

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

How to stretch **YOUR SPACE**

EXTENDING YOUR HOME CAN BE A PRACTICAL SOLUTION FOR A GROWING FAMILY. ANGELINA VILLA-CLARKE SPEAKS TO THE EXPERTS ABOUT HOW TO DO IT STYLISHLY



HOT PROPERTY

The Arcadia Radiator, from
£160, The Radiator Centre



F

rom dramatic expansions of a home's footprint, to carving out a standalone room in your garden, extensions are high on the priority list for many homeowners. Plan it correctly and you can not only solve the practical problem of a lack of space, but also improve your lifestyle.

Loft conversions, for instance, may mean extra bedrooms and bathrooms – ideal if you are feeling cramped in your current configuration – while an open-plan downstairs extension can help create a family-friendly home. The new trend for garden rooms, meanwhile, could result in a separate office or dedicated hobby room.

Leigh Hall, founder of Cambridge interior design service Strive for Design, gives her advice: “Extending your home is all about maximising the space you have. In the loft, for example, we would suggest fitting a dormer window to give you more head height. If you can, always invest in built-in cabinetry to make the most of all the areas under the eaves.”

She adds: “We always advise customers to hire someone who will ‘space plan’ with you. It is a service we offer. We use CGI and 2D images so you can envisage the space and, importantly, plan how you would fit your furniture in.”

Interiors expert Hovia identifies multi-functionality as a rising trend for homeowners in 2023. “We’ve moved on from the notion that a house must simply be a place to eat, sleep and chill. A multi-functional home can mean the addition of spaces that cater for your passions, such as movie and game rooms, gyms and saunas,” says the company.

A relatively easy way to create such a space is by installing a dedicated garden ➡

“We have moved on from the notion that a house is simply a place to eat, sleep and chill”



WATCH THIS SPACE (Opposite and above right) Extending your home means you can create multi-functional spaces, says Hovia. (Above left) A kitchen extension project by Strive for Design. (Top) Garden room, POA, INASPACE

ROOM TO GROW

GREEN RETREATS PROVIDES ITS TOP THREE WAYS TO UTILISE A GARDEN ROOM



1.

A grown-up getaway with a garden bar



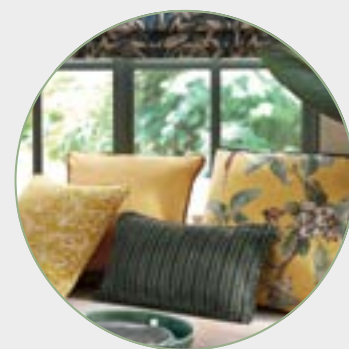
2.

Games room and teen den with pool table and cinema screen



3.

A creative studio for writing, painting or crafting



TOP IT OFF

HOW TO STYLE A
LOFT CONVERSION, BY
UPHOLSTERY SPECIALIST ILIV

1.

Mixing and matching fabrics adds style.
The key is varying the scale of patterns

2.

When mixing patterns, it's a good idea
to break them up with plain fabrics,
either as trims or borders

3.

Collect samples and create a mood
board to ensure it all works together
before committing to any purchases

“Choose a mid-neutral colour for softness without being bland”

room, such as those by INASPACE based in Royston, Cambridge. The brand's portable structures can move with you if you change address, and require no planning permission. Its versatile 'space solution' can easily be utilised as a studio, music room, den or hobby room.

With designer and TV personality Kevin McCloud as brand ambassador, Green Retreats' summer houses have innovation at their heart, offering a twist on archetypal British summer houses. With a strong eco policy, the structures add extra living space and can be used as offices, studios and even annexes.

When it comes to the design of your garden room, you could opt to go grand with a glamorous building like those available at Garden House Design, or choose something more affordable, like the wooden summer houses and pods available

at homeware emporium Cuckooland. Whatever you choose, Patrick O'Donnell, international brand ambassador for Farrow & Ball, suggests treating it just like a room in your house.

