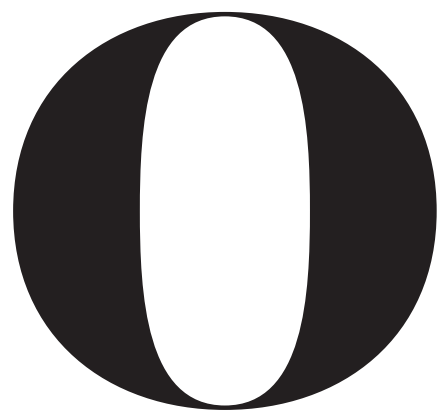


IN FROM THE COLD

Warm up for winter

From wood-burning stoves to autumnal paint colours, Angelina Villa-Clarke asks the experts how to make your home inviting for the season ahead



nce winter sets in, there's nothing better than coming home to a warm, welcoming environment. The living room, in particular, should be a haven of calm and cosiness – the embodiment of a warm hug on a cold winter's night.

A fireplace is the ultimate focal point of a room. Based in Cottenham, Cambridge Stove Installations is one of the county's leading experts in stoves, fireplaces and installation – and the company claims the benefits of a stove are many, from offering cost savings to bringing a new, aspirational dimension to a space.

St Neots Fireplace & Stove Centre, meanwhile, is another local brand offering a whole range of stylish ways to warm up your home, whether that's a contemporary media wall fire or perhaps a Scandi-style multi-fuel stove.

Goddards Stoves, based in Saffron Walden, is a one-stop shop where you can find fireplace surrounds and mantelpieces, plus a range of stoves to suit every home. This could be a compact log-burner for a cottage or large multi-fuel stove for a barn conversion. ♦♦



HOME FIRES MCZ (left) and Cambridge Stove Installations (above) recommend wood-burning stoves as a long-term cost-saving option for your heating bills

“Radiators are no longer just functional devices; they’re increasingly being treated as artistic flourishes”

Saving on energy bills and providing a sustainable ethos, pellet stoves are another option when considering how to heat your home. “Unlike traditional fossil fuels, pellet stoves use biomass pellets made from organic waste materials such as sawdust and wood shavings,” explains MCZ. “These are a renewable resource, ensuring that the environmental impact of your heating choices is minimal. Designed for maximum efficiency, this means you get the most heat out of every single pellet burned, translating to reduced energy consumption and, most importantly, lower energy costs.”

With both curved and cylindrical models, Morsø’s stoves offer a unique, contemporary aesthetic in contrast to the traditional, pastoral style of burner. “Consumers are viewing their stoves as a focal point for their home as much as an efficient way to heat it,” says Declan Kingsley-Walsh, managing director of Morsø UK.

While a fireplace gives the ultimate feel-good factor, radiators are often seen as simply practical elements. Nick Duggan, director at The Radiator Centre, says that we should rethink the way we use them. “Radiators are no longer just functional devices; they’re increasingly being treated as artistic flourishes within interior design.



HOT STUFF M & J Abbs has electric Aga options (top); MCZ’s pellet stoves are a more sustainable solution (above); The Radiator Centre suggests bolder colours for your heater to make a real impact (right); while Morsø’s stoves are chic, modern centrepieces (far right)





WINTERSCAPE YOUR HOME

Simon Temprell, interior design manager at Neptune, offers his tips for creating an inviting space

1. Move your accessories around so that they don't remain static and invisible.
2. Switch cushion covers over to heavier fabrics, such as velvet, corduroy and wool.
3. Bring the outside in with pampas and berries in large textural vessels, or chestnuts and harvest fruits in shallow bowls and baskets. Also, don't forget, lots of candles!

Switching from horizontal radiators to vertical might free up wall space, for instance, and the introduction of bolder colours means you no longer need to have a white box taking up a portion of a wall."

The timeless appeal of an Aga, meanwhile, has long been considered an aspirational addition to a home. While it has never gone out of style, newer models now offer more practical, efficient answers to cooking and heating.

M & J Abbs, a home heating solutions expert with a showroom close to St Ives, agrees: "The new electric models offer so much more versatility. They have independently controlled ovens and hotplates, with a combination of cast iron and conventional cooking options."

From soft rugs to cossetting throws, the addition of tactile accessories and the layering of textures is a great way to create that homely feel. "You can instantly ➡



warm up your living room for winter with the addition of a few key accessories,” says Bury St Edmunds home furnishing store Glasswells. “Add a rug for warmth underfoot and faux fur or wool throws for a cocooning feel. They are also great for hunkering down, while cushions in contrasting tones add the finishing touch.”

Crucial Trading’s collection of floor coverings are made of natural fibres, such as coir, wool and jute, and are perfect for creating an interesting dimension. Jon Flannigan, product manager at Kersaint Cobb, agrees: “Textured floor coverings add a subtle design element to a floor without being overpowering; chunky, textured wool floorings in warm colours can help create a



cosy feel and work in both traditional and contemporary room schemes.”

Finally, Iliv’s new fabric collection, Chalet, takes its inspiration from the cosy ambience of log cabins, infusing your home with real rustic charm.

“Chalet is an Alpine-inspired collection of textural, cosy fabrics in warm, inviting palettes,” states Debbie Leigh, design manager. “Drawing inspiration from the serene winters of the Alpine region, this new AW23 collection encapsulates crackling fires and breathtaking views of snow-clad peaks. The palette and textures are a direct reflection of the earthy tones of this wintry landscape, coupled with the tactile allure of its natural materials.” ●



“Add a rug for warmth underfoot and faux fur or wool throws for a cocooning feel”

STOCKISTS

Cambridge Stove Installations

01223 828688

cambridgefireplaces.co.uk

Crucial Trading

01562 743747 | crucial-trading.com

Glasswells

01284 752804 | glasswells.co.uk

Goddards Stoves

01799 522352 | goddardsstoves.co.uk

Iliv

01772 651199 | iliv.co.uk

Kersaint Cobb

01675 430430 | kersaintcobb.co.uk

MCZ

mcz-pelletstoves.co.uk

M & J Abbs

01954 267267 | mjabbs.co.uk

Morsø

morsoe.com/en

Mylands

020 8670 9161 | mylands.com

Neptune

01223 643535 | neptune.com

St Neots Fireplace & Stove Centre

01480 470656

stneotsfireplaceandstovecentre.co.uk

The Radiator Centre

01727 840344 | theradiatorcentre.com

FEEL GOOD

(Clockwise from top left) Iliv's fabrics create that log cabin look; Kersaint Cobb is also all about cosy textures; Glasswells tells us to layer up on the comfy accessories; and Crucial Trading keeps it natural

WINTER HUES

Dominic Myland, CEO of Mylands, on how best to make use of colour

1. Autumnal paint hues embrace the cosy and inviting feeling of the season.
2. Deep oranges, earthy browns and muted greens, like Messel No.39, create a sense of comfort and connection to nature within our living spaces.
3. Shades such as these not only infuse warmth into a room, but also create a soothing ambience.

