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# ELLE DECORATION

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FOR YOUR  
HOME  
SEPTEMBER 2015  
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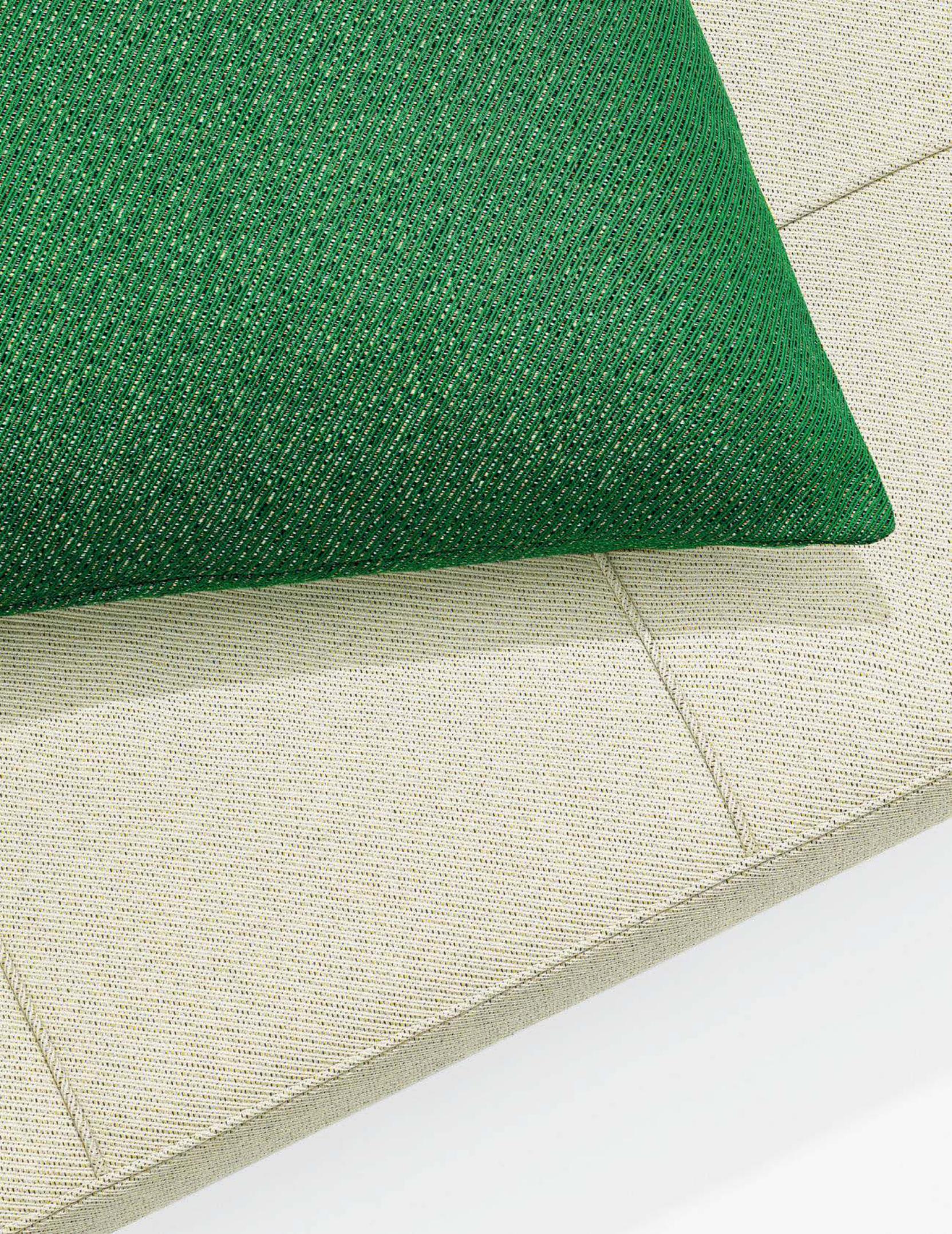
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SEPTEMBER 2015



## Style

- 25 This month's best buy... Ilse Crawford's first range for Ikea
- 26 News Smart shopping and names to know; plus, our top picks from London's best design showrooms
- 38 People Designer Theo Williams on his new furniture venture
- 42 Style icon Lucius Beebe, whose waspish gossip columns introduced 1930s New York to 'cafe society'
- 44 Colour The story of Egyptian blue
- 47 How to shop the high street Our ultimate edit of affordable designs from the autumn collections; plus, Tamsin Blanchard tells us why she loves the high street, and Harry Wallop explains how the recession has changed our shopping habits



# SOLUTIONS

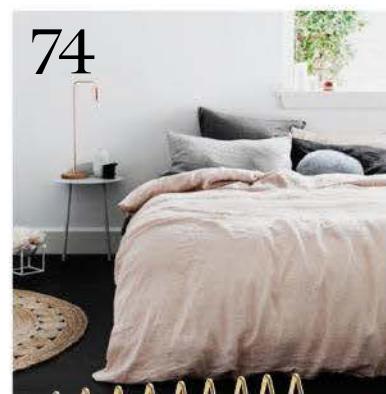


- 63 This month's big idea... Mix and match subtle floral wallpapers and fabrics

- 65 Updates Decorating inspiration, expert tips on using wood-effect tiles, ideas for small gardens, the latest home-office storage solutions and grown-up ways to work pink

- 84 Technology Tom Bailey's ten interiors apps to download now; plus, marble phone covers and top-notch coffee

- 91 Inspiration The new generation of foodies show us around their kitchens and reveal their essential cooking kit and healthy tips





162

## Home

- 108 Singing the blues** An elegant Bordeaux apartment with a scene-stealing colour scheme
- 120 The purity principle** A light, airy house on the Swedish coast filled with a collection of vintage treasures
- 130 Season of mists** The surprising new colour trend for autumn
- 136 Breaking the mould** The ceramics classics of the future in the original home of British pottery

- 142 French polish** This classical Parisian apartment is furnished with clean-lined pieces and modern art for a timeless look
- 152 Edge of beauty** A striking marble-clad Modernist villa situated on the banks of Lake Como
- 162 Return to splendour** This 19th-century apartment in Berlin's creative quarter has been sensitively updated to reflect both its long history and its owner's global style

## Escape

- 175 If you visit one festival this summer...** Head to Portmeirion, Wales for 'Festival No.6'
- 176 News** London's sculpture trail, plus the latest eateries and art shows
- 181 Architectural icon** Inside Eileen Gray's newly opened Modernist masterpiece, the E-1027 villa
- 189 Architecture news** The art world's new landmarks, plus Instagram hits
- 192 Design destinations** Discover the diverse nature of Tokyo, from skyscrapers to ancient water gardens

## Finally

- 21 Subscribe** Fantastic offers for our most loyal readers
- 198 Stockists** Hot names and addresses
- 210 Design decoded** Luggage brand Tumi's journey to success



181

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### Elizabeth Wood

Twitter: @Lizzzard83

About Liz is ELLE Decoration's Acting Photography Director

**Favourite colour** Wedgwood blue, without question. My father's a ceramics expert, so I'm a little biased

**Interiors style** Simple Scandinavian chic with a good wash of the aforementioned blue

**Favourite design object** A classic Hasselblad camera

**Favourite city** Reykjavik. I adore its mix of ancient and cutting edge, from the monolithic black cliffs to the sleek modern buildings. No city has so clearly affirmed for me the reasons that I took a photography degree



### Anders Schonemann

**Profession** Photographer

**Feature** Season of mists, p130

**Interiors style** I used to be a big fan of simple living, with an emphasis on a few vintage designer objects. Now, after having kids, our house remains

simple but is functional. There is a clear sense of each family member's character and personality

**Favourite city** I just love New York. Even though I have visited the city numerous times, I still feel

astounded by the vibe there and the cool places to see

**Dream buy** I would build a garage next to my house and buy myself a vintage Porsche 911



### Tamsin Blanchard

Twitter: @tamsinblanchard

**Profession** Author and journalist

**Feature** For the love of shopping, p49

**Interiors style** I'd say colourful and homely with a mix of old and new. Others would say I'm untidy

**Favourite colours** Orange and green

**Design hero** I suppose I'd have to say Sir Jonathan Ive because I use his designs on a daily basis (although my iPhone is clad in a fantastic case with a pattern by the brilliant print artist Cressida Bell)

**Dream buy** Lots of really beautiful carpets and rugs – and a floor big enough to put them on!



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## MY LIFE DESIGN STORIES

Wall System bookcase, design Rodolfo Dordoni.  
Bristol sofa, design Jean-Marie Massaud. Soori coffee table, design Soo Chan.

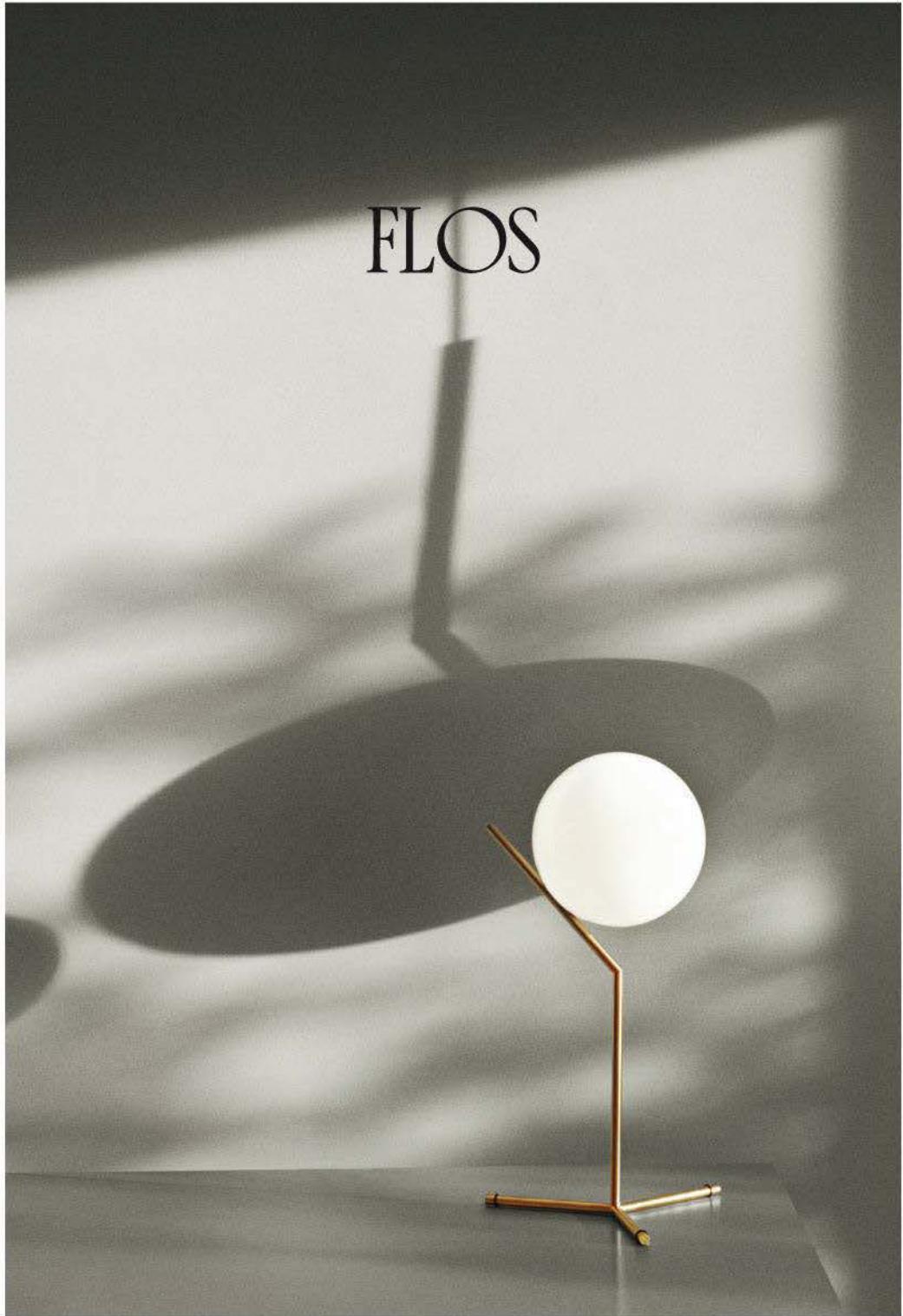


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## #BEORIGINAL

**It's easy to be snobby about design** in the way that people used to be about salad (bear with me here), it being a joke that if you asked for salad north of the Watford Gap, you'd be presented with chopped Iceberg. I suppose it was intended to imply that once you'd left the cosy confines of the shiny, clever metropolis, all would be basic, boring and unimaginative. But just as good salad doesn't have to involve exotic baby leaves topped off with edamame, pea shoots and a sprinkling of miso-roasted seeds, good design is not the preserve of a supposed urban elite in the capital. In fact, great design can be found today in the shops and even supermarkets on almost every major high street the length and breadth of Britain. And where once the idea of shopping for the home in Sainsbury's might have been greeted with snorts of derision, today, it's the smart shopper who keeps an open mind.

After all, isn't it more about things resonating with you on an emotional and personal level than where they're from? Don't you simply want to be presented with a wide choice at a range of price points, and then depending on your budget and preferences make up your own mind? I think that today's consumer no longer cares whether their sofa is from B&B Italia or French Connection for DFS – trust me, not a sentence I write lightly. And don't get me wrong, I'm not for a second saying that there's no difference in construction, materials, quality and manufacturing expertise between these two brands. The point I'm making is that today's consumer is aware, and they also know their own mind enough

**'Where once the idea of shopping for the home in a supermarket might have been greeted with snorts of derision, today, it's the smart shopper who keeps an open mind'**



### EDITOR'S PICKS

Clockwise from top left 'Landscape' cushion, £8, Asda ([asda.com](http://asda.com)). 'Nordic' teapot, £25, Marks & Spencer ([mards.com](http://mards.com)). 'Tumbler' side table, £159, West Elm ([westelm.co.uk](http://westelm.co.uk)). Roasters, from £32, House of Fraser ([houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk))



enough to say, 'yes, but I love this one, so that's what I'm going to buy'. It's a similar 'confident consumer' shift to that seen in fashion when women rejected the It-bag phenomenon. And it means that all brands will have to up their game.

Couple this change with the rise and rise of online shopping and it's clear that the home furnishings sector is facing a revolution. John Lewis alone deals with more than six million click-and-collect orders a year (across all departments), compared with 350,000 when it launched in 2009. As a result, it's had to add a £2 fee for orders under £30 in order to continue to maintain the complex logistics that must surround such a service. Crucially, returns are still free. And this is surely a key point. If clothes shopping sites are anything

to go by, online shoppers routinely over-order, knowing that it's easy to return unwanted items at no cost. But will people really take a punt on a big-ticket item like a sofa, sight unseen?

Apparently they already are, although online stats don't always reveal whether or not they visited the store to check out their purchase first. If they didn't, this bodes ill for our high streets. After all, what will their purpose be if no-one needs to visit them anymore?

In fact, back in 2011, a review of the high street undertaken for the government by retail expert and TV's Queen of Shops, Mary Portas, stated that neither internet shopping nor out-of-town retail parks were going away, as they offer consumers choice and competitive prices. Nevertheless, the high street could offer more if it regenerated itself as a community centre for entertainment as well as shopping. With an exciting wealth of new products on offer from unexpected brands, it seems that the future is looking bright for the high street. So whether you order from your armchair or hit the pavement, we've devoted 11 pages of this issue to a comprehensive high street shoppers' guide: what to buy and where to go, from Marks & Spencer to Matalan (yes, really!).

*Michelle Ogundehin*  
Editor-in-Chief

PICTURE: SUKIDHANNA (PORTRAIT)

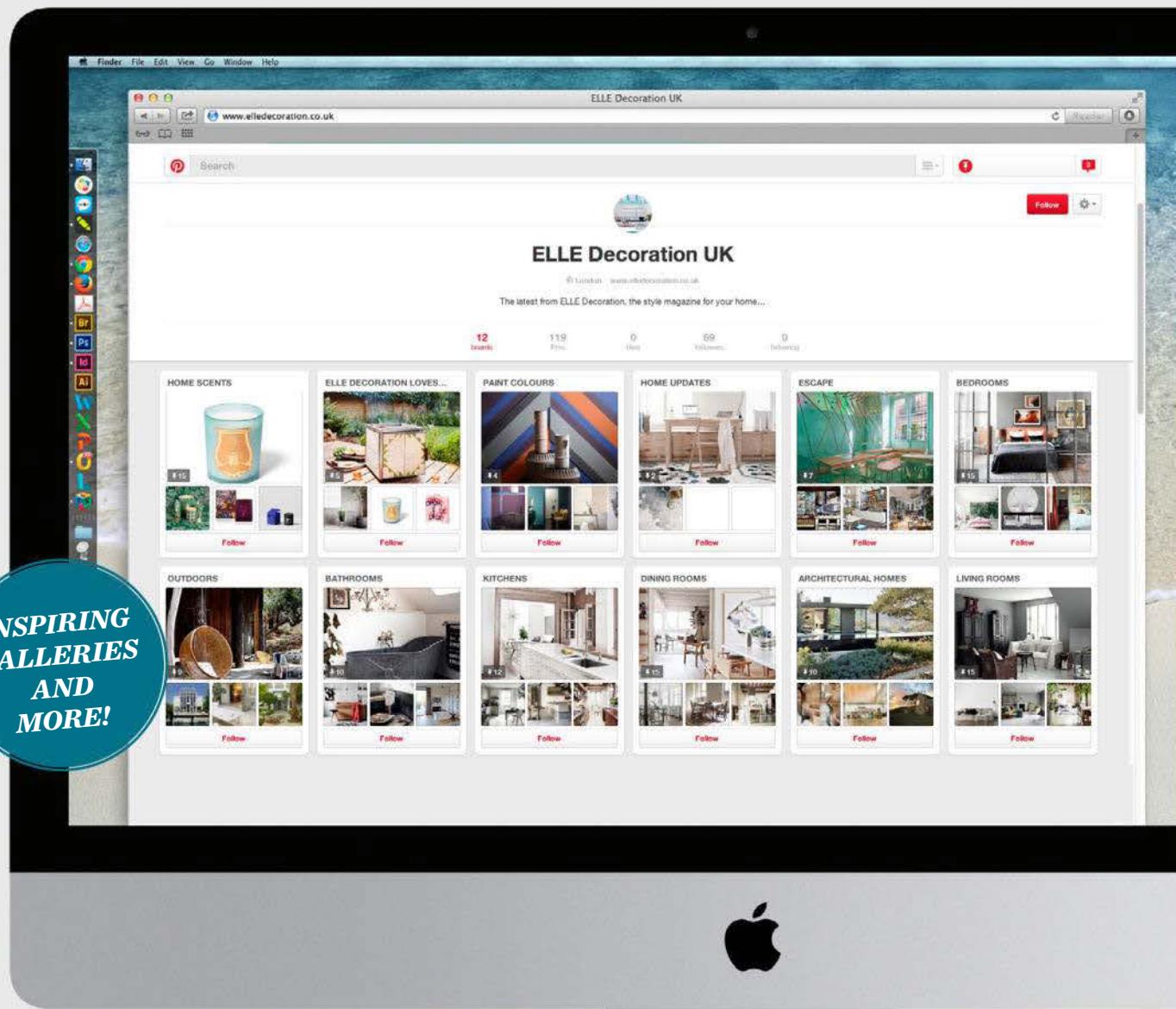
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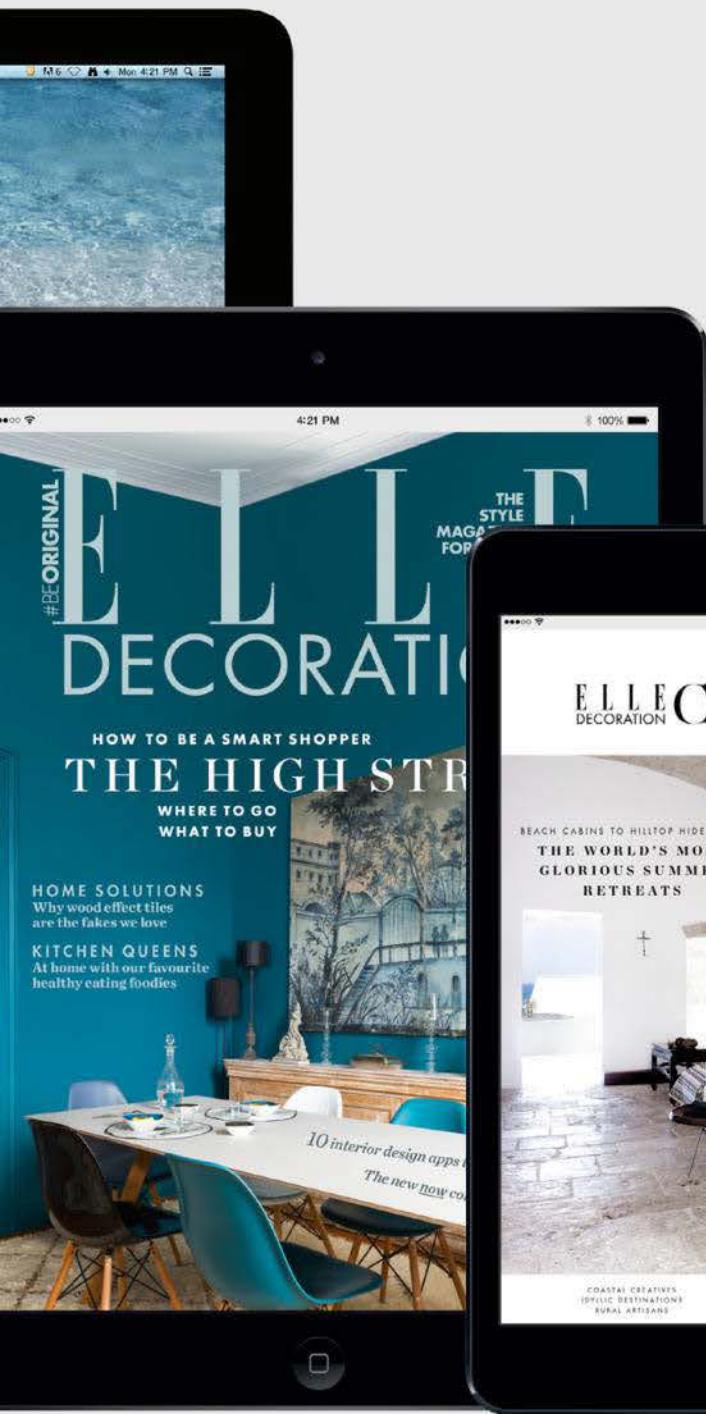
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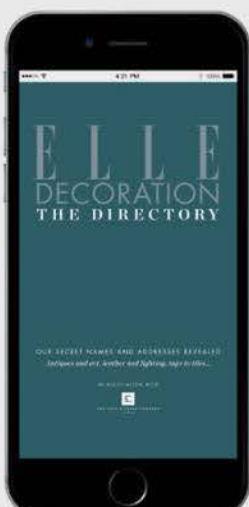
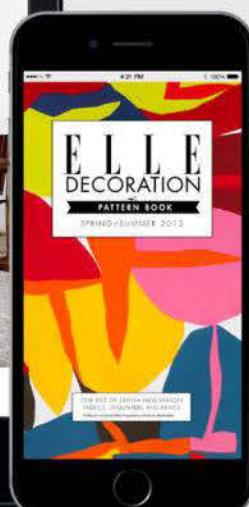
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# STYLE

## THIS MONTH'S BEST BUYS...

**WE'RE SERIOUSLY EXCITED ABOUT** the new 'Sinnerlig' collection for Ikea designed by ELLE Decoration founding editor Ilse Crawford. It features everything from an elegant daybed and dining table to perfectly practical tableware in a range of natural materials. You're sure to find at least one piece (and probably more) that you can't live without.

Turn the page to see the rest of the range.



PICTURE: MARCUS LAWETT

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## DESIGNS FOR LIFE

Made of natural materials such as cork, acacia wood, bamboo and seagrass, the new 'Sinnerlig' collection for Ikea designed by ELLE Decoration founding editor Ilse Crawford focuses on three key aspects of the home: working, dining and lounging. Every product has been designed not just to look stylish, but also to feel good to touch and use – Crawford is renowned for her belief that everything in your home should 'engage the senses'.

'The more digital our lives become, the more we crave the physical,' says Crawford, who took inspiration from her own home when creating the cork-topped dining table (£250), which features a handy sling for stowing papers and clutter. 'I like to work at the dining table and I'm always being told to move my piles of paper when supper is coming,' she explains. 'I wanted a table that would allow me to scoop them up and store them

underneath, rather than putting them on the floor.' Other hero pieces include a 1950s-style jute and acacia-wood daybed (£279) designed for multiple uses ('It's something that you can sit on, take a nap on or use when working on your iPad'), woven bamboo pendant lights (£40) and chunky seagrass rugs (from £25). There are also smaller pieces, including ceramics (from £6), linen cushion covers (from £8) and a great selection of glass bottles with cork stoppers (from £2). Cork is the signature material of the collection – a natural, eco-friendly surface that's also waterproof, sound-absorbing and easy to clean. When steam-treated, the cork develops a darker colour that contrasts beautifully with its natural, lighter state. All of the pieces are available online and in-store now – but you'd better be quick, because we predict a sell-out ([ikea.co.uk](http://ikea.co.uk)).

PICTURES: MARCUS LAWRENCE/DESIGNSFORLIFE, MAIN IMAGE: PIERRE WESTER/DESIGNSFORLIFE, CUT OUTS: PIERRE WESTER/DESIGNSFORLIFE



Bamboo pendant light, £40



Bottle, from £2; jar, from £8.50

Table lamp, from £24;  
cork stool, £50

Cork bench, £100

**BRAND TO WATCH MURMUR**

New homeware company Murmur's artisanal, modern-rustic look is evident across its range of subtly patterned bedlinen, acacia-wood serveware and textured crockery, all available in a beautiful neutral palette. Mix and match pale-blue 'Dash' and navy 'Still' bedding (below) for a laid-back, stylish alternative to the matchy-matchy look; likewise the lovely selection of super-soft towels, which includes striped hammam designs and chevron weaves. From £4 for a towel, available from September ([murmur.co.uk](http://murmur.co.uk)).



