

EST. 1920

# Ideal Home

BRITAIN'S BESTSELLING HOMES MAGAZINE

## Organised spaces for busy lives

- ◆ Kitchen extensions ◆ Bathroom fixes
- ◆ Tame a teen's room ◆ Home office buys
- ◆ Calming colour schemes

*How to...*  
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*Inside!*  
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- ◆ Victorian villa
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*Vanessa*

Vanessa  
Richmond, Editor

# Welcome

Chez Richmond's looking the worse for wear. It has suffered a long, hard summer at the hands of the littlest Richmonds, who've been building dens, scattering Lego far and wide, filling up the Sky box with Disney mini movies, losing shoes and generating laundry. As a neat freak, it's been fun to let go, but now I'm starting to twitch a bit!

It's time to launch ourselves into a massive clear-up, clear-out and shake down. There will be decluttering, reorganising, rethinking of space and intensive list-making, followed by a quest for genius storage solutions.

That's one thing we've nailed in this issue: you'll find loads of problem-solving options for kids' rooms on page 94 and space-stretching furniture on page 140. Oh, and don't miss my dream wardrobe-taming system on page 166. Come autumn, we're going to be ready for anything...



PHOTOGRAPH DOMINIC BLACKMORE  
STYLING SARITA SHARMA

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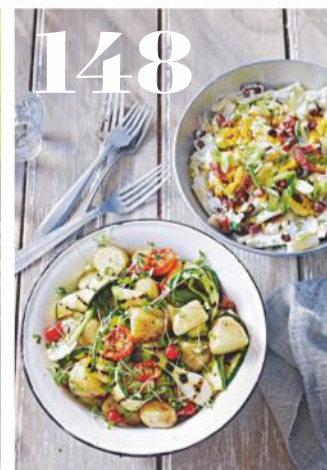
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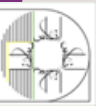
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IN SEPTEMBER

# You deserve... a calm work space

After the chaos and noise of the summer holidays, all you need is a quiet little corner where you can get your head back in the work zone, and some beautiful stationery will help with that...

Table lamp, £50, Next. Jane Packer faux succulent in pot, £5; noticeboard and clips, £14; Notes journal, £5; copper pencils, £2 for six; mini jars of clips, £2 each; all Ethereal range at Sainsbury's. Filing box, £22.99, Busy B. Dreams journal, £21; copper rollerball, £12; both Kikki K. Rose gold phone charger, £28.50, Le Cord. Blissmore mug, £7; Bloomingville tumbler, £45; both Amara. Dachshund stapler, £22, Anthropologie. Wild & Wolf pink ballpoint, £39.95, Ted Baker. Clock, £8, Dunelm.

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH  
STYLING NICKY PHILLIPS  
PHOTOGRAPH DOMINIC BLACKMORE





**ARTIST'S IMPRESSION**  
Cydnee running hare cushion, £11, B&Q

**SUNNY DELIGHT**  
Yellow dipped belly basket, £29, Olli Ella



**TOP THE TABLE**  
Drift jug, £14, Creative Tops range, Bradbeers

**FOR TEA AND TASTY TREATS**  
Cherry Orchard tray, £35.50, New House Textiles



**BERRY BLAST**  
Cobweave throw, £59, The British Blanket Co



**PICK A PATTERN**  
Kenza cereal bowls, £3.50 each, Tesco



**FROM KITCHEN TO TABLE**  
Black dip board, £28.99, Scottie & Russell

# HOW TO ADD *wow!*

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

**HANG WITH OR WITHOUT A PLANT**  
Ria planter, £8.50, Sass & Belle



**ELEGANT ANGLES**  
Oriol task lamp, £99, Cotswold Co



**TIMELESS DESIGN**  
Sterling armchair in Morris & Co Marigold linen, £1,299, John Lewis

**ADD A MELLOW YELLOW**  
Knitted Mustard pouffe, £210, Arlo & Jacob



**RELAXED FLORALS**  
Raspberry Velvet and Bohemian Circles cushions, £25 each, National Trust Shop



**CREATE A COSY HAVEN FOR LAZY SUNDAY LIE-INS**

Chantilly White double bed, £449; Ida throw, £75; Dayita cushions, £40 each; all The Cotswold Company



**FANCY FOLK FEEL**  
Persian Thistle cushion, £35, John Lewis

**DIPPED IN SUNSHINE**

Lucia wall light, £264, Hector Finch

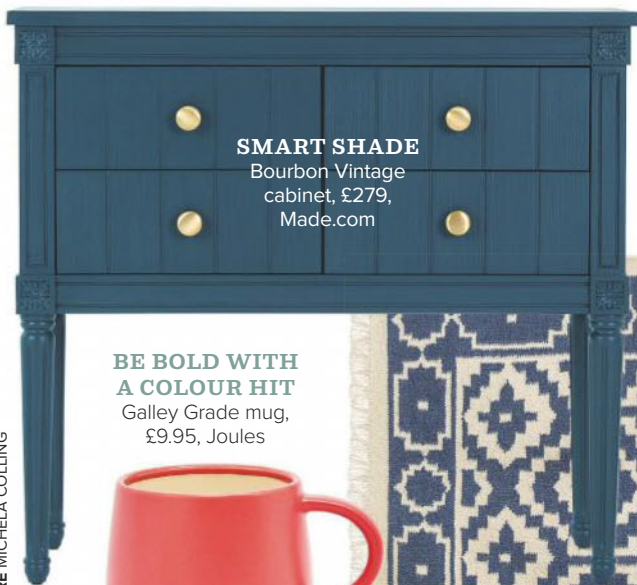


**STANDOUT STYLE**

Kitchen Study print, £24, Winter's Moon



**TOUCH ME TEXTURE**  
Cobble vase, £35, Habitat



**SMART SHADE**  
Bourbon Vintage cabinet, £279, Made.com

**BE BOLD WITH A COLOUR HIT**  
Galley Grade mug, £9.95, Joules

**JAZZ UP DRAWERS**  
Harlington knobs, £8 each, Anthropologie

**TO WARM UP WOOD**  
Zanzibar kilim rug, from £59.95, Myakka

**SEASONAL SPRAYS**

Leaf spray, £8; Yellow berry spray, £5.75; both Wyld Home

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING



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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...

## DRESS YOUR HOME IN TED BAKER

Ted Baker isn't just keen to get inside your wardrobe – it's now got its sights set on your whole home. Its distinctive graphic florals are popping up on bed linen, rugs and splashbacks, and designs inspired by the menswear have been rescaled and adapted to tiles and tableware.

**Paradise tiles, £36 per sq m, Ted Baker range, British Ceramic Tile.**



## WE KEEP SEEING...

### TINTED MIRRORS

It's not about the frames right now, it's all about the finish



**ROSE  
TINTED**  
Sun mirror, £55,  
Curious Egg

**ADD  
SPARKLE**  
Infinity mirror, £149,  
Roar + Rabbit at  
West Elm

**GO GEO**  
Coxbridge  
yellow and blue  
diamond mirror,  
£368, Mood  
Collections

Laze sofa in Grey  
Herringbone,  
£449, DFS



## Scaled-down style to snap up now

DFS is launching its Capsule collection of sofas, armchairs and footstools, all with petite proportions but big design personality. Space savings have been made in all the right places, with every sofa under 2m wide.

But while the sizes are reduced, the options are plentiful; we love the choice of 45 top-notch fabrics, from luxe velvet and tactile felt to textured cottons.



## WHAT'S NEW



**LUXE TOUCH**  
Feather cushion, £18

**THE WOW VASE**  
Diamond cut vase, £16



**GLAM UP A DRESSER**

Feather trinket tray, £10



**FINE DINE**  
Jardin dining set, from £4.50

**STYLISH SIDE**

Marble top side table, £55



## JUST HEARD...

Treats galore are coming to Tesco, and not just in the wine and confectionery aisles! It's going all posh on us with its new homeware range, Fox & Ivy. It's split into two looks, Jardin and Soho, and the attention to detail will surprise you. With everything from tableware to bed linen and furniture, it arrives in store on September 18 to make your weekly shop a little more self-indulgent.

IDEAL

GREAT DEAL

### THINKING INSIDE THE BOX



**PRECIOUS FIND**  
Marble print trinket box, £25, Marks & Spencer



**GIVE US A SWIRL**  
Marble glass jewellery box, £7, Primark

## Found! The finest faux foliage around

Fake it to make it! Houseplants, cacti and succulents are still the must-have accessory of 2017 and that's why we're loving designer Abigail Ahern's ingenious imitations. She has introduced her super-realistic range of artificial plants to Debenhams, so if you've got issues with water-logged leaves or unsightly shrivelled stems, these could be the way to a lasting hit of greenery in your home. Prices start at £14.50, and there's a wide variety to choose from. Abigail Ahern Edition range, Debenhams.



## Brilliant OR bonkers?

### CATH KIDSTON'S KITTY CROCKERY

One for the crazy cat ladies out there! Pugs and dachshunds have had their moment and now it's furry felines' turn. Our editor is in love (it looks just like her new kitten, Willo the Wisp); the rest of us are raising an eyebrow...

Cat mug with coaster, £12; Cat teapot £32; Decorative cat head plate, £10; all Cath Kidston

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

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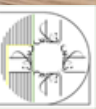


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# Look what we found!

The thing that's got the *Ideal Home* team buzzing loudest this month...

## GEORGE HOME'S FABULOUS NEW FURNITURE



“Let's face it: Asda's accessories have always been awesome and now its furniture is catching up. The new range, which includes solid oak pieces, made us gasp for all the right reasons!”

SPOTTED BY... STYLE EDITOR  
MICHELA COLLING



**THIS PAGE** Retro upholstered chair, £59; Geo print cushion, £5; Idris solid oak chairs, £99 for two; Idris oak table, £259; Homemaker chevron rug, £20; Cactus vase, £12; wire candle holder, £12; all George Home



# TRY ME, LOVE ME

— INTRODUCING —

SILK FLOWER & *Gold Freesia*



SCENTS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH

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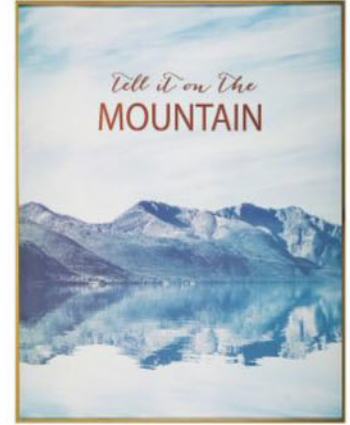
**MONOCHROME MISSIVE**

'Be Brave' print, £15,  
Bobby Rabbit



**BRIGHT FLORALS**

Rifle Paper Co 'Don't Worry, Be Happy' print, £24, Papermash



**SCENIC SIGN**

Adventure gold metal frame,  
£60.38, Maisons Du Monde



**RUSTIC STYLE**

Wander plaque, £35,  
Magical Story

**THE SHORTLIST**

8

*Happy thoughts*

**FOR YOUR WALLS**



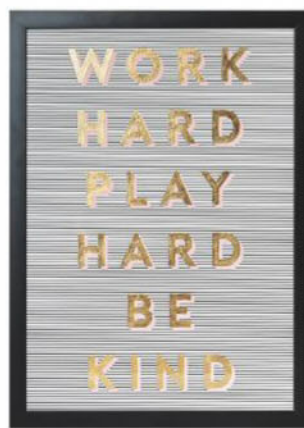
**CUTE QUOTE**

'Do The Things You Love'  
framed poster, £39.90, Juniqe



**COLOUR POP**

'Good Vibes' Perspex print,  
£35, Cult Furniture



**METALLIC MOTTO**

Foiled wall art, £65,  
Oliver Bonas



**DON'T HANG AROUND**

Wooden adventure hanging  
sign, £4, Matalan

# loaf



BEDS, SOFAS AND FURNITURE FOR LOAFERS

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# *‘When it’s your dream home, you don’t compromise!’*



The Gardiners’ plan to just spruce up a flat overlooking the estuary in Padstow snowballed into a full makeover, bringing in more light and a modern-country vibe



# Welcome to my home



Amanda Gardiner lives here with her husband Pete. She works in the finance industry and Pete is retired.

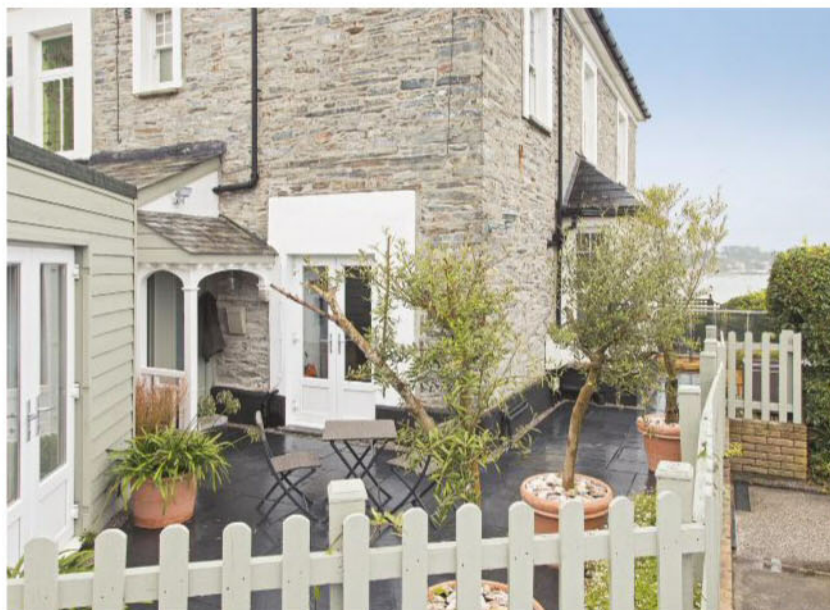
## THE PROPERTY

A ground-floor flat in a detached Victorian Cornish stone house in Padstow, Cornwall.

## VALUE

Bought for £362,500 in 2015, now worth more than £575,000.

**“My favourite thing is sitting out on the terrace in the evening, watching the sun going down and enjoying a glass of wine”**



## Take a quick tour...



GROUND FLOOR

When Pete Gardiner retired, he and his wife Amanda decided to look seriously at properties in Padstow, Cornwall, where they'd enjoyed holidays for more than 20 years. 'Padstow isn't huge and there are a limited number of old properties that are close to the harbour and restaurants,' says Amanda. 'We wanted estuary views and parking, too, so it was a tall order. But this was to be our dream home, and we were prepared to hold out until we found it.'

The couple discovered a ground-floor flat in a Victorian property that had been languishing on the market for more than three years. It needed renovating and had the added complication of sharing water and gas utilities with the neighbours, but the Gardiners decided to put in an offer. When the sale completed, the couple reassessed the scale of the investment they were

planning to make. 'The original intention was not to spend too much money, but we soon realised that we'd have to spend a lot more on it to get it how we wanted,' says Amanda. They refitted the kitchen and bathrooms, enlarging their en suite to fit in a shower, and replaced windows with French doors in the kitchen and one of the bedrooms, to let in more light and allow access to the terrace. At the same time, they replaced all the interior doors and radiators.

Pete took on some of the work himself. 'In winter, I camped out in the living room and it was freezing,' he says, 'but being on site was invaluable.' He's also been redoing the garden, which is on a steep slope: 'It had to be terraced and decked for us to be able to use it,' he says. Amanda loves the garden now. 'My favourite thing is to sit out there, with the sun going down, enjoying a glass of wine,' she says.

**“Being by the sea, we think the interior should reflect that but not be a pastiche”**

### **Paint it white**

‘Everything was very gloomy – dark wood, dark floors, heavy curtains... but we prefer a light, bright, coastal-chic look, so we decided to gut the whole place and start again,’ says Amanda. She started by using brilliant white emulsion to cover dark ceiling panels and woodwork.

### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Oslo sofa, £899, Dwell. For a similar coffee table, try the Padstow, £299, Marks & Spencer. For a similar table and bench, try the Newman, £999; bench, £350; both John Lewis

**SUBTLE COASTAL CUSHIONS**  
Nautical colours but modern patterns  
keep it low key

**Love**  
AMANDA'S  
STYLE?

**Turn to page 29**  
to shop the look



**“I love the authentic look of the brick-shaped wall tiles”**



**DARK-GREY TILES**  
Gives an all-white kitchen definition

### **Add a beachhouse-inspired finish**

Nothing says 'coastal' quite like clapboard, so Amanda and Pete chose tongue-and-groove panelled kitchen units in simple white.

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

Burford tongue-and-groove kitchen, price on request, Howdens Joinery. Metro wall tiles, £19.50 per sq m; Regal Ash floor tiles, £55.09 per sq m; both Topps Tiles

### **Do it with mirrors**

'Light flowing from the living room stops the hall looking dark, and strategically placed mirrors help, too,' says Amanda.

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

Mirrors, £85 each, Next. Alban console, £242, Wayfair. Lamps, £22 each, Dunelm. For a similar lighthouse, try the tealight holder, £15, The White Lighthouse Furniture



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**LIGHTENED FLOOR**  
Sanding, then sealing with a mix of varnish and white emulsion makes planks paler



The couple have kept coastal motifs classic and classy, like this wooden bird

### Create a focus

In the living/dining room, the couple have the picture window at one end as the focal point and the fireplace at the other. 'Pete painted it white and we added a large mirror and the electric stove,' says Amanda.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Chevalier electric stove, £650, Dimplex. Padstow bookcase, £519, Marks & Spencer

### Highlight natural surfaces

'We wanted to show the age of the house, so we exposed the stone wall in the living room,' says Amanda. 'The light colour scheme we've used is a far better contrast to it than the dark colours that were here before.'

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar floorstanding lamp, try the studio, £135, Debenhams



**SIMPLE CURTAINS**  
Frame a view without interrupting it

***Be clever  
with texture***

'In a small bathroom, it's best to tile it completely for easy maintenance,' says Amanda. The couple chose a stone effect to suit the subtle coastal theme.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Talana vanity unit with basin, from £440; Everest Stone Porcelain tiles, £26.98 per sq m; all Wickes

**TOILETRIES NICHE**  
Avoids the need  
for racks or shelves  
by a compact bath

***“A vanity unit is  
a great way to pack  
storage into a small  
bathroom”***



## IDEAL HOME *loves*

### **Trad rads**

*'We had to replace the panel radiators, but chose old-style ones instead and they suit this property so well,' says Amanda*

Contemporary door handles keep a home looking current



### **Layer up greys**

*'In the main bedroom, we chose a pale grey colour for the walls, as it's so calming, and built it up with darker bedding and cushions.'*

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

Hastings Ivory bed frame, £210, Marks & Spencer. Bedside table, £110, Wayfair. Chloe lamp is similar, £60, Dunelm. Grey cushions, from £25, John Lewis

### **Add a little polish**

Amanda glammed up the simple main-bedroom scheme with a compact mirrored console that's used as a dressing table. Teaming it with a chambray-covered chair keeps the look cool and coastal.

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

For a similar table, try the Museum, £125, Mercer41 range, Wayfair. Blue chair, from a selection, TK Maxx. Heart mirror, £38.50, Ambience Interiors





**GLASS DOOR**  
Swap wood  
for glass to  
let light flow  
through

## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Property renovations are always harder and take longer than you think they will, so you have to be honest with yourself at the outset and decide whether you are willing to compromise or not, then set a budget and stick to it”

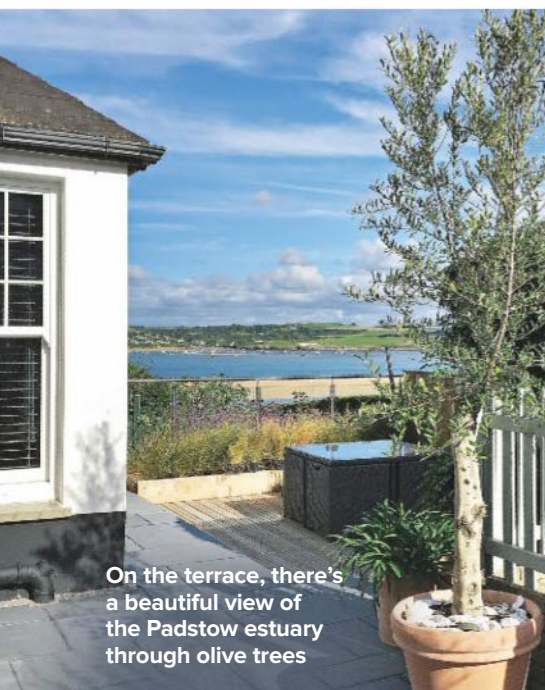
FEATURE ANASTASIA BURTON, VANESSA RICHMOND PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID GILES

### Keep it relaxed

A row of coat pegs and a simple folding stool set an informal mood as soon as you step into the hall, which is just a few square feet. ‘We had a skylight put in to let more light in,’ says Amanda, ‘and it makes all the difference.’

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar coat rack, try the wall mounted with five hooks, £32.99, House Additions range, Wayfair



On the terrace, there's a beautiful view of the Padstow estuary through olive trees



### Be consistent

The couple's subtle, natural colour palette works in every room. ‘We chose the same colours for both bedrooms and bought the same furniture for a balanced look,’ says Amanda.

