants**

The show-through means these supersize styles could work in small rooms, too

**ELECTRIC BLINDS**  
A great anti-glare solution for modern, glass-roofed kitchen-diners

### **Hold it all together with a white base**

In the kitchen, white walls and worktops offset the dark-grey Shaker units and a Moroccan-tiled splashback, plus collections of cookbooks and wine. 'I wanted classic clean lines in here, but added interest with wine racks and shelves,' says Sacha.

#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Shaker-style units and island, £30,000; Lagoon silestone worktop, £460 per sq m; all Clover Kitchens. Mabrouka tiles, £721 per sq m, Fired Earth. For similar lights, try the Achille, £75 each, Habitat

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**BOLD ARTWORK**  
 'This picture ignited my passion for colour and inspired this room's bright scheme,' says Sacha



**MODERN OVEN**  
 Sacha opted for a white Mercury oven instead of a traditional range

**Keep the big pieces of furniture simple**

Sacha keeps the basics plain – such as the flat-fronted sideboard and unfussy table in the kitchen-diner – to let the curvy wishbone chairs and fabulous chandelier steal the show. 'We brought the table from our last house,' says Sacha. 'It was bright red, which didn't look right here, so I had it sprayed with car paint at a garage.'

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar table, try the Fern white gloss extending dining table, £399, Danetti. Wishbone chairs, £175 each, After Noah. Aspen sideboard, £795, Habitat. For a similar chandelier, try the beaded wooden, £745, Out There Interiors





**BOX SHELVES**  
Wall mount a simple  
bookcase horizontally  
for cubbyhole storage

*“I like to introduce a few quirky accessories and bright colours into every room”*

**Keep prints super-simple**

Pattern can date a room, so choose carefully for a contemporary space. Simple geometrics and stripes work anywhere, or go for silhouette designs if you want a floral or leafy pattern. Sacha has mixed all three in the snug, which

used to be a dining room. ‘We eat in the kitchen,’ says Sacha, ‘so now this is a snug for the children with a sofa bed for sleepovers.’

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**  
For a similar chair fabric, try the Pod Cherry Charcoal, £37 per m, Harlequin. Rug, £59, Ikea



**SKINNY RAD**  
Keep wall space  
clear with an  
unconventional,  
slim design





## IDEAL HOME *loves*

### **Cowhide rugs**

*The irregular shapes add character, while the shallow pile means they don't trap dirt*

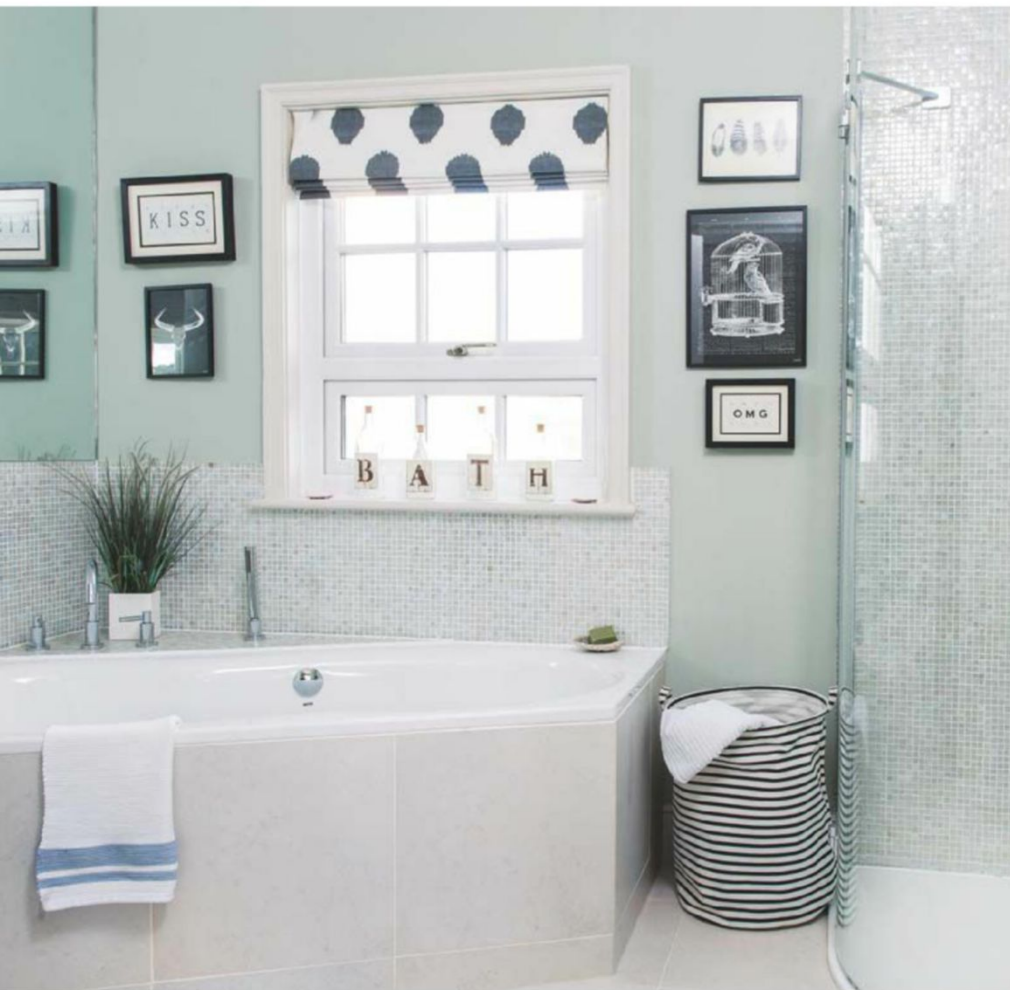
### ***Be eccentric!***

'The hall is the first thing you see, so I wanted to create impact for someone walking in the doorway,' says Sacha. A vintage chair, quirky cushion and cool mirror banish blandness. 'I love Abigail Ahern's Mercer Green, which looks cosy and classic on the walls,' she adds.

### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar rug, try a selection, Cowhiderugs.london.co.uk. For a similar chair, try a selection, After Noah. Tretchikoff cushion, £65, Graham and Green





### Work in a little black

Sacha chose gentle colour for the bathroom (it's Farrow & Ball's Mizzle), but kept the contemporary confidence going with hits of black on accessories. 'The watery-blue colour is much lighter and brighter than the brown and gold tiles that were here before,' she says.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Malacassa tiles, £135 per sq m, Fired Earth. For a similar bath, try the Starlet, from £3,106; shower tray, from £1,125; both Bette. Artwork, from £30 each, Chloe James Lifestyle. Bag, £15, Rockett St George

### Make a statement piece the hero

One chair was all it took to turn this awkward landing nook into a useful area. 'It was a challenge to make it into extra living space,' says Sacha, 'so I created a focus with this striking chair. It stops the area looking bitty.'

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar chair, try the Esmeralda, £525, MiaFleur. For similar wall lights, try the grey and white wall lights, £115 each, Idyll Home. For a similar lantern, try the white wood and nickel, £36, Hicks & Hicks. Como wall system (in Ollie's room), £699, BoConcept



*Love*  
SACHA'S STYLE?

Turn to page 65  
to shop the look

**WALL LIGHTS**  
Create a reading corner in even the tightest of spaces



**FLOORSTANDING MIRROR**  
Prop, don't hang, oversized statement mirrors



FEATURE HEATHER DIXON PHOTOGRAPHS AND STYLING  
COLIN POOLE PLANS AGENCY SERVICE

Sacha used Andrew Martin's Biography wallpaper at the far end of the bedroom

### Choose smooth, sleek textures

While country looks are all about distressed finishes, modern style works best with luxe materials, such as Sacha's sleek velvet headboard, Egyptian-cotton bedding and cashmere blanket. She's even used a midnight-blue pashmina to add an accent to the bed.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Button-back bed, from a selection, Feather & Black. Cushions made in Carnival, £120 per m, Michael Szell range, Christopher Farr Cloth. For a similar throw, try the Almora cashmere, £159, Urbanara. Mirror, £800, Sacha Cole Interiors. Antonia bone-inlay chest of drawers, £1,295, Graham and Green



### WHAT I LEARNED

“Meticulous planning saves time and money.

I created moodboards, so I had a clear idea of how each room would look. I also mixed inexpensive buys with investment items to create a stylish look on a realistic budget”

# Warren Evans

HANDMADE IN LONDON

14 showrooms | warrenevans.com | 020 7693 8988



£1,500  
**'Plumstead' double bed £898**  
£22.56 per month<sup>†</sup>

£895  
**'Joy' 6000 Pocket mattress £695**  
£17.46 per month<sup>†</sup>

## NOT JUST A FANTASTIC WOODEN BED COMPANY...

When I first started making beds 38 years ago my ambition was to make high quality, handcrafted products that would stand the test of time whilst being as ethical and green as possible.

Over the years we have become famous for our wooden beds which are made to order from only FSC® wood in our London workshop. However, our new upholstered range, including the Plumstead frame shown above is quickly becoming as popular, and is available in 8 fantastic fabrics.

Our quality service does not just stop with great looking frames, all of our mattresses are handmade with premium fillers. We also have been mentioned by Which? Magazine as one of the top three retailers to buy a mattress for each review they did since 2012.

We also understand that it can take some time to know if the mattress is right for you, which is why we offer an authentic '120 night mattress trial' on all Warren Evans sprung mattresses.

All of our products are delivered in days, direct from our London workshop with free assembly and installation to the room of your choice and we also offer **Express day & evening mattress deliveries**.

We hope that you can come to one of our 14 showrooms in London and the South East to try our beds and mattresses for yourself, or simply buy direct from us online with confidence at warrenevans.com

With very best wishes.

Warren



★★★★★ Quality Value Range

Which? members 'Best Mattress Retailers' (2015)

**The Observer**  
**'Ethical Retailer of the Year'**  
Winners in 3 separate years

38 years of award winning quality goods, delivered in days.

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی

Enekas.Academy

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# Make it work for you

## SACHA'S STYLE: CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC

A modern room needn't be plain – bold prints, smart furniture and punchy colours are all it takes to give it some personality

**DESIGN CLASSIC**  
CH24 Wishbone chair, from £598, Nest.co.uk

IDEAL



**STATEMENT LIGHTING**  
Secto Octo ceiling light in birch, £585, John Lewis

GREAT DEAL

**LOOKALIKE STYLE**  
Replica Wishbone chair, £139, Cult Furniture



**STRIKING EFFECT**  
Achille ash plywood shade, £75, Habitat



**POP OF PATTERN**

Medina rug (230cm x 150cm), £300, Debenhams



**MONOCHROME MOMENT**

Hovslund rug (230cm x 160cm), £59, Ikea



**HIGH IMPACT**

Contour Lime table lamp, £256, Brewers Home



**LOOK-AT-ME ACCESSORY**

Ribbed table lamp, £25, Very



**FESTIVE SPARKLE**

Copper bauble, £5, The Contemporary Home



**GLITZY GOLD**

Glitter bauble, £4.50 for four, Homebase



**NEUTRAL PIECE**

Isla two-seat sofa in Cobble brushed linen cotton, £1,300, Sofa.com



**SIMPLE SHAPE**

Sydney two-seater sofa in silver, £579, Harveys



FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPH COLIN POOLE

# 40

## Easy style updates

From best buys and clever tricks to mini décor projects... this is our roundup of the simplest, quickest ways to make your home more beautiful *now*

### 1 *Fill every corner of the room with light*

Create pools of light around the room using displays of fairy lights and candles, then keep the overhead light switched off and enjoy the magical glow.



For a similar printer's tray, try eBay



## 2 Give special baubles a place to shine

Free baubles from the Christmas tree by setting up displays of them elsewhere. A printer's tray is a great backdrop for showcasing collectables and small trinkets.

## 3 DRESS THE TABLE WITH TREATS

For a simple place setting that doubles as a gift, wrap up a luxury bar of chocolate and attach a label stamped with your guest's name. Just ask them to wait until after dinner before they unwrap it.

## 4 TRANSFORM A BOTTLE INTO A CANDLESTICK

Once your house red has run dry, slide this lovely candleholder into the neck of the bottle, then pop a tall candle inside.

Star-shaped bottle candlestick holder, £12, Rockett St George



For similar glasses, try the Champagne saucers, £34 for four, Oliver Bonas



## 6 Create your own menu chalkboard

Create a gastropub experience with a menu board. Spray a piece of MDF with chalkboard paint and slide it into a vintage-style frame.



Sparklers, from £2.50 for 10, Talking Tables

## 5 ENJOY A SPARKLING MOMENT

Enjoy a mini fireworks display at your dining table on New Year's Eve by passing around mini table sparklers with the after-dinner mints (always use with caution).

**7 HAVE AN OPEN BAR**  
Fill a drinks dispenser with a pre-mixed cocktail so guests can help themselves to a top-up. Try Next's glamorous faceted design, £26.

**8 GET THE PARTY STARTED WITH GLITZY TABLEWARE**

Swap plain napkins for something a bit more fun, like this scalloped design with gold-foil lettering.

Pop Fizz Clink napkins, £3.99 for 16, Party Pieces



For similar baubles, try the silver glass, £6 each, Marks & Spencer

**9 Arrange a bauble cluster**

Choose a selection of baubles in a mix of different sizes and tie a length of ribbon to each one. Hold the ribbons together and pull one at a time to vary the hanging lengths before tying.

**10 Make a fairy-light curtain**

Create a 'wow' moment for your guests when they enter the dining room with a glittering backdrop of fairy lights – buy them on a cable mesh or in strands, and lay over a simple sheer or length of muslin.



**11 LIGHT UP WINDOW FRAMES**

Secure swags of fairy lights in place around a window frame with Command's clear Christmas light hanging hooks, £8.99, Tesco Direct – they are easy remove and won't leave any marks on the paintwork.

Wreath, £50; mercury pillar candle holders, £25 each; silver beaded placemats, £30 for two; pre-lit sparkle garland, £60; cascading fairy lights, £60; all The White Company



Nordic Christmas plates, £3 for eight, Talking Tables

## 12 ADD A GOLD FLOURISH

Give your standard dinnerware a festive finish by placing a patterned paper plate on top of each dinner plate. It's a simple way to add colour and save on the washing-up, too!

## 13 Decorate gift boxes

Create unique boxes for foodie gifts by spraying an old biscuit tin in chalkboard paint (or just buy Ikea's Vinter tins). Simply write a message or draw a Christmas design using chalk.



Vinter tin, £2.75, Ikea

## 14 LINE UP STOCKINGS

Invest in a stocking hanger ornament that makes a pretty addition to your mantelpiece. Find festive designs at The Contemporary Home, starting at £19.50.

For similar glass jars, try the Serve bonbon jars, £35 each, LSA International



## 15 Give your mantelpiece vintage style

Clear your mantel of Christmas cards and photo frames, and create a shimmering display using elegant candlesticks and mercurised-glass tealight holders. Add height at either end with French-style bonbon jars.

For a similar basket, try the water hyacinth log basket, £35, John Lewis



## 16 *Don't forget the hallway*

A tabletop tree will give you that festive feeling as soon as you step through the front door. Hide the pot inside a basket, using a tray to waterproof the base.



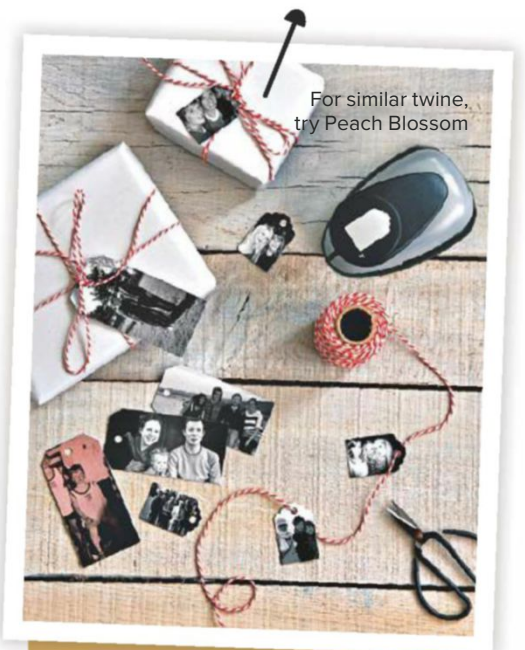
## 18 **FILL GAPS ON SHELVES WITH MINI TREES**

Dot these little trees around the house – the tiny bottle-brush ones are ideal for displaying inside jam jars with a layer of fake snow.

Mini Christmas trees, from £10 for two, Kikki K

## 19 **DISPLAY CARDS ON A GARLAND**

Make a simple garland by pegging Christmas cards to a length of string – upgrade wooden pegs using spray paint or patterned Washi tape. Finish it off by tying on mini baubles between the cards.



For similar twine, try Peach Blossom

## 20 *Make photo gift tags*

For added 'oooh' factor when giving presents, print out some of your best snaps on photo paper, then cut into a label shape (or use a label punch to save time).

## 17 **UPSTYLE A GUEST ROOM**

Add a special touch for visiting friends and family by leaving VIP treats on the bed – a set of toiletry minis, a rolled-up towel and a mini box of chocolates will give them a boutique-hotel experience.

Pre-lit Balmoral porch tree, £100; station lanterns, from £49.95 each; all John Lewis



For similar ribbon, try Jane Means

## 24 PRETTIFY A FAUX WREATH

Decorate a plain wreath with real flowers – something as simple as gypsophila will do the job. Wind craft wire around the stems and the wreath to secure the sprigs.

## 21 Spruce up your porch

Brighten dark days by winding LED fairy lights around wreaths and topiary trees, or opt for pre-lit versions to save you the hassle of untangling fairy lights. For parties, add a couple of hurricane lanterns to the display.

## 22 HANG TREATS ON THE TREE

For a stylish upgrade on tree chocolates, fill cone decorations with the family's favourite sweets.

White ceramic hanging cone, £5.40, Rockett St George



## 23 WRAP PRESENTS IN NEWSPAPER

If you run out of giftwrap at the eleventh hour, use newspaper instead. Tie with twine string and add a sprig of foliage from the garden for a rustic look.



Natural Trees double bed linen set, £35; faux-fur cushion, £22; both Next

## 25 Swap the bed linen

Give a guest room a simple makeover for the season by swapping the usual bedding for a wintry design – a subtle tree print will create a calm Scandi look.



Lanterns, from £25 each, The White Company

## 28 *Make the most of mirrors*

Hang pre-lit wreaths on a mirror and arrange a row of candles and votives in mirror-finish holders at different heights in front of it – the mirrored surfaces will reflect the candlelight, doubling your room's sparkle.

## 29 **STICK PATTERN ON GIFTWRAP**

Use paper tape for a speedy, budget-friendly way to turn plain packages into pretty parcels.