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FELIX 03



### HOME SCENT ICON 'GRAND CHALET' CANDLE BY ASTIER DE VILLATTE

The painter Balthus was a fortunate soul: he made his home in the tiny village of Rossinière, one of Switzerland's most picturesque spots. In 1977, he bought the 18th-century Grand Chalet (right), originally built as a warehouse and, at the time, the largest wooden building in the country. In this palatial residence, with its filigree woodwork façade, he lived with his Japanese wife, Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola, and several beloved cats.

Nature was one of the many things that attracted Balthus to the Grand Chalet. In summer, the ancient lime trees that surrounded his studio wafted a honeyed citrus fragrance on the Alpine breeze. The artist's love of that scent is captured in cult French design brand Astier de Villatte's 'Grand Chalet' candle, composed by his widow with perfumer Françoise Caron and Japanese fragrance company Takasago. Fresh and sweet, it combines lime flower with mimosa, heliotrope and musk, and is the ideal scent to burn in warm weather, with the windows thrown open and fresh air blowing through. £60, Liberty ([liberty.co.uk](http://liberty.co.uk)).



**Right, from top** The intricately carved wooden façade of the Grand Chalet in Rossinière, Switzerland; Balthus at work in his studio

## LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT

A glorious new crop of design stores has opened in London – visit and be inspired!

### BAXTER



**Why go?** This Mayfair space is Italian brand Baxter's first flagship showroom in the UK, and is overseen by Anna-Grace Davidson, creative director of interior design firm Anna Casa. We've long been fans of Baxter's innovative way with colours, finishes and textures.  
**The details** 2 Hay Hill, London W1 (baxterlondon.net).

**Best for** Sumptuous sofas and beds in soft nubuck leather.

**Statement buy** Paola Navone's jade-green nubuck 'Casablanca' sofa (£16,892).



### CARL HANSEN & SØN



**Why go?** This elegant three-storey space in Clerkenwell is heaven for fans of Scandinavian style. As well as Carl Hansen & Son products, it sells pieces by Rud Rasmussen, the legendary Danish cabinetmaker.  
**The details** 16a Bowring Green Lane, London EC1 (carlhansen.com).

**Best for** Statement dining chairs, armchairs and storage units with a timeless appeal, designed by the likes of Hans Wegner, Kaare Klint and Ole Wanscher.

**Statement buy** The reissued 'Signature' armchair by Frits Henningsen (£2,198), designed in 1954.



### LEMA

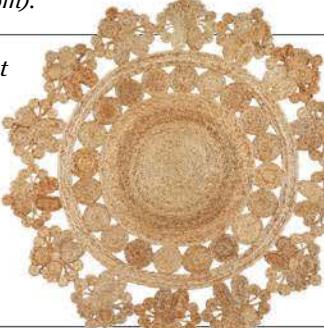


**Why go?** Italian brand Lema's first UK flagship store is housed in a renovated Chelsea townhouse and extends over two floors. The interior was designed by its art director, famed Italian creative Piero Lissoni, in his trademark pared-down yet luxurious style.  
**The details** 183 Kings Road, London SW3 (lema-uk.com).

**Best for** Sleek seating and modular wardrobes, plus great bespoke storage systems.



**Statement buy** Christophe Pillet's new 'Winston' cocktail cabinet in Canaletto walnut (£12,920).



**Best for** Rugs, throws and cushions made from all-natural materials, and stylish small storage items, such as baskets.

**Statement buy** 'Marigold' hemp rug (£350), part of a great collection by Aussie brand Armadillo & Co.

### NORTHWOOD



**Why go?** The UK outpost of Australian brand Southwood sells organic, Fairtrade soft furnishings that are ethical and beautiful.  
**The details** 57 Amwell Street, London EC1 (northwoodhome.co.uk).

**Best for** Beautiful beds and wardrobes, as well as stylish kitchens, courtesy of Poliform's sister brand Poliform Varenna.

**Statement buy** The new 'Bolton' bed (from £5,969) and 'Onda' oak and marble chest (right, £7,393).



### POLIFORM



**Why go?** Poliform's Kings Road showroom has recently undergone a complete refurbishment and has almost doubled in size. If you love slick Italian design carefully styled into inspirational room sets, this is the place to visit.  
**The details** 276-8 Kings Road, London SW3 (poliformuk.com).

**Best for** Poltrona Frau is famous for two things, its armchairs and its expertise in using the finest leather.

**Statement buy** The incredibly soft 'Archibald Gran Comfort' leather armchair by Jean-Marie Massaud (£4,260).



### POLTRONA FRAU



**Why go?** Poltrona Frau's most recent opening in Milan is a feast for the eyes with perfectly colour-coordinated room sets, so we're expecting great things from the brand's new Chelsea space. Opening in September, it's being designed by Jean-Marie Massaud.  
**The details** 117-119 Fulham Road, London SW3 (poltronafrau.com).



## DESERT STORM

We've long been fans of Rockett St George, an online shop that also has a store in the pretty village of Ditchling, West Sussex (open by appointment only) and its new collection, inspired by Native American and desert styles, with earthy colours and raw, natural finishes, confirms our love. Visit or browse the site for everything from handwoven rugs (from £30) to faux cacti by Abigail Ahern (£168; [rockettstgeorge.co.uk](http://rockettstgeorge.co.uk)).



### SACRED VESSELS

Danish design duo Holmbäck Nordentoft have created the new 'Cafu' collection for Georg Jensen – a versatile range of bowls, vases and candleholders in glass, stainless steel and 24-carat gold

plate. Characterised by soft, round shapes and intriguing colours – the dark-blue glass was developed especially for Georg Jensen – the idea is that you can mix and match pieces and use them for different purposes: bowls can be used to hold flowers or nibbles, for instance, while candleholders also double as small vases. From £40 for a candleholder ([georgjensen.com](http://georgjensen.com)).



### BURNING PASSION

Florist Robbie Honey has created displays for big fashion brands including Dior and Mary Katrantzou – and we're sure that they would approve of his debut scented candle range, with its stylish greyscale packaging. Inspired by Honey's love of white flowers, each of the four candles in the collection is dedicated to a different bloom: 'Muguet des Bois' reinvents traditional lily of the valley with bright citrus notes; 'Jasmine' and 'Tuberose' are heady, creamy scents; and 'Casa Blanca' is based on fields of white lilies in Honey's native Zimbabwe. £42 each ([robbiehoney.com](http://robbiehoney.com)).



## ALL ABOARD

British firm Bert & May is best known for its collections of beautiful reclaimed tiles and wooden flooring, but its latest project is on a rather larger scale. 'Bert's Barges' are innovative, ready-made modern homes designed for life on the water. The concept was dreamed up by Lee Thornley, founder and creative director of Bert & May, who collaborated with stylist Laura Fulmine and RaT Architecture to create a chic, contemporary version of the humble houseboat. There are two versions available – the 'Country Barge' is a 15.85-metre-long space with two bedrooms and warm, cosy decor, ideal as a holiday home; the 'City Barge' is slightly smaller at 14.63 metres long, with one bedroom, a foldaway guest bed and Scandinavian-style furnishings (both feature Bert & May finishes).

Thornley began the project after becoming frustrated at the lack of affordable, design-led housing for sale in London. 'With the canal running past Bert & May's showroom in East London, it suddenly dawned on me that a barge could be the perfect solution,' he says. 'I'm now obsessed with the idea of providing unique floating homes and am convinced that the number of people living this way will rise dramatically over the next few years.' If you want to find out why he's so enthusiastic about this way of life, you can rent the canal barge near his showroom through Airbnb ([airbnb.co.uk](http://airbnb.co.uk)). Ready to embrace life on the nation's waterways? The barges cost from £120,000 unfitted, up to £165,000 for a fully fitted two-bedroom model ([bertandmayspaces.com](http://bertandmayspaces.com)).

**From top** Whitewashed Bert & May boards and Scandinavian furnishings give the barges a warm and relaxed feel; ingenious built-in storage means that there is room for a double bed; a marble-topped kitchen counter makes a stylish statement



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## MY CULTURAL LIFE

JASPER CONRAN

*We ask a tastemaker what they are reading, watching, downloading and listening to*

Jasper Conran OBE is not only a renowned fashion designer but, since 2012, he has also been chairman and creative director of The Conran Shop, where he has overseen a refresh of its stores and its covetable collections of furniture and accessories (@TheConranShop; conranshop.co.uk).

**My favourite piece of music**

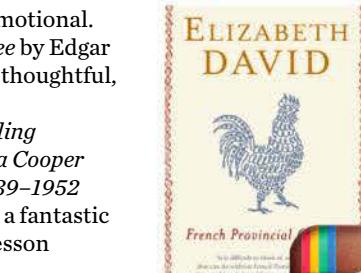
is Handel's *Messiah*, which I like from beginning to end — it's sublime. I love Handel's work and find this piece in particular incredibly moving. I often hear it performed at Christmas, but my favourite place to listen to it is by the stream in my garden at home.

**I'm currently listening to** music by American singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens (below). He writes and

performs his own songs. They are very thought-provoking and emotional.

**My favourite poem** is *Annabel Lee* by Edgar Allan Poe. It's beautifully written, thoughtful, and timeless.

**At the moment I'm reading** *Darling Monster: The Letters of Lady Diana Cooper to her Son John Julius Norwich 1939–1952* (Vintage, £10.99). Lady Diana was a fantastic communicator and the book is a lesson in good writing skills; in how to properly describe the things that we observe. Everybody writes emails so much now, we're losing this essential art. I met Lady Diana once, when she was in her nineties. She had incredible pale blue eyes and was wearing a sailor cap.



**The book that's influenced me the most**

is Elizabeth David's *French Provincial Cooking* (right, Penguin, £12.99). I like her way of doing things. When I was locked up at boarding school as a boy, this book was a great companion. David's way of thinking is straightforward yet romantic and evocative. I use her recipes

a lot — her sauces are amazing and can transform the simplest dish into a delightful meal.

**My favourite film** is Stanley Kubrick's *Barry Lyndon* (1975). It involves three of my interests — the 18th century, English country houses, and Ireland. I'm also partial to Marisa Berenson (above), who plays the Countess of Lyndon.

**If I had a free day in London,** I'd visit the National Portrait Gallery, the National Gallery, Sir John Soane's Museum (left) and as many other galleries as I could fit into one day. Viewing and experiencing art, design and the creations of others inspires me. I'd also have lunch at the Soho restaurant

Bocca di Lupo, which serves Italian food in the style Italians call '*la cucina della nonna*' (grandmother's cooking). Its menu features regional dishes from all over Italy. The food is exquisite and served honestly, with no fuss.

**I have two favourite destinations in the world.** One is Venice (top) because I feel that I will never know it completely. The other place is Greece, where I've never had anything but a good time. I love being by the sea — it's one of life's greatest luxuries. The food is also very good and Greek people are wonderfully welcoming.

**I'm a true technophile.** I see technology as the tool that gives me the freedom to operate effectively and creatively wherever I am (or wherever there's wi-fi). It allows me to sit under a blossoming tree in my garden and work as if I'm in my office or studio.

**My favourite app is Instagram.** I'm enchanted by the poetry of communication through images.



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## MORRIS REIMAGINED

House of Hackney founders Frieda Gormley and Javvy M Royle took inspiration from legendary Arts & Crafts designer William Morris when they established their brand in 2011 – which makes their new collaboration with the William Morris Gallery feel just right. Famous for their sumptuous, colourful patterns, the duo relished the task of trawling the William Morris archive to select three prints to rework as wallpapers, velvet accessories, sofas and lamps. They settled on 'Hyacinth' (on wall, left and right), 'Peacock & Dragon', and 'Blackthorn', all intense patterns that

have acquired a trippy, 1970s-style feel once re-scaled and printed in bolder colours. To complete the new collection, Gormley and Royle created a fourth design in homage to Morris's style – 'Artemis' (above right) captures the almost psychedelic feel of the designer's work. 'Morris was the first punk,' says Gormley. 'He tore up the elitist interiors rule book, launching bold, non-conformist prints as a backlash to the fashionable French aesthetic of the time.' Wallpaper, £128 per nine-metre roll; velvet, £98 per metre, all available from September ([houseofhackney.com](http://houseofhackney.com)).

### 3 OF THE BEST... ON-TREND VASES

These designs offer a fresh take on the classic cylindrical vase, mixing materials to create unique finishes. Dutch designer Lex Pott's 'True Colours' vessels for &Tradition are made from combinations of copper, steel, brass and aluminium, with oxidised sections (below, left). British design duo Aelder's elegant 'Elcombe' vase (below, centre)

is made of ash-wood and copper with a glass insert. Finally, Finnish designers Maija Puoskari and Tuukka Tujula's 'Pino Pino' vase for Danish brand New Works (below, right) consists of several interchangeable glass sections in a range of colours that can be stacked to form a vessel that will suit any bouquet, from small buds to giant blooms.



'True Colours' vase, from £79, Haus London ([hauslondon.com](http://hauslondon.com))



'Elcombe' vase, £160, Aelder ([aelder-design.com](http://aelder-design.com))



'Pino Pino' vase, £60 for three glass sections and an oak lid, New Works ([newworks.dk](http://newworks.dk))

## THEO WILLIAMS

*The man who has helped to bring great design to the British high street tells us about his next venture*

Words ALEX KRISTAL

**DIVERSITY HAS BEEN THE HALLMARK** of Theo Williams' 25-year career. His biggest roles have been as creative director at Habitat (2007–2011) and head of design at John Lewis (2011–2013); at the latter he was part of a team that oversaw the store's resurgence on the high street and the launch of its crowd-pleasing 'House' homes range, which focuses on simple, affordable design. But he's also worked as an art director for major fashion brands such as Prada and Ferragamo; designed products for Alessi (honey and sugar jars, still on sale 20 years after their debut); and even created fitness equipment for Technogym. He says it was an early stint at Milan companies Nava Design and Nava Press, which produce printed products, stationery and leather goods, that taught him to view design from different angles. 'I began to explore the entire look and feel of a product: how it can be made, packaged and communicated,' he explains.

Now, Williams is using his experience in retail and design to launch new products and a creative consultancy under his own name. One of his first projects is Another Brand, which sees him team up with a number of manufacturers that he has worked with over the years. Its debut collection is called 'Cubo'

### Another Brand continues Williams' mission to create simple, considered products

and includes streamlined oak tables, chairs and storage enlivened with simple details, such as grey upholstery and blocks of bright petrol blue (right). It's the first in a series of collaborations, with ceramics, textiles and marble products also in the pipeline.

The 'Cubo' range takes pride of place at Another Brand's new Battersea showroom, and represents a continuation of Williams' mission to create functional, considered pieces. 'When I create a product, I often work backwards and map out its context first, because it's important that all of the elements work together,' he says. 'The questions I find myself asking most throughout the design process are "Why?" and "How?"' ([theowilliams.com](http://theowilliams.com); [anotherbrand.co.uk](http://anotherbrand.co.uk)). **ED**



PICTURES: JOE MCGORTY (PORTRAIT), LEXON, MOODBOARD

**From top** 'As a kid I was fascinated with making things and fixing things,' says Williams (above); pieces from Another Brand's debut furniture collection 'Cubo' (left and below); Williams' previous design projects included office accessories for Lexon (bottom, far left)



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## PARADISE PRINTS

Fashion designer Matthew Williamson's 'Eden' wallpaper collection for Osborne & Little is shown off to magnificent advantage in the new bridal suite at Aynhoe Park ([aynhoepark.co.uk](http://aynhoepark.co.uk)), a 17th-century Palladian mansion in Oxfordshire. In the bedroom, Williamson has used a bold gold-and-turquoise 'Sunbird' pattern (£67 per ten-metre roll), while the bathroom (right) features the electric-blue 'Peacock' design (£110 per ten-metre roll). 'It's a little unexpected for a bathroom but it's made me reconsider my own all-white scheme! I wanted this space to feel magical and be somewhere that you would remember staying,' says Williamson ([osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com)).



## ECO THE DEEP BLUE CITY

'Coral Reefs: Secret Cities of the Sea' is an exhibition at the Natural History Museum exploring exactly why the world's coral reefs, which are home to almost one quarter of all marine species, are so important for the planet. The reefs are much admired for their beauty, but here the focus is on the scientific studies that help to predict the impact of human activity and climate change on the oceans. The highlights of the show are the six corals that were collected by Charles Darwin during his voyage on HMS Beagle in the 1830s – he used them to illustrate his first theory about coral-reef formation. Also on display are giant clams that weigh the same as 300 bags of sugar and delicate, lace-like sea fans, plus there's a gigantic aquarium filled with live sea coral and fish, and panoramic imagery that will make you feel as if you're on an actual dive. Until September 13 ([nhm.ac.uk](http://nhm.ac.uk)).

## HONEST YARN

Catarina Riccabona produces her textiles using a traditional handloom. 'I use linen because the flax plant it's made from is eco-friendly compared to cotton – it requires less water and likes the European climate. I also try to use undyed fabrics, but buy recycled offcuts of coloured yarn from a company in Bradford – I can't specify a colour, so I have to be creative with whatever is available,' she says. From £480 for a small throw ([catarinariccabona.com](http://catarinariccabona.com)).



WORDS: EMMA LOVE (DEEP BLUE CITY); HONEST YARNS: CATARINA RICCABONA

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## STYLE ICON LUCIUS BEEBE

*The newspaper columnist and notorious dandy who was known for travelling in style*

Words AMY BRADFORD

**IT IS A GREAT PITY THAT** Lucius Beebe (1902–1966) has been largely forgotten. Once the most famous dandy in America, he was one of the first celebrity journalists. His waspish columns in the *New York Herald Tribune* introduced his compatriots to ‘cafe society’, a new breed of bejewelled nightowls that sprang up in 1930s New York as the Depression raged around them. Born into a wealthy Massachusetts family, the six-foot-four Beebe was a bundle of contradictions. A refined aesthete nostalgic for the Edwardian era, he was often seen top-hatted and touting a cane; yet he dedicated his life to the nouveau riche, whose lifestyle of excess he dubbed ‘crazy luxe’. His tastes in art and books were old-fashioned, but he was a rakish party animal, expelled from three prep schools and two universities (Yale and Harvard) for various skirmishes. At Yale, he kept a roulette wheel and a fully stocked bar in his room.

**What makes him an icon?** ‘Luscious Lucius’, as gossip commentator Walter Winchell dubbed him, hit the town to research his newspaper columns in a mink-lined evening coat and one of his 40 bespoke suits. Cinematic characters were modelled on him: the sophisticated, theatrical types clad in homburg hats. But Beebe shied away from

his era’s principal signposts of glamour. He thought Hollywood ‘the outhouse civilisation of the world’, populated by ‘mountebanks’ who lived ‘in the most witless and spurious manner ever devised’. Aeroplanes were ‘hurtling tubes of death’; instead he travelled in his private Pullman railroad car, the Virginia City, which had a seven-metre-long drawing room, a wine cellar and a Turkish bath.

It was decorated by Hollywood set designer Robert Hanley with swagged pelmets, Venetian chandeliers and ceiling frescoes copied from the Sistine Chapel. Beebe’s friend, film director Cecil B DeMille, likened it to a bordello: ‘Tell Madame I’ll have a drink, but I’m too old to go upstairs,’ he quipped. Beebe himself joked that wherever

the train stopped off, locals thought that the circus had arrived.

Beebe died of a heart attack one morning shortly after emerging from his Turkish bath, perhaps the result of years of overindulgence, particularly during his second career as a restaurant critic. He was only 64, but as he once wrote, ‘the wise guest goes before the party is over.’

**To find out more** Read *The Big Spenders: The Epic Story of the Rich Rich, the Grandees of America and the Magnificoes, and How They Spent Their Fortunes* by Lucius Beebe (Axios Press, £9.99). **ED**

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## EGYPTIAN BLUE

*Exploring the history of a colour*

Words KASSIA ST CLAIR

**IT IS SAID THAT NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION**, but so too is desire. The Ancient Egyptians loved the colour blue. It was the shade associated with Amun-Ra, the king of their gods. It symbolised the waters of the Nile, life, rebirth and creation. The tombs of the pharaohs were filled with carved hunks of turquoise and lapis lazuli, and everything from scarab-beetle statues to papyrus scrolls were dyed to match the sky and sea. For this dyeing process, the Egyptians could use azurite, a naturally occurring copper carbonate mineral that was either coarsely ground and mixed with a binding agent to make dark blue pigment, or finely ground to make a pale one. The problem was that deposits of azurite were scarce and were mostly found in northern Europe (a region that, to the Ancient Egyptians, must have seemed as distant as outer space). So, around two-and-a-half thousand years before the birth of Christ, they discovered a way of manufacturing an alternative blue: the first man-made pigment.

The recipe for Egyptian blue, as it is now known, is as precise as that for the perfect martini. You need to mix together one part copper oxide, one part lime and four parts quartz sand (silica). This then needs to be fired at between 850 and 1,000 degrees Celsius – any hotter or cooler and the chemical reaction doesn't work. Opaque, brittle blue crystals, ranging in hue from a light sky blue to midnight, emerge. Once finely milled into coloured dust, these pigments can be made into a tempera glaze and slathered onto pots and paintings, such as the murals in wealthy official Nebamun's tomb-chapel at Thebes, now on display at the British Museum. So enamoured were the ancients with this colour that archaeologists have unearthed countless pans, bowls and mortars used in the making of it, as well as cakes of semi-processed blue, at sites all over the Mediterranean.

But, like dogs, every blue has its day. Around 800AD, Egyptian blue's popularity began to wane (not completely, though – archaeologists have found examples of the colour's use dating from as late as the 16th century). Part of this decline was due to the ascendancy of other blues, such as indigo. But it also coincided with a fundamental shift in the idea of preciousness. Medieval painters preferred gold to communicate wealth; Renaissance painters favoured ultramarine. Both pigments were costly, and both came from the earth itself: a far cry from the proto-industrially produced Egyptian blue. As time passed, the value placed on the production of the Egyptians' favourite colour decreased. The way was there; the will was not. **ED**

**Paints to try** 'Needs Ore', £36 for 2.5 litres, Konig Colours ([konigcolours.co.uk](http://konigcolours.co.uk)).  
 'Söder', £25 for a litre, Colour Makes People Happy ([sieclecolours.com](http://sieclecolours.com)).  
 'Cornflower Heart', £36 for 2 litres, Paint By Conran ([paintbyconran.com](http://paintbyconran.com))



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**IS IT REALLY THAT GOOD?**  
YES, SAYS AUTHOR AND SAVVY SHOPPER TAMIN BLANCHARD **p49**

**SO WHAT SHOULD I BUY NOW?**  
WE REVEAL THE HOTTEST PICKS FROM THE HIGH STREET **p50**

**BUT WHY IS IT BACK ON TOP?**  
CONSUMER EXPERT HARRY WALLOP EXPLAINS HOW THE FINANCIAL CRISIS CHANGED THE WAY WE SHOP **p56**

**THERE'S A LOT TO REMEMBER!**  
HERE'S OUR SUMMARY OF WHO'S BEST FOR WHAT **p59**



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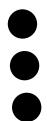


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# FOR THE LOVE OF SHOPPING

*Author and savvy shopper Tamsin Blanchard explains why she can't get enough of the great British high street*



**S**hopping for the home on the great British high street (or at the click of a mouse) has become a wonderfully democratic experience. It's a world of supermarket kitchenware bargains (Le Creuset casserole dish? No! It was £30 from Sainsbury's); dramatic pendant lights (a rare mid-century modern find? No! BHS!); wild psychedelic paisley bedlinen (Zara Home, would you believe it? And it's on sale – I've shared it on my Pinterest page).

The high street is a world of possibilities. There are almost too many choices. But our homes are all the better – and more creative – for it. Rather than buying entire sets of china, or matching cushions from one brand, we are now more likely to be retail magpies, picking a chintzy floral cup and saucer from Debenhams, a piece of coloured glass from M&S, a candle from House of Fraser, some crazy slate-effect *trompe l'oeil* 'I-live-in-a-farmhouse' wallpaper from Next or a joyfully multi-coloured rug from Anthropologie.

What's really exciting is that these are not low-quality copies (although of course, beware, the high street is ripe for plagiarism and copyright theft), but interesting pieces in their own right. They are from collections that have been curated rather than copied – often sourced in far-flung corners of the world in the way that was once the sole preserve of Liberty or The Conran Shop. The prices are more high end than bargain basement, reflecting the products' rarity or preciousness (just because high-street products are more accessible, it doesn't necessarily follow that they are cheap).

The high street is quick to react to trends, and collections seem to appear in the shops just ahead of a realisation that they're exactly what your home needs at that moment in time. In many cases, these pieces are original, brilliant examples of design, as well as being accessible and affordable. And the fusion of fashion, homeware and good living is a heady and seductive one. Take Anthropologie, a brilliant bazaar of a shop filled with mouth-watering trinkets, hand-painted pottery and necklaces fit for a princess. Who doesn't want to buy a cool cookie jar alongside their summer holiday dress? Even the great arbiter of British taste, John Lewis, has gone for a similarly vibrant mix this autumn, with a new selection of colourful cups and saucers that few will be able to resist. But John Lewis has really great furniture, too – a mix of designer and own-brand items that sit together effortlessly.

I'm currently looking to buy a new bed (mattresses and beds, I realise, are the obsession of worn-out 40-somethings who just want a good night's sleep more than anything in the world). I've scoured the market high and low. And my ultimate bed? It's a John Lewis 'Wilton' bedstead (pleasingly straightforward with a simple, slatted headboard in white). The price is right (£225 for a kingsize) but more importantly, it's plain and really well designed. So plain, in fact, that I can't wait to go shopping for some new bedlinen to make it more personal. I can't decide whether to visit The White Company for its excellent 200

thread-count Egyptian cotton, West Elm for classic ticking (though to be honest, the environmentalist in me will probably lean towards its organic cotton offerings), or H&M for checks (disappointingly, its 'Conscious' organic cotton duvet cover only comes in single). And then, perhaps I need a new bedspread. I've seen a great one at Lombok. And that lampshade really does need an update. Hmm, this could take a while. Excuse me while I finish here. I've got some serious shopping to do... **ED**

**THE HIGH STREET  
IS A WORLD OF  
POSSIBILITIES.  
THERE ARE ALMOST  
TOO MANY  
CHOICES – BUT  
OUR HOMES  
ARE ALL THE  
BETTER FOR IT**

# AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE

Be a smart high street shopper with our definitive edit of the most desirable,



bedding set, £50, BHS (bhs.com)

From left:

'Sumatra' sideboard, £695, Lombok (lombok.co.uk). 'Odyssey' sofa, £2,000, John Lewis (johnlewis.com). 'Azure' striped bedlinen, from £19.99 for a pillowcase, Zara Home (zarahome.com). Pendant lights by Casa Couture, £150 for

'Blue vase', £7.99, H&M (hm.com). 'Wild Meadow' jug, £12, Next (next.co.uk). Marble-topped side table, £299;

Two pillows with a blue and purple tie-dye pattern.