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Hastings Ivory bedside tables, £179 each, Marks & Spencer. For a similar dog cushion, try Dunelm

# Make it work for you

## AMANDA'S STYLE: MODERN COASTAL

Clean lines and eclectic maritime additions give this waterside home a cool, coastal vibe



### MY GO-TO STORES...

- **JOHN LEWIS**  
'Always reliable for staples, such as good-quality white linen and towels'
- **M&S** 'Solidly made furniture and interesting accessories; they keep getting better'
- **NEXT** 'Well-priced, interesting pieces that are a bit different'
- **INDIA JANE**  
'Unbeatable for classic items with a quirky edge'



Exposed brick, wood furniture and industrial lighting add a chic edge to this scheme



**CLASSIC ENAMEL**  
Toulon pendant light in Chalk, £75, Garden Trading



**ADD CHARACTER**  
Bird with base, £28, Batela



**MARITIME MOOD**  
Rope and glass vase, £8, George Home



**MAKE A STATEMENT**  
Hollywood floor lamp, £517, PASX



**BRIGHTEN A DARK CORNER**  
Porthole mirror, £85, Next



**SUBTLE COASTAL STYLING**  
Salcombe cushion, £40, John Lewis



**THE MORE THE MERRIER**  
Bethan Gray Newman extending dining table, £999, John Lewis

**NAUTICAL STRIPES**  
Cornishware stripe mug, £15, Emporium Cookshop



### STYLIST'S TIP

“Add interest with accent shades – classic coastal colours are red and blue, or try turquoise and coral”

TARA KING, CONTENT EDITOR

FEATURE TARA KING PHOTOGRAPH DAVID GILES

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## COLOURS WE LOVE

# Sandstone

*Not all hero colours are bold attention-seekers. This soft tone that hovers between brown and grey is a quiet game-changer that'll make a room look warmer and more sophisticated at a brushstroke. Plus, it plays well with other colours, so you can indulge pretty much any whim when it comes to accents*



**THIS PAGE** Sorenjo Straw wallpaper, £65 per roll, The Paper Partnership. Arundel Oak console table, £820, Neptune. Enamel bud vases, £25 for three, Cox & Cox. Protos bowl in Coffee, £58, David Mellor.





**THIS PAGE** Sorenjo Straw wallpaper, £65 per roll, The Paper Partnership. Stephens rug, £60, Habitat. Arundel Oak console table, £820, Neptune. Nude leather strap shelf, £65, Rose & Grey. **ON CONSOLE** Pebble incense holders, £9 each, Baileys Home. Hand-painted porcelain serving bowl, £18, Forest & Co range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Handmade Ceramic textural ring bowl, £25, Kabinshop range, Notonthehighstreet.com. Bright Ceramicist tall teardrop vase in Citrine, £49, West Elm. Muddy Green crackle glaze ceramic bottle vase, £12.50, Pastel Lane. Pebble table lamp, £59, Barker & Stonehouse. **ON FLOOR** Stone effect vase, £45, Cox & Cox. **ON SHELF** Recycled glass storage jar with mango wood lid, £19.50, Pastel Lane. Concrete apple and pear, £12.50, Cox & Cox.

### Supporting star

Sandstone may not be a 'wow' colour, but if you have interesting pieces of furniture it's a great shade for letting them steal the show while still adding interest and warmth to the space

### SUBTLE PATTERN

This textured wallcovering looks less flat than a painted wall



**THIS PAGE** Walls painted in The Rocks matt emulsion, £14 for 2.5ltr, Crown Paints. Harry Sisal Aluminium **carpet**, £97 per sq m, Crucial Trading. Crush **rug** in Grey, £970, Woven. **Curtains** made in Driftwood, Moramo Linens range, Harlequin. Dexter **sofa** in Lytham Plain Natural, £2,179, Multiyork. Karla **armchair** in stone-washed grey canvas, £449, Swoon Editions. Kendall trestle **coffee table**, £199, Next. Alvar **sideboard** in light oak, £825, Barker & Stonehouse. Sylvie **side table** in Pebble, £195; Baya Ladder **bookcase**, £275; both Lombok. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Lacquer **tray** in Horseradish, £39, West Elm. Protos **bowl** in Coffee, £58, David Mellor. Northern Indian **railway glasses**, £3.50 each, Baileys Home. Blue glass **vase**, £50 for two, Cox & Cox. **ON SOFA** Cushions, from left: Griddy, £20, Habitat; felt Gypsy, £30, Graham and Green;

Textured Safira, £118, Anthropologie; made in Kelambu Indigo/Pebble, £89 per m, Harlequin; Embroidered Suzette pillow, £58, Anthropologie.

**ON CHAIR** Cyra **cushion**, £40, Habitat. **ON SIDEBORD** Alina **lamp**, £150, Parlane. Blue ombre **candle holder** (used as vase), £20, J by Jasper Conran range, Debenhams. Tom Dixon range **candle holder**, £75, John Lewis. Grantham **jug**, £42.50, One World range, Notonthehighstreet.com. For a similar blue **vase**, try Cox & Cox. **ON WALL** Fusion Unglazed **picture**, £249, Barker & Stonehouse. **ON BOOKCASE** Dipped **concrete vase**, £16.50, Cox & Cox. Marlon **frosted-glass vase**, £20, Habitat. Hand-painted **bowl**, £18, Forest & Co range, Notonthehighstreet.com. **ON SIDE TABLE** Oberti concrete **hurricane lamp**, £24.95, Parlane. Splash glaze **mug**, £15.50, David Mellor.

**GREY TONES**  
Sandstone  
blends with  
other browns,  
as well as greys  
for a smooth mix

### Stylist's note

“Brown neutrals can be sludgy and dull unless you cut through them with the right accents. We used blue and mimosa yellow”

NICKY PHILLIPS, DECORATING EDITOR

**THIS PAGE** Ledbury Pantry cupboard, £1,348, Cotswold Co, lined in Kelambu wallpaper, £59 per roll, Harlequin. **ACCESSORIES FROM TOP** Olivier Desforges Gaufrette bed cover, £175, House of Fraser. Bay terracotta pots, £10 each, Neptune. Concrete planter, £16.95, Graham and Green. Lara Citrine napkins, £5.49 each, Linen Me. Arles linen towels, £16 each; Parisien Blue and Dove Grey napkins, £8.50 each, all The Linen Works. Rush bread basket, £65, David Mellor. Blue linen napkins, £8.99 each, Linen Me. Parisien Blue Hemstitch tablecloth, £95, The Linenworks. Asuri Citrine fabric, £50.50 per m, Romo. Blue linen runner, £19.99; Taupe linen tablecloth, £80; both Linen Me. Parisien Blue Hemstitch tablecloth, £95, The Linen Works.

**Cool blue**

Instead of using sandstone as your hero colour mixed with other neutrals, try something more unexpected by teaming it with a pale, grey-toned blue - it creates a soft and sophisticated contrast

**LOVELY LINING**  
Makes an open cupboard more beautiful, however messy the shelves



## Stylist's note

“Keep the look fresh with hits of pure white on woodwork and frames”

NICKY PHILLIPS, DECORATING EDITOR

**BAND OF COLOUR**  
Highlight high ceilings and change to match accessories

**THIS PAGE** Walls painted in Mustard Jar and On The Rocks matt emulsion, £14 per 2.5ltr; both Crown. Arundel six-seater oak dining table, from £1,400; oak bench, from £420; both Neptune. Bourton large painted Shaker cupboard, £349, Cotswold Co. Curtains made in Asolo Clay, £90 per m, Romo. Gray & Willow Leon two-tier wooden pendant light, £90, House of Fraser. **ON TABLE** Taupe linen tablecloth, £79.99; Blue linen table runner, £19; Lara Natural linen place mats, £12.99 each; Lara Citrine linen napkins, £5.49 each; all Linen Me. Gone Rural tray, £35, John Lewis. Pico dinner plate, £9; John Rocha range, Debenhams. Heritage Flagstone medium plate, £12; rice bowl, £14; dinner plate, £14; all Denby. Abstract Brush stroke salad plate, £12; Folk pad printed

bowl, £8, West Elm. Flagstone dinner plate, £14, Denby. Pico side plate, £8, John Rocha range, Debenhams. Heritage Flagstone rice bowl, £14, Denby. Luna 44-piece cutlery set, £140, John Lewis. Old French Poitiers pottery jug, £42, Baileys Home. Heritage Flagstone pasta bowls, £14 each, Denby. Greenwich water jug, £21, Neptune. Scandi wood tray in Smoke, £40, John Lewis. **ON BENCH** Italian Grey striped tablecloth, £150, The Linen Works. **ON MANTELPiece** Marne jug, £6, Habitat. 'Disorder' painting, £159, Black is a Colour range, Notonthehighstreet.com. **ON CUPBOARD** Sutton multicoloured vase, £25, Habitat. **IN CUPBOARD** Hanley pot, from £53, Neptune. **ON WALL** Mountain Peak Large print in Ochre, £25, Orwell & Goode. Ribba frame, from a selection, Ikea.

# Make it work for you

## SANDSTONE: JUST ADD AN ACCENT

This nature-inspired theme blends neutral tones with bright hues to bring a calming and classic feel to a room



Natural tones will bring serenity to a scheme

FEATURE TARA KING PHOTOGRAPH SIMON WHITMORE

### WHERE TO BUY

**1. PENDANT**

Concrete pendant, £70, Gray & Willow range, House of Fraser

**2. CUSHION**

Finn cushion, £15, Linea range, House of Fraser

**3. LAMP**

Ripple ceramic table lamp, £70, Next

**4. TABLE**

Petra side table, £163, Wayfair

**5. THROW**

Throw, £40, National Trust Shop

**6. SOFA**

Elvis three-seater sofa in Ash soft wool, £1,540, Sofa.com

**7. MUG**

Mug, £2.50, Matalan

**8. RUG**

Kelim Squares rug, £189, Ferm Living range, Amara



## PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Create an elegant look in a bedroom with fabrics and wallpapers by Sanderson



Transform a dining room into a colourful social space with fabrics, wallpaper and accessories by Scion



Add a classic country feel with Potting Room Maelee wallpaper, £49 for a roll, Sanderson Home



# BE INSPIRED BY ICONIC DESIGN

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The new official home for iconic brands, Zoffany, Harlequin, Sanderson, Morris & Co., Scion and Anthology, Style Library covers a whole spectrum of styles so you're bound to find something to unleash

your creativity and inspire you to put your own stamp on your interior design.

### HOME-GROWN DESIGN

All of the Style Library's collections feature unique and authentic designs, created by its talented in-house designers and inspired by an intoxicating mix of history, craftsmanship and new innovations.

Most of the products are also made in Britain, with the majority of its wallpapers and fabrics sustainably produced in Leicestershire and Lancashire, supporting British manufacturing across the UK.



Make a statement with Anthozoa Kailiani fabric, £59 per m, Harlequin

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

To see the full collection of fabrics, wallpapers, paint, furniture and accessories and find your nearest stockist, visit [stylelibrary.com](https://www.stylelibrary.com)

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# ‘I find it hard to get rid of anything!’

Her luxe homeware store is all about simple, upscale style – but Amara founder Sam Hood struggles to keep her own home uncluttered

Sam and her husband Andrew opened an interiors store in Chelmsford, Essex, in 2005, and quickly moved online. Amara.com made high-end brands such as Missoni Home and Ralph Lauren available nationwide, and now has its own-brand range, too. Sam and Andrew live in Essex with their two daughters, Lotty, 21, and Molly, 17.

**Everything in my house has a story behind it, or reminds me of something or a place I’ve been.**

The downside is that I find it impossible to get rid of anything! I suppose I’m a really emotional person when it comes to decorating my home. I decorate with my heart.

**We have a special chair for my mum.** She bought a rocking chair by the British designer William Plunkett and we stored it for her in our shed for about 15 years, by which time it had fallen apart! So I had it renovated and covered in gold leather as a surprise. I revealed it to her on Christmas Day. It’s her chair when she comes to visit.

**There’s a real mix of things in my house.** We have a grand piano and an Aga alongside Missoni rugs and leopard-print cushions. There are some things that you could say



Sam’s tastes have changed over the years



‘I love our new Origin bed linen,’ says Sam. ‘We sell a lot of designs by the brand Bluebellgray on the website, so we created this print for fans who prefer a more muted colour scheme.’ Eldorado bed linen, from £75; Ochoco cushion, £70; Sawtooth cushion, £90; Tonto throw, £60; Tongass side table, £120; Delta vase, £40; all Amara



**Midas touch**  
The renovated William Plunkett chair sits alongside this Bee on My Back stool, £750, Fornasetti at Amara

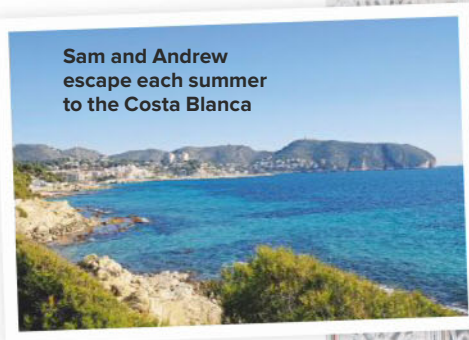


**Marbled effect**  
Gunnison dinner plate, £15, A by Amara range, Amara



**Perfect scents**  
‘I love Baobab’s candles we’ve just created an exclusive Amara candle together.’ From £85, Amara

## STYLE HERO



Sam and Andrew escape each summer to the Costa Blanca



**Boho beauty**  
Bixbite cushion, £75, Amara

### Good wood

Pike wooden mirror, £200; Coronado cushion, £30; LED Sol lamp, £85; Inyo side table, £200; all A by Amara range, Amara



**Absolutely potted**  
Essonite pot, £30; Alexandrine jar, £40; Fluorspar bucket, £40; A by Amara range, Amara

are really classic and traditional, and other things that I just love that fit in, regardless of style.

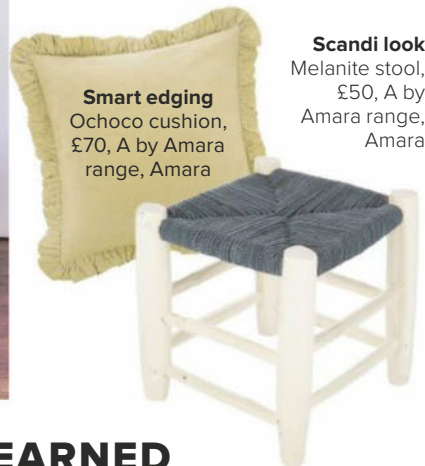
**I think your taste changes as you grow older.** Your influences develop. Sometimes when I look back 10 years, I feel like, 'Wow, what on earth was I thinking when I decorated that room?!' But at the time, I loved it. I've gone from a house where every window had swags and tails in traditional patterns to what my house looks like now. Everything is plain, simple and neutral.

**I use lots of black. Black sofas, in particular.** My home is neutral with pops of colour from accessories. All the walls are painted in Farrow & Ball paint. My daughters' bedrooms are quite colourful in contrast with the rest of the house. Both feature really dramatic Cole & Son wallpaper.



**Queen of the Tile**  
Starlite placemat, £20, A by Amara range, Amara

**We don't redecorate much, but I'm always moving cushions and throws around, or adding new ones here and there.** How many cushions can I cram onto the bed, for instance? Which Andrew never understands! I remember Molly's school teacher once asked the class what their parents did for a living. The other kids were answering with things like, 'My dad's a lawyer!' or, 'My mum's a nurse!'. When it came to Molly's turn, she said, 'My mum and dad post cushions to people.' She was four when we started Amara, so she's never known anything different her entire life. The girls are very much a part of the business.



**Scandi look**  
Melanite stool, £50, A by Amara range, Amara

**Smart edging**  
Ochoco cushion, £70, A by Amara range, Amara

**When Andrew and I started Amara, we struggled at first to find the right name for it.** The shop was in Chelmsford, which is an old Roman town. We took the Latin name for a vaulted ceiling, which was *Camara*... but we didn't like the 'C', so we took it off and we were left with Amara. It's easy to spell and you're always at the top of everyone's list!



## WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Always invest in a good sofa, bed and kitchen table. These are the areas where you spend all of your time. If you choose a style well, then it should last you for years”



Winter Grey RUST-OLEUM Chalky Furniture Paint



Woad LITTLE GREENE



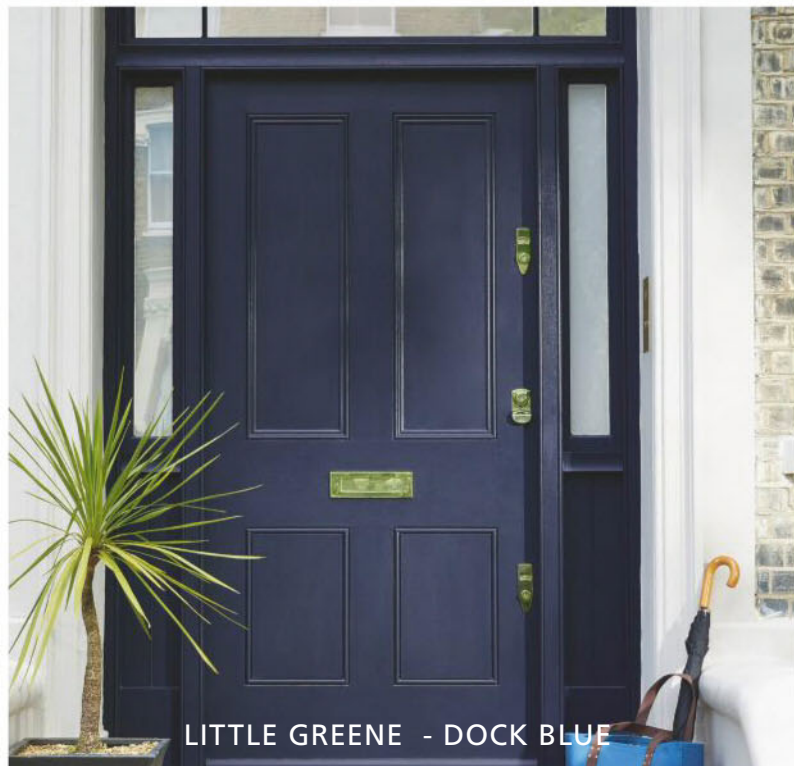
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LAYLA FAYE - RIPPLE



LITTLE GREENE - DOCK BLUE

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## Start with a natural palette

Without high ceilings, bold colours would have overwhelmed this room, so Kay stuck to neutrals. 'I love colourful interiors, but muted shades here are more relaxing.'

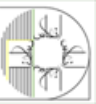
### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Norsborg grey corner sofa, £850; Alseda circular reed floor cushions, £20 each; all Ikea. The Mantis coffee table, £228, Oak Furniture Land, is similar. Urbane Ivory thick pile braided rug, £350, The Rug Shop

*'This bland Eighties build has lots of character now'*

Kay Prestney and her husband, Andy, opted for more space over original features when they bought this house, but they've transformed it with simple Scandi style rules...

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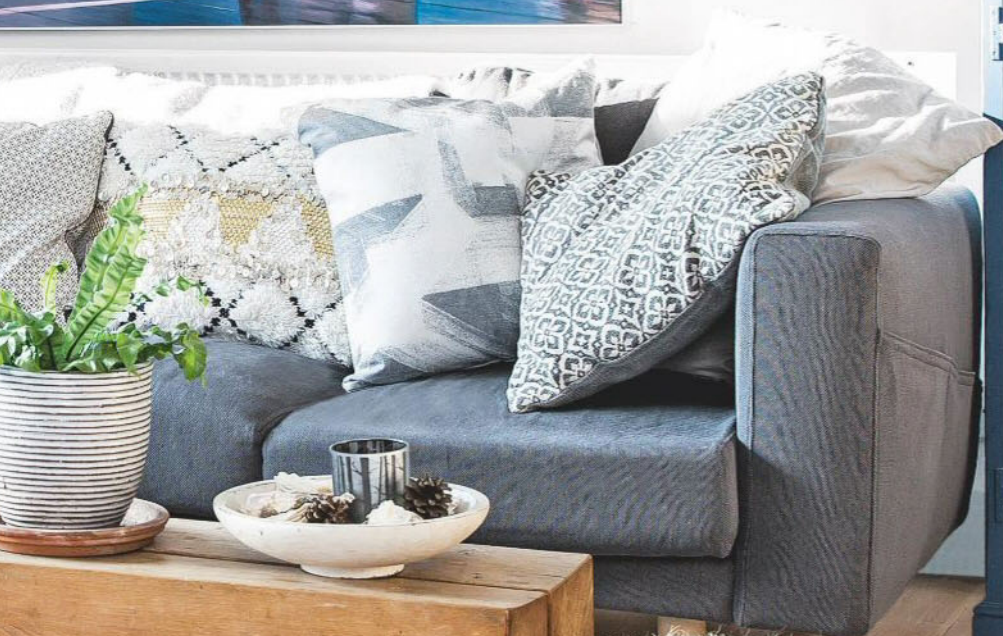


**LOW-HUNG ART**

A great trick that makes ceilings seem higher

*Love*  
KAY'S STYLE?

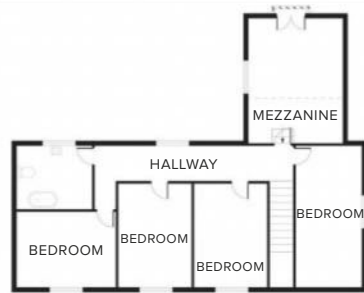
Turn to page 54  
to shop the look



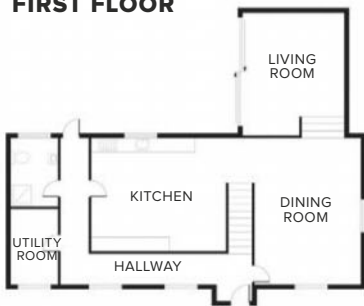
# Welcome to my home



*Take a quick tour...*



**FIRST FLOOR**



**GROUND FLOOR**



Kay Prestney, interior designer and stylist, lives here with husband, Andy, a management consultant, and their children, Bella, nine, and Finn, five.

## THE PROPERTY A

five-bed Eighties house on the Essex/Suffolk border.

## VALUE

Bought in 2007 for £335,000, now worth around £450,000.

**“The house was a building site for six months – the kids loved it, but we had our moments!”**

The Prestneys' previous home was a converted Victorian schoolhouse with period features, but with the imminent arrival of their first child, Kay and Andy decided they needed more space. Andy's mum spotted an Eighties house for sale and persuaded Kay to take a look. It lacked the character Kay loves, but was spacious and had lots of built-in storage, as well as a large, split-level living space with sliding doors leading to the garden.

They moved in just in time for baby Bella's arrival and, only a few weeks later, redid the bathroom and refreshed the kitchen by painting the existing units that were in good condition, and replacing both the flooring and worktops. The house worked well for a while, but in 2015, the family needed more space, so they added a wood-clad second storey over the living room. It gave them space for two rooms, but they opted for one, large, multipurpose space that serves as an office, guest room and second living room. 'As the build progressed, I loved the height of the room being created, but realised we could create even more living space and asked the builders to put in a mezzanine,' says Kay, who runs her own business ([kinshipcreatedc.co.uk](http://kinshipcreatedc.co.uk)).

