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- ◆ SET A SPARKLING TABLE
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Unveiling new
designs daily

SWOON

Furniture for the home obsessed



Left to right: Kasper coffee table £329, Sutton sofa from £1,199, Camilia cushion £35



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Welcome

It feels like I start thinking about Christmas as soon as the littlest Richmonds go back to school at the end of summer. But then the next thing I know, it's suddenly November and I haven't bought a single gift or even written a single 'to do/buy' list!

Getting the basics done is an organisational feat, given everything else that's going on – carol concerts, work parties and catching up with friends – so adding magical touches that make Christmas special can be a stretch for a tired mum, auntie or gran.

That's where this issue comes in! From personalised tins of Quality Street and Christmas Eve boxes, to Advent calendars for the dog, vegan cheeseboards and spangly stockings, there's something to surprise and delight everyone you love...



PHOTOGRAPH JO HENDERSON
STYLING CAROL WORTLEY-BISHOP

Gift wrap, from a selection at Next, Bread & Jam, John Lewis and Notonthehighstreet.com. Ribbon, from £4.50, Jane Means. Gift tags, from £2.50 a pack, Next. Use the **Ownable** app to buy now.



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IN DECEMBER

You deserve... a fragrant home

Nothing creates a mood like a deliciously scented candle, so dig out the Christmas decorations, pour a glass of wine, light something lovely and let's get this festive season started!



FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

WHERE TO BUY: Clockwise, Fir tree pot pourri, £16; fir tree fragrance oil, £8; fir tree large silver candle, £60; fir tree large botanical candle, £40; fir tree medium botanical candle, £26; fir tree votive, £14; fir tree tealights, set of 12, £15, all The White Company. Buy now with **Ownable** 



SNOWY TOUCH

Moonstone snowball and pearl wreath, £30, John Lewis
Buy now with **Ownable**



PRETTY PATINA

Square Versailles mirror, £75, Oka
Buy now with **Ownable**



CASCADING DESIGN

Shea Lamp, £820, Sweetpea & Willow
Buy now with **Ownable**



FROSTED FERNS

Cushion, £40, Ashley Wilde
Buy now with **Ownable**

SUBTLE SHIMMER

Winter's Mist large star candle, £12, Sainsbury's Home
Buy now with **Ownable**



TREE JEWELS

Glass baubles, £20 for eight, QVCUK.com
Buy now with **Ownable**

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



FEMININE FLAIR

Slim angel wings, £235, Cox & Cox
Buy now with **Ownable**



Shop now with the Ownable app

LAYER PEARLY WHITE

Side table, £199; baubles from a selection, Moonstone range, all John Lewis
Buy now with **Ownable**



STAR CHOICE

Winter's Mist small star candle holder, £5, Sainsbury's Home
Buy now with **Ownable**



SUPER SNUGLER

Super-chunky knit throw, £150, Cox & Cox
Buy now with **Ownable**



SILVER SERVICE

Pebble side table, £65, JD Williams
Buy now with **Ownable**

SPRINKLE SOME MAGIC

Tree, £75; throw, from £69; candle holders, from £7.50; Bright Ombre glass baubles, £19.50 for 20; silver shatterproof baubles, £4 for 16; silver and white Indian glass baubles, £15 for four; green glass baubles, £19.50 for 20, all Marks & Spencer Buy now with **Ownable**



FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

GORGEOUS GIFTING

Faux fur stocking, £8, Tesco Buy now with **Ownable**



MANTEL SPARKLER

Winter white garland, £19.99, Very Buy now with **Ownable**

ARTFULLY ANTIQUED

Serenity table lamp, £120, The French Bedroom Company Buy now with **Ownable**



BLOWSY STEMS

Antique cream giant hydrangea stem, £10, Gisela Graham Buy now with **Ownable**



LUSH TOUCH

Stone velvet cushion, £5, Primark Buy now with **Ownable**

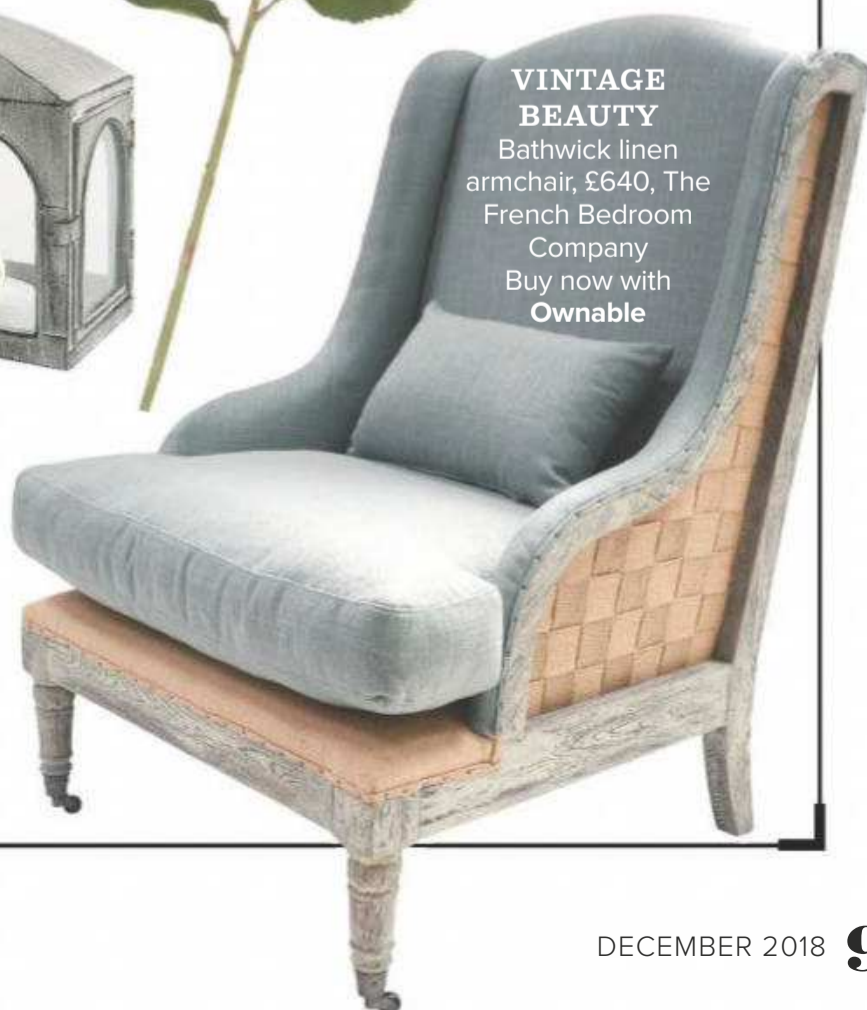


TOP THE TABLE

Rustic lantern, £25, Wyevale Garden Centres Buy now with **Ownable**

VINTAGE BEAUTY

Bathwick linen armchair, £640, The French Bedroom Company Buy now with **Ownable**



MAKE IT SHINE

Moroccan faux leather pouffe, £126, Bohemia Buy now with **Ownable**



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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...

WHAT'S NEW



WE KEEP SEEING...

Buy now with Ownable

GIFTABLE BAUBLES

Move over, chocolate Santa! These tree treats are for grown-ups

FESTIVE TIPPLE

London Dry Gin, £25 for six, Sipsmith range, Debenhams



MINI MUG

Gold Alphabet mug decoration, £16.95, Emma Bridgewater



DECKED IN FRAGRANCE

Winter hanging votive, £12, The White Company



PAMPER TRINKET

Pink Rocker gift set, £15, Crabtree & Evelyn



Pick 'n' mix your favourites!

If this festive tin of Quality Street is anything to go by, one person's Orange Crème is another's Green Triangle. So this year, Quality Street has teamed up with John Lewis to create pick and mix stations, so you can fill a tin with all the ones you love and none of the ones you hate. At selected stores for £12 each.



IT'S A THING!

Christmas Eve boxes

They're everywhere this year – another thing to add to the list or a new tradition? We think it's a fun way to package up those night-before-Christmas rituals. Fill with Santa's mince pies, games for the little ones, and some merry PJs. Head to Poundland for a box, Marks & Spencer for a pre-filled one, £15, or Notonthehighstreet.com for a North Pole personalised box (above), £42.50.



MARY BERRY'S AT LAKELAND

IDEAL HOME loves

Star baker and former *Ideal Home* food editor Mary Berry knows her way around a kitchen. So when it came to creating her range with Lakeland, every detail was approved for practicality. We love the stackable pie dish, £8.99, and the star and stripe oven glove, £21.99. Essentials for a Great British Bake Off.





Brilliant OR bonkers?

ELF ME SOCKS, £19.99, PREZZYBOX.COM

Because why wouldn't your family want your face plastered all over their socks?! Gift a personalised pair to faraway friends and relatives who would love to see your face on Christmas day.



Shop local

Have you checked out Trouva yet? It's an online hub for unique, independent shops around the country that you might stumble across during a weekend break. First launched to give small businesses a digital presence, it's like stepping into a virtual boutique where the sellers have carefully curated homeware and gifts, some of which are by local artisans. The latest European city to join is Berlin, offering cutting-edge buys for your design-loving friends.

Meylor Pears print, £20, A Weathered Penny, Trouva



Glass Fish carafe, £24, A New Tribe, Trouva

Bloomingville measuring spoons, £11, Darling & Gold, Trouva



IDEAL

GREAT DEAL

CHOOSE A CHRISTMAS TREE WITH A TWIST



A STAR IS BORN
Lit birch Christmas tree, £24.99, Dobbies
Buy now with **Ownable**



RUSTIC TOUCH
Country Christmas decorative tree ladder, £12, Wilko
Buy now with **Ownable**

FILL YOUR OWN FESTIVE HAMPER

We're all for Wilko's hamper hack: thoughtful, bespoke and can be sorted in one trolley dash. Add a creative flourish by choosing from felt and wicker baskets and boxes, wrapping, gift tags, ribbons and bows. Then browse the store to fill with gifts for the foodie fanatic, avid gardener and beauty-lover in your life. Hampers, gift tags, wrap and ribbons cost from £1 each. If you don't want to make your own, here are two you can buy ready made.

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING



Merrymaker's hamper, £60, Fortnum & Mason

Winter Wonderland hamper, £130, Biscuiteers

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Feather wreath in Cream/Brown,
£65, A by Amara at Amara
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STAR BUY
Lit rustic star wreath,
£25, Marks & Spencer
Buy now with **Ownable**



GOLDEN GLAMOUR
St Ives sparkle wreath, £45,
The White Company
Buy now with **Ownable**



HALF FULL
Willow and berry
wreath, £31, QVC UK
Buy now with **Ownable**

THE SHORTLIST

8

*Statement
wreaths*

**FOR A FESTIVE
FLOURISH**



PRECIOUS KEEPSAKE
Winter hedgerow copper and brass
wreath, £245, The Shop Floor Project
Buy now with **Ownable**



HAVE A BALL
Bauble wreath,
£5, Poundland
Buy now with **Ownable**



ROUGH LUXE
Faux antler wreath,
£35, Cox & Cox
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOREST FRESH
Emerald pine cone wreath,
£30, John Lewis
Buy now with **Ownable**



FEATURE HOLLY WALSH



Real tree, from £29.99; basket, £44.99; stag cushion, £14.99; bunting, £8.99; baubles, from £2.99 each, all Dobbies



THE NEW WAY TO DO...

Rustic traditional

With hints of green as well as rustic textures, frosted finishes and forest characters, this natural look has a down-to-earth feel and isn't too showy



COLOUR PALETTE

1 Pinecone wreath, £20, Debenhams 2 Wooden carnival star, £17, Cox & Cox 3 Hessian style tree decorations, £9.99 for 6, Very 4 Large decorative wooden sledge, £45, Marquis & Dawe 5 Berry centrepiece, £22, Sainsbury's Home 6 Noel glass bauble, £2.50, Morrisons 7 Snowy cashmere artificial tree, from £79, Dobbies 8 Pinecone luxury crackers, £35 for six, Nancy & Betty 9 Stag stocking, £6, Wilko 10 Whistler forest bottle fairy lights, £14.99, Lights4Fun. Buy now with **Ownable**

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH



7ft flocked pre-lit pine tree, £85; baubles, from 75p each; gold glitter stocking, £5; gift bags, from 65p each, Ice Palace range, George Home

1



2

10



9



THE NEW WAY TO DO...

Vintage sparkle

This year sees pastel pink paired with warm copper and gold rather than icy silver as well as regal swans and prancing stags to bring this elegant look to life

3



8



4



7



5



6



COLOUR PALETTE

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

1 Amber glitter floral bauble, £5, John Lewis 2 Velvet reindeer, £23 for two, QVCUK 3 Gold glittered rosehip wreath, £33, Amara 4 Hanging swan decoration, £4, Sainsbury's Home 5 Opaque pink and gold bauble, £4.50, The Contemporary Home 6 Copper cracker, £10 for six, Debenhams 7 Christmas bell twinkles, £1, Poundland 8 Artificial 7ft white regal tree, £79.99, Very 9 Natural and copper hide stocking, £40, Amara 10 Blush glass Dominia tree decoration, £7, Laura Ashley. Buy now with **Ownable**



1



2



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Wooden Scandi tree, £175; cotton wreath, £35; marble wrapping paper, £12.50; decorations, from £12.50, Cox & Cox.

THE NEW WAY TO DO...

Scandi modern

With a nod to industrial style, this Nordic look embraces minimalism, a monochrome palette and silhouette shapes, to create an understated festive feel

COLOUR PALETTE

1 Copper stars glass bauble, £4, Marks & Spencer 2 Black star tea light holder, £20, Debenhams 3 Aged zinc star wreath, £24.50, Petersham Nurseries 4 Faux eucalyptus arrangement, £16, Sainsbury's Home 5 Wooden tree decoration, £2, B&Q 6 Luxury monochrome crackers, £40 for 6, Katie Leamon at White Black Grey 7 Letter board, £25, Cox & Cox 8 7ft lit frosted noble spruce tree, £170, Marks & Spencer 9 Fastnet stripe stocking, £49.50, Tori Murphy 10 Wooden tree-shape lights, £5, George Home. Buy now with **Owable**

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH



1



Frosted Finley pine tree, £100; vases, from £18 each, Julien Macdonald range; tree decorations, from £5, all Debenhams



10

9



2

3

THE NEW WAY TO DO...

Boho glamour

This decadent, luxe look introduces berry reds and pinks to midnight blues, deep teals and gold and copper touches, for a sumptuous, sophisticated finish



8



7



4



5



6



COLOUR PALETTE

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

1 Peacock feather wreath, £12.99, HomeSense 2 Peacock feather bauble, £3.50; Purple onion decoration, £4, both Waitrose & Partners 3 Gold star lights, £6, Dobbies 4 Hammered copper cocktail shaker, £15, Marks & Spencer 5 Ruby stripe finial bauble, £8, John Lewis & Partners 6 Luxury crackers, £20 for six, Sara Miller 7 Albert 6ft Christmas tree, £195, Neptune 8 Turquoise velvet poinsettia pick, £3.60, Gisela Graham 9 Glass bead jewel bauble, £14.95, Liberty London 10 Magenta trim bejewelled stocking, £25, Amara. Buy now with **Owable**



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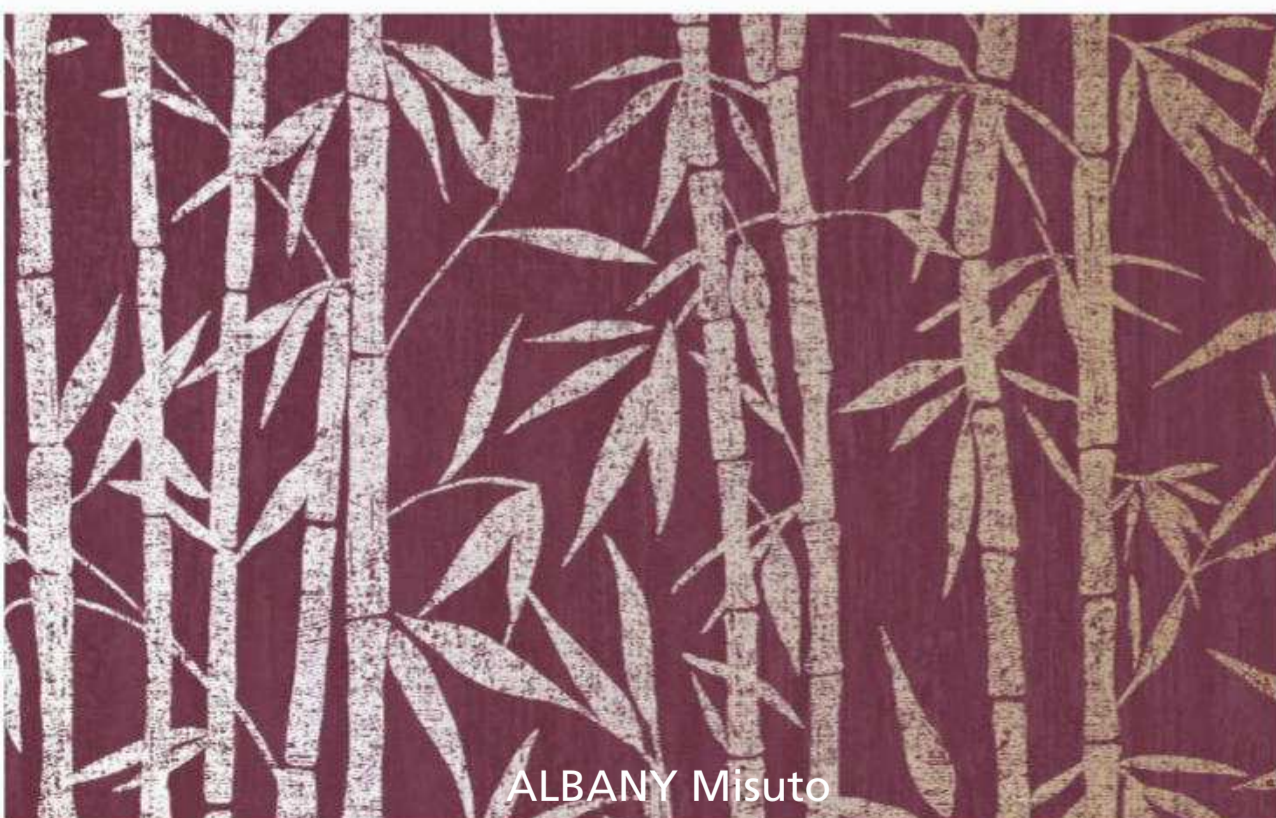
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Drinks By The Dram gin advent calendar, £124.95, Laithwaite's Wine
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOR THE CRAFTERS

Add to a needlepoint project every day. Rico craft kit advent calendar, £33.50, John Lewis
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOR THE HOMEBODIES

Show off fancy footwear. 12 Days of Socks advent calendar, £18, Marks & Spencer
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOR MUSIC LOVERS

For festive tunes, scan for the Spotify playlist. Personalised playlist advent calendar, £18, Notonthehighstreet.com
Buy now with **Ownable**

THE SHORTLIST

8

Advent calendars
WITH A DIFFERENCE



FOR THE TEA DRINKERS

Sample a unique seasonal blend each day. House of Newby advent calendar, £55, Newby
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOR THE CHOCOHOLICS

Just pop a door every day, and two baby truffles await! Advent For Two, £74, Hotel Chocolat
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOR THE ART COLLECTORS

Create a gallery wall of botanical beauties or motivational mantras. Advent calendar, £49.90, Junique
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOR THE PAMPERED PETS

Organic treats for beloved furry friends. Advent calendar for dogs and cats, £10 each, Lily's Kitchen range, Pets At Home
Buy now with **Ownable**

FEATURE MICHELA COLLING

New wonders can come out of the blue

NEW SARALENA
cushion

£10

NEW STRANDMON
wing chair,
järstad brown

£250





NEW HAVSTA
storage
combination
£535

THE WONDERFUL EVERYDAY





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Build an all-seasons shelter

'We make good use of our garden cottage with its outdoor kitchen. Even in winter, the porch is sheltered enough for us to have cups of coffee or hot chocolate out there.'

'Living closer to nature has made our lives better'

Sylvia Wink and Aldwin de Graaf divide their time between their furniture warehouse in town and their renovated, yet rustic home with forests and lakes on its doorstep

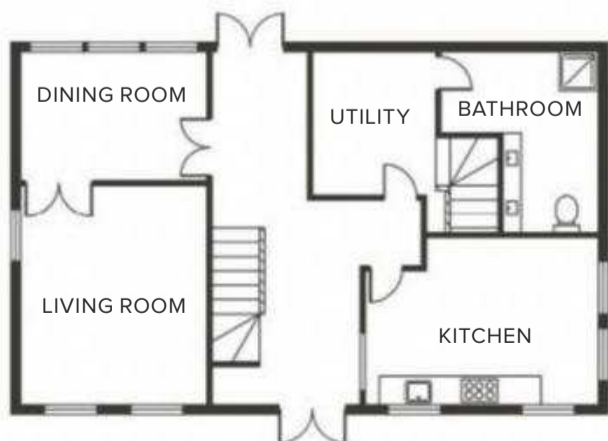
Welcome to my home



Take a quick tour...



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR



Sylvia Wink lives here with her husband, Aldwin de Graaf, and their daughters, Bo, 13, and Lynn, 10. The couple own Old BASICS, a vintage and brocante furniture business.

THE PROPERTY

A three-bed period house in Harderwijk, in the Netherlands.

“Nature is all around us here. I love sitting outside and smelling the pines. Even when you’re hiding from the cold inside, you can spot woodland birds and animals through the large windows”

When Sylvia and Aldwin first viewed the property back in 2013 the interior felt dark and uninspiring, but it was big, had a quirky charm and, crucially, was in a beautiful location. ‘We’d been living in a new-build in town, which was great,’ says Sylvia, ‘but it didn’t have the character or rural location we wanted.’

‘When we saw this old place, right next to a forest and near my parents’ home, we jumped at the opportunity. We were so lucky to get it.’ The property consists of two buildings – one an old brick-built house dating back to the early 1900s and the other an exact duplicate of it that was added in 2000 by the previous owners. A modern glass hallway connects the two.