A large, round, fluffy white beanbag chair.

# AND AMAZING DESIGN

*on-trend pieces from the autumn collections – we want to buy them all!*



'Mid Century' stoppered vase, £39, both West Elm (westelm.co.uk). Bowl, £10, Urban Outfitters (urbanoutfitters.com). Chair, £599, West Elm (westelm.co.uk). 'Blue Wash Panel' three, House of Fraser (houseoffraser.co.uk). Cushion, £34, West Elm (westelm.co.uk). 'Nandak' rug, £595, Lombok (lombok.co.uk). Sheepskin beanbag, £950, The White Company (thewhitecompany.com)

*From left 'Tan Bucket' leather chair, £299, BHS (bhs.co.uk). Vase, £5, Asda (asda.com). 'Distressed Arabesque' rug, £449, West Elm (westelm.co.uk). 'Dalston' Fox salt shaker, £6 for a pair, Matalan (matalan.co.uk). 'Barra' sofa, £1,299, Marks & Spencer (mands.com).*

*'Watercolour' plate and bowl, £25 for a 12-piece set, Asda (asda.com).*







Croft Impressions

Front left: Oak and leather chair by Gareth Neal, £895, Heal's ([heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk)). Moore 'dining bench' by Laure Gresard, £250, Habitat ([habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk)). Floor lamp, £90, Next ([next.co.uk](http://next.co.uk)). 'Starburst' basket, £198 for a set of three, Anthropologie. Vase, £29.99, Zara Home ([zarahome.com](http://zarahome.com)). 'Faded Aztec Style'

From left: Oak and leather chair by Gareth Neal, £895, Heal's ([heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk)). Moore 'dining bench' by Laure Gresard, £250, Habitat ([habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk)). Floor lamp, £90, Next ([next.co.uk](http://next.co.uk)). 'Starburst' basket, £198 for a set of three, Anthropologie. Vase, £29.99, Zara Home ([zarahome.com](http://zarahome.com)). 'Faded Aztec Style'



(anthropologie.eu). 'Avron' vase, £34, West Elm (westelm.co.uk). 'Distrik't' armchair, £1,400, Anthropologie (anthropologie.eu). 'Thorpness' pendant light, £15, Tesco (tesco.com). rug, £429, Marks & Spencer (mands.com). Ombre throw, £70, House of Fraser (houseoffraser.co.uk). 'Watercolour' votive, £6, Asda (asda.com). Marble box, £6, John Lewis (johnlewis.com) ED.

# RETAIL RENAISSANCE

*Consumer expert Harry Wallop explains why the British high street has become a shopping paradise for interiors fans*

**N**ot since the glory days of Habitat launching in the 1960s has the high street offered such a range of exciting and well-priced stuff to fill our homes with. The recent financial crisis and the resulting recession has fundamentally changed the way we shop. Yes, many companies suffered, but it also encouraged new players to open up, and forced the survivors to be more innovative about what they sell. Here are the key factors that have transformed the British shopping environment into what we see today...

## THE RECESSION

*The financial crisis gave the high street a much needed shake up*

The most obvious result of the recession was that lots of businesses went bust. This, of course, was awful for the companies' owners and employees. But it is hard to mourn some of the chains that disappeared. Land of Leather and Allied Carpets hardly set the pulses racing. And many analysts argued that Britain simply had too many shops – be it out-of-town supermarkets or warehouses selling uninspiring upholstered furniture. According to Conlumino, a retail consultancy, the furniture market – as a result of all the closures – is much smaller than it was before the financial crash. In fact, we are now spending £4.3 billion a year less on furniture. However, this sector's once junior cousin, the furnishings and decor market, is booming. The high street has been quick to react to this change, offering shoppers ever-growing choice.

**THE FINANCIAL CRISIS DIDN'T DESTROY THE HIGH STREET. IN FACT, THE BRANDS THAT SURVIVED ARE MORE VIBRANT THAN EVER BEFORE**

## THE FASHION EFFECT

*We now shop for our homes like we do for our wardrobes*

The demise of the big, out-of-town furniture warehouses has led to a curious, and rather exciting, revolution on the high street. You can now find chaises longues, beautiful mid-century-style chests of drawers, ceramic balloon dogs and natty ottomans at a wide variety of different outlets: fashion chains, department stores, new American entrants such as West Elm and Anthropologie, and even pound shops. It may seem an odd idea to buy your lampshades from Zara Home or H&M, but these two are really motoring at the moment.

Nivindya Sharma, analyst at Verdict Retail, explains the logic: 'Shopping for homewares and clothing involves very similar mindsets: they're both trend-driven. Traditionally interiors shops only brought out new products twice a year, but that has changed. People now want to refresh their homes more frequently.'

The newest players – like stylish European discount shops Tiger and Hema – refresh their ranges every few weeks. Pop in and there are always new bowls or candlesticks. It's these inexpensive yet on-trend brands that are setting the tone for the entire high street.

## THE HOUSING MARKET

*How an increase in the number of renters has affected shopping habits*

The success – or failure – of furniture shops on the high street used to be very closely tied to the housing market. The more people who move home, the more carpets and kitchens are sold. So, one of the main effects of the housing market tanking in 2008 was the collapse of some furniture chains. Recently, however, there has been a change in the market – namely, a significant rise in renting. Before the housing crash, a peak of 71 per cent of people owned their own home in Britain. This has now fallen to 63 per cent – it may not sound much of a drop, but this is the first time since World War I that the number of homeowners in Britain has fallen and it means that millions more people, especially young people, are renting. They don't need new kitchens or carpets, but they do want products that will help them to personalise their space.

## STYLE CREDENTIALS

*High-street brands are harnessing the power of designer names*

The big recent high-street successes include the resurgent Debenhams and John Lewis. One of the things that connects these brands is their focus on design credentials. Take Designers at Debenhams: the initiative now sees the store working with 18 well-known creatives, meaning that you can buy everything from tumblers by John Rocha to bedlinen by Matthew Williamson.

But while shoppers do like a designer name attached to their homewares, collaborations do not always work. A few years ago, Marks & Spencer released a range created by Marcel Wanders, the maverick Dutch designer. No one outside of the design world had heard of him, and certainly not the average M&S shopper who had popped across from the lingerie department.

Maureen Hinton, retail analyst at Conlumino, explains: 'The general public are not as aware of designers in homeware as they are of their fashion equivalents. Instead, it's all to do with credibility.' This is partly why DFS's tie-up with French Connection has been such a big hit – DFS shoppers have heard of French Connection and associate it with fashionability.

## FURNISHINGS NOT FURNITURE

*Why high-street shops are focusing on selling smaller, decorative items*

The recession, you might think, would have dealt a fatal blow to furniture shops. But it didn't. Some went under, but those that survived are more vibrant than ever before. The difference is that we now spend more on the fun, decorative stuff than we do on statement pieces. In fact, this area is growing faster than most other sectors of the high street, with sales up three per cent last year. One of the habits that the British public picked up in the financial crash – and one we are holding onto – is spending more time in our own homes, entertaining and relaxing. We want stylish ways to spruce up these spaces, and an affordable throw is an easier update than investing in a new sofa. **ED**



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# THE HIGH STREET DIRECTORY

*Every store has its own strengths, and knowing what these are is the key to smart shopping. Here's our guide to where to go for what*

⊕ To see all of our picks from the new high street collections, visit [elledecoration.co.uk](http://elledecoration.co.uk)

## ANTHROPOLOGIE

**Best for** Unique tableware and glasses that mix vintage, craft and ethnic influences, plus decorative handles.

**This season's hot picks** The painterly 'Woodland Picnic' plates (£14 each) by London-based artist Cornelia O'Donovan and the 'Hollyton' marble-topped coffee table (right; £960).

**The details** [anthropologie.eu](http://anthropologie.eu)

## BHS

**Best for** A tasteful take on current lighting trends: think cool glass pendants and industrial-style task lamps.

**This season's hot picks** Stylish geometric 'Lustre' coloured glass vases (from £10 each) and the black and brass 'Ned' floor lamp (£95).

**The details** [bhs.co.uk](http://bhs.co.uk)

## DEBENHAMS

**Best for** The 'J by Jasper Conran' and 'RJR.John.Rocha' collections, which are part of the 'Designers at Debenhams' range.

**This season's hot picks** Jasper Conran's oak 'Carver' dining chair with rattan seat (above; £520 for a pair) and copper saucepans (from £20 each), plus the chunky knitted cushion (£30) and throw (£70) designed by John Rocha, and a soft grey Mongolian sheepskin cushion (£50).  
**The details** [debenhams.com](http://debenhams.com)



## FRENCH CONNECTION

**Did you know?** Launched only three years ago, French Connection's homeware range has created waves on the high street with its industrial style, thanks to a team led by Lorraine Brennan, formerly designer at The Conran Shop and Kelly Hoppen.

**Best for** Sofas made in collaboration with DFS and workbench-style desks.

**This season's hot picks** The antique copper 'Round' side table (below; £85) with its elegant T-shaped handle, and porcelain 'Cacoon' bowls (from £8 each).  
**The details** [frenchconnection.co.uk](http://frenchconnection.co.uk)

## GEORGE AT ASDA

**Best for** Simple, affordable glass vases in a variety of shapes and colours; stylish, modern lighting; and an extensive paint range with great understated shades.

**This season's hot picks** A concrete-effect table lamp with a black shade (£20), a rustic woven wicker vase (£18), copper kitchen storage canisters (£4 each) and a green reactive-glaze table lamp with a white shade (£30).  
**The details** [george.com](http://george.com)

## H & M

**Best for** Great accessories, including linen bedding, well-priced rugs, and super-affordable storage baskets.

**This season's hot picks** Pure linen bedlinens in understated shades (from £60 for a double set), antiqued glass vases in grey and jade green (from £7.99 each), and plaited rush baskets (£14.99 each).  
**The details** [hm.com](http://hm.com)

## HABITAT

**Best for** Trend-driven furniture and a wide selection of fun accessories.

**This season's hot picks** The statement 'Malva' sofa in bright red wool (£1,200); the 'Luza' oven-to-table dishes (from £12 each), which feature monochrome polka dots and stripes; and the 'Malone' casserole pot in sunny yellow (£30).  
**The details** [habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk)

## HEAL'S

**Did you know?** Heal's has been designing, making and selling quality furniture for more than two centuries! It's recently opened a concept lighting store in a former cinema in London's Westbourne Grove.

**Best for** A careful edit of the best global brands and exclusive furniture pieces.

**This season's hot picks** The in-house 'Pinner' range of painted furniture, especially its dining table (below; £1,195) and dressing mirror (£195).  
**The details** [heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk)



## HOUSE OF FRASER

**Best for** Linea Home for its accessories, Casa Couture for classic furniture and lighting, and the brand-new Gray & Willow, which celebrates traditional manufacture and natural materials.

**This season's hot picks** Pale wooden vases with bold colour-blocked patterns from the Linea Home range (from £40 each); the 'Liliana' pendant light trio from Casa Couture (£150); and, from Gray & Willow, 'Pebble' dinnerware (from £6 for a side plate).  
**The details** [houseoffraser.co.uk](http://houseoffraser.co.uk) ▶

## THE DIRECTORY CONTINUED...

### JOHN LEWIS

**Did you know?** As well as offering a range of modern brands such as Vitra, Iittala and Alessi, the store has its own in-house design team led by Philippa Prinsloo.

**Best for** Well-considered British design, durable wooden furniture with a Scandi-meets-Shaker feel and stylish craft pottery. Plus, bright and affordable basics from its 'House' range.

**This season's hot picks** The compact 'Gazelle' walnut desk (£399), Dove Street Pottery's thrown tableware designed by David Worsley (from £15 for a beaker), and grey felt storage boxes (£20 each).

**The details** [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)

### LOMBOK

**Best for** Wooden tables and storage, neutral rugs and decorative lighting, all with an Eastern influence.

**This season's hot picks** The warm, honey-toned 'Sumatra' shelving collection made from distressed antique floorboards, including a practical ladder desk (£495) and a bookcase with four drawers (£695). Plus, the Indian-style 'Talia' carved mango-wood wall relief (£75) and Moroccan-style silver-finished lights (above; from £325).

**The details** [lombok.co.uk](http://lombok.co.uk)

### MARKS & SPENCER

**Did you know?** Marks & Spencer's ongoing collaboration with Sir Terence Conran's Conran & Partners design practice was launched four years ago. This was his first collection for the high street since 1990, when he ended his association with Habitat, the company he founded.

**Best for** Championing British manufacturing and working with a range of artisan suppliers to give an individual, hand-crafted look to its designs.

**This season's hot picks** The black oval 'Kitson' table with copper-tipped legs (£299) from the Conran collaboration; the 'Hampden' freestanding mirror (£299); and the 'Rebecca' floral rug (£75).

**The details** [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)



Sainsbury's



Lombok

### MATALAN

**Best for** Kitchen essentials, such as wooden chopping and serving boards and Kilner-style glass jars.

**This season's hot picks** 'Grey Spin Wash' dinnerware (from £2 for a side plate), the 'Copper Effect' mirror (£18) and wire storage baskets (from £6).

**The details** [matalan.co.uk](http://matalan.co.uk)

### NEXT

**Best for** Great vases, rugs, lighting and small storage items.

**This season's hot picks** We spotted a great small display unit with jigsaw-pattern shelves in dark-stained wood (£165) and a matching nest of three tables (£150). Plus, some natural rush baskets (from £30 each), which would be ideal as laundry or bathroom storage, and a crackle-glass 'Mink' table lamp (£20).

**The details** [next.co.uk](http://next.co.uk)

### SAINSBURY'S

**Best for** Stylish ceramic accessories, patterned bedlinen and a cookware range that looks more expensive than it is.

**This season's hot picks** Textured, handmade studio pottery-style vessels in off-white and grey (from £8 for a small bottle); copper cookware, including mixing bowls (from £5 each) and measuring spoons (£5 each); cast-iron casserole dishes in a graduated wash of aubergine purple (from £30); and the 'Abstract Tree' bedlinen (left; £25 for a double set) in a relaxing palette of cream and grey.

**The details** [sainsburys.co.uk](http://sainsburys.co.uk)

### TESCO

**Best for** Compact sofas for small living rooms, retro dining chairs, coffee tables and budget-friendly lighting.

**This season's hot picks** The 'Dalston' white study desk (£49) with its pale wood top and white tubular metal frame; the 'Florence' sofa, upholstered in blush-pink linen (£699); and the 'Devon Stone' 1950s-style tripod floor lamp (£69).

**The details** [tesco.com](http://tesco.com)

### THE WHITE COMPANY

**Did you know?** This month sees the brand celebrate its 21st anniversary. It has released '21', a new scent (£35 for a candle), combining founder Chrissie Rucker's favourite fragrances – vetiver, cedarwood and amber – and will also be highlighting 21 of its hero products in all of its stores.

**Best for** Crisp white bedlinen, fluffy towels and simple, neutral tableware.

**This season's hot picks** The sheepskin rug (right; £65), soft grey 'Addison' throw (£130) and cushion covers (£25 each).

**The details** [thewhitecompany.com](http://thewhitecompany.com)

### URBAN OUTFITTERS

**Best for** Fashion-forward pieces, especially striped rugs and terrariums.

**This season's hot picks** Monochrome 'Arrow' bowls (from £10 each), graphic cushions by designer Kangan Arora (£50 each) and the 'Cockatoo' lamp (£60).

**The details** [urbanoutfitters.com](http://urbanoutfitters.com)

### WEST ELM

**Best for** Bold rugs and other textiles.

**This season's hot picks** The 'Affine' metallic jute rug (from £99) and the 'Mid-Century Mini' desk (£399) in a pale green 'Oregano' finish.

**The details** [westelm.co.uk](http://westelm.co.uk)

### ZARA HOME

**Best for** Bright acrylic picnicware, as well as gorgeous bedspreads and table linens.

**This season's hot picks** The reversible turquoise 'Azure' bedlinen (from £17.99 for a pillowcase) and printed tableware (below; from £3.99 for a small bowl), which you should match with delicate 'Golden' cutlery (from £3.50 for a coffee spoon).

**The details** [zarahome.com](http://zarahome.com)



Zara Home



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# SOLUTIONS



## THIS MONTH'S BIG IDEA...

**BE INSPIRED BY ABSTRACT FLORAL ART** printed on fabric and wallpaper. The new 'Niumi' digitally printed design by Black Edition by Romo is awash with subtle petals and comes in three different colourways on both fabric and paper, so you can mix and match your sofa and your walls. £200 for a ten-metre roll ([romoblack.com](http://romoblack.com)).

FOR MORE HOME UPDATES, VISIT [ELLEDECORATION.CO.UK/SOLUTIONS](http://ELLEDECORATION.CO.UK/SOLUTIONS)



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## WELL HANDLED

Give your kitchen an instant, affordable update by replacing the cabinet fronts of your units with new designs or even different colourways. Ikea's 'Märsta' range includes drawer fronts (from £14 each) and door fronts (from £28 each) that are each delivered with a pack of four coloured stickers, so you don't have to commit to pink, white, black or natural oak handles until you have finished fitting your new kitchen. Here the pop of fuchsia injects bright colour into an otherwise sleek and minimal room ([ikea.com](http://ikea.com)).



**{ Buy it now }** For compact kitchens, space-saving appliances are key, but there is no need to skimp on innovative technology or intuitive design. Whirlpool's latest slimline dishwashers may be small – perfect for lighter loads and saving water – but they pack mighty cleaning power. £374 with a stainless-steel front ([whirlpool.co.uk](http://whirlpool.co.uk)). }

### GLOW ANYWHERE

*Task lighting that's easy to move is a useful addition to any house or garden. The 'M Lamp' by Newcastle-based designer David Irwin for Juniper has a conical reflector that rotates to direct its LED bulb's beam exactly where you need it. Inspired by traditional miners' lamps and available in black, white or orange, the light is clever and beautiful; plus, with 50,000 hours of battery life before it needs charging, there's no need to worry about being left in the dark. £200, The Conran Shop ([conranshop.co.uk](http://conranshop.co.uk)).*



### GO WITH THE FLOW

For those who take washing-up super seriously, industrial taps with multiple faucets and sprays are a must-have. American brand Waterworks sells a range of highly engineered multitasking designs, including the 'Regulator' double-spout gooseneck tap with spray (above; £9,025) and wall-mounted pot filler (right; £2,134). Modelled on turn-of-the-century industrial parts, from nuts and bolts to boiler-room stopcocks, the designs come in 13 luxe finishes – our favourite is the unlacquered brass look (right; [uk.waterworks.com](http://uk.waterworks.com)).





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## VANITY CASE

Wherever there is a mirror, storage is essential – especially for beauty products – which is why we're always on the lookout for attractive multi-purpose designs. This mirror and shelf by House Doctor (left, £102; housedoctor.dk) and 'Cage' mirror by Stockholm-based design studio Form Us With Love for Menu (below, £67; menu.as) both feature integrated compartments to stow away your stuff. Place them in a hallway or bathroom, or use as a slimline alternative to a dressing table in the bedroom.



## PLANT POTS

*Searching for a chemical-free, eco-friendly paint alternative? Look no further than French interiors brand Caravane's new range, which is derived from plants. Available in a spectrum of 48 colours, from 'Canary' yellow to 'Pea Soup' green and both matt and satin finishes, they've been developed by French producers using locally sourced linseed oil and hemp to ensure easy application, high coverage and speedy drying. From £20 per litre ([caravane.fr](http://caravane.fr)).*

PICTURES: KEVINIZZI (PLANT POTS)



## AGAINST THE GRAIN

*Why wood-look porcelain tiles are a stylish, practical alternative to real timber*

Thanks to advances in technology, porcelain can now be coated with a pattern that convincingly replicates the look and feel of natural wood. So why go for wood-effect flooring or panelling, rather than the real thing? Firstly, porcelain tiles are a more sustainable choice than timber as no trees are felled to make them. Porcelain is also robust, non-porous, frostproof, colour-fast and compatible with underfloor heating. It won't dent or scratch in the way that timber does, and is virtually maintenance-free. Convinced? Here are three ways to use the tiles at home.



### WALLS AND FLOORS

Wood-effect tiles are a practical option for walls and floors as they're easy to clean and don't require sanding or oiling. These 'Dolphin' porcelain tiles by ABK Ceramiche (above) come in Coal, Grey, Clay and Oak: combine different colours for a natural look. From £54 per square metre (abk.it).



#### BATHROOMS AND KITCHENS

Porcelain is built to withstand wet and humid conditions, so you can create the illusion of a timber-clad shower wall or kitchen splashback safe in the knowledge that the surface will not warp or rot. These 'Dakota' tiles (above) by Flaviker are our top pick. £55 per 1.2-metre tile ([flavikerpisa.it](http://flavikerpisa.it)).

#### INDOORS AND OUT

Ensure a seamless transition from house to garden by laying porcelain 'decking' outside. The 'Hi-Tech' tiles by Italian brand Ariostea (below) have a special frostproof outdoor finish, meaning they can withstand exposure to the elements. Approximately £63.73 per square metre ([ariostea.it](http://ariostea.it)).



WORDS: ALEX KRISTAL

#### HOW TO LAY WOOD-EFFECT TILES

Wood-effect porcelain tiles can be installed in exactly the same way as any tiled floor. The substrate must be level and dust-free, with no visible cracks, before the tiles are adhered to the surface or fitted as a floating system. To emulate a realistic wood floor, lay the tiles in either a herringbone, chevron or plank formation. Unlike timber, they don't need to be sealed. You'll find shades that are true to every type of wood from beech to wenge, with textured grains and knots that reflect the natural imperfections of the real thing. There's also a host of surface finishes to choose from, such as weathered, painted or stained. To ensure authenticity, choose a tile that has texture, to mimic not just the look but also the feel of wood underfoot. Below are five of our favourite designs.



'Kapok Wood Cement' tile, £55 per square metre, Topps Tiles ([toppstiles.co.uk](http://toppstiles.co.uk))



'St Ives' porcelain tile in 'Lanyon', £59.90 per square metre, Fired Earth ([firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com))



'Hampton Par-Ker' ceramic parquet, £88 per square metre, Porcelanosa ([porcelanosa.com](http://porcelanosa.com))



'Nocchio' porcelain tile, £105 per square metre, Ann Sacks ([annsacks.com](http://annsacks.com))



'Paint Wood' porcelain tile by Cerim, £69 per square metre, Surface ([surfacetiles.com](http://surfacetiles.com))



## LOVE ISLAND

To create the ultimate kitchen island, it's important to use high-performance materials. The surface needs to be resistant to everything that a busy chef might throw at it, and it should be a breeze to keep clean, too. Architect Alessandro Isola designed 'The Cut' kitchen for Italian brand Record è Cucine using Fenix NTM, a sleek nano-tech resin that clads the surface, drawers and cabinets, and can even be used to create an integrated sink. The innovative material comes in a palette of colours inspired by nature, from cool white and smoky grey to earthy brown and deep-sea blue. £71,500 as pictured ([recordcucine.com](http://recordcucine.com)).

## THE COORDINATED COOK

*Passionate about your Le Creuset pots and pans? Now you can match them to your oven with Steel Cucine's limited-edition 'Ascot' range cookers, available in four of Le Creuset's classic colours. The ovens come with professional extras – such as a rotisserie and one-touch ignition – as standard, plus a free Le Creuset pot.*



'Ascot' range cooker in Mineral Blue by Steel Cucine, from £4,296, Bradshaw Appliances ([bradshaw.co.uk](http://bradshaw.co.uk))

## IN THE KITCHEN AT PARTIES

Music is essential for some cooks, but a radio can take up much-needed room on your countertop. Free up space for a spiralizer with 'SensioSound', a new LED task light with built-in wireless speakers that connect to your smartphone or tablet. Want party-ready surround sound? Connect two 'SensioSound' lights to your device at once. From £83 each ([sensio.co.uk](http://sensio.co.uk)).





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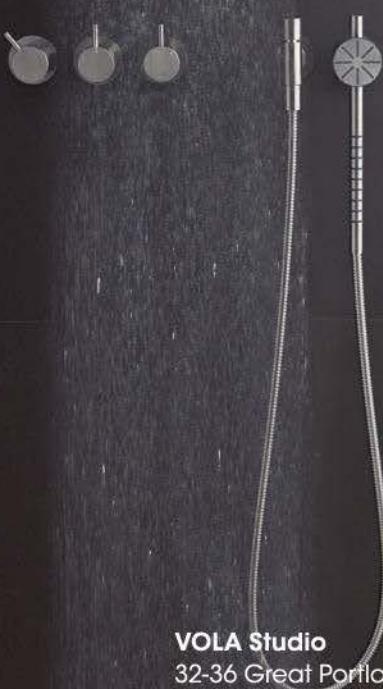
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## DECORATOR INDEX

KATTY SCHIEBECK

**Who is she?** Katty Schiebeck is a self-trained interior designer who began her career by advising her property clients on how to improve their buildings. She set up her eponymous studio in Barcelona five years ago and has been busy putting her unique touch on interiors ever since. Together with lifestyle photographer Rubén Ortiz, Schiebeck has for the last three years kept a visual diary of design references and ideas on her blog Somewhere I Would Like to Live ([somewherewouldliketolive.com](http://somewherewouldliketolive.com)), which provides an ongoing source of inspiration for her work.

**What's her style?** Schiebeck's look is best described as minimalist. With just a few key elements she defines each space using an austere palette of materials that she describes as 'noble', along with neutral shades of white, black and brown. From wood parquet flooring to solid marble baths and kitchen islands, her overall aesthetic is pared back and elegant. 'For each project I try to work in harmony with the historical

architectural details of a property. In Barcelona I'm fortunate enough to work with incredible decorative elements, including intricate plasterwork and mosaic floors.'

**Key projects?** Having mainly designed residential interiors so far, Schiebeck is now moving into hospitality and retail with the design of apartment-hotel Concepció, which will open in September, along with the recently opened Camper shop in Madrid, where the main material is microcement: 'we wanted to give the illusion that the entire space, including the display elements, had been sculpted,' she explains.