While the house was a building site, the couple decided to widen the steps between the split-level dining area and living room downstairs to create a more open feel. They also fitted a woodburner in the living room, which gave the space a focal point.

Ten years on, the house is a bright and cosy place. 'It reflects how we live as a family and it's a great place for entertaining our family and friends,' says Kay.



**CRATE STORAGE**  
Upended and cushioned, they double up as a seat

### ***Focus on fireplaces***

In the living room, Kay created a fake fireplace with a panel of old bricks and a wood-burning stove. 'It's unusual to hang them, but I wanted to be able to see and use the space underneath,' she says.

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

Scan 53 (8-kW) wood-burning stove, £3,350, The Fireplace Warehouse. Similar packing crates, £20 each, The Basket Company. Similar rattan dome pendant, £75, Cox & Cox





**OFFICE CUBBIES**  
Create a great spice and condiment rack

**PALLET HACK**  
Fixed to the end panel, it gives a new kitchen a more lived-in look



An ornate painted sideboard in the living room is used as a DJ station for parties

**Repurpose and reuse**

Kay simply repainted the existing kitchen units in a fresh Scandi grey. Using her collection of rustic chopping boards as display pieces has added warmth to the space, along with open shelving (below) made from scaffolding

planks left over from the building work, styled up with favourite crockery and plants.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**  
For similar scaffolding shelving, try reclaimed wooden scaffold boards, £20 each, JB Wood Design





**PAINTED PANEL**  
Adds depth and contrast, and marks out a zone

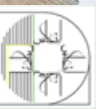


### **Choose textured surfaces**

Kay had wide-plank wooden flooring laid throughout the ground floor to create a warm, lived-in look. In the kitchen-diner, it creates a laid-back, rustic look with the chunky pine tabletop and bench seat.

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

A-Frame Plank Bench, from £245, Ollu. For similar reclaimed industrial lights, try Skinflint Design. For a similar pew, from around £220, try Antique Church Furnishings





**COTTAGE-STYLE DOORS**  
make this modern house seem older

### *Find a unique piece*

In the loft room, Kay screened off the sleeping mezzanine with panelling from an antiques shop. 'It was £120,' she says. 'I like to mix modern and vintage pieces to make a space unique.'

### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Similar pallet-style table, from £250, Gas & Air Studios. Mosslanda 115cm White picture ledge, £8.95, Ikea. All is pretty reproduction print by Andy Warhol, £18, King & MCGaw. Zigzag stool, £16.99, The Range. The Large Retro industrial metal pendant bar lighting, £89, Industville, is similar



## Make it personal

Kay's office corner of the loft room is full of treasures, with less-pretty essentials hidden in old trunks. 'I'm inspired by vintage things that have a sense of history and can be repurposed,' she says.

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Frosini wall lights, £49, Made.com.  
Similar Finnvard trestle legs, £25, Ikea. For vintage trunks, from about £150, try Scaramanga. Similar circular wooden board, £59, Rockett St George

*“I love picking up things on our travels – they give daily reminders of happy memories”*

**DIY DESK**  
Made from cheap trestles with an old door on top

### The paper bag

This bag is made from organic paper. It is 100% natural. 180g/m<sup>2</sup> double-layer paper: white kraft layered with brown kraft. Capacity: 33 litres. 100% Ecographik™. Do not throw it away. It is reusable.

### MATT-FINISH FLOOR

Seal with matt white Osmo Oil instead of varnish



## Create 'wow' moments

In the loft room, basic shelving units pushed together, as well as bespoke storage, fill blank walls. Adding a cosy armchair turns it into a reading corner. 'I like having little corners that draw the eye, filled with things that make me smile,' says Kay.

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Kallax shelving, £39 and £75, Ikea.  
Similar Moroccan cushions, from £49, and sheepskins, from £59, Rockett St George

## IDEAL HOME loves

*A rainbow of books  
Makes bookshelves  
look more organised  
and adds a colourful  
feature, too*

**POOLED CURTAINS**  
Left to drape, they  
add a little grandeur

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**Be eclectic**

In Bella's room, new and vintage finds mix with cosy rugs and pretty bunting for a relaxed feel.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Similar wood Bourbon wardrobe, £599, Made.com. Similar vintage painted coat hooks, £34.80, Old Pine



**WHAT WE LEARNED**

“Designing a room is a gradual evolution. It tends to be a process, where I'll find a new thing or paint an existing piece of furniture in a different colour, then move everything around”



**HOME-MADE SHADE**

Simply made with two wooden rings and a piece of cheap muslin

**WEATHERED PARQUET**

Salvaged from a ship, it has an extra-worn finish

**Keep it simple**

The main bedroom has a plain backdrop, but Kay changes the accessories regularly.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Similar floor, from £130 per sq m, The French Parquet Floor Company. Bed with studded headboard, £525, Feather & Black. Pom-pom cushions, £32 each, Rockett St George. Eco Deer wall planter, £40.37, Etsy



An old chest of drawers forms a focal point in Kay and Andy's bedroom

FEATURE KATE HILL. VANESSA RICHMOND STYLING KATE HILL PHOTOGRAPHS LIZZIE ORME





# Make it work for you

## KAY'S STYLE: RUSTIC SCANDI

Natural materials, a pared-back palette and vintage-style furniture will create a calm and relaxed Nordic feel

### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Tchantches Comics cushion, £37.99, Wayfair

IDEAL



### OPEN WEAVE

Irina wicker pendant, £98.99, Maisons du Monde

### TIME FOR TEA

St Ives mug, £20, Leach Pottery range, David Mellor



### TAKE A PEW

Lomwe bench, £495, Nkuku

### DRAWS THE EYE

Ottlie flatwoven kilim style wool rug, £599, La Redoute



### HURRICANE WARNING

Wooden lantern, £115 for three, Baytree Interiors



### SIMPLY RUSTIC

Chunky wooden stool, £145, Rouge

GREAT DEAL

### CHEVRON CHIC

Malini zigzag cushion, £25, Cult Furniture



### NATURAL LIGHT

Stanley rattan small ceiling light, £60, John Lewis



### POTTERY PIECE

Dipped terracotta mug, £12.95, Decorator's Notebook

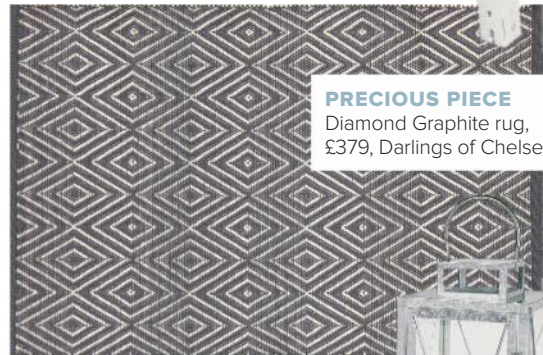


### SEATING AREA

Dorset Purbeck wood bench, £169, Modish Living

### PRECIOUS PIECE

Diamond Graphite rug, £379, Darlings of Chelsea



### DARKER STYLE

St Mawes stool, £95, Garden Trading



### HARBOUR LIGHT

St Austell candle lantern, £24.99, Lights4Fun

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THE NEW WAY TO DO

# Boho style

Decadent, colourful, folky and global, the Boho look has always been a blend of styles, but now it's had a make-under with simple Scandi elements and a calmer palette for a more rustic feel



## **Add textured accessories**

Layer plain textiles with throws and cushions with fringing, tufted, tasselled or knotted details.

**WHERE TO BUY** Double mattress, £849, Herdy Sleep. For similar throws and cushions, try Anthropologie





**SHOW A LITTLE SKIN**  
Cowhide and ponyskin give this perennially pretty look a raw edge.

Cowhide-leather chair, £475, French Connection



**STYLIST'S NOTE**

“Can't live without colour? Inject some with rugs, artwork or cushions, but keep it faded and subtle”

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR



**Go back to nature**

Choose pieces with an unfinished look, like this simple wooden table.

**WHERE TO BUY** Vega coffee table, £555; for similar rug, try Amira, £399; both Barker & Stonehouse

**DON'T PUT ON THE GLITZ**  
Display beautiful, everyday items instead.

Vase, £31; pendant light, £73; both Royal Design



**Metallics are a subtle way to indulge in pattern.**

Pouffe, £99.95, Sweetpea & Willow



**HANDMADE FINISH**

Stoneware mini glazed pots, £24 for three, Att Pynta



**NATURAL SELECTION**  
Tarsile round rattan mirror, £95, La Redoute



**PATTERN PLAY**

Moroccan cement tiles, £45 for six, Mink Interiors



## Make a feature of leather

A cognac-leather sofa like this has just the right natural-but-decadent look. Keep it smart with square styling, though.

**WHERE TO BUY** Marl sofa, £1,795, DFS. For a similar table, try Square Parquet coffee table, £385, French Connection



## MIX PRINTS

It's easy to layer varied, busy prints if you stick to a monochrome mix.

Mali Mudcloth cushions, from £55, Yonder Living



## GROUP BEAUTIFUL BASKETS

Woven baskets are the boho way to keep clutter clear.

Tribal baskets, from £32.50 each; black basket, £29; all Olli Ella





**Give it a mid-century spin**

Boho rattan meets Eames inspiration in these gorgeous dining chairs.

**WHERE TO BUY** Chairs, £200 each; pendants, £100 each; all Cox & Cox



**SET A BOHO TABLE**  
Choose intricate tableware in soft, understated grey.

Nicolosi plates, from £34 for four, La Redoute



**SIMPLE ART**  
Horse art print, £150, India May Home



**FAB FRINGE**  
Rug, £19.99, H&M



**TACTILE LEATHER**  
Moroccan stool, £70, Oggetto

**WOW WALL HANGING**  
Feather wall art, £95, Mink Interiors



**SUBTLE COLOUR**  
Boho Moroccan pouffe, £225, Rocket St George

**STYLIST'S NOTE**

“The key elements of this style all bear a maker's mark, from Berber-style rugs and tufted cushions to glazed stoneware and furniture made from natural materials”

MICHELA COLLING, STYLE EDITOR



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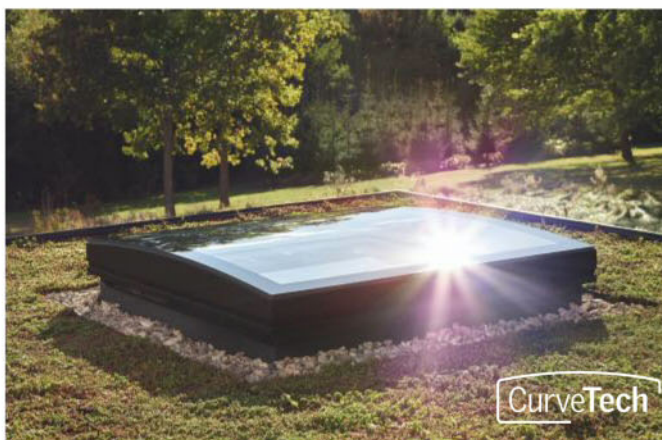
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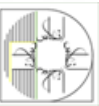


# *'I just buy what I like, then put it all together'*

Kate Whitfield's not about following rules, so she didn't let her home's distinctive Victorian character stop her indulging her love of modern style and just seeing what happened...

**Love**  
KATE'S STYLE?

**Turn to page 71**  
to shop the look



### *Don't follow rules*

'I love putting a quirky, modern twist on period style,' says Kate. 'There are no rules when it comes to décor because it's all about your personal taste. It's your home and it should make you happy.'

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

For a similar sofa, try the Clement, from £1,295, Johnny Moustache. Leather ottoman, £300, Made.com. Bamboo lounge chair, £195; cushions, £60 each; all An Artful Life. Mosslanda picture ledge, £8.95, Ikea



# Welcome to my home



## THE PROPERTY

A three-bed Victorian terrace in north Essex.

## VALUE

Bought for £275,000 in 2012 and now worth around £440,000.

Kate Whitfield lives here with her husband Andrew and their twin sons Archie and Stanley, eight. Kate is an interior designer and Andrew works for the MoD

**“It’s perfect as a family house. Our last place was an open-plan flat, which didn’t work for us once the twins arrived!”**

## Take a quick tour...



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

Kate and Andrew Whitfield managed to see beyond the dire state of their house in north Essex when they first viewed it in 2012. ‘Someone was living in part of the property, but it was dated and rundown, and needed everything doing,’ says Kate. ‘In spite of all that, I fell in love with the period features, high ceilings and good light.’

‘Renovation is in my line of business, so I wasn’t too worried about having to do all the work,’ says Kate, who has her own interior design company, An Artful Life ([anartfullife.co.uk](http://anartfullife.co.uk)). The couple got cracking straightaway, drawing up plans and choosing a builder from a shortlist of three local companies, so the work started just before Christmas that year.

‘The kitchen is in an extension at the back that was like a shed,’ says Kate. ‘It had no foundations and there was a narrow scullery leading off it. We wanted to create a large, light-filled kitchen-diner, so our first job was to demolish the existing room and extend properly. We knocked down a wall to open up the scullery and part of the staircase and hallway to create one large room. We chose bifold doors to maximise the light and in summer we open them straight onto the garden.’

Kate and Andrew turned a room leading off the kitchen into a more formal dining room for themselves after the twins are in bed, and for entertaining. ‘It’s perfect as a family house,’ says Kate. ‘You need an adult space once the children have gone off to bed, so you’re not just picking up toys all the time. Now the house is finished, much as I love the new space at the back, I think I like the living room the best. It’s homely and comfortable, but also a little bit quirky. It’s where we can all relax together as a family.’

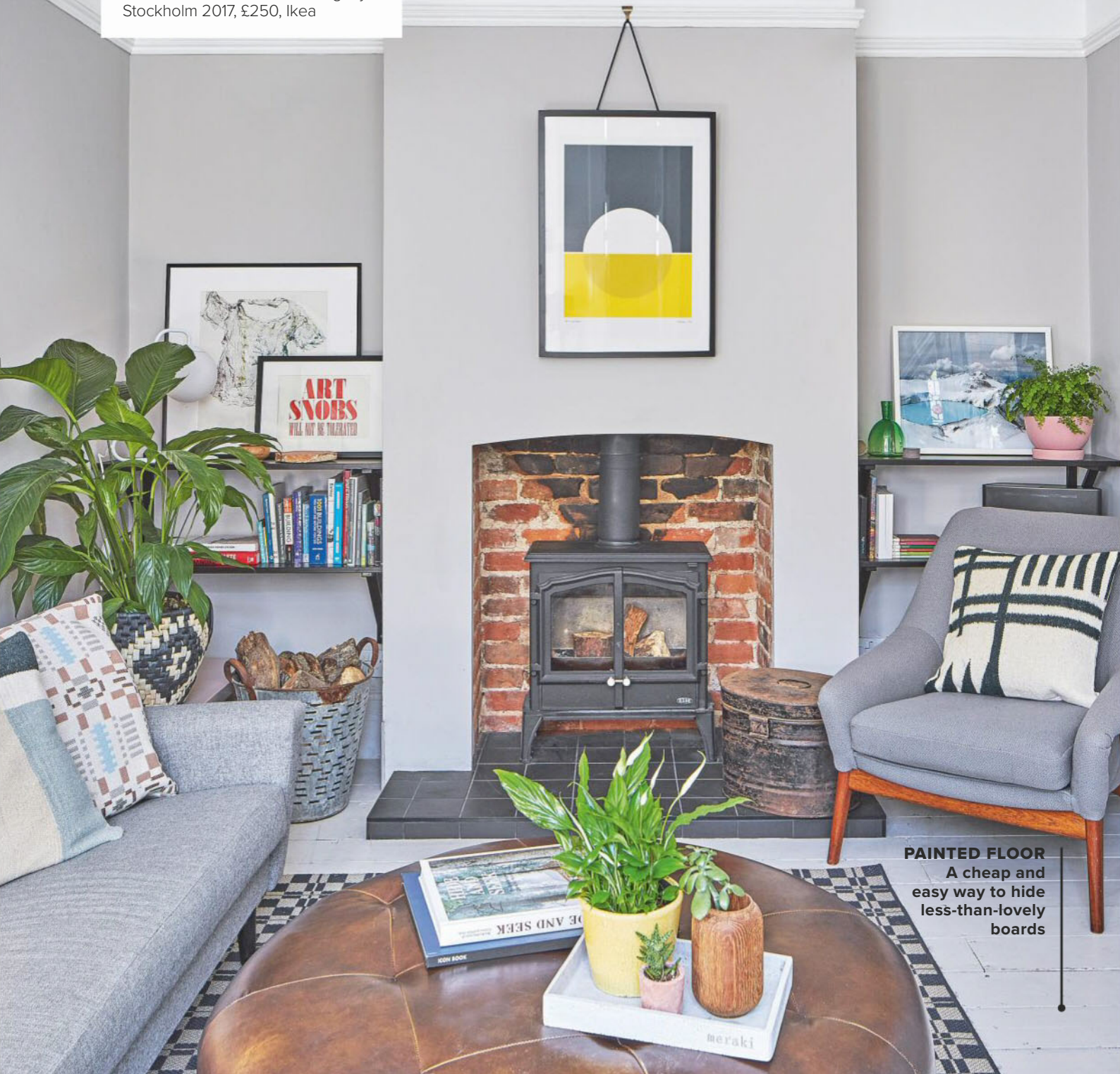


## Put on an art show

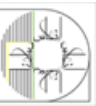
High ceilings and grand architraves can handle bold, modern artwork. 'I do like to see paintings on walls, but it's too permanent,' says Kate. 'So often I'll prop them on shelves so I can swap them around.'

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Prints, from £12.50, Tom Pigeon. For similar armchair, try the Peggy, from £540, Sofa.com. For similar rug, try Stockholm 2017, £250, Ikea



**PAINTED FLOOR**  
A cheap and easy way to hide less-than-lovely boards



## IDEAL HOME *Loves*

**Industrial lighting**  
Great for adding character and 'wow moments' to properties old or new

**VINTAGE HANDLES**  
Make Kate's B&Q units look more expensive



Kate created a mini cloakroom area inside the bifolds that open onto the garden

### **Mix modern and vintage elements**

'Our new kitchen island was built bespoke to fit with an old butcher's block we already owned. The island hides the appliances and I like the way the light bounces off the marble.'

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

Similar units, try Cooke & Lewis Woburn, £2,348 for eight units, B&Q. Pear-shaped bulb lighting, from £17 each, Urban Cottage Industries

### **Simplify the backdrop**

'In the dining room, we painted the walls, ceiling, fireplace and piano all in the same colour. It creates a seamless look and covers up any colours you don't like, for example the orangey-brown of our piano.'

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

Walls, piano and woodwork painted in Elephant's Breath estate emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Pendant ceiling light, £300; bench seat, £600; both Tom Dixon. Beech dining table, £300, Habitat

**“Lighting is very important. It should be a feature in itself rather than just there for illumination”**





**Choose old over new**

The couple wanted to put back the period character of the house. 'We shopped around for recycled materials, like the reclaimed parquet flooring in the kitchen-diner,' says Kate.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Reclaimed parquet flooring, £30 per sq m, Retrouvius. Round slab kitchen table, £200; boot bench, £250; both Tom Dixon

**ROUND TABLE**  
The most space-efficient choice for a small dining area



**MATCHING CEILING**  
Paint it the same colour as the walls to make a room feel bigger





### Be clever with colour

'I thought white walls would be too stark in the boys' bedroom but painting them bright yellow all over would be too overpowering. So I split them into white and yellow bands. Archie and Stanley really like them.'

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Similar yellow paint, try Dulux Golden Bark 4, £14.99 for 2.5ltr, Paint Direct. Kallax unit, £130, Ikea. Similar rug, try Pearl, from £59, Marks & Spencer. Round jute and blue dash rug, £45, An Artful Life. Similar initial bags, from £10, Alphabet Bags



**HANGING PLANT**  
Works with the looped light to create a bold focal point

### Show off quirky original features

'We chose shutters for the unusual windows, which a joiner made for us,' says Kate. 'They shut out the light and mean we don't need curtains.'

#### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Metal bedside tables, £120 each, Tom Dixon. Ceiling flex and bulb light, price varies, NUD Collection. Kelim rug, £79, An Artful Life



**TOY BAGS**  
Initial totes spell out the word 'toys' for quick clear-ups



### WHAT WE LEARNED

“It's hard finding the right shade of grey! A lot of them are very cold, which I didn't want as this isn't a sunny house, but warm greys can have a purple tone, which I didn't want either. I used several samples until I got the right one”



**HALF TILING**  
Cheaper than going to the top and gives walls more interest with two surfaces

**DON'T MISS THE DETAILS...**

**Clockwise from top left:** Place artwork on shelves like Kate has done in the **main bedroom** - 'it means I can move things from room to room'; open shelving in the **small bathroom** maximises its feeling of space; Kate made the **basin unit** by glueing two marble chopping boards together and adding hairpin legs she bought online; she added old fruit crates to a **bookcase** as drawers, 'and I love the vintage look of them'



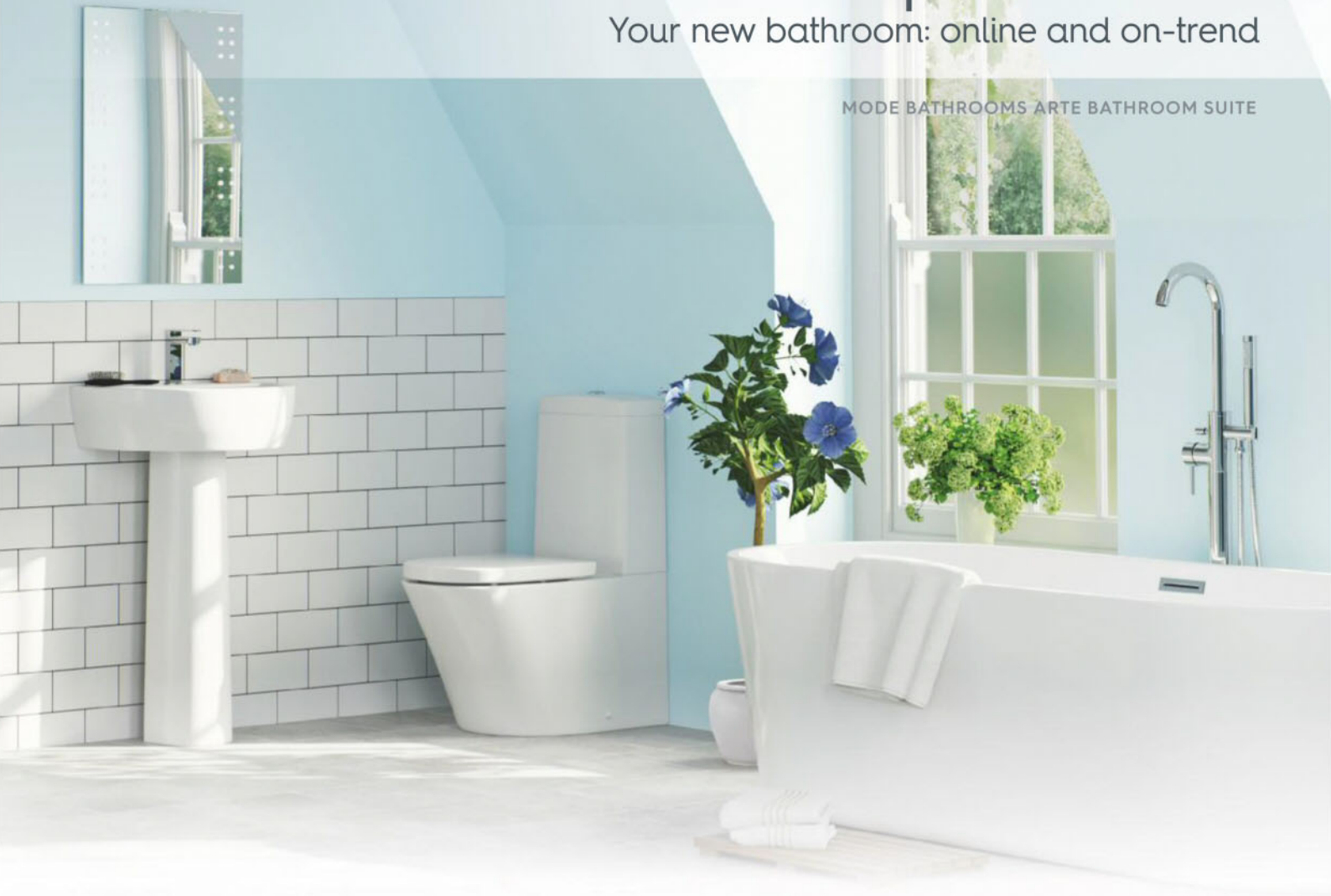
FEATURE SHARON SMITH, VANESSA RICHMOND  
PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID PARMITER PLANS AGENCY SERVICE



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# Make it work for you

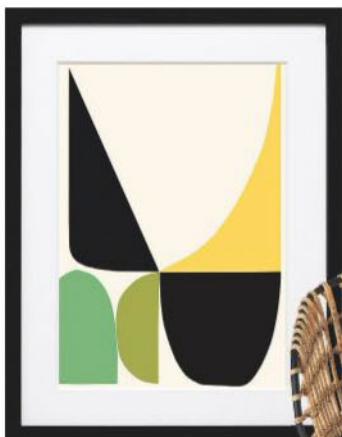
## KATE'S STYLE: CONTEMPORARY ARTISAN

Abstract prints, natural weaves and key design pieces create a modern scheme with mid-century flair

### IDEAL

#### SHAPE SHIFTER

Green and Yellow by Inaluxe, from £55, King & McGaw



#### LIGHT BULB MOMENT

Marble and brass lamp, £165, Printer & Taylor



### GREAT DEAL

#### MOUNTAIN SCENE

Day Shapes screen print, £40, U Studio



#### INDUSTRIAL EDGE

Lina table lamp, £50, Oliver Bonas



#### ABSTRACT ANGLES

Axle printed circle cushion, £20, Made.com



#### RETRO STYLE

Pols Potten Tokyo rattan chair, £261, Amara



#### TAKE IT EASY

Kawa rattan lounge chair by House Doctor, £150, Arbol House



#### ARTISTIC FLAIR

Painterly print cushion, £15, House of Fraser



#### DRIP EFFECT

Taka reactive glaze ceramic vase, £35, Habitat



#### WOVEN WONDER

Round wicker basket, £35, Mink Interiors



#### NATURAL CHOICE

Seurat seagrass basket with lid, £25 for two, Habitat



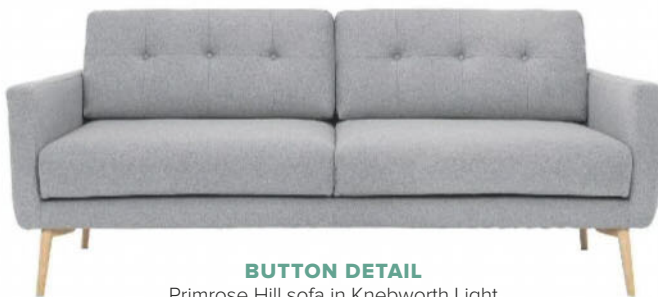
#### SUNNY CERAMIC

Reactive vase in ochre, £16, Next



#### BUTTON DETAIL

Primrose Hill sofa in Knebworth Light Grey, £993, Sofas & Stuff



#### HOME COMFORT

Tivoli three seater wool sofa in Light Grey, £889, Swoon Editions



FEATURE STEPHANIE DURRANT PHOTOGRAPH DAVID PARMITER



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# — ONE —

# LIVING ROOM

## *three ways*

START WITH THESE KEY PIECES...



### The Sofa

Little Jon large sofa in Deben Ivory, £2,049, Sofa Workshop

+



### The Flooring

Sisal Limestone C719 Small Boucle Accents, £49 per sq m, Crucial Trading

+



### The Coffee Table

Empire medium coffee table, £469 (unpainted), Scumble Goose

...AND CREATE THESE LOOKS



TURN TO SEE HOW →

IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Pretty geometrics**

*Look for patterns with curves instead of sharp lines for a softer look*

**CARVED RUG**  
A great way to add pattern and detail without introducing another colour



ONE LIVING ROOM  
*three ways*

# Glam vintage

AN OFF-WHITE SOFA IS THE NATURAL STARTING-POINT FOR A FRESH AND PRETTY LOOK WITH DUSKY PASTEL SHADES AND TOUCHES OF MATT GOLD FOR A SOPHISTICATED FINISH



**THE FABRIC**  
Anouska Aqua, £62 per m,  
Jane Churchill



**THE WALLS**  
Dix Blue estate  
emulsion, £43.50  
for 2.5ltr, Farrow  
& Ball

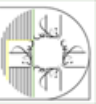


**THE WALLPAPER**  
Nutley, £56 a roll,  
The Paper Partnership

**THE WOW  
MOMENT**  
A simple gold  
shelf adds a  
luxé touch  
to a corner



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IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Dark grey walls**  
Find a warm tone  
to make a big, high-  
ceilinged room feel  
more cosy



ONE LIVING ROOM  
*three ways*

# Modern gothic

CREATE A MELLOWER MOOD WITH DEEP COLOUR ON THE WALLS AND JEWEL ACCENTS ON ACCESSORIES. KEEP IT CLASSY WITH CHIC SIDE TABLES AND ANTIQUE-LOOK ARTWORK



**THE FABRIC**  
Zahira Maize, £67  
per m, Romo



**THE WALLS**  
Downpipe estate  
emulsion, £43.50  
for 2.5ltr, Farrow  
& Ball



**THE ACCENT**  
Tonquin velvet, £70  
per m, Blendworth



**ACCENT CHAIR**  
Hits of strong  
colour are perfect  
for lifting a dark  
grey space



**THE WOW  
MOMENT**  
Bright yellow  
shelving draws the  
eye to a display





**IRREGULAR  
PATTERN**  
Softens the hard  
lines and colour  
blocks in this look

IDEAL HOME  
*Loves*

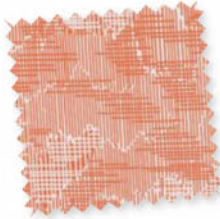
**Colour-pop tables**  
A hit of neon in an  
unexpected place adds  
wow – and it can be  
easily changed



ONE LIVING ROOM  
*three ways*

# Scandi pop

WITH WHITE WALLS AND GROUNDING BLACK ELEMENTS, YOU CAN MIX BRIGHT BLOCKS OF COLOUR AND PATTERNS TO YOUR HEART'S CONTENT FOR THIS UPBEAT, CONTEMPORARY LOOK



**THE FABRIC**  
Berg Clementine,  
£30 per m, Villa Nova



**THE WALLS**  
Gauze absolute  
emulsion, £42  
for 2.5ltr,  
Little Greene



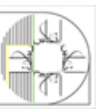
**THE WALLPAPER**  
Vector wallpaper in Pear,  
£51 a roll, Scion



**THE WOW  
MOMENT**  
Lift alcoves  
or a single  
wall with  
psychedelic  
chevrons



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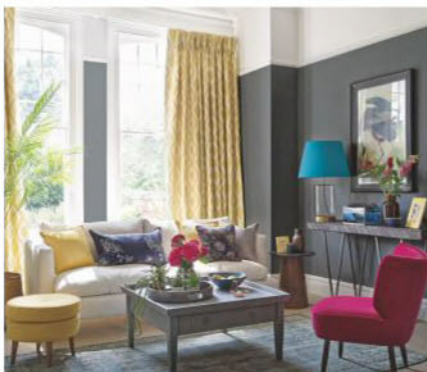
ONE LIVING ROOM  
*three ways*

Where to buy



**Glam vintage**

**Walls** painted in Dix Blue estate emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Blinds** in Anouska Aqua, £62 per m, Jane Churchill. Ella U **side table**, £275; Amina **console table**, £675; both Graham & Green. **Drum stool**, £125, The Dormy House; upholstered in Gotska Glacier, £27.50 per m, Studio G. **Coffee table** painted in Slaked Lime flat eggshell, £30 for 1ltr, Little Greene. Fitz **chair** in Primrose velvet, £369, Swoon Editions. Circuit 01 **rug**, £275, Plantation Rug Company. **ON SIDE TABLES** Althea rose **lamp base**, £145; ivory cotton empire **shade**, £55; both India Jane. **Mug**, £10, Murmur. **Notebook**, £12.50, Also Home. **ON CONSOLE** Sachi **vase**, £50, Habitat. Ochre **planter**, £26.50, Holly's House. Another Winter framed **print** by Lesley Birch, £150, King & McGaw. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Mint concrete **candle holder**, £25; pink **tealight holder**, £12; both Holly's House. Black & white **vase**, £18, Design Vintage. Stoneware **bowl**, £16, Murmur. **ON STOOL Notebook**, £18, Also Home. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Linen Gradient in Terra, £80, Oggetto; Yolk Yellow Athens, £75, Nina Kullberg; made in Marley Teal, £39 per m; edged in Ava Coral, £34 per m, Jane Churchill; Dubai Aqua Grey, £62.29, Nina Kullberg. **IN DETAIL SHOT** Nutley **wallpaper**, £56 per roll, The Paper Partnership. Aero **shelving unit**, £399, Swoon Editions. **Bowl**, £30, Heal's. Croft **vase**, £43, John Lewis. Framed egg **print**, £21.95, Graham & Green. White wing **vase**, £19, Holly's House. Hammershoi **vase** in Mint, £32, Heal's. Stefan **vase**, £25, Habitat. Porcelain **vases**, £23 and £25, Holly's House. **Bowl**, £30, Heal's. **Notebook**, £12.50, Also Home



**Modern gothic**

**Walls** painted in Downpipe estate emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. **Curtains** in Zahira Maize, £67 per m, Romo. Brodi **side table**, £95, Habitat. **Parquet console**, £360, French Connection. **Coffee table** painted in Plummett estate eggshell, £24 for 750ml, Farrow & Ball. Duke **chair** in Currant velvet, £349, Swoon Editions. Felix **footstool** in Dijon, £210, Sofa.com. Emperor **rug**, £995, Graham & Green. Large faux **Areca palm**, £200, Sweetpea & Willow. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Industrial **tray**, £29, Graham & Green. Copper **tealight holder**, £3, George Home. Large faux **succulent**, £59, Holly's House. Faux **succulents** in black & white **pots**, £4, George Home. Teal **bowl**, £50, Heal's. Arthur **vase**, £20, House of Fraser. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Honey velvet, £8, George Home; Chrysanthemum Indigo & White, £50, Murmur; made in Navy Tonquin velvet, £70 per m, Blendworth; Yellow textured, £6; George Home; Circles, £45, Murmur. **ON SIDE TABLE** Elter **vase**, £35, Habitat. Yellow **frame**, £15, Graham & Green. Marble **print candle**, £4, George Home. **ON CONSOLE** Large Wisteria clear glass **lamp base**, £165; straight empire **shade** in Peacock silk, £55; both Pooky. Blue **glass box**, £39.95, Holly's House. Amber glass **vase**, £6, George Home. Stoneware **bowl**, £8, Murmur. Yellow **frame**, £25, Graham & Green. Audubon's Heron **framed print**, £350, India Jane. **IN DETAIL SHOT** Antwerp **desk**, £399, Dwell. String pocket **shelf** in Mustard, £115, Skandium. Faux **succulent**, £59, Holly's House. Faux **succulent** in pot, £4; copper **tealight holder**, £3; marble **print candle**, £4; all George Home. Navy **bowl**, £8; Kai and Daisy **notebooks**, £12 each, all Murmur. Karlsson button **alarm clock**, £18, Paperchase. Gold dachshund **stapler**, £22, Anthropologie. Black Fusion **bowl**, £8, John Lewis. Stone marble **mug**, £7, Blisshome range, Amara. Elter **vase**, £35, Habitat



**Scandi pop**

**Walls** painted in Gauze intelligent emulsion, £42 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Blinds** in Berg Clementine, £30 per m, Villa Nova. Misty **armchair**, £595, Habitat. Alex **desk**, £120, Ikea. Eiffel Mustard **dining chair**, £59; Angles **side table**, £179; both Dwell. **Coffee table** painted in Trumpet flat eggshell, £30 for 1ltr, Little Greene. Nyx **floor lamp**, £180, Habitat. Design Project No.090 **rug**, £120, John Lewis. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Bamboo **white tray**, £32, Also Home. Leri **vase**, £40; Havi **bowl**, £12; Tira stripe **bowl**, £20; all Habitat. **Mug**, £15, Heals. **ON SIDE TABLE** House **frame**, £5, John Lewis. Bright Ceramicist bud **vase**, £14, West Elm. Jackson **vase**, £30, Habitat. **ON DESK** Ned **vase**, £12; Demi **vase** in yellow, £25; Chuck **vase**, £20; all Habitat. **Cake stand**, £15; **mug**, £15; both Heal's. Faux Monstera **plant**, £185, Sweetpea & Willow. Through & Beyond framed **print** by Sandra Blow, £275, John Lewis. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Stockholm, £12, Ikea; Grid in Chili, £10, John Lewis; Scribble, £30; Bex, £35; both Habitat. **ON ARMCHAIR** Yellow linen **cushion**, £45, Heal's. **IN DETAIL SHOT** Vector Pear **wallpaper**, £51 per roll, Scion. Sophia **console table**, £299, Dwell. Bright Ceramicist cobalt **vase**, £29; yellow bud **vase**, £14; both West Elm. Mack **vase**, £50; Elsy espresso **cup**, £5; Cosworth **jug**, £25; all Habitat

FEATURE VANESSA RICHMOND STYLING SARITA SHARMA, NICKY PHILLIPS PHOTOGRAPHS DOMINIC BLACKMORE





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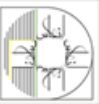


## IDEAL HOME *loves*

### **Reclaimed beams**

*They make great mantels, shelves and benches. 'The knots and dents really add character,' says Suzie*

**BESPOKE  
STOVE**  
Painted in  
Farrow & Ball's  
Mole's Breath  
Dead Flat



# 'We just started again from scratch'

First-time buyers Suzie Johnson and Andrew Hill stripped out their unsympathetically modernised and over-colourful Victorian terrace, and redid the lot



## ***Fake an original***

With the Victorian fireplace long gone, the couple improvised: 'The chimney breast was exposed brick, but the bricks were modern and the hearth was built up on a plinth,' says Suzie. 'We dropped the hearth, plastered over the brick and added a reclaimed beam as a mantel, and now it looks like an original feature.'

## **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Carron stove, £1,200, Ribble Reclamation. Pink cushions, £25 each, Marks & Spencer



# Welcome to my home



## THE PROPERTY

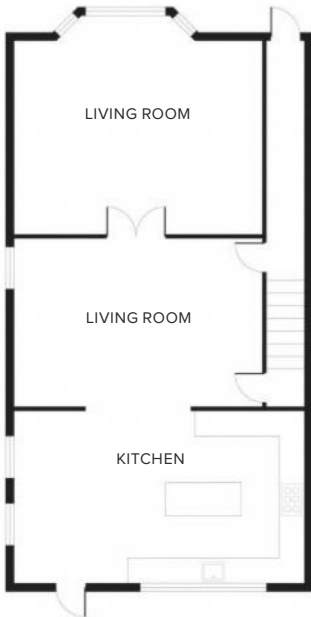
A three-bedroom Victorian end of terrace in Withnell, near Chorley, Lancashire.

**VALUE** Bought for £162,000 in May 2015. It's now worth around £250,000.

Suzie Johnson lives here with her partner Andrew Hill. She's a reclamation and architectural antiques specialist; Andrew is a demolition contracts manager.

**“We viewed eight houses, but this one blew all the others away!”**

## Take a quick tour...



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

First-time buyers Suzie Johnson and Andrew Hill climbed onto the property ladder by taking on a house that needed top-to-toe renovation. In its favour were great views from its hilltop position and the fact that Suzie's sister and mum live just minutes away. But transforming the terrace, located in the village of Withnell, Lancashire, took 17 months of hard work.

'It was badly designed,' says Suzie. 'The kitchen had red and white gloss units with black worktops, combined with yellow and purple walls. The bathroom had a blue carpet and a bidet, and the cupboard holding the water tank was in the middle of the room.'

The couple planned to make big changes. 'We didn't need more space, as there were four separate rooms on the ground floor,' says Suzie, 'so it was more a case of making the existing layout work harder and flow better.' To achieve this, a dilapidated conservatory was removed and an extension was built on its footprint to create an open-plan kitchen-diner. 'We gave it two big windows and two skylights, as well as enlarging an existing window, which has really brightened up the middle part of the house,' adds Suzie.

Upstairs, the couple knocked two small bedrooms together to create a large main bedroom. There was already another bedroom in the loft, so they felt that losing one wouldn't devalue the property. The entire house also had to be rewired and replastered, and a new heating system and flooring were installed.

'It took three times as long and cost three times as much as I originally thought it would, but I've learnt so much!' says Suzie. 'We have no plans to move, but I'd love to do it all again one day.'

## Restore the staples

'I've tried to make each room beautiful by fitting quality flooring and preserving the coving and skirting boards,' says Suzie. 'It's important to get the bones right first, then add colour and curiosities to give it personality.'

### BUY THE KEY PIECES

Ophelia sofa, from £875, Next.  
Victoriana rug, £270, Laura Ashley.  
For a similar coffee table, try Pallet on Wheels, £185, Gas & Air Studios

*Love*  
SUZIE'S STYLE?

Turn to page 93  
to shop the look



### WIDENED DOORWAY

Lets more light into this middle room and makes it open to the kitchen-diner

*“We’d originally wanted a dining table in the kitchen, but we’re quite happy eating at the island as it’s just the two of us”*

**HEAVY NICKEL DOORKNOBS**  
Upgrade a low-cost fitted kitchen

### ***Keep the colours calm and classic***

Suzie painted most of the walls white and has layered greys and taupes on fabrics, fittings and furniture, including the Shaker kitchen units. ‘My style is clean, simple and uncluttered,’ she says. ‘Keeping the walls mostly white allows features like the floors, fireplaces and radiators to stand out.’

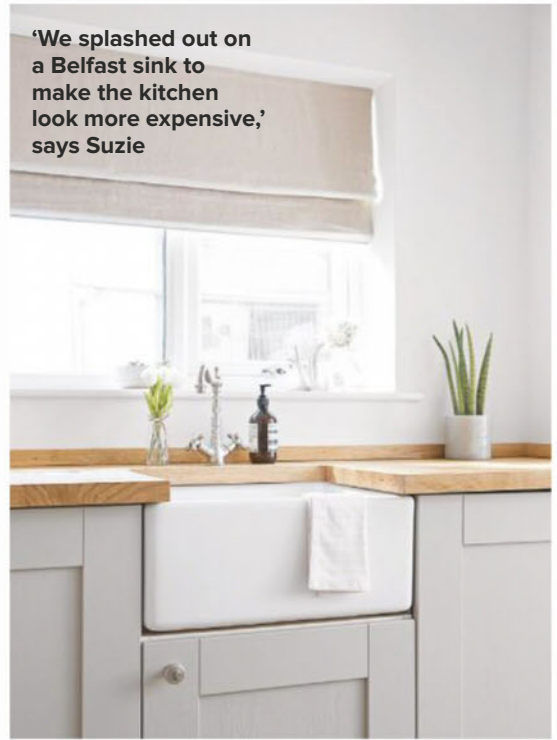
#### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For a similar kitchen, try Cooke & Lewis Carisbrooke Taupe, from £94 for a W600mm unit, B&Q. York stone flooring, £135 per sq yard, Ribble Reclamation





'We splashed out on a Belfast sink to make the kitchen look more expensive,' says Suzie



## IDEAL HOME *loves*

### **York stone floors**

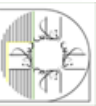
'Every floor is unique with a varied patina,' says Suzie. It can be cold, so consider underfloor heating

## **Make basic things beautiful**

'Everyone comments on our reclaimed radiators,' says Suzie. 'We chose different shapes for each room and customised them with different colours, and either nickel or copper valves to tie in with each scheme.'

### **BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Pure linen Roman blind, £65.70, Blinds2Go





**RECLAIMED PINE BOARDS**  
A cheaper alternative to oak

**Add texture; create contrasts**

Suzie cosied up her pale colour palette in the main bedroom with soft throws and cushions in deeper colours. 'It's very neutral, so I chose a black fireplace for contrast,' she says.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Chichester bed, from £1,070; side tables, from £310; all Neptune. Madison pendant, £45, John Lewis



**Make a statement with soft accent colour**

'I've designed the front living room around the elegant pink sofa. I considered painting the room dark blue, but the lovely floor would have been lost,' says Suzie. 'This is my quiet space where I like to chill with a cup of tea and a book.'

