

Into the pale

Decorating takes an easy turn this summer with natural materials and wafting linens adding texture and soul to a wash of white

Compiled by MARIE-CLAIRE DORKING

A SIMPLE DISPLAY

A vignette styled with a loose linen tablecloth and sun-baked clay pots brings a relaxed vibe to this light-dappled space.

Plestercraft's Linea Mario **tiles**, £78/sq m, Ca' Pietra. For a similar **tablecloth**, try The White Company. For similar **pots** and **vases**, try Abigail Ahern or Cox & Cox. For a similar **bowl**, try Rebecca Udall.

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DECORATE



ADD TEXTURE, NOT COLOUR

In this dreamy dining space, the lightly limewashed walls allow materials, particularly the oversized seagrass pendant, to do the talking.

Mari **dining table**, £1,998, Anthropologie. For similar **dining chairs**, try La Redoute. For a similar **pendant**, try Pooky. For a similar **vase**, try Perch & Parrow.

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DECORATE



IMPERFECTLY PERFECT

Handmade tiles, chunky timber worktops and a ruffled curtain evoke the charm of an Italian nonna's kitchen – along with a jug of seasonal flowers.

Classic Delft Corner Motif Floral tiles, £4.04 each, Marlborough Tiles. For a similar mixing bowl, try La Redoute. For a similar wire fruit bowl, try John Lewis & Partners



PHOTOGRAPH BY HOLMES PHOTOGRAPHY

MEDITERRANEAN KITCHEN

Exposed beams, herringbone flooring and zellige tiles bring gorgeous texture to this airy space.

Kitchen by Wood Works Brighton, designed by The Vawdrey House. For a similar vase, try Dunelm. For similar lights, try Perch & Parrow

RELAXED STYLING

Create a laidback vignette with minimal accessories arranged sparingly – think chalky-white vases, simple pitchers and rounded forms.

Sculpt **sideboard**, £299; Mikah **sofa**, £899; MK Abstract **canvas**, £80/two; rattan **table lamp**, £50; **platter**, £45/two; nesting **bowl** (in platter), £50/two; **candleholders**, £28/two; ribbed urn **vase**, £40; **storage basket**, £40; Summer Border **rug**, from £80, all Michelle Keegan x Very Home.



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DECORATE



TONE AND TEXTURE

A mix of shell, stone and putty shades provides a gentle backdrop for this whimsical feather pendant, which brings texture and a sculptural punch to the room.

Akynos **pendant light**, £990, Coldharbour Lights. For a similar **sofa**, try Abigail Ahern. For a similar **coffee table**, try Very Home. For similar **curtains**, try Nordic Knots. For a similar **pot** (used as a vase), try B&Q.

DECORATE



LAYER FABRICS

Instead of colour, this calming bedroom builds depth through different fabrics: striped cotton sheets, quilted throws, woven cushions and a tactile rug underfoot.

Sahara bed, from £1,750; Kanzi wardrobe, £1,900; Kanzi bedside table, £375; Shanti rug, from £400; Michanga mirror, £230; Anita bedlinen, from £55/two pillowcases; Poplu Screen Print quilt, from £175; Nile Gul cushion cover, £35; Zairya cushion cover (on bed cover), £55; all Nkuku

EMBRACE ISLAND LIVING

In a room with a high ceiling, a low-hanging pendant creates a cocooning effect. Swapping paints for fabric artwork perfectly suits the bohemian vibe.

Reclaimed tiles, Bert & May. For a similar lampshade, try Etsy. For a similar chaise, try Wayfair. For a similar bedframe, try Bekani. For similar artwork, try Ferm Living. For a similar throw, try Habitat.



SUNNY SPOT

Irregularly glazed tiles in faded hues keep the look cohesive but never uptight, while a bundle of eucalyptus and a simple wildflower stem hint at sunnier climes.