Vinter tapes, £1.20 for three, Ikea



## 26 **BUILD A TRAY DISPLAY**

When decorating a coffee table or sideboard, arrange baubles, tealights and candlesticks on a tray so that the display can easily be lifted out of the way to make space for food, drinks and gifts.

## 27 **SHOW OFF A GOLDEN GLOBE**

Metallic paper decorations will see you through from Christmas Eve to New Year's Eve. Hang a group on top of a mirror, in a row above a dining table or to signpost the bar area.

Meri Meri silver foil globes, £11.99 for three, Party Pieces



Place-card holders, £10 for 24, Talking Tables

## 30 **PROVIDE A TALKING POINT**

These stylish bauble place cards come with a silly conversation starter printed on the back – handy if you're bringing together a new group of people at Christmas.



# 31 *Go big on balloons*

An eye-catching display of helium balloons on the dining table won't be forgotten for a while. Once your guests have finished at the table, move the balloons to decorate the makeshift dance floor in the kitchen!



For similar balloons, try the giant confetti filled, £12 each, Bubblegum Balloons

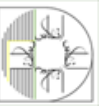
# 32

## GLAM UP GLASSWARE

Added shimmer will not only make the table look festive – it will also give your party a sense of occasion. There's no need to spend a fortune on extra sparkle – these flutes from Wilko are a bargain!



Gold Sparkle Champagne flutes, £10 for four, Wilko



# 33 *Design a wintry scene*

Swap out an old snowglobe for a glass cloche and create a mini scene with a stag decoration and an offcut of garden foliage – a berry sprig will add vibrant colour.



Dome, £84, Royal Design



Compressed air confetti cannon popper, £1.99, Ginger Ray

# 35 ENSURE A GLITTERING FINALE

Hand these confetti canons out to guests and, when midnight strikes, a shower of confetti will rain down on your dance floor – it's so worth the clean-up!

Paper decorations, from £1 each, George Home



# 34 MAKE IT PERSONAL

Top last year's present-opening ceremony with personalised present sacks. We love the classic designs from The Handmade Christmas Co, £22 each.

White Christmas tree, £25, Homebase. For similar letters, try the light-up Joy sign, £29.99, Dobbies



# 36 *Decorate kids' rooms, too*

Give them their own small tree to decorate and add a few brightly coloured festive buys. That way, you can keep your colour palette nice and calm in the living room, but let them go colour-crazy in their own space!



## 37 *Create a festive feature*

A branch makes a rustic pole to hang snowflakes and paper pompoms from. If you can't find a branch, simply tie a length of string between two wall hooks.



Decorations, from £2, George Home. For a similar vase, try the Recycled Demi John vase, £35, Cox & Cox

## 39 FASHION YOUR OWN MINI TREE

Don't have the space for a traditional tree? Make your own using a large vase and some small branches from the garden, so you can still show off your best baubles.



For a similar doormat, try the Merry Christmas doormat, £10, John Lewis

## 38 LOOK OUTSIDE FOR NATURAL DECORATIONS

Pick up pine cones for the table, or evergreen foliage and berry sprigs for the mantel. It's super-easy to spray them with metallic paint or fake snow, too.

## 40 BRIGHTEN THE BACK STEP

Ditch your grubby doormat for a festive version and coax the family outside for a post-lunch walk by leaving a surprise gift poking out of their welly boots.



Keep evolving your room style with our easy updates



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# — ONE —

# LIVING ROOM

## *three ways*

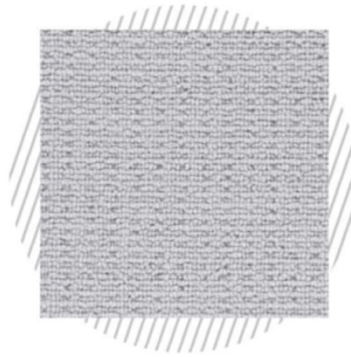
START WITH THESE KEY PIECES...

### The Sofa



Aalto three-seater sofa  
in Sea Mist, from £1,527,  
Sofa Workshop

### The Flooring



Eysturoy Cloud flooring,  
£39.95 per sq m, Faroe  
collection, Gaskell Mackay

### The Shelving

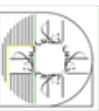


Vittsjö  
shelving unit,  
£65, Ikea

...AND CREATE THESE LOOKS



TURN TO SEE HOW →



**On the tree**

- 1 Faux hydrangea stems, £18.95 each, Parlane International
- 2 Silver stags, £7 each, Talking Tables
- 3 Retro Santas, £2 each, George Home
- 4 Mini disco balls, £1.99 each, Gisela Graham

IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Glitter-on-white  
wallpaper**

*Add subtle pattern  
with an understated  
sparkly backdrop*



**MAGIC  
INGREDIENT**  
A wooden coffee  
table with an  
industrial metal  
frame gives a  
country look a  
modern edge

BE  
CANDLE  
SAFE



**ONE LIVING ROOM**  
*three ways*

# Simple rustic glamour

A SMART SOFA, PLUS SIMPLE FLOORING AND LOTS OF RUSTIC WOOD, IS THE PERFECT START TO A COUNTRY SCHEME. TAKE THE LOOK DOWN A MORE REFINED ROUTE BY SWAPPING NEUTRALS FOR A SILVER GREY TO CREATE A CHIC FINISH



**THE FABRIC**  
Sonara Sterling  
3535/946, £19.99 per m,  
Prestigious Textiles



**THE PAINT**  
Silver Birch flat  
matt, £15 for  
2.5ltr, Wilko



**THE WALLPAPER**  
Merletto Gull  
W398/04, £120  
per roll, Romo



**On the tree**

- 1 Metal swallows, £5.50 each, RE
- 2 Ballet slippers, £3 each, George Home
- 3 Lattice baubles, £2 each, George Home
- 4 Pink mirror baubles, from £1 each, George Home

IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Vintage-style mirrors**  
Choose a set with gilt frames to create a focal point in a plush country scheme





**ONE LIVING ROOM**  
*three ways*

# Vintage glamour

A PALE-GREEN SOFA IS MORE VERSATILE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK: IT'S THE PERFECT PARTNER FOR SOFT PINK. GO OLD-SCHOOL HOLLYWOOD WITH METALLIC WALLPAPER, FADED VELVETS AND TOUCHES OF BRASS, AND ENJOY THE ELEGANCE OF IT ALL

**MAGIC INGREDIENT**  
We sprayed this Ikea shelving unit with gold paint



**THE FABRIC**  
Tresillo Velvets in Rose Water, £56 per m, Harlequin



**THE PAINT**  
Angel's Sigh R8A Walls & Ceilings, £21.98 for 2.5ltr, Valspar range, B&Q



**THE WALLPAPER**  
Foil Diamond, £28 per roll, Albany range, Wallpaperdirect

**MAGIC INGREDIENT**  
A junk-shop frame makes a great side-table display, adorned with festive decs



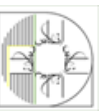
**On the tree**

- 1 Gold ribbon, from a selection, Jane Means
- 2 Gold eucalyptus stems, £9.95 each, Parlane International
- 3 Splatter-print crackers, £20 for six, Habitat
- 4 Glass gold spot baubles, £4.99 each, Gisela Graham

IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Typographical prints**  
– the easy way to  
add artwork without  
worrying if it's the  
right colour or style

**MAGIC  
INGREDIENT**  
Shimmering  
gold wallpaper  
sets the tone  
for modern  
opulence



ONE LIVING ROOM  
*three ways*

# Urban glamour

IF YOU LOVED GREEN WITH SILVER, GO A STEP FURTHER AND PAIR IT WITH GOLD. THE SOFT SHADE OF THIS SOFA COOLS DOWN THE GLOWING GOLD WALLPAPER PERFECTLY, WHILE THE BASIC SHELIVING UNIT REALLY POPS IN GLOSSY BLACK



**THE FABRIC**  
Burnet Antique Gold/  
Cream 120565,  
£96 per m, Harlequin



**THE PAINT**  
Striking Metallic  
emulsion,  
£18.99 for 1.25ltr,  
Crown range,  
Homebase



**THE WALLPAPER**  
Sparkle 701354, £22  
per roll, Albany range,  
Wallpaperdirect



**MAGIC  
INGREDIENT**  
Keep the  
gold theme  
going on  
cushions and  
accessories

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی



ONE LIVING ROOM  
*three ways*

Where to buy



**Simple rustic  
glamour**

Merletto wallpaper in Gull Grey, £120 per roll, Romo. Eysturoy Cloud flooring, £39.95 per sq m, Faroe collection, Gaskell Mackay. Sparkler rug, £1,950, Woven. Aalto sofa in Sea Mist, from £1,527, Sofa Workshop. Zeppelin armchair in Frost highland tweed, £580, Sofa.com. Artisan coffee table, £595; Artisan side tables, £325 for two; Artisan sideboard, £1,295; all Lombok. Vittsjö shelving unit, £65, Ikea. Frosted Fraser Fir 7ft lit tree, £509, Balsam Hill. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Nigella in Marble, £40, Laura Ashley; made in Fractal Steel, £29 per m, Harlequin; made in Sonara Sterling, £19.99 per m, Prestigious Textiles; Arionne Argenta, £49, Voyage Maison; made in Sonara Sterling, as before; made in Fractal Steel, as before. **ON COFFEE TABLE Boxes**, from a selection, Paperchase. Ribbon, from a selection, Jane Means. Cut-out tealight holder, £3.95; antique-style tealight holder, £5.95; both Aspen & Brown. Tray, £50, Laura Ashley. Carafe, £34, Rowen & Wren. Glasses, from £6 each, RE. Crackers, from a selection, House of Fraser. **ON SIDE TABLE Shelby lamp base**, from £75; lampshade, from a selection; both Laura Ashley. Card, from a selection, Paperchase. Tealight holder, £4.50, RE. Bell, from a selection, Aspen & Brown. **ON SIDE TABLE Tealight holders**; both as before. **ON SIDEBBOARD Cards**, from a selection, Paperchase. Wave vase, £35, Kew Gardens range; Polka vase, £22 for two; Charles table lamp, £100; frame, £20, all John Lewis. Vase, £30, Habitat. Tree, £17.50, Marks & Spencer. Cake stand, £50, House of Fraser. Garland, £25, Cox & Cox. **ON WALL** Fraser Fir lit wreaths, £89 each, Balsam Hill. For similar baubles, try a selection, Gisela Graham. Blue and silver wreath, £15, George Home. **ON SHELVING UNIT Trees**, from £14.95 each; house dome, £24.95; planter, £5.50; vase £16.95; all Parlane International. Tealight holders; frame; all as before. Ellington lantern, £35, Laura Ashley. Candlesticks, from £25 each, House of Fraser. Tray, £12, John Lewis. Lantern, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. **ON/UNDER TREE Reindeer**, £7 each; crackers, £12.50 for six; all Talking Tables. Glitter baubles, £1.99 each, Gisela Graham. Hydrangea stems, £18.95 each, Parlane International. Santas, £2 each, George Home. Hearts, £10.95 for four; birds, from £4.50 each; all Aspen & Brown. Boxes and giftwrap, from a selection, Paperchase. Ribbons, from a selection, Jane Means. Tags, £1.50 for 20, Hobbycraft



**Vintage  
glamour**

Foil Diamond 22329 wallpaper, £28 per roll, Albany range, Wallpaperdirect. Eysturoy Cloud flooring, £39.95 per sq m, Faroe collection, Gaskell Mackay. Luna Blush medium rug, £300, Cox & Cox. Aalto three-seater sofa in Sea Mist, from £1,527, Sofa Workshop. Snowdrop armchair in Shell, £780, Sofa.com. Large Empire coffee table in Gustavian Grey, £877; Empire console in Gustavian Grey, £489; both Scumble Goosie. Drake side table, £350, Laura Ashley. Golden pineapple table, £395, Graham and Green. Vittsjö shelving unit, £65, Ikea; sprayed in gold paint, for similar, try the Rust-Oleum gold spray paint, £9.49, Homebase. Frosted Fraser Fir 7ft lit tree, £509, Balsam Hill. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Nigella cyclamen square velvet, £40, Laura Ashley; made in Asuri Cashew; back made in Asuri Swedish Grey; both £47.50 per m, Romo; Jemima embroidered, £35, Marks & Spencer; made in Tresillo Rose Water; piping made in Tresillo Seaglass; both £56 per m, Harlequin; Theon platinum, £49, Voyage Maison. **ON CHAIR Cushions**, made in (from front): Aurelia Gold, £96 per m; Operetta Pebble, £59 per m; both Harlequin. Throw, from a selection, Lexington. **ON/UNDER COFFEE TABLE Tray**, £35, Marks & Spencer. Tapio Champagne flutes, £30 for four, Oliver Bonas. Antique-style tealight holder, £4.95, Aspen & Brown. Striped crackers, £20 for 12; for a similar vase, try the Barrel, £23; all John Lewis. Giftwrap, from a selection, Zazzle. Ribbons, from a selection, Jane Means. **ON LEFT SIDE TABLE** Ostravia flamingo snowglobe, £15; Wave vase, £35, Kew Gardens range; both John Lewis. Antique-style tealight holder, £4.95, Aspen & Brown. **ON RIGHT SIDE TABLE** Charles ribbed-glass table lamp, £100, John Lewis. 14in gold Solaris shade, £54.95, Graham and Green. **ON SIDEBBOARD** Pressed glass cake stand, from £16, RE. Cake, from a selection, Marks & Spencer. Mini baubles in Eucalyptus, £5.50 for 24, Cox & Cox. Flask 111, £42, Woven. Antique-style tealight holder, £4.95, Aspen & Brown. Cards, from a selection, Paperchase. James brass-finish lantern, £60, Laura Ashley. Blush pillar candles, from £5.50 each, Cox & Cox. **ON WALL** Wish wall art, £15, Debenhams. Scalloped-edge mirrors, £175 for three, Cox & Cox. **ON SHELVING UNIT** Mixed bauble trees, £15 each, Marks & Spencer. James brass-finish tealight lantern, £22, Laura Ashley. Neema hurricane, £49.50; Montana bowl, £55; Aisha bowl, £55; all Parlane



**Urban  
glamour**

Sparkle 701354 wallpaper, £22 per roll, Albany range, Wallpaperdirect. Eysturoy Cloud flooring, £39.95 per sq m, Faroe collection, Gaskell Mackay. Graphic rug, £375, Woven. Aalto sofa in Sea Mist, from £1,527, Sofa Workshop. Zeppelin armchair in Frost Highland Tweed, £580, Sofa.com. Tilda coffee table, £250, Habitat. Muse nesting tables, £195 for two; basket, £42; all Oliver Bonas. Vittsjö shelving unit, £65, Ikea. Stanford sideboard, £999, Content by Terence Conran. Frosted Fraser Fir 7ft lit tree, £509, Balsam Hill. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Polka dots, £24.15; chevron, £26.50; both Zazzle; heart, £20; 'Pretty Little Thing', £15; both Debenhams; made in Burnet in Antique gold/cream, £96 per m, Harlequin; herringbone, £24.15; Zazzle. Spots box, £5 for two, Hobbycraft. Ribbon, from a selection, Jane Means. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Marble pastry board, £30, Debenhams. Wine glasses, £14 each, House of Fraser. Miniature crackers, £7 for eight, Talking Tables. Drinks, from a selection; sequin tree, £15; all Marks & Spencer. Aisha bowl, £55, Parlane International. Gold giftwrap, from a selection, Paperchase. Dots giftwrap, £11.10 per roll, Zazzle. Ribbon, from a selection, Jane Means. **ON SIDE TABLE Striped vase**, £10, Debenhams. Brass vase, £15, John Lewis. Chester table lamp, £347, Original BTC. **ON SIDEBBOARD Candlesticks**, from £17 each, Oliver Bonas. Hexagonal pot, from £55, Woven. Glass vase, £30; Heidi candelabra, £35; both Habitat. Garland, £30, Cox & Cox. **ON WALL** 'Non Je Ne Regrette Rien' print, £18; 'Laughter' print, £18; both Sarah & Bendrix. For similar frames, try the Ribba, £12 each, Ikea. Hello sign, £10, Debenhams. **ON SHELVING UNIT Stars**, from £29.95 each, Rose & Grey. Striped vase, £75, John Lewis. Polka dot vase, £8, Debenhams. Heidi candelabra, £35; Anngarsk wreath, £30; vase, £20; all Habitat. Candles, from a selection, St Eval Candle Company. Honeycomb vase, £28; apple pot, £12.50; both Oliver Bonas. Lanterns, from £9.50 each, Cox & Cox. Spots box, as before. White box, from £3, Hobbycraft. **IN WIRE BASKET** Flag throw, £125, Lexington. Essery throw in Fog, £69, Sheridan. **ON/UNDER TREE** Anngarsk star, £35, Habitat. Eucalyptus sprays in gold, £9.95 each, Parlane International. Faceted baubles, £6 for six; Franga gold baubles, £6 for two; crackers, £20 for six; all Habitat. Spot baubles, £3.99 each, Gisela Graham. Letters, £4.50 each, Oliver Bonas. Giftwrap; boxes; all as before. Ribbon, from a selection, Jane Means

FEATURE CAROL WORTLEY-BISHOP PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON WHITMORE



**LIGHT SHOW**

Add twinkling lights to create a cosy atmosphere  
 Fairy lights (L4.2m), £4;  
 LED star lights, from  
 £12; throws, from £10  
 each; decorations, from  
 £2 each; all Matalan

**ADD A FESTIVE ACCESSORY**

Instantly update your room with these wintry buys



**RAISE A TOAST**  
 Enjoy fireside tipples  
 Stag tumbler,  
 £4, Matalan



**ALL IN THE DETAIL**  
 Glam up a sofa  
 Embroidered  
 waves cushion,  
 £10, Matalan



**FROSTED FINISH**  
 Display in a trio  
 Tabletop tree, from  
 £5, Matalan

# CELEBRATE THE SEASON

Ready your home for Christmas with some smart finishing touches from Matalan

**W**ith the big day fast approaching, attention turns to ensuring your home looks its seasonal best for visiting family and friends during the busy festive period. Thankfully, Matalan has everything you need to make this Christmas the most memorable yet.

**ENSURE A WARM WELCOME**

Whatever the weather outside, be it rainy, snowy or a crisp and clear winter's day, make sure your home feels snug and inviting. Layer up blankets and throws on guest beds and armchairs, then add a few faux-fur cushions to your sofa for some guaranteed warmth and cosiness – perfect for a quick update. Pop a soft mohair throw over a sofa arm for easy access when snuggling up by the fire.