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Young Bean sofa, £2,095, Loaf. Linen world map wall art, £20.99, The Range



**ART NOUVEAU FIREPLACE**  
The simple styling suits small rooms

**Put alcoves to work**

A joiner made the bespoke shelving, which has a paneled back for rustic character. Suzie uses the shelves to display curios.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Vintage roebuck antlers, £30, Dead Things By Kate. For a similar ornament, try palmistry hand, £12.99, Shamans Crystal



*“I always make a mood board to ensure there’s a cohesive look throughout the house”*

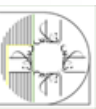
**UPHOLSTERED PANEL**  
Easily changed to fit a new colour scheme



Suzie transformed an orange-pine wardrobe with antique-white chalk paint and new knobs



Open bedside tables help a small bedroom feel more spacious



## PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

Add country style with freshly cut blooms in colourful painted jam jar vases  
Hexagonal glass jar, from £1 (pack of 12, £8)



# FILL YOUR HOME WITH FLOWERS

Bring the outside in with personalised floral displays inspired by Hobbycraft

Now is the time to reap the rewards of your summer garden by enjoying blooms inside as well as out! But instead of using any old vase for your freshly cut flowers, why not get creative and pimp up a glass jam jar or paint a plain white vase in your own design to make a beautiful display that's unique to you?

### MAKE IT YOUR OWN

If you don't have a garden and can't afford too many flowers from the florist, give faux a go for a longer-lasting display. As well as a huge range of accessories and tools for all your crafting projects inside and out, Hobbycraft has some lovely faux flowers that look just as good as the real thing. Whatever your style or budget, you'll find plenty of inspiration in store and online to help you create a bespoke look you'll love.

It's amazing what you can do with a plain jam jar and a little inspiration  
Round glass jam jars, £8 for 12; ribbon, from £1



Pretty up an empty corner with a floral display

### PERSONALISE A PLAIN VASE

Find all the info for making this copper-dipped vase at [blog.hobbycraft.co.uk](http://blog.hobbycraft.co.uk)



Choose a plain white ceramic vase and decide your design  
Ceramic vase, £8

Mask some areas; spray the rest!  
Montana spray paint, from £7.50



Finish off with a soft grey base  
Whisper Grey Chalky Paint, £5 for 250ml



Personalise your pots  
Metal bucket, from £1.50; twine, £2

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Browse the whole range of accessories and tools for your creative projects in store and online at [hobbycraft.co.uk](http://hobbycraft.co.uk)

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**COPPER ACCENT**  
Looks glam and dramatic against inky blue tones

IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Dark colours in bedrooms**  
So cosy, but safest for south- or east-facing rooms (which will still be bright enough for when you need light)

FEATURE KAREN WILSON, VANESSA RICHMOND  
PHOTOGRAPHS RICHARD HOOKWAY PLANS AGENCY SERVICE



**Stay true to your home's heritage**

Suzie picked period-style sanitaryware for the bathroom, alongside practical wood-effect ceramic floor tiles. 'Longer lengths look more authentic,' she advises.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

For similar flooring, try Aged wood-effect tiles, £22.95 per sq m, Walls and Floors. Edwardian 80cm washstand, £779; wall lights, £195 each; all Burlington Bathrooms

**Dare to be dramatic**

Keen to experiment, Suzie tried a bolder combination of dark blue and copper in the guest bedroom. To prevent the walls overpowering the scheme, she opted for a pale carpet, and a white ceiling and bedding.

**BUY THE KEY PIECES**

Walls painted in Stiffkey Blue modern emulsion, £43.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Shoreditch metal bedstead, £325, Next. Forest poster, £21.95, Desenio



**WHAT I LEARNED**

“Go with your gut! Everyone had a different opinion – my sister, my mum, the tradespeople – which was very confusing. I’ve learned to be more confident in my own vision, trust my instincts and take a risk”



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# Make it work for you

## SUZIE'S STYLE: PARED-BACK COUNTRY

Classic furniture and simple-but-stylish accessories against a neutral backdrop make for a calm, sophisticated mood



### WHERE TO BUY

**1. MIRROR**

Dunnottar mirror, £254, The Chandelier & Mirror Company

**2. VASE**

Pink ripple vase, £16.99, HomeSense

**3. PRINT**

Feathers framed print, £50, Laura Ashley

**4. GREY CUSHION**

Arcos knitted cushion £27, Very

**5. PINK CUSHION**

Jumbo cord cushion in Rose, £10, Very

**6. SOFA**

Bluebell three-seater sofa in Shell brushed linen cotton, £1,640, Sofa.com

**7. BASKET**

Split willow oval baskets, £29 for two, JD Williams

**8. THROW**

Uniform herringbone throw, £78, Daisy Park

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH PHOTOGRAPHS KATIE LEE

**KIDS' SPECIAL**

*All you need to create a space they'll love*

# 40

## Easy style updates

From best buys and clever tricks to mini décor projects... this is our round-up of the simplest, quickest ways to make kids' rooms more stylish *now*



### 1 Get smart with storage

Pack the playroom full of storage so that everything has a dedicated spot. Tackle toys with easy-access crates that tots can dip in and out of. Make use of wall space with a full-length peg rail with plenty of hanging space for sports kits and gym bags. Go under the bed with a high sleeper that includes a pull-out desk.

Linus high bed with storage in white, £499. Made.com

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Frooti mid-sleeper system 002 with chest of drawers and bookcase, £895, Little Folks Furniture

## 2 Choose a bed with extras

A cabin-style bed with integrated storage beneath is a useful choice. This mid-height design is low enough for younger kids to access and features a pull-out chest of drawers and cube storage on castors for lots of flexibility.

## 4 CREATE A PARKING PLACE

Fix a couple of magnetic strips to the wall (try Ikea's Fintorp magnetic knife rack, £7) and use to park toy cars vertically – the metal bases will stick to the magnet.

## 3 KEEP THE LIVING ROOM IN CHECK

If the children's bits and bobs seem to migrate from room to room, keep a couple of stylish baskets on hand so your living room or hallway doesn't get over-run. Just chuck everything in for a speedy clear-up.

Petit Pehr pom pom canvas storage basket, £39, Nubie



## 5 MAKE A CUTE CROSS-STITCH PEGBOARD

Use an offcut of pegboard to create a mini stationery tidy. Write your chosen word in reverse on the back of the board and cross-stitch your design through the holes. Screw a couple of drawer pulls to the front to use as hanging hooks and fix to the wall.

## 6 SORT HAIR CLIPS

Overrun with hair elastics and bows? Sort them into groups by colour with a compartment storage box (from £1.50, Hobbycraft).

## 7 PUT HOOKS WITHIN EASY REACH

Fix a row of pegs at a child-friendly height so little ones can hang up coats, hats, school bags, ballet kit or sports gear.

Lea five-hook coat rack, £23.99, Maisons du Monde



Star bean bag chair, £95, Cox & Cox

## 8 Reserve a quiet spot for reading

Create a cosy corner where kids can escape the distractions of TV and computer screen. Make it quiet and comfortable, with a squashy bean bag chair to sit on.



## 9 Keep key furniture simple

Invest in furniture with staying power when it comes to key buys like the bed and the wardrobe. Classic styles and plain wood or painted finishes will work whatever the colour scheme.

## 10 START A GALLERY WALL

Use plastic frames without glass so kids can slot in artwork and swap pictures around. Add a string line with a few wooden pegs and bulldog clips so photos and postcards can be pegged up, too.





April bed, £257; wardrobe, £485; Berlingot chest of drawers, £303; Happy Hopscotch rug, £71.99; all Maisons du Monde

## 11 HANG PRETTY PAPER SHADES

Buy pleated paper pendant shades in a selection of different colours and hang in a clustered arrangement for an eye-catching lighting feature.

Wild Wood shades, £35 each, Amazon



Mustard task lamp, £59, Cuckooland

## 12 Cheer up a study area

Paint a vertical stripe in a bright colour on the wall behind a desk, using masking tape for a crisp line. Finish by adding a cork pinboard painted to match.

## 13 STORE UNDERWEAR AND SOCKS FOR EASY ACCESS

Pop everyday essentials into plastic waste baskets fixed to the inside of wardrobe doors – try Ikea's lightweight Variera bins, £3 each.



Duvet covers in Two by Two (top) and Harley, both £21 per m, iLiv.

## 14 Personalise a shared bedroom

Create separate zones by picking out the area around each bed in paint – simple stripes or colour blocks are easiest – then accessorise with co-ordinating bed linen and colourful light shades above the beds.

# 15 *Pick practical paint*

Beat kids at their own game with a child-friendly paint finish that will shrug off scuffs and scrapes. Go for a scrubbable emulsion for walls and a hard-wearing eggshell for woodwork to keep it all looking good for longer.



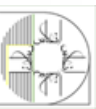
Panelled walls in Brighton 203 and Pale Lime 70 intelligent eggshell, £29 for 1ltr, Little Greene

# 16 **SLOT IN A MINI DESK**

Start small with a compact first desk that's ideal for a tiny bedroom. This one has a pen holder, shelf and storage cubby underneath for holding books and papers.



Nuage child's desk in blue, £101, Maisons du Monde



## 17 *Push the boat out*

Create a coastal scheme for a seafaring boy or girl with a nautical-print duvet cover as your starting point. Add in ticking stripes, checks and chambray, and team with white furniture, pale blue painted walls and neutral flooring.

Boats single duvet set, £35; Whale cushion, £25; both J by Jasper Conran at Debenhams

## 18 **KEEP A SPARE SET OF BEDDING**

Buy a couple of sets of bedding in co-ordinating colours and patterns so you always have spare pillowcases, sheets and duvets to hand if you need a quick change.

Rotating the bed linen will make it last longer.

Graphikids cushion, £19.19, Maisons du Monde



Clifton wall shelves, £115, Great Little Trading Company



## 19 **FIND SPACE FOR A SHELF**

Make use of wasted space with a set of slimline shelves. These feature metal brackets that double up as bookends so favourite reads and toys won't end up on the floor.

## 20 **MAKE A PLAY TABLE FOR LEGO**

Pick up an inexpensive flatpack table (try Ikea's Lack range, from £5) and use strong glue to stick Lego baseplates to the top – ideal for kids to build their creations.

## 21 **LET THEM SLEEP UNDER CANVAS**

Friends will be queuing up for sleepovers with this amazing tent cabin bed. It has a roll-out trundle underneath for buddies and a canvas canopy on one side that can be propped open or fastened shut to keep out annoying brothers and sisters.

Tent Cabin bed in green, £1,025 (mattresses not included), Cuckooland



## 22 GO FOR FUN FURNITURE

Add personality with pint-sized furniture decorated with children's favourite characters. Buy ready-painted pieces or try decorating a wooden stool or chair yourself – try Ikea's Frosta stool, £9. Use



black acrylic paint, £2 for 59ml at Hobbycraft, to paint simple facial features on the seat – eyes, nose, mouth and whiskers – then seal with clear acrylic varnish.

Furniture Bunny chair, £75, Little Folks Furniture



Anni the Sleepy Bunny door decal, £31.14, Made of Sundays at Etsy

## 23 PUT ON A HAPPY FACE

Turn a dull door into a sweet bunny with this vinyl sticker set – simply arrange the elements on and around the door to create your critter.

## 24 SORT THE SMALL STUFF

Buy clear plastic sweet jars from eBay (or ask your local newsagent to give you empties) and use to round up Lego, toy figures and other tiny items.



Starry Sky wallpaper, £59.95 per roll, Hibou Home



Pom pom rug, £47.99, Maisons du Monde

## 25 Keep wallpapers calm

Choose subtle colour when it comes to background basics like wallpaper, flooring and blinds. Understated shades will see a bedroom through from tots to teens – just update with colourful accessories for a new look.



Bloomingville storage box with wheels, £135, Amara

## 26 WHEEL TOYS INTO PLAY

Keep the living room a toy-free zone with a handy storage chest on castors. Wheel it out when little ones are at play, then fill with toys and slide under a coffee table when playtime's over.

## 27 SORT PUZZLES AND GAMES

Organise boxed games by storing in a hanging wardrobe organiser – try the Mix It hanging shelves, £22, John Lewis. Three or four boxes can be stacked vertically in each compartment, rather than in one precarious pile.

## 28 Bring in a touch of grey

Move on from sugary pastels while still enjoying a hint of pink by introducing accents of grown-up chalky grey into the scheme on feature wallpaper, bedding and a bedside rug.



Pitter Patter play blanket, £59, Olli Ella

## 29 USE A HANGING CADDY

Barbie dolls and Beanie Babies can be displayed in a caddy that hangs on the back of the bedroom door. Try the 20-pocket door-hanging shoe store, £4.99, Argos, and pop a toy into each section.

## 30 ADD CUTE CUBBYHOLE SHELVES

Upcycle a couple of wooden storage crates to make mini wall cubbies. Paint the back panels in pastel shades and fill with toys and keepsakes.



Stars Green single duvet set, £65, Secret Linen Store

## 33 *Paint behind the bed*

Put up a narrow shelf behind the bed to create a ledge for bits and pieces. Paint the shelf and the wall below it in a primary colour and co-ordinate with bright bed linen.

## 34 SORT AND STORE

Go for caddy-style shelving so kids can access favourite games and toys. These have lift-out compartments that are easy to carry around and can be set flat or tilted on the shelves so kids can easily dip in and out.



Oeuf toy store in white and birch, £360, Bobby Rabbit

## 31 TRY A WALL STICKER

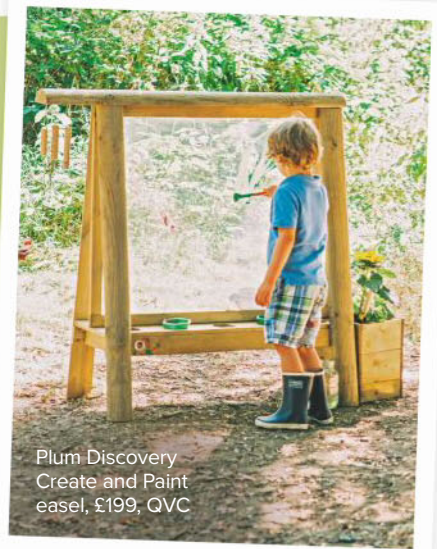
Jazz up plain walls with a cool set of vinyl wall stickers. Decowall's range includes colourful world maps and the solar system, from £13.95 each. Science and geography revision will be a breeze!

## 32 SAVE SPACE OUTDOORS

Double-up on outdoor equipment if you're pushed for space in a small garden. This sturdy wooden picnic table has a lift-off panel in the centre that conceals a built-in sand pit and water compartment. Just replace the lid to cover it all up when they'd rather do some painting or you're ready to eat.



Plum Surfside sand and water wooden picnic table, £119, QVC



Plum Discovery Create and Paint easel, £199, QVC

## 35 GET ARTY IN THE GARDEN

Creative kids can get their hands dirty without worrying about the clean-up. This outdoor easel has a clear screen, so at the end of a painting session it can be wiped ready for next time.



Scandinavia child's table and chair set in white, £54.99, Argos

## 36 *Buy basics in multiple*

Simple table and chair sets can be used singly in bedrooms or tucked into a corner of a kitchen-diner, then pushed together to make a longer table for kids' parties or at family gatherings.

## 37 ADAPT A WARDROBE TO MAX OUT SPACE

Install a second half-height rail inside a child's wardrobe to make use of every inch of hanging space – it can be removed or adapted as the child grows.

## 38 PICTURE THIS

Let any budding pavement artists have free rein on the patio with a set of coloured chinks.

Just rinse with the garden hose at the end of an art session.

Chunky pavement chinks, £2.50 for 12, Hobbycraft



Happy white wooden bookcase, £335, Maisons du Monde

## 39 HIDE AND SEEK STORAGE

Mix it up with a combo of open and closed storage – books and toys stay out on display, but untidy clutter gets hidden out of sight.



Garden Shades paint in Misty Lake, White Daisy and Dazzling Yellow, £14.27 for 1ltr, Cuprinol

## 40 Takeover a corner plot

Give little ones a play area outdoors. Paint fencing sky blue and add fluffy white clouds for fun. Built-in banquette seating painted a cheery yellow provides plenty of storage.

FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

## WEEKEND REFRESH

# Upgrade your teen's bedroom

FOLLOW THESE EASY IDEAS TO CREATE A STYLISH TEENAGER'S ROOM, WHERE SHE'LL BE HAPPY TO SPEND TIME STUDYING, CHILLING AND HANGING OUT

1

### Twin treatment

Pair a blackout blind for the night with sheers to let in light for daytime study  
Tupplur blind, £12, Ikea. Basics voile panel, £8, John Lewis

2

### Box shelves

Fill with a changing display of books and precious things  
Erin box shelves, £139 for four, Danetti

3

### Chest upgrade

Use a wallpaper panel and new knobs to upcycle furniture  
Tarek wallpaper, £17 per roll, Graham & Brown. Octagonal knobs, £4.95 each, Bombay Duck

### Your shopping list

Blind/curtains.....	£20
Wallpaper/knobs...£	66.50
Box shelves.....£	139
Suitcase.....£	95
Ledge.....£	17.90
Paint.....£	24.49
<b>TOTAL.....£</b>	<b>362.89</b>



4

### Soothing shade

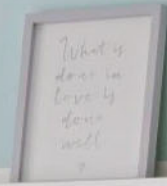
This elegant green wall paint is fresh, pretty, trendproof and soothing  
Peppermint Beach 5 matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux

### Picture ledge

Ease surface clutter by giving her a place for photos and keepsakes

Mosslanda picture ledges (L115cm), £8.95 each, Ikea

6



**WHERE TO BUY** Walls painted in Peppermint Beach 5 matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. Irvine **bed**, £199; Carter **chair**, £199; Soft speckle **rug**, £80; all Next. Plain slot-top **voile panel**, £8, The Basics range, John Lewis. Tupplur **blackout blind**, £12; Tarva **chest of drawers**, £85; Trysil **bedside tables**, £25 each; Mosslanda **picture ledges**, £8.95 each; all Ikea. Erin **box shelves**, £139 for four, Danetti. **ON/NEAR BED** Tetra **duvet cover**, £65; **pillowcases**, £19 per pair; all Scion. Tassel **throw**, £105, Butterfly by Matthew Williamson range, Debenhams. Ethereal **throw**, £15; Ethereal **cushion** (pink reverse), £12; both Sainsbury's. Geo **cushion** (squares), £5, George Home. Stockholm **cushions** (on bed and chair), £15 each; laundry **hamper**, £25 for two; all Very. Floreale stitch **throw** (in hamper), £150, Harlequin. Metal storage **suitcase**, £95; Flow **make-up bag**, £16.50; both Oliver Bonas. Ethereal Geo **throw** (on suitcase), £30, Sainsbury's. **ON CHEST OF DRAWERS** Drawers painted in Pure Brilliant White Quick Dry satinwood, £16.99 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. **Panel** in Tarek Jaune Bleu wallpaper, £17 per roll, Graham & Brown. Octagonal **knobs**, £4.95 each, Bombay Duck. Ethereal **photo frame**, £12, Sainsbury's. **Vase**, £29 for three, Very. White **plant pot**, £18, Design Vintage. **IN BOX SHELVES** Stationery box, £5 for two, Sainsbury's. Hammershøi **vase**, £32, Heal's. Yellow polka **vase**, £12 for two, Next. Ribbed **vase**, £24, Design Vintage. Flowers **candle**, £20, The White Company. **ON PICTURE LEDGES** 'What is Done in Love' framed **print**, £45, The White Company. **Vases**, £14 for three, Next. Pjätteryd 'Perched on a String' **artwork**, £15, Ikea. **Candle**, £25, Scottie & Russell. **Jug**, £20, Heal's. **ON BEDSIDE TABLES** **Vase**, £23, Graham and Green. **Mug**, £3.50, Sainsbury's. Ruark R1 **radio**, £220; Design Project No045 **task lamp**, £75; both John Lewis. Margot **alarm clock**, £12.50, Marks & Spencer.

FEATURE SARTI SHARMA PHOTOGRAPHS DOMINIC BLACKMORE

5

### Smart storage

You can't have too many of these for chucking trainers, bags and other kit into

Metal storage suitcase, £95, Oliver Bonas



# SEE THE CHERRY BLOSSOM ON THE ULTIMATE TOUR OF JAPAN

ENJOY THE STUNNING PINK BLOOMS THAT TRANSFORM THIS  
COUNTRY IN SPRINGTIME DURING THIS EXCLUSIVE HOLIDAY

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- **5 APRIL – MOUNT FUJI** Travel by coach to Odawara. After a stop at the Fuji Visitor Centre, get a picture-perfect view of the mountain in all its glory from Oishi Park. Next, you'll take a cruise on Lake Ashi, keeping an eye out for the bright vermilion *torii*, or gates, that bstride both the surrounding hillsides. Once you're flying high above the lake on the Komagatake Ropeway cable car, the views of Mount Fuji will be breathtaking. Lastly, you'll travel by coach back to Hakone for an overnight stay in a ryokan, or a traditional Japanese inn, and sleep in a tatami mat room.
- **6 APRIL – BULLET TRAIN TO KYOTO** Speed through the countryside in one of Japan's famous bullet trains to another must-see destination: Kyoto. On arrival, you'll have the rest of the day free to soak up the history of this unique city.