“Choose colours that have empathy with the outdoors,” he advises. “Darker colours are surprisingly discreet, so look to something like Railings – a black-blue that will act as a great foil if you're planning on any landscaping around the structure. If a dark shade feels too much, choose a mid-neutral, like French Gray or Mouse's Back, to deliver softness without being bland.”

Reimagining the loft space is often the first port of call if you want to add more bedrooms, a bathroom or a study area. Including dormer windows will open up the attic, and can potentially add value to your home as well as longevity, while your family grows. ➡



GO OUTSIDE (Top left) Be inspired by nature when decorating an extension, says Farrow & Ball. (Above, from top) Garden Pod, from £9,000, Cuckooland; Renson Camargue Canopy, POA, Garden House Design



“Maximise all those nooks and crannies with built-in storage or multi-purpose furniture”

As well as planning permission, design is crucial for a loft conversion. Once your room has been built, maximise all those nooks and crannies with built-in storage, such as Sharps’ offerings, or multipurpose furniture like that of Little Folks Furniture – ideal for children’s rooms.

Dramatic wallpaper is a good way to make a feature of unusual alcoves or angled walls. Woodchip & Magnolia is renowned for its eclectic patterns, while Industville’s New York loft-style lighting will help make your attic room bright and inviting. Fitted and automated blinds give a sleek finish to windows set in the eaves. There are a variety available at English Blinds and 247Blinds. Other practical additions can also double up as design features. Choose space-saving radiators for small bathrooms, or perhaps a vintage style for character, both available at The Radiator Centre.



KEEP IT CLASSIC

SARAH O’SULLIVAN, HOMES DESIGNER AT JOHN LEWIS, ON THE BEST DESIGN TREND FOR RENOVATIONS

“Our new ‘Classic’ trend for 2023 embodies a love of pattern, pairing folklore-inspired prints with curvaceous silhouettes across lighting and furniture to create a statement interior. This is easily achieved by layering patterns and materials and introducing bold pops of colour throughout the home.”

EXPANSIVE
(Above left) Manhattan office, from £2,000, Sharps. (Below left) ‘Classic’ homeware, prices vary, John Lewis. (Above) Autumn almanac mural, £40 per m², Woodchip and Magnolia. (Right) Salix dusky rose patterned roller blind, from £27.99, English Blinds



Extending the ground floor of your house can truly transform how you live. Hatches, based in Cambridge, has over 35 years’ experience designing and supplying wooden doors and windows – both a vital consideration when planning to renovate your house with an extension.

With its HQ in Huntingdon, Kloeber is a specialist in bi-fold doors, windows and roof lights – all of which can transform a kitchen-living extension, bringing light into a reimagined space. Matt Higgs, managing director, gives his tips: “One important area to consider is making sure you have the right specification for any windows and doors in place. This can save money in the long term. It’s worth contacting us – even before you have building regulations signed off – because we can advise on the most cost-effective products and help with the design of your build.” ●

STOCKISTS

247Blinds
01484 443790
247blinds.co.uk

Cuckooland
01305 23123
cuckooland.com

English Blinds
0121 439 6770
englishblinds.co.uk

Farrow & Ball
01202 876141
farrow-ball.com

Garden House Design
01903 774 774
gardenhousedesign.co.uk

Green Retreats
01296 325777
greenretreats.co.uk

Hatches
01799 612330
hatchesltd.co.uk

Hovia
0151 708 5400
hovia.com

ILIV
01772 651 199
iliv.co.uk

INASPACE
0330 912 1472
inaspace.com

Industville
0207 7971 7871
industville.co.uk

John Lewis
0345 610 0344
johnlewis.com

Kloeber
01487 740044
kloeber.co.uk

Little Folks Furniture
01985 300 588
littlefolksfurniture.co.uk

Sharps
0800 789 789
sharps.co.uk

Strive for Design
01223 622 688
strivefordesign.co.uk

The Radiator Centre
01727 840344
theradiatorcentre.com

Woodchip & Magnolia
01254 241100
woodchipandmagnolia.co.uk