While the exterior is striking, Sylvia and Aldwin felt that the interior needed a rethink. ‘It was divided into small rooms with tiny windows, so they felt dark and claustrophobic. The plan was to leave the shell intact but create better use of space inside by taking down some of the walls and replacing the windows with floor-to-ceiling alternatives to let more light in.’

The project was tackled one room at a time, so the family could live in the house as it progressed. Two rooms on the right side of the house were converted into one large, open-plan kitchen-diner, while the original kitchen on the left side was opened up to make a spacious living room. Upstairs, the couple fitted dormer windows to fill the bedrooms with light.

‘We now use all the space in the house,’ says Sylvia. ‘The kitchen gets the morning sun, then we hang out in the living room to enjoy the view in the afternoon. And on cosy evenings we huddle up around the fire in the TV room and just spend time together as a family.’

Highlight original features

Sylvia has turned this lovely window between the hall and kitchen-diner into a stunning feature by adding accessories and positioning a few little trunks beneath it.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Find similar storage trunks, from £125, Scaramanga

MINI TREE
Give even the tightest space a festive touch



Stick to a natural colour palette

'I've kept to the same simple scheme of natural materials and basic colours throughout,' says Sylvia. 'At Christmas, I add fresh green foliage from the forest and touches of gold and silver to give the rooms more of a festive feel.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Bluebell two-seater sofa in Canvas, £1,730, Sofa.com, is similar

TRAY DISPLAY

Load it up with tealights and decs, then easily lift it off when you need extra space



Picture ledges give Sylvia the chance to create and change displays



RANGE CHIMNEY
Conceals a modern extractor to keep the look traditional



DIAGONAL PLANKS
Make a room feel more spacious

Create contrasts

'I love the contrast between our sturdy, old wooden dining table and the chandelier that hangs above it.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar dining table, try Montmorency, £1,099, Maisons du Monde. Shamley 12-light chandelier, £525, Laura Ashley, is of the same style

Give rustic style an industrial edge

Sylvia designed the kitchen herself and had the cabinet doors custom-made. 'We've combined country-style painted cupboards with thick, black slab worktops for a modern, industrial element.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Britannia RC-10TG-QL-Line dual fuel range cooker in Black, £2,499, John Lewis. Try the Bodbyn kitchen, Ikea, for similar units



Go bespoke for game-changing storage

Sylvia had the glazed metal cabinet made to fit along the dining-room wall, with enough space to store all her tableware.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Solid pine display cabinet in White by Wood, £475, Cuckooland, is similar. Portobello painted dining chairs, £75 each, The Cotswold Company, are comparable

Pick Christmas decs in a single colour

Multicolour decorations would look garish in Sylvia's low-key, natural colour scheme, so she sticks to simple white baubles. 'We use all the rooms downstairs, so I put a tree in each of them at Christmas.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar star, try the Amish metal barn star, £35, Notonthehighstreet.com



'We love the look of worn old things'



Prioritise the light

The dining room can be gloomy in spite of the full-height windows, but by sticking to all-white walls, furniture and accessories, Sylvia and Aldwin have maximised the brightness, making the room feel spacious.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Ingatorp extendable table, £260, Ikea, is a match. For a similar black pendant, try Nordlux, £35.99, Wayfair

IDEAL HOME *loves*

Supersize pendants

Go big or go home! Large pendants add drama and throw the spotlight onto the dining table

MISMATCHED CHAIRS

All painted white, the different styles work well together

Connect living spaces

'We took down the wall between the sitting and TV rooms, and fitted these reclaimed doors. They're handy to close when we have visitors and the kids want to watch TV.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Halo leather Chesterfield, £1,999, John Lewis, is similar. Hide rug, £289, City Cows, is a match

“I love to hang out here, drinking coffee and enjoying the views of the garden and countryside beyond”





The space under the stairs was closed off with an antique shutter, to make a cupboard



Love
SYLVIA'S
WINDOWS?
Turn to page 37
to shop the look



Add a unique piece

The bespoke locker unit with its individual cubbyholes does double-duty as a space to store and display in the hallway. 'I leave the stars out all year round!' says Sylvia.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Custom-made locker; metal letters; and star, all Old BASICS. Find a similar locker cabinet, £395, Idyll Home

Let period features steal the show

'The large fireplace in the TV room is lovely on cold winter days,' says Sylvia. 'The room's muted colour scheme lets the stunning stone surround stand out.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Similar metal wire log baskets, £19.99 each, H&M Home



Get creative for kids

'Lynn loves drawing, so we painted a chalkboard wall she can doodle on.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar child's bed, try the Willow, £575, Lucy Willow

Go high in a bathroom

'We wanted to make the most of the space in the bathroom without filling it, so I designed this tall cabinet.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Anna display cabinet in White by Wood, £425, Cuckooland, is similar



Combine your favourite styles

Sylvia's subtle colour palette leaves her free to mix looks. 'I like to combine vintage and salvaged industrial pieces with classic and modern finds.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Find similar blankets, from £49.99, H&M Home. Trunks, £79 for two, Made.com are a match

VINTAGE TRUNK
Compact, stackable storage



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Once a room is decorated, I don't change it again. I choose large pieces of furniture that will work in more than one room and move them about when I want a change, and refresh accessories each season”



DON'T MISS THE DETAILS...

Clockwise from top left: An open cubbyhole is an opportunity for display in the **hallway**; a battered shop cabinet adds character to the **main bedroom** - 'I like its worn, weathered look and missing handles,' says Sylvia; a recess in the **kitchen** makes for a place to display rustic boards and quirky plates; in the **living room**, a cupboard stores family clutter in style.



FEATURE LISELOTTE FLU/INSIDE HIMEPAGE, LISA FAZZANI, VANESSA RICHMOND PHOTOGRAPHS LOUIS LEMAIRE/INSIDE HOMEPAGE STYLING MARLIES DOES, SYLVIA WINK PLANS AGENCY SERVICE



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Make it work for you

SYLVIA'S CHOICE: PICTURE WINDOWS

Fancy following Sylvia's lead by replacing small windows with big picture versions? Our guide will help you see the light...

Designed to frame a view and let in lots more light, picture windows have large fixed panes with low-profile frames for an unobstructed vista. As they don't open, it's common to add smaller, opening windows to one or both sides.

Q How can small windows be replaced with bigger ones?
First the brickwork above the lintel will be propped up to the width of the new opening. The smaller window and its lintel will be taken out and the hole made bigger by knocking bricks out one by one. Next, a new lintel and ledge will be installed – there are different ledge requirements, depending whether you have solid walls or cavity. Once the cement has set, the wall will be bricked back up above the lintel, and the new window will be installed.

Q Is it messy?
The internal plasterwork may need repairing and the walls repainting after completion. Also, you'll have open holes for a few days so try to have the work done during the summer.

Q Can I fit them myself?
Yes, but both the windows and the installation must comply with building regulations so you'll need to pay a building control officer to

check compliance before a certificate can be issued. The easiest solution is to have them fitted by a FENSA-certified company that can supply certificates proving that both the windows and installation are fully compliant.

Q How big can I go?
The bigger the single pane of glass, the heavier and more expensive it will be. The largest unit of toughened glass that can be cut in the UK is H6xW3m. You can buy larger from the continent but the costs are eye-watering.

Q What are the frame options?
The most affordable option is still uPVC, but the frames tend to be fairly thick. Timber is a classic choice: go for hardwood or engineered timber if your budget allows it. If you choose to go for softwood, check for a decent guarantee. Aluminium offers the slimmest profile, which equals virtually uninterrupted views. You can also buy frameless structural glass, which has no visible frame at all.

“Beware sub-contractors – they're encouraged to get as much installed as possible, which can affect quality”

SAM KAY, MD, LEEDS WINDOW CENTRE



Floor-to-ceiling picture windows flood a room with light

BEST FOR...

FRAMELESS GLASS

IQ Glass is the place to go for frameless picture windows with absolutely no frames or fixings on show.

OUTSIZED BLINDS

Luxaflex supplies all manner of blinds for bigger windows, including bespoke sizes.

COMPARING QUOTES

Getawindow.co.uk promises to save you 40 per cent by comparing up to four quotes from local window installers.

IDEAL HOME LOVES... STYLISH WINDOW HARDWARE



FROM THE FORGE
Trad antique effect black makes a strong statement.
Black window accessories, £7.02, B&Q



SOFT MODERN
Minimalist curves are ergonomically pleasing.
Casement fastener, £10, Handsome Handles



DESIGNER STYLE
Striking textured handle gives great grip.
Rope tube Amalfine, from £75.60, Turnstyle Designs



BRASS BEAUTY
Great value with a 10 year guarantee.
Carlisle brass roller arm stay, £11.99, Screwfix

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON

The Ideal Home Guide to
TIMELESS STYLE

Simple country

GIVE THIS CLASSIC, COMFORTABLE LOOK A MODERN SCANDI TWIST WITH NEW FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES FROM THE IDEAL HOME COLLECTION AT VERY.CO.UK



“You’ll never regret buying a clean-lined grey sofa like this – the colour and style can sit in any room scheme”

VANESSA RICHMOND, EDITOR

WHERE TO BUY Camden three-seater sofa, £649; Zinc accent armchair, £349; round coffee table, £79; folding side table, £39; Betsy folding tray table, £29; Monty oak retro large sideboard, £149; jute weave rug, from £99.99; Ashley floor lamp, £99.99, all Ideal Home range, Very. **ON SOFA** Knitted cable cushion, £14.99; Mull cushion, £14.99; Henley soft check throw, £19.99, all Ideal Home range, Very. **ON SIDEBOARD** Country storage cubes, £24.99 for two; ombre glaze ceramic table lamp, £39.99, both Ideal Home range, Very. **ON WALL** *Metallic Meadow* on wood wall art, £54.99, Graham & Brown at Very. **ON SIDEBOARD** *Spring Blossom* framed wall art, £99.99, Very. **ON FOLDING SIDE TABLE** Black photo frame, £7.99, Very. **ON FLOOR** Split willow storage baskets, £39.99 for two, Very. Buy now with **Ownable**

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so useful!




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Make a statement armchair in a low-key country check your new favourite spot. Zinc accent armchair, £349; Mull cushion,

£14.99; matt white vase, £19.99 for two; fisherman ceiling pendant, £34.99; Teddy side table, £29, all Ideal Home range, Very. Buy now with **Ownable**

IDEAL HOME LOVES...
Simple country buys at Very.co.uk



LIGHT UP

Pendant, £59.99, Ideal Home range, Very Buy now with **Ownable**



WALK ON

Rug, £59.99, Ideal Home range, Very Buy now with **Ownable**



TWO-IN-ONE

Baskets, £29.99 for two, Ideal Home range, Very Buy now with **Ownable**

FOREST FERN

Fern cushion, £16.99, Ideal Home range, Very Buy now with **Ownable**



PHOTOGRAPHS DOMINIC BLACKMORE
STYLING SARITA SHARMA

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'Christmas traditions make anywhere home'



'Queen of Christmas' Gisela Graham produces around 2,400 decorations every year – but she still loves the festive season

Gisela is the businesswoman behind the decorations you find in department stores and independent boutiques. Originally from Bremen, Germany, she started her company in 1983 as a stay-at-home mum. Her two sons are now grown up and she lives in Fulham, London with her husband Richard and cats, Sissi and Ludwig.

By the time Christmas comes around, I just want to relax! October to December is my busiest time, because we plan, design and create our decoration ranges for the following Christmas. People often ask me how much I'm still involved. The answer is: a lot! I look after the Christmas and Easter ranges every year, but have learned to delegate and I have wonderfully talented teams to look after other areas of the business now. I couldn't imagine not doing it – it's my life.

I cherry-pick my favourite decorations before we go to spend the holiday with our son, who lives in Boston. He wraps each one up and gives them away to family, friends and neighbours. It's one of our little traditions!

I love traditions. They're what make Christmas so familiar and



FESTIVE & FROSTY
White berry and cone wreath (suspended horizontally), £30; assorted baubles, from £2.50 each, all Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



ALL IN THE DETAIL
Musical wooden house glass dome, £54, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT
'Iced' gingerbread stars and snowflakes, £6 each, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



Fabric heart decorations, £5.25 each, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**

SEASON'S SCENTS

Cinnamon & Apple, Clove Spice, Orange & Thyme scented candles, £5.25 each, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



BEDSIDE BUDDY

Gold foiled feather glass water carafe with glass, £15, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



FINISHING TOUCHES

Metallic wood star, £4.20; butterfly mini decorative glass plate, £4.50; feather decorative glass plate, £7.50, all Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



WRAP IT UP

Taupe woven stab stitch cotton throw, £21, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



make you feel like you're home, wherever you are in the world. We mix traditions from Germany, the UK and the US, with the celebrations starting at 11pm on Christmas Eve. After church and carols, we come home to eat and the house is alive with people into the early hours of Christmas Day. The German custom is for adults to exchange presents on Christmas Eve, with small presents for children. The children get their stockings on Christmas morning and I make a late breakfast of buttermilk pancakes with crispy bacon.

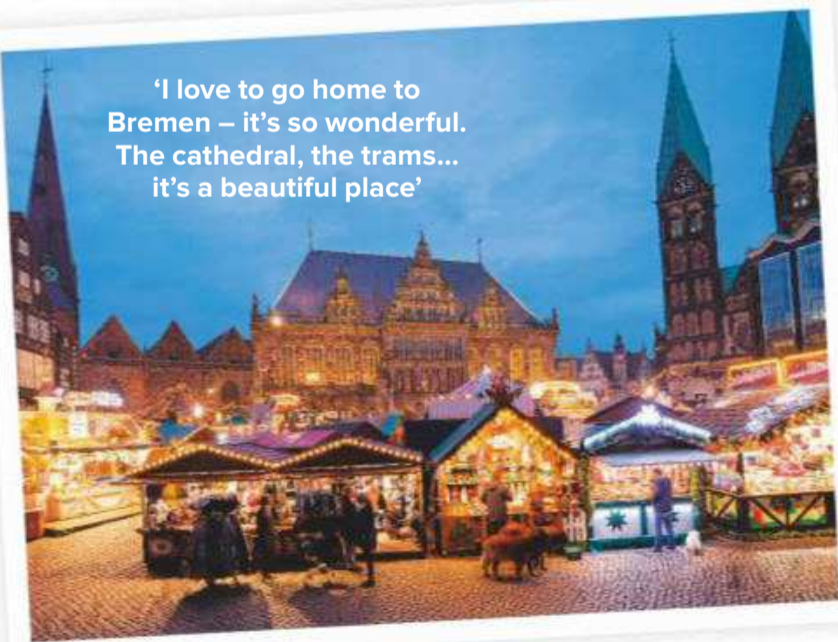
All my decorations are old. I've collected them over the years, and grew up with some of them. I always have an Advent wreath, or Adventskranz – a wreath with four candles in the middle. Each one represents a week of Advent and you light a new candle every week. Even though we don't spend Christmas at home in London, I still decorate the house.

We've been in this house for more than 20 years. It was in a terrible state when we moved in – we did a lot to it and it took over five years to complete. It's put me off redecorating or renovating for life!

Our home is very classic looking: calm and neutral – but not bland. I don't like very contemporary spaces. I think they're quite soulless. They're very difficult to furnish, too, as you have to have unbelievably good taste and you can't have too many bits out on show.

Our cloakroom is the only British-looking room, as it has wallpaper. My style isn't very British, overall. I'm not keen on things like headboards on beds or button-back sofas.

I love a gallery wall. I think it's the most effective way to decorate a home. Pictures, photographs, paintings... whatever you prefer. It's just so personal and unique. My walls are covered with them!



'I love to go home to Bremen – it's so wonderful. The cathedral, the trams... it's a beautiful place'



THE BIG COUNTDOWN

Natural wood tree LED Nativity ornament, £30, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable**



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Where possible, try big home purchases before you buy! I put the wrong carpet on our stairs twice. It looked fine in the shop but the light at home changed the colour completely – it looked horrible”



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RADIATOR COVER
Adds a useful shelf and prettifies a room

Plan your palette

‘The walls were originally yellow and purple, so I wanted them gone – quickly. I found it hard to choose new colours for the whole house in one go, so I followed the Farrow & Ball paint chart to be sure which shades would work together.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Blackened estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Patrick sofa, £1,300; Patrick loveseat, £1,050; Valentin footstool, £260, all Sofa.com

‘Our smartest move was painting all the walls neutral’

The McMurtrys used a clever spectrum of soft colours for a calm-feeling home that subtly changes mood as you move from room to room

Love
HELEN'S
STYLE?

Turn to page 53
to shop the look



Welcome to my home



Helen McMurtry lives here with her husband, Gavin, and their baby daughter, Delilah. Helen works for Pure Gym and Gavin is a director at Aldi.

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom detached house in Leeds, which was built in 1921.

THE VALUE Similar properties in the area cost from £625,000.

“Moving here from a two-bed flat was a big adjustment. There were so many rooms to do up”

Take a quick tour...



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

When Helen and Gavin McMurtry bought their home, it was a race against time to get it ready for Christmas. ‘We wanted to host a big family get-together so we needed to have it ready in a few months,’ says Helen. ‘We loved that the property had period features but it was painted in bright colours, so when we moved in, first on my to-do list was to paint it in neutral shades like grey and white for a more timeless look.’

Helen knew just how she wanted her home to feel. ‘Our aim was to create a cosy family home that we could grow into,’ she says. ‘Making decorating choices at speed really made us focus our ideas.’

The couple moved in with next-to-nothing. ‘We used to rent a furnished flat so we needed sofas, beds and a dining table,’ says Helen. She frantically started shopping online, looking for stores with short lead times. ‘For weeks, we sat on cushions on the living room floor while we waited for our sofas to arrive.’

The couple also renovated the bathroom, removing an oversized sink to make space for a walk-in shower, restoring the roll-top bath and painting the walls grey. In the living room, they painted the pine fixings white to blend in and laid new carpet in the hallway.

It didn’t take long for the house to feel Christmassy. ‘We put a wreath on each door and put a tree in the kitchen and living room,’ says Helen. To keep things simple, Helen decorated with lots of fresh foliage from a local florist. ‘After Christmas dinner, we relaxed with the family in front of the fire and opened our presents. It was lovely,’ she says. With baby Delilah’s arrival, the house will be even busier this year but Helen isn’t phased. ‘We just love family gatherings,’ she says.



Add cosy notes

Natural oak flooring, logs and a rustic wicker hamper warm up the cool grey walls of the living room. 'It's a super-cosy space, where we spend a lot of our time as a family and we light the fire most evenings during the winter,' says Helen.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Log holder, £75, Cox & Cox.

Antique rug, from £100, Benuta

“All the walls have been painted soft grey, cream, white or blue, as they make the house feel calm and relaxed”

WHITE SURROUND

If the wood tone doesn't work for you, paint it like Helen did

IDEAL HOME
loves

Painted wood units
Not as light-reflecting as
gloss finishes, but cost-
efficient, as they can
be repainted over
the years



“I prefer neutral shades as they create the perfect blank canvas to let accessories and keepsakes really stand out”

Mix up an inviting, monochrome look

White walls and black accents create a sharp, sophisticated look in the kitchen, but this is softened by the gentle cream shade of the Shaker units and some homely accessories.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Units, price on application, Jeremy Wood Designed Interiors

DIY DEC
A foraged branch, foliage and pink ribbon is all it takes



Invest in classics

'My best buy was the dining table and chairs. It fits eight people comfortably, which is great when the family comes over at Christmas.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Dorset dining table, £1,100; chairs, £475 for two, both Laura Ashley. Tree decorations, from £5 each, Ikea and Wild Flowers. Real foliage, from £10, Wild Flowers. Faux foliage, from £6, Ikea

Give a warm welcome

The hall was originally a garish yellow but Helen repainted it in a soft stone shade, put down a cosy carpet and created a smart gallery wall that leads the eye up to the first floor. She used only black frames to give the gallery a unified feel.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Just Walnut matt emulsion, £18.99 for 2.5L, Dulux. For a similar sideboard, try the Sussex, £249, The Cotswold Company



A mix of real and faux foliage decorations pop against Helen's neutral scheme



Have an accent hue

Touches of blush pink lift the bedroom's pale palette. 'I added a pastel to soften the look,' says Helen. 'I love making things cosy with textured cushions, throws and fresh flowers.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Sienna bed, £899, Feather & Black. For similar bedside tables, try the Bourbon, £179, Made.com



BARN STAR
A Shaker motif that's a modern-country must-have



Reinvent old pieces with new colours

'We called in an expert to paint the cast-iron bath, which was originally a vibrant shade of purple, and went for a classic dark grey colour,' says Helen. 'I love traditional bathrooms, so we fitted wooden half-height panelling, period-style taps and wood-effect flooring to give the room a timeless feel.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Manor House Gray matt emulsion, £45 for 2.5L; bath painted in Downpipe estate eggshell, £25 for 750ml, both Farrow & Ball. For similar wood-effect floor tiles, try Woodcraft Honey, £38.30sq m, Porcelain Superstore. Bath mat, £25, Marks & Spencer. Pictures, from £25 each, Pernille Folcareli



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Pinterest and Instagram are great for decorating ideas at the planning stages. I asked online for advice on what to do and where to shop and found it so helpful during my more challenging moments”

**Stay neutral
in a nursery**

Pale grey walls and simple, white-painted furniture create a soothing mood at bedtime.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Ammonite estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Greenway bookcase, £75, Great Little Trading Company. Vilma footstool, £70, Maisons Du Monde



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FEATURE MAXINE BRADY, VANESSA RICHMOND
PHOTOGRAPHS KATIE LEE PLANS AGENCY SERVICE

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Make it work for you

HELEN'S STYLE: MODERN CLASSIC

Timeless furniture pieces complement a soothing, pared-back palette and warm-wood flooring

IDEAL

A REAL SHOWSTOPPER

Surrey six light chandelier, £1,050, Houseology
Buy now with **Ownable**



DECORATIVE DETAIL

Classical white overmantle mirror, £305, Sweetpea & Willow
Buy now with **Ownable**



GREAT DEAL

FABULOUS FOCAL POINT

Sorrento six light chandelier in nickel, £175, Laura Ashley
Buy now with **Ownable**