**She says:** 'I tend to work intuitively, according to the given space, but the constant thread that runs through all of my projects is light. I always try to create open designs, and often use a white palette to enhance the feeling of natural light.'



## SUN SPOTS

Brighten up a blank wall with an original light art installation. These 'Puck' wall sconces, designed by Jordi Vilardell for Barcelona-based brand Vibia, are modular, allowing you to create original geometric compositions. Think big, because it is possible to connect up to 40 'Puck' discs to a single electrical socket, all of them emitting a warm, indirect glow. From £298, Coexistence ([coexistence.co.uk](http://coexistence.co.uk)).

## COMING UP ROSES

*Blush is big this season. Here's how to work this tricky shade in a grown-up way*

From saccharine girlie tones to brash brights, it's easy to see why pink might be considered an awkward hue to work with, but this season's shade is different. Whether you call it blush, putty or powder, this pink is the new neutral. It's an understated colour that comes to life when complemented by soft greys, or contrasted with raw wood, marble and copper.

### PAINT

If you're covering a wall, only the most sophisticated tones of pink will do. Farrow & Ball describe 'Pink Ground' (on wall) as the 'softest, dustiest blush' (£65 for five litres; farrow-ball.com). Inspired by John W Waterhouse's painting *The Lady of Shalott*, Francesca's Paints' 'JW3' (below), is another great option (from £55.70 for five litres; francescaspaint.com).





## 6 OF THE BEST... PINK ACCESSORIES

Don't want to commit to painting a whole wall?  
Here's our pick of rose-tinted furnishings

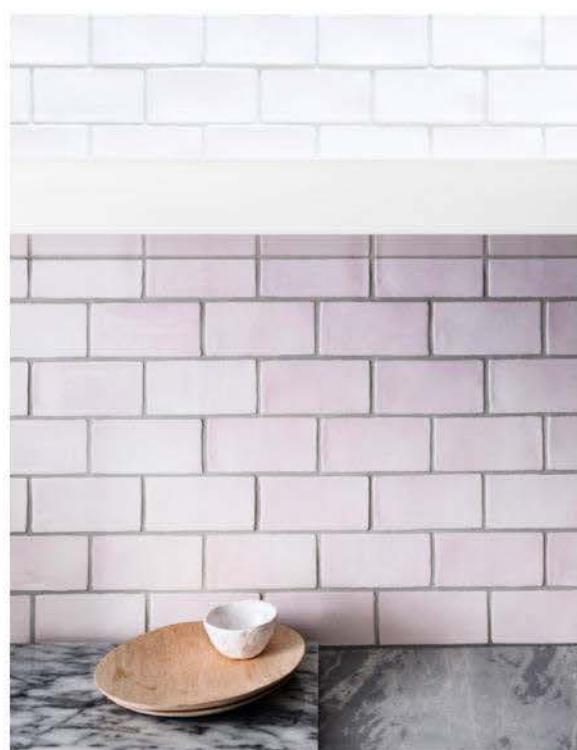
- 1 Bedlinen, from £46 for a pillowcase, Once Milano ([oncemilano.com](http://oncemilano.com))
- 2 'New Norm' bowl by Norm Architects, £19, Menu ([menu.as](http://menu.as))
- 3 'Slit' table, £135, Hay ([hay.dk](http://hay.dk))
- 4 'Elegant Blush' chair, £175, Cox & Cox ([coxandcox.co.uk](http://coxandcox.co.uk))
- 5 'Dipped Ribbon' rug by CC Tapis, £3,324, Poliform ([poliformuk.com](http://poliformuk.com))
- 6 'Atticus' sofa, £1,845, Loaf ([loaf.com](http://loaf.com))

WORDS: ALEX KRISTAL PICTURES: BEN ANDERS (MAIN IMAGE, PAINT), ANNETTE O'BRIEN (BED), AMELIA STANVIX (TILING), STUDIO 33 (PAINT SWATCH)



## CABINETRY

Superfront's 'Grannie Pink' doors (above) will fit Ikea's 'Metod' and 'Faktum' kitchen units and can have copper handles added, too (£1,572 as shown; [superfront.com](http://superfront.com)). Offset a pink kitchen with a luxury worktop, made from materials like Carrara marble or heavy granite.



## TILING

Powder pink and grey are a colour-match made in heaven, so combine the two with pastel tiles and neutral grouting. For similar tiles, try 'Retro Metro' in 'Seven Dials' by Fired Earth (£74.98 per square metre; [firedearth.com](http://firedearth.com)).

## OFFICE ROMANCE

Learn to love organisation with a new 'Stage' home office from Bisley, the British manufacturer of classic steel filing cabinets. Its versatile components can be configured to suit your needs, so there can be no excuses for allowing that paperwork to pile up. The cabinets can even be built around corners to maximise your space. £2,344 as shown, John Lewis ([johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)).



## NATURE'S TAPESTRY

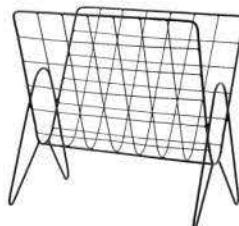
*Love traditional woven carpets, but looking for something a little more modern? 'Jardin d'Intérieur', created by Paris-based interior designer India Mahdavi and innovative textile workshop Manufacture de Cogolin, is a new take on the kilim rug. Rather than having just one repeat pattern, each design is made up of varied motifs. Choose from eight contemporary colour combinations. From £2,050 ([manufacturecogolin.com](http://manufacturecogolin.com)).*



## 5 OF THE BEST...

### MAGAZINE STANDS

*Store all of your issues of ELLE Decoration in style*



'Wire magazine stand by House Doctor, £32, By April and May ([byaprilandmay.com](http://byaprilandmay.com))'



'Brass Round Magazine Table', £225, Mia Fleur ([miafleur.com](http://miafleur.com))



'Gold' magazine rack, £17.50, Holly's House ([hollys-house.com](http://hollys-house.com))



'Toolbox No.5' by RO Collection, £96, Nordic Elements ([nordicelements.com](http://nordicelements.com))



'Magazinhalter Cubus', £106, Fashion for Home ([fashionforhome.de](http://fashionforhome.de))

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## SOAK AND STORAGE

Keep your bathing essentials within easy reach while you luxuriate in the tub with the latest designs that incorporate storage. The 'Aquarius' by Italian brand Planit has an integrated alcove at the end of the bath, which is formed out of a seamless piece of Corian (above, from £3,898; planit.it). Alternatively, try Porcelanosa's 'Aro' bathtub by José Manuel Ferrero (the creative director of estudi{H}ac) for a more ergonomic option. Inspired by the deep, concave shape of porcelain bowls used in Japanese tea ceremonies, the bath is encircled by a solid shelf that forms a useful tray at one end for all your lotions and potions (below, available September; porcelanosa.com).



PICTURE: SYSTEMPOOL SA GRUPO PORCELANOSA SOAK AND STORAGE (BOTTOM)



## BRANCHING OUT

Proving that handcrafted wood kitchens do not have to be twee, the 'Sebastian Cox Kitchen', created for Devol, is simple and modern. 'We think of this look as urban rustic; it brings a little bit of woodland into the city,' says Paul O'Leary, founder of Devol. The design is packed with stylish details, from sliding dovetail joints to copper door pulls. An inky blue-black dye has been used to stain sections of the wood, but still allows the grain to show. True to his eco credentials, Cox has used sustainable, British-grown beech and ash timbers throughout. From £11,000 (devolkitchens.co.uk).

## BOLD AS BRASS

*For a luxurious look that remains slick and contemporary, use metal finishes in your kitchen. Here, we show you how it's done*

**Stainless steel has long been the favoured material** for cookware and kitchens thanks to its indestructible properties, but a new alternative to its sleek, sterile look is emerging. 'Living' metals such as copper and brass are non-porous, antibacterial and easy to clean, yet they will also scuff, oxidise and patinate, adapting to the environment in which they're used. If you prefer a pristine finish, these metals may not be for you, but applied to certain surfaces they can inject warmth, colour and character into a kitchen. Here are four smart ways to use metal finishes in the heart of your home.



### STATEMENT ISLAND

An island clad in glowing, mirrored metal makes quite an impact, especially when paired with minimal cupboards and matt finishes. This unit (above) by interior designers Anna and Nick Mckinn was constructed in timber by a cabinet-maker and then clad in brass. Metal Sheets ([metalsheets.co.uk](http://metalsheets.co.uk)) sells similar panels in a selection of finishes. Remember to stock up on Brasso to achieve a good shine!

## METAL KITCHENS: THE DETAILS

'Living' metal surfaces can be treated with beeswax or lacquered with varnish to slow down the rate of patination. While this is not the case for work surfaces, which would lose their antibacterial properties and become harder to maintain after such treatment, it's a good way to keep brass cabinet fronts looking their best.

Interior designer Natasha Avery has created an attractive and functional metal splashback (below, top) from a sheet of brass, contrasting it with black stained oak kitchen cabinets at her home in New Zealand. Easy to clean, brass is ideal for this kind of practical use.

Another way to add some glimmer to your kitchen is to use tiles that have a metallic finish. Options include laying an entire wall or a section of your kitchen with metal tiles or, for a more pared-back look, using a metallic border around more neutral tiles. This 'Dome' border tile in silicon bronze by Rocky Mountain Hardware (bottom; from £19.70, Oakpoint Architectural Hardware; [oakpoint.eu](http://oakpoint.eu)) comes in ten patina finishes and even more bespoke options: it can be inlaid around individual tiles or used as an outline around a larger area.

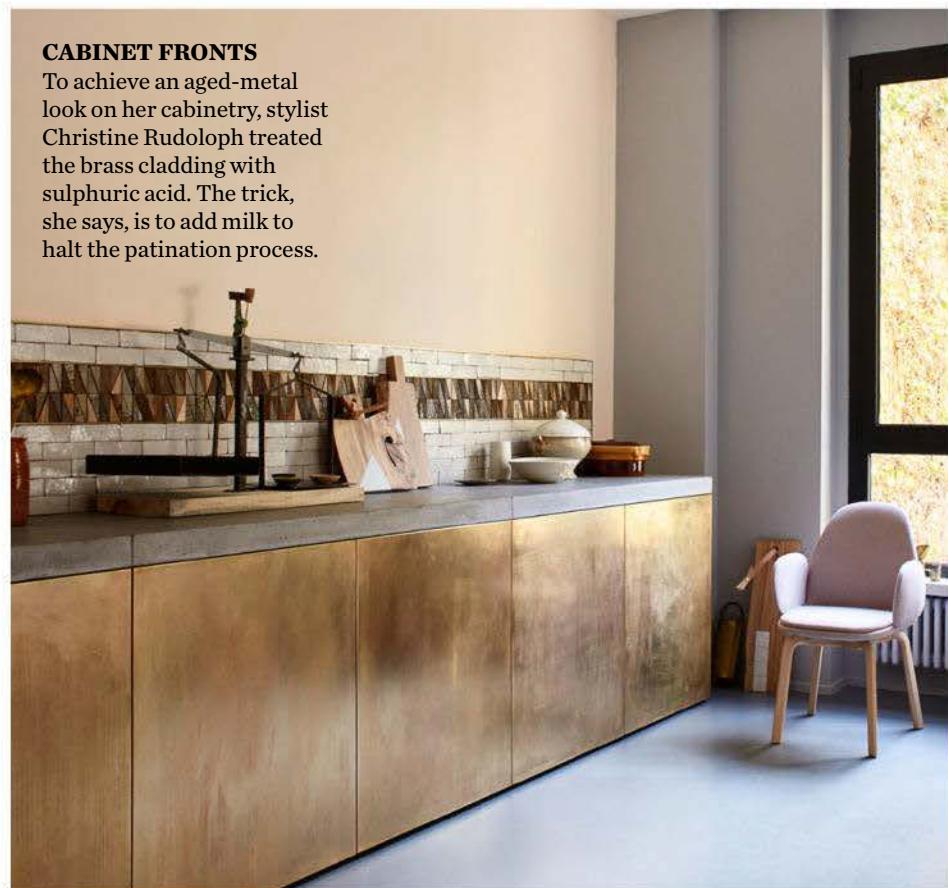


## METAL ACCENTS

Add a subtle hint of shine with brass-trimmed cabinet handles like these ones by Bulthaup (below), pictured in the kitchen of interior designer Harriet Anstruther. They add some warmth to the all-white scheme.

## CABINET FRONTS

To achieve an aged-metal look on her cabinetry, stylist Christine Rudolph treated the brass cladding with sulphuric acid. The trick, she says, is to add milk to halt the patination process.

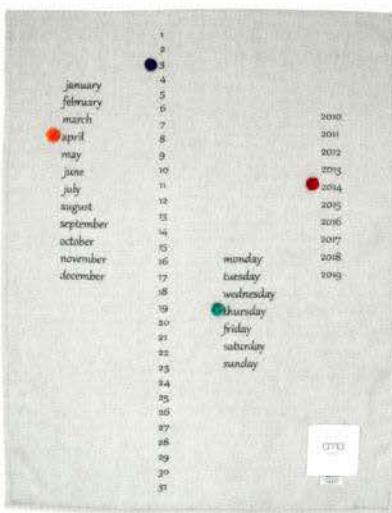




## MAGIC WARDROBE

It is no secret that with the arrival of little ones comes a need for more storage. But it can be tricky to find furniture designed for children that suits the style of your home. The 'Dipped Colour' wardrobe by Barcelona-based studio Nobodinoz in solid beech wood offers practical drawers, display shelves and hanging space, and comes in an array of beautiful contrast colours. Toddler to teenager, this is a design that will stand the test of time. £1,150, Nubie ([nubie.co.uk](http://nubie.co.uk)).

**{ Buy it now**  Create a seamless, easy flow between indoors and out with the new bi-fold doors from Climadoor. Paint the oak and veneered structures to match your joinery; there are several sizes available (from £1,259; [climadoor.co.uk](http://climadoor.co.uk)). **}**



## BORN IDENTITY

Looking for a personalised yet practical gift for your newest arrival? The 'Birthdate' blanket by Lena Wells can be sewn with colourful pompoms to mark the day, date, month and year of your child's birth. Spun from the softest Italian merino wool, this luxury throw is destined to become a family heirloom. £200, Ama ([amashop.co.uk](http://amashop.co.uk)).



## INSIDER GUIDE SMALL OUTDOOR SPACES

*Isabelle Palmer, founder of The Balcony Gardener, gives her top tips for planting your own little oasis ([thebalconygardener.com](http://thebalconygardener.com))*

- Compact gardens benefit from a simple design. Stick to a limited palette of three or four colours for planting and use complementary containers. Layering tall plants such as bamboo and grasses behind, with smaller plants like delphiniums or hydrangea at the front, will create the illusion of space.



- Improve your view instantly with a window box. Plant it with a mix of flowers to give a natural, organic look that captures the essence of a landscape.



- Choose plants that suit your garden's soil and aspect. For year-round greenery, plant a selection of hardy evergreens, such as laurel, camelia, rosemary and lavender.

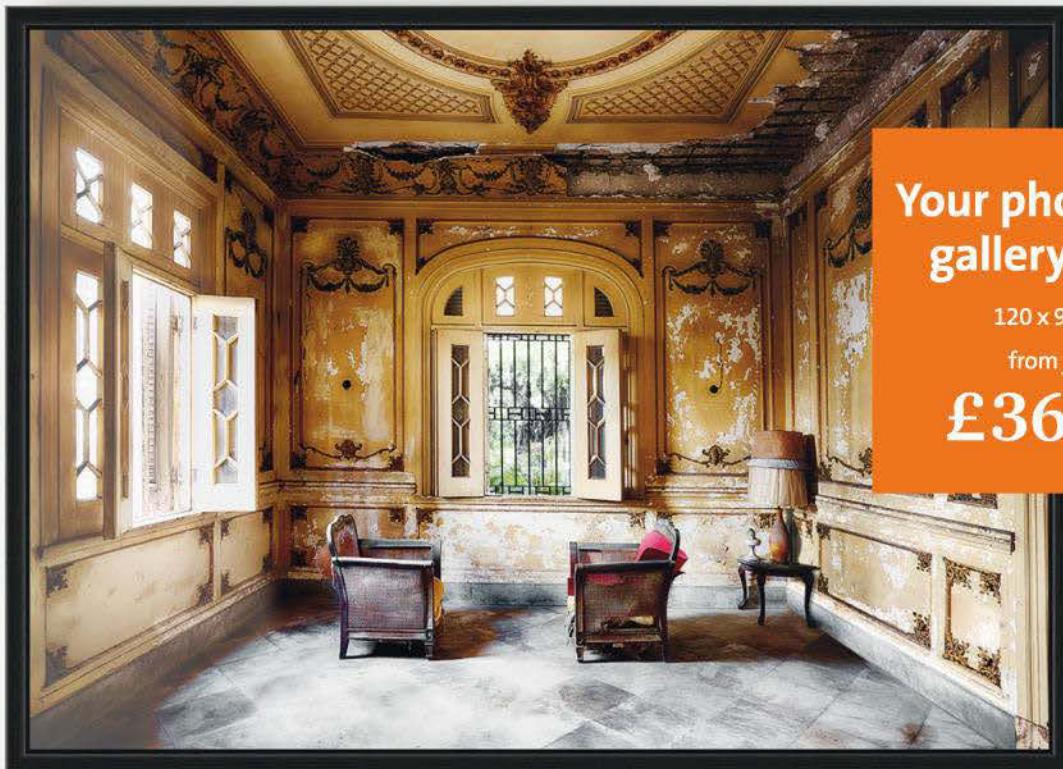
- Don't have any outside space? Create mini gardens indoors using terrariums or bowls of succulents, planted with cacti or kalanchoe.



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## WATCH AND LEARN

*Meet the latest smart home gadget: the 'Nest Cam'. This tiny surveillance camera can live-stream a wide-angle view of your living room to your smartphone. When its motion sensors detect unusual movement – not just the cat stretching – you will receive an instant alert. £199 ([nest.com](http://nest.com)).*



## CLASSIC CALL

As you may have noticed, ELLE Decoration loves marble – and not just in the home. The 'Clic Marble' iPhone 6 case by Native Union is made from a one-millimetre-thick wafer of fine Italian marble. Each cover is unique, and comes in matt black or glossy white. £70 each ([nativeunion.com](http://nativeunion.com)).

{ Try this Whatever your fitness goals, the 'MyRun' treadmill by Techno Gym will help you to achieve them with audio motivation. Slot your iPad into the treadmill's dashboard and the 'MyRun' software will select music from your library that matches your pace. The quicker you run, the faster the beat. £2,650 ([technogym.com](http://technogym.com)). }



## THE BEAN MACHINE

Good coffee can make all the difference to the trajectory of your day, which is why Jura, the Swiss firm that designs state-of-the-art bean-to-cup coffee machines, has created its ultimate product, the 'Z6'. A sleek, finely tuned aluminium instrument, it promises to tease the optimum caffeine intensity out of any bean. How? Using a revolutionary 'pulse extraction process' that pushes powerful jets of water through the finely ground coffee. Without getting too technical, this method extracts maximum aroma without 'exhausting' the beans. Touchscreen controls and a rotary switch allow you to access your saved 'My Coffee' settings in an instant. Okay, it's ten times the price of a standard capsule machine, but it's cheaper than employing a private barista. £1,895 ([uk.jura.com](http://uk.jura.com)).

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**PICTURE: JONAS BIERER/POUSEN/NOW ARCHITECTS BACKGROUND IMAGE**

**THE ELLE DECORATION INTERIORS APPS GUIDE**

*Spoilt for choice, with thousands of interiors apps available to download? Our tech expert Tom Bailey reveals his top ten and explains how to get the most out of them*

**DESIGN\*Sponge**  
Free

**What is it?** Created by American blogger Grace Bonney as a spin-off from her hugely popular website, this is an addictive mix of 'before and after' room makeovers, interviews, pictures of the world's most stylish homes, and DIY projects (we especially like the '20-Minute Bedroom Refresh').

**How do I use it?** There's no science to it, just see where your browsing takes you. The room makeovers in particular have real voyeuristic appeal.

**Verdict** A great ideas resource to explore when you have ten minutes to spare.

**DULUX VISUALISER**  
Free

**What is it?** Using augmented reality technology, this app allows you to virtually 'paint' the walls of your home.

**How do I use it?** Point your camera at a wall, pick a colour from Dulux's palette and the screen image of the wall turns that colour.

**Verdict** A superb tool that takes the guesswork out of choosing a colour scheme.

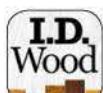
**iHANDY CARPENTER**  
£1.49

**What is it?** Tapping into Apple's accelerometer technology (which enables its devices to sense movement), *iHandy Carpenter* functions as a spirit level, surface level, plumb line, protractor and ruler.

**How do I use it?** To use your iPhone as a spirit level, balance it on a surface; slide it along a wall to take a ruler measurement.

**Verdict** Accurate to one tenth of a degree, the results are far better than you could ever hope to achieve by eye. ▶

## INTERIORS APPS CONTINUED...

**I.D. WOOD**

£3.99

**What is it?** This guide to wood species will help you to identify 200 common and exotic timbers. Discover the difference between oriental and African striped walnut – or track down the name of a specific timber using the full-screen sample photos.

**How do I use it?** Browse by alphabetical order or search for woods that match your criteria (in terms of hardness, sustainability and so on). Or, if you're commissioning a bespoke piece of furniture, use the app to check the maximum size of your chosen raw timber.

**Verdict** A fascinating little guide that will broaden your horizons and inspire fresh thinking in the process.

**MAGPIE BY CONRAN**

Free

**What is it?** A bit like Pinterest: collect inspirational photos then turn them into a neat, professional moodboard.

**How do I use it?** Simply name your Magpie file and drop in photos, videos and notes that express the look that you want to achieve. When you're happy, export it all as a PDF, print it out and mount it on backing board.

**Verdict** Super-stylish and a good way to distil those daily 'Ooh-that's-cool' moments into a cohesive plan.

**PHAIDON DESIGN CLASSICS**

£10.99

**What is it?** Years in the making, this is a definitive collection of 1,000 iconic pieces by the legendary likes of Le Corbusier, Dieter Rams and Sir Terence Conran.

**How do I use it?** Dive into the app's 3D environment and explore archive photos, original sketches and historical notes.

**Verdict** Owning this app is like carrying around a mini design museum in your pocket. A gorgeous encyclopaedia that you will refer to over and over again.

**PHOTO MEASURES**

£4.99

**What is it?** A time-saving tool that allows you to add measurements to a photo of a room.

**How do I use it?** We used our iPhone 6 Plus' iSight camera to snap a few nice shots of our space, then overlaid its dimensions on top of the image using the app's zoom-able functions.

**Verdict** We loved the convenience of having this information saved on our iPhone, and the *iHandy Carpenter* app (see previous page) came in useful when we were taking our initial measurements.

**ROOMLE**

Free

**What is it?** A 3D room planner aimed at interiors professionals. Design, build and furnish a space in 2D, before exploring it in 3D.

**How do I use it?** Sketch a floor plan with your finger and drop in elements such as windows, doors and fireplaces. Finally, populate the space with furniture (*Roomle*'s library of objects includes everything from bins to chaise longues).



**Verdict** There are endless room planning apps to choose from but many are as ugly as a maths textbook. We fell in love with *Roomle*, because it is both easy to use and elegant.

**AUGMENTED REALITY VIEWER**

£7.99

**What is it?** Loved

by architects, designers and estate agents, this app measures the amount of natural light a room receives and tells you how it will change during the day and with the seasons.

**How do I use it?** Stand in the room and move your iPhone across the windows. The app uses GPS to display the sun's path during daylight hours and at different times of the year. It shows its direction at hourly intervals, as well as rise and set times.



**Verdict** Illuminating – quite literally – and essential when hanging artwork or deciding where to place a computer in a home office. Take it with you on house viewings and you'll get an accurate impression of a room's light potential even on overcast days.



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*A new health food movement is sweeping the nation and has us all obsessed with green juices, spiralized vegetables and sugar-free goodies. But what does this mean for our kitchens? Here, we meet three 'clean and green' pioneers to discuss their top tips and essential kit*

*Words CHARLOTTE BROOK  
Photography BEN ANDERS*



## THE GREEN JUICE GODDESS

I'm a juicer but I still like a martini,' says model, kale whizzer and cocktail mixer Rosemary Ferguson (@roseferguson; rosemaryferguson.co.uk). She is a very modern nutritionist with a refreshing sense of balance, and her kitchen reflects this. Shared with her husband, artist Jake Chapman, and their three daughters, the space is both the heart of the family's Cotswolds home and Ferguson's recipe-testing HQ when she isn't at her nutrition consultancy on London's Harley Street.

'During the day, my kitchen is a serene place for experimentation: I test innovative gadgets or newfangled superfoods that clients recommend to me,' says Rosemary. 'But when we renovated the house in 2006, we also wanted this to be a social space.' She cites minimalist artist Donald Judd as an inspiration, and the kitchen's no-frills design, created in partnership with architecture firm Waugh Thistleton,

is elegant and practical. 'The units have no handles, just openings for your hands: the idea being that the wood will wear over time and create natural grooves.' Hanging from the ceiling are clusters of opaline pendant lights from Lassco (lassco.co.uk). 'They're antiques from hospitals,' explains Rosemary. 'They are one of my favourite things in the house!'

The marble worktops are where the juicing action happens. 'For me, juicing is a really easy way to make yourself feel slightly virtuous,' says Rosemary. 'A juice is a brilliant vehicle via which you can transport tons of vitamins and minerals into your body, and dispel toxic chemicals.' She credits the sheer variety of ingredients that you can fit into a single glass of juice with giving her recipes their nutritional potency. 'Take Sparkle and Shine, which contains apricots, raspberries, carrots, spring greens and ground turmeric. Never in a cooked

PICTURE: WILL PRICE (DINING AREA, BOTTOM RIGHT)



This minimalist kitchen still has a warmth and homeliness thanks to wooden cupboard doors, vintage furnishings and the red glass splashback behind the marble worktop – originally it was also going to be made from marble, but Rosemary (right) thought the look was too uniform



**'I always leave fruit out on the worktop. We get through it so quickly that it doesn't need refrigerating, plus it tastes – and juices – much better at room temperature'**

dish would your body be treated to such a spectrum of fruit and veg. But in a juice it really could not be simpler.'