- **7 APRIL – ANCIENT KYOTO** The capital of Japan for a millennium, Kyoto was also the heart of the country's religion, philosophy, art and cuisine, making it a treasure trove of Japanese history and culture. Japan's best-known cultural arts were born here: the tea ceremony, Kabuki and Geisha, to name just three. Here, you'll discover the markets and temple of Kiyomizudera, enjoy the surrounding gardens of the haunting Shinto shrine, Fushimi Inari-taisha, and the golden pavilion of Kinkaku-ji. The rest of the day is free to spend as you wish.
- **8 APRIL – DISCOVER NARA** Another former Japanese capital, the compact, picturesque city of Nara also has a rich cultural legacy, and is endlessly charming. During your visit you will have the chance to see the magnificent bronze statue of Buddha at Tōdai-ji and stroll through the Isui-en Gardens. You'll then travel by coach to Osaka, where you have the rest of the day free.
- **9 APRIL – EXPLORE OSAKA** Visit the magnificent Osaka Castle, before discovering the foodie haven that is the Dōtonbori district, where you'll sample delicious local flavours. Then, take a cruise on the Yodo River. In the evening, you will have the chance to toast your unforgettable tour of Japan over a complimentary dinner in Osaka.
- **10 APRIL – FLY HOME** Say farewell to Osaka and your once-in-a-lifetime adventures in Japan before you catch your flight back home to the UK.

# *'I wanted a big table and planned the space around that'*

Extending her kitchen means that life now  
revolves around the table for foodie Lily Coles



IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Luxe vinyl flooring**  
This design has the look  
of stone, but is warmer  
and easier to care for

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## BEFORE



## Welcome to my home

Lily Coles lives here.

### THE PROPERTY

A two-bedroom Victorian terraced house in East Reading, Berkshire.

### WHAT IT COST

Units, worktop, sink and tap.....	£1,666
Floor tiles.....	£820
Wall tiles.....	£200
Bespoke shelves....	£300
Appliances.....	£1,497
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£4,483</b>

*“I nearly didn't buy this house because the old kitchen was so cramped and dark, but now my whole life happens in here and I really wouldn't want to change a thing about it”*

'The original kitchen had no room for a table, which was my only must-have, so I decided to extend the space, adding skylights and bifold doors to create an area I could spend most of my time in all year round,' says Lily

Metod/Laxarby unit, £77 for a W600mm base unit; Fågleboda handles, £6 for two; Ekbacken concrete-effect worktop, £40 for L186cm x D2.8cm; all Ikea



**DRYING RACK**  
'I don't have a tumble dryer, and this is prettier than having a clothes horse,' says Lily

*Love*  
LILY'S STYLE?

Turn to page 113  
to find out more

**ABOVE** Lily never spent time in the garden before she had the extension done. 'Now it feels like it's part of the house,' she says. 'And I love growing my own veg. Opening the doors and picking fresh vegetables and herbs from the garden for supper never gets boring'

Range, £618, Kenwood.  
Cumbrian Stone ST14 floor tiles, £18.99 per sq m, Knight Tile collection, Karndean. Clothes pulley, £60, Garden Trading

## HOW LILY DID IT

'The builders I chose spent time going through every single detail with me. They were a bit more expensive, but I knew they would care about the project. The project took four months, with all the building, design and installation coming in at £53,000. The extractors on my neighbour's extension, which forms part of our party wall, meant we couldn't build as high

as planned, so we moved the units to the other side and you can see that the walls are different heights. But the light is amazing – bright in summer and cosy in winter. I reasoned that dark grey-black units would go with anything, so it meant I had freedom with the rest of the kitchen. Doing it on my own was daunting, but I'm so proud of how it came together.'



**RISE & FALL LAMP**  
Hang it high for ambient light;  
low for intimate



**ABOVE** Having bought a piece of marble at auction, Lily used it to create a breakfast bar. She made the artwork by framing maps. 'I want to make it into more of a study area,' she says  
Fiskbo frames, £5 each, Ikea. For a similar bench, try the Bearpaw Wood, £158, Alpen Home range, Wayfair

**ABOVE** 'I love going to auctions, so a lot of my furniture, such as these dining chairs, come from them,' says Lily. The table once belonged to friends

Pendant light, £215, Original BTC. For a similar dining table, try the Farmhouse, £495, Made in the Cellar. For similar dining chairs, try the Windsor in natural, £99 each, Cult Living range, Cult Furniture

**RIGHT** Lily asked her builder to make the dresser to keep the prep area free from clutter. She found the colourful bowls and jugs at markets in Mallorca, where her parents live

Bespoke dresser, £300, David Bressington. For similar glass jars try the Korken, 95p each, Ikea. For a similar chair, try the French School chair, £59, Cult Living range, Cult Furniture



**WHAT I LEARNED**

*“Be brave and do your research. As I grew in confidence, I realised that there was more I could have asked the builders for at the beginning of the project”*



FEATURE LARA WATSON  
PHOTOGRAPHS FIONA MURRAY



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& APRIL TO OCTOBER 2018**

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# Make it work for you

## LILY'S STYLE: VINTAGE MIX

Team black cabinets and mismatched furniture with modern buys and reclaimed finds for a kitchen that's full of character



You need to have plenty of natural light for this moody scheme to work



### WHERE TO BUY

#### 1. LIGHT

Cobb rise-and-fall large pendant light, £215, Original BTC

#### 2. CLOCK

Black Smiths retro clock, £60, Roger Lascelles

#### 3. PITCHER

Two-tone earthenware jug, £21.99, Ian Snow

#### 4. CLOTHES AIRER

Laundry pulley maid, £55, Sheila Maid

#### 5. MAP PRINT

Framed ordnance survey explorer map, £50, Love Maps On

#### 6. TABLE

Marcelle six-to-eight-seater dining table, £899, John Lewis

#### 7. STORAGE JAR

2ltr glass jar, £4.50, Kilner range, Wilko

#### 8. CHAIR

Tram chair in yellow, £69, Cult Furniture

The old kitchen was just 2sq m, but now it's treble the size. Anna and Greg chose a modern look, with white flat-front base units and sleek surfaces teamed with warm walnut wall units and bar top

White matt and walnut veneer units, from £240 for W600mm unit; ceramic marble-effect worktop and splashback, around £450 per m; all Kitchen Revolutions

#### WALNUT BAR

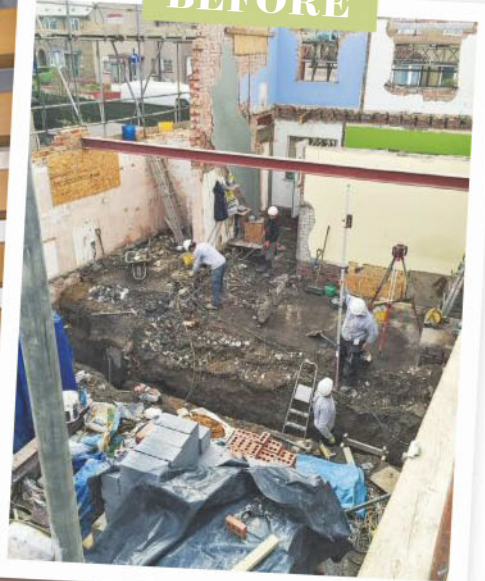
The rich finish creates a warm contrast with the cool marble-effect island worktop

*'We've doubled our living space with this new kitchen'*

Anna and Greg Horodenski transformed their home - and their family's lifestyle - with this ambitious extension



BEFORE



IDEAL HOME  
*loves*

**Polished concrete**  
Tough and really easy to maintain – or you can use it as a subfloor and cover it for a different look



*Welcome to  
our home*

Anna Horodenski lives here with her husband, Greg and their children Szymon, nine, Natalia, seven, and Lena, one.

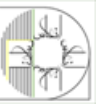
**THE PROPERTY**

A three-bedroom detached Sixties house in Acton, West London.

**WHAT IT COST**

Units.....	£16,000
Worktop.....	£6,500
Sink.....	£350
Tap.....	£390
Flooring.....	£9,870
Appliances.....	£4,046
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£37,156</b>

*“We entertain much more often now and the extra space means we can have lots of friends round for dinner!”*



### HOW ANNA AND GREG DID IT

'It took 18 months for us to get planning permission for a 6m two-storey rear and side extension. We worked with Juttla Architects, but it was all Greg's design – he runs a building company, Smart Conversion, and had a vision for what he wanted to achieve. It was a priority to let in as much light as possible, so the patio doors were made as big as they could be, with a skylight above

the dining area, which is the area we use most. Overall, the work took eight months and cost around £8,000. I love the nonporous worktops and the soft-close doors that don't shut with a bang and wake up the baby. It's amazing to think that we've doubled our living space and created an area that's great for entertaining, as well as being more practical for our growing family to enjoy together.'

**BELOW** 'The units ticked all our boxes: a modern look with sleek white fronts, teamed with walnut for a hotel-chic style that ties in with the rest of the walnut accents and furniture in the living space,' says Anna

Copper and glass pendant lights, £90 each, Kitchen Revolutions. Carmen bar stools, £89.99 each, Atlantic Shopping. Black-and-white mugs, £9.95 each, Mitzi B



FEATURE DILLY ORME, VANESSA RICHMOND, STYLING DILLY ORME PHOTOGRAPHS VERONICA RODRIGUEZ





*Love*  
ANNA'S  
CONCRETE  
FLOOR?  
**Turn to page 119**  
to find out more

**ABOVE** Stacking built-in appliances saves space and makes them easy to reach. The Horodenskis' kitchen includes an oven, microwave and coffee machine

Siemens oven HB632GBS1B, £299; Combi microwave oven CM633GBS1B, £399; coffee centre CT636LES1, £970; all Kitchen Revolutions. Dualit copper kettle, £146, Lakeland



### WHAT I LEARNED

“Make sure you have a clear plan of your goal before you start any building work and always remember that dreams are achievable with hard work”



**ABOVE** A rise-up extractor is a great alternative to a ceiling design and keeps the look streamlined

Downdraft extractor LD97AA67, £980; gas-on-glass 90 ER926SB70E hob, £480; both Kitchen Revolutions



**The marble-effect worktop wraps around the island for a smart finish**

Worktop, around £450 per m, Kitchen Revolutions

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# Make it work for you

## ANNA'S CHOICE: CONCRETE FLOORING

Fallen hard for the Horodenskis' smart polished concrete floor? Find out if it's right for your home with our guide...

With its industrial looks and hard-wearing and easy-to-clean qualities, it's little wonder polished concrete flooring has become popular in homes. It holds heat well, too, so it's a good choice if you want to install underfloor heating.

### Q What exactly is polished concrete flooring?

Very simply, it is concrete, left in its raw state or coloured, which has been polished and sealed to create a nonporous surface. It is commonly polished to a grit level of 800, 1,500 or 3,000 – the higher the level, the shinier the floor. Costs vary from £80-£450 per sq m, depending on whether it is levelled by machine or trowelled by hand, and any extra work dedicated to avoiding cracks.

### Q How is it installed?

Techniques vary, but most polished concrete floors are poured in a single 10cm-thick layer. The next day, expansion cuts are sawn into the floor, encouraging inevitable shrinkage cracks to form in a neat line. These are then filled with an expandable, colour-matched sealant. Finally, the floor is cleaned, polished and sealed.

### Q Does it take long to install?

It depends on the size and temperature of the room, plus the method chosen, but allow around seven to 10 days for a 10cm-thick floor. It will need to be resealed once a year to keep it waterproof.

### Q Will it crack?

It's possible, but many people love the pattern of fine lines. Using shrink-reducing additives will minimise the risk of larger cracks. Sudden temperature changes are the main cause of cracks, so it's important to introduce heating, particularly underfloor, slowly.

### Q Can you retro-fit it?

It's far easier to install concrete in a new-build or an extension, where it can go down before the skirting boards and doors are fitted. A micro-concrete floor (a coating that can be applied to wood or tiles) might prove easier if you are installing it in an existing room of your house.

*“Choose a specialist installer – the finished floor should offer good depth of tone and lustre”*

**JONATHAN REID,**  
DIRECTOR, GREYMATTER CONCRETE



Polished concrete can help bounce light around a room

### BEST FOR...

#### EXPERT ADVICE

• **GreyMatter Concrete** can advise on all things concrete, helping to ensure you get a high-quality finish for your flooring.

#### COLOUR CHOICE

• **Steyson** is the go-to company for interior designers – it specialises in coloured concrete, including bespoke colour-matching.

#### ECOFRIENDLY CREDENTIALS

• **Lazenby** only uses local suppliers to source the products it uses to make concrete – most of which are recycled materials.

## IDEAL HOME LOVES... CONCRETE-EFFECT FLOORS



### PRACTICAL VINYL

This luxury vinyl is slip and water resistant  
**Ando concrete vinyl floor tiles, £42.95 per sq m, Harvey Maria**



### CERAMIC TILE

The matt finish of these tiles feels like concrete  
**Concrete ceramic tiles in light grey, £28 per sq m, British Ceramic Tile**



### CLEVER RESIN

Can be applied directly on to your existing floor  
**MicroCrete in light grey, from £120 per sq m, The Resin Floor Co**



### MATT PORCELAIN

These robust tiles come in industrial colours  
**Tekno porcelain tiles in Bone, £39.94 per sq m, Topps Tiles**

*Love*  
MELANIE'S  
FROSTED  
WINDOW?

Turn to page 125  
to find out more

# *‘Sacrificing a bedroom was so worth it!’*

Melanie and Ian Johnson lost a  
spare room, but gained this big,  
luxurious family bathroom

‘We had no family bathroom at all, just an en suite and a shower room,’ says Melanie. ‘We thought about converting a box room, but I convinced Ian we could lose a bigger bedroom to create a really luxurious space’

For a similar tiled feature wall, try Nature Gris wood-effect porcelain tiles, £20.67 per sq m, Porcelain Superstore

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BEFORE



**BESPOKE VANITY**

Made-to-fit furniture and mirrors are the key to a chic, seamless look



*Welcome to my home*

Melanie Johnson lives here with her husband Ian and sons Henry, four, and Lucas, two.

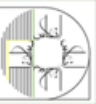
**THE PROPERTY**

A six-bedroom Georgian semi-detached house in Newcastle upon Tyne.

**WHAT IT COST**

Sanitaryware.....	£5,108
Heating.....	£1,240
Furniture and tiles.....	£4,958
Lighting.....	£844
Paint.....	£350
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£12,500</b>

*“As the rest of the house is still in chaos, this is our retreat. My favourite bit is the shower, as it feels like being in a boutique hotel’s luxury spa”*



## IDEAL HOME *loves*

**Statement  
chandeliers**  
Add a wow moment to  
a simple bathroom  
scheme

### HOW MELANIE AND IAN DID IT

'When doing up our old house, we just went to the big DIY stores and didn't get much guidance, so this time we hired a designer, Cathy Dean (cathydeaninteriordesign.com), to help. She came up with three looks and I picked this one as it was restful, with soft, muted tones. I loved the tiles, as I wanted a classic scheme that wouldn't date. At the top of my wish list was a freestanding bath that would

be the first thing you saw when you walked in, so the layout flowed from there. The work took eight weeks, with labour and materials costing around £12,500, plus a £1,200 design and project-management fee. We did go over budget, as we had to replace an unsafe wall between the bathroom and the bedroom next door. It was a lot of effort, but we're delighted with the high-end finish.'

**ALCOVE LOO**  
The secret to  
this bathroom's  
uncluttered look

The composite bath has the look and feel of stone without the weight. 'With two young children, I don't have much time for baths, but I love the thin edge and matt finish – it looks so elegant,' says Melanie

Ellipse bath, £2,195,  
Waters Baths of Ashbourne  
range, H2O Bathroom  
Design Co. Droplet  
chandelier, £349, West Elm



## BATHROOM PROJECT

**DIMMABLE LIGHTS**  
Waterproof LEDs  
mean the lighting  
can be altered  
to set the mood

**LEFT** By adding a frosted toughened-glass door, an alcove was turned into a walk-in shower. 'It feels very spa-like,' says Melanie

Methven shower valve set, £350, H2O Bathroom Design Co. Bespoke glass door, £850, Peterlee Glass

**BELOW** Screening off the loo behind a bespoke frosted glass door makes the best use of extra space

Metro close-coupled loo, £350, Villeroy & Boch range, H2O Bathroom Design Co



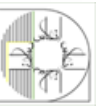
**LEFT** A wall-mounted handset makes it easy to clean the shower area. Darker, wood-effect tiles make the recess stand out

For similar tiles, try the Memory Sand, £49.68 per sq m, Porcelain Superstore



### WHAT WE LEARNED

“Know how to compromise. We wanted a showstopping bath and bespoke vanity unit, so saved money elsewhere. We didn't splash out on a wall-hung loo with a concealed cistern, as it's hidden by a door, and opted for cheaper showerheads and radiators”



# TRIFLOW CONCEPTS



Inventors of the 3-way filtration system

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# Make it work for you

## MELANIE'S CHOICE: OBSCURED GLASS

If your bathroom's overlooked or you want to disguise a less-than-perfect view, there are plenty of options available

Lack of privacy, an awkwardly-shaped window or a steamy bathroom can leave you looking for an alternative to bathroom blinds. Replacing clear glass with obscured glass might offer a more practical solution.

### Q What's the popular option?

Textured glass – a rolled, patterned glass with the design impressed onto one side of the surface. It makes the glass translucent and non-transparent, distorting views while also letting in plenty of light. Designs vary from simple ripples and reeded lines to more decorative florals, foliage and geometrics and there are several different gradings available, according to the privacy level (or obscuration) required.

### Q I'm not keen on a textured finish – what else is there?

Try sandblasted or acid-etched glass. Both use abrasives to create a frosted look that gives privacy and diffuses the light. You can choose the level of opacity, from a light frosting to fully opaque, and either an all-over treatment or a patterned effect. Acid etching is a specialist technique so tends to be pricier, while sandblasting can

create lots of different effects but is prone to finger marks. Designs vary from standard geometrics to your own bespoke sketch.

### Q What about colour?

A stained glass window treatment is a great way of adding colour. Made using sections of glass held together with leading, designs vary from a simple border or coloured insets to decorative period patterns. Choose from standard designs or commission your own - visit [bsmpg.org.uk](http://bsmpg.org.uk) (British Society of Master Glass Painters) for a list of members.

### Q How can I do it on a budget?

An inexpensive alternative is vinyl film that you apply yourself. It comes in frosted, patterned, coloured and stained glass effects, and can be ordered cut to size. The film must be applied to clean glass and positioned onto the window using a squeegee. Prices start at around £30 for a 100cm panel.

*“In bathrooms, privacy is key and obscured glass allows this while also adding a touch of style”*

PHIL BROWN, PILKINGTON

With only the lower panes of the window obscured, you can still enjoy a view of treetops or the sky



### BEST FOR...

#### CHOICE

##### ● Pilkington

Includes 13 patterns in its Texture Glass range, in addition to leaded, mirrored, painted and safety glass options.

#### BESPOKE

##### ● Leadbitter Glass

Has a gallery of designs, from etched to traditional leaded glass – useful if you want inspiration for a bespoke piece.

#### OFF THE PEG

##### ● Wickes

Has ready-made obscured glass casement windows, in store or for home delivery, for a cheaper DIY option.

## IDEAL HOME LOVES... DESIGNER WINDOW FILMS



#### PHOTO FINISH

Photographic window film reproduces realistic images onto film.

**Green Stamps window film, £64 per W100cm sq, Purifrost**



#### ART DECO STYLE

Get the look of period style stained glass, with film that replicates the effect of leading and coloured glass.

**Sapphire A film, £13.85 per 30cm sq, Purifrost**



#### SPLASH OUT

Obscure the view outside with this cut out design on a frosted background.

**Wavy Dotty Lines film, £68 per 100cm sq, Brume**



#### PICK A COLOUR

For a bright option, go for a coloured film that still lets in light.

**Blue 517 film, W122cm, £30 per m, The Window Film Company**

**DOWNPIPES**  
Rainwater is  
harvested from  
the roof

# *'We built a hideaway in the woods'*

Mel and Roy Fletcher replaced their draughty park home with a cosy, eco-friendly prefab in the beautiful corner of the New Forest National Park they couldn't bear to leave

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**VELUX**

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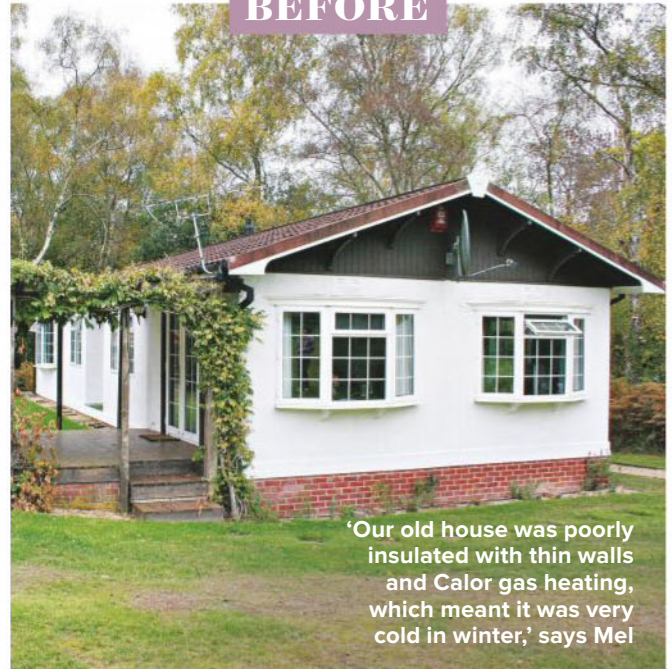
“It’s so private here, hidden in this glade – it’s a great feeling. The forest’s changing light and colours are reflected inside the house”



**BRISE SOLEIL CANOPY**  
The canopy provides shade and keeps the interior cool

Forest Lodge is energy-efficient and, thanks to full-height windows, flooded with light

**BEFORE**



‘Our old house was poorly insulated with thin walls and Calor gas heating, which meant it was very cold in winter,’ says Mel

*Welcome to our home*



Mel and Roy Fletcher live here. Mel is a local company manager and Roy is retired.

**THE PROPERTY**  
A new prefabricated home in the New Forest National Park, Hampshire.

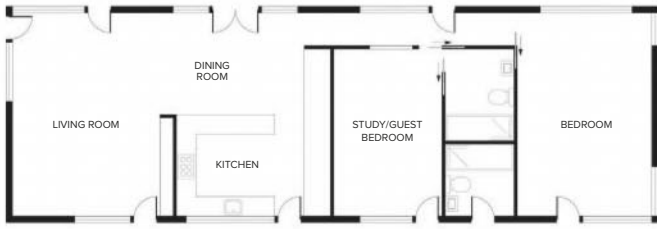
**THE VALUE**  
Estimated at around £450,000.