SIMPLE STYLE

Overmantle mirror, £194.99, Wayfair
Buy now with **Ownable**



LUXE TEXTURE

Mongolian sheepskin cushion, £40, Next Home
Buy now with **Ownable**



NOT JUST FOR CHRISTMAS

Amish tin star, £50, Lime Lace
Buy now with **Ownable**



RUSTIC CHARM

Coastal hanging star, £6.99, The Range
Buy now with **Ownable**



SOFT TOUCH

Double sided faux Mongolian cushion, £10, Matalan
Buy now with **Ownable**



CROWN PRINCE

Glittered bird, £9, Selfridges
Buy now with **Ownable**



ADD A LITTLE POLISH

Round metallic tray, £49.99, Zara Home
Buy now with **Ownable**



GOLD SERVICE

Metal tray, £12.99, H&M Home
Buy now with **Ownable**



ROYAL WINGS

Midnight magic bird, £2, Wilko
Buy now with **Ownable**



BASED ON A CLASSIC

Patrick three-seater sofa in Miller Armadillo, £1,390, Sofa.com
Buy now with **Ownable**



SCROLL APPEAL

Branagh three-seater sofa in Pearl Grey, £999, Made.com
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FEATURE MICHELA COLLING PHOTOGRAPH DAVID GILES

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Thurloe large sofa in Love Birds Saffron

COLOURS WE LOVE

Mixed golds

Don't be afraid of a little bling! From soft, aged tones to brassy and rich bronze shades, gold adds warmth and elegance. It's a no-brainer at Christmas, but gold can be used as an accent colour all year round to lift and finish a simple room scheme



THIS PAGE Umberto media cabinet, £550; Romance pumpkin vase, from £3.50, both Graham and Green. Cabrillo gold top vase, £42; small gold paper tree, £8.95 for two, both Rockett St George. Warm white star micro fairy lights, £6.99 for 40, Lights 4 Fun. Small bell jar cloche, £15; LSA International serve cake stand, £50, both John Lewis. Gold and white gift wrap, £6.50 for a multipack, Next. 2D gold star, £8, French Connection Home. Ribbon, from £0.75m, Jane Means. Gold and Oyster Vine glass baubles, £4.20 each, Gisela Graham. Buy now with **Ownable** 

THIS PAGE Walls painted in Dove Tail estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Majestic **carpet** in Frosted Diamond, £79.99sq m, Brintons. Alloy **rug**, from £499, West Elm. **Blinds** in Extravagance Gold, £42m, Harlequin. Bumpster **sofa** in Rose Quartz, from £1,945, Loaf. Brass **coffee tables**, £315 for two, Rockett St George. Nordmann 7ft fir **tree**, £459, Balsam Hill. Antique **mirror**, £350, Graham and Green. **Cushions** in Erte Tamarind, £109m, Romo; and Romanie Plains 2 in Orchid, £36m, Harlequin. Geocentric **cushion**, £100, Niki Jones at Amara. Scandi Lina **throw**, £39, John Lewis. **ON THE COFFEE TABLES** Marble-effect **tray**, £30, Joanna Wood. **Tea light holder**, £9, Rockett St George. **La Cafetiere**, £34.95; **mug**, £44 for four, both Audenza. Blush hurricane, £30; Hay **tray**, £13,

both Amara. **Champagne flutes**, £9 each, French Connection Home. **Tea light holder**, £6, The Contemporary Home. **ON THE MANTEL** **Garland**, £89, Balsam Hill. Glass **pine cones**, £25 for 12, Cox & Cox. Beech and palm **leaves**, £7.50 each, RE. Minimal domes **microlight** bundle, £60 each, Lights 4 Fun. **Cloche**, £15; **Stocking**, £18, both John Lewis. **ON THE TREE**, from top: Glitter **star**, £15.95 for two, Rockett St George. Mistletoe **wreaths**, from £3.50, Gisela Graham. Ribbed **baubles**; Harlequin **baubles**, both £3.75 each, The Contemporary Home. Gold **leaves**, £7.50 each, Rockett St George. Leaf **branches**, £9 each, Gisela Graham. Pella tree **baubles**, £8.95 each, Parlane. **Flowers**, £7.50 each, RE. Poinsettia **baubles**, £7.50 each, John Lewis.

NUDE ACCENT
The perfect partner in a grey-and-gold scheme

Stylist's note

“If your room is neutral, a gold-finish lamp or metal-frame side table will add polish without introducing a colour contrast”

SOPHIE MARTELL, ACTING DECORATING EDITOR

Hotel chic

It doesn't take much to make a difference – gold handles and legs on furniture, a touch of gold on a lamp... little details take a neutral room from grey to glam

SILHOUETTE PATTERN
Subtle and textural, it's quiet enough to work in easily

THIS PAGE Star parquet cabinet, £995, Graham and Green. Harper armchair in Lychee Smart Velvet, £850, Sofa.com. Curtain in Grasses Hopsack/Putty, £84m, Harlequin. Cushion in Erte Tamarind, £109m, Romo. Hay tray, £13, Amara. Star tea light holder, £6, The Contemporary Home. Neve tea light holder, £42 for three, Neptune. Purple vase, £30, Debenhams. Merry Christmas candle holder, £9, The Contemporary Home. Wisteria table lamp, £220, Pooky Lighting. Makrana shade, £78, Graham and Green. Wreaths, from £19.95 each, Parlane. Hanging bird, £50 for four, Cox & Cox. Gift wrap: Gold and White, from £6.50 for a multipack, Next; Marble, £5.50 for three, Bread & Jam at Notonthehighstreet.com; Gold foil, £4 for 5m, John Lewis. Ribbon, from £0.75m, Jane Means. Gift tags, from £2.50 a pack, Next.



sparkle

Golden walls

Look for flat-finish woven papers or designs with a slight sheen, to keep the look subtle. Team large areas of gold with black details for a power-glam edge

THIS PAGE Walls in Belvedere, £53 a roll, Harlequin. Umberto **media cabinet**, £550, Graham and Green. Riya **bar cart**, £299; Geo small hurricane **lamp**, £25, both John Lewis. Gold 'Sparkle' **sign**, £12.50, Rockett St George. **ON THE BAR CART** Pineapple mother of pearl **storage pot**, £38, Oliver Bonas. Hay **tray**, £13, Amara. Christmas Lebkuchen **biscuit selection**, £8.25; Peppermint Creams, £15.95; Milk chocolate guineas, £2 each, all Betty's. Pineapple **bottle opener**, £14.85, Joanna Wood. **Champagne flutes**, £32 for four, Oliver Bonas. Gold flamingo **pitcher**, £44; and high ball **glasses**, £46 for four, both Audenza. Gold **tea light holder**, £6, The Contemporary Home. Raspberry crush **drink**, from a selection, Luscombe.

BAR CART
Adds a little
Art Deco
decadence

Stylist's note

“For a sophisticated dining space at Christmas, stick to all-gold decorations in mixed tones, teamed with rustic evergreens”

SOPHIE MARTELL,
ACTING DECORATING EDITOR

HANGING STARS

Fix them to a ceiling light at different heights



THIS PAGE Walls painted in Stone flat emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5L, Zoffany. Jute and leather rug, £160, French Connection Home. Dublin table, £395, Habitat. Form Cantilever dining chairs, £129 each, Danetti. **ON THE TABLE** Tablecloth in Izolo Gold, £64m, Anthology. Celestial 12-piece dinner set, £165, Sara Miller. Place mats, £24 for two; Coasters, £16.95 for four; 24-piece cutlery set, £95, all Audenza. Rosa napkins, £8.99 each, LinenMe. Glasses, from £8 each, John Lewis. Crackers, £12 for six, Next. Tree jars, £45 each, Cox & Cox. Baubles, from a selection at Sainsbury's Home, The Contemporary Home and Gisela Graham. Gold wire mesh stars, from £10.50 each, Gisela Graham. Canadian Blue Green spruce 7ft, £229, Balsam Hill. Gold cone and feather garland, £42, The Contemporary Home.

ON THE MANTEL Laser cut Christmas cards, £7.95 each, Posh Totty at Notonthehighstreet.com. Standing star lantern, £29.95, Rockett St George. Neve tea light holder, £42 for three, Neptune. Large Louella vase, £35, Parlane. Abstract candle holder, £13, The Contemporary Home. Albie vintage steel mirror, £195, Loaf. Glitter berry leaf garland, from £17.99, Gisela Graham. **ON THE TREE** 3D glitter stars, £3 each, The Contemporary Home. Onion baubles, £5, John Lewis. Copper ombre baubles, £18.50 for six, Cox & Cox. Mirrored stars, from £8 each, French Connection Home. Pella Blush glass baubles, £8.95 each, Parlane. Gold glitter baubles, £2 each, Sainsbury's Home. Gold stripe bauble, £7.50, John Lewis.

wren
KITCHENS



This complete Infinity Plus kitchen including all units, Neff oven, Neff ceramic hob, Faber cooker hood, super silk worktops, sink & tap.[▲]

£185

per month over **5 years**

0%
APR

Total amount payable £12,317[▼]

For a Wren Kitchens brochure and to find your nearest showroom visit wrenkitchens.com

[▲]Kitchen price is for kitchen units, handles, appliances, worktops, sink and tap. Excludes props and small worktop appliances. Price checked on 26/09/2018
[▼]Interest free credit provided subject to application and status. Minimum spend - £6,600 for five years (Infinity Plus kitchens only). Total kitchen price £12,317. 10% deposit of £1,231.70 and then 60 monthly payments of £185 at 0% APR. Total amount payable £12,317. Interest free credit is available on all kitchen projects and Wren installation services. Full details are available at wrenkitchens.com/finance

Make it work for you

MIXED GOLDS: JUST ADD AN ACCENT

Combine shades of opulent gold with fresh whites to give a traditional festive scheme a modern update



Extravagance 111715 wallpaper, £65 a roll, Harlequin. Olivia mirror, £275, Graham and Green. Console table, £775, Cox & Cox. Nordmann Fir candle lit garland, £89, Balsam Hill

FEATURE STEPHANIE DURRANT PHOTOGRAPH JOANNA HENDERSON

WHERE TO BUY

1. BUNTING

Gold glitter star bunting, £6.99, Ginger Ray

2. WREATH

Gold glittered oak leaf wreath, £45, Gisela Graham

3. CUSHION

Geo cut velvet cushion, £40, John Lewis

4. VASE

Gold glass vase, £39, Hurn & Hurn

Buy now with 

5. TREE ORNAMENT

Gold tree with wooden base, £19.99, Dobbies

6. HANGING STARS

Two antiqued soft gold and cream stars, £10.50, Cox & Cox

7. STORAGE BASKET

Handwoven sequin basket, £19.99, Oxfam

8. BAR CART

Gilt mirrored bar cart, £325, Audenza



 Buy now with Ownable

‘This place started as a blank white canvas’

Initially paralysed by the infinite possibilities it offered, Lena Lidman and Anders Liljeström took a commonsense and coordinated approach to making this everything-done house a home



Love
LENA &
ANDERS' STYLE?

Turn to page 73
to shop the look

SUBTLE STORAGE
Long and low,
and painted
the same
colour as the
wall to blend in

Choose a palette

'It lacked the atmosphere you usually find in old houses, but I knew we could bring back the warmth and character, and make it modern,' says Lena. 'I've used a scheme of soft greens, blues and taupe that flows from room to room.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Rug, for similar, try the Akasia, £365, Graham & Green. Sofa, for similar, try the Holmsund, £495, Ikea

Welcome to my home



Lena Lidman, who works for an interiors store, lives here with her partner Anders Liljeström, who works at a car dealership, and their children Nils, three, and Elsa, two.



Take a quick tour...

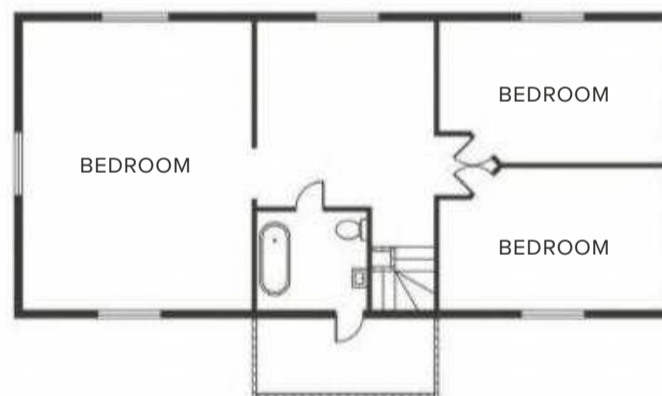
THE PROPERTY

A 19th-century, three-bed farmhouse in the village of Gubböle in northern Sweden.

“It’s our ideal family home – and we found it on Instagram!”



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

Lena Lidman never expected to find her dream home for sale on Instagram: ‘I was contacted by a follower who knew we were looking to move from our city flat to a house in the country,’ she explains. ‘They wanted to sell without using an estate agent, so they invited us to take a look.’ They found a traditional 19th-century farmhouse, with a large kitchen and reception rooms radiating from a central hall.

It was in great condition, needing next to no work, and was painted white throughout. The couple sanded the wooden floors, treated them with white lye and coated them with wax for a tough finish, but after that, all they had to do was give the place some style.

The decorating took them a year to finish, although some rooms have been decorated twice over: ‘Luckily,

I love decorating!’ says Lena. ‘I’ve become so good at it, I don’t even need to put up masking tape before I start.’ Colours have shifted from stark white to the softest tones of green, blue and taupe, with Lena searching out paints with the chalkiest finish she can find. ‘It gives such a fine surface and is as easy to clean as gloss paint,’ she explains.

Now it’s Christmas, Lena is adding festive touches. Rather than the red and white decorations we tend to associate with Swedish festive style, her look is based on natural materials and a monochrome palette: ‘I prepare by bringing in small fir trees from the forest. I keep the trimmings simple – just white paper garlands and black and white baubles. Then I add amaryllis and candles to create Christmas cheer.’ See more of Lena’s home @lenalidman85.

Add a little timeless pattern

A classic William Morris wallpaper gives the hall quietly confident style. 'I've added pattern and texture with textiles, too,' says Lena, 'with large rugs, cushions and throws in most rooms.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

William Morris & Co Chrysanthemum wallpaper, £54 a roll, Fashion Interiors. Rug, for similar, try the Adair, £135, Graham & Green

“I decorate the house with little fir trees in pots and containers and keep the trimmings simple”





Design a 'shelfie'

Lena created a modern dresser by putting up a shelf laden with pretty tableware above a small sideboard. 'Think about how shelves will look when you walk into the room – storage is a chance to show off your style,' says Lena.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Sideboard, for similar, try the Somerset Oak, £269, Oak Furniture Superstore. Kitchenaid Artisan mixer, £279, Currys. Shelf, for similar, try the Ekby Valter, £16, Ikea

Streamline with built-in storage

The kitchen had a lot of space but little storage, so the couple built a pantry into the corner. The door is an antiques-shop find.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For similar hanging shelf, try the Square rack with eight hooks, £80, Ferm Living



HANGING SHELF
To make a feature of candles or plants



PAINTED CHAIRS
An easy way to add colour to a neutral room

Update country style

'Farmhouse-style furniture can be heavy, so choose pieces with thin legs, spindle backs and thinner surfaces for a lighter look,' says Lena.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For similar table, try the Alba, £399, John Lewis. Wooden chairs, £60 each, Department at Royal Design

Make a feature of rustic wood

Painted panelling on the walls and coat-cupboard doors gives the hall a traditional feel.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Kubbis seven-hook coat rack, £10, Ikea





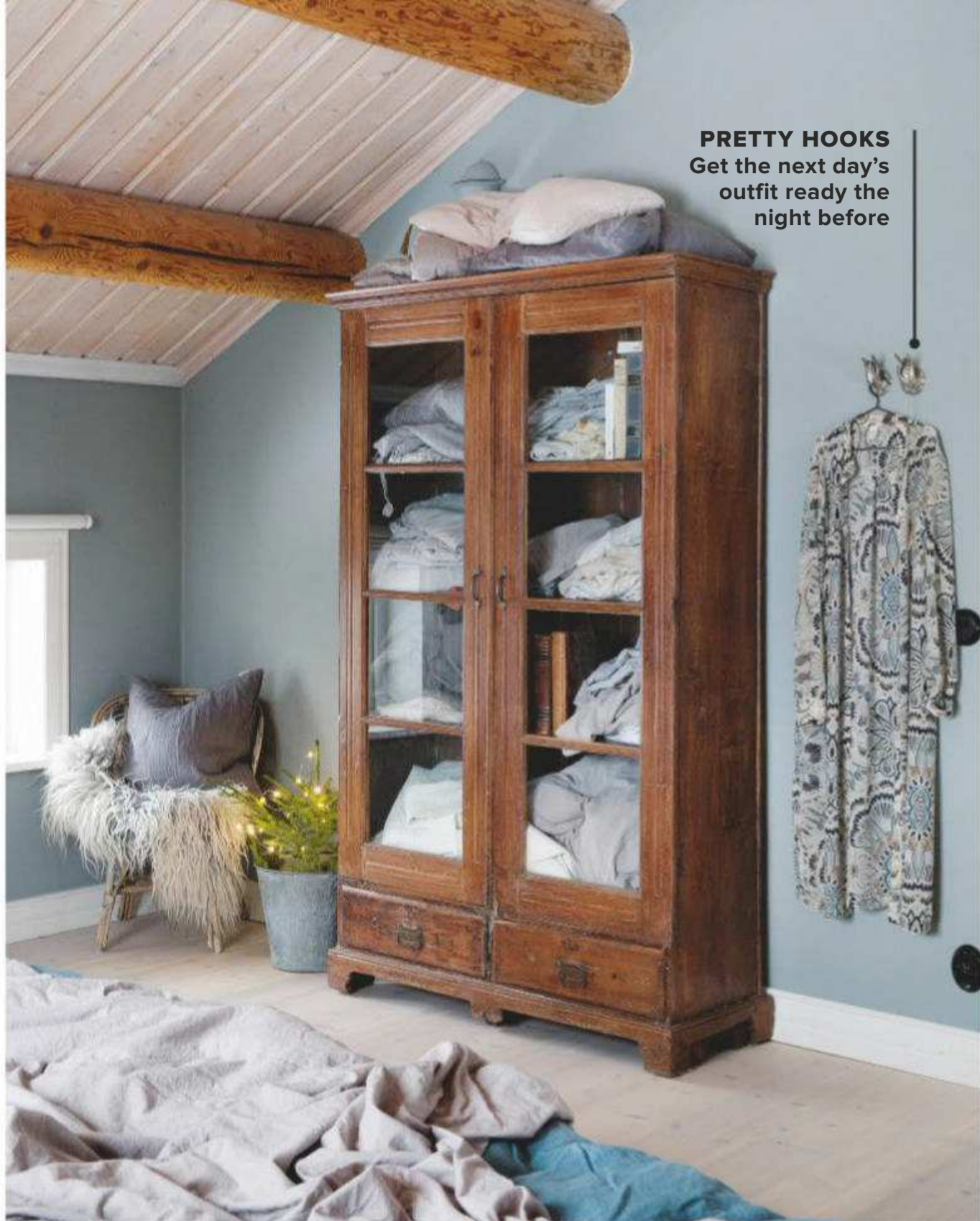
**WHAT I'VE
LEARNED**

*“With practice,
it's not a chore to hang
wallpaper or paint walls
– I love to ring the changes
with colour or patterns”*

**BEDSIDE
LEDGE**

All you need for
a glass of water
and a light





PRETTY HOOKS
Get the next day's outfit ready the night before

Add 'hero' vintage pieces of furniture

An old shop cabinet is the perfect place to keep bedlinen. 'Old furniture has a timeless look,' says Lena. 'I love the patina of second-hand pieces, whether they're worn wood or painted.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For similar cabinet, try the Original Rustic Glazed Display, £400, Oak Furnitureland

Make shelving subtle

By painting the picture ledge in the same colour as the wall, Lena has let the vintage desk in her bedroom steal the spotlight.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Desk, for similar, try the Sienna dressing table, £499, Feather & Black. For similar chair, try the Laura, £139, Bloomingville at Royal Design





**SIMPLE
SIDEBOARD**
Great for
subtle storage
in any room

Create a little 'wow'

An ornate bed and fairy-light-trimmed fabric coronet adds a little magic to Nils' bedroom.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Minnen bed, £90, Ikea. For a similar rug, try the Cream Amore, from £199, Dunelm. Numero 74 canopy, £94; and Mr Maria Miffy night light, £201, both Smallable

Soften a room with simple textiles

Piles of cushions and a tufted rug have turned Elsa's room into a comfortable place to play.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Sebra expanding cot bed, £699, Cuckooland. Numero 74 canopy, £94, Smallable. For a similar rug, try the cotton and crepe rag rug, £38, Notonthehighstreet.com



BIG BASKET
Holds stacks
of soft toys



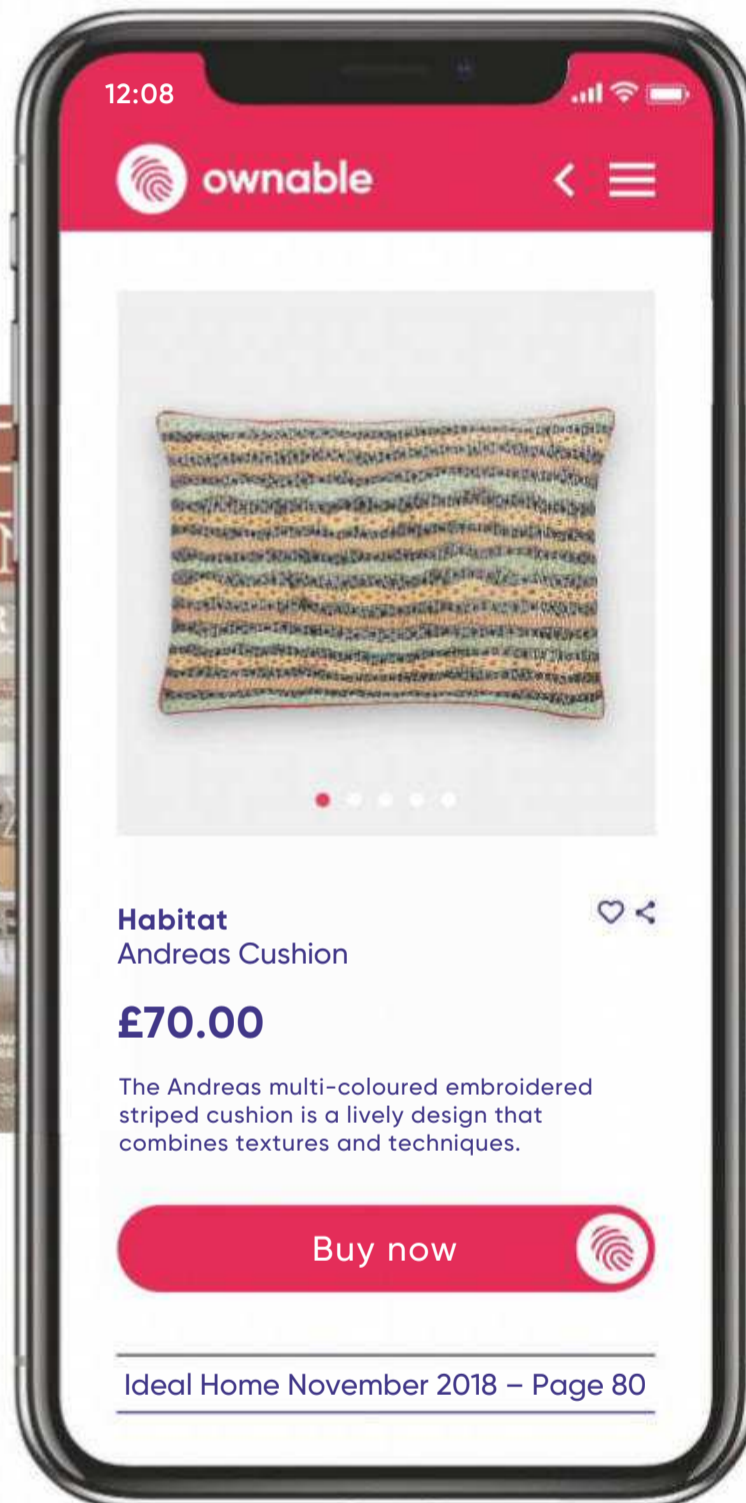
DON'T MISS THE DETAILS...