Reclaimed **tiles**, Bert & May. For a similar **chair**, try Graham & Green. For a similar **mirror**, try The Cotswold Company. For a similar **sink**, try Etsy. For a similar **bowl**, try Maison Flâneur.



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PHOTOGRAPH BY LONDON/KOSTAS TSIRINGAKIS. SOME OF THESE IMAGES MAY HAVE BEEN MANIPULATED OR CREATED WITH AI

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RUSTIC DETAILS

A woven jute or sisal rug introduces an organic, grounded feel to a space where you want to unwind, along with a hand-hewn stool to stash soothing bath salts and a candle.

Indore **bath bridge**, £55; Kiani **toothbrush holder**, £25; Ibo **side table**, £250; Ilcoso **soap dispenser**, £30; Ilcoso **soap dish**, £15; Ilcoso **storage pot**, £28; Asana **tealight holder**, £18; Tunda **mat**, £60; all Nikuku.

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Golden hour

We're celebrating the sunny nooks that turn overlooked corners of your home into the spots you want to linger on a long summer day

1 Chill-out zone

A snooze-worthy daybed and tones that conjure up an Ibiza sunset make this outdoor snug a perfect spot for sundowners. Wall in Hoat intelligent masonry, £66/5L, Little Greene

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PHOTOGRAPH (5) NINA PLUMMER OF ELLE HOME

2 Frame the view

A deep seat and warm timber surround transform this window into a living picture. Cushions and a throw create a lovely perch. Flooring, from the Earth Collection, £166/sq m, Chaunceys

4 Shine a light

A coffee table-come-daybed next to this statement window creates a sunny pause-point for reading or lounging. Tip Top daybed, Flute lamp, throw and Easy Buttons cushion, all Loaf

3 Blue-sky thinking

This alcove is washed in a breezy blue that nods to summer skies, while a simple wall light takes this snugly spot beyond sunset. Walls in Quick Dip and Fresh Air claypaint, from £61.50/2.5L, Earthborn

5 Breakfast nook

A petite table set and a jug of fresh flowers shape a square metre of space into a light-filled corner made for slow starts. The Sebastian Cox kitchen, Devol

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6 Take it to the terrace
Sandy neutrals and sun-loving greenery hint at sun-baked landscapes. A sisal rug grounds the space and adds texture. Cheltenham **chair**, £650; Taplow **rug**, £295; both Neptune

8 Double act
Hide clutter with built-in storage and add a cushioned top to offer a bright place to lounge. Happy days. Shaker **cupboards**, from £2,000, Sharps



7 Chase the light
Curved furniture and tactile finishes keep neutrals from feeling stark and allow statement features to shine. **Panelling** in Silent White intelligent eggshell, £82.50/2.5L, Little Greene*

9 Pattern play
Mixing checks and stripes in a rust and olive palette turns this cosy kitchen micro-nook into a sweet spot to take five. **Fabrics**, from the Ashfield Collection, £31.20/m, Prestigious Textiles



WORDS MARIE-CLARE DORKING PHOTOGRAPHS (6) EMMA LEE (7) DEAN HEARNE, (8) WALLS IN SILENT WHITE DEEP ABSOLUTE MATT EMULSION, £99/2.5L, LITTLE GREENE



10 Sun bathing
Tucking a bath under the window and framing it with striped tiles presents a glorious area for soaking. The designers also added café-style curtains and a relaxed blind. Interior design, Studio Duggan





Sun-baked STYLE

Beachy tones and a mix of natural textures come together in the season's dreamiest decorating trend

Compiled by MARIE-CLAIRE DORKING

PHOTOGRAPH SIMON BEVAN STYLING JENNIFER HASLAM DIRECTION SARAH READY

Set the tone

Simple clay accessories in rough glazes and organic shapes echo the effects of time and weather, giving a calm, lived-in feel.