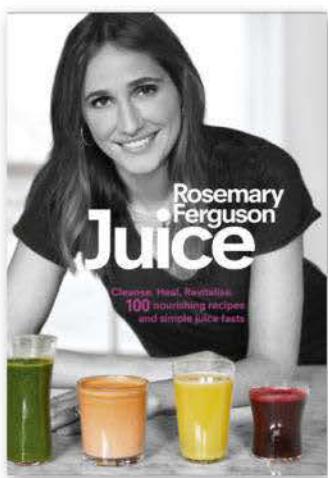
Many of Rosemary's appliances live in a storage area behind the kitchen so that her workspace can remain clear of clutter. 'In theory, this is a streamlined space,' says Rosemary. 'In practice, the minute you start using it, it looks messy – unless you have ELLE Decoration coming round to shoot it, that is.' Fruit does normally sit out on the worktop, though. 'We get through it so quickly that it doesn't need refrigerating, plus it tastes – and juices – better at room temperature.' If making a drink 'to go', Rosemary advises using glass bottles, 'because of the health dangers of plastics' – she buys hers from a local apple press, but Lakeland ([lakeland.co.uk](http://lakeland.co.uk)) sells similar.

But it's not only juicing that happens in Ferguson's kitchen. 'My most treasured cooking gadget *du jour* is my Panasonic ➤





Fancy making your own revitalising juice? Find our favourite Rosemary recipes at [elledecoration.co.uk](http://elledecoration.co.uk)



#### THE GREEN JUICE GODDESS

► bread machine [see right],’ she says. ‘You can switch wheat for rye or brown-rice flour; butter for coconut oil; and table salt for Himalayan pink salt to make a really nice, healthy bread. Plus, you can set the bread maker on a timer and wake up to the amazing smell of a loaf baking.’

‘I also make raw flaxseed crackers with my dehydrator [a machine that extracts the moisture from foods, see right]. We collect a lot of apples in the summer from the trees outside, so I dry those out and make apple crisps,’ she says. ‘It all sounds very *The Good Life*, doesn’t it?’

‘Our kitchen is great for everything,’ says Rosemary. ‘But it’s got a particularly good floor for dancing on.’ Made from glossy poured concrete, the surface is the ultimate proof that this is a space for balancing work and play. ‘Juice: Cleanse. Heal. Revitalise. 100 Nourishing Recipes and Simple Juice Fasts’ by Rosemary Ferguson (Ebury Press, £15.99)

#### ROSEMARY’S ESSENTIAL KITCHEN KIT



**Nutri Juicer** by Sage by Heston Blumenthal – ‘it has a powerful motor, meaning you can blend raw root vegetables.’ £149.95, John Lewis ([johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)).



**Sourdough bread maker** by Panasonic – ‘simply set it on a timer and wake up to the smell of bread baking.’ £189.95, John Lewis ([johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)).



**K Sabatier** knives – ‘my mum had favourite knives when I was little, which I thought was ridiculous. Now I’m the same!’. From £19.20 ([sabatier-shop.com](http://sabatier-shop.com)).



**‘4900’ dehydrator** by Excalibur – ‘I use it to make raw flaxseed crackers and apple crisps.’ £258, Juiceland ([juiceland.co.uk](http://juiceland.co.uk)). ►



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2

## THE ALKALINE QUEEN

For Natasha Corrett, switching to an alkaline diet proved transformative to her health and happiness. Her recipes make the concept of 'alkaline eating' accessible to us all. Natasha's third book, *Honestly Healthy Cleanse*, offers meal plans (or 'cleanses') for people who want to kick-start their own healthy lifestyle. Here, she discusses how she makes her kitchen work for her (@HonestlyHealthy; honestlyhealthyfood.com).

**What's your food philosophy?** Our bodies are naturally alkaline. Every time you eat acid-forming foods, the body has to draw on minerals that make up your bones to return it to its ideal alkaline state. If you can cut down on the foods that create acid, you're giving your body a much better chance to function at its absolute best. That said, this way of eating is not an all-or-nothing thing: it is a lifestyle, not a diet.

**How is your kitchen set up to help you work as well as cook?** I photograph and film a lot of the recipes for my website here, and redesigned my kitchen for that purpose. Everything is positioned for maximum efficiency: I have knives and spoons to my right and my microphone to my left. Pots and pans are stored behind me for easy access, as are shelves of grains and pulses. The hob is integrated into the kitchen island and faces the rest of the room so that the film crew can shoot me straight on. And when not filming, I love to cook and entertain at the same time. This way, it's not a case of me being busy cooking while everyone else is next door enjoying themselves!

**How does the storage work?** I have a double-sized fridge, because of the continuous cooking that I do here. It's far too big for the room but even so, in an ideal world I'd have one that's twice the size. Smaller gadgets live in the cupboards,





Natasha (left) bought this large Britannia hob ([britannia.co.uk](http://britannia.co.uk)) from Ebay, where she also purchased her pro-style kitchen tap (for similar try Mayfair; [mayfartapsandshowers.com](http://mayfartapsandshowers.com)) – ‘the spray is great for quickly cooling blanched greens’

but my Thermomix [an appliance that can chop, mix, knead, steam, cook and weigh, £925; [thermomix.vorwerk.co.uk](http://thermomix.vorwerk.co.uk)], a spiralizer [a device that creates ribbons from fruit and vegetables, see p102] and a Vitamix blender [see overleaf] are kept on the worktops. This is partly because I use them all so regularly, and partly because there’s no room in the cupboards! **What materials did you use in your kitchen?** The surfaces had to be hardwearing and non-staining, but I also wanted the look of a contemporary rustic home. I chose a natural worktop by Ashlar Mason ([ashlarmason.co.uk](http://ashlarmason.co.uk)): it’s like marble, but is not porous. I use a lot of lemon and turmeric root, which stained my previous marble kitchen. Similarly, my flooring appears to be wooden but it’s actually ‘Acadia’ porcelain tiles from Abbey Tile Supplies ([abbey-tile-supplies-essex.com](http://abbey-tile-supplies-essex.com); read more about wood-effect tiles on p68). ▶





**'My hob is integrated into the kitchen island and faces the rest of the room, as I love to cook and entertain at the same time'**

Natasha (pictured with Lottie, her Jack Russell terrier) knows how to create a stylish and practical kitchen: her floorboards are in fact hard-wearing 'Acadia' tiles from Abbey Tile Supplies ([abbey-tile-supplies-essex.com](http://abbey-tile-supplies-essex.com))

**THE CLEANSING QUEEN****► How do you serve and present your recipes?**

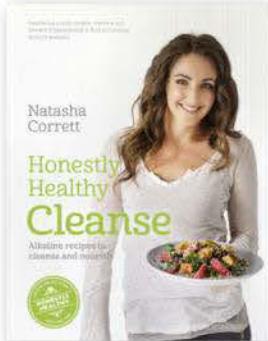
I think ELLE Decoration would be ashamed by the crockery I use! Most of it was bought at the monthly Sunbury Antiques Market at Kempton Park Racecourse ([sunburyantiques.com](http://sunburyantiques.com)). I also have a set of 14 rustic white plates that came from a little shop in Pornic in France. I went there with my granny and bought them for about one euro each, then took the whole lot back in my carry-on suitcase. I do also have pieces from my mum Kelly Hoppen's homewares range.

**You are an advocate of herb-leaf teas. What equipment do you use to make them?** I have a glass teapot that I bought from Habitat years ago. I love it because you can watch the infusion brew.

**Fresh produce is important to healthy eating.**

**Do you grow your own?** At my home in the countryside, I grow raspberry plants. My garden here in London is currently a jungle, but there is a bay tree, so I use lots of fresh bay leaves. I'm also planning to plant my own herb garden.

*'Honestly Healthy Cleanse' by Natasha Corrett (Hodder & Stoughton, £25)*



Want to cook one of Natasha's alkaline dishes in your own kitchen? You'll find the recipe for her 'Strawberry Chocolate Muffins' (top right) at [elledecoration.co.uk](http://elledecoration.co.uk)



PICTURE: JERRY TEMPLI / S30 BLENDER

**NATASHA'S ESSENTIAL KITCHEN KIT****Microplane grater –**

'I use this old-fashioned tool for grating garlic and ginger, as well as zesting lemons. It's easier to use than a box grater, and has finer blades.' £14.99, Lakeland ([lakeland.co.uk](http://lakeland.co.uk)).



**'S30' blender** by Vitamix, which allows you to blend juices in its ready-made reusable takeaway cup - 'If I had to choose my desert island gadget, it would be my Vitamix.' From £400, Lakeland ([lakeland.co.uk](http://lakeland.co.uk)).



**'Smart Scoop' ice-cream maker** by Sage by Heston Blumenthal, which Natasha uses to make incredibly tasty and healthy ices. It plays a traditional ice-cream van tune when it's finished. £297, John Lewis ([johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)). ▶

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**'My kitchen isn't meticulously organised ergonomically speaking, but nutritionally speaking, it is. The cupboards are filled with healthy snacks'**

Madeleine's traditional kitchen, from the large Aga oven to the sturdy wooden countertops, reflects her belief in all-natural eating – no processed foods here!

# 3

## THE GLOWING GOURMET

Madeleine Shaw encourages you to prepare and eat meals made from natural and unprocessed ingredients. She's also the author of healthy-eating cookbook *Get The Glow*. While working in an organic cafe in Australia, Madeleine began learning about the benefits of whole foods and, she says, 'fell back in love with food.' Here, she shares her top ten healthy tips (@madeleine\_shaw; madeleineshaw.com).

**1 Get the glow** My food ethos is all about bringing to life the hottest, healthiest and happiest version of you. This means eating only ingredients that you can grow, hunt or gather from nature. Fill your plate with lots of vegetables, grass-fed meats, fish and all of the healthy fats, which can be found in everything from avocados to seeds.

**2 Plan your space** My kitchen isn't meticulously organised ergonomically speaking, but nutritionally speaking, it is. The cupboards are filled with healthy snacks for hunger pangs, as well as herbs, spices, oils and pulses.

**3 Start the day right** I have a fresh ginger tea in the morning – it's fiery and awakening. But I like to have porridge in the winter, ideally in bed.

**4 The essential purchase** If you buy one thing, make it a food processor. It will widen your repertoire of healthy dishes enormously: with it, you can replace white carbohydrates like rice with cauliflower, which makes a tasty alternative when steamed and whizzed up into flakes.

**5 Personalise your kitchen** Invest in a small number of gadgets that suit you. Cooking tech is expensive, so only purchase items that you will use regularly.

**6 Make use of the tools you have** Slow cookers make 'low and slow' dishes [which cook for several hours at a reduced temperature to extract the maximum amount of flavour] super-easy, but to start with you can use a cast-iron pan – I love my Le Creuset pots. Likewise, for making courgette noodles, you don't necessarily need a spiralizer [see overleaf]; a julienne peeler [which grates vegetables in very fine ribbons] can do just as good a job.

**7 Cook in advance** Make colourful, fresh salads or robust tagines and store them ready-made in glass jars – I use mason ones [screw-top jars traditionally used for preserving] or recycled jam jars – which are both practical and stylish. ▶



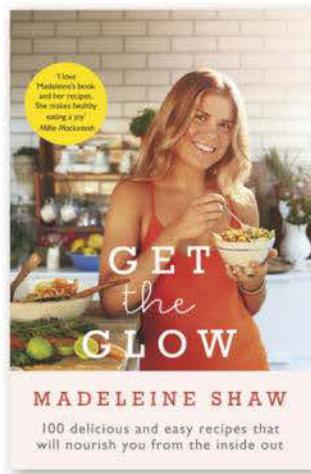
#### THE GLOWING GOURMET

**8 Prioritise your kit** There isn't space for everything to be perfectly stored. All my machines, including a waffle maker and a spiralizer, are in cupboards, but the food processor that I use all the time lives out on the worktop.

**9 Get physical** Electric machines are brilliant, but it can be satisfying to do things by hand in your kitchen. Grinding seeds in a pestle and mortar is quite a workout, but it's also fun – especially with some music on!

**10 Don't forget the occasional treat** My raw chocolate cherry fudge is an essential pick-me-up if you have had a long day, or have a reason to celebrate. 'Get The Glow: Delicious and Easy Recipes That Will Nourish You from the Inside Out' by Madeleine Shaw (Orion, £20)

Want to whip up one of Madeleine's sugar-free treats? Head straight to [elledecoration.co.uk](http://elledecoration.co.uk) for a sample recipe



#### MADELEINE'S ESSENTIAL KITCHEN KIT



**3.3-litre food processor** by Cuisinart – 'great for creating fun, fresh recipes. It's durable and doesn't overheat.' £260 ([cuisinart.co.uk](http://cuisinart.co.uk)).



**Slow cooker** by Crock Pot – 'chuck some lamb in it and then get on with your day,' advises Madeleine. 'Eight hours later, it's melt-in-your-mouth delicious.' £37, [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk).



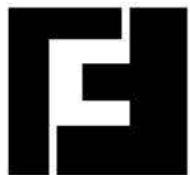
**Spiralizer** by Hemsley and Hemsley (see overleaf) turns vegetables into ribbons. 'It's fun to use and functional.' £30 ([hemsleyandhemsley.com](http://hemsleyandhemsley.com)). ▶

• To see more great kitchen kit, visit [elledecoration.co.uk](http://elledecoration.co.uk)



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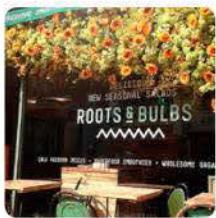
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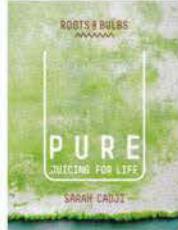
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**6 OF THE BEST... HEALTHY FOODIES TO FOLLOW ON INSTAGRAM***Our favourite cooks and wellness experts who are leading the clean-eating revolution*

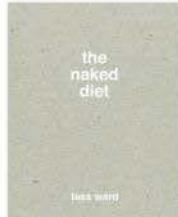
**SARAH CADJI**  
@ROOTSANDBULBS  
**Who** After 11 years working in finance, Sarah opened Roots & Bulbs, her cold-pressed juice and organic takeaway shop, in Marylebone, London; now there's a South Kensington outpost, too.

**What** Developed with nutritionists, Cadji's recipes range from super-green to sweeter treats. *The Bee*, for instance, contains almond milk, banana, bee pollen and honey.  
**Read** 'Pure: Juicing for Life' (Quadrille Publishing, £15)



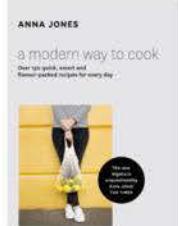
**TESS WARD**  
@TESSWARDCHEF  
**Who** Stylishly dressed, Le Cordon Bleu-trained young health food writer and blogger Ward is known as 'The Yes Chef'. Her brilliant mantra is 'Count colours not calories and goodness not grams.'

**What** As well as creating and posting technicolour dishes on her website, Ward reviews restaurants, interviews cooks and offers behind-the-scenes glimpses of VIP events that she caters for.  
**Read** 'The Naked Diet' (Quadrille Publishing, £16.99).



**ANNA JONES**  
@WE\_ARE\_FOOD  
**Who** Billed as 'the new Nigella', Jones has cooked everywhere from East London school kitchens to Australian beaches, not to mention for a G20 leaders' summit at Downing Street.

**What** Switching to vegetarianism a few years ago gave Jones a new lease of life. Her two books proffer recipes so glorious that you're not meant to notice they're all also meat-free.  
**Read** 'A Modern Way to Cook' (Fourth Estate, £25).



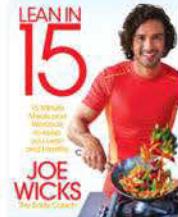
**ELLA WOODWARD**  
@DELICIOUSLYELLA  
**Who** After being diagnosed with a rare medical condition, Woodward radically changed her diet, taking meat, dairy, sugar, gluten and additives off the menu. Her blog catalogues her progress and recipes.

**What** Achieve similarly green-goddess levels of wellbeing by downloading the 'Deliciously Ella' app; her Instagram feed is filled with inspiring images of sunny breakfasts and al fresco yoga.  
**Read** 'Deliciously Ella' (Yellow Kite, £20).



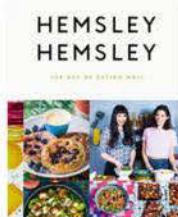
**JOE WICKS**  
@THEBODYCOACH  
**Who** Nutrition coach, personal trainer and one of the original 'fitstagrammers', Wicks' 90-day 'Shift, Shape & Sustain' nutrition and exercise plan has acquired a cult following of fans.

**What** Wicks' plan is a serious three-month operation for paying subscribers. For the rest of us, speedy inspiration via 15-second recipe videos and encouraging blog posts is available.  
**Read** 'Lean in 15', out December (Bluebird, pre-order for £14.99).



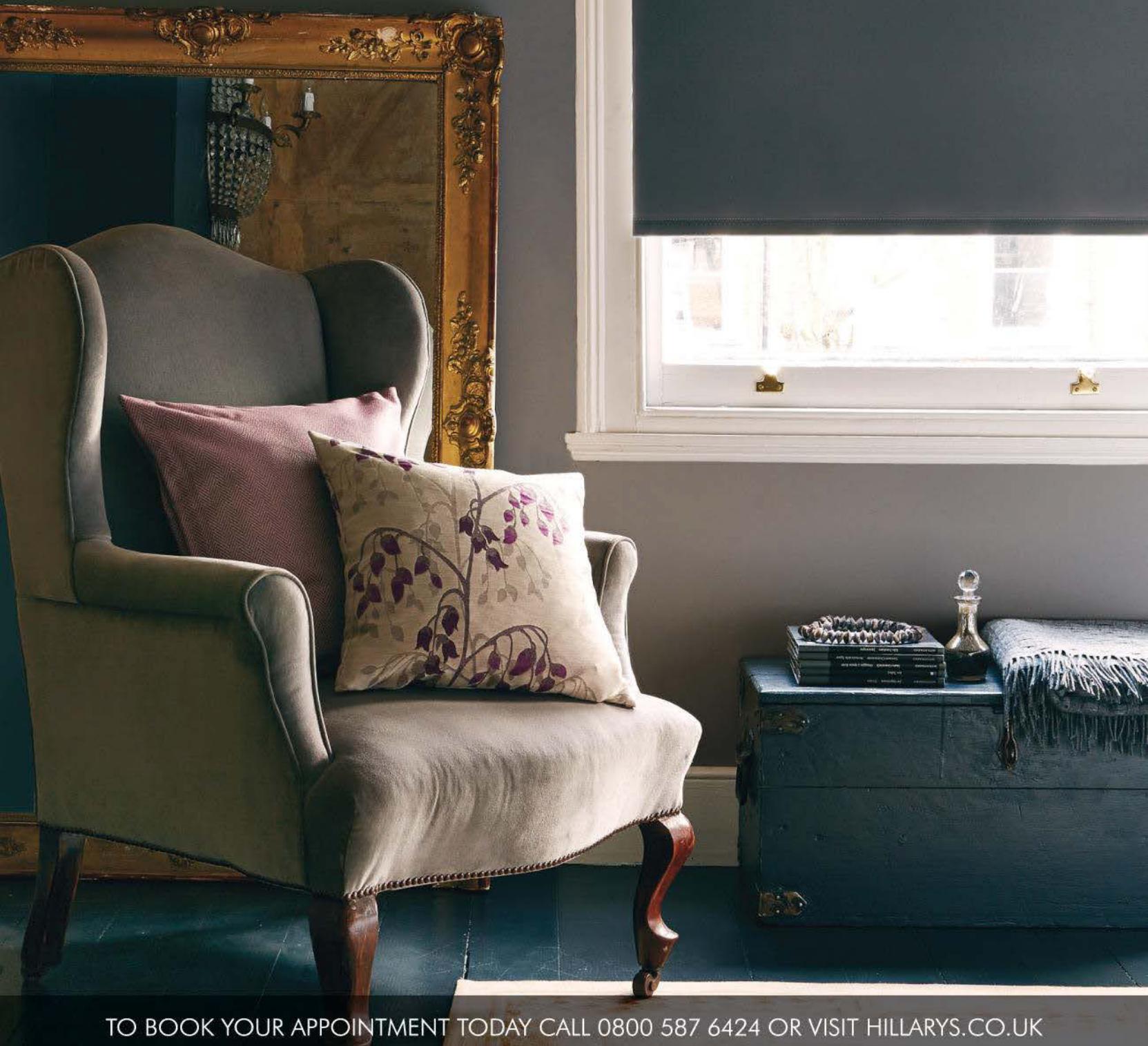
**HEMSLEY & HEMSLEY**  
@HEMSLEYHEMSLEY  
**Who** Sisters Jasmine and Melissa champion holistic and hearty home cooking, and their recipes have taken the health world by storm. The dishes are free from gluten, grains and refined sugar.

**What** As well as writing two books and launching their own spiralizer, the Hemsleys update their social media feeds with literary quotes, backstage shots and lunch box ideas (#Sundaycookoff).  
**Read** 'The Art of Eating Well' (Ebury Press, £25). ED



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# Singing the blues

*A precious family heirloom was the inspiration for the scene-stealing colour scheme of this Bordeaux apartment*

Words EMMA LOVE Photography JULIEN FERNANDEZ/AMANDINEJULES.COM  
Styling/Production AMANDINE BERTHON





**Dining area** This open-plan space is decorated with 'Goa' blue paint by Flamant, which complements the colours in the 18th-century mural on the wall  
**Stockist details on p198 ►**



**Living room** The French 19th-century armchair and mirror are both family heirlooms. The white sofa and wooden coffee table are from Flamant; the black 'Spun' floor lamp is by Sebastian Wrong for Flos (try Heal's in the UK); and the traditional Berber rug is from Caravane. Stockist details on p198 ►

**'This peacock blue is a powerful colour, so I have softened it slightly by combining it with neutral tones such as black and ecru'**



A dining room scene. A long wooden table is set with a white tablecloth, black chairs, and a place setting for four. The place settings include white bowls with blue interiors, black and white patterned placemats, and silverware. In the background, a large, ornate wooden sideboard or hutch is decorated with various items: a silver trophy-like object, glass candlesticks, a gold butter dish, and a tray with glassware. The wall behind the sideboard is painted a vibrant teal color.



**I**nterior designer Valerie Delaire bought this 110-square-metre apartment in the Chartrons district of Bordeaux, France, two years ago. 'I fell completely in love with the view of the square below,' she says. 'The steeple of the Saint Louis des Chartrons church peeks out from behind the buildings and trees. At night, when the church is illuminated, it looks magnificent.'

'I was drawn to the position of the 1960s building rather than the flat itself,' she continues. 'It faces south-west, so light pours into the bedrooms and living room and the spaces feel really sunny.' For Valerie, who often travels into Paris to work on residential design projects, good transport links and a lively neighbourhood were important when searching for a home. 'The apartment is close to the town centre and park, with a tram stop just outside that takes me straight to the central train station.'

The property has a large open-plan living room and dining area, which were both painted white when Valerie moved in. 'I loved the entrance hall, the high ceilings and the beautiful, old parquet floors, which I kept, but apart from that the apartment lacked charm,' she recalls. To add interest, Valerie removed a dividing wall between the living room and the hall, and the original study was converted into a second bedroom, where her grown-up daughter Philippine sleeps.

Above the dining table, the wall is dominated by an 18th-century screen mounted on canvas that depicts a pastoral landscape in

## **The 18th-century *toile de jouy* pastoral mural is the departure point and the guiding thread for my interior decoration'**

a *toile de jouy* print. 'The mural is the departure point and the guiding thread for my interior decoration. It came from one of my parents' properties and I take it with me every time I move house,' Valerie explains. The colours of the artwork are reflected throughout her home, perhaps most strikingly in the strong peacock blue adorning the walls in the living room (the exact shade is 'Goa' by Flamant; flamant.com). 'This hue works just as well during the day as in the evening,' Valerie says. 'It's a powerful colour, so I softened it slightly by combining it with neutral tones such as black and ecru. The only other bright touch in the living room is a painting by my daughter, which hangs in the corner by the sofa.'

Elsewhere, Valerie has mixed more family heirlooms with new pieces from Caravane and secondhand finds sourced from local shops and the renowned Sunday morning flea market in Saint Michel. 'I am particularly fond of the sideboard in the dining room – it originally came from a haberdashery shop,' she says. 'As I like to blend old and contemporary furniture, I have deliberately placed the sideboard next to my modern dining table from Hay and my Eames chairs.'

The Chartrons neighbourhood, which is packed with small antiques shops and interior design boutiques, is a constant source of inspiration for Valerie. 'It's like a village within a town, with its charming streets and endless squares surrounded by cafes and terraces,' she says. 'It's an amazing place to live.'

**Dining area** An 18th-century mural, a family heirloom that used to hang in homeowner Valerie's (above) parents' house, is displayed above a haberdasher's sideboard, bought from an antiques shop. 'DSW' chairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra (new versions are available from John Lewis) are placed around the 'Copenhague' dining table by Ronan and Erwan Bouroullec for Hay (available from Viaduct in the UK) **Stockist details on p198 ►**



**'I wanted my home  
to be refined,  
feminine and cosy  
– a place where  
I can feel relaxed'**





**Entrance hall** Painted black to offset the bold blue on the walls in the living area, this space features a *trompe l'oeil* bookshelf wallpaper panel (opposite) from Leroy Merlin. The two antique Persian rugs are both inherited pieces

**Stockist details on p198 ►**



## MY CITY

**I love the calmness of Bordeaux** and appreciate being close to the sea. It's only an hour to Cap Ferret, where I have a family home, and yet I'm also only three hours from Paris by train.

**I adore the ambience** of Atelier 29 (14 cours de Verdun), which sells pieces by Caravane.

The shop has great furniture, objects and fabrics.

**My favourite fashion boutique** is Scéno10 (10 passage Sarget), which is run by a friend of mine. It is located in a beautiful 19th-century street.

**I pop to the Pain d'Elise bakery** (49 cours Portal) near my house for fresh bread and my favourite restaurant is Comptoir Cuisine, which is opposite the Grand Théâtre (2 place de la Comédie).