Clockwise from top left: Light shines through a pretty paper star in the **sitting room** window; a calendar from the Rifle Paper Co adds colour to the **kitchen** peg rail; the tip of a Christmas tree creates a miniature festive display on a vintage cabinet in the **main bedroom**; the teepee in **Nils' bedroom** is a great place to read – or hide! Find a similar teepee at [Smallable](#).



FEATURE ANDRÉA CHILDS, VANESSA RICHMOND
PHOTOGRAPHS MALIN GRÖNBORG/COCO PLANS AGENCY SERVICE

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Make it work for you

LENA'S STYLE: NORDIC VINTAGE REBORN

Combine sleek Scandi pieces with relaxed vintage style for a modern but homely finish



IDEAL

DINE BY CANDLELIGHT
Nordic light four arm candle holder, £69.50, Abode Living
Buy now with **Ownable**



SEASONAL STEM
Faux frangipani stem, £14.99, The Farthing
Buy now with **Ownable**



SPACE-SAVING DESIGN
Round 3 coffee table, £525, Urban Avenue
Buy now with **Ownable**



FRESH FOLIAGE
Artificial White lily spray, £2.29, Dunelm
Buy now with **Ownable**

GREAT DEAL

CREATE A GLOW
Strala LED candelabra, £22, Ikea
Buy now with **Ownable**



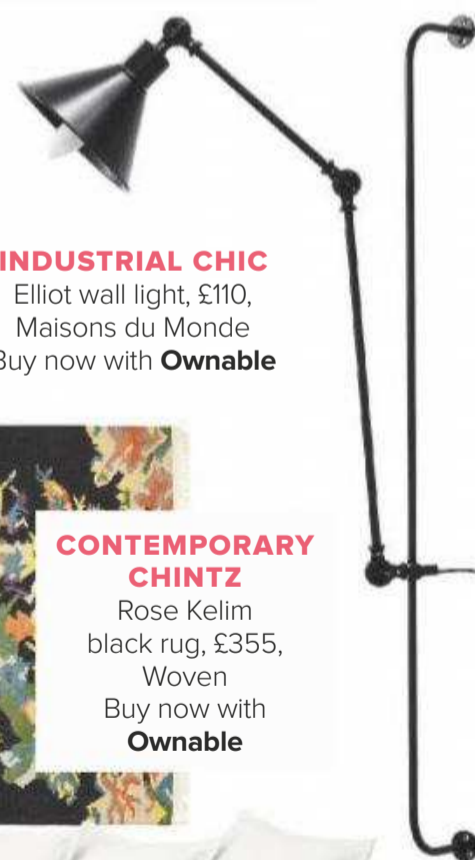
STREAMLINED STYLE
Cupid extra large coffee table, £159, Cuckooland
Buy now with **Ownable**



INJECT SOME EDGE
Large textured pot, £19.99, H&M Home
Buy now with **Ownable**



TOUGH TEXTURE
Waffle concrete planter, £25, Rockett St George
Buy now with **Ownable**



INDUSTRIAL CHIC
Elliot wall light, £110, Maisons du Monde
Buy now with **Ownable**



MINIMALIST STATEMENT
NJP Long wall light, £345, Nest
Buy now with **Ownable**



STUNNING CENTERPIECE
Alicati rug, £1,150, Oka
Buy now with **Ownable**



CONTEMPORARY CHINTZ
Rose Kelim black rug, £355, Woven
Buy now with **Ownable**



LAID-BACK LINEN
Luca four seater linen sofa, £2,695, Att Pynta
Buy now with **Ownable**



SINK IN
Holmsund three seater sofa bed, £545, Ikea
Buy now with **Ownable**



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**TIMELINESS
 STYLE**

THREE FUTURE-PROOF LOOKS WITH A MODERN SPIN TO INSPIRE YOUR NEXT ROOM REDO. PLUS, THERE'S A SPACE OR STYLE PROBLEM SOLVED IN EACH ONE...



1

FORMAL LIVING ROOM

HOW TO... create a grown-up space for entertaining that's elegant and modern, but comfortable too. Versatile key pieces give you great bones for all kinds of colour schemes.



2

MODERN DINING ROOM

HOW TO... design a dining space that works anywhere, from period rooms to new-builds and modern extensions, adding character to a kitchen-diner without looking fussy.



3

COSY FAMILY SNUG

HOW TO... put together a space that feels as good as it looks, with a mood that's warm, cocooning and easygoing, so you start to chill out the moment you step into the room.

Stylist's Note

'Take a tip from boutique hotels and use big table lamps and statement mirrors to give a room smart, confident style'

Sophie Martell, Acting Decorating Editor

SKINNY CONSOLE
A space-saving surface to squeeze behind a sofa





STYLE SOLUTION
 Scarf hangers strung
 with mini gift boxes make
 a stylish alternative
 Advent calendar

FORMAL LIVING ROOM

Avoid slouchy shapes and go for a simple sofa that's modern, but not so contemporary that it limits your look. A black coffee table instantly makes a space smarter, while warm grey walls are the perfect backdrop for a mix of richly coloured accent cushions

STYLE SOLUTION

Make simple but special place markers with a gypsophilia stem, glittery feather and a parcel label



MODERN DINING ROOM

Wishbone-style chairs are the hero of this look – a mid-century classic, they suit contemporary spaces, but their woven seats and curved backs give them heritage style that works in period homes, too. Team with an ultra-simple table and a sheen rug for subtle glamour





Stylist's Note

‘Replace family photos or framed prints for a row of wreaths for the festive season’

Sophie Martell, Acting Decorating Editor

FESTIVE SPRIG
Tie on natural and silver-sprayed eucalyptus

Stylist's Note

'If your seating is simple, add character with vintage-look bookcases and interesting textured pouffes and cushions'

Sophie Martell, Acting Decorating Editor



FADED PATTERN
Well worn looks
best in an informal
family room

**STORAGE SOLUTION**

Simple sisal baskets are a stylish and reusable way to store family gifts before the big day



COSY FAMILY SNUG

Instead of grey, put a pale-terracotta colour on the walls to give your room a warm glow. It'll work with upholstery and flooring in any kind of neutral and look great with storage furniture in white, black or wood finishes for an easy, anything-goes mix

Where to buy



FORMAL LIVING ROOM

Walls painted in Green Smoke estate emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Tolsey **rug** in Gull Grey, £410; Aldwych **coffee table** in Warm Black, £420; Arundel **console**, £695; Flemming **mirror**, £190, Neptune. Snowdrop **armchair** in Pewter Pure Belgian linen, £890, Sofa.com. Gunmetal **nest of tables** (one shown), £185, French Connection Home. Snooze 2.5-seater **sofa** in charcoal, £2,195, Graham and Green. **ON SOFA Cushions** from left: Glorious Velvet in Deep Terracotta, £32, Rockett St George; Mohair, £49.95, Bronte by Moon; Design Project No.157 in burgundy, £50; teal, £50, both John Lewis; Glorious Velvet, as before. **ON COFFEE TABLE Lantern**, £20, Debenhams. Black Regal Peacock **cake stand**, £43; **teapot**, £69; **teacups**, £17 each; **saucers**, £9 each, all Burleigh. Oak **tray**, £25; copper burnished **votives**, £18 for three; Partridge luxury **crackers**, £20 for six, all Sara Miller. Finest **mince pies**, £2 for six, Tesco. Milan **throw** in terracotta, £89.95, Bronte by Moon. Palm **gift wrap** in Ruby, £4 for 3m roll, John Lewis. **Ribbon** selection, Berisfords. **ON SIDE TABLE** Felicity 7in **plate**, £12, Burleigh. **ON MANTEL** Frosted succulent **garland**, £45, John Lewis. Hanley **candlesticks**, from £25 each; Bowsley jug, £18, all Neptune. Cinnamon and orange **candles** (on candlesticks), £16.99 each, Dobbies. Faux plum **peonies**, £16 per stem, Abigail Ahern. Copper lustre glass **candle holder**, £19.50; gold **candle**, £5.25, both Gisela Graham. Bark **lantern**, £4.99, Dobbies. 7ft lit Nordmann **fir tree**, £649, Balsam Hill. **ON CHRISTMAS TREE** Mesh star **tree topper**, £4.50; all **baubles**, from a selection, all Gisela Graham. **ON CONSOLE** Shaftesbury **table lamp**, £115; Oliver **shade**, £58, Neptune. New England **round dish**, £22, John Lewis. Filled **candle**, £20, Debenhams. For similar **baskets**, try Zara Home. Copper dusted fir **wreath**, £48; copper lustre glass **candle holder**, £19.50, both Gisela Graham. Newington **hurricane**, £56; Corinium **jar**, £52, both Neptune. **CONSOLE TABLE DETAIL** Sanna **table lamp**, £95, Cox & Cox. New England **round dish**, £22, John Lewis. Filled **candle**, £20; **green pot** with lid, £15, both Debenhams. Faux decorative **figs**, £55 for 12, Cox & Cox. **Votives**, £18 for three; Palm **gift wrap** in Emerald, £4 for 3m roll, both John Lewis. **FOR THE ADVENT CALENDAR** Copper **hangers**, £4.50, Lombok. Kraft recycled paper **favour boxes**, £2.85 for five; small brown Kraft block bottom paper **party bags**, £2.50 for 10; Kraft brown paper **gift bags**, £1.95 for four; red and white **bakers twine**, £2.50 for 40m; 1-24 gold and silver **advent number stickers**, £2.25; red **raffia**, £2.60 for 50g, all Pipii. Buy now with **Ownable**



MODERN DINING ROOM

Walls painted in Tarlatan pure flat emulsion, £48.50 for 2.5L, Paint & Paper Library. Lazlo **rug** in Cobblestone, £650, Romo at Louis de Poortere. Haven **dining table**, £950, Lombok. Wishbone-style **dining chairs**, £145 each, Only Home. Marble **console**, £349, Dwell. Fir **wreaths** with flowers, £58 each, Gisela Graham. **ON TABLE** Etched glass **tea light holder**, £5.95, Pipii. Silver lustre **candlesticks**, £10 each, The Contemporary Home. Silver **dinner candles**, £10 for six, Talking Tables. **ON BACK OF CHAIRS Ribbon**, from a selection at Berisfords. Silver **glitter branch**, £3, Gisela Graham. Vermont white spruce 6.5ft lit **tree**, £629, Balsam Hill. **ON TREE** Silver wire mesh **tree top**, £4.50; all other **decorations**, from £4.99, all Gisela Graham. **Gift wrap**, from a selection at John Lewis and Pipii. **Ribbons**, from a selection at Berisfords. **ON CONSOLE** Snowy mistletoe **garland**, £20, The Contemporary Home. Nina **lantern**, £35, Marks & Spencer. Pillar **candle**, £4.99, Dobbies. Etched **tea light holder**, £5.95, Pipii. Silver glass **tea light holder**, £6, Gisela Graham. Hammered **bowl**, £10, John Lewis. **Baubles** (in bowl), from a selection at Balsam Hill. **PLACE SETTING DETAIL** Lace insert large **tablecloth**, £25; Hampton 12-piece **dining set**, £79; Sommelier white **wine glasses**, £29.50 for four; Metallic woven vinyl shimmer **place mats**, £14 for four; striped **napkins**, £12.50 for four, all Marks & Spencer. Eclipse 38-piece **cutlery set**, £175, Denby. Silver luxury **crackers**, £30 for six, John Lewis. Faux snowdrop **plants**, £9.75 each, Gisela Graham. Bowsley **cake stand**, £29, Neptune. Deer **snow globe**, £30, Gisela Graham. Paper **doilies**, £4 for 24; silver bauble **place card holders**, £10 for eight; silver tapered **candles**, £10 for six; silver star **table lights**, £9.50 for 4m, all Talking Tables. Silver lustre **candlesticks**, £10 each, The Contemporary Home. **ON PLATE** Small white manilla **gift tags**, £2 for 20; white silver glittered dipped **feathers**, £3.99 for 10, all Pipii. Buy now with **Ownable**



COSY FAMILY SNUG

Wallpaper Manarola Stripe W7214-01, £65 a roll, Osborne & Little. **Sisal** in Limestone C719, £50sq m, Crucial Trading. Mikaela **rug**, £150, Cox & Cox. French Connection Hoxton large **sofa**, £999, DFS. Marino **armchair**, £1,300, Ercol. Malsjo black **cabinet**, £295, Ikea. For a similar **pouffe**, try Woven Mayan, £125; Gunmetal **coffee table**, £350, French Connection Home. Scandi **oak mirror**, £175, John Lewis. Island **wood burning stove** in Gunmetal, £1,794, Charnwood. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Marble **crackers**, £10 for six, Debenhams. Snow scene **high ball glass**, £6 for two, George Home. Finest spiced rum **mince pies**, £2 for six; Finest iced **fruit cake**, £10, both Tesco. **Hurricane**, from £19.50; Fruity Mandarin **candle**, £9.50, both Marks & Spencer. Ceramic embossed **round platter** (used as tray), £20, John Lewis. **Cafetiere**, £75; **tea/coffee cup**, £12 each; small **plate**, £10, all Natural Canvas range, Denby. **ON CABINET** Drip glazed **table lamp**, £90, Cox & Cox. Rose gold **candle**, £4, George Home. Diabolo **vases**, from £29 each, Heal's. Emerald frosted succulent **wreath**, £45, John Lewis. Wardley shaker **boxes**, £58 and £64, both Neptune. **IN CABINET** Pink ceramic **bottle vase**, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. Origami pink **vase**, £14 for three, George Home. Marble **boxes**, £24.99 for three, Very. **ON FIREPLACE** Sage & berry **garland**, £15.50; knitted **stockings**, £45 for three; tree and deer lit up **silhouette**, £30, all Cox & Cox. Natural birch **star wreath**, £16.95, Pipii. Glass **tea light holder**, £9, Gisela Graham. Wooden **advent calendar**, £15; glass **light up house scene** in dome, £8, Tesco. Holly **mantel clip** (stockings are hanging off these), £14.99 for two; silver wire warm **lights** (around mirror), from £2.49, Festive Lights. **ON SOFA Cushions** from left: Rustic style cushion cover, £19.99, Zara Home; made in New Manor Park 099, £44m, Blendworth; for a similar cushion, try Iniko, £55, French Connection Home. **ON ARMCHAIR** Sheepskin **rug**, £80; Dash piped **cushion**, £45, Cox & Cox. Cotswold Snowy pre-lit 7ft **tree**, £499, John Lewis. **ON TREE** Hand painted ikat and flocked **baubles**, both £28 for six, Cox & Cox. Glitter rose gold **baubles**, £2 for 26, George Home. All other **baubles**, from a selection, from £4.99, Gisela Graham. Presents wrapped in Dot & Star reversible **wrap**, £12.50 for 10m; wide jute **ribbon**, £8.50 for 15m, both Cox & Cox. Honeycomb **paper balls**, £6.50 for three, Talking Tables. **TABLE DETAIL** For similar baskets, try Shallow seagrass baskets, £95 for two; for similar house, try the decorative house, £45, all Cox & Cox. Paperchase has similar gift boxes. Buy now with **Ownable**

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‘We’ve made this rented house our own’

Undaunted by the limitations of renting when it came to personalising their home, Holly Grundy and Paul James got creative to give it style...

Focus on the feel

‘This house is painted white throughout, which can feel clinical,’ says Holly. ‘Texture is essential, and I’ve got lots of knobbly rugs, woolly throws, faux furs and rough hessian.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Ektorp three-seater sofa, £300; Lohals rug, £55, both Ikea. Highland Cow wall art, £89.99, Bell’s of Suffolk. Wooden beads, £4.50 for 18, Hobbycraft

Love
HOLLY'S STYLE?
Turn to page 97
to shop the look



Welcome to my home



THE PROPERTY A three-bed Thirties cottage near Thetford, Norfolk

THE VALUE Holly and Paul rent the house.

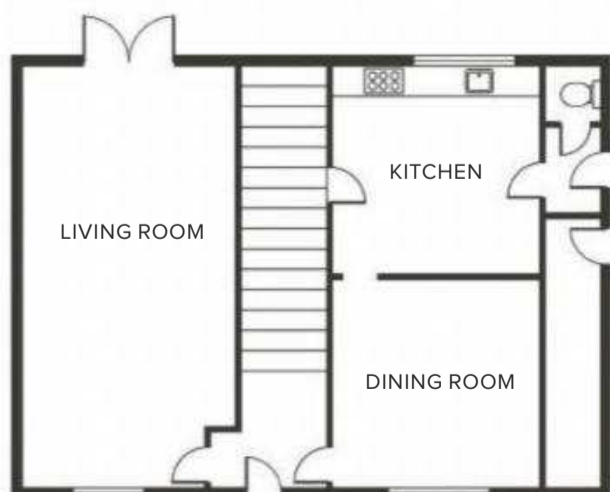
“Our home is my passion and even though we’re on a budget, I love making it special. I like things to be relaxed, natural and easy on the eye”

Holly Grundy, a full-time mum, lives here with her partner Paul James, a delivery driver, and their sons, Winston, five and Monty, three.

Take a quick tour...



FIRST FLOOR



GROUND FLOOR

A characterful old farmhouse would have been Holly Grundy’s ideal home, but when she and her partner Paul James began house-hunting, she had to prioritise head over heart. ‘I’m fascinated by older properties with a history, but with two small boys, my focus was on finding the right space and location first,’ she says. ‘This house was dark, tired, and certainly not my style, but it ticked those “practical” boxes.’

Three bedrooms, a roomy garden and the handy position close to family and school sealed the deal, but Holly wanted it to be more than a convenient, functional house, so she set to work brightening the place up. ‘I’ve developed a very distinctive, “American farmhouse” style,’ she says.

‘It started when I began following some American Instagrammers, and has evolved since then. It’s a simple look, with a restricted, neutral palette and lots of white. The homes I’m inspired by are old, with porches and shiplap walls, which I can’t have, but I can emulate other elements, like the natural wood, rustic furniture and worn, weathered surfaces.’

‘I’ve been through vintage country and pared-back Scandi looks in the past, but I’m sticking to this one now. A lot of the statement pieces of furniture I have would work in a different scheme if I do ever want to ring the changes, though.’

‘I love really quick, simple makes and find loads of ideas to copy in magazines and online. If I see something I like, I’ll just try to put it together myself,’ she says. ‘I don’t follow any pattern – I just do what looks right to me.’ See more of Holly’s home on Instagram, @theenglishfarmhouse.

Disguise what you dislike

Holly has hidden the dated, tiled fireplace surround with a cover that simply lifts away. In one adjoining alcove, she's used wallpaper, torn to create the look of partially exposed brick.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

For a similar mirror, try White Arch, £80, Dunelm. Arthouse Rustic Brick wallpaper, £10.99 a roll, Wallpaper Direct



“A scrap of ribbon and some greenery laid on a shelf are enough to create a festive vibe in an instant”

“I use foliage indoors all year round, but masses of it at Christmas. I don’t go for sparkle!”