Laetitia Rouget Blue Tulip vase, £255, Jack & Abel. For similar vases and pots, try Design Vintage, The Conran Shop and Graham & Green



DECORATE

Timeworn texture

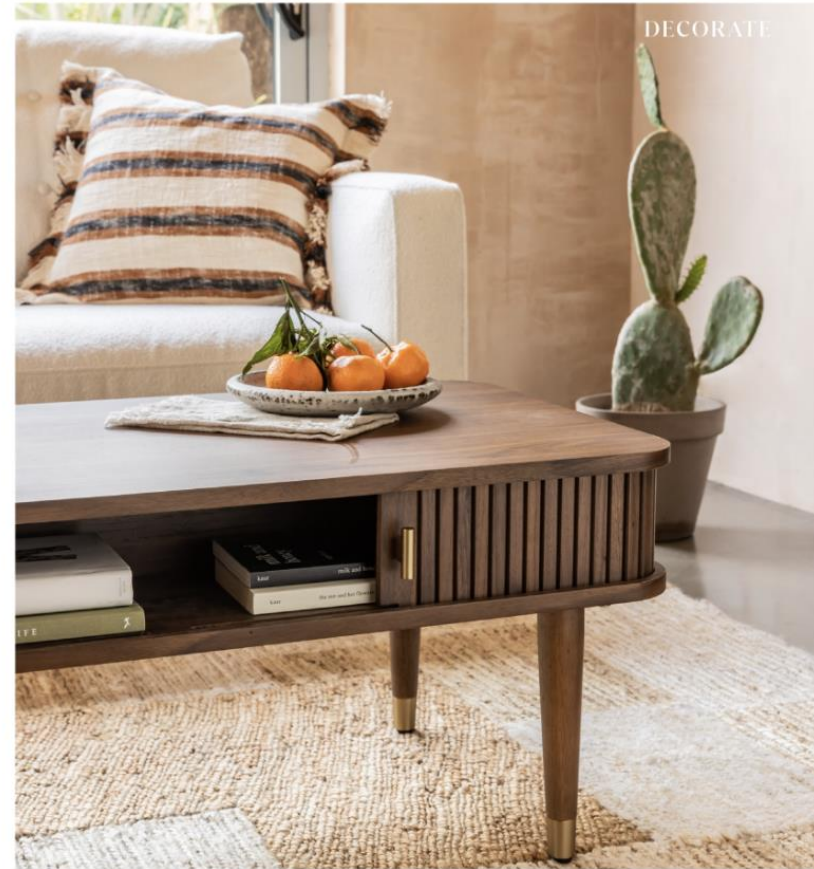
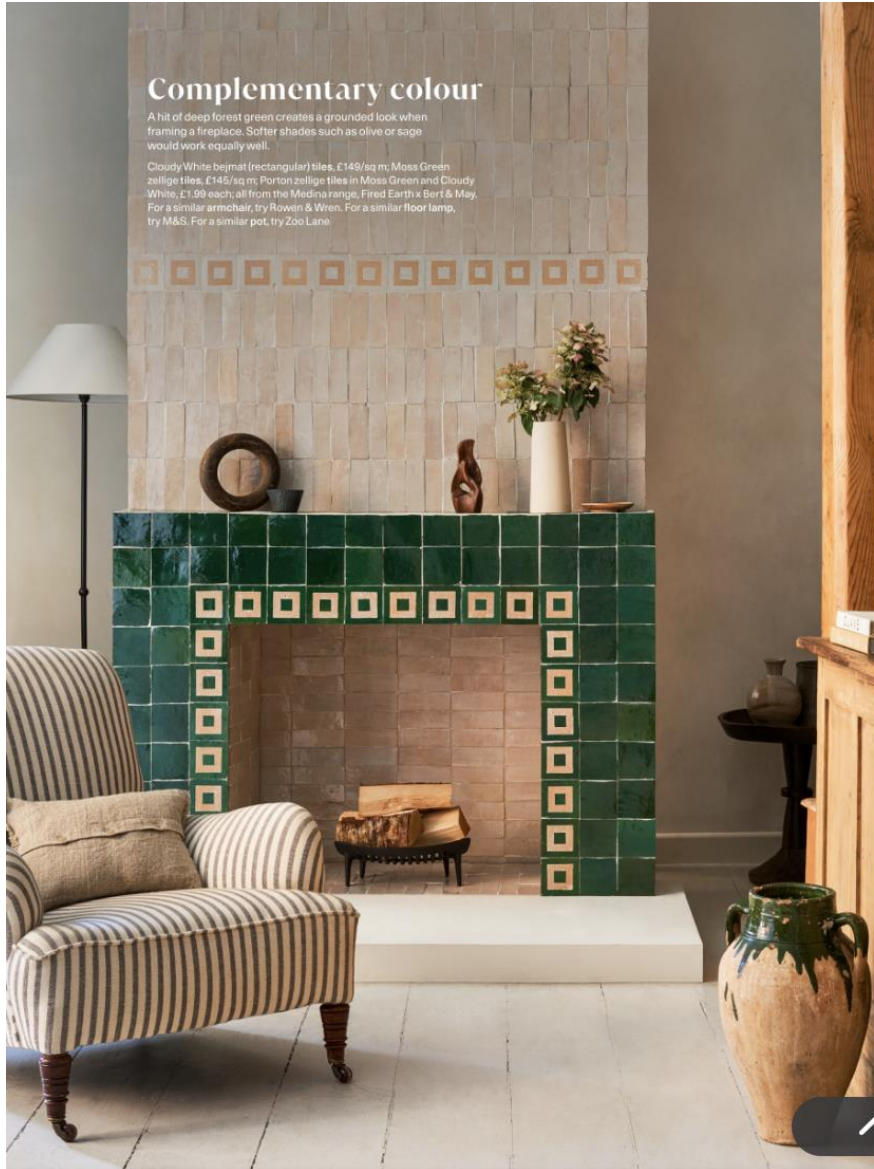
The uneven style of these tiles – used on one wall to bring depth and character to the room – reflects the natural fading and irregular surfaces you'd find in a sunny climate.