**Bathroom** The vanity unit was made by a local joiner and the wicker side table is actually a dessert trolley that the homeowner bought locally  
**Bedroom** Bedlinen by Caravane completes the feminine colour scheme in this room. The wall lamps by the bed are from La Maison Poétique  
**Stockist details on p198**





**Hallway** Original tiles, discovered underneath the living room floor, have been cleaned up and moved here. An old Venetian mirror, bought from an auction house in Copenhagen, and a 'Tulip' chair by Eero Saarinen for Knoll (available at The Conran Shop) complete the look  
**Stockist details on p198 ►**

# THE PURITY PRINCIPLE

*The simple, Scandinavian style of this Swedish coastal home is the perfect backdrop for its owners' many global treasures*

Words EMMA LOVE Photography BIRGITTA WOLFGANG/SISTERS AGENCY





**T**en years ago, Swedish couple Josephine Ekström, owner of interiors shop Lily & Oscar, and her engineer husband Rikard reached a major life milestone when they bought this house on the Swedish coast. ‘We received the keys a week after our first child Emmie was born, so we had a little baby while we were trying to do the renovations,’ recalls Josephine – the couple have since had two more children, Noah (eight) and Lily (four).

The three-bedroom 200-square-metre property, which was built in the 1920s, is located in the small fishing port of Höganäs in the county of Skåne. ‘We’re one road away from the beach and in the summer it’s a really popular town,’ says Josephine. ‘Lots of people come here to holiday by the sea.’

During the refurbishment, Josephine stayed in the couple’s old house in Helsingborg, further south, while Rikard travelled back and forth to oversee the project. ‘After nine months we moved in, but the builders still hadn’t started the work upstairs,’ Josephine recalls. ‘Rikard’s father has a construction company and convinced us that with a few changes, the house would be perfect for us,’ she says.

On the ground level, several internal walls were removed to create the airy open-plan kitchen and dining room, which has pale, limewashed wood flooring. ‘We peeled back the wallpaper on the remaining walls and there were layers

**‘I LIKE TO MIX STYLES. I’LL PUT BIG, ANCIENT FRENCH BOWLS ON A MODERN TABLE OR A VENETIAN LIGHT NEXT TO AN INDUSTRIAL ONE’**

dating from every decade,’ says Josephine. Although the couple did not keep the original decor, they did reuse the tiles that they found hidden beneath the broken parquet in the living room. ‘My husband cleaned every one before re-laying them in the hall – now it looks as if they’ve always been there,’ says Josephine.

With bright, white walls and painted floorboards, the rooms now act as a simple, plain backdrop that allows the homeowners’ collections of old and new furniture to stand out. Josephine buys a lot of items at auction, both for her home and her interiors store, which she opened three years ago in a renovated garret nearby. She also travels further afield to source original designs, visiting the big interiors trade fairs in Copenhagen, Paris and Milan, as well as hunting for one-off finds at French flea markets. These purchases are teamed with iconic pieces (including chairs by Harry Bertoia and an ‘Arco’ floor light by Achille Castiglioni for Flos) and accessories that Josephine has made herself, such as the graphic African Kuba fabric cushions in the downstairs living room.

‘I like to mix all kinds of styles. I’ll put big, ancient French bowls on a modern table or a gold, Venetian light next to a vintage industrial one,’ Josephine explains. ‘My favourite pieces to decorate a home with are mirrors, chairs and lamps. I also think that you can make any room look special with the right lighting.’ And, as someone who has an eye for design, Josephine’s home acts as an ever-changing moodboard of inspiration. ‘From one week to another, the house can look completely different. My family get really bored of me changing things around all the time, but I love it,’ she says. [lilyoscar.com](http://lilyoscar.com)

**Opposite** The snug is decorated with a Moroccan rug from the homeowner’s shop, Lily & Oscar, and a marble ‘Tulip’ table by Eero Saarinen for Knoll (available at The Conran Shop). A pair of ‘Wassily’ chairs by Michel Breuer, also for Knoll, sit opposite the traditional fireplace (previous page)  
**Living room** Homeowner Josephine (above) purchased the leather sofa at Lauritz, a Swedish auction house. She made the cushions herself using African Kuba textiles that complement her global finds (right)  
**Stockist details on p198 ►**





'MY FAVOURITE THINGS ARE MIRRORS, CHAIRS AND LAMPS. I THINK THAT YOU CAN MAKE A ROOM LOOK SPECIAL WITH THE RIGHT LIGHTING'

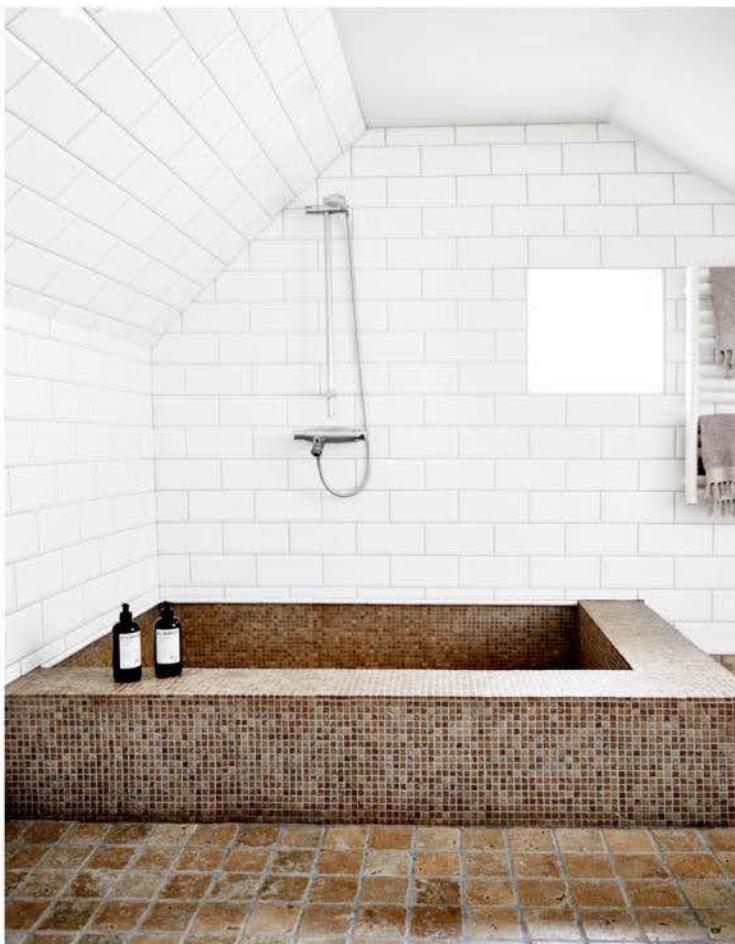




PLAIN WHITE WALLS AND PAINTED FLOORBOARDS ARE THE PERFECT BLANK CANVAS FOR THE HOMEOWNERS' CONSTANTLY EVOLVING DECOR



**Kitchen** Chairs by Charles and Ray Eames are arranged around the dining table (from a local antiques store). The light is a reclaimed piece  
**Landing** An old leather gymnastics mat sits outside the childrens' playroom: it's where the whole family practise their handstands  
**Family room** In this second living area, situated upstairs, the homeowner has built a table, combining Baroque legs with a plain top ►



## MY COAST

### I was attracted to this house immediately

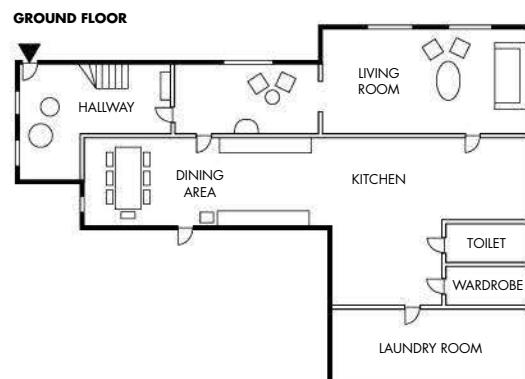
– I could see its potential and I loved the location. You don't have to drive very far to do anything, from hiking in the woods to walking by the sea.

**This part of the coastline** is gusty so we get a lot of windsurfers here. You can still find a sheltered spot to spend a day at the beach, though.

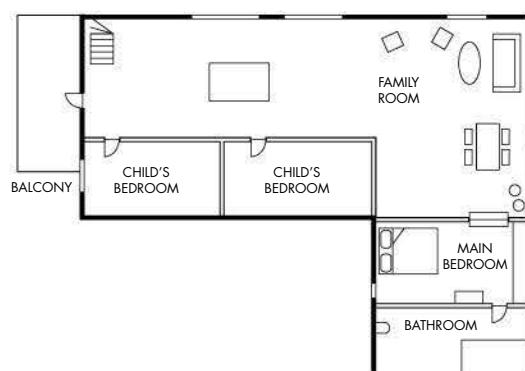
**My favourite cafe** is Mölle Krukmakeri in the nearby town of Mölle (mollekrukmakeri.se). The owners also make and sell their own ceramics.

**When I'm at home**, I can mostly be found upstairs working. Over the summer, I also spend a lot of time in the garden, pruning the roses.

**I prefer things that are new** as opposed to vintage objects – but that could change next week.



### FIRST FLOOR





**Main bedroom** Connected to the open-plan family room, this space shares the calm, white look of the rest of the house, and is decorated with objects bought at the Porte Clignancourt flea market in Paris. The bath in the en suite (opposite) is covered in mosaic stone tiles **ED**



## LIVING ROOM

**From left** 'Mags' sofa by Hay, £2,357, Viaduct ([viaduct.co.uk](http://viaduct.co.uk)). 'Tatiana' throw, £65, Habitat ([habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk)). 'Sloane' cushion in Pale Moss, £40, Heal's ([heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk)). 'Ruskin Turchese' blue fabric (as cushion), £118 per m, Rubelli ([rubelli.com](http://rubelli.com)). 'Sloane' cushion in Coral, £40, Heal's ([heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk)). 'Pink Birds' print by Paule Marrot, £1,990, Natural Curiosities ([naturalcuriosities.com](http://naturalcuriosities.com)). 'Mousse' rug, £389, Toulemonde Bochart ([toulemondebochart.fr](http://toulemondebochart.fr)). 'First Rocking Chair' by Muller van Severen, £1,922, Viaduct ([viaduct.co.uk](http://viaduct.co.uk)). 'Giraffe' console table, £445, &New ([andnew.co.uk](http://andnew.co.uk)). Stoneware vases (five pictured) by Tortus Copenhagen, from £70 each, Alex Eagle ([alexeagle.co.uk](http://alexeagle.co.uk)). 'Nyhavn' orange-and-white vase by Simon Legald, £18, Normann Copenhagen ([normann-copenhagen.com](http://normann-copenhagen.com)). 'Turquoise Berry Flower' vase by Vivienne Foley, £875, Vessel ([vesselgallery.com](http://vesselgallery.com)). 'Ruché' armchair by Inga Sempé for Ligne Roset, £2,577, Harrods ([harrods.com](http://harrods.com)). 'Sparks Tall' side table by Laetitia de Allegri, £2,326, Art I Curate ([articurate.net](http://articurate.net)). **On wall (from left)** 'La Vella' paint, £36 for 2.5l, Colour Makes People Happy ([colourmakespeoplehappy.com](http://colourmakespeoplehappy.com)). 'Skymning' wallpaper, £192 per 1.8m x 2.7m panel, Sandberg ([sandbergwallpaper.com](http://sandbergwallpaper.com)) ▶

# SEASON OF MISTS

*Pastel shades for autumn? We introduce the season's surprising new trend, which takes inspiration from mid-century textiles, combining soft pinks and minty blues with painterly effects*

*Photography ANDERS SCHONNEMANN*

*Styling OLIVIA GREGORY*

*Styling Assistants FLORENCE SADLER AND MELANIE MAY*





## BEDROOM

From left 'Lagune' **linen (as curtains)**, £87.10 per m, Camengo ([camengo.com](http://camengo.com)). 'Ventura' **armchair**, £2,868, Poliform ([poliformuk.it](http://poliformuk.it)). 'Tie 'n Dye' **rug**, £437, CC-tapis ([cc-tapis.com](http://cc-tapis.com)). Rattan **bed**, £1,400, Anthropologie ([anthropologie.eu](http://anthropologie.eu)). 'Biella' kingsize **duvet cover** in Turquoise and Aloe, £165; **pillowcases** in Turquoise and Aloe and Blossom and Soft Pink, £20 each; **pale green cushion** covered in 'Padua' fabric, £79 per m, all Designers Guild ([designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)). Pink and blue **velvet cushions**, £35 each, Marks & Spencer ([marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com)). 'Shimmer' **side table** by Patricia Urquiola for Glas Italia, £1,029, Geoffrey



Drayton ([geoffrey-drayton.co.uk](http://geoffrey-drayton.co.uk)). 'Rivoli' **cabinet**, from £19,200, Soane ([soane.com](http://soane.com)). 'Branch' **bowls** by Pia Wüstenberg, from £325 each, Mint ([mintshop.co.uk](http://mintshop.co.uk)). 'Margaritas' **fabric (on canvas)**, £164 per m, Dedar ([dedar.it](http://dedar.it)). 'Collect' **vases**, £65 for a set of four, Future and Found ([futureandfound.com](http://futureandfound.com)). 'Series 7' **chair** in pale pink with gold-plated legs by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen, £523, Aram Store ([aram.co.uk](http://aram.co.uk)). 'Koya' **desk** by Marie Christine Dorner, £2,042 including a set of four fabric screens, Ligne Roset ([ligne-roset.co.uk](http://ligne-roset.co.uk)). 'Mia' **table lamp** by Paola Monaco di Arianello, £285, Danese Milano ([danesemilano.com](http://danesemilano.com)). **On wall** 'Some of These Colours are Influenced by Stuff but Not This One' paint, £36 for 2.5l, Colour Makes People Happy ([colourmakespeoplehappy.com](http://colourmakespeoplehappy.com)) ▶



## DINING ROOM

From left 'Precious' **side table** by Cédric Ragot, £840, Roche Bobois ([roche-bobois.com](http://roche-bobois.com)). **Shelving unit** by Montana, £6,851, Aram Store ([aram.co.uk](http://aram.co.uk)). 'Esterban' **green vase** (top of unit), £30; 'Frances' **metal bird** (top shelf, right), £9, both Habitat ([habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk)). 'Pleated #02' **vase** (on unit, bottom left), £85, Helena Ambrosio ([helenaambrosio.com](http://helenaambrosio.com)). **Books**, from £15 each, The Book Club ([thebookclub.co.uk](http://thebookclub.co.uk)). 'Gimme Shelter' **sofa** by Diesel and Moroso, £4,900, Moroso ([moroso.co.uk](http://moroso.co.uk)); covered in 'Velours Tresse' **velvet** by Dominique Kieffer, £300 per m, Rubelli ([rubelli.com](http://rubelli.com)). **Patterned cushion** covered in 'Soft Manaos' fabric by Christian Lacroix, £143 per m, Designers Guild ([designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)). 'Kilim' **yellow cushion**, £46; 'Aura' **throw**, £181, both Caravane ([caravane.fr](http://caravane.fr)). **Floor tiles**, £144 per sq m, Bert & May ([bertandmay.com](http://bertandmay.com)). 'St Mark' **chairs** by Martino Gamper, £335 each, Moroso ([moroso.co.uk](http://moroso.co.uk)). 'Jono Pek' **table** by Philippe Starck for Tog, £2,425, Heal's ([heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk)). **Spoons**, £50 for a pair; **bowls**, £45 each, both by Tina Frey, Mint ([mintshop.co.uk](http://mintshop.co.uk)). **Jug** by Ichendorf, £75, The Conran Shop ([conranshop.co.uk](http://conranshop.co.uk)). 'Claude' **pendant lights** by Annika Frye for Hartô, £165 each, L'Arcobaleno ([larcobaleno.com.com](http://larcobaleno.com.com)). **On wall** 'La Vella' paint (see previous page) ED





21 Doctor's House >  
22 Tile Gallery >  
23 Flushed with Pride >  
Way Out

# Breaking the mould

*With sculptural silhouettes and unusual textures, these contemporary ceramics are pieces to treasure forever*

Photography HEIDI LERKENFELDT Styling EMMA KAY  
Styling Assistant MELANIE MAY

## Where better to shoot the finest new pots

and vases than among the towering brick bottle ovens of the Gladstone Pottery Museum in Stoke-on-Trent, the city known the world over as 'The Potteries'. The beating heart of the ceramics industry since the 17th century, Stoke-on-Trent is still home to Wedgwood, Spode, Royal Doulton and many independent makers. Turn the page to see more innovative creations on display in this historic setting.



**From left** Large white pot, £575, William Yeoward ([williamyeoward.com](http://williamyeoward.com)). 'Element' vessel, £120, Vitamin ([vitaminliving.com](http://vitaminliving.com)). Light grey pot, £129, Ferm Living ([fermliving.com](http://fermliving.com)) ▶



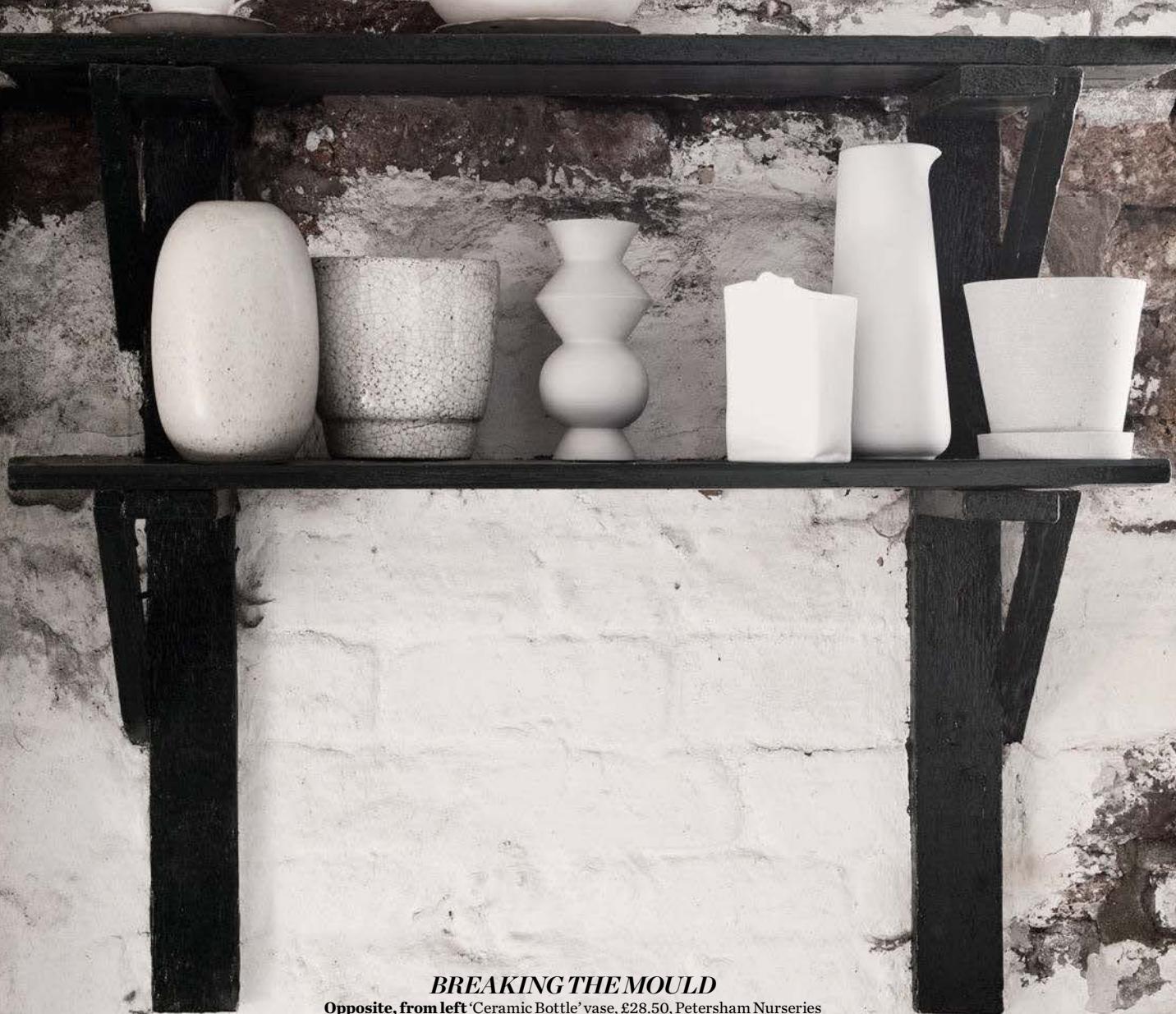
### BREAKING THE MOULD

**Bottom shelf, from left** 'Bouquet' vase by Hemingway Design for Royal Doulton, £40, John Lewis ([johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com)).  
'Bottle' vases (two pictured), from £80 each, both by Joe Christopherson, Flow Gallery ([flowgallery.co.uk](http://flowgallery.co.uk)).  
'Ming' vase by Marcel Wanders, £68, Moooi ([moooi.com](http://moooi.com)). 'Jug' vase, £34, West Elm ([westelm.co.uk](http://westelm.co.uk))



**On table, from left** 'CH050' vase, £45, House Doctor ([housedoctor.dk](http://housedoctor.dk)). 'Nube' vase by Rosaria Rattin for Kose, £260, B&B Italia ([bebitalia.com](http://bebitalia.com)). 'Barton' vase, £35, Habitat ([habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk)). 'Luna' vase by Rosaria Rattin for Kose, £612, B&B Italia ([bebitalia.com](http://bebitalia.com)). 'Spinner' vase by Romi Hefetz, £45, Romi Ceramics ([romiceramics.com](http://romiceramics.com)). 'Standard Ware' pitcher by Fort Standard, £90, SCP ([scp.co.uk](http://scp.co.uk)). 'See' vase, £75, Jo Davies ([jo-davies.com](http://jo-davies.com)). 'Lugano' vase by Pierre Dubois and Aimé Cécil, £280, Roche Bobois ([rochebobois.com](http://rochebobois.com)). 'Epoch' ivory urn (on raised block), £14, Anthropologie ([anthropologie.eu](http://anthropologie.eu)) ▶





### BREAKING THE MOULD

**Opposite, from left** 'Ceramic Bottle' vase, £28.50, Petersham Nurseries ([petershamnurseries.com](http://petershamnurseries.com)). 'Still Life' vase by Akiko Hirai, £120, Flow Gallery ([flowgallery.co.uk](http://flowgallery.co.uk)). 'Crockery' vase by Max Lamb, £70, 1882 Limited ([1882ltd.com](http://1882ltd.com))

**This page, bottom shelf from left** 'Ovolo' vase, £75, Tom Butcher ([tombutcherceramics.co.uk](http://tombutcherceramics.co.uk)). Planter, £20, Designers Guild ([designersguild.com](http://designersguild.com)). 'Geometry' vase, £31, Ferm Living ([fermliving.com](http://fermliving.com)). 'Toshi' vase, £32, Serax ([serax.com](http://serax.com)). 'Nordic' jug by Skagerak, £49; flowerpot and saucer by Hay, £9, both Skandium ([skandium.com](http://skandium.com)) ED



## FRENCH POLISH

*Jewel-coloured accents and modern artworks add a contemporary edge to this elegant 19th-century Parisian pied-à-terre*

*Words TRISH LORENZ  
Photography BIRGITTA WOLFGANG/SISTERS AGENCY  
Production JULIA MINCARELLI*



**Living room** Designer pieces, including a Zanotta sofa and 'Bell' coffee tables by Sebastian Herkner are paired with flea-market finds, such as this striking vintage yellow chair  
**Stockist details on p198 ▶**



**Living room** The original ornate fireplace and exquisite parquet flooring are complemented by clean-lined contemporary furniture and modern art  
**Detail** The circular portraits depicting the homeowners' daughters are by Mathieu Ducournau



**In the creative heart of Paris' Marais district** sits this chic 94-square-metre, 19th-century apartment, belonging to lawyer-turned-jewellery designer Virginie Dreyer (left) and her consultant husband, Stephane. The couple moved here 16 years ago, before they had their daughters, Luna (14) and Anae (11), and before they relocated to the Middle East for Stephane's work. Today, the flat, which was newly

renovated two years ago, serves as the family's European pied-à-terre. And, despite the fact that they only visit a few times a year, the building retains a welcoming feel. 'The Marais is a beautiful place,' says Virginie. 'Although we now live in Bahrain, the girls still feel very French.'

The apartment is blessed with high ceilings, antique parquet floors, intricate cornicing and several stained-glass windows that evoke traditional French glamour. Even with the ornate details, the interior still feels very current. 'We love the period features, they're what first attracted us to the apartment. We wanted to retain the historic beauty of the space but treat it in a more modern way,' says Virginie.

She and Stephane worked with interior design firm FR66 to create a stylish balance between old and new, adding clean-lined furniture and personal touches, including specially commissioned art. The house is decorated with soft pastel shades of light blue, pale pink and green, complemented by shots of bright yellow and jewel tones. 'All of the colours that we have used are visible in the stained-glass windows,' explains Virginie. 'We tried to incorporate them in a subtle way.'

To the right of the entrance hall is a concealed door, cleverly disguised as part of the panelling. Push it and you find yourself in the private section of the house, which contains two bedrooms and bathrooms, all connected by a short corridor. 'This area doesn't have as many original details so we decided to treat it as a purely contemporary space,' says Virginie.

Despite the many designer pieces on show, this is still a lived-in space: the girls' scooters and Stephane's bike sit in the entrance hall. 'If something becomes marked then so be it,' says Virginie. 'The house isn't a museum.'

Much like Virginie's own jewellery designs (sold under the brand Tiny Om), which are inspired by a modern take on the seven chakras used in yoga and meditation, her home manages to feel both calm and cutting-edge; respecting tradition, but interpreting it in a fresh way.