**SPRUCE UP YOUR SCHEME**

Festive decorations needn't be reserved for the Christmas tree. Although Matalan has a huge selection of gorgeous hanging baubles, there are also plenty of stunning faux garlands, wreaths and tabletop decorations to choose from to give your home a seasonal look from top to toe.

**CREATE A MAGICAL GLOW**

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without a set of twinkling lights draped over the tree or mantel. With a wide choice of pre-lit decorations, displays and accessories to choose from, Matalan has it covered – whether you're after rustic wooden stars or glass domes and jars, mix and match your favourite finds to give your home a special Christmas makeover.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION...**

To discover the whole Christmas range at Matalan or to find your nearest store, visit [matalan.co.uk](http://matalan.co.uk)

**MATALAN**

# 'I'm a bit of a magpie, but I've made it work'



Updating the flat she inherited from her grandmother, Antonia Hamilton was inspired by its Georgian heritage, her gran's Sixties décor and her own love of all things retro

## IDEAL HOME *loves*

**Coffee tables  
with hiding places**  
Mags, remotes, coasters,  
trays – they can all live  
here without  
being seen

**EXTRA-DEEP SOFA**  
Ideal for family  
rooms – for snuggling,  
slouching and Sunday  
afternoon naps



## Mix contemporary and retro designs

Antonia has filled her home with inherited pieces, vintage eBay finds and contemporary investment buys to create a cool, eclectic look. In the garden room, mid-century classics sit alongside a slouchy modern sofa and a sleek wood burner.

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

FB2 wood burner, £1,699, Firebelly Stoves range, Fireworld. Lazytime Plus four-seater sofa, from £2,128, Camerich. For a similar coffee table, try the Watford, £249, La Redoute



*Love*  
ANTONIA'S  
STYLE?

Turn to page 95  
to shop the look

# Welcome to my home



Antonia and her family live in the two-storey garden apartment of this elegant townhouse



Antonia Hamilton, a trainee psychotherapist, lives here with her husband, David, an IT consultant, and their children, Eddie, nine, Linus, seven, and Rollo, four.

## THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom, two-storey flat, built in 1820, in Edinburgh, Scotland.

**VALUE** Currently worth £850,000.

**“With young boys it’s impossible to keep this place immaculate, but we want them to enjoy their home, too!”**

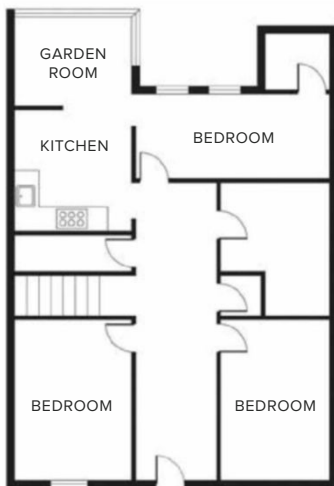
Antonia Hamilton inherited her garden flat in Edinburgh from her grandmother in 2008. ‘She bought the flat in 1967 and I grew up just around the corner, so I have many happy memories of this place,’ she says. ‘The flat was converted in the Sixties and hadn’t had much done to it in the meantime. The challenge was to alter it to fit our needs.’

Antonia’s aim was to respect the flat’s Georgian character and her gran’s décor, while updating it to her taste and lifestyle. The tongue-and-groove panelling on the kitchen walls was retained, but its orange pine painted over. The ornate cornices, sash windows and shutters were highlighted with fresh white paint. Contemporary wallpaper was used to create feature walls that give definition to the large rooms.

The biggest change was the addition of a garden room at the back of the flat. ‘I love the exposed stone of the original rear wall, which shows the property’s transition from traditional Georgian to the new wood and glass of the extension,’ says Antonia. ‘We decided to hire an architect to design it and the investment was worth it in terms of the quality of the design, including glazing that wraps around the corner of the building and the huge skylight. The extension has transformed the way we live and it has become the hub of our home.’

Rather than try to re-create a period feel in this new space, Antonia has celebrated its modernity. A wood-burning stove acts as the focal point of the room and a big, low-slung sofa signals that this is an informal space for relaxation and play with her sons, Eddie, Linus and Rollo. ‘I can imagine them using this room as their own space to entertain friends in the future, and David and I will use the living area upstairs to relax,’ she says. ‘I can see this house evolving with us.’

## Take a quick tour...



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



## Add colour with care

Mixing not matching can look chaotic, so in each space Antonia holds the scheme together with a colour theme. In the kitchen-diner, it's a fresh blue hue.

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Foto pendant lights, £24 each, Ikea. For a similar movie poster, try a selection, At The Movies

### PEEPHOLE

Lets light from the new extension flood into the old part of the flat

## IDEAL HOME loves

### Bench seats

Great for squeezing in extra kids – and it'll stow away under the table



IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Plate racks**  
Less bulky than  
full-on units; less  
dust-gathering than  
open shelves

**Combine old and  
new materials**

In the kitchen, Antonia has balanced reclaimed wood worktops, distressed cabinetry, Sixties wall cladding and flagstone flooring with sleek Corian on the island.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Bespoke units, £POA, Old Pine & Pieces. For a similar plate rack, try the pine, £179, Jeremy Hill Furnishings. For similar blue paint, try First Dawn Matt Emulsion, £16.42 for 2.5ltr, Dulux



**LOW-SLUNG PENDANTS**  
Create a cosier atmosphere around the table



'This one-armed chair changed my style from classic to more of-the-moment,' says Antonia

**Layer with considered clutter**

More is more when it comes to Antonia's eclectic style. In the living room, mismatched furniture, collected treasures and all kinds of artwork jostle together for a relaxed, informal effect.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Fruit cushions, £116 each, Jonathan Adler range, Selvedge. For a similar rug, try the cowhide, £320, Cowhide Rugs London. For a similar gilt mirror, try the Victoria antiqued gold, £439, Decorative Mirrors Online



**OVERMANTEL MIRROR**  
Simple gilt arches work with every style of décor



## Don't let original features dictate

Antonia resisted the urge to go for a more classic look to fit with the ornate cornices and window in the main bedroom. In fact, the ultra-contemporary, Scandi-inspired wallpaper can be seen to its full impact in this high-ceilinged space.

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Woods & Stars wallpaper, £78 per roll, Cole & Son range, Designer Wallpapers. Throw, £195, Niki Jones. For a similar desk, try the Grace, £269, Wayfair

**YELLOW POP**  
Our favourite accent colour in a black-and-white scheme



### WHAT I LEARNED

“Pinterest is fantastic for planning interiors schemes and preventing impulse buys and expensive mistakes. I bookmark things, then go back and revisit my pins a few months later. If I still love a piece, then I’ll buy it”

### IDEAL HOME loves

**Multiple rugs**  
Try a few small shaggy rugs instead of one or two big ones for extra luxe

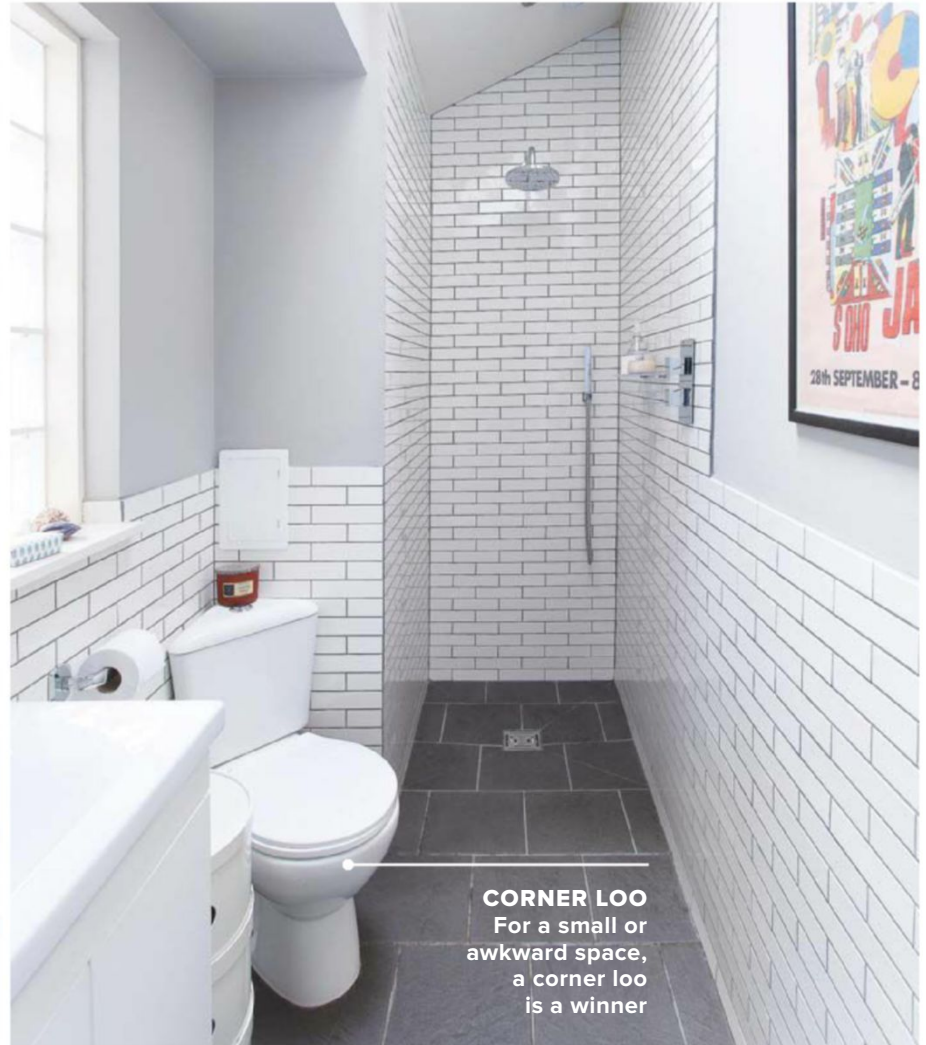
FEATURE ANDRÉA CHILDS PHOTOGRAPHS  
DOUGLAS GIBB PLANS AGENCY SERVICE

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی

Enekas.Academy

Enekas.Academy

“I’m very keen on the Scandi aesthetic – lots of animal skins, wood and natural materials”



**CORNER LOO**  
For a small or awkward space, a corner loo is a winner



**Calm it down in small spaces**

The narrow en suite would easily be overwhelmed by lots of details, so a white and grey scheme and just one framed print hits the spot perfectly.

**THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar loo, try the Metro compact corner, £150, Bathrooms.com

**Try using more muted tones**

An eclectic look doesn’t have to be all about lots of bold colour and pattern – Antonia has gone for a more subtle approach in the guest bedroom with luxe, neutral bed linen and a quietly characterful cow-print wallpaper.

**THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar wallpaper, try the Countryside Toile, £65 per roll, Belynda Sharples range, Wallpaperdirect. Quilt, £78, Normann Copenhagen range, The Lollipop Shoppe

# EXPLORE THE WORLD WITH THESE EXCITING OFFERS

## MONT BLANC, LAKE GENEVA & ANNECY



8 DAYS FROM £999PP

### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights or Eurostar and TGV, taxes and transfers
- Breakfast, four dinners and **seven nights** in four-star accommodation
- Monteners railway, Evian, Mont Blanc Tunnel, lake cruise, Lausanne
- **Escorted** by a tour manager

Departures June to Sept 2017

## CLASSICAL SPAIN: SEVILLE, CORDOBA & GRANADA



7 DAYS FROM ONLY £579PP

### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights, taxes and transfers
- **Six nights** at three- or four-star hotels with breakfast, staying in Seville, Granada and Mijas
- **Tours** of Seville, Alhambra in Granada, Cordoba and Ronda
- **Escorted** by a tour manager

Departures March to November 2017

## POMPEII, CAPRI & THE BAY OF NAPLES



8 DAYS HALF BOARD FROM £779PP

### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights, taxes and transfers
- **Seven nights** at a three- or four-star Sorrento hotel with half board\*
- Sorrento, Capri, Vesuvius, Naples Archaeological Museum, Pompeii, the Amalfi Coast and Ravello
- **Escorted** by a tour manager

Departures April to October 2017

## LAKE GARDA, VENICE & VERONA



8 DAYS HALF BOARD FROM £629PP

### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights, taxes and transfers
- **Seven nights** at hand-picked lakefront hotels with half-board
- Comprehensive **sightseeing** of Lake Garda, the Dolomites, Verona and Venice
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager

Departures April to October 2017

## CLASSICAL ITALY



8 DAYS FROM ONLY £849PP

### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights, taxes and transfers
- **Seven nights** four-star hotels, with breakfast and four meals
- **Tours** of Rome, Siena, Florence, Arezzo, Uffizi art gallery and Assisi
- **Escorted** by an experienced tour manager

Departures April to October 2017

## FLORENCE & TUSCANY



8 DAYS FROM £849PP

### THE PRICE INCLUDES

- Return flights, taxes and transfers
- **Stays in three-star** superior and four-star hotels, with breakfast
- **Visits** to Florence, Siena, the Uffizi art gallery, San Gimignano, Pisa and the Tuscan countryside
- **Escorted** by a tour manager

Departures April to October 2017

CALL TO BOOK OR GET A FREE BROCHURE ON  
**01283 744319** OR VISIT **IDERIVIERA.CO.UK**

\* Hotel Mediterraneo is breakfast only. Additional entrance costs may apply. Prices are per person, based on two sharing, and are subject to finite availability. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. Offer operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Riviera Travel Ltd, ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430, a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.





# Make it work for you

## ANTONIA'S STYLE: VINTAGE ECLECTIC

A mix of retro pieces and colourful details makes a relaxed and welcoming family home

### MY GO-TO STORES...

- **EBAY**  
'I've found so many bargains here!'
- **THE LOLLIPOP SHOPPE**  
'It's a must-visit for contemporary and retro pieces.'
- **NEST.CO.UK**  
'You'll find beautiful furniture for every room in the house.'
- **ROCKETT ST GEORGE**  
'Cool lighting and quirky accessories.'



A mid-century-style armchair and a vintage coffee table create a homely feel



**ADD SOME STATEMENT CURVES**  
Granville pendant light, £75, John Lewis



**BRING A FUN TOUCH TO WALLS**  
La Mela unframed screen print, £220, Danese Milano range, The Lollipop Shoppe



**GO GRAPHIC WITH CUSHIONS**  
Fragment cushion, £52, Ferm Living

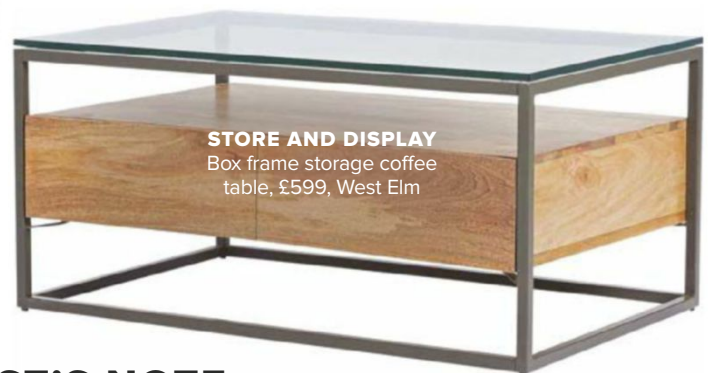
FEATURE MICHELA COLLING PHOTOGRAPHS DOUGLAS GIBB



**SPOT A FUTURE DESIGN CLASSIC**  
Naoko armchair, £595, Habitat



**CRAFTED CHARM**  
Hand-thrown pots, £46.50 for three, Quince Living



**STORE AND DISPLAY**  
Box frame storage coffee table, £599, West Elm

### STYLIST'S NOTE

“Don't get carried away with a mix of bold prints – one is enough to transform a neutral room from drab to daring”

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR

THE NEW WAY TO DO

# Scandi

Step away from the minimal, clutter-free style you've come to know – hygge is here! This Danish update embraces all that is cosy, so layer up on home comforts in calming tones and natural materials



## Think cabin chic

Hygge is all about going back to basics – so keep it simple with bare flooring, painted panelling (or a lookalike wallpaper), raw oak furniture and sheepskins for a cosy touch.

**WHERE TO BUY** Bench, £379; Austrian sheepskin rug, £134; wreath, £76; Luis charger plates, £30 each; bowls, £12 each; Willow wine glasses, £10 each; all Amara

آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی







Dora linen stars, £18 for four, Rowen & Wren

### Add natural fabrics

Keep the look homespun with accessories and Christmas decorations in natural linen, hessian, hopsack and slubby cottons for a natural and unfussy country feel.



### Team tactile textures

The hygge look is very neutral in colour, so add interest with textures rather than accents. Mix up knits, faux fur, velvet and skins.

**WHERE TO BUY** Cushions, from £95 each; throw, £138; Argentinian cowhide, £645; all Amara



Pelham low shelving unit, £429; Coast rug, £349; both Furniture Village

### STYLIST'S NOTE

“Keep your colour palette calm and harmonious. If you must have an accent shade, make it slate grey or a touch of forest green or inky blue”

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR

### Style your clutter

Hygge is a 'more-is-more' look, not stripped back and minimalist. Rather than a free-for-all of shapes, colour and stuff, play it cool by grouping items in a limited palette (black, white, wood and metallic works beautifully) and show it all off on super-simple shelving.

## IDEAL HOME *Loves*

### **Cosy candlelight**

Instantly give a wintry room a warm, soothing atmosphere with indulgent, relaxing scented candles



### **Use a dark and moody colour mix**

Scandi style is traditionally all about bright white, natural wood and touches of scarlet. Bare wood is still included here, but hygge takes things into a more sultry place with mixed greys, black and tarnished bronze finishes.

**WHERE TO BUY** Keswick sofa, £1,299; armchair, £799; both DFS. Cushions, from a selection, Dwell, Habitat, John Lewis and West Elm

### **STYLIST'S NOTE**

“Bring a palette of mixed greys to life with little touches of fresh blue, burnt umber, rust or even pretty blush pink for a subtle contrast”

**NICKY PHILLIPS**, DECORATING EDITOR





### *Include some artisan ceramics*

Add character and a more informal feel to your dining table by mixing in some hand-made-effect pieces with your basic white china. Look for chunky stoneware with washed glazes and spun or speckle paint patterns. Team with slubby linen or denim napkins.