Davey Square pendant, from £785, Original BTC. For similar wall tiles, try Quorn Stone. For a similar sofa, try Dusk. For a similar side table, try H&M Home. For a similar coffee table, try Wayfair. For a similar rug, try Next Home

Complementary colour

A hit of deep forest green creates a grounded look when framing a fireplace. Softer shades such as olive or sage would work equally well.

Cloudy White bejmat (rectangular) tiles, £148/sq m; Moss Green zellige tiles, £145/sq m; Porton zellige tiles in Moss Green and Cloudy White, £1.99 each; all from the Medina range, Fired Earth x Bert & May. For a similar armchair, try Rowlin & Wren. For a similar floor lamp, try M&S. For a similar pot, try Zoo Lane.



DECORATE

Tactile touches

A woven jute rug, cushions covered in a slubby fabric and wooden furniture add rich texture to a simple neutral scheme, blending effortlessly with the soft limewashed walls.

Byron coffee table, £399; Jute rug, £349; both Atkin and Thyme. For a similar cushion, try La Redoute.



Statement styling

Furniture and ceramic vases in bold shapes as well as abstract artwork add visual interest while still allowing soft plaster-pink walls to shine.

Hampstead cabinet, £690, Swoon. For a similar artwork, try Artesta Store. For similar vases, try Nordic Nest or Perch & Parrow

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Graphic lines

Geometric prints and stripes in sun-baked shades give a contemporary feel to this terracotta dining space.

Beatrice Stripe lampshade, £18; Ochre cushion cover, £10; Clara patchwork cushion, £28; Thea dining table, £449; Hugh dining chair, £149; Ojai vase in Mustard, from £30; Hurricane vase, £55; pink dinnerware, from £2.50/side plate, napkin, £7/four; walls in Dusky Clay matt emulsion, £20/2.5L; all Dunelm



Warm-weather vibes

Rattan and bamboo hint at sun-warmed verandas and shaded terraces, reinforcing this look's laidback mood.