**WHAT IT COST**

- Architect’s fees...£33,000
- Build cost.....£180,000
- Kitchen.....£16,000
- Bathrooms.....£18,000
- Deck access platform, boardwalk and brise soleil canopy.....£19,000
- Windows.....£33,000
- Oak flooring and ceilings.....£8,000
- Decoration.....£6,000
- Rainwater harvesting and 4kW solar panel system.....£10,000
- Air source heat pump, hot water and underfloor heating.....£14,000
- Centrally-controlled lighting system and fixtures.....£13,000
- Bespoke wardrobes and shelves.....£18,000
- TOTAL.....£368,000**

“We looked at larger houses in the area, but kept coming back to this site, which is surrounded by silver birch trees, bluebell woods and streams”

## Take a quick tour...



**W**hen Mel and Roy Fletcher realised they couldn't live in their small, poorly insulated park home in the New Forest National Park any longer, it was time to take action. But buying a house in the area was beyond their budget and replacing their home wasn't possible, as planning permission stopped new houses being built in a Greenfield Conservation Area.

**FINDING A SOLUTION** However, there was a third option: 'There had been two caravans on the site since 1963 – ours and our neighbour's,' says Mel. 'Because of this precedent, we were sure we could seek planning permission for a new mobile home.'

**THE BRIEF** 'We approached local architects PAD Studio to discuss building a bespoke home as we really liked other buildings they've designed in the area,' says Mel. Architect Wendy Perring explains, 'The design had to comply with the Caravan Act 1968, which restricts the construction and size of the dwelling. The aim with Forest Lodge was to create a light-filled, low-energy home with a strong connection to the surrounding landscape. Importantly, Mel and Roy didn't want their new dwelling to resemble or feel like a mobile home.'

**THE RESULT** The new house was prefabricated and fitted out in Yorkshire and arrived after five months, in two parts, on flatbed trucks. It was lifted by crane onto the existing concrete and limestone foundation. Once in place, the building was bolted together and finished from there, with all the joints taped to ensure full airtightness. Clad in vertical chestnut boards, the steel-frame structure includes an open-plan living, dining and kitchen area and two en-suite bedrooms, one of which doubles up as a study. 'Although Forest Lodge may be built to a restricted size, we don't feel it's a compromise. It suits our needs perfectly,' says Mel.

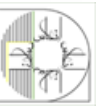
**RIGHT** Full-height windows have been strategically placed to maximise sunlight and views throughout the property. Bespoke joinery that clears the floor adds to the airy feel in the bedroom

**ABOVE RIGHT** 'We wanted something contemporary and homely but not too white in the kitchen, so we chose a mix of white lacquered units, limestone worktops and oak finishes,' says Mel



### IDEAL HOME *loves*

**Underfloor heating**  
*'It gives the house a lovely atmosphere. It's always warm, but feels fresh at the same time,' says Mel*





**WOOD CLADDING**

The ceilings and floors are clad in whitewashed oak

**WHAT WE LEARNED**

“When glazing is going to be a big feature, it’s vital to go for the highest spec possible. We went for the best windows you can get – they’re triple-glazed with fully insulated frames. Plus, they have mosquito screens, which were worth the money”

**BELOW** The couple commissioned bespoke joinery for the oak storage and shelving. ‘There’s a place for everything, which means we can avoid clutter, and it all flows beautifully,’ says Mel

**INVISIBLE SCREENS**  
Keep out bugs and birds while letting air in

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

Architect Wendy Perring from PAD Studio has the lowdown

**1 THEY’RE VERY QUICK TO BUILD** ‘Off-site prefabrication in a factory means that the construction process can move at a much quicker pace than usual, as the build isn’t affected by adverse weather conditions or problems of accessibility.’

**2 FOUNDATIONS CAN BE REUSED** ‘This allows for a much more sustainable, eco-friendly result. Retaining an existing foundation, for example, is one of the most sustainable options available because it means that no new excavations have to be dug causing disruption and damage to the surrounding landscape.’

**3 THEY CAN BE MOVED** ‘Forest Lodge has been constructed with a steel frame, which means the house could be top-lifted by a crane, and still keep its shape. The building also features structural eyelets that could be used should Mel and Roy ever want to (literally!) pick up and leave.’

**4 STRUCTURAL ELEMENTS CAN BE BUILT IN** ‘This reduces the chance of common (and expensive) on-site breakages (such as windows) and logistical difficulties hoisting the different elements into place.’

**5 INTERIOR FITTINGS CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE BUILD** ‘Bathrooms, kitchens and bespoke storage options can also be fully fitted at the prefabricated stage, so the only thing that needs to be added once the building is in position is the homeowner’s freestanding furniture.’

MY  
FURNITURE



ALVEARE Sideboard £699.99 ALVEARE Coffee Table £219.99 LUCIENE Three seat sofa £649.99

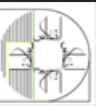
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# 'We swapped brick walls for glass'

The Grieves cleverly extended their period house with a simple glass garden room

When Carol and Drew Grieve moved into their Arts and Crafts house in Glasgow, it had been relatively untouched. 'The ground floor had three separate rooms, with very little connection to the garden,' says Carol.

## FINDING INSPIRATION

A trip to The Netherlands gave the couple the idea for a frameless glazed extension. 'We saw a Japanese-inspired garden pavilion, with seamless glazing and canopy by Ewan Cameron Architects and loved it,' says Carol. 'It was perfect for our idea of an open-plan kitchen-diner with a link to the living room and garden.'

## LINKING THE SPACE

The couple settled on an elegant construction of frameless solar glazing, with a white canopy and dark zinc roofing, which had to be supported by three steel beams. 'The idea is that you move through the early 20th-century living room at the front of the house via Modernist-inspired glazed sliding doors, facings and architraves to the 21st-century extension,' says Carol. 'It's a subtle transition where nothing jars.'

## THE RESULT

'It's changed the way we live,' says Carol. 'Sitting in our extension feels like being in the garden and the glass floods the ground floor with light making it a more sociable space.'

BEFORE



Small windows gave limited views of the garden

AFTER



A frameless glass extension with a Japanese-inspired terrace creates a modern look

## Welcome to our home



Drew and Carol Grieve live here.

### THE PROPERTY

An original Arts & Crafts three-bedroom, two-storey terrace in Glasgow's West End.

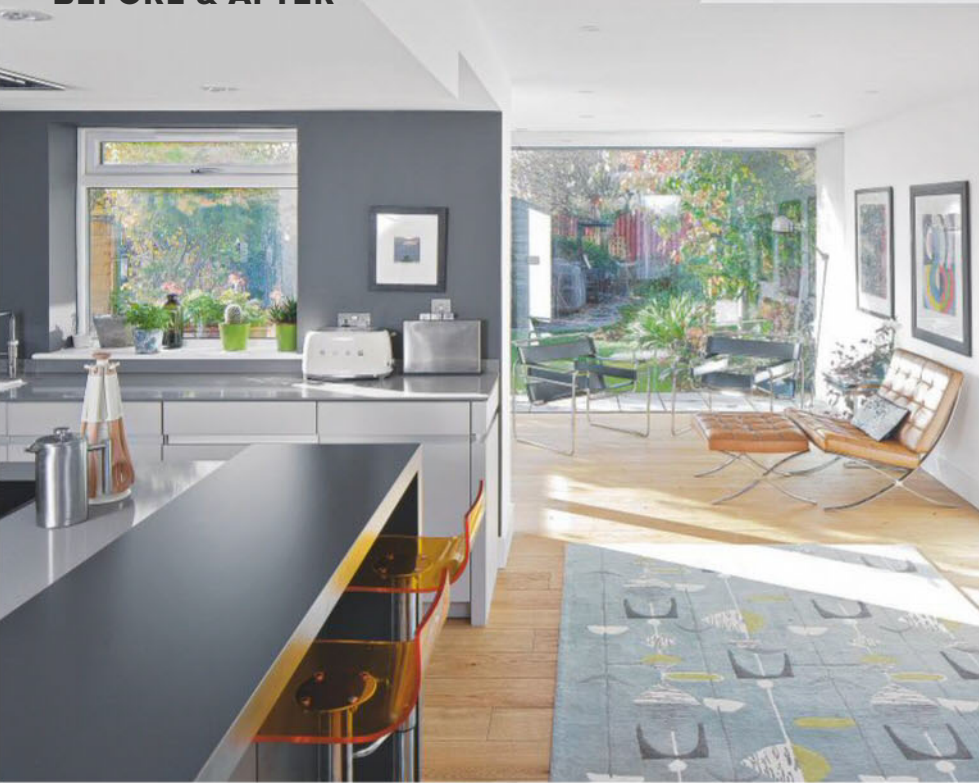
### VALUE

Similar property in this area of Glasgow has been valued at around £580,000.

### WHAT IT COST

Build.....	£12,000
Glazing/doors...	£29,000
Zinc roof.....	£6,000
Steel structure....	£6,000
Plumbing.....	£5,000
Electrical.....	£4,000
Decoration.....	£5,000
Flooring.....	£5,000
Kitchen.....	£18,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>£90,000</b>

“Sitting in the glass extension is the closest to living outside as you can get”



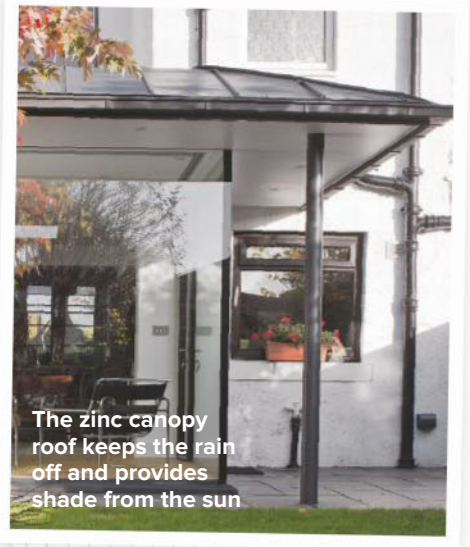
**ABOVE** The couple chose a dark grey paint for the walls to add definition to their all-white kitchen. Using thermal glass for the extension ensures it doesn't get too hot in summer and helps retain heat in winter

**LEFT** Glazed sliding doors between the kitchen-diner and original living room connect the two areas, but can be used to separate them when needed. Orange pendant lights help to zone the space with a strong pop of colour



## WHAT WE LEARNED

“The biggest factor in a project like this is getting the brief for the architect absolutely right. In reality, good architecture doesn't cost any more than a bad choice, but it's a lot better value for money. And you get exactly what you want”



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

### Zinc roofing

Architect Ewan Cameron ([ewancameronarchitects.com](http://ewancameronarchitects.com)) has all the answers...

**1 IT HAS A LIFE SPAN THAT'S EXCEPTIONALLY LONG...** Made from natural and traditional corrosion-resistant materials, zinc protects itself by developing a patina.

**2 ... AND IS ALSO LOW-MAINTENANCE** Zinc is easy to look after because it doesn't have a coating or varnish that wears out and needs to be re-applied.

**3 IT'S GOOD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** Not only is it a non-toxic, durable and plentiful material that's used extensively in the building industry, zinc is also an essential trace element vital to biological equilibrium and growth. Usefully, it is 100% recyclable.

**4 ... AND LOOKS SLEEK AND MODERN** Standing seam ridges in zinc roofing give a streamlined appearance, and the square-faced box gutter helps to provide a stylish, sharply detailed edge to the roof.

**5 IT'S VERSATILE** Anthra-Zinc is a pre-weathered product that blends and harmonises with various building materials, such as slate.

# SUMMER ESSENTIALS

Add the finishing touches to your garden with these great garden buys

## Torino compact cube rattan set

**WAS £399.99 ONLY £279.99 PLUS £19.95 P&P\***

Perfect for placing on your patio, lawn or decking so that you can enjoy the best of the summer in complete comfort, this fantastic garden furniture set includes two chairs, two stools and a matching table with a tempered glass top. The chairs come with removable contrasting cushions.

This luxury set is built using weatherproof, hand woven rattan effect PVC material and is available in a choice of colours. The chairs and stools are designed to fit under the table for compact storage whilst not in use. The rattan furniture set can be wiped clean with a soft, damp cloth. Also available is a garden furniture cover to ensure the protection of your rattan furniture, which is advised to be used in adverse and winter weather when the furniture is not in use. Table measures: L130 x W75 X H60cm. Chairs measure: L59 x W59 x H66cm. Stools measure: L50 x W50 x H36cm. Supplied as a flatpack, self assembly required. Parasol shown is not included.

**G0920** Brown with cream cushions

**G0921** Black with cream cushions

**G0922** Grey with pale grey cushions

**D9629** Furniture cover **£19.99**



Save  
**£120**

## Garden clock and weather station

**WAS £59.99 ONLY £29.99 PLUS £4.95 P&P**

This elegant three in one weather station features an attractive floral and bird design and makes a handy addition to any garden or conservatory.

It has an integrated clock, thermometer (measuring Celsius and Fahrenheit) and hygrometer to measure humidity. Simply mount to your preferred wall or fence using the sturdy built in mounts (screws not supplied) and keep track of time while you are enjoying long lazy days in the garden. Constructed from steel for durability and available in black or cream. Requires 1 x AA battery (not included). Overall size: W66 x H43 x D4.5cm. Clock face: 20cm.

**D9459** Black

**D9460** Cream



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# *‘Our honeymoon in Thailand inspired this garden’*

Alasdair and Philippa Beaumont replaced crazy paving and boring beds with this lush, tropical outdoor room, designed with specific spaces for eating and relaxing





## IDEAL HOME *loves*

### **Tree ferns**

Give height, privacy and dappled shade – they're also hardy, low-maintenance and tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions

### **Two-in-one space**

The small garden has been divided into two zones, with decking nearest the house and paving in the second half, plus gaps for planting. 'Hard landscaping shouldn't do much talking – it should be in the background to allow the plants to make the statement,' says David Rich.

## BEFORE



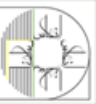
## *Welcome to my home*

Philippa Beaumont lives here with her husband Alasdair.

### **THE PLOT**

A small courtyard-style rear garden and side return belonging to a Victorian terrace in York, North Yorkshire.

*“We'd been on honeymoon in Thailand and were inspired by the use of timber, lush green planting and clean lines we saw out there. Our garden is no longer an eyesore, but looks beautiful all year round”*



**T**ackling the garden was the end of a two-year house renovation for Alasdair and Philippa Beaumont. 'We'd left it until last so that we had a place to store all the building materials – it was a dumping ground,' says Philippa.

Overlooked by neighbours, the garden measured just 7.60m x 4.60m and had beds around the edges that made it seem even smaller. 'It felt very uninviting, with damaged crazy paving, and was horribly overgrown,' says Philippa. 'Its only saving graces were its original red-brick Victorian walls and a tall hedge at the bottom.'

The couple set aside a budget of £5,000 for a professional to tackle the project. 'You wouldn't blink at spending thousands on a bathroom, so we see this as an investment,' says Philippa. 'We worked out a budget, which included all the materials plus a contingency for plants.' The job went to Harry and David Rich of Rich Landscapes (07779 786823; richlandscapes.net). 'They understood immediately that we wanted a garden for dining and entertaining, and that we also needed more privacy,' says Philippa. 'We wanted to maximise the space and were excited by their ideas to include tree ferns and create two separate areas within the garden. Including Alasdair, there was a team of eight who completed the entire transformation in just two days. Now the garden is totally unrecognisable!'

### Lounging zone

'At the far end of the garden, there's a snug little seating zone, which is gorgeous in the evening with the firepit glowing. You feel like you've made a real journey to get there, even though it's literally just a few paces away,' says Philippa.

### BARGAIN SEATING

Instead of buying cheap furniture, the couple bought good-quality seats second-hand from Gumtree

The couple can step from their kitchen to this timber-decked dining area. 'We don't have a kitchen table, so this is the perfect place to have coffee or breakfast in warmer months,' says Philippa



FEATURE CAROLINE FOSTER, VANESSA RICHMOND  
PHOTOGRAPHS ALASDAIR MCINTOSH STYLING DILLY ORME



**Original feature**

Keeping the Victorian wall was a must for the couple. 'The red bricks add a natural warmth and wildflowers have embedded themselves in the loose pointing,' says Philippa. 'They flower at different times of the year and we never know what's going to appear, but it's lovely to have that surprise.'

**HORIZONTAL DECKING**

Laying it this way makes a narrow garden look wider



**Love**  
PHILIPPA'S  
STYLE?

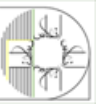
Turn to page 139  
to shop the look



Hardy grasses are an easy and low-maintenance way to fill borders



With the portable firepit, any corner of the garden can be made cosier



# Show-stopping Alliums!



**Thompson & Morgan**  
Experts in the garden since 1855  
Reader Offers

One of the best and most majestic Alliums for your late-spring garden, 'Purple Sensation' is a sun-loving, drought-tolerant variety producing spectacular lilac-purple flowers up to 15cm (6in) in diameter. Be sure to plant among other perennials that also have good structure. Height: 30cm Spread: 60cm. Supplied as bulbs size 10/12. Pre-order now for delivery in September and you'll benefit from getting the first bulbs of the season, often considered the best. Delivered to your door fresh at the perfect time for planting.

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TCB47551	incredibloom® Fertiliser 100g Sachet x 1	£4.99		
TCB47552	incredibloom® Fertiliser 750g Tub x 1	£12.99		
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**آموزشگاه انعکاس منبع جدیدترین اطلاعات، مقالات و دوره‌های آموزشی دکوراسیون داخلی**

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# Make it work for you

## PHILIPPA'S STYLE: URBAN TROPICS

Exotic plants and stylish monochrome furniture will give your outdoor space a laid-back holiday vibe



Get a year-round tropical feel with faded decking and a hardy palm tree

### 3 OF THE BEST TROPICAL PLANTS



#### Aloe vera

Best grown in pots and moved indoors in cold weather. Keep in full sun, with well-drained loamy soil.



#### Cordyline

Can grow to 10m tall, but smaller varieties are suitable for beds and pots. Happy in full sun or light shade.



#### Tree fern

Ideal for adding height to a sheltered spot as they can grow up to a whopping 6m high.

### WHERE TO BUY

#### 1. PLANT

Fejka plant, £35, Ikea

J by Jasper Conran range, Debenhams

#### 2. FIRE PIT

Foscot fire pit, from £55, Garden Trading

#### 5. THROW

Herringbone throw, £75, Bronte by Moon

#### 3. CROCKERY

Grey Lines mug, £8, ED Ellen Degeneres range, Royal Doulton

#### 6. LANTERN

Linea lantern, £55, House of Fraser

#### 4. CUSHION

Geometric cushion, £28,

#### 7. DINING SET

Geo Mosaic table set, £649, Marks & Spencer

# IDEAL HOME'S GENIUS SPACE SOLUTIONS

Stretch your space – and keep it uncluttered – with our favourite problem-solving furniture

## CLEVER FURNITURE

### VIMLE THREE-SEATER SOFA WITH CHAISE LONGUE IN GRÄSBO GOLDEN YELLOW, £595, IKEA

This super-squidgy sofa conceals oodles of storage space under the chaise cushion. There's also a matching storage footstool for £150, so you can hide away any extra cushions and throws.



### SPACE DIVIDERS



#### FLAT PACK

We love this concertina-style frame with its roomy shelves. Chevron shelving unit, £449, Atkin & Thyme



#### VERSATILE DESIGN

This clever unit can be used flat or angled, depending on where and how you use it.

Move shelving unit, £649, Living It Up



#### CONTEMPORARY COOL

A host of lush green plants would look striking on this slick white unit.

Hoxton wide shelving in White, £599, Dwell

### SHELFIE FLOOR LAMP, £195, LOAF

If you love curling up with a book and a cup of tea, this clever two-in-one lamp and table from Loaf is for you. It's also a great solution for small bedrooms, where there's no space for bedside tables.



### SPOT DOUBLE BEDSTEAD WITH CABINET HEADBOARD, £415, CUCKOOLAND.COM

This classic bed boasts a headboard with shelf and cupboard below – perfect for storing spare bedding.



### DONATO SOFA, £1,820, ROM

This sofa has built-in side tables to save precious inches in a small space. Plus, it has a hidden charger for your tech!



**LIFT-OFF TRAY TABLES**

**1**



**2**



**3**

- 1** Memphis nesting tables, £95 for three, JD Williams
- 2** Betsy folding tray table in Duck Egg, £29, Very
- 3** Nestor nest of tables, £150, Habitat

**CLUB FOOTSTOOL IN OXBLOOD SOFT WOOL, £680, SOFA.COM**

Weary of seeing the kids' toys cluttering up the living room? With this smart footstool, you just have to flip up the lid once they're in bed and chuck everything in. Available in two sizes, prices start from £310.



**BROMLEY UPHOLSTERED OTTOMAN BED FRAME, £599, TIME4SLEEP**

Want to eke out every last inch of storage space in your bedroom? Look no further than an ottoman bed. This smart design, with its extra-deep base (giving you more space to squirrel away your stuff) comes as a single, small double, regular double, king and super king and in a choice of seven smart shades. Shown here in Naples Silver.

**CACHE STORAGE TABLE, £34.95, FUTON COMPANY**

On-the-spot storage for literally any room.



**METRO NARROW LADDER SHELF, £69, VERY**

Available in Black, White or Oak, this neat unit is the perfect fit for an alcove, with lots of space at the bottom for bulkier items like books, and smaller shelves for curios.



**4YOU FOUR-POSTER STORAGE BEDSTEAD, £895, CUCKOOLAND.COM**

Owners of poky bedrooms rejoice - this all-in-one bed will solve all of your storage woes. Pay an extra £120 for the mattress-raising mechanism to access the space beneath.



Go from a dining table to a console with a multitasking 'twofer' table



**CONSOLE TO DINING TABLE, £199, NEXT**

Exactly as it sounds, the top of this compact console opens out (together with the supporting legs underneath) to become a respectably sized dining table (top picture) that will seat four people comfortably.

**NEW ENGLAND HOME OFFICE  
ARMOIRE, FROM £645,  
THE DORMY HOUSE**

No room for a study? Try this clever armoire instead and simply shut the doors at the end of the day. Shown here in Inky blue with noticeboard in Meadow 3, £1,042.