'This is a very easy house to live in. Perhaps it's because of the sweet colours and the fact that we don't have too much furniture. It always feels very Zen,' says Virginie. 'We have so many memories here of parties and time spent with the girls when they were babies, that, even though we don't live here all of the time, it still feels like home.' [tiny-on.com](http://tiny-on.com); [fr66.com](http://fr66.com) ▶

**'WE WANTED TO  
RETAIN THE HISTORIC  
BEAUTY OF THE SPACE  
BUT TREAT IT IN A  
MORE MODERN WAY'**







**Dining area** The 'Surface' table is by Terence Woodgate and John Barnard for Established & Sons; it is surrounded by a set of 'Carbon' chairs by Bertjan Pot and Marcel Wanders for Moooi  
**Stockist details on p198 ►**





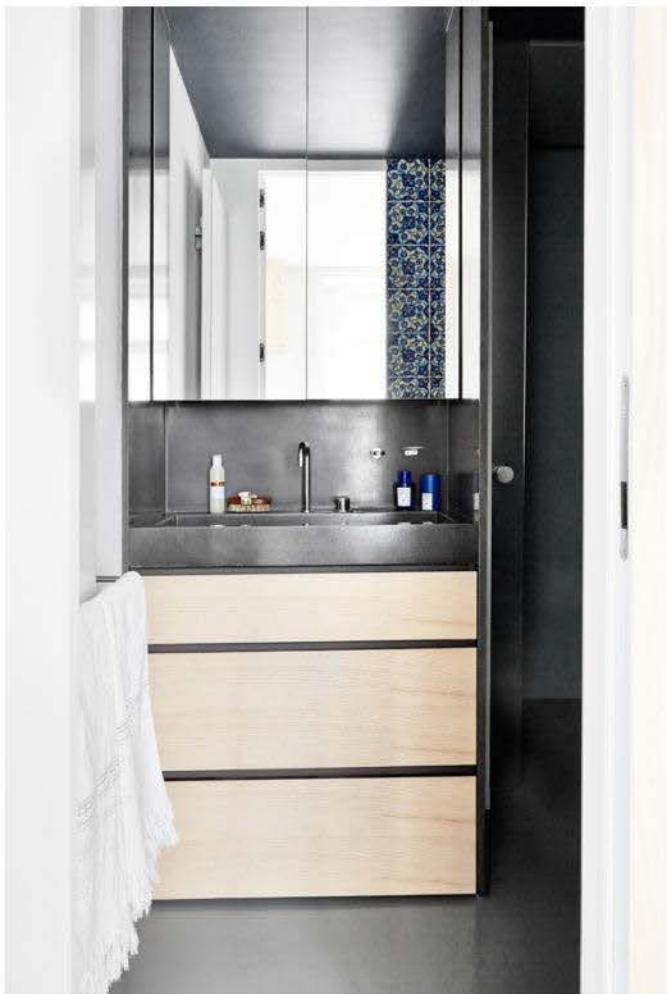
**THE HOMEOWNERS HAVE CREATED A STYLISH BALANCE OF OLD AND NEW, ADDING CLEAN-LINED FURNITURE AND BESPOKE ART**



**Hallway** Artist Bruno Rousselot created the geometric artwork on the doorway. A copper pendant light by Sebastian Herkner hangs above  
**Details** The pink storage unit is a custom-made piece by design studio FR66  
Stockist details on p198 ►



**THE PALETTE OF SOFT PINKS AND GREYS WAS INSPIRED BY THE COLOURS OF THE ORIGINAL STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS**



#### MY CITY

**The beauty of Paris still astonishes me.** I love to walk across the city's many bridges and watch the sun set.

**We adore our local cheese shop,** Fromage ou Desserts (13 rue Rambuteau) – only in France could you find a shop like this one. We also have our favourite wine shop, Bossetti (34 rue des Archives). And I like to pay a visit to Merci (111 Boulevard Beaumarchais) for interiors inspiration.

**The Marais is changing all of the time** but it's still creative and lively. There are lots of cafes, restaurants and boutiques.

**You will always discover a new gem** if you wander the streets of Paris. I never shop in Bahrain because the city only has busy shopping malls and they make me feel claustrophobic.

**Detail** The wire sculpture beside the stained-glass window is by Randy Cooper  
**Bedroom** The bed, with built-in lamps and sockets, was designed by FR66. The erotic photographs above it are by Rankin **ED**



**Exterior** The stunning lakeside home features geometric lines and a luxurious marble façade

# EDGE OF BEAUTY

*This Modernist villa perched on the banks of Lake Como has been lovingly updated by its owners*

Words **EMMA LOVE**  
Photography **HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE**



**THE OWNERS WANTED TO OPEN UP THE INSIDE OF THE HOUSE AND HAVE INTEGRATED THE KITCHEN, DINING AND LIVING AREAS**





**Dining area** The bespoke Flexform table is surrounded by 'Tulip' chairs by Eero Saarinen for Knoll. The ceiling light is by Serge Mouille

**Living room** A George Nelson 'CSS' shelving unit divides the space. The 'Groundpiece' sofa is by Antonio Citterio for Flexform (try Chaplins)

**Stockist details on p198 ►**



**O**nly the fortunate few are ever lucky enough to live beside Italy's Lake Como. So, when natives Massimo and Sofia Tredichi bought a property here five years after they tied the knot at the picturesque lakeside setting, it was a life-changing moment. 'We are living in our dream home,' says Massimo of the 700-square-metre property, which the couple moved into in 2003 and now share with their children: Michael (nine), Alberto (six) and Carla (two). The distinctive architecture of this 1950s villa takes its aesthetic cues from the Rationalist movement of the 1920s and '30s – the precursor to Modernism. The building's symmetrical proportions still look contemporary today.

Low-level, with a white, hammered-marble exterior, the property is divided into five bedrooms and bathrooms, an open-plan living, kitchen and dining room, plus a huge wine cellar, a playroom for the children and a separate pool house. But it wasn't always this way. 'Over the years we have renovated and refurbished the place completely, but we've been very careful not to alter the original bones of the building,' explains Massimo.

For the redesign of the key rooms, the couple enlisted the help of Francesco Cocquio, a family friend and the vice president of Sales and Business Development at Boffi UK, an Italian company best known for its ultra-sleek bathrooms and kitchens. 'The owners wanted to respect as much as possible the Rationalist elements of the villa,' recalls Francesco of the five-year project that was completed in 2008. 'They didn't want to touch the structure of the house – they just wanted to open up the inside. The property had

been refurbished once before, in the 1970s, and when Massimo and Sofia moved in it was split into different areas and didn't feel very connected.' The homeowners wanted to integrate the kitchen with the living room, so the first thing Francesco did was to create one large, open-plan room. 'I put in a Boffi "Case System 5.0" Corian kitchen and added sliding doors opposite it so that while the couple are washing up they can look out into the gardens. This creates a flow between the outside and the inside,' he says. The transformation



was a big success. The other focus for change was the couple's bedroom. 'We put the shower at the end of the bed, behind a black screen that runs along one wall. It's a good design trick because it creates more space than if the bathroom was a traditional shape,' says Massimo.

Understandably, living in such a beautiful place means that the family spend much of their time outdoors, enjoying the scenery of Lake Como. When they aren't boating on the water, the couple's

children love playing football in the garden or relaxing by the pool, next to the original 1950s pool house. With a wall of glass sliding doors, a living room and a small kitchen, this extra building provides the perfect entertaining area for when friends visit in the summer. For the owners, though, this location is special all year round. 'The views of the lake are incomparable; the light and colours of the water and mountains change at different times of day and with the seasons,' says Massimo.

**Living area** Two 'Aluminium' chairs by Charles and Ray Eames for Vitra look out over the villa's luscious grounds  
**Stockist details on p198 ►**

**THE DISTINCTIVE ARCHITECTURE  
TAKES ITS AESTHETIC CUES FROM  
THE RATIONALIST MOVEMENT  
OF THE 1920S AND '30S**



**Hallway** White walls and minimal decoration help to draw the eye to the villa's architectural details

**Office** A white shelving unit blends unobtrusively into the walls of the workspace, which is tucked above the stairs ►







**Bathroom** The 'Terra' bathtub with integrated taps is by Naoto Fukasawa for Boffi

**Bedroom** The bed, with a suspended storage unit that doubles as a headboard, is a bespoke design made by a local joinery company

**Stockist details on p198**



## MY COUNTRYSIDE

**Love led me to live in Lake Como.** My wife and I got married here.

**The view from our window** of the gardens and the glistening lake beyond is quite spectacular.

**Our favourite restaurant** is Il Gatto Nero in Cernobbio ([ristorantegattonero.com](http://ristorantegattonero.com)). We keep going back for its prawn and asparagus risotto.

**There are many beautiful areas** in this region of Italy, but the best town on Lake Como is Laglio – it's where George Clooney lives.

**Known as the 'pearl of Lake Como'**, Bellagio in Lombardy is another town you must visit. It's beautiful and a brilliant place for shopping. **ED**



# Return to splendour

*How one interior designer turned her Berlin apartment into a home that feels classic, contemporary and international*

Words RACHEL WARD Photography MARC WALDOW





**Living room** 'The space is asymmetrical, with five walls. It was necessary to create a neutral scheme to make the room feel more peaceful,' says the homeowner ▶

# F

**R**om the moment I stepped inside, I felt this enormous sense of wellbeing,' says interior designer Vanessa Kress of the Berlin home that she shares with her businessman husband Roman Matthesius and their one-year-old son Aurelius. That's an understandable emotion when you consider the attractive apartment today, but when Vanessa first viewed the place in 2011 it was far from the stylish space it is now.

The property's 171 square metres had been broken up into two dwellings: 'A student was living in one half, a punk in the other,' she says. 'It was painted pink, orange and blue – some rooms even had carpet on the ceiling.' Despite this, it was clear to Vanessa that the apartment, which is located in a 19th-century building in the city's creative Kreuzberg quarter, was something she could work with. The proportions were good, natural light was abundant and the period details had not been destroyed by an unsympathetic renovation.

'I wanted to return some glamour to the apartment and instinctively knew what changes I should make,' says Vanessa, who promptly set about reworking the floorplan, constructing wider passages and adding doorways to create flowing lines of sight. The largest room was divided to create the main bedroom and an elegant dressing room. The wooden floor and intricate ceiling stucco were also repaired and traditional-looking skirting boards added throughout.

The restoration is faultless, but this home was never intended to be an ode to a bygone era. 'I was determined to preserve the historical details, but I also wanted the interior to feel timeless and international,' Vanessa says. Cue a chic neutral palette and the addition of a few modern indulgences, including streamlined black Modulnova kitchen units with granite worktops and a spa-like bathroom. Adding further wow-factor are two walls of beautiful antique Egyptian tiles, one in the kitchen and one in the guest bathroom. 'Details like these make a room feel decorated – you only need to add a few signature pieces to complete the look,' she says.

Much of the furniture was designed by Vanessa and custom-made. These bespoke creations are combined with much-loved items collected over a lifetime, from the antique silk rug in the living room to the Chinese bench in the hallway. 'Very old elements have such a nice patina,' says Vanessa. 'But when placed next to something modern they take on a different feeling – I like to play with this tension.'

The lighting in the house mixes up styles and eras to great effect, too. Vanessa has teamed sleek spotlights with industrial-style designs and opulent vintage pendants. 'These rooms need the charm of a chandelier, but downlights create the ambience,' she says. 'In the evening, the wooden surfaces, the structured wallpaper and the antique tiles are brought to life, like museum pieces.' [vanessakress.com](http://vanessakress.com)

**Living room** The furniture includes a custom-made linen sofa and coffee table. The antique Chinese silk carpet was the first piece that the homeowner bought after completing her first interior design job (try Little Persia for similar in the UK) **Stockist details on p198 ▶**





**'I was determined to preserve the historical details of the apartment, but I also wanted the interior to feel timeless and international'**





**Kitchen** One wall is covered with 532 antique Egyptian tiles (Alhambra Home has similar patterns); an old pharmacy cabinet has been painted a soft grey to match. The table and chairs were designed by the homeowner, while the lights are vintage Czech pieces dating from the 1930s (try Trainspotters for similar in the UK). The Modulnova kitchen units have bespoke granite worktops **Stockist details on p198 ▶**





**Hallway** The generous space offers a direct view of the tiled wall in the guest bathroom. An antique bench (try Myakka for similar) is topped with urns from Vietnam that are filled with hydrangeas. The walls are covered in a vinyl and linen wallpaper that also features in the kitchen and guest bedroom. The original red stucco ceiling has been carefully restored

**Stockist details on p198 ►**

#### **Guest bathroom**

'This is one of my favourite rooms. I have been collecting these tiles for many years – here the arrangement has the look of a kilim carpet hung on the wall' says the homeowner ►







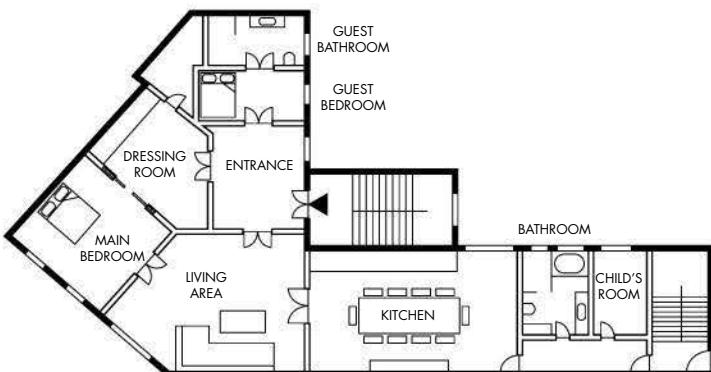
## MY CITY

**I love living in Berlin** because it's relaxed and not as anonymous as you might imagine. It's also a great source of music, architecture, fashion and gastronomy. I am thankful that this is a city that is unprejudiced, open-minded and encourages new talent.

**Our apartment** is on the fourth floor, so when you look outside, all you can see is sky.

**My favourite memory here** is when I showed my husband the apartment for the first time. I'll never forget the terrified look on his face when I told him that this ruin would be our new oasis.

**I recommend that visitors** walk along the romantic promenades and through Berlin's idyllic parks, soaking up the atmosphere rather than just viewing the historical buildings.



**Main bedroom** The homeowner spent a lot of time perfecting the lighting scheme, which mixes styles and eras. Here, an antique brass and crystal pendant hangs over the bed, which is flanked by two vintage scissor-arm wall lamps. The opulent light in the dressing area (above) is a flea-market find **ED**







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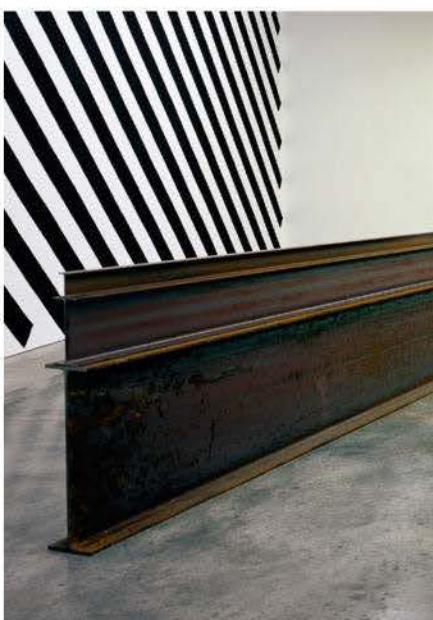
**LOCATED IN PORTMEIRION**, the Italianate-inspired Welsh coastal village that was the setting for 1960s cult TV series *The Prisoner*, 'Festival No. 6' is unique. Grace Jones and Belle & Sebastian top the music bill, but there will also be aerial acrobats performing in the woods, a mirror-ball parade through the village, a ukelele orchestra workshop, and navigational nature walks on which you will learn how to use a tree as a compass. September 3–6 ([festivalnumber6.com](http://festivalnumber6.com)).



FOR MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE, VISIT [ELLEDÉCORATION.CO.UK/ESCAPE](http://ELLEDÉCORATION.CO.UK/ESCAPE)

## WALK THE LINE

The Line, a new three-mile sculpture trail in East London that follows the Meridian line from The O2 in Greenwich along the River Lea to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, is the brainchild of contemporary art dealer Megan Piper. There are currently nine sculptures on the route by the likes of Gary Hume, Thomas J Price and Damien Hirst. Highlights include 'DNA DL90' by Abigail Fallis (main image), constructed from shopping trolleys; 'Work No.700' (bottom right) by Martin Creed; and the robotic 'Vulcan' (top right), a piece representing the Roman god of fire by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi. It's a unique way to explore the capital on foot ([the-line.org](http://the-line.org)).



## POP GOES THE GLOBE

Pop Art is generally perceived as being an Anglo-American phenomenon, but new exhibition 'The World Goes Pop' at Tate Modern is set to explode that myth. Displaying 170 works from the 1960s and 1970s by lesser-known artists, it aims to demonstrate how different cultures contributed and responded to the movement, shaping it for themselves. From Judy Chicago's decorated car hoods to Ushio Shinohara's 'popped' versions of Japanese prints (right), this is the untold story of Pop Art. September 17–January 24, 2016 ([tate.org.uk](http://tate.org.uk)).



## FERTILE IMAGINATION

*Printmaker and artist Angie Lewin has released new lithographs inspired by her interest in the detailed structures of plants, from thistle heads to seeds and stems. 'The Twisted Stem' (right) and 'Shoreline' (far right) mix nature motifs with graphic shapes. See these, plus wood engravings and silkscreen prints at 'Angie Lewin – Nature Study' at the Sarah Wiseman Gallery, Oxford. September 5–26 (wisegal.com).*



## 3 OF THE BEST... NEW LONDON EATERIES

### Sesame

The brainchild of Noam Bar, one of the founders of Ottolenghi, Sesame in Covent Garden is inspired by the market stalls of the Middle East. Go to admire the beautifully tiled floor and tuck into spicy paprika chicken pittas hot from the charcoal grill, traditional lamb skewers and grab-and-go salads. It's the most exquisitely designed takeaway in town. 23 Garrick Street, London WC2 (sesamefood.co.uk).



### The Marksman

Situated on Hackney Road, The Marksman has been redesigned under the watchful eyes of new chefs and owners Tom Harris and Jon Rotheram (both are alumni of the fantastic St John restaurant). The menu will focus on the best of British cuisine – cooked hams, salt beef, pickled fish – with dishes inspired by the history of London. New leather banquettes and antique lighting have been added to the traditional wood panelled walls and mahogany bar. There's even an original 1970s vinyl jukebox in the corner that allows you to pick the soundtrack to your meal. 254 Hackney Road, London E2 (marksmanpublichouse.com).



### Social Wine & Tapas

This is the sixth restaurant in chef Jason Atherton's expanding stable. The difference in this Marylebone branch is that the emphasis is as much on the talented sommeliers as it is on the delicious food. The two-floor space has been decorated by Brit interior designer Russell Sage, with a well-stocked wine shop, a tapas counter with an open kitchen, and a cosy basement wine bar. The walls are adorned with copper artworks and furniture includes comfortable green leather seats, polished wood tables and bespoke wall lights made from parts of a large 1920s chandelier that used to hang in a theatre. 39 James Street, London W1 (socialwineandtapas.com).



#### POT LUCK

*After an £8 million renovation, York Art Gallery reopens this month with a new Centre of Ceramic Art. Its collection of British studio pottery, one of the largest and most important in the world, includes pieces by the likes of Bernard Leach, Hans Coper and Lucie Rie and will be housed in two new spaces on the gallery's first floor. To mark the opening, a major new commission by renowned ceramicist Clare Twomey (above) will be unveiled, consisting of 10,000 handmade slipcast bowls that are identical in form and colour, all piled high in towering columns ([yorkartgallery.org.uk](http://yorkartgallery.org.uk)).*

#### THE FIRST WORD

If you grew up between the 1960s and the '80s, the chances are that you read a Ladybird book or two (remember Peter and Jane?).

Now, to celebrate 100 years of the publishing phenomenon, the touring 'Ladybird by Design' exhibition is on show at London's House of Illustration gallery. More than 120 classic images, which depict life in Britain during more innocent times, are on display. Go and take a trip down memory lane. Until September 7 ([houseoffillustration.org.uk](http://houseoffillustration.org.uk)).



#### THE SCULPTURE GARDENS

Every year Waddesdon Manor comes up trumps with a programme of art in its gardens and this summer is no exception. Currently on show are giant 3D sculptures by Simon Periton featuring nearly 14,000 plants on steel ball frames; a pair of seven-metre tall sculptures composed of glass wine bottles and lit from within by LEDs (left); and 'Darning the Land', a strip of wild flowers by artist Philippa Lawrence ([waddesdon.org.uk](http://waddesdon.org.uk)).

## FUN AT THE FAIR

Dreamland in Margate, the UK's original amusement park, has reopened after an £18 million revamp, with retro-fitted rides from the golden age of British seaside holidays. Wayne Hemingway is behind the design; the park features a helter skelter, a ferris wheel and, coming later this year, a Grade II-listed timber railway (the UK's oldest rollercoaster). There will also be a roller disco, pleasure gardens with a Punch and Judy puppet show, and displays of work by local artists: look out for the neon signs by Margate native Tracey Emin and furniture by Zoe Murphy in the gift shop ([dreamland.co.uk](http://dreamland.co.uk)).



Some of Dreamland's original rides have been revamped for a modern take on good old-fashioned family holidays. The park's new branding (centre) is bright and fun



**{ Book it now** This summer, the 'Full of Spice' festival at Kew Gardens explores flavour. Pop into the Spice Exchange to hear tales about early traders, sip spiced-gin cocktails at the pop-up botanical bar, and use the 'Spice Mix Super-Computer' to create your own blend to take home. Until September 6 ([kew.org](http://kew.org)). **}**

## DOWN AT THE WATERING HOLE

*London-based architecture practice Michaelis Boyd Associates recently completed work on Sandibe, a sustainable safari lodge in Botswana's Okavango Delta. Solar panels supply the hotel's electricity and local materials were used to construct the main timber shell and 12 suites, which all resemble birds' nests. The building is perfectly camouflaged against the landscape, with spectacular views over the Delta and its abundant wildlife. Doubles from £1,170 all-inclusive ([andbeyond.com](http://andbeyond.com)).*



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## THE HOUSE THAT EILEEN BUILT

*E-1027 is Eileen Gray's Modernist masterpiece. The jewel in the crown of the Cap Moderne complex, the villa has a turbulent past, but is now open to the public following a lengthy restoration project*

Words DOMINIC LUTYENS

**THE E-1027 VILLA** overlooks the glistening turquoise bay of Roquebrune-Cap-Martin on France's Côte d'Azur – an idyllic scene that betrays nothing of the conflict and suggestions of sabotage associated with the house, now owned by the Conservatoire du Littoral (Coastal Protection Agency) and managed by the association Cap Moderne. Completed in 1929, the property is an uncompromisingly Modernist two-storey ocean liner-like building, designed by Eileen Gray with some input from her then lover, Romanian-born architect Jean Badovici (he suggested raising it on columns).

The intrigue surrounding this architectural landmark begins with its name – code for 'Eileen Jean Badovici Gray': E for Eileen, 10 for J (the 10th letter of the alphabet), 2 for B and 7 for G. The cryptic monicker reflected this Irish-born, Paris-based architect and designer's intensely private personality.

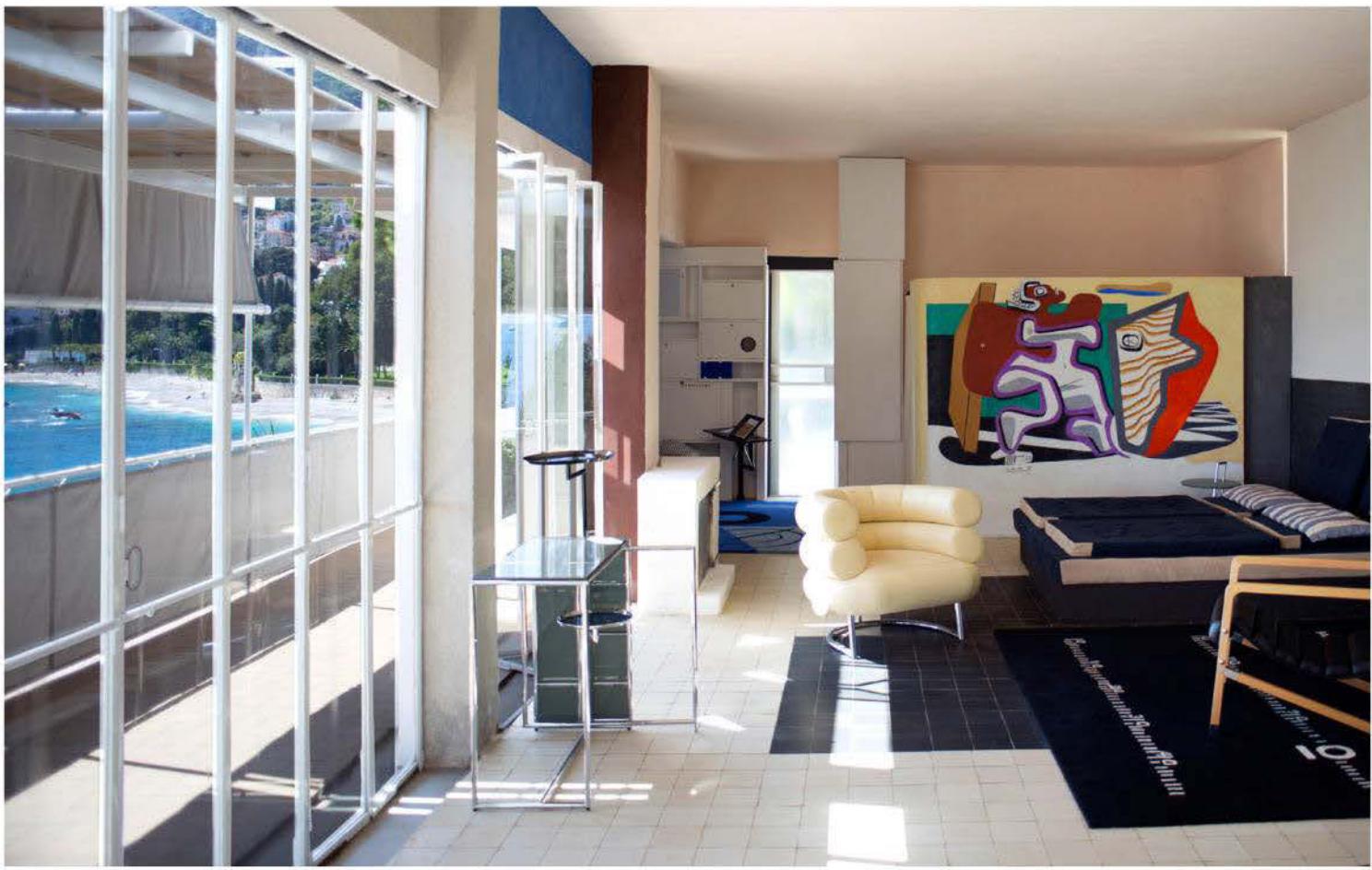
Gray originally created opulent Art Deco furniture, but from the mid-1920s she embraced clean-lined functionalism, inspired partly by Le Corbusier's Modernist buildings. The L-shaped E-1027 epitomises this turning point. Its upper floor incorporates a radically open-plan living room with a partially screened-off shower area, as well as two bedrooms, all adjoining a terrace. A spiral staircase leads down to a guest room and servants' quarters. The villa's nautical look is accentuated by Gray's many clever storage ideas, from a ship's cabin-like headboard with a nook for stowing pillows to a table with a lectern that swings out from a sofa. Gray-designed furniture graces the house now as it did when it was

first built. Pieces include the deckchair-like 'Transat' lounger and height-adjustable 'E-1027' table, both donated by London design brand Aram Store ([aram.co.uk](http://aram.co.uk)), whose founder Zeev Aram championed Gray after meeting her in 1973, when she was in her nineties. By then her work was almost entirely forgotten; touched by Aram's interest in her designs, Gray offered him the exclusive world licence to produce her furniture, which he still holds today.