Larme pendant lampshade, £35; Vero dressing table and chair, £495; Marco Lattice photoframes, from £28 each; striped jewellery box, £50; all Oliver Bonas



Pattern play

The muted colours of these traditional Indian block-printed floor tiles add to the weather-worn feel, and are picked up in the bedlinen, helping to tie the scheme together.

Jaipur Akola floor tiles, £99.50/sq m, Hyperion Tiles. For a similar chair, try Sofas & Stuff. For similar bedlinen, try Secret Linen Store. For a similar bedside table, try Dunelm. For a similar lamp, try M&S. For a similar rug, try Benuta

Beyond the back door

From creative planting to alfresco hotspots and summery chill-out zones, here's how to carve out a corner of your great outdoors

1 The fifth room

A jute rug and deep-seated sofa create an outdoor living room that *insists* you stretch out and linger for a while. **Wall** in Jewel Beetle intelligent masonry paint, £86/5L, Little Greene

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2 A view that works

This dreamy desk set-up makes the most of the garden vista, linking to the outdoors with greenery and a sage-hued stool. **Bronx desk**, £280; **Zara stool**, £70; both Industrious Decor



3 Coastal vibes

Breezy bamboo furniture and seaside prints will help your indoor-outdoor retreat tap into that beachy state of mind. **Fabrics**, from a selection, Prestigious Textiles



4 Plant the seed

A wooden console, simple stool and collection of ceramic pots turn this sunny spot into a lush display. **Beacon console table**, £1,350; **Antrim side table**, £395; **vases**, from £35; all Layered Lounge



5 Form and function

This charming utility zone includes a rustic sink, open shelving and built-in wood storage. **Jug**, £25; **picnic basket**, £40; **plates**, from £16/four; **bowls**, from £7/four; all M&S

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6 On the grill
Add a wooden worktop and a zellige-tiled wall to turn an outdoor BBQ into a style moment. Global outdoor **chair** and **footstool**, £120; Bamboo print **cushion**, £12; all Habitat

8 A moment's pause
This serene spot is designed for switching off with mix-and-match cushions and a soft throw. Kerensa **ottoman**, £1,195; **cushion covers**, from £65; all Oka



7 Growth area
Make space for planting and potting with a reclaimed sink, shelving and chequerboard splashback. Marigold and Bay square **cement tiles**, both £120.29/sq m, Bert & May

9 Outdoor snug
A chiminea is a chilly evening game-changer. Just add cushions, an outdoor rug and a coffee table where you can rest your tipple. Mason **coffee table**, £499, Atkin and Thyme

WORDS MARIE-CLAIRE DORRING PHOTOGRAPH BY JON DAY



10 Curate an outdoor kitchen
Squashy seating and a simple tiled island in a pop of green provide a perfect backdrop for long lunches and evenings spent socialising under the stars. Bora chair, £1,250 (for a bistro set), Colma cushion, £45, both Cox & Cox

SHOPPING



COLLABORATION

Hillarys x Jonathan Adler

The legendary interior designer on teaming up with Hillarys to bring his iconic prints from the US to British blinds and curtains



From left Eden Snake Blue Velvet and Lisbon Mustard Roman blinds

THE UK IS THE MOST WINDOW DRESSING-FOCUSED PLACE ON EARTH

In America, people are less curtain-obsessed, so I've always wanted to get my hands on British windows. Collaborating with Hillarys seemed like the perfect way to do it and live out my Anglophilic decorating fantasies.

THE COLLECTION NEEDED TO BE ACCESSIBLE AND CHIC. I wanted to go with my most unimpeachable prints in a range of great colours. But while you need to get the patterns right, you also need to match them to the right fabrics, whether that's something heavy and velvety or light and cotton-like. I'd use the rich velvets in my London townhouse, then something a little quieter, like Inkdrop Ivory, in my country home. My husband Simon's office is a fantasy of blue, so I'm getting him the Roman blinds in Cobalt Piccadilly Dots – they're made for that room.