**EKEBOL THREE-SEATER  
SOFAS, £345 EACH, IKEA**

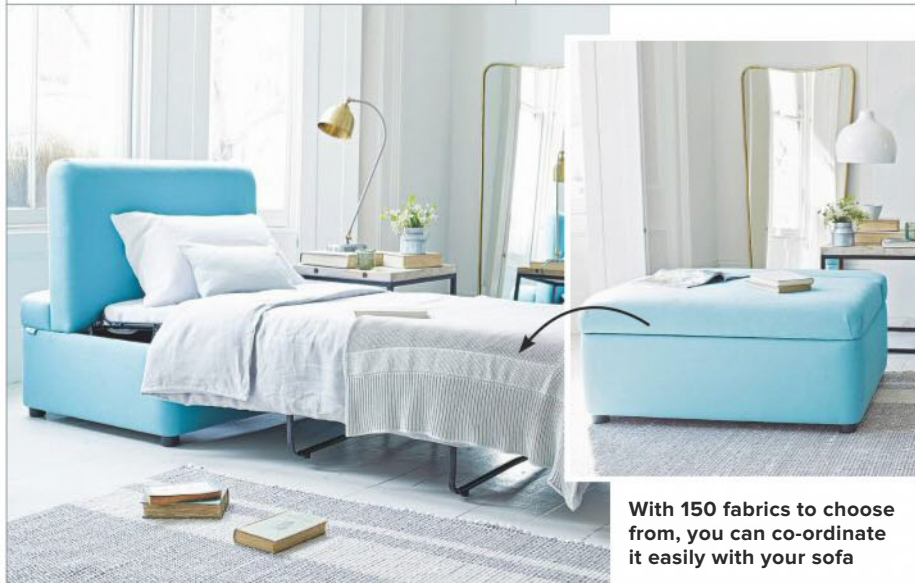
With its useful under-seat shelving, this design will hide all kinds of clutter. Use singly or combine two for a larger corner sofa.



Use the shelves below to store books, toys, magazines... pretty much anything!

**Industrial storage  
coffee table, from  
£599, West Elm**

*Hidden storage plus a pop-up laptop table - genius!*



**BED IN A BUN, £595, LOAF**

If you occasionally have more guests to stay than spare beds in your home, then this footstool from Loaf could save you from bedding Auntie Mary down on the living room floor. Shown here in Thatch House fabric, it flips open to reveal a comfy fold-out single bed, complete with a soft headboard. A must for kids' rooms, ready for sleepovers.

With 150 fabrics to choose from, you can co-ordinate it easily with your sofa

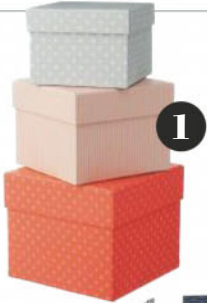
**OAK LEANING MINI DRESSING  
TABLE, £199, FUTON COMPANY**

Measuring a mini 55cm in width, this compact dressing table unit features super-useful storage and a mirror that can be height adjusted. The matching oak stool will set you back an extra £49.95.



## MODULAR STORAGE

## STORAGE FOR OPEN SHELVING



1



2



3

- 1 Small cardboard boxes, £7 for three, Hema**
- 2 Patterned magazine files, £30 for two, Papermash**
- 3 Rectangular wire basket in Pink, £24, Sisters Guild**

**Miles large tall shelving unit, £395, Habitat**

Mix and match this modular range for a style-packed wall of storage.



**MIO MODULAR FURNITURE, FROM £345, VOX RANGE, CUCKOOLAND.COM**

There's so much to like about this stylish range of modular furniture, but it's the fact that you can configure everything to your exact requirements that makes us love it all the more. Choose from a variety of frame sizes, simple box shelves, box shelves with sliding rails and coloured door fronts to make a bespoke piece for your home. What's more, there's a dining table, coffee table and desk to match.

**CHOCKABLOCK MODULAR UNITS, £345 EACH, LOAF**

Each Chockablock unit (two shown below) comes with four roomy drawers and two sturdy shelves, which you simply arrange whatever way suits you best. Double up on the units and you get heaps of storage in a relatively small space.



**OXFORD MODULAR STORAGE CUBE UNITS, FROM £129, JOHN LEWIS**

Part of the brilliant House by John Lewis range, these oak veneered units come in a variety of shades and sizes – just add shelves, coloured doors and drawers.

**STRING POCKET SHELVING IN GREEN, £110, NEST.CO.UK**

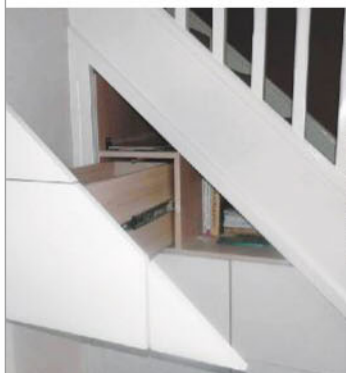
Available in a wide range of finishes, this slick shelving is adjustable, so you can place the shelves on whichever rung of the bracket ladders you wish. Upgrade to a whole wall system, priced from £1,156.



## FITTED STORAGE



**BESPOKE WARDROBES, FROM £5,000, JOHN LEWIS OF HUNGERFORD**  
Storage for *all* your shoes



**CONTIBOARD, FROM £24 FOR TWO, CONTI**  
Clever DIYer? How about understairs drawers?



**LEVIGO CONCEPT STORAGE, FROM £3,000, NEVILLE JOHNSON**

If you've recently upgraded your bulky telly to a smart flatscreen and now the unit it sits on seems a little... well... redundant, why don't you invest in something that suits a modern entertainment system? A full wall of storage will make the most of your space, including sliding doors that conceal your TV when you're not bingeing on Netflix.

### SIGNATURE WARDROBE WITH SINGLE PANEL SLIDING DOORS, FROM £786, SPACESLIDE

Half-height wardrobes use the space under the eaves in a loft conversion. Plus, sliding doors mean the floor space won't be encroached upon.



## WARDROBE FITTINGS



### THE JEWELLERY CUBBY

Ensure none of your bling ends up in a messy tangle, thanks to this clever jewellery tray.

**Harpsden Rich Praline fitted bedroom furniture, from £3,000, Hammonds**



### THE SHOE STORAGE

Modular shelving brand Elfa offers a vast array of components to help you store clothes and footwear.

**Gliding shoe shelf, £26.95; Gliding shoe rack, £31.49, both Elfa range, Store**



### THE TROUSER HANGER

Invest in fitted bedroom storage and you can enjoy clever additions like this neat rail. **Bespoke walk-in wardrobe, from £9,000, John Lewis of Hungerford**





Add a touch of drama with the Colonial Charm range



Nail mid-century style with the Elements collection



The Maison Francaise range will lend a little *je ne sais quoi...*

# WIN £1,000 TO SPEND AT DUNELM

Seven readers will transform their home with this fab competition! Will it be you?

Whether you're looking to redo a whole room or just add a few stylish twists, Dunelm has a wide range of quality homeware, from bedding, sofas, curtains, cushions, quilts and pillows to kitchenware and dining, lighting, furniture, art and rugs, as well as premium brands such as Dorma and Fogarty.

Dunelm is also one of the few retailers to offer curtain fabrics

on the roll, and produce made-to-measure curtains and furniture in a wide range of fabrics. Home delivery is available, or you can reserve online and collect in store.

This autumn, *Ideal Home* has teamed up with Dunelm to give seven lucky readers the chance to win a gift card worth a whopping £1,000 to spend in one of its 160-plus UK stores. What are you waiting for?

## HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win one of our seven £1,000 shopping sprees at Dunelm, visit [idealhome.co.uk/dunelmcompetition](http://idealhome.co.uk/dunelmcompetition), register your details and answer the simple multiple choice question.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS** Competition opens on 25 July and closes at midnight 4 September 2017. There will be seven winners. Each winner will receive a £1,000 gift card redeemable in any UK (incl. N. Ireland) Dunelm store (visit [dunelm.com](http://dunelm.com) to find your nearest store). Card and balance will expire 24 months after issue, last purchase or top up. No change or refunds will be given but any remaining balance on the card may be applied to future purchases. The card is not redeemable for cash, neither is it a credit, charge or cheque guarantee card.



# HOME TECH

## 5 BEST WOOD-BURNING STOVES

Now's the ideal time to fit a log burner – you'll find it easier to book an engineer and also have time to get used to your fiery focal point before the cold kicks in. And with DEFRA-exempt models available, even city-dwellers can enjoy a spot of country living

1

### THE RUSTIC PICK

This DEFRA-exempt cutie is made of cast iron, which means it takes longer to warm up, but it retains the heat long after the fire has gone out.

**Greenstyle Hanbury 4kW wood-burning stove, £700, Worcester Bosch**



2

### THE COLOUR HIT

If the bargain price tag, 80% efficiency rating and fact it's made here in the UK don't grab your attention, perhaps the choice of finishes will, with gold, bronze and ruby (shown) to choose from. This DEFRA-exempt stove is equally happy in town or in the country, and can burn smokeless mineral fuels as well as wood.

**Esse 1 4.9kW multi-fuel stove, from £499, Esse**



3

### THE FLEXIBLE FIT

The beauty of this chic stove – aside from its widescreen window and contemporary shape – is that it can be installed freestanding or within a chimney breast or hole in the wall. It's DEFRA-exempt and comes in black, white or grey options.

**310G 7kW wood-burning stove, £1,195, Contura**



4

### THE BREAD BAKER

After some Scandi-influenced cool to heat up your home?

Inspired by Danish design, this stove has a unique feature – an integrated baking oven up top where you can watch your loaf brown before your eyes. There's a vent to let cooking steam up the chimney and an Airwash system to make sure flames are always on show.

**Prio 7kW wood-burning cookstove, £3,659, Stovax**

5

### THE NOSTALGIC DESIGN

Double doors give this stove a grand, more traditional look that will suit a period-style scheme. Danish brand Morsø is famous for its wood burners and this is a prime example, with stay-clean glass windows and space for larger logs to save you on chopping.

**Panther 2110 Cleanheat 8kW multi-fuel stove, £1,714, Morsø**



# LIFESTYLE TECH

## 5 BEST LAPTOPS

If you're a parent trying to wrestle back control of your computer, or your uni-bound teen is looking for an affordable laptop, one of these is a necessity. And once the studying is done, these PCs are ideal for them to stream a movie or Skype you at home

1

### BIG SCREEN, LITTLE PRICE

If you know they love a good box set, go for this 14in Chromebook with a Full HD screen. It's really fast - its apps open instantly - and runs quietly, with no annoying whirring fan. As with all machines running Chrome OS, virus protection is built in.

**Chromebook 14 G4, £307, HP**



2

### READS YOUR WRITING

Using the Real Pen and Book Pad provided, students can scribble down their notes and the Yoga instantly creates a digital version. Flip it into tent mode to watch a movie, or fold the keyboard behind the screen to browse the internet one-handed. It has a microSD card slot that can expand the 64GB hard drive by up to 128GB.

**Yoga Book 10.1in (with Windows 10), £450, Lenovo**



4

### TALENT ON DISPLAY

This 12.5in Chromebook has a beautifully vivid screen that rotates a full 360° from laptop to tablet, or anywhere in between, and a 19:9 HD camera for Skyping or even creating your own vlog. It runs Chrome OS, so most work will get done in Google Docs, Slides and Sheets, and its 10-hour battery life isn't too shabby, either.

**Flip C302CA 12.5in Chromebook, £599, Asus**



3

### THE LONG-LIFE LAPTOP

With a 14.5-hour battery life, this slim ultrabook can easily handle a full day's work. Windows 10S needs you to download software from the Windows app store, but you get Office 365 free for a year.

**Surface 13.5in (with Windows 10S), from £979, Microsoft**



5

### THE FRESHER'S WEEK BARGAIN

This tough Chromebook lets you edit documents wherever you have internet access, but no hard copies are stored on the device, making it fast and secure. Write essays or create presentations using Google Docs and Slides, and watch movies through Google Play.

**3180 11.6in Chromebook, £189, Dell**



FOOD WITH FRIENDS

# *Enjoy a late-summer barbecue*

Squeeze out the last drops of summer and gather everyone together for a party. Serve up the usual classics alongside these crowd-pleasing finger foods and salads



**Home-made  
barbecue sauce &  
the best barbecue rub**

See page 152 for recipes

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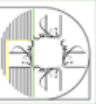
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**Hot dogs three ways**

See page 152 for recipe

**IDEAL HOME TIP**  
*Not everyone likes  
 a hot dog – make sure  
 you stock up on plenty  
 of good-quality veggie  
 sausages, too*



## ***Ranch pasta salad***

See page 152 for recipe



## ***Vegetable & potato salad***

See page 152 for recipe

**IDEAL HOME TIP**  
*Prep the ingredients  
in advance and add  
the dressings just  
before serving to  
avoid soggy salads*

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**IDEAL HOME LOVES...**  
*Fiery sauces*

**HOT STUFF**

Smoky chipotle ketchup, £2.99 for 270g, Rubies in the Rubble range, Ocado



**TASTE OF THAILAND**

Sriracha sauce, £2 for 290g, Marks & Spencer

**SWEET & SPICY**

Hot Habanero jam, £3.80 for 250g, Tracklements



**King prawns with  
Thai dipping sauce**

See page 152 for recipe





### Home-made barbecue sauce

Takes 25min Makes 600ml

**INGREDIENTS** • 2 shallots, peeled • 10 garlic cloves, peeled • 2 red chillies, trimmed • 3tbsp olive oil • 8 sprigs of fresh rosemary, leaves only • 2tbsp fennel seeds • 2tbsp smoked paprika • 3tbsp soy sauce • Zest and juice of 2 lemons • 1tbsp mustard powder • 150g soft brown sugar • 225ml tomato ketchup • 175ml orange or apple juice • Sea salt and pepper

Whizz all the ingredients in a blender until combined. Place in a saucepan, bring to the boil, then simmer for 15min. Once cool, pour into a sterilised jar and keep in the fridge for up to a month. Use as a marinade for meat.

### The best barbecue rub

Takes 2min Makes 240g

**INGREDIENTS** • 50g smoked paprika • 50g sea salt • 15g mild or hot chilli powder • 25g crushed coriander seeds • 50g freshly ground black pepper • 50g soft brown sugar

Mix all the ingredients together in a bowl, then transfer to an airtight container. Store for up to two months. This dry rub can be used on any meat – try it with ribs or chicken.



### BLT dogs

Takes 20min Serves 6

**INGREDIENTS** • 12 bacon-wrapped chipolatas • 2 baguettes, cut into thirds • ½ lettuce, shredded • 30 cherry tomatoes, quartered • Mayonnaise, to serve

Grill the chipolatas until cooked through. Put two into each piece of baguette, along with some lettuce and tomatoes. Top with mayo.

### Midwest dogs

Takes 20min Serves 6

**INGREDIENTS** • 6 sausages • 6 sub rolls, toasted • 200g sauerkraut • Caraway seeds • American-style mustard, to serve

Grill the sausages until cooked. Fill each roll with a sausage, some sauerkraut and a sprinkling of caraway seeds. Top with mustard.

### Cowboy dogs

Takes 20min Serves 6

**INGREDIENTS** • 6 sausages • 2 onions, sliced • 1tbsp sunflower oil • 6 sub rolls, toasted • 150g Monterey Jack cheese, grated • Ketchup or barbecue sauce, to serve

Grill the sausages until cooked. Fry the onions in the oil, until crispy. Fill each roll with a sausage and onions, then top with cheese and your choice of sauce.



### Vegetable & potato salad

Takes 30min Serves 6

**INGREDIENTS** • 750g new potatoes, boiled • 3tbsp sun-drenched tomatoes, oil reserved • Zest and juice 1 lemon • 1tsp sherry vinegar • 2 courgettes, sliced • 6 spring onions, halved • 2tbsp olive oil • 2tbsp chilli pepper pearls • 10g cress, snipped

Toss the boiled potatoes in 2tbsp oil from the tomatoes, the lemon zest and juice, and the vinegar. In a separate bowl, toss the courgettes and onions in the olive oil, then grill on the barbecue. Mix the potatoes with the grilled vegetables, tomatoes, pepper pearls and cress.

### Ranch pasta salad

Takes 20min Serves 6

**INGREDIENTS** • 1tbsp mayonnaise • 100ml buttermilk • 1tbsp soured cream • 1tbsp chives, chopped • 1 garlic clove, grated • 1tsp vinegar • 2 corn on the cobs • 1tsp vegetable oil • 120g cubed pancetta • 250g pasta, cooked • 3 spring onions, chopped

Mix the first six ingredients together well. Fry the corn in the oil, set aside, then fry the pancetta until it's crisp. Slice the corn off the cob and mix all the salad ingredients together with the dressing.



### King prawns with Thai dipping sauce

Takes 20min Serves 6

**INGREDIENTS** • 3 garlic cloves, finely crushed • 2tbsp fresh ginger, finely grated • 1 lemongrass stalk, outer layer removed and inner layer finely chopped • 1 red chilli, finely chopped • 1tbsp palm sugar or soft brown sugar • 2tbsp rice wine vinegar • 2tbsp soy sauce • 1tsp sesame oil • Large handful of coriander leaves, finely chopped • 24 large shell-on king prawns • 1tbsp oil • Sea salt • 1 lime, quartered, to serve

To make the dipping sauce, put the garlic, ginger, lemongrass, chilli, sugar, rice wine vinegar, soy sauce, sesame oil and coriander leaves with 2tbsp water in a small bowl, mix until well combined, then set aside. Toss the prawns in the oil and cook in a medium-hot pan or on the barbecue for 3min on each side, or until they turn pink. Serve on a tray with a sprinkle of sea salt, the lime wedges and the dipping sauce.



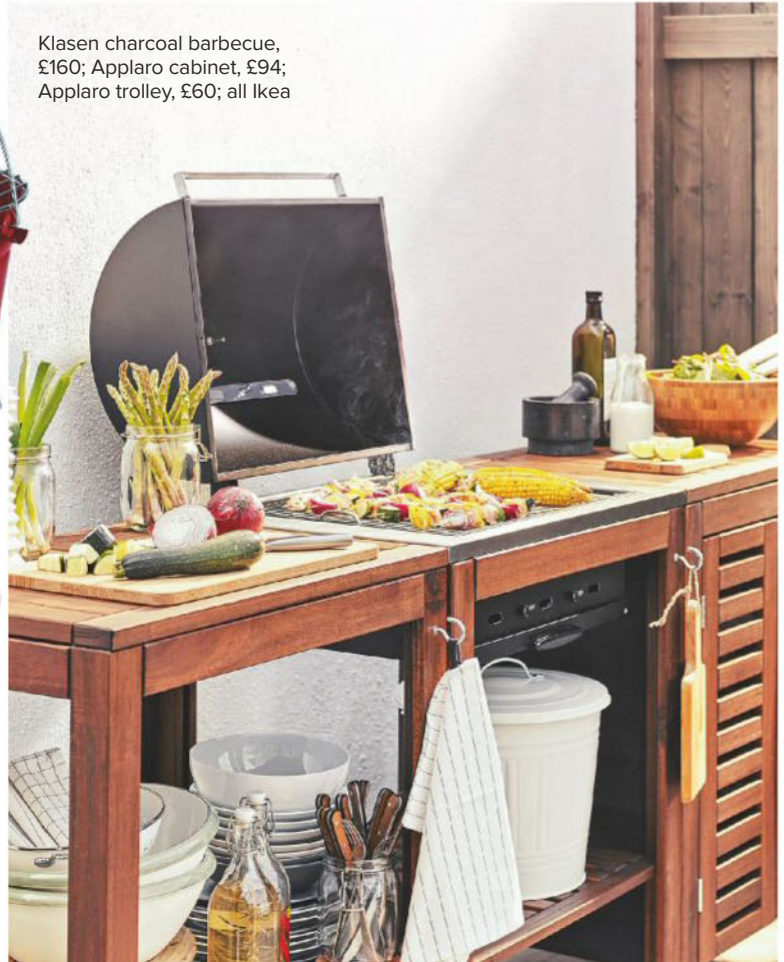
# 1 *Make it work for you*

## FOOD WITH FRIENDS: BACKYARD BARBECUE

Nothing says summer quite like a sizzling soir ee, so fire up the grill and cook a feast with our best barbie buys



Klasen charcoal barbecue, £160; Applaro cabinet, £94; Applaro trolley, £60; all Ikea



### WHERE TO BUY

#### 1. APRON

Blue check apron, £5, Wilko

#### 2. MINI BARBECUE

Jumbuck bucket, £8.49, Homebase

#### 3. SALAD BOWL

Salad bowl, £35, Marks & Spencer

#### 4. SAUCE BOTTLE

Squeezy sauce bottle, £3.99, Lakeland

#### 5. TONGS

Tongs, £6.99, HomeSense

#### 6. DRINKS DISPENSER

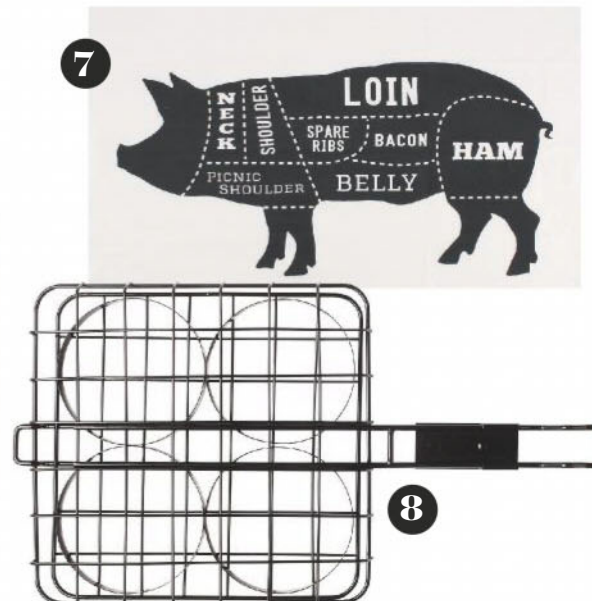
Glass drinks dispenser, 4ltr, £10, Hobbycraft

#### 7. TEA TOWEL

Tea towel, £4.99, The Oak Room

#### 8. GRILL

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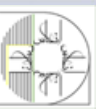
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