CLEVER CRATE
Hung on the wall,
it becomes a
rustic shelf



Fake the look

Holly has added her own style by laying wood-look laminate over the existing floor and having clever casings made to cover the modern cabinets.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Bundaberg grey oak effect flooring, £8sq m, B&Q, is similar. Try Rustic Warehouse for units. Hessian, £5m, John Lewis & Partners. Barn star, £15, Heavenly Homes and Gardens





FESTIVE CANOPY
Twine ivy through branches hung from the ceiling



Holly made the blackboard from wood offcuts and painted MDF

Find imperfections

Holly falls for pieces that have seen better days: 'I love flaky paint! Almost everything in my home is old and has lived somewhere else before. I go for things that aren't too perfect. If it looks right, it's not junk.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

The Langton end extending table, £550, Style Our Home, is similar. The solid oak bench, £180, Oak Furnitureland, is a good match

Show off a collection

'I look out for old Ironstone White china, which I love,' says Holly. 'I buy other ceramics, too, if I like the shapes, and then just spray-paint them white. We can't use them for food or drinks, but they do look lovely in my cabinet!'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Try eBay for similar upcycled furniture and craft letters. Embroidery hoop (in centre of 'Joy' sign), £1.75, John Lewis





DISGUISED JOIST
Wood-effect vinyl film makes it look like a rustic beam

Rework salvaged wood

Natural wood softens the white walls and furniture. Holly has made a headboard from a door and backed the 'glorious' sign with pallet wood.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Try the Lunja headboard, £249, La Redoute. Ivory Montana shaggy rug, £69, Dunelm. Glorious lettering, £8, eBay. The Milan Lime throw, £75, Bronte by Moon, is a match. D-C-Fix Pino Aurelio adhesive film, £6.50 a sheet, B&Q

Buy preloved

Holly picked up her painted wardrobe inexpensively from Facebook, and the wooden sledge was a gift. The birch branches were picked up locally and placed in an old cider jar.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

The Julian Bowen Cameo wardrobe, £378, Furniture123, is similar. Find stone jars on eBay. The Snow Rodel 90 sledge, £89.99, Halfords, is an alternative



Holly added a tongue-and-groove bath panel and a specially made basin cabinet to the bathroom



Look for traditional details

Holly has added interest to Winston and Monty's simple, white-painted bedroom with ornate metal bedsteads and cute wall art.

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Minnen extendable bed, £90, Ikea, is comparable. Rusty metal letter M, £13.50, Rusty Rooster



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“You don't need a lot of money to make a lovely, interesting home. I snap up aged, worn things at salvage yards that people might think are only fit for the dump, but it's all about how you see it”



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blind: blakely linen mustard roman

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DON'T MISS THE DETAILS...

Clockwise from top left: 'Different textures, shapes and heights are important for a great display,' says Holly of her **kitchen** shelves; an old mantel shelf disguises the **living room** radiator, with an oversized clock to turn it into a focal point; favourite things are arranged on the **living room** cabinet; in the **kitchen**, a roll of brown paper hung from a reclaimed window frame works as a family message board.



FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY, VANESSA RICHMOND STYLING AND PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE PLANS AGENCY SERVICES

HAVE A CRAFTY CHRISTMAS

Hobbycraft has everything you need to make Christmas extra special



Whether your house looks festive long before December arrives or you're still adding the final flourishes on Christmas Eve, decorating your home is one of the many joys of the festive season. This year, Hobbycraft invites you to make your Christmas extra special by filling your house with handmade decorations.

DECK THE HALLS

You don't have to be a crafting expert to make your own beautiful bespoke home decor. At Hobbycraft, there are hundreds of easy ideas to try, along with enough great-value supplies to deck the halls high and low! Fillable baubles are ready for you to personalise with festive treats and trinkets, or try creating a Christmas scene in your own snow globe, complete with fake snow. Ceramic, papier mâché and wooden blanks in seasonal shapes are perfect for painting and embellishing, and kids



WARM WELCOME

Guests will think Santa's elves have been hard at work in your home
Wooden LED Advent house calendar, £25; frosted green 44cm bottle brush tree, £5; mache 30cm five-point star, £2

will love bringing the blank faux reindeer head to life with simple decoupage. Alternatively, why not create a unique festive wreath to dress your door? From faux foliage to pretty papers, ribbons and more, Hobbycraft will get you set to make your Christmas.

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Stuck for inspiration? Join Hobbycraft's experts in store for the 12 Makes of Christmas countdown. Each week, there will be a new seasonal project to try out, including Advent workshops, a Christmas Eve box demo and kids' crafts.



SAVE 15% AT HOBBYCRAFT

Simply show this page in store or visit hobbycraft.co.uk and enter code IDEAL15 at the checkout. Terms & conditions apply*





Make it work for you

HOLLY'S STYLE: RUSTIC FARMHOUSE

Combine classic Scandi red and white with shabby chic finds for a country Christmas full of rustic charm

MY GO-TO STORES...

- ETSY**
 Great for reclaimed wood furniture
- THE WHITE COMPANY**
 Well-priced, plain white china in a range of designs
- COX & COX**
 For faux furs and interesting cushions in neutral shades
- MELODY MAISON** Painted pieces and vintage-style accessories



Simple red accents will add instant festive flair



FACTORY LIGHTS

Linton pendant, £79.99, Dowsing & Reynolds
Buy now with **Ownable**



TARTAN UP

Check blanket, £20, M&Co
Buy now with **Ownable**



CLOCK ON
Iron outline skeleton clock, £90, The Farthing
Buy now with **Ownable**

STYLIST'S NOTE

“Red accessories contrast white-washed furnishings for enchanting Nordic style”

STEPH DURRANT, SENIOR FEATURES EDITOR



HOMES HUB

Scandi tea light houses, £50 for three, Cox & Cox
Buy now with **Ownable**

STAR LINE-UP
Chana mango wood star garland, £22.95, Sue Parkinson
Buy now with **Ownable**

NATURAL GLOW

Complements pillar wood hurricane, £35.99, Wayfair
Buy now with **Ownable**



RED REINDEER

Snowflake cushion, £12, Matalan
Buy now with **Ownable**



SNOWDRIFT SOFA

Ektorp three seater sofa in Blekinge White, £300, Ikea
Buy now with **Ownable**

FEATURE STEPHANIE DURRANT PHOTOGRAPHS COLIN POOLE

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

SEASONAL SPARKLE

From decs to decadent tableware, and textiles to trees, Next has your Christmas decor all wrapped up



IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE

Prepare your home for the perfect Christmas with Next Home – just add friends, food and fun!

Turn your home into the ideal antidote to dark winter days, with a cosy and festive sanctuary that's perfect for welcoming friends and family. When it comes to Christmas, Next Home is a one-stop shop for everything you need, from tactile homewares to luxe decorations and glistening tableware.

DECK THE HALLS

Create an enchanting space in your home by adorning the rafters with

twinkling lights and luxurious decorations in shimmering metallics. As the darker nights draw in, Next Home's beautiful range of lanterns and candleholders add to the ambience by bathing your interiors in atmospheric, flickering candlelight.

PARTY TIME

Go all out with a show-stopping Christmas table that your guests will remember for years. Invite your nearest and dearest to sip their favourite tipple from iridescent

glassware and serve your festive feast on striking dinner sets.

HUNKER DOWN

Finally, don't forget to add a few clever additions to the seating so your guests stay comfy throughout each course. Take inspiration from our Nordic cousins and layer faux furs and plush cushions over wooden benches, and mix in a few sumptuous velvet chairs too – perfect to sink into when you're fed and fit to burst.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

MUST-HAVE METALLICS

Lay your Christmas table with dazzling tableware



SMART STYLE
Carrington
12-piece dinner set, £50



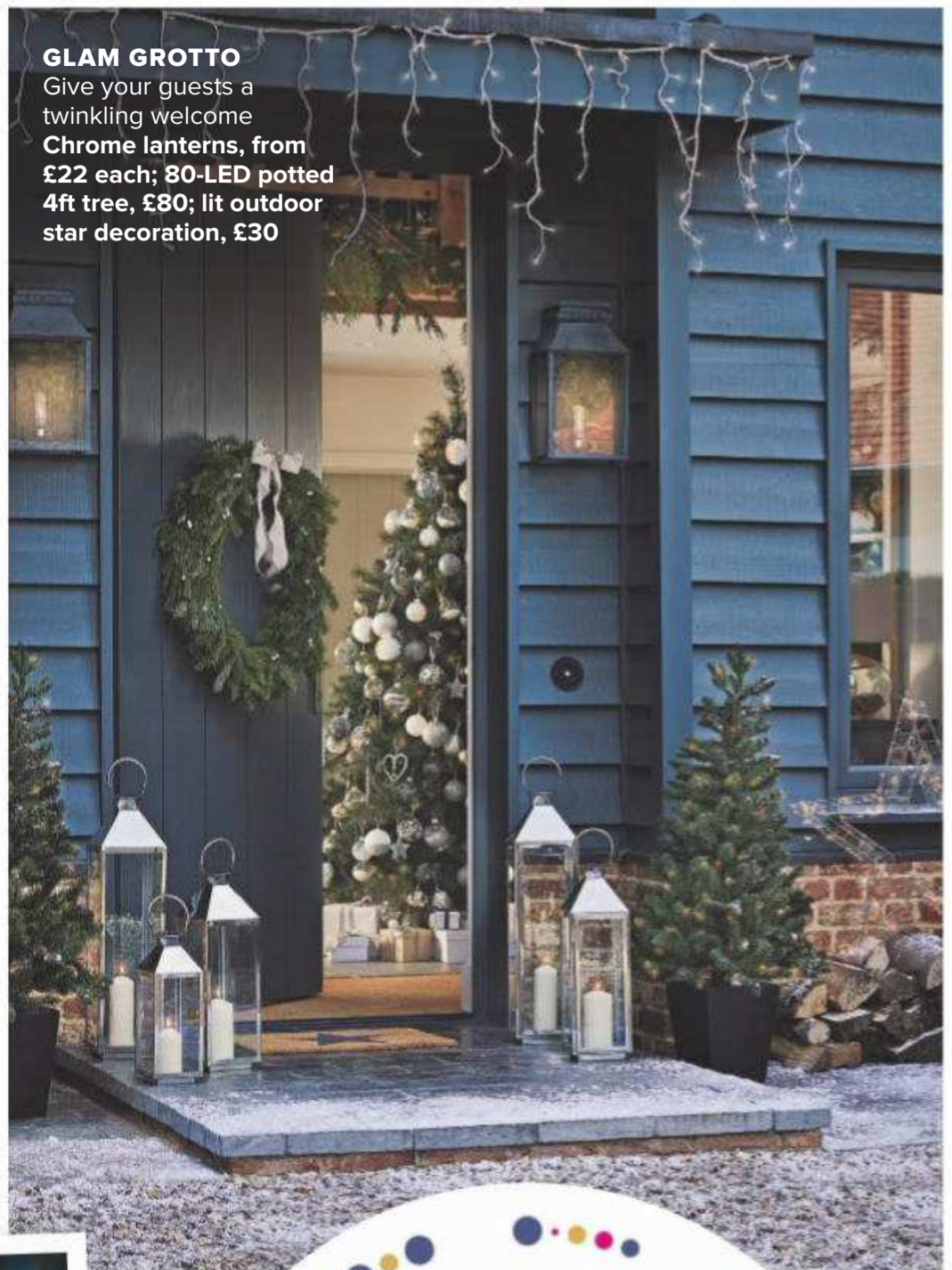
SHINY SHAPES
Hexagonal taper candlesticks, £8



TOP TIPPLE
Set of four gold-effect wine glasses, £26



BOTTOMS UP
Set of four gold-effect shot glasses, £10



GLAM GROTTO

Give your guests a twinkling welcome
Chrome lanterns, from £22 each; 80-LED potted 4ft tree, £80; lit outdoor star decoration, £30

SEDUCTIVE SETTING

Lay a festive table that just oozes glamour
Carrington 16-piece cutlery set, £38; Carrington 12-piece dinner set, £50



PIN IT!

To shop and save items on this page to your Pinterest board, and to be inspired by more of our favourite festive homewares from Next Home, open the Pinterest app, tap the camera icon and point your phone at this Pincode to instantly access the Next Home board.

Open  and tap  for ideas

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LOAF.COM LONDON GUILDFORD WILMSLOW SOLIHULL ST ALBANS

Real Christmas trees, from £25 each; real wreath, from £10; red berry garlands, £25 each; silver baubles, £3 for 10, all Wyevale Garden Centres. Buy now with **Ownable**

1 *Dress up the front door*

Extend the seasonal spirit to the outside of your home too, by dressing the front door, steps or porch with a fresh decorative wreath, trees and even a few baubles or lanterns, to give guests a festive welcome when they come to visit.

40

Easy style updates

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

2 MAKE CLASSIC PAPER CHAINS

Let little ones help make paper-chain swags to decorate the house. Use Christmas giftwrap cut into strips.

3 SERVE UP SNACKS IN STYLE

Whether serving canapés, desserts or after-dinner cheeses, guests will love this Christmas tree-shaped platter, perfect for the middle of the dinner table.



Marble and ash tree platter, £29.50, Marks & Spencer Buy now with **Ownable**



Heart garland, £15; Winter candle, £20, house decoration, £6, all The White Company Buy now with **Ownable**

4 Give the spare room special touches

Don't stop with the festive touches once you get to the spare room – indulge guests with a couple of scented candles beside their bed, as well as chic decorations hung around the room.



5 Spruce up the table

Use fir and fresh foliage and herbs to create a rustic centrepiece for your table, dotting a few pots of greenery throughout. Pop a couple of votives or tea lights in the mix too, and finish with linen-tied napkins topped with a sprig.

6 SWAP IN A FESTIVE DOORSTOP

Change that pile of books being used to prop open doors for a more seasonal choice, like this plump, felt robin doorstop.



Robin doorstop, £25, Laura Ashley Buy now with **Ownable**

7 CLUSTER TEA-LIGHT HOUSES

Line up mini night light houses along a shelf or mantel to create a festive village scene. Light the candles or tea lights after dark for a magical glow through the windows.

Three Scandi tea light houses, £45, Cox & Cox
Buy now with **Ownable**



8 Make a simple centrepiece

Use foliage and fresh roses to cover a water soaked oasis ring, bought from a florist's or craft shop. Then decorate with pine cones and mini baubles and pop a pillar candle in the centre.

9 PERSONALISE A STOCKING

Decorate a stocking with a felt initial. Cut out your letter and fix with fabric glue. Find felt stockings and felt sheets at Hobbycraft.

Mercury pillar candle holder, £25; mercury dinner candle holder, £20; mercury frill tea light holder, £6; ivy and pussy willow garland, £65, all The White Company
Buy now with **Ownable**



10 Put your candlesticks all in a row

Clear your mantel of Christmas cards and unframed prints and create a shimmering display using elegant candlesticks and mercurised-glass tea light holders. Dress with a natural garland for a final flourish.

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11 *Deck the stairs with foliage*

Weave a garland around your staircase, securing in place with florist's wire. Add ribbons and baubles for extra bling, or fresh flowers for a special statement.

12 SWAP IN FESTIVE CUSHIONS

Have a little fun with accessories and swap plain sofa cushions for fun, festive ones instead. If you'd rather keep the living spaces a tad more sophisticated, then pop the silly stuff in guest and kids' rooms.



Ho ho ho cushion, £29.95, White Stuff
Buy now with **Ownable**



5ft garland with cones, £25; vintage pink glass baubles, £5 for 10; LED star lights, £20, all Wyevale Garden Centres
Buy now with **Ownable**



13 GO FOR GOLDEN GLAMOUR

Ramp up the decadence in your dining space in time for Christmas entertaining with a statement gold drinks cabinet, sideboard or drinks trolley.

14 MAKE TABLE FAVOURS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH

For a simple place setting that doubles as a gift, wrap up a luxury bar of chocolate and attach a label stamped with your guest's name.

15 ADD GLITZ WITH A PRE-LIT GARLAND

Introduce some sparkle to a mantelpiece with a pre-lit fir garland, or wrap a couple around the bannisters to give the hallway a festive feel. Go for a battery-operated set so you don't have to worry about hiding trailing wires to plug sockets.



Bronze garland, £22.99, Very
Buy now with **Ownable**



16 *Try jewel tones*

Make Christmas a more whimsical and colourful affair by mixing decorations of bright pinks, blues, oranges and purples with traditional shades of gold and brass. Match your gift wrap to the scheme too and keep fairy lights to a warm white shade.

17 **PUT OUT A WELCOMING FESTIVE DOORMAT**

Encourage muddy feet to be wiped on a seasonal doormat after a post-lunch walk. Remove mud when dry with a stiff brush.



Noel glitter door mat, £25, Laura Ashley
Buy now with **Ownable**

18 ARRANGE A TRAY DISPLAY

Avoid table decorations getting in the way when food is served by arranging your centrepiece on a tray or serving board, which can easily be lifted off and set aside while you're eating.

19 Decorate the garden

Go the extra mile for a drinks party or festive get together and dress the outside of the house, or even the garden shed, with pretty outdoor fairy lights and a wicker reindeer or two. Place twinkling lanterns in the windows for a cosy and enticing glow.

20 PERSONALISE GIFT WRAP

Buy a pack of wooden letter tiles (£4 for 114 pieces, Hobbycraft) and use them to make gift tags and place cards – just spell out a name or festive greeting and glue onto a piece of card.



For similar, try Christmas tree jars, £45 each, Cox & Cox. Buy now with **Ovable**

21 FILL FESTIVE GLASSWARE

Create a tabletop display with glass Christmas tree jars. Fill with baubles, lights, sweets or chocolate coins, and place on mirrored place mats for extra sparkle.



Lit up reindeer, £59.99; outdoor string lights, from £12.99; indoor star light, £14.99, all Dobbies. Buy now with **Ovable**

22 DECORATE DINING CHAIRS WITH FOLIAGE

Once the table is set for Christmas lunch, add a finishing touch by hanging the backs of chairs with offcuts of fir or non-spiky foliage and adding a silver star or bauble.



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Pictured: YumYum by Louise Dear, limited edition print, £1495



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White Christmas tree, £79.99; sheepskin rug, £59.99; Porter armchair, £499; wreath, £19.99, all Very Buy now with Ownable

25 *Make it all white*

For a super chic yet simple look, go for an all white scheme, complete with a frosted white tree and white encrusted decorations, wreaths and garlands. Lay a fluffy sheepskin rug at the foot of your tree, for cosy present opening.

26 HANG UP A HAPPY SIGN

Hang festive messages and signs in unexpected places around the house to ensure the Christmas spirit carries through. Hang this Joy sign in the loo, on the shed door or in a guest bedroom.

Joy hanging decoration, £10, Waitrose Buy now with Ownable



23 POSITION THE TREE IN THE IDEAL SPOT

Pop your tree in a low-traffic area where it can be admired without blocking windows or views of the TV. Keep it close to a plug point but away from heat sources.



Christmas cards, from £4 for 10, National Trust Shop Buy now with Ownable



Frosted pine indoor/outdoor light-up tree, 2.1m, £250, Cox & Cox Buy now with Ownable

24 *Pick a pop-up tree*

Avoid fallen pine needles being trodden throughout the house by going for a no-nonsense faux option instead. Choose one that's pre-lit so you don't have to wrestle with a string of fairy lights and decorate with baubles to match your scheme.

27 DISPLAY CHRISTMAS CARDS

Hang a string of fairy lights or a delicate garland along a wall or over a mirror, then use pegs, paper clips or mini bulldog clips to attach your cards, adding a decoration or bauble every so often too.



28 *Make a message tree*

Pop a small tree in a pretty pot and sit it on a hallway table or sideboard, with a basket of blank parcel tags beside it. Ask guests to write a festive message to hang from the tree.

29 **DECORATE TO THE MAX**

Place light-up decorations or baubles around the house for a sparkling display in each room. Fill jam jars with green foliage or any off cuts from the tree and tie with twine and a mini bauble.

Light up tree dome, £8, Wilko
Buy now with Ownable



30 **CREATE PHOTO GIFT TAGS**

For added 'ooooh' factor when giving presents, print out some of your best snaps on photo paper and cut into labels to personalise gifts for the family.



Hearts, £15 for six; glass droplets, £3 each; spun glass baubles, £25 for six, all The White Company. Buy now with Ownable



31 *Style up a twig tree*

Gather bunches of twigs, branches and pussy willow and either leave them natural, or give the tips a subtle shimmer with silver spray paint. Arrange in a large glass hurricane vase and hang a few simple baubles.



32 *Forage for fresh foliage*

Use trimmings from a real Christmas tree to bulk up an artificial garland or garden cuttings bound with florist's wire to dress the tops of mirrors and picture frames.

33

GET CREATIVE WITH EMBROIDERY HOOPS
Trim embroidery hoops with sprigs of fir and berries to make mini hanging garlands. Use different-sized hoops, hot-gluing the sprigs on. Tie on a length of jute to hang.

34 **UPGRADE TIRED DINNERWARE**

Throw out the ageing crockery and invest in a smart white set that can be layered with seasonal designs. This Christmas geese dinnerware is festive yet tasteful and will instantly lift a simply laid table.

Christmas geese crockery, from £15.50, all Sara Miller Buy now with **Ownable**



35 **MAKE PINE CONE FIRE STARTERS**

Pour melted wax into mini waxed paper cups, placing a pine cone in each one and adding a string wick. Leave the wax to set before putting them ready to use near the fireplace or wood burner.

Frosted branches hanging tree, large, £45, Cox & Cox Buy now with **Ownable**



36 *Hang a wall tree*

Perfect if you have a blank wall to fill or don't have the space for a tree. Decorate with baubles, garlands and lights, hang treats from it advent style, or even use to hang Christmas cards from mini pegs.

STYLE & DECOR

Vintage check bedding set; brushed cotton tree bedding set, both £49.50 for a double, Marks & Spencer. Buy now with **Ownable**



37 **Add festive bedding**

Bring the seasonal spirit into the bedroom with some jolly Christmas bedding. Let kids choose a fun and bright design for their rooms, but go for a more muted design like tartan or a subtle tree print for guest or main bedrooms.



Vanilla and cinnamon candle, £10.99, Dobbies. Buy now with **Ownable**

39 **PRETTIFY A COFFEE TABLE**

Place a scented candle in the middle of a charger plate and dot pine cones around it. For extra sparkle, weave a set of battery-powered fairy lights throughout the cones.

Christmas Holly & berry napkins, £15 for four, Sophie Allport. Buy now with **Ownable**



38 **PICK PRETTY TABLE LINENS**

Swap plain napkins for something a bit more festive like these holly and berry print designs. If more guests are going to join you, stock up on some plain red or green extras, but tie with a holly-print ribbon to keep the look coordinated.



40 **Put on a show in the hallway**

Set up a seasonal console display in the hallway. Trail foliage along the tabletop and add lanterns, votives, baubles and gift-wrapped boxes. Hang fairy lights around a mirror for a sparkling finishing touch.