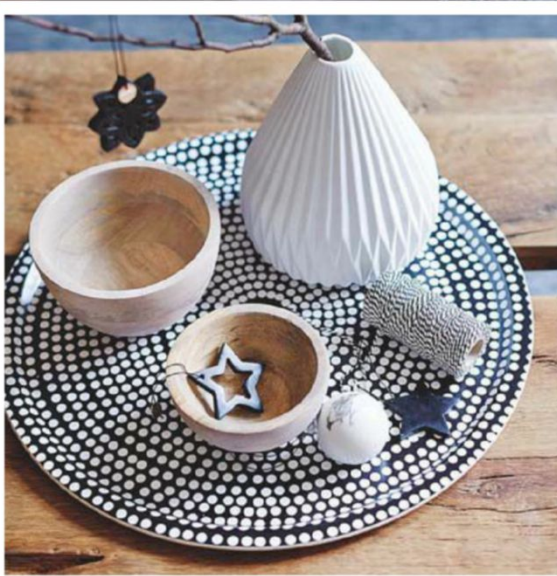
**WHERE TO BUY** Barbara plates, from £17 each; Sandrine bowl, £18; all Royal Design



### *Go a bit girly*

This is a bit of an anti-glam look, but if you can't do without feminine textures, introduce sheen velvets and silk silhouette-print cushions for a prettier take to soften those raw wood finishes.

**WHERE TO BUY** Storage basket, £29 for two; cushions, from £12 each; sheepskin wool rug, £75; all Very



### *Make everything tactile*

Boring finishes are out! Down to the smallest detail, if it's ribbed, carved, stippled, etched, furry or woven, it'll give your room hygge...

**WHERE TO BUY** Tray, £62, John Lewis. Darla bowls, from £23 each, Houseology. For a similar vase, try Design Vintage





### Layer your bed up

The grey palette and combination of textures means this is the perfect look for a restful bedroom. Make a bed to hibernate in with painterly print bed linen, layered with faux-fur and textured throws.

**WHERE TO BUY** Nord bed, £645; Trinity side tables, £350 for two; Watercolour Fleur pillowcases, £20 for two; cushions, £28 each; throws, from £100 each; all Debenhams



### Opt for global patterns

Don't be afraid to mix in a few prints here and there. The high street has an abundance of cushions and rugs inspired by textiles from around the world – their intricate patterns bring a layer of interest to a calming base.

**WHERE TO BUY** Throw, £75; skyline cushion, £48; square carpet cushions, £40 each; all French Connection

### If you only buy one thing...

Make sure it's furry. Sheepskins, reindeer, cowhide – whether you're into real or faux, it's at the heart of hygge.

**WHERE TO BUY** Sheepskin beanbag, £785; cable plaited blanket, £75; merino throw, £95; merino cushion, £55; all Celtic & Co. For a similar rocking chair, try the Louisiane, £200, Maisons du Monde

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

## STYLIST'S NOTE

“Nature is really important in Scandi style, so up your hygge levels by decorating with natural or fake foliage, bark accessories and real or artificial plants”

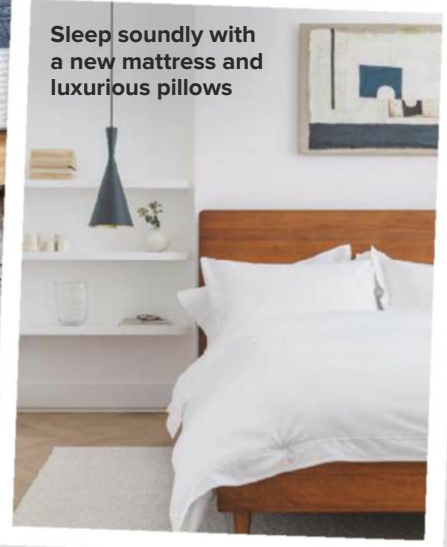
**HOLLY WALSH**, ACTING STYLE & DECORATING ASSISTANT



Update a bedroom with Scandi-style oak furniture



Sleep soundly with a new mattress and luxurious pillows



# GET 15% OFF AT SOAK&SLEEP

Save on bedroom furniture and bathroom accessories with this exclusive discount

Begin the new year feeling rested and refreshed with premium bed linen, pillows, mattresses and mattress toppers from Soak&Sleep. This online store is designed to help you create a bespoke sleeping experience, honing in on what suits you the most to ensure that you get a great night's sleep throughout the week.

The experts at Soak&Sleep search the world to discover the very best suppliers, ensuring quality is at the centre of every single product. The range includes sumptuous mulberry-silk bed linen, and pillows filled with bouncy Hungarian goose

down. The store also sells a range of luxury towels, bathrobes, toiletries and bathroom storage. The team behind the brand works hard to offer a range of fabulous bedroom and bathroom products at better-value prices than the high street.

This month, Ideal Home has teamed up with Soak&Sleep to offer readers 15% off all products at Soak&Sleep, including sale items, when you spend £50 in a single order. Visit [soakandsleep.com](http://soakandsleep.com) to shop the Autumn/Winter range for Scandi-inspired bedroom furniture, textured bed linen, cosy blankets and beautiful bathroom accessories.

## HOW TO CLAIM YOUR DISCOUNT

To get 15% off an order worth £50 or more at Soak&Sleep, visit [housetohome.co.uk/soakandsleep](http://housetohome.co.uk/soakandsleep) to download your discount code. Then go to [soakandsleep.com](http://soakandsleep.com) and enter the code at the checkout. This offer is valid until 10 January 2017.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** This offer is valid from 25 November 2016 to 10 January 2017 to UK residents only on orders of £50 or more, including sale items. This offer is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer and excludes delivery.

Soak&Sleep

WEEKEND PROJECT

# Make your dining area magical

A FEW EASY ADDITIONS WILL MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS TABLE SPARKLE AND SET THE SCENE FOR SPECIAL MEALS TOGETHER

1

## Hang a statement canvas

Add drama to your room with an oversized artwork  
Apple Blossom canvas, £140, Graham and Green

3

## Assemble a centrepiece

A cake stand filled with decorations will make your table special (see detail picture)  
Cake dome, £25.99, Zara Home. Pine cones, £15 for five, Notonthehighstreet.com

2

## Add luxe linens

Copy high-end restaurants – a pristine white linen tablecloth will instantly upgrade your dining table  
Gullmaj tablecloth, £15, Ikea

## Your shopping list

Canvas.....	£140
Tablecloth.....	£15
Cake dome.....	£25.99
Pine cones.....	£15
Wreath.....	£89
Hanging hearts...	£10.50
Chairs.....	£160
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£455.49</b>



4

### Make a halo wreath

Decorate a faux wreath with fresh foliage, baubles and battery-powered fairy lights and hang it from the ceiling using ribbons  
**18in Noble Fir wreath, £89, Balsam Hill**

5

### Dress up chairs

Spray foliage with fake snow and tie onto each chair with a simple heart decoration for a welcoming touch  
**Hearts, £10.50 for eight, Gisela Graham**

6

### Replace old seating

Make sure everyone can sit comfortably – this ladderback design is inexpensive and timeless (we removed the seat cover)  
**Börje dining chair, £40, Ikea**



**WHERE TO BUY** Arbor Eau De Nil wallpaper, £75 per roll, Romo. **Curtains** made in Geneva Marjoram 2854/196, £26 per m, Villa Nova. Belle 06 pale grey rug, £165, Plantation Rug Company. Mattise chest of drawers, £1,195, Graham and Green. Brookshire extending dining table, £499, Next. Henriksdal dining chairs with Gobo covers, £55 each, Ikea. 7ft Vancouver spruce tree with LED lights, £409, Balsam Hill. **ON SIDEBOARD** Metallic stripe vase, £59, West Elm. White candle holder, from a selection; Spotted glass tealight holder, from a selection; both Gisela Graham. Loft gold trim vase, £17.50, Marks & Spencer. Arv Bröllop glass cake stand, £9.95, Ikea. Christmas cake, from a selection, Tesco. Nordic Christmas Polar bear snowglobe, £17, Talking Tables. William glass bottle lamp, £100, John Lewis. **ON/NEAR TREE** White baubles; snowflake decorations; wooden white heart decorations; all from a selection, Gisela Graham. Teal clear and stripe bauble selection, £25 for 12, Marks & Spencer. Teal pearlescent baubles; Ostravia baubles; all £2 each, John Lewis. Star decorations, £3 each; white wooden star decorations, £9 for three; all Next. Treetop star, £6, Matalan. Giftwrap, from a selection, Paperchase. **ON TABLE** Gullmaj napkins, £4 for two; Sedlig cutlery, £40 for a 24-piece set; Henderlig wine glasses, £1 each; Pomp glass vase, £7; all Ikea. Malmo cotton table runner in Spruce, £16; On The Lake dinner plates, £8 each; On The Lake side plates, £6 each; all Puritan range, John Lewis. Luxury Christmas crackers, £40 for six, The White Company. Dots wine glasses, £5.99 each, Zara Home. Baubles, from a selection, Marks & Spencer. Wooden tree slice, £19.50; wooden tree slice gift tags (used as table place names), £1 each; all Notonthehighstreet.com. Silver birch battery candle, £8.99, Lights4fun. Spotted glass tealight holder, from a selection, Gisela Graham. **ON WREATH** White ribbon, from a selection, Berisfords. White baubles, from a selection, Gisela Graham. Teal pearlescent baubles, £2 each, John Lewis. Large snowy pine cones, £15 for five, Notonthehighstreet.com. **ON CHAIRS** Faux eucalyptus stems, £5.99 each, Gisela Graham. Ribbon, from a selection, Jane Means

FEATURE AND STYLING SARITA SHARMA  
 PHOTOGRAPHS DOMINIC BLACKMORE



# KITCHEN SALE

HALF PRICE PLUS AN EXTRA 25% OFF\*

STARTS BOXING DAY

Country kitchen £4,766

For all these fully built kitchen units<sup>▲</sup>

Country kitchen in Winter White & Nimbus © Copyright & Design Wren Kitchens.

<sup>▲</sup>Priced kitchen is for units only and does not include the price of worktops, appliances, sink, tap, props, accessories or small worktop appliances. Price taken 1.11.2016

<sup>◆</sup>Half Price plus an extra 25% Off applies to kitchen units only when you buy 5 or more. Sale ends 1.03.2017

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KITCHENS

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The Pritchards fitted their new space with off-the-peg units, mixed with vintage furniture for character. 'We bought the units at a bargain price and allocated more money for the furnishings and floor,' says Julia. 'It's the extras that make the kitchen look special'

Somerton units in Sage and Fern, £591 for a W600mm base unit, all Magnet. Walls painted in Polished Pebble Endurance matt emulsion, £26.48 for 2.5ltr, Dulux

*'We scrapped an old lean-to and started over'*

Tired of making do, Julia and Sean Pritchard built this bright and spacious kitchen-diner from scratch to suit the needs of their big, busy family

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BEFORE



**OPEN WALLS**  
 'Not having wall units makes the room look bigger and saved us money,' says Julia



## Welcome to my home

Julia Pritchard lives here with her husband Sean and their twin sons, Sonny and Corey, 13, and daughter, Sky, 11.

### THE PROPERTY

A five-bedroom converted barn in Oldbury-on-Severn, Gloucestershire.

### WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£12,000
Appliances.....	£4,000
Sink and taps.....	£181
Worktops.....	£2,272
Flooring.....	£2,434
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£20,887</b>

“Our old kitchen was too small for a family of five, plus two dogs – this space fits our needs perfectly”

## IDEAL HOME loves

### Hard-working islands

Julia's houses a wine fridge, dishwasher, sink, breakfast bar and storage!



**TABLE ON WHEELS**  
 'We push it out onto the patio for garden parties,' says Julia

## HOW JULIA AND SEAN DID IT

'I wanted a family friendly kitchen where the children could run in with their muddy boots on or do their homework, and Sean and I could read or cook while the dogs mooched about. We employed an architect, Federica Vasetti of Dittrich Hudson Vasetti, and Sean took charge of the project management. The old units were moved into the living

room to create a temporary kitchen while the building work took place. We shopped around for units that would give us the modern-country look we wanted, and bought them at a bargain sale price. The build took three months and cost about £20,000, plus £4,500 for the architect. The whole family loves the new room – it's a dream come true.'

**ABOVE** The island, which was designed as a cook's workstation, looks out onto the dining area and garden beyond. 'In the summer when the weather is good, it really comes into its own,' says Julia. 'We open the bifold doors to create an amazing outdoor barbecue and party space. It really is a kitchen for all seasons'

Bifold doors, £5,465, Crystal Clear. Hand-aged Flag Verona tiles, £38.40 per sq m, Beswick Stone. For a similar table and chairs, try a selection, Barak 7





**WHAT WE LEARNED**

“Work out a budget, then double it to allow for all of the unexpected costs that could occur. If you are able to project-manage the build yourself, then go for it. That way, you’ll be aware of every single detail and cost – and you’ll get exactly what you want”



‘We added three skylights to brighten the far corners of the space,’ says Julia

For similar pendants, try the Harrow, £70 each, Garden Trading

*Love*  
JULIA’S STYLE?

Turn to page 111  
to shop the look



**ABOVE** The Pritchards’ classic range gives their kitchen country credentials, as well as lots of cooking space

TR4110P1 dual-fuel range cooker, £1,995, Smeg range, Currys



**ABOVE** A slim wine cooler fitted into the island frees up space in the main fridge, and makes drinks easy to grab without getting under the cook’s feet

WI3121 wine cooler, from £587, Magnet



**ABOVE** Julia chose quartz for the island worktop. ‘It has the look of granite, but is easy to care for,’ she says

Sheridans Venato Bianco composite/quartz worktop, £653, Magnet

FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER STYLING DILLY ORME  
PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER ACCESSORIES ATTIC AND MITZIB



# FIVE-STAR EUROPEAN RIVER CRUISES

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- Selected departures from April to October 2017
- Choice of 10 cruises – see the table opposite or visit [ideriviera.co.uk](http://ideriviera.co.uk)

CRUISE	DURATION	PRICE FROM
Bruges, Medieval Flanders, Amsterdam and the Dutch Bulbfields	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,399PP</b>
The Blue Danube	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,199PP</b>
Cruise the Heart of Europe	<b>15 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,899PP</b>
Rhine, Strasbourg and Heidelberg	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,299PP</b>
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The Seine, Paris and Normandy	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,399PP</b>
Burgundy, Provence and the River Rhône	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,199PP</b>
Medieval Germany	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,199PP</b>
Rhine Cruise to Switzerland	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,199PP</b>
The Douro, Oporto and Salamanca	<b>8 DAYS</b>	<b>£1,399PP</b>

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\*Supplements applicable for certain regional stations. Cruise durations may vary. Additional entrance costs may apply. Prices are per person, based on two sharing, and are subject to finite availability. Images used in conjunction with Riviera Travel. Offer operated by and subject to the booking conditions of Riviera Travel Ltd, ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430, a company wholly independent of Ideal Home, published by Time Inc. (UK) Ltd.



# FANTASTIC KITCHEN GADGETS

**STAND MIXER**

**Snap up a Cooks Professional stand mixer for just £89.99, plus P&P, saving you £210**

Make light work of mixing, whipping, whisking and kneading with this clever stand mixer. It features a 5ltr bowl, six speed settings, dough hook and beater, and a pulse function, and it comes in a choice of three stylish colours.



**D9205 Cream, D9203 Silver, D9204 Black**



**VEGETABLE SPIRALIZER**

**Enjoy a Cooks Professional vegetable spiralizer for just £19.99, plus P&P, saving you £20**

Create lots of delicious, healthy meals with this professional spiralizer – it's just the thing to make vegetable spaghetti. Its three stainless-steel blade attachments (shredder, chipper and slicer) can be used to rustle up veggie noodles, twists or rings. Quote code D9565 when ordering this item.

**NUTRIBLEND BLENDER**

**Save up to £75 on a Cooks Professional Nutriblend 700W blender in black**

Extract the goodness from fruit and veg. The D8459 10-piece set, £44.99, includes a blender, grinder and blender blades, one 700ml and two 350ml tumblers, two tumbler handles and stay-fresh lids, and a recipe book. The D8471 15-piece set, £54.99, has two extra 700ml tumblers and travel lids and one extra stay-fresh lid.



ORDER BY PHONE: CALL **0871 911 7011** AND QUOTE CODE 67070

ORDER ONLINE: VISIT **CLIFFORD-JAMES.CO.UK/67070**

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# Make it work for you

## JULIA'S STYLE: MODERN COUNTRY

Neutral Shaker units, factory-style lighting and touches of rustic wood make a relaxed family space



An American-style fridge-freezer, industrial stools and a quartz worktop keep this country kitchen modern



FEATURE KATRINA HARPER-LEWIS PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER

### WHERE TO BUY

#### 1. LIGHT

Large white kitchen pendant, £80, The Contemporary Home

#### 2. FLOOR TILES

Tokyo natural rectified grey tile (30cm x 60cm), £35.50 per sq m, The Baked Tile Company

#### 3. KETTLE

Legacy cream kettle, £49.99, Russell Hobbs

#### 4. RANGE COOKER

TR4110 dual-fuel range

cooker, £1,995, Smeg range, John Lewis

#### 5. STOOL

Bar stool, £95.95, Melody Maison

#### 6. KITCHEN ISLAND

Acacia wood lower kitchen cabinet with sink (H88cm x W120cm x D60cm), £700, Maisons du Monde

#### 7. CRATE

Ahanti storage box, £34.95, Nkuku

# *'It was like a kitchen in a caravan!'*

Clare McCarthy had to improvise with a makeshift kitchen in her completely unmodernised home before creating this bright, functional and sociable room out of two smaller ones



**A wall between the original scullery and dining room was knocked down to create a large, light-filled kitchen with a bold, contemporary island at its centre**

Bespoke units, from £250 for a W600mm painted base unit, Roy Turner Carpentry. FL 4000 ceramic floor tiles, £45.60 per sq m, All Tile Ceramics

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**BEFORE**



IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**American-style  
fridge-freezers**  
Space for everything  
and a chilled water  
dispenser, too



*Welcome to  
my home*

Clare McCarthy  
lives here with her  
husband, James.

**THE PROPERTY**

A four-bedroom,  
semi-detached  
Edwardian house in  
Carshalton, Surrey.

**WHAT IT COST**

Floor tiles.....	£1,047
Units and wood worktop.....	£6,954
Granite worktop.....	£4,000
Sink and tap.....	£590
Appliances.....	£3,475
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£16,066</b>

*“ We practically  
live in this room  
now. It’s great  
when friends  
and family come  
round, as we can  
all be together ”*





**FRAME OF UNITS**  
Going bespoke allows cupboards to fit around built-in appliances

**COLOUR POP**  
Using a bold shade on an island unit brings a neutral kitchen to life. 'It anchors the scheme and breaks up the pale flooring,' says Clare

**Love**  
CLARE'S  
BAR STOOLS?

Turn to page 117  
to find out more

### WHAT CLARE AND JAMES DID

'The previous owner had lived with a tiny kitchen on the first floor of this house, so we had nothing to work with on the ground floor. Initially, we set up a temporary kitchen, which was like a kitchen in a caravan. Then we knocked together the dining room and an old scullery to create one big space, and added bifold doors to flood the room with light. We ordered bespoke units to fit around the

original cornicing, picture rail and stained-glass window, and went for a modern purple island and splashback for the hob. The building work took about eight weeks and cost £49,000, and we spent £6,945 on the units, including fitting. It's a great space – in the summer we open up the bifold doors for barbecues in the garden, and in winter, we cosy up in here to watch TV.'

