



ALL THE SMALL THINGS

End Games

From flooring to lighting, small finishing touches can make a home come to life. Angelina Villa-Clarke consults with the experts on how tiny details can equal big style

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stack of design books, a scattering of cushions or an exquisite rug, it's the little details that make a room special and give a home its individuality. At Glasswells, East Anglia's largest independent homestore, customers will find everything from state-of-the-art lighting to the latest in textile design. "Adding a few new accessories, such as a soft rug or new cushions, can instantly freshen up a room for spring," states Glasswells. "An update to your windows with new curtains, blinds or shutters will give that polished, interior-designed look. Our window design service can advise on what is right for your home."

Whether simple blinds or dramatic drapes, window treatments are one of the most important ways to complete a room's scheme. Luxury fabric brand Iliv has a range of new designs for this year.

Debbie Leigh, design manager, advises: "In 2024, home decor is set to embrace a harmonious blend of boho aesthetics and nature-inspired colours. To achieve the boho look, consider layering textiles like vibrant rugs, throws and cushions, incorporating a variety of patterns and integrating handmade or vintage pieces. Embrace a mix of cultural influences to add depth and create a space that exudes warmth and individuality."

Norwich Sunblinds boasts a wide range of curtains, blinds and shutters to choose from. "Having the right window finishing will make a huge difference to any room," says the company. "Whether you want the streamlined look of roller blinds or more of a dramatic statement with curtains with all the trimmings, Norwich Sunblinds offers a complete window design service. There's huge range to choose from: shutters give a modern feel to a room, while Roman blinds are always a timeless choice. We can help you find the right look to give any room a stylish finish."

A statement wallpaper is yet another way to introduce instant character, though

it doesn't have to be overly patterned. Instead, opt for sophisticated finishes. Belgian brand Omexco's new range, Silence, not only offers subtle, tone-on-tone designs but also has a practical addition. Featuring acoustic properties, it reduces the reverberation of sound and is a result of a collaboration between the company's research and design teams.

Lighting is another key area of any design scheme. John Lewis has introduced a fresh collection with its launch of British brand Lights & Lamps. "We are known for our minimalist designs, luxurious finishes, generous proportions and our affordable designs," say Lights & Lamps founders Niki Wright and Scarlett Hampton.

Meanwhile, contemporary lighting brand Gong has unveiled a sustainable collection called Kentang. Conceived by lighting designer Budiman Ong, the range is handmade in Bali by paper artisans using fibres from banana trunks in their own gardens. Founder of Gong, Jo Plismy, comments: "The light is diffused through the layers of paper when they are placed perpendicular to the light source, ➡"

“Adding a few new accessories can instantly freshen up a room”

SPOTLIGHT ON

Industville reveals its top three lighting trends

1. Sculptural statements: when lighting fixtures are also works of art.
2. Nature-inspired: opt for organic shapes, earthy tones and natural materials.
3. Mixed metals: embrace designs that blend metals with those natural textures.



STOCKISTS

Glasswells

01284 752804 | glasswells.co.uk

Gong

gong.co.uk

Hyperion Tiles

01344 620211 | hyperiontiles.co.uk

Iliv

01772 651199 | iliv.co.uk

Industville

0207 7971 7871 | industville.co.uk

John Lewis

0345 610 0344 | johnlewis.com

Kersaint Cobb

01675 430 430 | kersaintcobb.co.uk

Norwich Sunblinds

01603 334085 | norwichsunblinds.co.uk

Omexco

omexco.com

Pappelina

pappelina.com

Reeds Homestore

01366 382213 | reedshomestore.co.uk

Ripples Bathrooms

01799 934 225 | ripplesbathrooms.com

Ruggable

ruggable.co.uk

Sweetpea & Willow

0345 2572627 | sweetpeaandwillow.com

The Rug Seller

0161 876 4566 | therugseller.co.uk

Willis & Stone

01353 361843 | willisandstone.co.uk



A TOUCH OF ELEGANCE

Glasswells' (top) window design service can help you decide on the correct style. Omexco (bottom right) opts for a more subtle look. Norwich Sunblinds (bottom left) offers a wide range of window designs



“The stone’s unique natural patterns and textures bring a touch of character”

resulting in various light qualities that create depth and warmth. The irregular, undulating edges of the paper add a sense of broken symmetry to the pieces.”

When it comes to flooring, it is crucial to plan what works well in different zones. Kersaint Cobb, for instance, suggests its 100% sisal ranges as being a practical yet stylish option for living rooms and stairs. “The living room is the hub of the home,” says the brand. “It is where we go to relax with our loved ones and socialise with friends. Daily life can also take its toll on stairways, but sisal proves hard-wearing and perfect for high-traffic areas.”

At Willis & Stone, designer Molly Chandler explains that limestone flooring remains a timeless choice for kitchens and bathrooms. “The stone’s unique natural patterns and textures bring a touch of character and sophistication, while its inherent warmth adds a cosy, inviting atmosphere to any room. Choose a lighter stone to help make rooms feel more open and brighter, creating an illusion of space.”

For personalised expert advice on flooring, head to Ripples in Saffron Walden, which offers a design service for bathrooms including the finishing touches of tiling, taps and lighting.

Soft furnishings are also key to adding that final sprinkling of magic to any scheme. Whether it’s fresh new bed



HOMEBOUND (Clockwise from top left) The Rug Seller believes sustainable rugs are the new trend; Pappelina brings fresh colour palettes; Ripples offers expert advice on bathroom flooring; Kersaint Cobb highlights its sturdy sisal range; Willis & Stone says limestone is the go-to for kitchens and bathrooms



THE TRUTH ABOUT TILES

Director of Hyperion Tiles, Richard Skeoch, has three foolproof tiling tips

1. Using a light, bright palette will make a small room look bigger.
2. Use wall tiles to create a striking design feature.
3. Embrace the beauty of beige, which gives longevity, but mix it with some on-trend metallics.

linens or an update to your flooring, Reeds Homestore in Downham Market and Ely is a one-stop shop for accessories and finishing touches. Adding plenty of cosy elements creates a welcoming retreat that feels both homely and warm.

At The Rug Seller, CEO Daniel Prendergast says the latest rug trends include products made from sustainably sourced materials, as well as new brands offering unique shapes and decorative edges. Also in the flooring game, Ruggable has recently collaborated with Pantone – the global colour authority – on a limited-edition capsule collection to celebrate the Pantone Color of the Year 2024, called peach fuzz. Plus, fresh from Swedish rug design company Pappelina is its Elements collection, inspired by the five elements of wood, fire, earth, metal and water. “We stand by the concept of ‘slow interior design’, seamlessly harmonising with contemporary trends while remaining timeless,” declares the brand. “It’s this guiding principle which motivates us to breathe new life into our classic designs with fresh colour palettes.”

Jacque Dunton, director of Sweetpea & Willow – a treasure trove for interiors lovers – concludes: “My top tip for the finishing touches to your interiors is to indulge in soft lighting and neutral accessories like throws and cushions.” ●