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH PHOTOGRAPHS TH-MEDIACONTENT.COM

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A WINTER'S TALE

Stag & Slogan wrapping paper and gift tag set, £5; Winter's Tale set of three gift bags, £4; set of three ribbon spools, £3; Nutcracker rocking horse decoration, £18



CHRISTMAS? IT'S A WRAP

Get organised for the festive season with Matalan's gorgeous gift ideas, personalised stockings and beautiful wrapping paper

Stay on top of your shopping this year and have a stylish Christmas with Matalan's fabulous collection of gifts, decorations, Christmas cards and gift wrap. You'll find everything you need to create a calm and joyful celebration.

FESTIVE TRADITIONS

Nothing says 'Santa Claus is coming to town' better than a row of Christmas stockings hung by the fire. Matalan's cute knitted stockings tick all the traditional festive boxes, plus they're initialled so everyone will know which one is theirs.

There's also a selection of luxe gift sacks for larger presents – we love the sparkly design with pom-pom ties to deter prying eyes.

GIVE GIFTS A LUXE LOOK

When it comes to affordable gifts Matalan has something to suit everyone – from room diffusers, fleece throws and foodie gift sets, to fun accessories for pets. Once you've crossed everyone off your list, make your presents look extra-special with Matalan's decorative wrapping paper, ribbons and tags. For awkwardly shaped objects, pop in a pretty gift bag.

MAKE IT MAGICAL

If you're missing a few decorations to make your house feel really festive in time for the big day, Matalan's luxury faux fur throws, scented candles, Scandi-style decorations and more will add the perfect seasonal finishing touch.

PROMOTIONAL FEATURE

STOCKING UP

Get everyone their own personalised stocking – they'll love you for it.

A-Z Christmas stockings, £8 each; gift sacks, £8 each; Luxe faux fur throw, £45



COFFEE LOVER

Mug and coffee gift set, £8



MARBLE MOMENT

Marble makeup bag, £6



SCENTED TREAT

Gin & Tonic scented diffuser, £6



DEER DELIGHTS

Reindeer luxury shortbread tin, £10



STOCKING FILLERS THEY'LL LOVE

Inexpensive gifts to suit everyone on your list...

PARTY POOCH

Christmas pudding pet hat, £5



LIST QUEEN

Set of three notebooks, £4



LIGHT TOUCH

Pomegranate & Raspberry Marrakesh Destinations candle, £5



SHOP THE COLLECTION...

For more inspiration and ideas on festive homewares, gorgeous gifts and beautiful ways to wrap them, visit [matalan.co.uk](https://www.matalan.co.uk)

MATALAN

'We created a space for socialising'

Sorting out their kitchen storage and knocking through to the adjoining dining room gave the Foley family the perfect place to gather

IDEAL HOME *loves*

Subtly patterned floors
'These marble-look floor tiles are so forgiving,' says Claire. 'They camouflage crumbs and muddy footprints'

BEFORE



**SUPERSIZE
PENDANTS**
Use to highlight an
extra-long island unit



*Welcome to
my home*

Claire Foley lives here with her husband, Peter, and their children, twins Anna and Lois, eight, and Rory, six.

THE PROPERTY


A five-bedroom Victorian detached house in Bexley, Kent.

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£20,000
Worktops.....	£4,500
Appliances.....	£3,800
Sink and Tap.....	£1,400
Flooring.....	£994
TOTAL.....	£30,694

“Planning so much storage was essential. Plus, we gave the kitchen a period feel to match the rest of the house, so we’ll love it for years”

The spacious new kitchen leads onto the dining room, making it ideal for family life and entertaining, as guests can easily mingle between the two areas. Sleek storage keeps the space clutter free.

Bespoke kitchen, from £350 for a 60cm unit; Silestone Lagoon quartz worktops, from £500sq m; Brooklyn vintage metal cone lights, £140 each, all Burlanes Interiors. Use the **Owable** app to buy now 

HOW CLAIRE AND PETER DID IT

'The kitchen had four doors and three windows, and to get to the dining room you had to come out of it and walk down the hall. It didn't work for family life or entertaining, plus at mealtimes, I spent half the time passing dishes through an original serving hatch into the dining room. With the help of Lindsey Durrant from Burlanes Interiors, we knocked through to the adjacent dining room to create a larger, more

sociable 'L' shaped space. While this created a relaxed, flowing layout, it meant we had less wall space for units. The solution was to take out a window, where the fridge-freezer is now, which gave us the room we needed for a bank of units. The building work cost around £10,000 and the project took three months. It's changed the way we live – the kitchen doesn't feel cut off any more and the rooms flow naturally into one another.'

BELOW An informal dining space has been created at one end of the island. Claire wanted to bring some warmth to the muted scheme, so she chose bar stools with bright tan leather seats to inject a pop of colour among the grey.

Industrial leather bar stools, £140 each; leather-topped adjustable stools, £120 each, all Rockett St George. Buy now with **Ownable** 



HIDDEN BAR
Perfectly positioned for parties in the dining area

Love
CLAIRE'S
WINE FRIDGE?

Turn to page 121
to shop the look

FEATURE JO MESSENGER, VANESSA RICHMOND
PHOTOGRAPHS FIONA WALKER ARNOTT



ABOVE 'I love the deep, pull-out drawers in the island – they're perfect for crockery and you can see everything in them straight away,' says Claire.

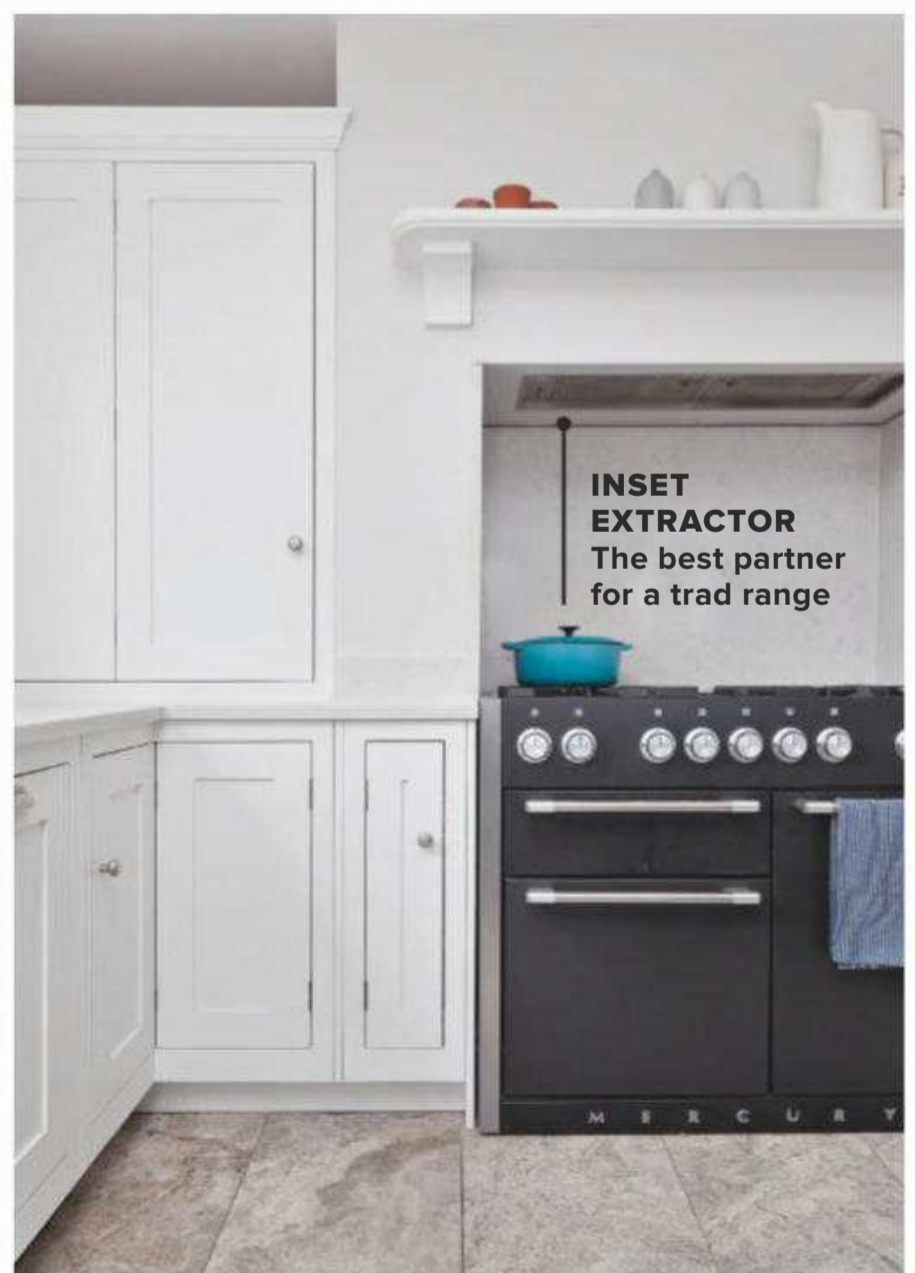
Premium honed and filled silver travertine floor tiles, from £47.32sq m, Travertine Direct. Buy now with **Ownable**

ABOVE Removing a window created room for a fridge-freezer and a run of tall units, while the island is packed with handy storage on both sides.

For a similar fridge-freezer, try the Liebherr SBSSES 8663, £2,994, Appliance World. Buy now with **Ownable**

RIGHT A fireplace was taken out to make space for a range cooker, with lots of cabinetry nearby to ensure cooking ingredients are close at hand.

Mercury 1082 dual-fuel range cooker in Ash Black, £3,800, Burlanes Interiors. Buy now with **Ownable**



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Be prepared for things to go wrong!

A delivery driver dropped and smashed a pallet of floor tiles. We had to reorder them, which held everything up for a couple of weeks”



VISIT THE IDEAL HOME SHOW CHRISTMAS

Find everything you need under one roof for a fun-filled festive season

The Ideal Home Show Christmas makes a welcome return to Olympia London in all its twinkly glory from 21 to 25 November. The UK's best-loved seasonal home event is offering two-for-one tickets to *Ideal Home* readers for a fabulous festive day out.

Discover hundreds of ideas and all the inspiration you need to get your home Christmas-ready, from gifts, toys, decorations and workshops to festive food and drink, as well as your New Year home improvements – with everything under one roof.

Tick off your Christmas list with a spot of shopping at over 600 exhibitors

across four areas – Home, Decorations, Gifts and Pets – then take a break with a glass of fizz at the Champagne Bar, spoil yourself with Christmas afternoon tea or enjoy a free treatment in the Pamper Lounge. This is also the perfect show to catch expert demonstrations and masterclasses.

Your ticket will also give you FREE access to the Eat & Drink Festival Christmas, offering the ultimate festive foodie experience, with top celebrity chefs Aldo Zilli, Theo Randall, Rachel Green, Ed Baines and Rosemary Shrager giving their top tips and expert advice on perfecting a seasonal feast.

ENJOY 2-FOR-1 TICKETS!

To book, call 0844 209 7330 or visit idealhomeshowchristmas.co.uk and quote IH241.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS *Valid only on 21, 22 and 23 November 2018. Book before midnight on Thursday, 22 November 2018. 2 for 1 tickets offer applies to the adult on the door price only (£19). Calls cost 7p a minute plus your company's access charge. £1.70 transaction fee applies. Children aged 15 and under go FREE when accompanied by an adult (maximum two children). Tickets include free entry to Eat & Drink Festival Christmas.





Make it work for you

CLAIRE'S CHOICE: WINE COOLER FRIDGE

Running out of bottle space? It's time for some dedicated wine storage to keep your reds and whites at the perfect temperature



HALF AND HALF

Individually controlled temperature zones sit side by side, perfect for reds and whites.
Under counter dual zone wine cabinet, H88xW59.5xD57.3cm, £1,217, Caple
 Buy now with **Ownable**



IDEAL ALL-ROUNDER

A mid height design with dual temperature storage and plenty of shelves.
Freestanding wine cabinet, H127xW60xD64cm, £1,399, Fisher & Paykel
 Buy now with **Ownable**



EASY ACCESS

This built in wine cooler can be integrated into a run of units for a streamlined look.
GrandCru 18-bottle built-in wine cabinet, H45xW56xD56cm, £1,599, Liebherr
 Buy now with **Ownable**



TOP UP

Sit this compact, 12 bottle wine cooler on your worktop if space is tight.
Russell Hobbs drinks cooler, H51xW43xD47cm, £119, Robert Dyas
 Buy now with **Ownable**

“Multiple temperature zones and an electronic control are handy if you want to store both reds and whites”

LISE RUBEN
 SIEMENS



SMART OPTION

The smoked glass door protects the wine bottles from daylight.
Hoover 46-bottle integrated wine cooler, H87xW60xD57cm, £579.99, Very
 Buy now with **Ownable**



SLIM FIT

Make use of a small gap at the end of a run of units with this extra slim design.
Seven-bottle wine cooler, H87xW14.8xD52.6cm, £409, AEG
 Buy now with **Ownable**



SLEEK STYLE

Wooden shelves keep vibrations to a minimum to protect the bottles.
Integrated wine cooler, H87xW59.5xD56.8cm, £466, Stoves
 Buy now with **Ownable**



FULL HEIGHT

Nine height adjustable shelves provide ample storage for any budding wine buff.
Serie 4 120-bottle wine cabinet, H185xW59.5xD60cm, £819, Bosch
 Buy now with **Ownable**

‘My new kitchen cost less than £1,000!’

Leigh Miller embarked upon a complete DIY makeover, armed with a tiny budget and a lot of YouTube tutorials... and achieved amazing results



SURFACE OFFCUT
Used as an end of unit panel for a wraparound, bespoke look

BEFORE



Welcome to my home

Leigh Miller lives here with her dog, Rufus.

THE PROPERTY

A two-bed terraced house in southeast London, converted in the Nineties.

WHAT IT COST


Paints and primers.....	£150.97
Worktops and edging.....	£287
Handles.....	£36
Tiles.....	£149.28
Grout and adhesive.....	£101.52
MDF and shelving.....	£62.88
TOTAL.....	£787.65

“I used an icing piping bag to grout the tiles. It was unorthodox, but it made light work of a messy job!”

‘The old kitchen looked like it belonged in a youth hostel!’ says Leigh. She updated the existing cupboards and painted a feature wall to add colour.

Dix Blue modern emulsion, £42 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball. Units in Feelings furniture paint, £16.80 for 1L, Holman Specialist Paints. Use the **Owable** app to buy now

'I painted this old crate and use it to keep my condiments tidy.'

Airtight bottle, £3.99, Lakeland. Chopping boards, from £3 each, both Ikea. Buy now with **Ownable** 



HOW LEIGH DID IT

'I love to travel and wanted to go on a trip to the Far East, but was also desperate to redo my bland, beige kitchen. I decided to keep the budget near £1,000, so I could do both! I researched paint online to cover the cupboards, opting for a technical paint specialist. Both the priming and painting were lengthy processes. I did four coats and left a full 48 hours between each. The biggest challenge was the laminate floor, which I repurposed from my spare bedroom. It un-clicked and re-clicked easily, but, as I knew I had very little to spare, I drew a scale plan and cut the planks out of paper, giving each a number. I spent a tense weekend on the job but it worked amazingly well. I did all the work myself, except for fitting the heavy worktops and disconnecting and reconnecting the gas hob, which together cost £200. The whole project took me three weeks and I couldn't be happier with the finished result!'



Leigh made the open shelving from MDF and wall brackets, both painted to match the cabinets.

Ekby Valter brackets, £2 each, Ikea. MDF, 12mm thick, £10sq m, B&Q
Buy now with **Ownable**



FEATURE LEE JACKSON, VANESSA RICHMOND
STYLING LEE JACKSON PHOTOGRAPHS SUSSIE BELL



Chunky wooden worktops give a textural, rustic look, while metro tiles provide a modern splashback.

Duropal oak worktop, from £139, Laminate Kitchen Worktops. Metro XL tiles in Flat Grey Gloss, 10x30cm, £20.66sq m, Tons of Tiles
Buy now with **Ownable**

REUSED FLOOR
Taken from a bedroom and reinstalled here



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Thorough preparation is the key to any project. DIY takes confidence, so my top tip is to do masses of research, ask questions, and take your time. I got so much satisfaction from learning new skills!”



The Aspen is sure to wow this Christmas, £32



Surprise little ones with a tiny letterbox tree, £35



The flowers are designed to be posted through the letterbox

ENJOY 20% OFF FLOWERS AT BLOOM & WILD

Give the gift of flowers this Christmas with a seasonal letterbox bouquet

While it may seem like everyone you have ever met is coming round for Christmas lunch, there is always someone a little too far away to join you. Why not send some joy through that special person's letterbox with Bloom & Wild flowers?

As the UK's top-rated flower-delivery company, Bloom & Wild works with the nation's best florists to design on-trend

bouquets. With new launches weekly, there's always plenty to discover, including their clever letterbox designs, which mean there's no need to check if the recipient will be home, so your gift can remain a surprise.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Valid on your first order only. Offer expires at midnight on 1 January 2019. Offer excludes delivery, workshops and subscriptions. Discount code cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.

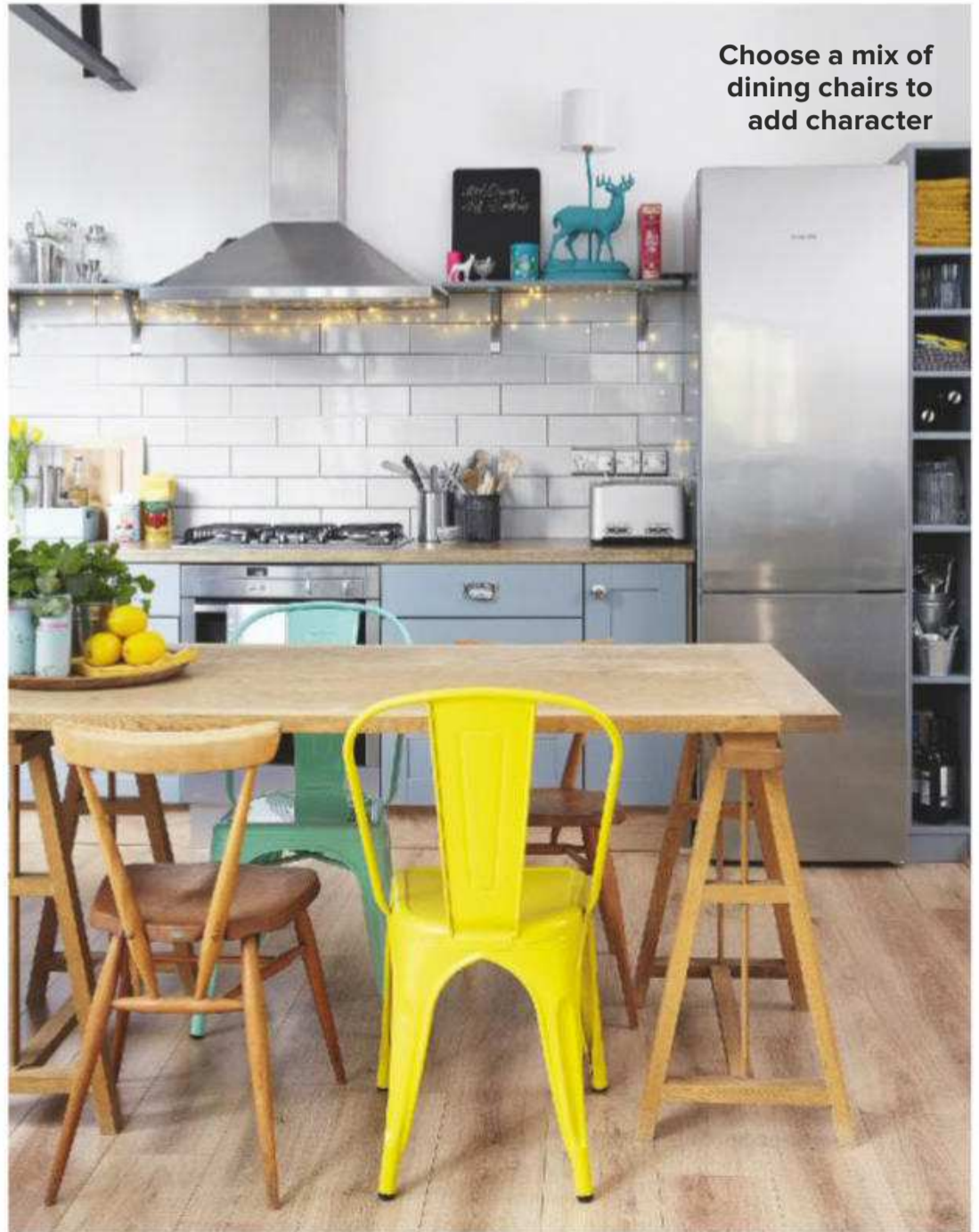
BLOOM & WILD



Make it work for you

LEIGH'S STYLE: FRESH AND BRIGHT

Transform a simple grey kitchen with quirky industrial-look furniture, rustic accessories and bright pops of aqua



Choose a mix of dining chairs to add character



WHERE TO BUY

1. SHELF
Ekby Valter/Ekby Laiva shelf, £5.90, Ikea

2. PAINT
Dix Blue modern emulsion, £45 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball

3. CLOCK
The Spy copper wall clock, £70, Newgate

4. CHAIR
Tolix style metal side chair in yellow, £59, Cult Furniture

Buy now with **Ownable**

5. JUG
Edo jug, £28, Oliver Bonas

6. TABLE
Trestle teak dining table, £999, Tikamoon

7. STORAGE CHESTS
Metal trunks in light blue, £68.99 for two, Maisons du Monde

8. TILES
Deep Metro tiles in white, £25sq m, Tile Giant



FEATURE LISA FAZZANI

'The room was dominated by a huge vanity unit, with the bath shoved in opposite. Putting the bath along the longest wall uses the space more efficiently, so we've fitted in so much more.'

Squaro Edge bath, £892, Villeroy and Boch. Town Niquel Nature floor tiles, £60.55sq m, Porcelanosa
Use the **Ownable app** to buy now 

Love
DINA'S STYLE?