**ABOVE** The couple always eat at the breakfast bar, so don't have a dining table. Clare uses it for work, too. 'I incorporated a pop-up plug socket, so I can sit there with my laptop,' she says

For similar pendant lights, try the glass bell, £125 each, Old School Electric range, Heal's



## WHAT WE LEARNED

“Knowing where to spend money makes all the difference. You can get away with cheap MDF units if you use a great craftsman to fit them and add professionally painted doors, granite worktops and good-quality handles”

**BELOW** Clare works as a DJ in her spare time, so the end of the run of kitchen units is dedicated to her decks

For a similar lamp, try Mr P, £48.99, Nuku. For a similar print, try the Keith Flint, £119, Sonic Editions

**RIGHT** The colours in the stained-glass window inspired Clare to use purple accents

Nickel cabinet knobs, £9.95 each, Willow & Stone. Panna Fragola granite worktop, £248 per sq m, Gerald Culliford



**WOOD WORKTOP**  
Clare used both wood and granite surfaces for a mix of textures



**ABOVE** ‘The splashback is tempered safety glass that I painted on the back, so it only cost around £60,’ says Clare

Neff T41D40X2 induction hob, £429, RDO Kitchens & Appliances. Glass splashback painted in Pelt Estate Eggshell, £55 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

FEATURE AND STYLING KAREN WILSON PHOTOGRAPHS FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT

# CLAIM YOUR FREE PERENNIAL PLANTS

Get 20 perennial plants, worth £34.95 – just pay £5.65 for postage

Create an amazing display of vibrant colour in your garden with this free\* collection of perennials. Each collection includes: **1** four Echinacea purpurea plants; **2** four Eryngium planum plants; **3** two Kniphofia plants; **4** four Lupin plants and **5** six Liatris plants. Enjoy the rich colour of these plants year after year.



## AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OTHER GREAT OFFERS...



### ALSTROEMERIA 'PLANET MIXED'

These hardy perennials are perfect for

adding a splash of colour to borders and patio containers. Height: 75cm. Spread: 60cm. Supplied as bare roots.

**Buy five for £9.99 (was £16.99); buy 10 for £14.98 (RRP £33.98)**



### ROSE 'SCENT FROM HEAVEN'

Winner of the Rose of the Year Award 2017, this

fantastic climber produces pointed buds that open up to lush apricot-coloured blooms. Supplied as bare roots.

**Buy one for £14.99; buy two and get one free for £29.98**



### TRUMPET TREE LILY

You won't be able to resist the pure white

trumpets and freesia-like fragrance of these towering lilies. Bulb size 12/14. Height: 120cm. Spread: 30cm.

**Buy 10 for £9.99 (was £12.99); buy 20 for £14.98 (was £25.98)**



### HELLEBORE 'BLACK SWAN'

The jet-black blooms of this perennial will make

it the star winter attraction in your garden. Height and spread: 60cm. Supplied as a 7cm potted plant.

**Buy one for £12.99; buy two and get one free for £25.98**

CODE	PRODUCT	PRICE	QTY	TOTAL
TCK72034	20 free* perennials, worth £34.95 *Free when you pay £5.65 P&P. Only one application per reader	FREE	1 <input type="checkbox"/> tick	£
TCK47653PA	Alstroemeria 'Planet Mixed' x 5	£9.99		£
TCM12372P	Alstroemeria 'Planet Mixed' x 10	£14.98		£
TCM71663B	Rose 'Scent from Heaven' x 1	£14.99		£
TCM73602PA	Rose 'Scent from Heaven' x 2 + 1 Free	£29.98		£
TCK47652A	Trumpet Tree Lily x 10	£9.99		£
TCK47653A	Trumpet Tree Lily x 20	£14.98		£
TCK57135B	Hellebore 'Black Swan' x 1	£12.99		£
TCK57136PB	Hellebore 'Black Swan' x 2 + 1 Free	£25.98		£
	<b>P&amp;P</b>			<b>*£5.65</b>
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>£</b>

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# Make it work for you

## CLARE'S CHOICE: STATEMENT BAR STOOLS

Stylish stools will turn any counter or island into the star of the show – and these hit the mark for both looks and comfort



**SUPER-SLEEK LOOKS**  
Anzio modern bar stool, £95, Danetti



**CONTEMPORARY COPPER**  
Bar stool, £445, Blu Dot range, Heal's



**TRAD CHOICE**  
Natter stool, £195, Loaf



**SEVENTIES VIBE**  
Texas bar stool, £520, Alexander & Pearl



**SUITS ANY KITCHEN**  
Bar stool, £289, Viva Lagoon

### SMART & SIMPLE BAR STOOLS

An understated design and curved wooden legs give these seats a hint of Scandi style

**SOLID OAK BASE**  
Joe bar stool, £195, Habitat



IDEAL



**COOL CURVES**  
Devlin bar stool, £79, Made.com

GREAT DEAL

“Bar stools are a great way to add character to a simple kitchen, so look for designs with bold colour, a quirky shape or luxe texture”

RUTH CORBETT, HOUSES EDITOR

FEATURE KATRINA HARPER-LEWIS PHOTOGRAPH FIONA WALKER-ARNOTT

**POPULAR APPEAL**  
Beko appliances are recommended by 95% of customers on independent review website Reevo



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF MY KITCHEN

Busy mum Liz Benson shares her routine, and how Beko – the Official Partner of the everyday – is making life easier

When Liz Benson and her partner David decided to refurbish the kitchen of their Victorian terrace in east London, they were also keen to invest in new appliances. 'Since the arrival of our little boy, José, life has got a lot more hectic,' says Liz. 'Any technology that could help take the pressure off would be a godsend.' So how have her Beko appliances helped? We'll let Liz explain...

## HOW DOES THE DAY BEGIN?

'José usually has us up at around 7am and we make a beeline for the kitchen. I'll grab him a cup of water from the dispenser in the fridge-freezer, then pop him in his high chair with some toast to

keep him amused while I make porridge. I do this on the induction hob, as it's so easy to control. You don't get any issues with the mixture burning, sticking or boiling over, as the cooking surface stays at a precise, constant temperature. It's also very quick to heat up, which anyone with a hungry toddler will know is essential!'

## DESCRIBE A TYPICAL MORNING

'After breakfast, I'll pop all the dirty bowls and cups in the dishwasher to deal with later, and pop on some washing. We chose a washer-dryer, as we don't have space for separate appliances, but I wanted to be able to dry clothes whatever the weather. My machine can wash a full

load in under half an hour, so I can get lots of José's clothes clean in a hurry.'

## DO YOU EAT LUNCH AT HOME?

'We eat lunch at home a couple of days a week. To make things easier, David and I batch-cook meals and keep them in the freezer, so we love that our American-style model offers us a lot of storage. Our oven has a Split & Cook divider that separates it into two cavities so I can cook different foods at different temperatures at the same time, and with no transfer of flavours. This means I can bake cupcakes without worrying that they'll taste of José's favourite – fish pie. It's also got a genius self-cleaning function that makes it really



## LIZ'S KITCHEN DESIGN

Liz and David live in a Victorian terrace, with the kitchen running along a single wall. 'We wanted a showstopping fridge-freezer, but preferred to keep more practical things hidden, so we chose an integrated washer-dryer and dishwasher,' explains Liz. Beko's built-in range and American-style fridge-freezers come with a two-year warranty for peace of mind.



### MODERN LIVING

Integrating the appliances has made the most of the space in Liz and David's chic suburban kitchen

*“My Beko appliances are stylish, have lots of useful features and their two-year warranty gives me extra peace of mind”*

LIZ BENSON

**WIN!**  
WITH BEKO

Fancy upgrading your kitchen? For your chance to win three Beko built-in appliances of your choice, visit [idealhome.co.uk/bekocompetition](http://idealhome.co.uk/bekocompetition) from 27 November 2016 to 27 January 2017

#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Entry to this competition is free and online only. The winner will win three built-in Beko products of their choice that are available stock from the following categories: cooking, refrigeration, laundry, dishwashing. For full terms and conditions, visit [idealhome.co.uk/bekocompetition](http://idealhome.co.uk/bekocompetition)

## TECHNOLOGY EDITOR AMY CUTMORE'S PICKS



These easy-to-use appliances from Beko's built-in range can handle the pressure from breakfast to bedtime

### SPLIT PERSONALITY

Cook different dishes with the Split & Cook divider  
**Beko BVM34500BM**  
built-in oven,  
£429



**WASHES AND DRIES**  
Will handle wash loads up to 8kg  
**Beko WDIY854310**  
washer-dryer, £479

### FAST WASH

Cleans a full load in just 30 minutes  
**Beko DIN28320**  
integrated dishwasher,  
£379



### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

To discover Beko's full range of appliances and how they can make your life easier, visit [beko.co.uk](http://beko.co.uk)

**beko**  
official partner of the *everyday*

easy to keep spotless. This heats the oven to 480°C, turning any grease or bits of food to dust, which I can then just wipe away with a damp cloth.'

### HOW DO YOU USE YOUR KITCHEN IN THE EVENING?

'David arrives home at around 6pm and gets started on dinner. He likes to cook with fresh ingredients, and we've been amazed at how much longer fruit and veg last in the fridge thanks to its EverFresh+ technology – it's saved us a few emergency trips to the shops! Once José is in bed, we'll have dinner and finally pop on the dishwasher, which is so quick and quiet that it won't disturb our evening.'

# *‘A leak forced me to face up to how bad it was’*

Disaster became a blessing in disguise for Iain Macaulay, who ditched his impractical over-bath, under-eaves shower in favour of luxe separates

**STORAGE NICHE**  
Go big when boxing in pipework to create lots of surface and storage space







**Love**  
IAIN'S  
SHOWER TRAY?

Turn to page 125  
to find out more



**BEFORE**



## Welcome to my home

Iain Macaulay lives here with his husband.

### THE PROPERTY

A three-bedroom terraced house, built in the Eighties, in southwest London.

### WHAT IT COST

Shower.....	£1,545
Sanitaryware.....	£1,480
Brassware.....	£598
Tiles.....	£6,500
Radiator.....	£59
Paint.....	£150
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£10,332</b>

**“I’m thrilled with the end result. The massive mirror makes the room feel so much bigger, but it’s the vibrant colour scheme that really sells it”**

Iain went for a quadrant-shaped shower to fit the compact space available, and spent the bulk of his budget on beautiful teal tiles with a touch of iridescence that add colour and a feeling of luxury to the room

Liquid 900 quadrant shower, £799; Everstone quadrant shower tray, £289; both Bathstore. Wall tiles, £66.89 per sq m, Atlas Concorde Ewell range, World’s End Tiles





### LARGE-FORMAT TILES

Fewer grout lines make a compact bathroom appear less busy

### FLUSH PLATE

A big button rather than a handle keeps the look streamlined

## IDEAL HOME loves

*Wood-effect tiles  
All of the warmth and texture; none of the maintenance*

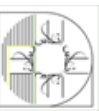
**ABOVE** Three styles of tile from the same range and in the same colour define the different elements of the room. Keeping the sloping ceiling white and the flooring pale balances out all the deep colour

Mini brick tiles, £238 per sq m; striped wall tiles, £64.62 per sq m; both Atlas Concorde Ewell range, World's End Tiles. Tabula Ice floor tiles, £39.89 per sq m, Topps Tiles

## HOW IAIN DID IT

'Our old bathroom didn't have a separate shower – there was just one over the bath and, because it is in the eaves, we never had a screen or shower curtain. We just had to put towels on the floor! Eventually, this caused a leak, which initiated a redesign. At the top of our wish list was a walk-in shower, which had to go in the the right-hand corner, with the basin and loo alongside it. We had to have a plinth built

beneath the basin to conceal the pipes, so we decided to tile it and create alcoves for storage. A friend recommended Maciek Kocon at design and build company Magic Projects, who interpreted our ideas really well. The building work took three months and cost £10,000. I love the new look – in particular the patterns in the gorgeous stone basin and the recessed shelf in the wall above the bath.'



With both ends of the bath enclosed, Iain went for a double-ended bath and positioned the mixer tap in the middle for a symmetrical look

For a similar bath, try the Classic Duo double-ended bath, £703, Kaldewei range, Ergonomic Designs. For a similar tap, try the Metro, £169, Bathstore. Tealight holders, £8.50 each, Mitzi B



**BELOW** A mosaic-tiled niche keeps toiletries tidy inside the shower enclosure

For a similar thermostatic shower valve, try the Track, £349, Bathstore. Sacristy hand and body wash; Sacristy body lotion; both £22 each, True Being range, Attic



**LEFT** Iain chose a marble countertop basin rather than a porcelain design for hotel-inspired luxury. The wall behind has been covered in a large mirrored panel to boost light in the small room

Shiro marble wash bowl, £499, Bathstore



## WHAT I LEARNED

“Be meticulous in the detail. For example, you can’t just use a rule of thumb to work out the quantities you need for large tiles. Plan out the placement of each tile and then add on the wastage. Getting this wrong stopped work for two weeks while we waited for more tiles to arrive because we hadn’t ordered enough”



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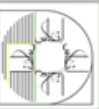
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# Make it work for you

## IAIN'S CHOICE: A CURVED SHOWER TRAY

The right shower-tray shape can make or break your bathroom. Pick the perfect one for you with this simple guide...

You might not think there's much to picking the perfect shower tray, but in fact, from finding the right materials to fitting it flush to the floor, there's a lot to consider.

**Q What size tray do I need?**  
This depends on how big the bathroom is, but it's advisable to go as large as you can – upping the tray size by 100mm can make all the difference. If you find a cubicle claustrophobic but installing a wetroom would blow your budget, team an ultra-low-profile tray with a frameless enclosure for a similar feel without the bother or expense.

**Q Which material is best?**  
Acrylic is cost-effective, with 35mm-thick trays that sit flush with floor tiles for a seamless look. Resin trays are easy to clean, come in a variety of shapes, colours and textures, and can be cut in situ to fit against notches or angled walls

– but they're heavy, so you'll need a strong floor. Steel trays also come in lots of options, including flush-to-floor designs. Their smooth finish means they're very hygienic, plus they're supremely sturdy.

**Q How are they installed?**  
The tray should be one of the first things you install, so tiles can be laid over it for a watertight seal. Many trays can be fitted directly onto the floor or on a raised frame, creating space for waste plumbing. 'If a tray is installed directly onto the floor, it should sit on a bed of sand and cement so it's level and the underside of the tray is fully supported,' says Bathstore's chief marketing officer Claire Bayliss.

**Q Will my fittings affect which tray I can have?**  
Wastes have differing limits on the amount of water they take away per minute, so if you're choosing a large showerhead, double check.



A curved shower enclosure helps to maximise space in a tight corner

“Steel trays often come with an optional upstand that is tiled over and doesn't need silicone on the edge, giving a cleaner look”

JOANNE CRANE, DESIGNER, RIPPLES

### BEST FOR...

**LIGHT ACRYLIC**  
● Bathstore has an excellent range, all of which come with optional frames so it's easier to fit pipes and a waste below.

**COLOUR CHOICE**  
● Kaldewei's steel trays are super strong and come in more than 30 neutral enamel finishes, such as Oyster Grey and Arctic White.

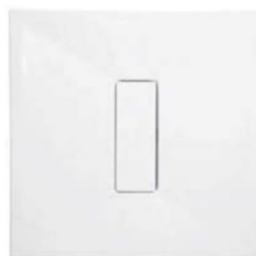
**STONE EFFECTS**  
● Simpsons offers composite trays in a convincing textured-slate effect. Available in black, grey and white, each carries a lifetime guarantee.

## IDEAL HOME LOVES... GOOD-VALUE ACRYLIC TRAYS



### EASY TO MATCH

Fits with any of Bathstore's 1,200mm x 900mm quadrant enclosures  
**Surface shower tray (1,200mm x 900mm), £219, Bathstore**



### WETROOM LOOK

This 15mm-deep tray sits flush to the floor and comes in 10 sizes  
**Slim Zero Surface acrylic shower tray (900mm sq), £368, Vitra**



### SLIMLINE OPTION

Perfect for a walk-in shower, it has a grooved drying area, too  
**Mode (1,600mm x 800mm), £129, Victoriaplum.com**

FEATURE AMY CUTMORE  
PHOTOGRAPHS VERONICA RODRIGUEZ

# *‘We turned a city office into a home’*

Natasha Marshall and Neil Fullerton transformed a ramshackle commercial building into a spacious, modern home clad in beautiful cedar panelling



**TURNTABLE**  
Planting a garden  
meant losing space  
for three-point turns

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*“The whole house is really relaxing. You can’t believe you’re in Glasgow’s busy west end – it’s a little oasis”*

The cedar-clad first floor appears to float above the glass-panelled ground floor



**BEFORE**

The building was an office and workshop



**AFTER**

Now, it’s a three-storey family home with a roof terrace

## *Welcome to my home*



Textile designer  
Natasha Marshall  
and her husband  
Neil Fullerton  
live here

### **THE PROPERTY**

A four-bedroom house in Glasgow.

### **THE VALUE**

Bought for £300,000 in 2010; now worth £860,000.

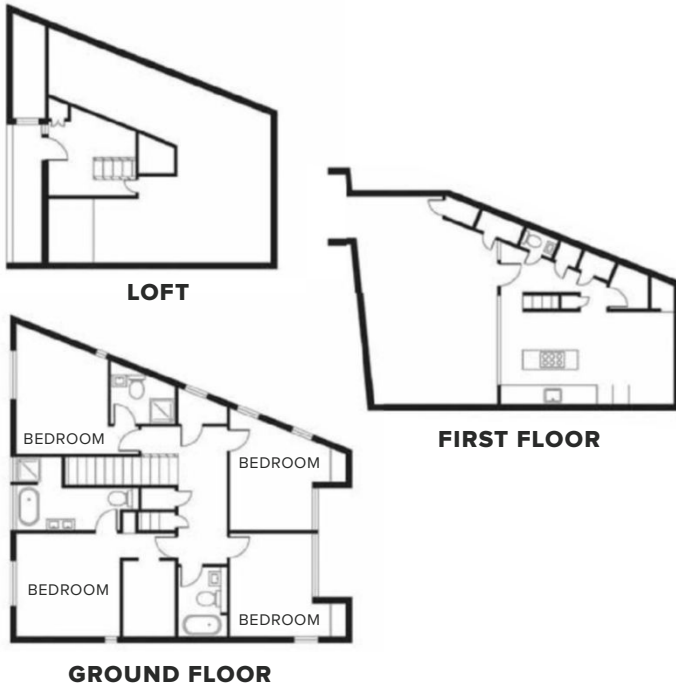
### **THE COST**

The build cost £245,000.