In 1932, Gray and Badovici split up; she gifted E-1027 to him and never returned. The villa's design was later attributed either to Badovici or to his friend Le Corbusier, a visitor in later years who painted murals there – a violation in Gray's eyes. In the 1950s, Le Corbusier built his retreat, Le Cabanon, and five cottages next door (see these in more detail on p186) and, after Badovici's death in 1956, Gray's masterpiece lay empty. But its story was far from over.

E-1027 passed between several owners and was later squatted and vandalised, until, in 1999, it was acquired by the Conservatoire du Littoral, with the French government designating it a 'monument historique' in 2000. The first attempts at restoration clumsily departed from Gray's design. Recently, however, the villa has been faithfully renovated under the supervision of Cap Moderne. Aram remembers mentioning to Gray, who died in 1976, that E-1027 had 'a controversial history', to which she replied airily, 'Ah, that was so long ago.' She would surely be gladdened by Aram's verdict on her villa's new chapter: 'The E-1027 once again comes to life. Intelligently restored, it's ready for visitors to enjoy.' ▶





**Living area** The ivory-coloured 'Bibendum' chair and the two side tables that flank the bed are all by Eileen Gray, available at Aram Store

**Dining area** 'Aixia' and 'Roquebrune' chairs complement the 'Jean' fold-away table, also by Gray





**Left** The Le Corbusier mural at the entrance of the E-1027 villa – Eileen Gray is said to have not approved of this addition  
**Below** The villa's original shower room ►





A 'Satellite' mirror with  
a built-in magnifying glass  
and light by Eileen Gray  
(available from Aram  
Store) hangs above the sink

Furniture by Eileen Gray  
graces the E-1027 villa  
now as it did when  
it was built in 1929



**Above** 'Day Bed' in black 'Epingle' fabric and a 'Petite Coiffeuse' desk in black lacquer, both sold by Aram Store  
**Below** The guest bedroom has bespoke wall storage designed by Eileen Gray



● To see a trailer of 'Gray Matters', a documentary about Eileen Gray's life and work, head to [elledecoration.co.uk](http://elledecoration.co.uk)

**Products, clockwise from top**

Folding screen, £2,877; day bed, £3,578; 'E-1027' side table, £489; 'Blue Marine' rug, £1,365; 'Bibendum' chair, £2,215, all by Eileen Gray, Aram Store ([aram.co.uk](http://aram.co.uk)) ►





## CAP MODERNE'S OTHER GEMS

Visit the Le Corbusier landmarks that sit alongside Gray's E-1027 villa

### LE CABANON

In 1949, local plumber Thomas Rebutato bought a plot of land next to E-1027, where he built a bar-restaurant called L'Etoile de Mer. Its first visitor was Le Corbusier. Entranced by the spot, the architect built his Cabanon (meaning 'small cabin' in French) on the same plot three years later – it abuts the restaurant and is connected to it by a door – as a birthday present for his wife Yvonne Gallis. The rustic-looking, pine log-clad Cabanon represented a radical departure in style for the concrete-loving Le Corbusier. It reflects his lesser-known love of simple vernacular architecture, and he referred to the 13-square-metre holiday home as his 'castle on the Riviera'. Inside are work and rest areas, with a table and built-in bed separated from the lavatory by a curtain. Ceiling panels in different hues (with storage above), murals and a yellow floor enliven the interior, while partially mirrored window shutters invite the views, and extra light, into the snug space.



### UNITÉ DE CAMPING HOLIDAY HOMES

These five conjoined holiday houses, built by Le Corbusier in 1957, were created for the Rebutato family in exchange for the architect's construction of Le Cabanon next to their restaurant. When Le Corbusier first visited this spot he was working on his Unité d'Habitation apartment block in Marseille, and these modular dwellings, each measuring eight square metres, are miniature versions of that project. The five seemingly identical huts are differentiated only by details on their façades in pastel and primary colours. Built, like E-1027, on pillars (or *pilotis*, to use the architectural term), they were prototypes for an unrealised holiday resort. They also embody Le Corbusier's interest in modestly sized structures that nevertheless cater to all domestic needs. The chalets' multifunctional interiors have wooden storage boxes that pivot to become beds, and blinds that double as shaving mirrors. *Entry to the whole Cap Moderne complex costs £10. The site closes on October 31 for further restoration work and will reopen by summer 2016 (capmoderne.com).* ED



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## LANDMARK COLLECTION

*The world's greatest museums are staying ahead of the curve by commissioning 'starchitects' to design new galleries for growing archives. Here are three of the best...*

**The Whitney Museum of American Art** (main image) opened the doors of its new home in Manhattan's hip Meatpacking District earlier this year. The building was designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, the maestro who gave London the Shard and Paris the Pompidou Centre. Piano's large white steel and concrete complex has enabled the gallery to add an education centre to its site, as well as a 4,600-square-metre indoor gallery space and a 1,200-square-metre outdoor exhibition area; the latter is connected to the city's hugely popular High Line gardens ([whitney.org](http://whitney.org)).

**Tate Modern** (top right) is the most popular gallery in the world, attracting five million visitors a year. In 2005, Pritzker Prize-winning Swiss architecture

firm Herzog & de Meuron was commissioned to create a large extension for the London venue. The twisted trapezoid brick building will house state-of-the-art learning facilities, interactive digital suites, areas for gallery functions, and more space for the permanent collection. It's set to open next year ([tate.org](http://tate.org)).

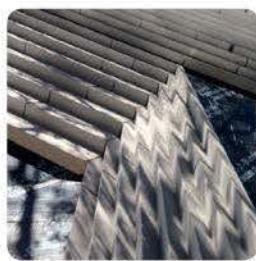
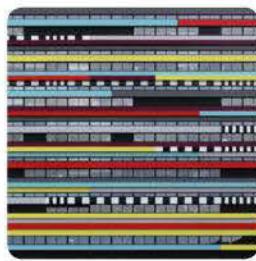
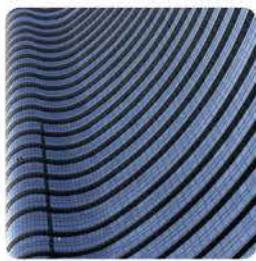
**The Museum of Modern Art** in New York is gaining extra space in a neighbouring skyscraper (below right) designed by French architect Jean Nouvel. The 320-metre tower on West 53rd Street in Manhattan will have three large MOMA galleries and 139 private apartments. Nouvel's buildings are known for their striking façades – in this case his design features an exposed steel structure with a dramatic zigzag pattern ([moma.org](http://moma.org)).



WORDS: JAMES WILLIAMS PICTURES: ED ADELMAN (MAIN IMAGE), HAYES DAVIDSON (INSET)

## #EDLoves INSTAGRAM INSPIRATION

*See the most incredible places and spaces on Earth through the experts' lenses.  
We share the four design enthusiasts that you should follow right now*

**DIRK BAKKER** @MACENZO

This Amsterdam-based photographer, who goes by the name 'Macenzo', is also a contributor to *The Huffington Post* and architectural website *Arch Daily*. He says it was his background in graphic design that taught him to appreciate 'the lines of the city [and] the beautiful abstract patterns found in architecture.' His Instagram posts often focus on the details of buildings' façades.

**BJARKE INGELS** @BJARKEINGELS

This award-winning Danish architect is the star of the moment; he's the founder of practice BIG (Bjarke Ingels Group), which has branches in Copenhagen and New York. Ingels' Instagram account chronicles his jet-set lifestyle, with a wide range of intriguing behind-the-scenes images. He's currently co-designing Google's colossal new headquarters in California with Thomas Heatherwick (the project is due for completion in 2016).

**IWAN BAAN** @IWANBAAN

Dutch photographer Iwan Baan got into architectural photography purely by chance, when he was asked to document the construction of OMA's China Central Television building in Beijing in 2005. Since then he's travelled the globe shooting breathtaking projects by the likes of Rem Koolhaas, Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry – his aerial cityscape photographs are truly spectacular.



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ANNA BEEEEE!!!  
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ノビート-Rock ver.-  
Resistance -ダンナをノ-  
2 Girl  
ス・ウ・マ・イ ~ KISS YOUR MIND ~  
3.8 (Smile On Smile)  
とのキセキ  
OW DON -の君  
Sick

# TOKYO STORY

*In this month's travel guide, we take a whistlestop tour of the Japanese capital and discover a more relaxed side to this famously frenetic city*

*Words* AMY BRADFORD

WHERE TO GO

SHINJUKU

See Tokyo at its most bustling in this densely packed district, whose railway station is the busiest in the world. In the 1930s it was the city's bohemian quarter; now independent shops sit cheek-by-jowl with huge skyscrapers and a maze of neon lights.

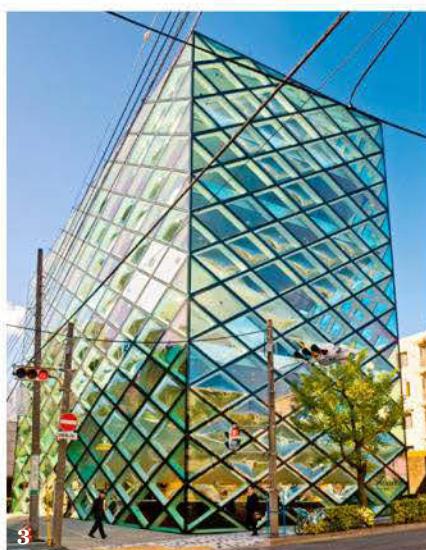
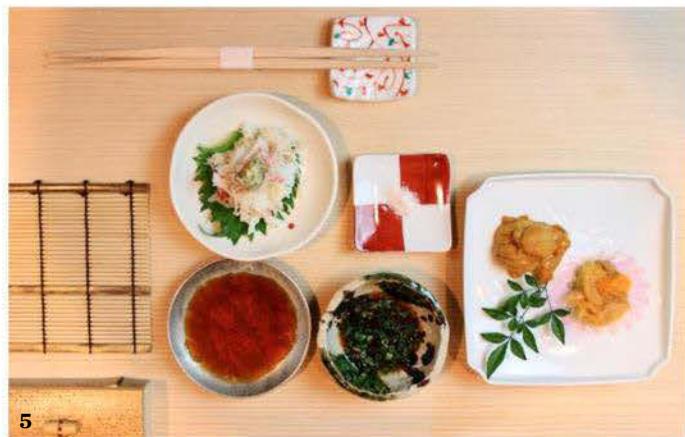
ASAKUSA

If you tire of Tokyo's futuristic pace, visit this part of the old city. Its focal point is the gaudily painted Senso-ji, a Buddhist temple proclaimed as Tokyo's oldest. Leading up to it is an avenue of tiny shops preserved much as it was in the Samurai era (souvenirs aside). 2-3-1 Asakusa Taitou-ku ([senso-ji.jp](http://senso-ji.jp))

1 HARAJUKU

This is where you'll experience the greatest culture shock of your trip. As you reach the western end of Omotesandō you'll start to see outlandishly dressed teenagers in platform shoes, miniskirts and lots of pink – the famous Harajuku girls. Turn onto Takeshita-dori and you're in the land of the super-kitsch: candy stores displaying sugary treats, clothes shops selling lace ruffle skirts, and everywhere pink, pink, pink!





## WHERE TO SHOP

### COREDO MUROMACHI

A sign proudly proclaiming 'Very Very Shopping!' greeted us at the entrance to this store, which is best described as a series of interlinked craft shops. It's a great place to buy stylish gifts to take home. 2-2-1 Nihonbashi-Muromachi, Chuo-ku

### ② MAISON KOICHIRO KIMURA

The ancient art of Japanese lacquerware goes futuristic in this small converted 1950s house, owned by Koichiro Kimura, whose family have been working in the industry for four centuries. It sells everything from tea sets in gold and bright pink to clutch bags and (our favourite) tiny pots covered in polka dots. 5-3-12 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku ([koichiro-kimura.com](http://koichiro-kimura.com))

### ③ OMOTESANDO

Architecture fans and label hounds should make a beeline for this street in the Aoyama district, where many of the boutiques are designed by world-famous architects. Look out for the diamond-faceted tower that houses Prada (above), designed by Herzog & de Meuron, and Louis Vuitton's store by Jun Aoki.

### ④ TOKYU HANDS

This 'bargain basement' has a cult following among stylists and designers. You'll find everything from homewares to stationery, kitsch petware (a field where Japan excels), beauty products and kitchen items such as sweetcorn peelers and bento boxes. 12-18 Udagawa-cho, Shibuya-ku ([shibuya.tokyu-hands.co.jp](http://shibuya.tokyu-hands.co.jp))

PICTURES: GETTY [1]; OPPOSITE: ALAMY [3,4]

## WHERE TO DINE

### ⑤ SUSHI KOKORO

Charismatic chef Oba Tsutomu presides at this bijou sushi restaurant, which seats just eight diners. Marvel at Tsutomu's knife skills as he creates small seafood masterpieces, which are beautifully presented on delicate china and glass. 3-6-3F Kagurazaka, Shinjuku-ku ([sushikokoro.jp](http://sushikokoro.jp))

### ⑥ UKAI

This Samurai-era merchant's house has 55 dining chambers, where you sit on the floor at pristine lacquer place settings. The menu features tofu prepared in many different ways, as well as excellent sashimi. 4-4-13 Shiba-Koen, Minato-ku ([ukai.co.jp](http://ukai.co.jp))

### ⑦ YUTOKU

Few of the city's soba-noodle restaurants are as stylish as this minimalist space, which sits in a small townhouse covered in wooden louvres that create changing light effects during the day. 4-12-2 Meguro, Meguro-ku ([yutoku-soba.co.jp](http://yutoku-soba.co.jp)) ▶



### Tokyu Hands

If you visit only one shop in the city, make it this one: what it lacks in glamour it makes up for in variety



## WHERE TO STAY

### AMAN TOKYO

Having experienced the modern elegance and top-flight service of an Aman hotel when the group opened the Aman Canal Grande in Venice last year, we couldn't wait to see the new Aman Tokyo. How would the company's signature tranquil style translate to one of the world's most fast-paced cities?

In fact, the aura of impregnable calm that lures 'Amanjunkies' back to the brand time and time again is more palpable here than ever. Designed by Singapore practice Kerry Hill Architects, the hotel occupies the top six floors of the Otemachi Tower in Tokyo's financial district. Having been whisked to the top of the skyscraper by serene, smiling staff, you emerge into what might be the world's biggest hotel lobby: a soaring space 30 metres high with semi-translucent, backlit walls decorated in washi paper to resemble the interior of a shoji lantern. Lower your gaze to the hotel's entrance level and admire an *ikebana* flower arrangement – a living sculpture of branches and blossoms – sitting at the centre of a tranquil pool (above), between two traditional rock

gardens and seating inspired by *engawa*, the Japanese term for a wooden verandah that bridges the house and garden.

Guest rooms are equally breathtaking. Inspired by traditional oriental interiors, each one has a large granite *ofuro*, or soaking tub, with spectacular views across the city. You'll also have a huge white bed, full-height windows and the option of customising your space with a series of sliding doors that open up the bathroom and dressing area to the room.

Don't miss the spa, with its seasonally attuned treatments inspired by Japanese bathing rituals, and the spectacular 30-metre indoor pool, which stretches along one side of the building. Possibly the most glamorous swim you'll ever have, especially by night, with Tokyo's lights twinkling beneath you.  
*1-5-6 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku; rooms from £420 per night. ANA, Japan's only five-star airline, flies daily between London Heathrow and Tokyo Haneda. Return Economy flights from £839 including taxes ([amantokyo.com](http://amantokyo.com); [ana.co.uk](http://ana.co.uk))*



## WHAT TO SEE

### ⑥ TOKYO SKYTREE

The design of the world's tallest freestanding broadcasting tower was overseen by architect Tadao Ando. Head up to the 450th floor for incredible views: on a clear day you'll be able to see Mount Fuji. *I-1-2 Oshiage, Sumida (tokyo-skytree.jp)*



Tokyo's landscape is one of contrasts, between the historic old city (far left: the five-storey pagoda beside the Senso-Ji temple) and the modern architecture that dominates the skyline

### ⑦ NEZU MUSEUM

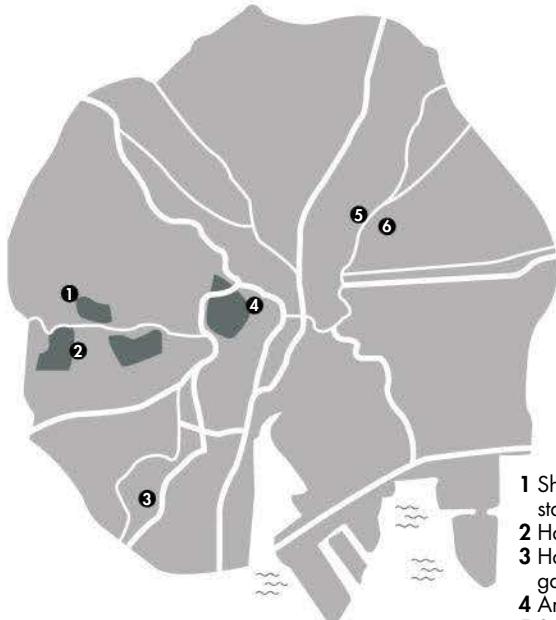
This museum near Omotesandō houses paintings, ceramics, lacquerware, kimonos and more artefacts dating from the eighth century onwards. Kengo Kuma's building embodies the Japanese concept of *wa* (harmony), with glass-walled spaces that bring the outdoors in. *6-5-1 Minami-Aoyama, Minato-ku (nezu-muse.or.jp)*

### HAPPO-EN GARDENS

Covering 50,000 square metres, Hoppo-en has tinkling streams, manicured cherry trees and carp-filled pools, reflecting the aesthetic heritage of Edo-era Japan. Depending on what time of year you visit, you can expect the highlight to be cherry blossom (spring), azaleas (summer), flaming foliage (autumn) or snowy splendour (winter). *1-1-1 Shirokanedai, Minato-ku (happo-en.com)*

### ⑧ MEIJI JINGU SHRINE AND GARDENS

Built in 1920, the Meiji Shrine is dedicated to the Emperor Meiji and his wife, who opened up Japan to the West in the 19th century. The approach to the building is a sightseeing tour in its own right: you enter through the giant *Ichi no Torii* (first gate) made from ancient cypress trees, beyond which is a forested park with an iris garden. *I-1 Yoyogi-Kanazono-cho, Shibuya-ku (meijijingu.or.jp)*



- 1 Shinjuku railway station
- 2 Harajuku station
- 3 Hoppo-en gardens
- 4 Aman Tokyo
- 5 Senso-ji temple
- 6 The Skytree



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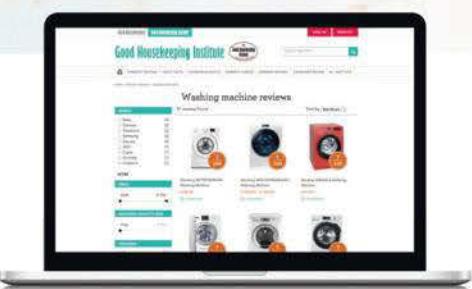


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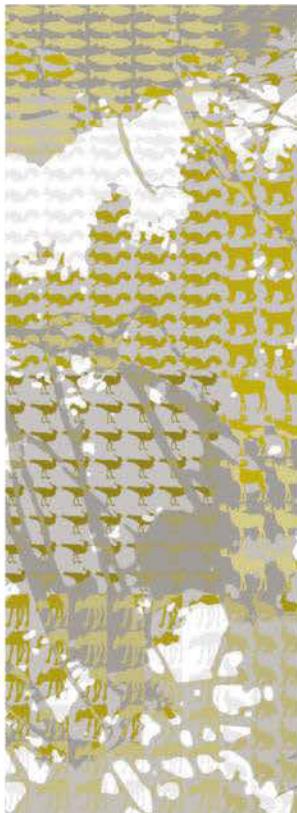
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Weaving wood is the architect's favourite design, and comes in several colour schemes.

Have a closer look at [www.scandinaviansurface.com](http://www.scandinaviansurface.com) Scandinavian Surface mural designs are to be found in public spaces and private homes all over the world. The designers are: Åsne Midtgarden, Ann-Tove Engenes, Kristine Dybwad and Elisabeth Ellefsen. Order at [www.photowall.co.uk](http://www.photowall.co.uk) (or the webshop for your country) and check out their remarkable customer service!



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## BAKER STREET BOYS

This group of London-based designers, showcase "The Line" in this month's Elle Decoration. Their use of steel and natural oak when crafting tables and stools creates a contemporary look perfect for classic interiors.

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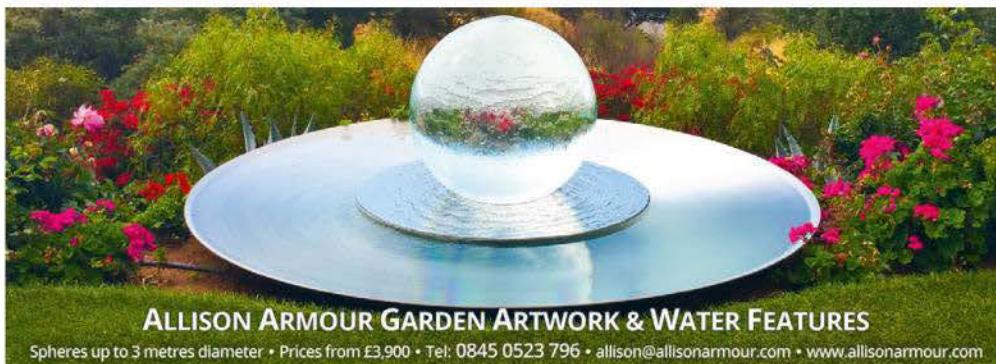
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# DESIGN DECODED

*The making of a modern classic*

## # 15. 'Super Léger International' suitcase by Tumi

Words JAMES WILLIAMS

'One hundred thousand miles and this bag will look better than ever,' was the slogan that American luggage maker Tumi used in its adverts in the 1980s. Today, the brand is still famed for the robustness of its designs.

The idea for Tumi was conceived after a chance observation. In 1967, the company's future founder Charles Clifford quit his office job in New Jersey and made a daring career change: he moved to Peru to work with the US Peace Corps. His work involved liaising with small businesses and local craftspeople, in particular leather artisans, whose skills caught his eye. He thought that their leather bags would go down well with American travellers and, eager to start up his own company, he returned to the United States. Clifford established his luggage business in 1974; when deciding on its name, he thought about his experiences in South America – Tumi is the Peruvian word for a type of ceremonial knife

(Clifford gave his dog the same name, so clearly his time in the country held great meaning for him).

Tumi's first hit was a rugged, light-brown duffel bag and the brand's reputation quickly grew; by the early 1980s, its luggage was regarded as a must-have for stylish Americans. 'The brand's success is due to an ever-evolving design,' according to Clifford. As more people began to travel the globe, Tumi branched out from leather goods, launching bags made from ballistic nylon, a heavy-duty material originally used for military flak jackets. This was ideal for suitcases and weekend bags – flexible yet protective enough to withstand the knocks and tumbles of airline travel. The 'Super Léger International' carry-on case, made from this fabric, is now one of the brand's most popular pieces. Intended for the jet-set traveller on city breaks or business trips, it's lightweight and compact, but you'll be amazed how much you can fit into one. £495 ([tumi.com](http://tumi.com)).

### STYLE IN MOTION

*'Our product designs were never fixed. We are constantly making changes – creating better handles, adding more pockets, and using stronger screws,' says company founder Charles Clifford.*



### EFFORTLESS TRAVEL

Tumi's smart 'Add-a-Bag' strap allows you to securely fix an extra carry-on, such as the 'Athens' (above, £365), to your existing Tumi suitcase, making for a smooth trip from hotel to airport and beyond.



### CASE CLOSED

*In 1999 the brand introduced the 'Tumi Tracer' – every bag has a 20-digit identification number on it that can be used to reunite Tumi customers with their lost luggage.*



### RETRO GLAMOUR

*To celebrate Tumi's 40th anniversary, the company has delved into its vast archive to launch a new 1970s-inspired '1975 Collection', including the tan leather 'Square Duffel' (below, £1,495). ED*



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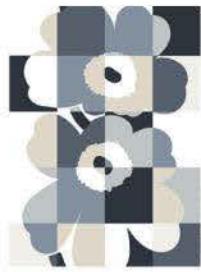


16

**1** Plastic side chair by Harry Bertoia for Knoll **2** PH5 pendant lamp by Poul Henningsen for Louis Poulsen **3** Platner table by Warren Platner for Knoll **4** Sunday walk mug by Emma Lonsdale for Studio Skandium **5** Egyptian stool by Ole Wanscher for Carl Hansen & Son **6** Raakel fabric by Paavo Halonen for Marimekko **7** Oyster tray by Helle Damkjær for Georg Jensen **8** Mariposa sofa by Barber & Osgerby for Vitra **9** Low table by Marc Krusin for Knoll **10** Fluid pitcher by Henning Koppel for Georg Jensen **11** Lumi mirror by Studio Skandium **12** Heritage chair by Frits Henningsen for Carl Hansen & Son **13** London candleholders by Lara Bohinc for Skultuna **14** Copycat lamp by Michael Anastassiades for Flos **15** Fourways carpet by Ritva Puutila for Woodnotes **16** Siro+ chair by Ilkka Suppanen for Woodnotes **17** Series 7 chair by Arne Jacobsen for Fritz Hansen **18** Ruutu Unikko fabric by Maija Isola & Emma Isola for Marimekko **19** Vitraili boxes by Anu Penttilä for Iittala **20** Georg bench by Christina Liljenberg Halström for Skagerak **21** Aalto shelving by Cecilia Manz for Iittala



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