Turn to page 133
to shop the look

'Moving everything around fixed our cramped bathroom'

Re-planning the layout made Dina and Martin Abbott's bathroom feel bigger and brighter – and created space for a separate shower

BEFORE



QUARTZ SHELF
Made from a
leftover offcut of
kitchen worktop



***Welcome to
my home***

Dina Abbott lives here with her husband Martin, and their sons Ben, 13, and Finley, 10.

THE PROPERTY

A four-bed detached Sixties house in Ashtead, Surrey.

WHAT IT COST

Sanitaryware...	£4,484.61
Shower.....	£2,067.50
Tiles.....	£1,957.30
Mirrors.....	£1,340
Radiator.....	£972
Shelf.....	£110
TOTAL.....	£10,931.41

“I love the bubble glass mosaics behind the bath. They were expensive, but make such a difference!”

HOW DINA AND MARTIN DID IT

'It made more sense to have the bath along the back wall, where the long vanity unit had been, and put the loo where the bath had been. We also removed a slice of the back corner wall to gain floor space. It means we've got a lovely big bath with space around it to get in and out, plus a new shower, a more practical vanity unit and extra storage. We kept the walls white to keep

it light, as there are only two small windows, but went for grey floor tiles, which don't show the dirt! Martin has his own plumbing business, Abbott Plumbing and Heating Services, so he did it in his spare time, with some help for the tiling. It took four weeks, but freed up budget for quality sanitaryware and tiles, as we're not planning to redecorate it again for years!'

BELOW Clever planning has allowed room for a substantial shower.

Design Quadrant single door shower enclosure, £789; Design Quadrant resin tray, £214.50, both Simpsons. Glass Blanco wall tiles, £68.68sq m, Porcelanosa. Duofix toilet frame with concealed cistern and Sigma 50 flushplate, £462.63, Geberit
Buy now with 





CUT-OUT HANDLE
Easy to clean
and allows air to
circulate inside

ABOVE A wall-mounted vanity unit has plenty of storage underneath and the new radiator is tucked in behind the door. 'I went for the biggest one I could fit on the wall, so there are always lots of warm towels.'

Subway vanity unit in White Matte, £880; More To See mirror, £1,190, both Villeroy and Boch. Phoenix stainless steel radiator, £972, Radiating Style. Orange hammam towel, £24, Postcards Home, is similar Buy now with **Ownable** 🛒



ABOVE 'Having kept the walls plain white, I wanted to add wow factor so went for these bubble glass mosaics. They have metallic tints and reflect light around the room,' says Dina.

Moon Diamond White wall tiles, £302.40sq m, Porcelanosa. Zero 3 basin mixer, £249, Crosswater Buy now with **Ownable** 🛒

BELOW 'It was important for me to have a substantial shower head,' says Dina. 'I also wanted a separate hand-held shower that could be used for hairwashing and cleaning the shower.'

Revive fixed shower head, £539; Water Square three way shower, £525, both Crosswater Buy now with **Ownable** 🛒



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Getting the right proportions is key.

We drew templates on paper and laid them on the floor just to be sure”

Ideal Home

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by marie claire

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Make it work for you

DINA'S STYLE: FLOATING VANITY UNITS

Swap a pedestal for a wall-mounted unit: you gain storage space, cleaning beneath is easier – and the room feels bigger.



OPEN STORY

With a concealed drawer to keep clutter tidied, plus an open cubby to display best bits

Mode Tate anthracite and oak one-drawer vanity unit with basin, £359, Victoria Plum
Buy now with **Ownable**



TRAD DESIGN

Classic tongue and groove panelling, soft close deep drawer and a neat size

Chatsworth grey one-drawer vanity unit with basin, £219.95, Victorian Plumbing
Buy now with **Ownable**



MARINE BLUE

Moveable dividers mean you can customise the space inside the drawers

Odensvik/Godmorgon turquoise two-drawer washstand with basin, £190, Ikea
Buy now with **Ownable**



GO WITH THE FLOW

With two drawers and storage cubbies, this unit curves at one end to maximise space

Amelie high gloss white curved left-hand vanity unit and basin, £599.99, Soak
Buy now with **Ownable**

“Consider the placement carefully, as wall-hung units need to be attached to a strong, load-bearing wall”

RUTH CORBETT,
HOUSES EDITOR



IN CONTRAST

Banish bathroom blandness with this white and woodgrain effect unit in wipe clean finish

Soul Ash grey one-drawer vanity unit with basin, £169.97, Bathroom Takeaway
Buy now with **Ownable**



SPACE SAVER

Make clever use of space in a tight spot

Curved corner vanity unit in dark olive with Minerva Carrara worktop and integrated basin, £1,688, Burlington Bathrooms
Buy now with **Ownable**



HIS AND HERS

Make a statement with this four drawer unit with marble effect worktop and twin basins

Roseberry twin double-drawer vanity unit with basins, £2,425, Utopia Bathrooms
Buy now with **Ownable**



COMPACT CHOICE

Cool, contemporary styling with a handle free drawer front and a warm, washed wood finish

Mino vanity unit and basin in Nebraska Oak, £339, Bathstore
Buy now with **Ownable**

'We added style on a shoestring'

By taking a hands-on approach and shopping around, Bryony Redgrave transformed a dated Seventies bathroom into a modern oasis

Love
BRYONY'S
STYLE?

Turn to page 139
to shop the look

PAINTED BATH
Bryony coated it in a raspberry eggshell to add bold colour

'We reconfigured the space and added pops of colour to a white scheme,' says Bryony.

Bath painted in Dulux Raspberry Bellini eggshell, £22 for 2.5L, Homebase. Freestanding bath, £380; brass mixer tap, £70; Your Tiles Agadir Moroccan floor tiles, £35sq m, all eBay Use the **Owable app** to buy now

BEFORE



FISH SCALE TILES
Challenging to lay,
but they add impact
to the shower



Welcome to my home

Bryony Redgrave lives here with her husband Max and their children, Jasper and Robin.

THE PROPERTY

A four-bed Thirties house in Kings Heath, Birmingham, purchased in September 2017.

WHAT IT COST

Tiles.....	£1,078
Sanitaryware.....	£679.95
Brassware.....	£210
Shower panel.....	£290
Heating.....	£150
Furniture.....	£132
Paint.....	£54
TOTAL.....	£2,593.95

“The room has hints of mid-century, with Moroccan pattern and splashes of colour. It’s quite an eclectic mix!”



'I used gold paint to finish off the bath's feet,' says Bryony.

Hammerite Smooth Finish Gold metal paint, £12.20, Halfords
Buy now with **Ownable** 



HOW BRYONY DID IT

'Our bathroom hadn't been touched in 40 years. The layout didn't work – everything felt boxed in and the separate loo next door wasn't practical. We lowered the floor by a foot to open up the room and add more height, which has completely transformed the space. I was very budget-conscious when it came to choosing fixtures and fittings, and scoured eBay for affordable pieces that matched my vision. The freestanding bath was a steal at £380. I updated it using paint to make it the focal point of the scheme. These savings meant I was able to splash out on beautiful statement fish scale tiles. The project took around 12 weeks and labour cost £3,000. This new design makes better use of the space. I'm thrilled with how the elements have come together. Now the room feels truly bespoke.'



Replacing the built-in shower enclosure with a walk-in design helped the layout flow better.

Fish Scale wall tiles in Sea Green and Jade, £249.05sq m, Tile Desire. For similar, try the Merlyn 10 series wet room panel, £289.52, Victorian Plumbing. Rainfall brushed brass shower, £120, eBay
Buy now with **Ownable** 



BRUSHED BRASS SHOWER
A bargain from an eBay stockist in China

'I sourced a mid-century chest from eBay and upcycled it into a vanity.'
Vanity unit, £60; hair pin legs, £18 each; sink, £100; brass tap, £20; heated towel rail, £150, all eBay
Buy now with **Ownable**



CUSTOM RAIL
Bryony had this chrome radiator powder coated

FEATURE: CASSIE PRYCE, VANESSA RICHMOND
STYLING: CASSIE PRYCE
PHOTOGRAPHS: SIMON WHITMORE



WHAT I'VE LEARNED

“Choose tradespeople who understand your vision. See examples of their work and make sure everything, including your budget, is communicated clearly from the get-go”

EST. 1920

Ideal Home



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Make it work for you

BRYONY'S STYLE: COOL RETRO

Take a simple white suite, add smart geo flooring, retro-style fittings and fab green feature tiles for a striking look



Modern, mid-century and Moroccan themes blend impressively in Bryony's bathroom

WHERE TO BUY

1. SHOWER

Tre Mercati Victoria thermostatic shower in Antique Gold, £699.95, Victorian Plumbing

2. WALL TILES

Syren peacock green tiles, £80.91sq m, Topps Tiles

3. MIRROR

Alana copper mirror, £199, Made.com

4. VANITY UNIT

Trocadero mango wood vanity unit, £719, Maisons du Monde

5. PLANT

Faux bamboo, £26, The Contemporary Home

6. TOWELS

Matthew Williamson aqua towels, from £16, Debenhams

7. FLOOR TILES

Scintilla tiles, £29.95sq m, Walls and Floors

8. STOOL

Bekvam stool, £13, Ikea

9. TOWEL HEATER

Terma towel radiator, £400, B&Q



FEATURE LISA FAZZANI PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON WHITMORE

Buy now with 

‘We futureproofed our family farm’

Architects Lucy Miller and Kevin Adams transformed and extended their 1890s stone cottage in East Lothian into a seamless old-meets-new family farmhouse



IDEAL HOME
loves

Dark cladding
Larch timber cladding, stained dark grey, is the perfect modern pairing for traditional stone

All the new windows are made from hardwood and designed by Lucy and Kevin



BEFORE



The 19th-century cottage needed to be extended



Welcome to our home

Lucy Miller and husband Kevin Adams live here with their two teenagers.

THE PROPERTY

A four-bedroom farm cottage with major extension in East Lothian.

THE VALUE

The extended property and farmland are now worth around £450,000.

WHAT IT COST

Building work including materials.....	£110,101
Roof, timber and cladding.....	£77,646
Glazing.....	£20,228
Kitchen.....	£6,000
Bathroom.....	£11,000
Fittings.....	£13,025
Landscaping.....	£2,000
TOTAL.....	£240,000

“We wanted the farm to allow the next generation to live, work and invest in its future”

Take a quick tour...



When Lucy Miller and Kevin Adams decided to leave their home and architectural practice in Edinburgh and relocate to the farm that's been in Lucy's family for more than half a century, they were faced with a major obstacle. There was no suitable accommodation on the working farm that could comfortably meet the needs of the couple and their two teenage children.

NO PLACE TO CALL HOME 'My family has owned our farm since the 1940s,' explains Lucy, who established Kalm Architecture (kalmarchitecture.co.uk) in 2007 with her husband Kevin. 'Farms traditionally suffer from the problem of the next generation being closely involved in the family business but not having anywhere close by to live. As there's only one farmhouse, which my dad lives in, other generations had to live away from the farm.'

THE SOLUTION The couple looked around the farm and decided to renovate and extend an existing late 19th-century stone gardener's cottage by adding a utility area, two bathrooms, a snug and three bedrooms.

LIGHT AND AIRY Following a protracted planning process, the couple managed all aspects of the nine-month design and build. The result is a traditional-meets-contemporary farmhouse with large open-plan kitchen, dining and living area bathed in south-facing light from the garden via large glass doors – an effect that continues into the new extension via clerestory windows and rooflights.

ECO-FRIENDLY The extensive solar gain also means that the house is cosy, even in winter. Additionally, underfloor heating, combined with a woodburning stove, solar roof panels and extensive insulation combine to make it a sustainable and energy-efficient home.



The couple installed a wood-burning stove with back boiler from Stovax



ABOVE Lucy and Kevin spent the majority of their kitchen budget on the stainless steel worktops, so they saved by choosing units from Ikea

RIGHT The main bedroom with red stable door faces the views. The deck resembles a pier, projecting out into the landscape and floating above it



WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

“Working in a different way is a challenge that can pay off.

We did everything we'd never do with a client! There was no fixed schedule or budget and we did a lot of the labouring ourselves but it worked out well”

FEATURE CAROLINE EDNIE
PHOTOGRAPHS DAVID BARBOUR



5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT...

Cross-laminated timber

Kevin Adams, architect at Kalm Architecture, has the lowdown

1 IT RETAINS HEAT

CLT is a lightweight construction material that provides a breathable and natural superstructure but crucially, unlike most lightweight frames, has a good inherent thermal mass. This means that it'll retain heat for a longer period of time.

2 IT MINIMISES ON-SITE CONSTRUCTION

The superstructure's lightness means that most of it can be manufactured offsite, thereby minimising on-site construction.

3 IT'S QUICK TO INSTALL

The superstructure can be installed within a week and is ready to receive finishes.

4 IT REDUCES CARBON EMISSIONS

The timber used is from a sustainable source with 100% carbon storage. During construction, CLT produces up to 40% less carbon emissions.

5 IT'S EASY TO MAINTAIN

The exposed internal finish is beautiful, modern and low maintenance.

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XWH CODE: BCL8

DECEMBER'S GENIUS PROBLEM SOLVERS

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

THE EASY BOTTLE OPENER

Whether you have an elderly family member who finds it difficult to open a bottle of wine because of arthritis, or you just want an easier life, Cuisinart's genius rechargeable wine opener does the job for you easily, by the touch of a button.

Cordless wine opener, £45, Cuisinart
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE BEST FOLD-OUT SPARE BEDS



BUILT-IN HEADBOARD

Perfect for small spaces, the lid doubles up as a headboard as well as an extra seat for guests.

Hetty double bed in a box in Pollen, £730, Sofa.com

Buy now with **Ownable**



ROOM FOR TWO

A comfy double mattress is perfectly stashed inside this squishy footstool genius!

Bed in a Bun double bed in Tuscan Pink Clever Softie, £945, Loaf

Buy now with **Ownable**



NEAT AND PETITE

This chic upholstered box transforms into a sturdy spare bed when visitors come to stay.

Milton single bed in a box, £450, Living it Up

Buy now with **Ownable**

Ideal Home Tip

Use this to find the perfect turkey for your family:
[copasturkeys.co.uk/
turkey-calculator](http://copasturkeys.co.uk/turkey-calculator)

THE BEST HOME SNOW MACHINE

Determined to have a white Christmas, whatever the weather? Delight the whole family (and your neighbours) with this handy snow machine – it's bound to become a Christmas Day tradition!

FXLab Snow Storm II artificial snow machine with fluid, £59.99, Argos
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE BEST TURKEY BASTER

Ensure a moist bird with this gadget, which lets you baste from the inside out and add marinades or juices directly into the meat.

Good Grips Flavour Injector, £15, Oxo
Buy now with **Ownable**

THE BEST NATURAL-LOOK TREE SKIRTS



1



2



3

1 Rattan circular tree skirt, £27.99, Very

2 Jute tree ring, £20, Cox & Cox

3 Rattan tree skirt in Natural or Grey, £20, B&Q

Buy now with **Ownable**



THE BEST FESTIVE LOO ROLL

This detailed paper features a host of Christmas cracker style jokes alongside sprout motifs, so you can enjoy a comfort break chuckle.

Talking Tables sprout toilet roll, £4, Lakeland
Buy now with **Ownable**

Ideal Home Tip
Instead of buying Christmas music, use the free playlists on Spotify, Amazon Music and Google Music instead



THE BEST WINE UPGRADER

Using special filters, the Üllo Wine Purifier removes the sulphites that are naturally present in wine – the main cause of hangovers and the reason that cheaper wines can often taste quite bitter. The result is smoother vino with a less likely chance of a sore head in the morning. Win win!

Wine purifier with four filters, £69.99, Üllo
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE BEST BEHAVIOUR MONITOR

Ensure children remain as good as gold in the run up to Christmas with the brilliant Santa cam bauble from Wilko. It boasts a faux camera on the front and an 'On Air' flashing red light beside it.

Night Before Christmas bauble, £2, Wilko
Buy now with **Ownable**

THE DISCO TREE LIGHTS

You can make your Christmas tree pulse, flicker and change colour using preset functions or customised patterns, and even synchronise them to music, all via the companion app to this super clever set of fairy lights.

Twinkly LED multifunction tree lights in Multi, £99 for 22.5m, John Lewis
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE BEST CHRISTMAS PLATTER

Dinner table all a-clutter? Then check out Emma Bridgewater's brand new oblong platter. Created due to customer demand for an alternative to a traditional round serving plate, the brightly decorated rectangular design sits neatly in the centre of a table without taking up too much space.

Christmas Joy oblong festive platter, £39.95, Emma Bridgewater
Buy now with **Ownable**

IDEAL HOME PARTNERSHIP

The Love Affair
by Louise Dear



ARTIST PROFILE: LOUISE DEAR

With commissions from stars such as Sir Elton John and Rick Stein, Louise Dear's work hangs in homes, restaurants and galleries around the world

Louise began her career as a sculptor before moving on to painting and now works on aluminium panels. Her pieces are filled with vibrant blooms, beautiful women and Swarovski crystals, and exude a sensual eroticism that's both provocative and demure. We asked Louise about painting, inspiration, and her latest projects.

Q How do you create a painting?

I sand the aluminium, sprinkle it with water and throw paint at it in vibrant, clashing colours, adding metallic paint, glitter and sequins. I love how the materials evolve on their own. Once it's dry, the next stage is much more ordered. Measuring, ruling and masking the panels, I rub in oil pigments and gilt creams, creating stripes to order and define the chaos. I overlay with fine lines of 24-carat gold leaf, then choose an image to project onto the panel, which I render in enamels with a sable brush.

Q How do people react to your artworks?

Happily, people love them. My biggest collectors have up to 18 pieces in their home.

Q What projects are you working on now?

I'm working with Victoria Plum Bathrooms to create a bespoke Louise Dear collection of baths, basins and shower screens. I also work with Daisy Green Collection and have just completed a series of new works for Soho restaurant Scarlett Green, with more planned for next year.

Q Any advice for someone buying art for their home?

Buy from the heart and you'll have something that makes you feel good every time you look at it.

STYLE YOUR HOME WITH ART

Discover original works and cool prints from the hottest emerging artists from Runway Gallery

When it comes to making a place feel like home, expressing your personality with a display of artworks is the perfect finishing touch.

That's why we've linked up with an exciting new online gallery that sells beautiful pieces created by XIII Untitled, an art movement inspired by fashion.

Founded by artist SYRETT, Runway Gallery features 14 internationally celebrated artists, including Louise Dear, Dara Vandoor, Astrid Vos and Bruce Atherton. The gallery will sell a mixture

of prints from £200 and original, signed artworks for up to £20,000.

SYRETT has also launched a monthly Soho Salon Supper Club in London to bring artists and enthusiasts together. Each event celebrates new artworks from XIII Untitled, with an artist's talk, the opportunity to try a short, guided life-drawing session, plus a three-course supper and drinks at Soho's hottest new restaurant Scarlett Green. It's a great way to view the art, meet the artists and take advantage of special Supper Club discounts on art sales.

To discover more XIII Untitled artworks, visit runway-gallery.com. Book your tickets for the next Soho Salon Supper Club, which will take place on January 30, £45 each, at designmynight.com.

KITCHEN TECH

5 BEST DISHWASHERS

An essential in any modern kitchen, with the latest designs boasting less energy consumption and water use than ever, together with flexible internal layouts to fit more in and clever cycles to tackle everything from crystal to lunchboxes

1

STEAM POWERED TECH

Steam has revolutionised the way many of us cook, but LG has discovered it's also terrific at removing baked-on stains without the need to rinse first. This three-drawer, super-efficient A+++ design also boasts a whisper-quiet 38dB operation, so it's ideal for open-plan kitchens.

LG D1484WF (H59.8xW57xD85cm), £600, lg.com
Buy now with **Ownable**



2

COMPACT BUT POWERFUL

Instead of compromising on features for a slimmer model, Neff has crammed all you need into this slimline integrated model – 10-place settings, A++ energy and 9.5L water consumption, plus three height-adjustable baskets. To top it all, the time remaining on a cycle is projected clearly onto the kitchen floor in front.

N70 (H85xW45xD60cm), £808, Neff
Buy now with **Ownable**



4

BRILLIANT VALUE

Given its modest price, Hoover's latest is exceptionally advanced. The A+++-rated AXI has an 16-place setting capacity, a speedy 24min cycle and is the first wi-fi-connected model to be compatible with both Amazon Alexa and Google Home, so you can tell it to start at a certain time or ask how long until a cycle finishes.

AXI dishwasher (H85xW60xD60cm), £259, Hoover
Buy now with **Ownable**



3

SEAMLESS DESIGN

Designed for a handleless kitchen, this model is packed with features. Tap the door and it opens, each drawer can be raised or lowered up to 5cm and its drying mode leaves even plastic dry. And to top it all, you can control it all via smartphone.

SMV68TD06G, £1,049 (H81.5xW59.8xD55cm), Bosch. Buy now with **Ownable**



5

WATER SAVER

Available in stainless steel or white and either freestanding or built-in, this A++, 14-place setting, 10-programme model uses 6L water for a full wash – a third less than the average machine. It does this by saving water from the final rinse, using it for the next wash.

WFO 3T323 6P (H85xW60xD60cm) £529, Whirlpool
Buy now with **Ownable**



TECH SUPPORT

PAY LESS FOR YOUR TV VIEWING

Compared to a decade ago, the way we watch TV has changed beyond all recognition. Today, there are hundreds of channels across free and subscription platforms. Here's how to get what you want (without spending more than you should)

Q What channels can I get for free?

With more than 70 free channels, Freeview is the best option for no-cost viewing, and all TV sets made after 2010 have it built-in. If you don't have a Freeview-ready TV, you can buy a set-top box for as little as £35 (try argos.co.uk).

Q What about catch-up services?

You'll need broadband or a phone data package, but they're free, and if you download the apps to your smartphone or tablet you don't even need a TV to watch. The main free catch-up sites are BBC iPlayer, More4, ITV Hub, UKTV Play and My5. If you want to use these services on your TV, you'll need a smart TV or smart DVD player/set-top box. Freeview Play is available on many TVs and offers live and catch-up channels.

Q I can only afford one streaming subscription a month – which is best?