*“ We lived in a flat opposite and always said we’d have to have it if it came on the market ”*



## Take a quick tour...



**N**atasha Marshall and Neil Fullerton waited 13 years for the semi-derelict workshop and office building opposite their flat to come up for sale. 'We always said if it ever came on the market we had to have it – we knew it would make a great home in an ideal location for us,' says Natasha. 'When we opened the curtains one April morning in 2010 and saw the "For Sale" sign, we phoned up right then. Following a chat with the sellers and planners outlining our intention to convert the commercial property into a home, we submitted a successful bid.'

**NEGOTIATING A PLAN** 'Planning permission required us to demonstrate that we could approach the street in forward gear, so we had a turntable installed on the driveway,' says Natasha. 'It gave us the space for both a garden and a parking area. The hardest part was raising the necessary finances. As we were buying a commercial building, getting a mortgage for a residential building was very hard. We got there in the end.'

**DESIGNING A DREAM HOME** Natasha and Neil were involved in every element of the build. 'Our big idea was to get as much light into the building as possible,' says Natasha. 'We incorporated roof lights at the top of the building, so when you walk upstairs you're looking up at the sky.' The ground floor has a large open-plan kitchen, dining and living area, with a utility room and study off to one side. Upstairs, there are three bedrooms, each with a bathroom or en suite, and there's also a loft room with space for storage. 'From buying the property to completion of the build, the project took almost three years, but we're delighted with the result,' says Natasha.



**SIMPLE STAIRCASE**  
'It was going to have shelving underneath, but it looks so beautiful as it is,' says Neil



**CONCRETE FIREPLACE**  
The Stúv fire can either be used as a log burner or an open fire



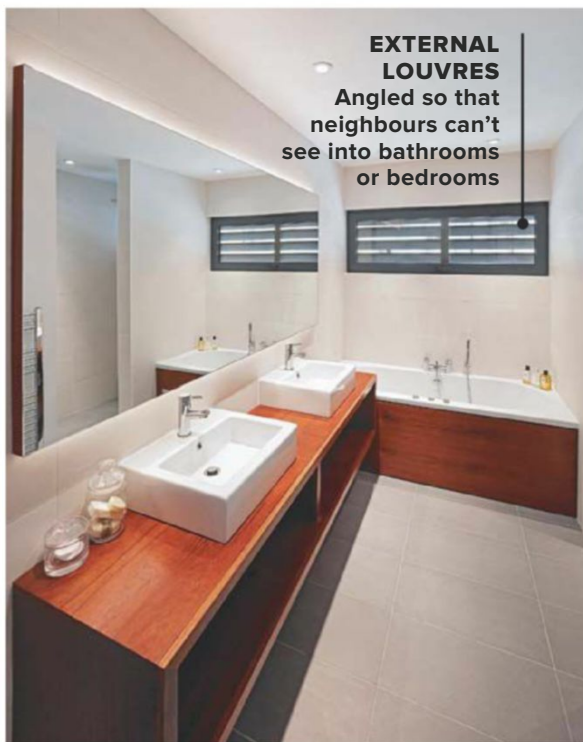


**ABOVE** The building now has an open-plan living and dining space, and a kitchen on the ground floor. The dining table is an old Habitat base with a new laminated plywood top

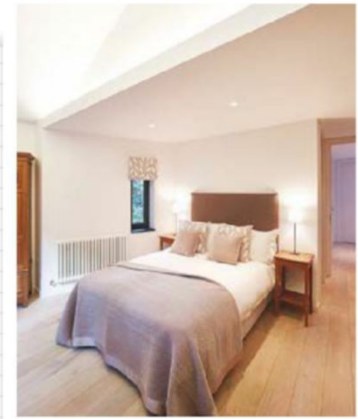
**RIGHT** The couple's love of sailing inspired the teak details in the main bathroom, with the wood adding a warm, organic feel



The black-painted timber used on the exterior continues inside, with cupboards and a cloakroom concealed behind doors in the hallway



**EXTERNAL LOUVRES**  
Angled so that neighbours can't see into bathrooms or bedrooms



**5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT....**

**Lighting design**

Peter Harford-Cross, of Cameron Webster Architects, has the lowdown on the best lighting

**1 IT'S WORTH PAYING FOR AN EXPERT**

A lighting designer can transform a space and highlight key areas. Natasha and Neil's lighting is designed to subtly complement the natural light from their windows.

**2 HAVE THREE CIRCUITS**

Each room should have three circuits: main overhead lighting, 5amp lighting for lamps and indirect lighting concealed in the architectural finishes. This gives flexibility in how you can light a space and you don't need individual dimmer switches.

**3 DOWNLIGHTERS WORK WONDERS**

Recessed downlighters are ideal if you don't want your ceiling to look cluttered. Arrange in pairs or lines to avoid a 'scatter-gun' effect.

**4 MIX YOUR LIGHTING...**

Pendants work best over a dining table and at the centre of a living space, while concealed strip lights highlight architectural finishes, like fireplaces, as well as providing an ambient glow.

**5 ...ON VARIOUS LEVELS**

Low-level recessed lights subtly illuminate areas like stairs, without the need for harsh overhead lighting. They can also be used in the roof-light opening to illuminate this area at night.

**WHAT WE LEARNED**



*“It was frustrating at times to keep the right number of tradesmen on site to keep the pace of the project on time. We just kept reminding ourselves during difficult times how great it would be when it was finished”*

FEATURE CAROLINE EDNIE PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREW LEE PLAN AGENCY SERVICE

# JANUARY'S GENIUS PROBLEM SOLVERS

Keep your home running smoothly and stress levels low with these clever finds and fixes

## THE PERFECT PET BED

Christmas is the perfect opportunity to replace that stinky, scratched-up old dog bed with this plush, machine-washable design, £30 from Next. With its check-print fabric, red piping and a fleecy cover, it'll make sure your pooch looks suitably festive curled up by the fireplace over the holidays.



## THE EXTRA-GUEST SEATING



- 1 Frode folding chair in red, £20, Ikea
- 2 Buiani folding chair in natural, £19, John Lewis
- 3 Macadam metal folding chair in green, £10, Habitat

## Ideal Home Tip

Stop arguments over Christmas telly viewing with an Amazon Fire Stick, £34.99. It lets you watch what you want on TVs, tablets and smartphones



## THE EVERLASTING ICE CUBES

Banish watered-down drinks this party season with these reusable stainless-steel ice cubes, £39 for six, The Conran Shop. They're filled with water, so you just freeze them ahead of a party.

## THE LEFTOVERS SOLUTION

Jamie Oliver has brought out his first Christmas book and it has a wealth of ideas for leftovers, such as Turkey Sloppy Joes with slaw. Not one to skimp on the sweets, he's also created the lush-sounding mashup of two classics: Banoffee Alaska. *Jamie Oliver's Christmas Cookbook*, £26, Penguin Books.



**Ideal Home Tip**

Keep a notepad and pencil handy on Christmas Day to write down who gifted what, making 'thank you' letters easier

**THE THANK-YOU CARDS**

Download the Paperless Post app (free, with in-app purchases, iTunes) to send instant ecards, or stay traditional with the brand's beautiful new range of personalised stationery. Cards and envelopes, £24 for 10, Rifle Paper Co range, Paperless Post

**THE EXTRA CROCKERY**

**CLASSIC RED**  
Stripe dinnerware, £24.99 for a 16-piece set, AmazonBasics range, Amazon.co.uk



**ALL WHITE**  
Bone china dinnerware, £35 for a 12-piece set, Wilko



**GOLDEN TOUCH**  
Gold Rim dinnerware, £29.99 for a 12-piece set, Heart of House range, Argos

**THE BACK-UP CUTLERY**

Planning a big party for New Year's Eve but don't want to fork out on extra cutlery? Steer clear of boring disposables and plump for the elegant Party Porcelain plastic cutlery from Talking Tables, instead. Available in either glam gold or chic silver, a set of knives, forks and spoons costs just £7 for six.

**THE TIDY BOTTLE OPENER**

If, post-party, your kitchen worktop (or floor) is usually littered with bottle tops, pick up one of Joseph Joseph's clever little cap-collecting bottle openers, £12, in time for the festivities. Each time a bottle is opened, the lid simply drops into the handle cavity, with each one holding up to 16 caps.

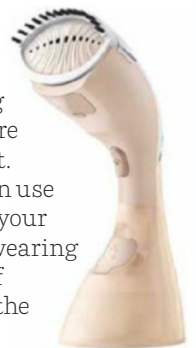
**THE COSIEST THROW**

A heated furry blanket! What's not to love? Lakeland has upped the cosy quotient with this faux-fur electric throw with six heat settings. Perfect for snuggling under while you watch *White Christmas*. Again.

Faux-fur heated throw in Pearl Grey (120cm x 160cm), £99.99, Lakeland

**THE PARTY OUTFIT SAVIOUR**

Party dress looking a tad crumpled? The ingenious StyleTouch Pure handheld garment steamer, £120 from Philips, makes quick work of creases, to leave your LBD looking its best before you head out. Plus, you can use it to refresh your frock after wearing it, instead of taking it to the dry cleaner.



# CLEAN IT QUICKER

## OVEN & HOB

Everything you need to clear the splashes and spills caused by cooking your festive feast



### THE OVEN BLITZER

Transform a filthy oven into a sparkling stove overnight with this powerful, fume-free formula by Oven Pride

£4 for 500ml, Ocado



### THE GREASE BUSTER

Enamel and glass-topped hobs can scratch easily, so clean them with a dry-oil body spray that lifts away grease but is gentle enough to have on your skin

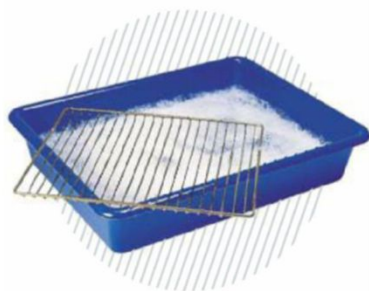
£5 for 150ml, Avon



### THE GRILL SCRUBBER

Made from stainless steel, this durable scourer will make light work of crusty, burnt-on food on grill or pan supports

£1.10, Marigold

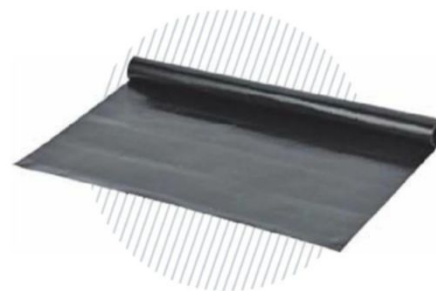


### THE RACK SOAKER

This oversized plastic container is roomy enough to hold a couple of oven (or barbecue) shelves for a serious overnight soak

£10.99, Lakeland

**Ideal Home Tip**  
Save on cleaning (and accidentally burning your hands and arms, too) by fixing Protecta's silicone guards to your oven shelves, £2.99 for two, Dunelm



### THE SMART LINER

Minimise the mess of baked-on drips by slipping one of these nonstick liners onto the bottom shelf of your oven – just give it a wipe clean once a month

£3.99, The Range



### THE SHELF SHINER

Oven Mate's powerful rack-reviving pack comes complete with hardcore cleaning solution, protective gloves, arm protectors, a sponge and two rack bags

£7.99 for 500ml, John Lewis



### THE SURFACE POLISHER

With a microfibre cloth for removing grime and a polishing pad to leave your hob gleaming, this duo will turn the kitchen chaos into a distant memory

£4.99, Amazon.co.uk



### THE HOB REVIVER

Give grease and dirt the quick heave-ho with Hob Brite's heavy-duty cream cleaner. It's suitable for use on both ceramic and induction hobs

£1.46 for 300ml, Asda

# STORE & ORGANISE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

Try these ingenious ways to pack up your festive fairy lights, favourite ornaments and tinsel, and find them unbroken and tangle-free come December 2017!



### THE BREAKABLES BOX

Let this be the last time you find a sad heap of crushed glass in your ornament storage box. Squirrel away empty egg cartons, as they make great containers for delicate glass decs. Simply add a little tissue paper and tape each box closed



### THE TREE BAG

If you're a fan of the faux, this tree storage bag is perfect for keeping the trunk, branches and base all in one place

£30, John Lewis



### THE STACKABLE BOXES

The festive façade on these Christmas boxes means you'll find all your bits in a flash when you head into the loft next year

£29.95 for five, The Holding Company

### THE WRAPPING TISSUE

Pad out delicate items with tissue paper when packing them away

£1 for eight sheets, Flying Tiger



### THE FAIRY-LIGHT REEL

Tangled clumps of fairy lights will be a thing of the past thanks to this clever little storage winder

£5 for two, Store

## Ideal Home Tip

*Before you pack decs away, quickly audit your extras, like spare fairy-light bulbs. If you're lacking, stock up now – it'll be one less job to do next year*



### THE BAUBLE TUBE

Sturdier decs can be stowed away in mailing tubes – pack them tightly and fill with tissue at either end

£1.99, Ryman



### THE ALL-IN-ONE

This Christmas ornaments storage box can hold 45 baubles and has two pockets for fairy lights or garlands

£14.99, Lakeland

### THE SIMPLE SEPARATORS

Storing everything in just a few boxes? Group together similar designs in these plastic Istad bags – it makes it easier to find what you need, and provides extra padding for more fragile pieces

From 95p for 60, Ikea



### THE WREATH KEEPER

Measuring 76cm in diameter, this handy wreath storage bag will ensure your door decoration stays in top nick, year after year

£79, Balsam Hill

EST. 1920

# Ideal Home's

## COMPLETE GUIDE TO CHRISTMAS

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**GORDON RAMSAY'S**  
*fuss-free feast*

**STYLING TRICKS & SIMPLE MAKES**

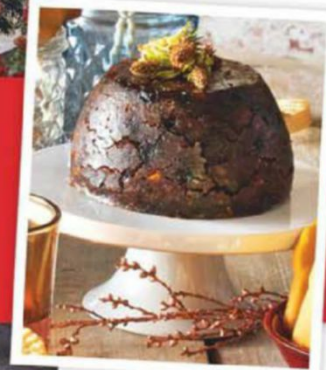


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# LIFESTYLE TECH

## 5 BEST FITNESS TRACKERS

If you're ready to put down the mince pies and start working off that turkey dinner, we've rounded up the best activity trackers for every fitness level – from simple bands that count steps to motivational wearables that give detailed insights into your health

1

### THE FASHIONISTA'S PICK

Wearables don't come much prettier than the swim-proof Ray, with its rose-gold tracker and leather strap. It has an epic six-month battery life, vibrates if you get a call or text on your phone, and tracks steps, distance, calories and sleep

Ray, £100, Misfit



2

### THE RUNNING BUDDY

Nike's custom version has the same features as Apple's Series 2 Watch – such as water-resistance to 50m and GPS – plus exclusive watch faces that display stats like distance and pace. You'll also get reminders to go for a run, and you can pit yourself against friends through the Run Club app

Nike+ Watch, from £369, Apple



4

### THE CLASSIC TIMEPIECE

This Swiss-made watch just happens to be smart, too, with a smaller dial that ticks round until you've reached your target steps. It's water-resistant and identifies that you're swimming, so you'll always get an accurate calorie burn, plus the battery lasts up to 25 days between charges

Activité Steel HR, from £170, Withings



3

### THE MOTIVATOR

Meet the first tracker that measures your body fat and muscle mass. You can wear it for five days before recharging – meanwhile, it'll track your steps, sleep, heart rate and calories burned

Touch, £130, TomTom



5

### THE WELLNESS WEARABLE

We loved the Charge, but its replacement is even better. It's got a larger screen, a bigger choice of straps and it measures your pulse throughout your workout for an accurate gauge of your cardio fitness. Feeling anxious? Give its guided 'breathing sessions' a go

Charge 2, £130, Fitbit





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# TECH SUPPORT

## HOW TO TRADE IN YOUR OLD PHONE

Yay, you've got a shiny new phone! But before you relegate your old handset to a drawer (or bin), consider trading it in instead. Even if it's been in the wars, you could get cash or a discount on your next device – plus you'll be doing your bit for the environment, too

### Q Why should I trade in my old handset?

Unless you're giving your phone to a friend, trade it in. Brands such as Carphone Warehouse, Vodafone and Apple let you part-exchange an old phone for a new one – Apple currently offers up to £375, while Three pays up to £200. Otherwise, you could sell your phone to an online service, such as Mazuma or Envirofone. They'll give you a quote, send out a pre-paid padded envelope and, once they've received your device and are happy with its condition, you'll get the cash within a few days. Do shop around though, as prices vary from site to site.

### Q What types of phones can be traded?

You'll get the most money for a working phone with little-to-no cosmetic damage. Broken phones are often accepted, too, and while you shouldn't expect much cash for them, they will at least be recycled properly. Unlocked phones also command higher payouts. If yours is 'locked' so it can only be used with a certain network, call your carrier and ask them to unlock it.

### Q What should I include with my mobile?

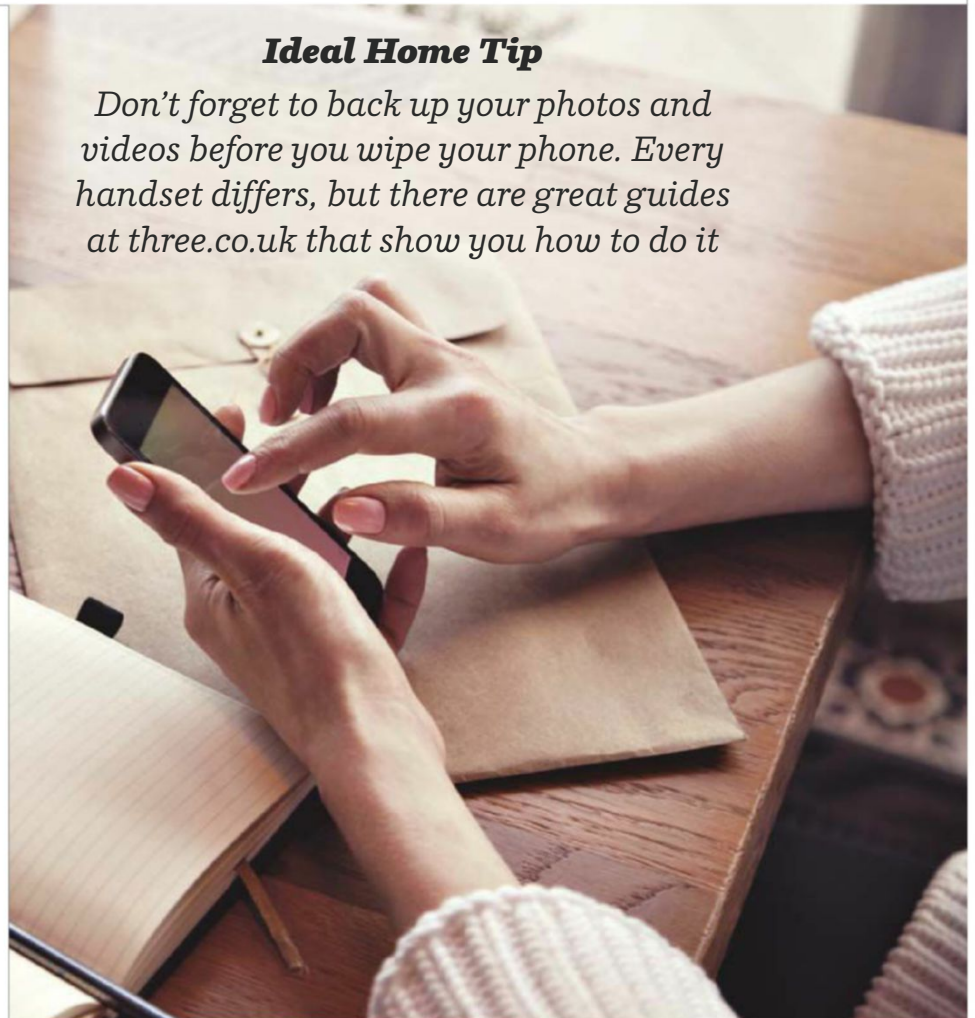
You'll just need the handset and its battery. You can keep any chargers, cables or headphones it came with.

### Q What will happen to my old device?

It could be used as a display phone in store or it might be refurbished

### Ideal Home Tip

*Don't forget to back up your photos and videos before you wipe your phone. Every handset differs, but there are great guides at [three.co.uk](http://three.co.uk) that show you how to do it*



– this is where the phone is cleaned, repaired and tested to make it usable again. Phones beyond repair are stripped down and recycled, rather than being sent to landfill.

### Q What about my personal stuff?

Before you pass on or trade in your handset, perform a factory reset in case it falls into the wrong hands. This will remove any files, such as photographs, apps, music and text messages, and erase

personal accounts such as Facebook and Instagram. Here's how to perform a factory reset:

On iOS (iPhone or iPad): Go to Settings > General > Reset, then Erase All Contents And Settings. You'll also need to log out of your iCloud account, via Settings > iCloud > Sign Out. At the warning screen, press Sign Out again.

On Android: Head to Settings > Backup & Reset > Factory data reset. Scroll to the bottom and tap Reset Device, then Erase Everything.



# Style *at Home*

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# KITCHEN TECH

## 5 CHRISTMAS COUNTERTOP HEROES

The stress of seasonal entertaining is enough to have anyone reaching for the sweet sherry, but all it takes is a few worktop wonders and you'll be ready to cope with any potential disaster. Be it last-minute guests or forgotten puds, it's tech to the rescue!

1

### THE VERSATILE SLOW COOKER

Mulling wine or cider is easy and will keep guests happy if dinner's late! Plus, if you do it in a slow cooker, you can keep it warm all day. The latest Crock-Pot can sauté, steam, roast and bake, too

**Crock-Pot CSC024 5.6ltr digital slow and multicooker, £120, John Lewis**



2

### THE AGILE BREADMAKER

You'll be amazed at the festive fare this breadmaker can conjure up – cranberry sauce, panettone, a gluten-free Christmas cake for those with an intolerance... as well as dough in case you fancy a turkey-topped pizza on Boxing Day

**SD-2511KXC breadmaker, £160, Panasonic**



4

### THE EXTRA HOB ZONE

Grab this handy little hob out of the cupboard if you're juggling one too many pans. It's got three settings, heats up in seconds, costs pennies to run and takes induction-friendly cookware up to 15cm wide. To see if a pan is suitable, hold a magnet to the bottom – if it sticks, you're set

**Mini induction hob, £39.95, Lakeland**



3

### THE STACKABLE STEAMER

Cooking veggies with an electric steamer frees up hob space and saves you watching over pots – just fill the base with water and listen out for the buzz when the time's up. Pop hardier carrots and swede in the bottom basket and delicate greens on top

**Multifunction steamer, £150, Magimix**



5

### THE SPEEDY SOUP MAKER

Home-made soup is a cheap, tasty lunch option that uses up those leftovers, and this gadget takes any fuff out of making it. Throw in your ingredients and it will sauté them off before making a smooth, medium or chunky broth – you can choose to make two, three or four servings, so nothing goes to waste

**Total Control soup maker, £99.99, Morphy Richards**



# Let's get together

Have everyone round for drinks and nibbles – these easy cocktails will get the gossip flowing and the dancing started!

## **Hedgerow velvet fizz**

serves 6 Takes 20min, plus chilling time

**INGREDIENTS** • 175g blackberries • 50g caster sugar • 6tbsp brandy • 1 bottle of Champagne or sparkling wine, chilled

**1** Put the blackberries and sugar in a pan. Heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, then simmer for 5min, stirring occasionally, until the sauce has thickened slightly and becomes syrupy.

**2** Sieve the syrup over a bowl, pressing the

fruit with the back of a spoon. Discard the pulp and chill the syrup.

**3** When you're ready to serve up, blend the brandy with the blackberry syrup and pour 2tbsp into six Champagne flutes. Top with the chilled Champagne or wine.

## **Roasted scallops**

See page 144 for recipe

## **Mini scones with ham hock & fruit chutney**

See page 144 for recipe

## **Scotch quail's eggs**

See page 144 for recipe



**IDEAL HOME TIP**

*For a four-hour party, expect each person to eat around eight savoury canapés and two sweet*

***Baby roasted potatoes with herb salt***

See page 144 for recipe

***Watercress soup with smoked trout***

See page 144 for recipe



## SIMPLE PLEASURES



Music system,  
£170, Bose  
range, John  
Lewis

OUR TOP  
MUSIC  
picks

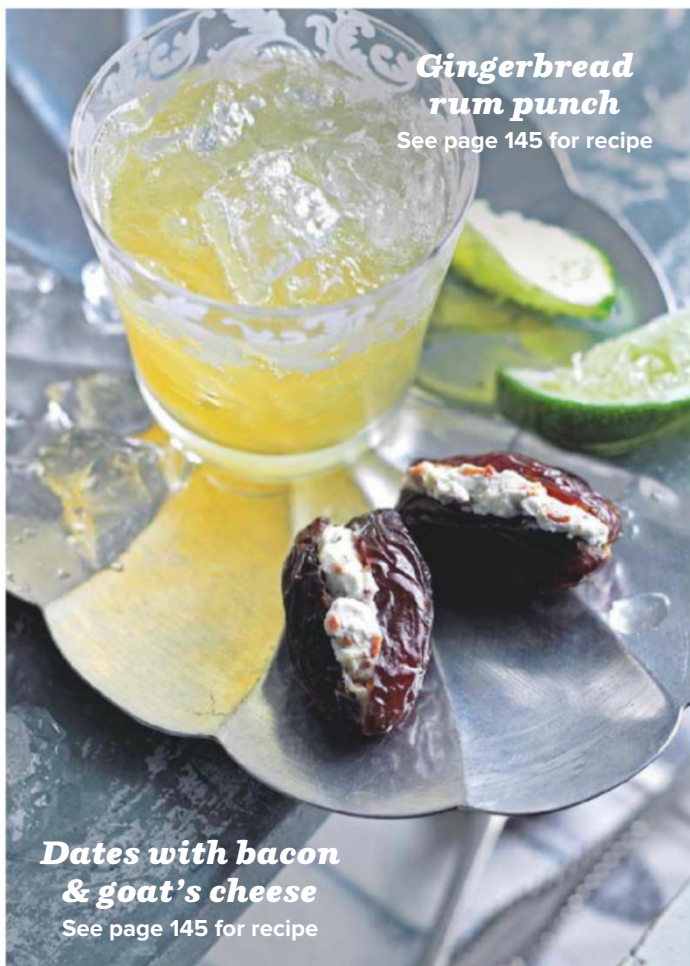
### PARTY PLAYLIST

Save yourself the hassle of being both host and DJ with *Ideal Home's* party playlist. All you need is Spotify (free; iTunes, Android) and a Wi-Fi- or Bluetooth-enabled music system. We've listed our favourite festive tunes to see you through the party season!

<http://bit.ly/2ekKgD2>

### Salted caramel popcorn

See page 145 for recipe



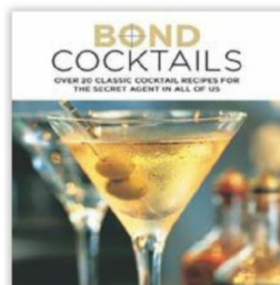
### Gingerbread rum punch

See page 145 for recipe

### Dates with bacon & goat's cheese

See page 145 for recipe

## DON'T FORGET TO BUY... Cocktail accessories



### SHAKEN NOT STIRRED

*Bond Cocktails*  
by Katherine  
Bebo, £6.99  
(Ryland Peters  
& Small),  
Amazon.co.uk

**COPPER MUG**  
Mule mug, £8.95,  
The Kitchen  
Gift Company



**STYLISH MIX**  
Cocktail shaker,  
£34, Oliver Bonas

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PARTY  
DRINKS  
*make*



## CREATE FRUITY ICE CUBES

*Give festive cocktails a pretty, special touch*

**1** Choose your ice-cube tray – opt for a flexible silicone one to make ice cubes easier to remove. Look out for moulds in festive shapes, too.

**2** The evening before you want to use the ice cubes, slice a pomegranate in

half and knock out the seeds into a bowl.

**3** Put a few seeds into each mould in your tray, fill with water, then pop the tray into your freezer. You could try little sprigs of mint, mini lemon wedges or cucumber, too.

## *Elderflower Martinis*

See page 145 for recipe



## *Classic cheese straws*

See page 145 for recipe



## Mini scones with ham hock & fruit chutney

Makes 20 Takes 30min

**INGREDIENTS** • 175g self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting • 75g lightly salted butter, cubed, plus extra for spreading and greasing • 1tsp Dijon mustard • 5tbsp buttermilk • 100g cooked ham hock, flaked • 6tbsp fruit chutney

**1** Preheat the oven to 220°C/425°F/Gas 7. Grease a large baking sheet. Put the flour and butter in a food processor, and blend until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the mustard and buttermilk, then blend until the mixture forms a dough.

**2** Turn out the dough onto a floured surface and roll out until 2cm thick. Cut out rounds using a 4.5cm-round cutter and place on the baking sheet. Bake for about 12min or until risen and golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool. To serve, halve and butter the scones. Pile a little of the ham hock onto each one and top with chutney.

## Roasted scallops

Makes 12 Takes 25min

**INGREDIENTS** • 12 large scallops • A little vegetable oil, for brushing • 4 spring onions • 4tbsp sweet chilli sauce • 3tbsp chopped coriander

**1** Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Pat the scallops dry on kitchen paper, brush with a little oil and season. Heat a frying pan and sear the scallops on both sides to colour. Transfer to a roasting tin. If the coral is not firmly attached to the scallop, cut it away and place on top.

**2** Bring a pan of water to the boil. Halve the spring onions and cut lengthways into fine shreds. Simmer in the pan for 2min to soften, then drain and dry them on kitchen paper.

**3** Roast the scallops in the oven for 10min. Meanwhile, mix the chilli sauce with the coriander. Spoon a little sauce onto each scallop to serve. Bundle up shreds of onion and place



on top of the scallops, pushing wooden cocktail sticks through the onion and scallops to hold together.

## Scotch quail eggs

Makes 12 Takes 45min

**INGREDIENTS** • 12 quail's eggs • Plain flour, for dusting • 400g sausage meat • 1tsp fennel seeds, lightly crushed • ½tsp cumin seeds, lightly crushed • 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped • 3tbsp chopped parsley • 1 egg, beaten • 75g breadcrumbs • Vegetable oil, for frying

**1** Put the quail's eggs in a pan. Cover with cold water and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 2min. Drain, rinse in cold water and peel. Roll the eggs in the flour to dust.

**2** Mix the sausage meat in a bowl with the fennel, cumin, chilli, parsley and some seasoning until evenly combined. Divide into 12. Take a piece of sausage meat and flatten it out with your fingers to about 5mm thick. Use to wrap around an egg, pinching the edges together so the egg is enclosed, and roll in the palms of your hands. Repeat with all the eggs. Dust with flour, then coat in the beaten egg and breadcrumbs.

**3** Heat a 5cm depth of oil in a frying pan until a piece of bread turns golden in 1min. Cook the scotch eggs in batches, lowering into the pan and frying for 5min until pale golden. If the breadcrumbs brown quickly, lower the heat so they don't overcook. Serve warm or cold, cut in half.



## Watercress soup with smoked trout

Makes 1ltr (enough to fill about 10 espresso cups) Takes 30min

**INGREDIENTS** • 50g lightly salted butter • 3 shallots, roughly chopped • 2 medium potatoes, peeled and diced • 1ltr vegetable stock • 250g watercress, roughly chopped, tough stalks removed • 5tbsp crème fraîche • 75g smoked trout fillets

**1** Melt the butter in a pan and gently fry the shallots for 5min. Add the potatoes and stock, and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat and simmer for 15min or until the potatoes are tender.

**2** Add the watercress and cook for 1min, then whizz with a stick blender until smooth. Stir in the crème fraîche and season. To serve, pour into cups. Shred the trout and place on top.

## Baby roasted potatoes with herb salt

Serves 8 Takes 1hr 10min

**INGREDIENTS** • 500g new potatoes • 2tbsp olive oil • 2tbsp crushed pink peppercorns • 2tbsp each of chopped thyme, parsley and chives • 40g sea salt

**1** Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Toss the potatoes in the oil and roast for 1hr or until golden, turning once or twice during cooking.

**2** Mix together the remaining ingredients and place in a small dish. Serve the potatoes with cocktail sticks for dipping into the herby salt.





### Gingerbread rum punch

Makes 1 Takes 10min

**INGREDIENTS** • 2 fine slices of peeled root ginger • 1tsp clear honey • 50ml gingerbread rum • Half a fresh lime • Dash of sugar syrup • Ginger ale

**1** Bash the ginger in the base of a cocktail shaker with the back of a spoon. Add the honey and the gingerbread rum, then stir until the honey has dissolved.

**2** Add two squeezes of lime juice, the sugar syrup and ice. Shake to combine, then strain into an ice-filled tumbler. Top up with the ginger ale.

### Dates with bacon & goat's cheese

Makes 18 Takes 15min

**INGREDIENTS** • 18 plump dates • 50g smoked streaky bacon, finely chopped • 1 garlic clove, crushed • 100g smooth mild goat's cheese

**1** Slice the dates through to the centre and remove the stones. Fry the bacon in a dry pan until crisp and golden, then set aside and leave to cool.

**2** In a bowl, combine the bacon with the garlic, goat's cheese and plenty of black pepper. Stuff a little of the mixture into each date and serve.



### Salted caramel popcorn

Serves 10-12 in small cones

Takes 20min

**INGREDIENTS** • 1tbsp vegetable oil • 50g popping corn • 50g unsalted butter • 75g light muscovado sugar • 2tbsp golden syrup • 1tsp vanilla extract • ½tsp sea salt flakes

**1** Line two baking sheets with baking parchment. Heat the vegetable oil in a large pan with a tight-fitting lid. Tip in the popping corn, cover with the lid and heat until the popping stops, shaking the pan frequently – this will take about 5min.

**2** Melt the butter in a separate pan and add the sugar, golden syrup and vanilla extract. Heat very gently until the sugar has completely dissolved. Raise the heat and let the syrup bubble for about 4-5min until darkened to a rich caramel colour. Pour the syrup over the popcorn and stir well until combined.

**3** Tip the popcorn onto the lined baking sheets and spread out in a thin layer. Immediately sprinkle with the salt flakes and leave until completely cooled. Break up any pieces that have stuck together and store in an airtight container for up to two days.



### Elderflower Martinis

Makes 2 Takes 10min

**INGREDIENTS** • 100ml elderflower liqueur, such as St-Germain • 100ml gin • 4 dashes of lemon juice • 2 green olives, for garnishing

**1** Put the ingredients in a cocktail shaker with plenty of ice. Shake well.

**2** Strain into two Martini glasses and garnish each one with a green olive.

### Classic cheese straws

Makes 50-60 Takes 40min plus chilling time

**INGREDIENTS** • 125g plain flour, plus extra for dusting • 100g lightly salted firm butter, cubed, plus extra for greasing • 125g mature Cheddar cheese, grated • 1 egg yolk • Pinch of cayenne pepper

**1** Grease two baking sheets. Put the flour into a food processor and add the cubed butter. Blend until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

**2** Add the cheese, egg yolk and 2tsp cold water. Blend again until the mixture comes together as a ball of dough. Wrap and chill for 1hr.

**3** Preheat the oven to 190°C/375°F/Gas 5. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface until about 5mm thick. Cut out sticks measuring about 9cm x 1cm. Transfer to the baking sheets, spacing them slightly apart, and sprinkle lightly with cayenne pepper. Bake for 18-20min until golden. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

# Make it work for you

## FOOD WITH FRIENDS: NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

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1



2



3



4



5



Carraway drinks cabinet, £599, Marks & Spencer

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING



6



7



8

### WHERE TO BUY

#### 1. DECADENT DECS

Be Happy Party Animals, £10 for eight, Talking Tables

#### 2. GARLAND

Just Dance garland, £8, Talking Tables

#### 3. PAPER PLATE

Gold-foiled star paper plate, £3.49 for eight, Ginger Ray

#### 4. MARTINI GLASS

Decorated martini cocktail glass, £48 for six, John Lewis

#### 5. ICE BUCKET

Annandale Silver XI ice bucket, £68, Anthropologie

#### 6. COCKTAIL SET

Gold cocktail set, £25, Habitat

#### 7. NAPKINS

Paper napkins in white and grey, £1.99 for 20, H&M

#### 8. DRINKS TROLLEY

Luxe trolley (H86cm x L84cm x D50cm), £350, Oliver Bonas

## WEEKEND BAKE

# Christmas shortbread

With their delicate rose and almond flavour, these melt-in-the-mouth biscuits would make a lovely gift or tree decoration

**Makes** 22-24 biscuits

**Takes** 50min plus chilling time

## INGREDIENTS

- 150g plain flour, plus extra for dusting
- 25g ground rice
- 125g firm slightly salted butter, diced
- ½tsp rose extract
- 75g caster sugar
- Small handful of unblanched almonds
- Decorations, such as white icing, white sugar sprinkles, edible pearls, gold food colouring, chocolate and nuts

**1** Put the flour, rice and butter in a food processor and blend until the mixture resembles coarse breadcrumbs. Add the rose extract and sugar, and blend to a firm paste. Wrap and chill for at least 30min.