Tough question, but if we look at the amount of TV you get, Netflix costs from £5.99 per month for one screen (£7.99 for two) and has around 4,500 films and 2,500 TV series, while Amazon Prime is £7.99 month or £79 per year as part of an Amazon Prime subscription and has over 20,000 films and around 2,000 TV series. Remember though, many new Amazon films are available to rent, while all Netflix content is free. Now TV costs from £6.99 a month and is playable on smartphones, tablets and mainstream games



Ideal Home Tip

A Freeview recorder, such as the Humax HDR-1800T (£140, Argos), allows you to catch up on shows broadcast during the day and in the middle of the night

consoles, as well as smart TVs, Apple TV, Chromecast or through the Now TV Smart Stick, £14.99.

Q Can't I just stream movies onto my tablet or laptop?

Apple users can download iTunes and access TV and films from 99p, and to play them on the TV, you'll need to connect your laptop using an HDMI cable or invest in an Apple TV box (from £149). Google Play Movies is similar but available on Apple and Android devices with movies from 99p. Google's Chromecast dongle (£25) plugs

into your TV and lets you stream content from your smartphone.

Q We love football but can't afford both Sky and BT Sport. What options do we have?

Sky Sports will show 126 Premier League games this season, and BT Sport 42, and it costs around £100 a month for both. Now TV is a great alternative as it allows you to watch Sky without a contract. For all the Sky Sport channels, you can pay £33.99 a month, £12.99 for a week or £7.99 for 24 hours. If you don't have a smart TV, you can buy a Now TV Smart Stick.

KITCHEN TECH

5 BEST OVENS

Whether you need a huge range cooker to feed an army, an integral steamer to whip up healthier meals or sleek, hi-tech design that you can control from your smartphone, we've rounded up our pick of the finest models

1

BEST RANGE COOKER

Aga's latest all-electric cooker features four cavities – one for roasting, one for simmering, one for warming and a storage area for pans. On top there's a triple-element hotplate that can be set to boil, simmer or defrost and a two-zone induction hob.

3 Series range (H91.3xW96.4xD63.7cm), £7,865, Aga Buy now with **Ownable**



2

BEST BUDGET COOKER

Exceptional value for an all-in-one AA-rated electric oven and grill with gas hob. The top cavity can be used as a conventional oven and full-width grill, while the main 39L fan oven takes care of the bulk of the cooking, as well as defrost and dough-proving functions for added flexibility.

SDF60DO cooker, £499, Stoves
Buy now with **Ownable**



4

BEST DOUBLE OVEN

The perfect oven for Sunday roasts, this 71/31L AB-rated double oven has a super-efficient system known as '3D Hotair' that lets you cook multiple dishes across three shelves without worrying about hot or cool spots. It has 10 preset programmes and a great pizza mode, too.

MBA5575SOB double oven (H88.8xW59.4xD55cm), £999, Bosch
Buy now with **Ownable**



3

BEST BUILT-IN

Samsung's latest A+ design is brilliantly practical. It slots seamlessly into a standard single-oven cavity but a clever divider shelf allows its use as one 75L oven or as double ovens – perfect for a huge turkey.

Dual Cook Flex (H59.5xW59.5xD57cm), £589, Samsung Buy now with **Ownable**



5

BEST STEAM OVEN

A steam oven helps retain nutrients and is gentle on delicate ingredients such as salmon, but the fan heat of this 34L, A-rated Hotpoint also makes it perfect for cooking cakes, bread and roasts.

MS 998 IX H steam oven (H45.5xW59.5xD53.7cm), £769, Hotpoint
Buy now with **Ownable**



FOOD WITH FRIENDS

Easy twists on Christmas classics

Get out of your Christmas lunch rut – without abandoning the traditions everyone treasures – with these easy ideas to make it extra special...



***Melting cheesy
chestnut loaf***

See page 157 for recipe

**Roast turkey with
polenta stuffing**
See page 157 for recipe



IDEAL HOME LOVES...

Special occasion wines



WHITE

Irresistible Gavi
Broglia, £8.50, Co-op



RED

Extra Special Châteauneuf
du-Pape, £15, Asda



SPARKLING

Finest Premier Cru Rosé
Champagne, £22, Tesco

IDEAL HOME TIP

For extra-crispy, tasty roasties, toss your potatoes in 5tbsp polenta before roasting, and serve sprinkled with 40g grated Parmesan



Spanish sprouts
See page 157 for recipe



Red onion and honey radicchio
See page 157 for recipe



Smoked salt roots
See page 157 for recipe





Beef en croute
See page 157 for recipe

Figgy pudding Takes 5hr 30min, plus soaking Serves 6

INGREDIENTS • 250g sultanas
• 250g dried figs, chopped
• 250g dried apricots, chopped
• Zest and juice of 1 lemon •
Zest and juice of 1 orange
• 100ml amaretto • 3 eggs
• 75g light muscovado sugar
• 75g softened butter, plus extra
to grease • 75g flaked almonds,
toasted • 50g self-raising flour
• 75g fresh white breadcrumbs
• 1tsp ground cinnamon • 1tsp
ground coriander • 1tsp ground
ginger • Brandy butter, to serve

1 In a large container, mix the dried fruit, citrus zest and juices and amaretto. Leave to soak overnight or up to 2 days.

2 Whisk together the eggs, muscovado sugar and butter, then stir in the soaked fruit, almonds, flour, breadcrumbs and spices. Spoon into a greased 2-pint basin. Cover with a sheet of pleated baking paper, then a sheet of foil. Tie around the rim with soaked

string, then attach a second length to form a handle.

3 Sit an upturned saucer in a large pan and put the basin on top. Half fill pan with boiling water. Cover and simmer very gently for 5hr, topping pan up with water if necessary.

4 Drizzle melted brandy butter over the pud, sprinkle with edible gold stars, light the sparklers and serve!





Melting cheesy chestnut loaf

Takes 1hr 40min, plus resting
Serves 8

INGREDIENTS • 600g peeled butternut squash, cut into 2cm cubes • 2tbsp oil • 1 onion, finely chopped • 3 garlic cloves, sliced • 290g jar red peppers, drained, finely chopped • Parsley, basil and thyme, chopped • Grating of nutmeg • 1tbsp mustard • 50g olives, sliced • 200g chestnuts, chopped • 125g wholemeal breadcrumbs • 75g flaked almonds • 100ml white wine • 150g Dolcelatte
FOR THE SAUCE • 100g shallots, finely chopped • 1tbsp oil • 1tbsp tomato purée • 150ml red wine • 150ml vegetable stock • Few sprigs basil, chopped

1 Preheat oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Toss squash in 1tbsp oil. Roast for 25-30min. Fry onion and garlic in rest of oil. Mix in rest of ingredients except cheese and 50g almonds.

2 Line 2lb loaf tin with baking paper, sprinkle with almonds. Press in half of mix. Crumble cheese in centre; add rest of nut mix. Press. Bake at 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6 for 45-50min. Leave for 10min, turn out and slice.

3 For sauce, fry shallots in oil, add purée, cook for 1min. Add wine and stock. Simmer 5min. Stir in basil; season.



Roast turkey with polenta stuffing

Takes 3hr, plus resting
Serves 8-10

INGREDIENTS • 50g butter • 4.5-5.5kg fresh free-range bronze turkey • 500g sausagemeat • 2tbsp fresh parsley, chopped • 50g herby lemon breadcrumbs • 50g polenta • 2tbsp cranberry sauce • 250ml white wine

1 Preheat oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6. Rub butter all over turkey; season.

2 Mix all ingredients except wine, season and stuff into neck cavity. Roast turkey in large roasting tin for 20min. Reduce heat to 180°C/Fan 160°C/Gas 4, and add 200ml water and the wine. Roast for 2-2½hr, covering once brown, basting occasionally. Remove when cooked (meat thermometer reads 75°C, or juices run clear when skewer inserted into thickest part). Rest in a warm place, loosely covered, for up to 1hr.

Beef en croute

Takes 1hr 30min, plus resting
Serves 12

INGREDIENTS • 1-1.5kg beef fillet • 60g butter • 2 shallots, chopped • 2 garlic cloves, crushed • 250g chestnut mushrooms, finely chopped • 2tsp fresh thyme, chopped • 250g mascarpone • 2tbsp mustard • 160g Parma ham,



sliced • 375g puff pastry • 1 egg, beaten
FOR THE SAUCE • 2tbsp olive oil • 350g shallots, chopped • 2-3 garlic cloves, crushed • 3tbsp tomato purée • 2tbsp balsamic vinegar • 200ml red wine • 300ml hot beef stock

1 Season the beef. Heat 30g of butter in a frying pan on a medium heat until it foams. Add beef and brown all over for 4-5min. Cover meat and leave to cool.

2 Melt rest of butter in pan, add shallots, cook for 1min. Add garlic, mushrooms and thyme and fry for a few min. Mix in mascarpone and mustard. Season.

3 Lay half of ham on cling film, overlapping. Spread half mushroom mix on beef, then turn it over on ham. Spread rest of mix over beef and wrap in ham, overlapping. Wrap in cling film and chill.

4 Preheat oven to 220°C/Fan 200°C/Gas 7. Roll out a third of pastry to 5mm thick and 2.5cm bigger than beef. Prick with fork. Place on baking sheet and bake for 12-15min until brown and crisp. Cool for a few min; trim to size of beef. Remove cling film and place beef on cooked pastry, brushing edges with egg.

5 Roll out remaining pastry to 25x30cm, and make 10 diagonal slashes. Cover beef



under base. Brush with egg. Cook on baking sheet for 40min, rare to medium-rare; 45min, medium. Stand for 10min before serving.

6 For sauce, heat oil and fry shallots for 10min until soft. Add garlic and purée, cook for 1min. Add vinegar, bubble for 1min, then add wine. Boil for a few min, add stock and boil for 10min until reduced by a third. Serve with beef.

Spanish sprouts

Cook 150g chorizo with 2 chopped garlic cloves in 2tbsp oil in pan for 5min. Remove. Cook 750g sliced sprouts in pan for 5-6min. Add chorizo mix and heat. Scatter with 50g toasted flaked almonds.

Red onion and honey radicchio

Fry 2 sliced red onions in 1tbsp oil. Add 1 chopped radicchio with 2tbsp oil, 1tbsp orange juice, 1tsp mustard and 1tbsp honey. Stir well and cook for 2min.

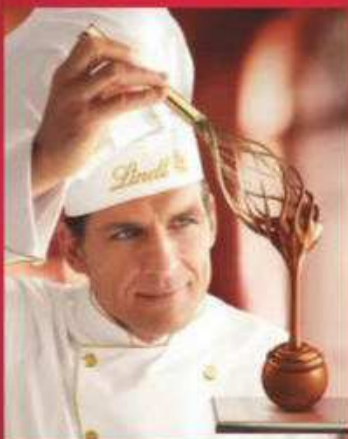
Smoked salt roots

Preheat oven to 200°C/Fan 180°C/Gas 6. Put 2tbsp oil in roasting tray and warm in oven. Add 400g sliced carrots and parsnips, sprinkle on smoked salt and pepper. Roast for 50min, turning halfway. Sprinkle with fresh thyme.



Melt into a moment of *bliss*

Smooth, melting Lindor in a milk chocolate truffle.
You choose the moment, we'll provide the bliss.



Lindt Master Chocolatier since 1845

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FESTIVE VEGAN DISHES

Struggling to plan Christmas lunch this year because you (or a guest) are vegan? Fear not! The supermarkets have come up with some brilliant, all-inclusive options...



THE COLOUR- AND FLAVOUR-PACKED DISH

A feast for your eyes as well as your stomach, this vibrant pilaf is full of fragrant Middle Eastern spices. Available through the Christmas Food to Order service (not in-store).

Taste the Difference Festive jewelled squash & pistachio pilaf, £7 for 750g, Sainsbury's
Buy now with **Ownable**

THE MOREISH CANAPES

For party nibbles, try these super-cute, mini soya and mushroom burgers – they come with itty bitty slider buns and vegan sauce. Yum.

Vegan mini burgers, £5 for 10, Marks & Spencer
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE MAIN EVENT

Everybody loves a touch of theatre at Christmas and this Cauli wellington certainly won't disappoint. The Duxelles sauce is delicious.

Cauliflower wellington, £6 for 450g, Tesco
Buy now with **Ownable**

THE SWEET TREAT

Want a dessert that's decadent and dairy-free? Look no further. Smooth choc ganache is topped with caramel and finished with gold glitter for a festive flourish that's FAB-U-LOUS.

Chocolate caramel pots, £3 for two 85g pots, Asda
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE DAIRY-FREE CHEESEBOARD

Because it just wouldn't be Christmas without a cheeseboard, Asda has brought out this festive selection of three tasty, dairy-free flavours.

Vegan cheeseboard, £5 for three pieces, Asda
Buy now with **Ownable**




Shop now with the Ownable app

THE SUPER STUFFING

After an impressive accompaniment? Co-op's festive wreath feeds six as a side, or two as a main. The chestnut mushroom, sage and onion 'stuffing' is studded with juicy apricots and cranberries and finished with a pomegranate molasses glaze.

Irresistible Vegan festive stuffing wreath, £4 for 518g, Co-op
Buy now with **Ownable**

SUPERMARKET SHOWSTOPPER DESSERTS

Hands full with Christmas dinner prep and running out of time to create something special for afters? Don't worry – we've rounded up the best hassle-free festive desserts



THE STICKY TOFFEE MOUSSE

While everyone's a fan of sticky toffee pudding, it's never been the most elegant of desserts – until now. This beautifully crafted torte from Tesco features toffee sponge layers of maple mousse and rich caramel, finished with a delicate chocolate wreath and a lustre-covered chocolate pine cone.

Finest Sticky toffee wreath torte, £10, Tesco
Buy now with **Ownable**



THE CHOCOLATE GLOBE CAKE

Basically the dessert equivalent of Narnia, under the lustrous white chocolate dome of this delicate dessert you'll find a milk chocolate biscuit base, layered with dark chocolate cheesecake and salted caramel sauce, topped with white chocolate mousse, white chocolate curls, snowball decorations and pearl malt balls.

Truly magical and completely delicious.

Irresistible White chocolate snow globe, £10, Co-op
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THE KIDS' CAKE

With all the boozy desserts and puddings at Christmas, it's worth getting something in that the kids can wrap their tastebuds around. This jolly reindeer cake is sweet and simple – chocolate sponge, sandwiched and covered in chocolate frosting and topped with a caramel buttercream. They'll love it!

Reindeer cake, £10, Asda
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THE ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS PUD

Bored of Christmas pud but love the tradition of it? Packed with candied apple and cinnamon, this twist on the classic could be just what you're looking for.

Heston Golden Delicious pudding, £14, Waitrose
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THE BIG REVEAL DESSERT

As we saw on *Bake Off*, melting chocolate dome desserts aren't easy to make! But don't worry, Sainsbury's have you covered.

Taste the Difference Melting billionaires bombe, £12, Sainsbury's
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THE POSH PROFITEROLES

Heston's helping us go a little left field with dessert this year. He's filled black profiteroles with a zesty mandarin orange crème pâtissière, and then drizzled a smoked orange caramel sauce on top. And the Heston magic? They're all scattered with popping candy that crackle in your mouth as you eat them.

Heston Profiter'coals, £13 for 500g, Waitrose
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THE SHARING MINCE PIE

Crack out the brandy butter, Aldi has supersized its mince pie this season.

Serving six to eight (depending on how greedy you're feeling) the all-butter pastry and rich, sweet mincemeat filling are a great after dinner or Christmas Eve treat for true traditionalists.

Specially Selected Exquisite sharing mince pie, £3.99, Aldi
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THE FESTIVE ICE CREAM

Love mince pies but never have room for one after a massive Christmas lunch? All hail Iceland and its refreshingly festive mince pie-flavoured ice cream cones!

Mince pie ice cream cones, £1.50 for four, Iceland
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THE CHOUX CENTREPIECE

Just because something's big doesn't mean it has to be expensive and this super-stacked dessert from Lidl is proof of that. Using the silver-coloured stand that it comes with, you need to build the 20 chocolate and 40 plain choux profiteroles into a circular turret, then cover them in lashings of Belgian choc and rich caramel sauce, before finishing with decorative sprinkles to make this towering delight.

Deluxe Croquembouche, £6.99, Lidl
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THE TEAR & SHARE WREATH

Light yet luxurious, Marks & Spencer's Christmas choux wreath features eight delicate choux buns, each crammed with a delicious salted caramel cream and finished with a drizzle of rich Belgian sauce, with a small pot of extra sauce to double dip into. Naughty!

Christmas choux wreath, £8, Marks & Spencer
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THE CHOCCY CHRISTMAS TREE

Never have space for pudding after dinner but still crave something a little sweet? This golden tree will provide you with a striking centrepiece, but much like an Easter egg, you can break off as much or as little as you want.

Hand decorated shimmering tree, £10, Marks & Spencer
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THE ICE CREAM CRACKER

Made by the famed French frozen food company Picard, this delicate cracker is made from layers of sweet and tart strawberry and Champagne sorbets, almond biscuit and strawberry sauce, making for a refreshing end to a festive feast. Serves eight.

Strawberry and Champagne sorbet cracker dessert, £16.99, Ocado
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Lay a stunning Christmas table

Wow your guests by setting the scene for the main event. Just choose your favourite style to add a festive touch

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IN SEASON

Christmas Holly & Berry napkins, £15 for four, Sophie Allport
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Slogan side plates, £19.50 for four, Marks & Spencer
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STAR APPEAL

Star Baker Christmas Joy dish, £59.95, Emma Bridgewater
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Bistro cutlery, £15 for 16 piece set, John Lewis
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DRESS THE TABLE

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Fir Tree side plate, £5; cereal bowl, £5; mug £5, Marks & Spencer
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SHOW PIECE

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MIDAS TOUCH

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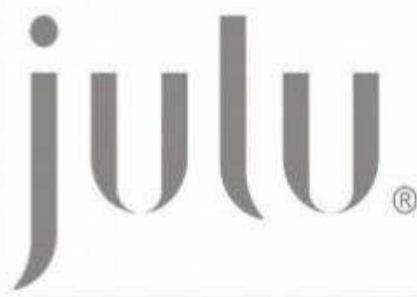


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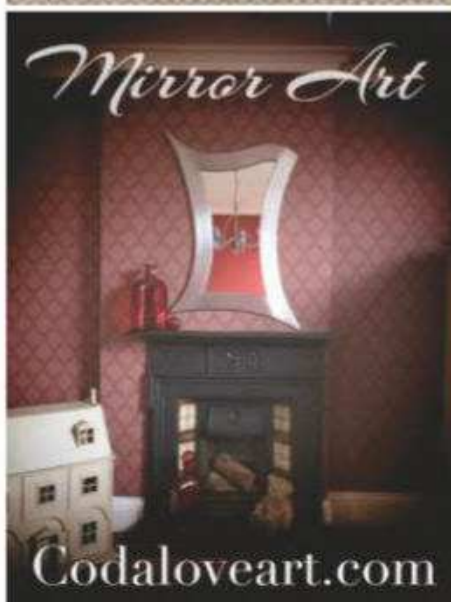
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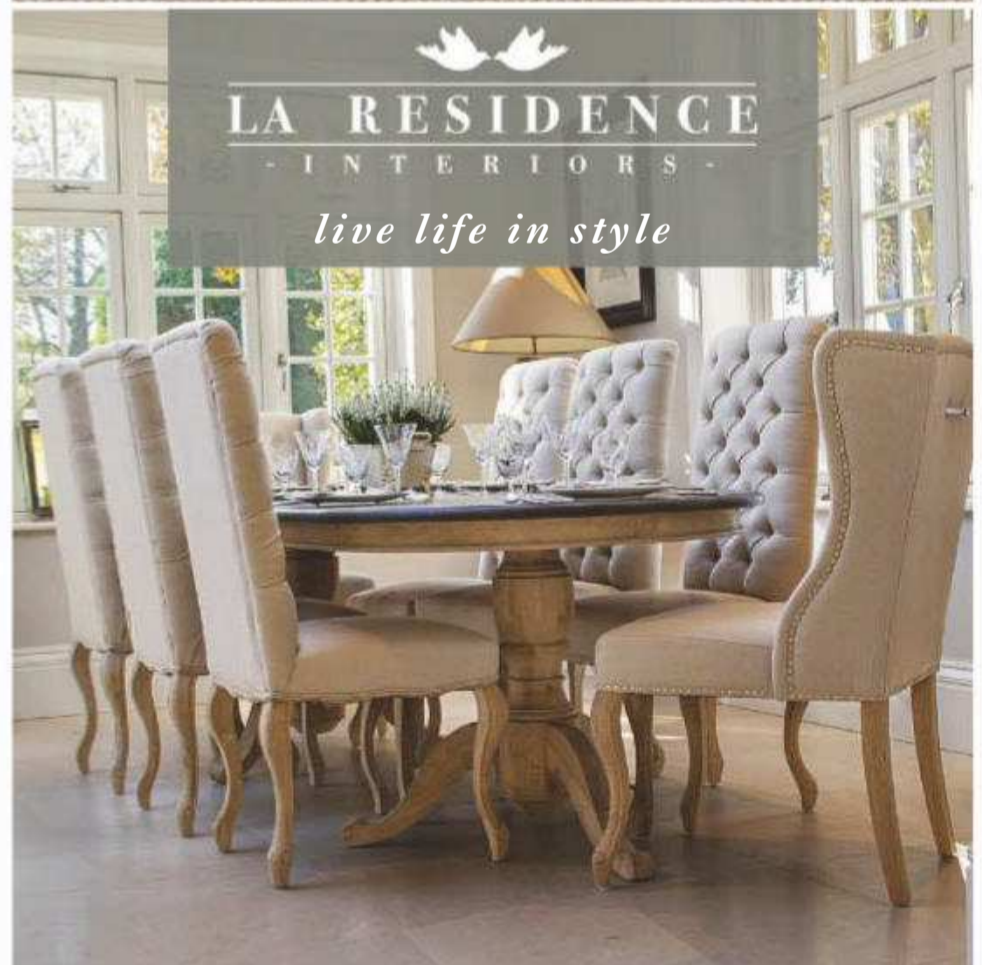


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