**2** Preheat the oven to 180°C/350°F/Gas 4. Grease two baking sheets. Roll out the dough on a floured surface to 5mm thickness. Cut out shapes and space slightly apart on the baking sheets – you could cut out stars from the middle of some rounds or press almonds into others. Use a skewer to make holes for hanging your biscuits.

**3** Bake for 25min until just turning pale gold around the edges, re-marking the holes with a skewer if necessary. Cool on a rack, then decorate.



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## WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

# Turkey & chestnut pie

Not sure what to do with those Christmas-lunch leftovers? Use them to rustle up this winter warmer



**SERVES 4 TAKES** 1hr 20min

**INGREDIENTS** • 50g butter, plus extra for greasing • 450g leeks, trimmed and cut into 1cm-thick slices • 2tsp thyme leaves • 50g plain flour • 500ml turkey stock • 300g cooked turkey, cut into large pieces • 200g cooked ham, cut into large cubes • 100g cooked chestnuts, quartered • 75g crème fraîche • Grating of fresh nutmeg • 350g ready-made puff pastry • 1 egg yolk, beaten

**1** For the filling, melt the butter in a large saucepan or casserole dish, and add the leeks and thyme, then

stir, cover and cook on a low heat for 15min until soft.

**2** Add the flour and stir well. Pour in the stock gradually, stirring until you have a smooth sauce.

**3** Add in the turkey, ham, chestnuts and crème fraîche, then season with black pepper, a little nutmeg and salt, if needed. Stir well to combine.

**4** Put the filling into a 30.5cm x 25.5cm pie dish. Preheat the oven to 200°C/400°F/Gas 6. Butter the rim of the dish. Roll the pastry out to the thickness of a £1 coin, then cut

out several strips and press them around the edges of the dish. Brush the strips with water and place a lid of pastry on top. Make two small holes in the lid to let the steam out.

**5** Press the pastry edges together, trim off any excess, then knock up the edges and crimp. Use any remaining pastry to decorate the top of the pie. Mix the egg yolk with 1tsp water and brush over the pastry.

**6** Place the dish on a baking sheet and cook for 30-35min, or until the pastry is brown and the filling piping hot. Serve immediately.





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Savoury relish set, £14.99 for four, Eat 17 range, The Present Finder



**SIZZLE AND SEASON**  
Himalayan rock salt cooking block, £34.99, Lakeland

**THE IDEAL HOME EDIT**

# Great gifts for cooks & foodies

These ideas will delight the serious food lovers in your life – plus, they make great standby and hostess gifts, too...



**COLOUR POP**  
Chopping boards, £30 each, HKLiving range, Not-Another-Bill



**BOX OF DELIGHTS**  
Il Massimo hamper, £75, Carluccio's



**DAILY GRIND**  
Marble pestle and mortar, £19.95, Decorator's Notebook



**DAPPER POURERS**  
Oil and vinegar drizzlers, £22 for two, Jamie Oliver range, Debenhams



**OUTDOOR CLOCK**

Steeple wall clock, £145, The Orchard Home and Gifts



Industrial-style trough planter, £35, Cox & Cox



**FEEL THE HEAT**

Fire bowl, £39.95, Idyll Home



**VINTAGE VIBE**

Green aged plant pots, from £14 each, MiaFleur



**ELEGANT GROUND LIGHTS**

Flute lanterns, £17 for four, Hen & Hammock



**ADD A GLOW**

Merle hurricane lamp, £55, Artisanti

**THE IDEAL HOME EDIT**

# Great gifts for garden lovers

Know someone who loves hanging out in their 'outdoor room'? One of these gifts will make them happy...



**FUN PATTERN**

Star indoor/outdoor rug (L91cm x W61cm), £81, Dash & Albert range, Amara



**CHILL-OUT SPOT**

Parisian outdoor rocker chair, £85.90, Farthing



**PRETTIER THAN PLASTIC**

Copper and silver watering can, £27.50, Marks & Spencer



**SCULPTURAL STYLE**

Circular metal log holder, £55, The Great Gift Company

FEATURES GINEVRA BENEDETTI, MICHELA COLLING, HOLLY WALSH



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Ideal Home

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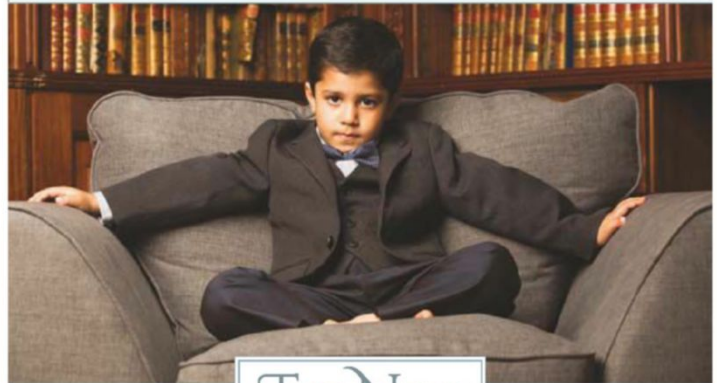
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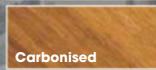



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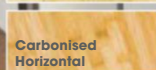
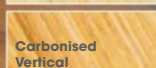
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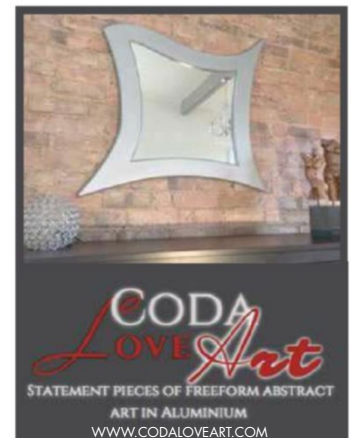
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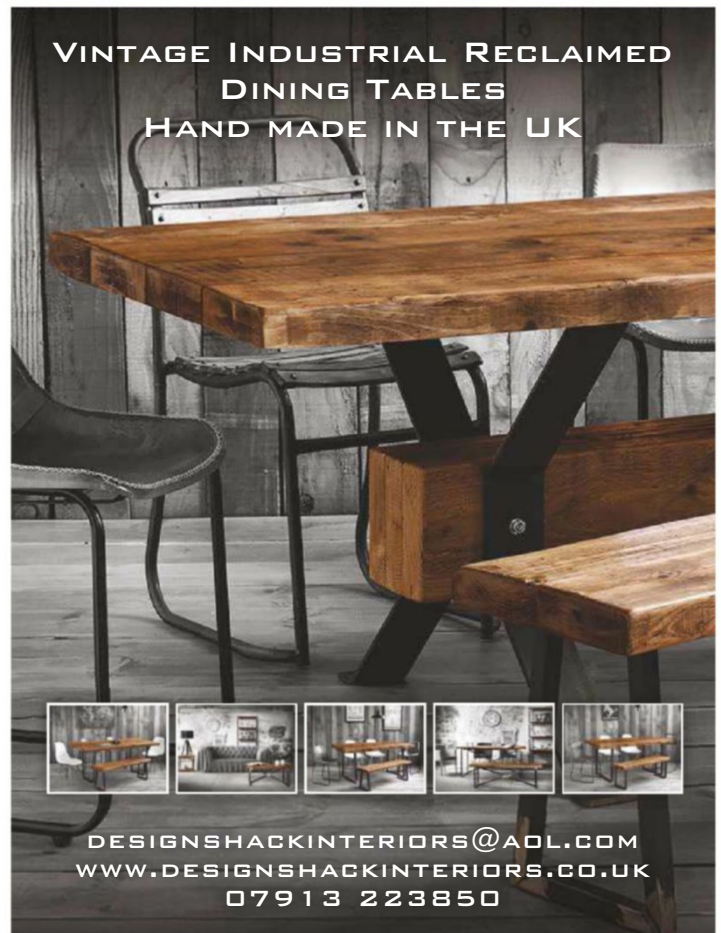
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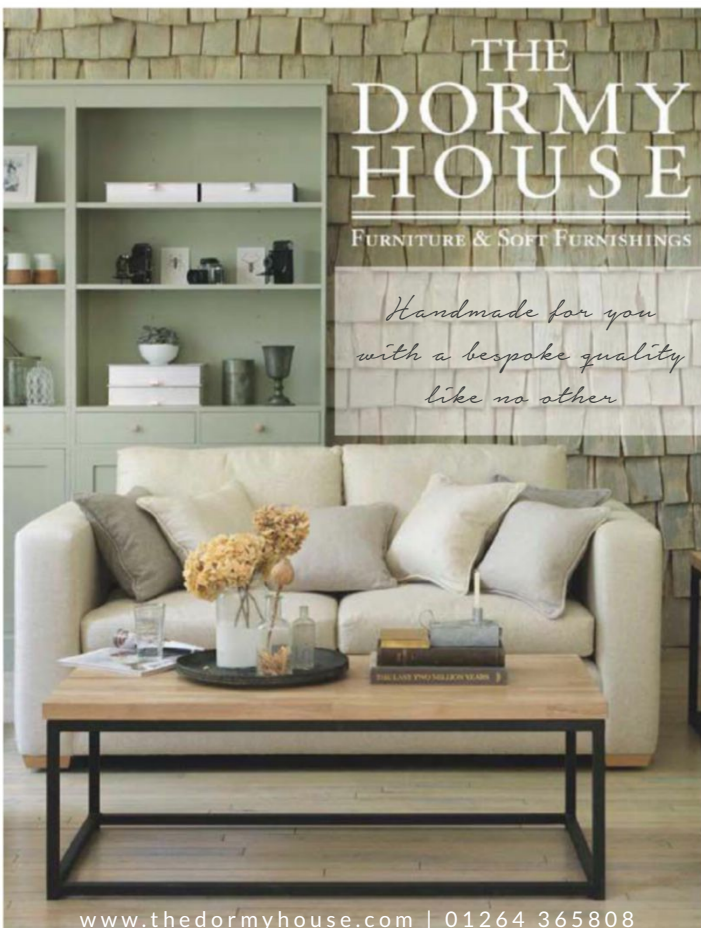
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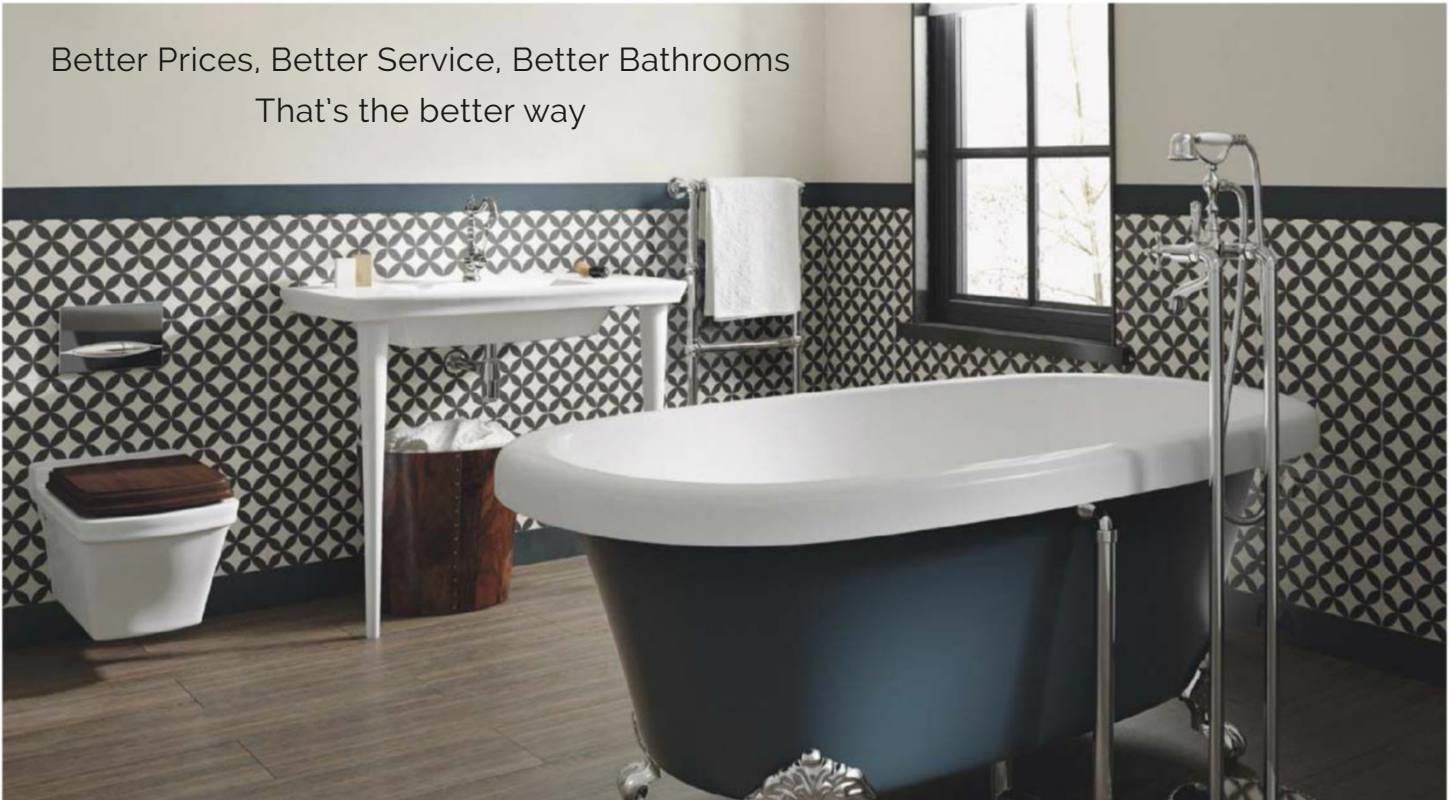
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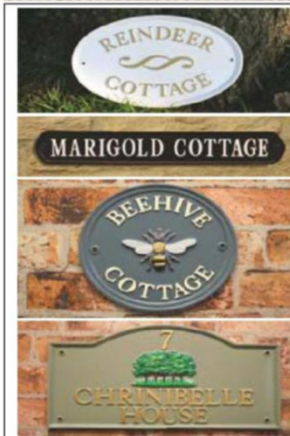
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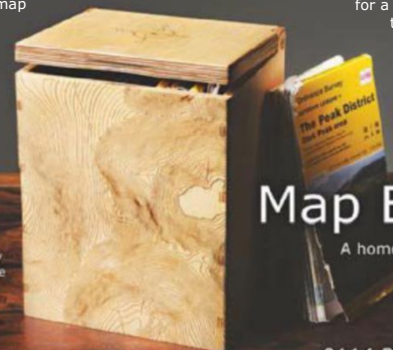
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**Tesco** 0800 323 4040; tesco.com  
**Tesco Direct** 0800 323 4050; tesco.com/direct  
**TK Maxx** 01923 473561; tkmaxx.com  
**TomTom** tomtom.com  
**Topps Tiles** 0800 783 6262; toppstiles.co.uk  
**Tristan Cockerill** 07917 320572; tristancockerill.com  
**UV** UKBathrooms 01765 694720; ukbathrooms.com  
**UK Bathroom Store** 01524 925702; ukbathroomstore.co.uk  
**Urbanara** 0800 779 7527; urbanara.co.uk  
**Urban Outfitters** 0845 330 1288; urbanoutfitters.co.uk  
**Very** 0844 822 2321; very.co.uk  
**Victoriaplum.com** 0344 804 4848; victoriaplum.com  
**Villa Nova** 01623 756699; villanova.co.uk  
**Vitra** 01235 750990; vitra.co.uk  
**Viva Lagoon** 020 7129 1309; vivalagoon.com  
**Voyage** 0141 641 1700; voyagedecoration.com  
**Voyage Maison** 0141 641 1700; voyagemaison.co.uk  
**WZ** Wallpaperdirect 01323 430886;

wallpaperdirect.com  
**Waterford** 01782 282650; waterford.co.uk  
**Waterstones** 0808 118 8787; waterstones.com  
**Wayfair** 0800 169 0423; wayfair.co.uk  
**Wedgwood** 01782 204141; wedgwood.co.uk  
**West Elm** 0800 404 9780; westelm.co.uk  
**White Company (The)** 020 3758 9222; thewhitecompany.com  
**White Rabbit England** 01625 419622; whiterabbitengland.com  
**Wilko** 0800 032 9329; wilko.com  
**Willow & Stone** 01326 311388; willowandstone.co.uk  
**Withings** withings.com/uk  
**World's End Tiles** 020 7819 2100; worldsendtiles.co.uk  
**Woven** 020 7193 0505; woven.co.uk  
**Wyevale Garden Centres** 0844 800 8428; wyevalegardencentres.co.uk  
**Zara Home** 0800 026 0091; zarahome.com/gb  
**Zazzle** 0800 692 9953; zazzle.co.uk

## BE CANDLE SAFE

Enjoy the special touch that candles add to your home, but take care to use them safely: Always place lit candles well away from foliage, furniture, curtains and soft furnishings, and always out of draughts • Keep candles out of reach of children and pets • Never leave a burning candle unattended • Keep candles away from hair and clothing • Always place candles upright in suitable holders that can't easily fall over • Always be sure that candles are properly extinguished

## EDITORIAL COMPLAINTS

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# A place for everyone

GIVE YOUR DINNER GUESTS THE VIP TREATMENT WITH A PERSONALISED PLACE SETTING AND A KEEPSAKE TO TAKE AWAY



## Make it personal

You don't need a formal set of napkin rings to create a special place setting.

Just thread thin ribbon through a small decoration and a name label, then tie around a folded napkin. Finish with a sprig of foliage sprayed gold – we used eucalyptus for its beautifully shaped leaves.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES** Avani etched placemat, £12.95, Nkuku. Century cutlery, £180 for a 24-piece set, Living by Christiane Lemieux range, House of Fraser. Linen napkin, £3.99, H&M. Gold ribbon, £2 for 2m; mini Kraft tag, £2 for 10; all Paperchase. For a similar white star, try the porcelain star, £12 for six, The White Company. Eucalyptus leaves sprayed in Metallic Gold spray paint, £9.49 for 400ml, Rust-Oleum range, Homebase. Saucer crackers, £7 for eight, Talking Tables. Vintage-style Champagne saucer, £68 for six; faux Champagne glitter leaf garland, £23; wooden stars, £6.50; all Rockett St George. Mercury votive, £5, West Elm

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