WINDOW DRESSINGS ARE LIKE ART FOR WINDOWS

They can bring a scheme together, frame or block a view, and introduce a note of pattern and colour where there is none. You're allowed to go a bit mad. They're also practical. I'm married to a Brit who is pathologically terrified of draughts, so they also importantly serve as draught excluders. **FOR ME, DECORATING IS ALL ABOUT THE VIBE**

My style is chic with a little wink of *excentrique*. When making bold choices, dip your toe in. Do something a bit brave, then you'll be like, 'What have I been waiting for? It's time to live!'

WHEN PLAYING WITH PATTERN, THINK ABOUT SCALE

Small-scale patterns end up feeling like neutrals, so you should never be afraid of them. The key is to have a mix of small and big ones and make sure that they're not fighting with each other. **I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT HOW TO CHANGE THE HOUSE** My husband doesn't know it, but I'm redoing our living room; I've made this incredible curved sofa that I don't think I can live without, but it requires a whole room change. Simon dressed windows at Barneys before he became a writer, so you'd think that, with strong opinions, handbags would be flying. Really, we only bicker about whose turn it is to make the tea.

Hillarys x Jonathan Adler's new collection features 25 fabrics across four colourways and is out now

'MY STYLE IS CHIC WITH A LITTLE WINK OF EXCENTRIQUE'



Fabrics, clockwise from top left: Vallourens in Camo; Portofino Stripe in Navy; Piccadilly Dots in Amber; Left Portofino Stripe curtains in Olive

AS TOLD TO MARIE-CLAIRE DORLING

SHOPPING

ONE TO WATCH

Bertola Home Studio

Former primary school teacher **Poppy Bertola** traded in weekly lesson plans for crafting beautifully ruffled and lacquered frames. Now, the brand she started on maternity leave from her attic is stocked by retailers such as Anthropologie



I USED TO GIVE MY FRAMES AS GIFTS

I studied fine art at university and have always been creative. My maternity leave coincided with lockdown, and I taught myself to make bobbin-style frames that I could give my family as Christmas presents. They loved them, so I made more to sell on Etsy. At first, I thought that if I could sell two a week I'd be happy! But they took off – so much so that I couldn't juggle teaching full-time with fulfilling orders.

I KNEW I NEEDED TO FULLY COMMIT TO IT.

COLOUR ALWAYS SPARKS INSPIRATION

I'm drawn to vivid shades but prefer them when they've been slightly muted. I've always loved the way the brightly coloured canal boats near where we live are contrasted against the murky water below. My colour palettes always have a vintage, faded vibe.

FOR ME, IT'S IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE CAN SEE THE MAKER'S HAND IN EACH PIECE

I like making products that look a bit quirky. It's boring to replicate something you can buy just about anywhere. I think what people like about the brand is the way it looks different and will help them tell their story. However, in today's world, where everything is Amazon and next-day delivery, it can be a challenge to explain why I need a longer lead time.

FRAMES ARE SO PERSONAL

You don't have to use them for photographs, but anything you want to cherish and display. There are some lovely stories: one customer used them for table numbers at their wedding, another framed their grandma's recipe. My hope is that they become heirlooms, passed down through the family and kept for ever.

I'M INSPIRED BY THE EVERYDAY

Someone walking down the street wearing a gorgeous, flowing skirt; the colourful shop fronts in the village we live in; the changing seasons... I try to take inspiration from the real world. It's easy to miss things or to fall into the trap of just copying what's already out there if you're only tuned into a screen.



From left Poppy with oval mirror, from £142; bobbin frame, from £20; mounts, from £4; frames, from £10; oblong mirror, from £115; full-length mirror, from £280; ruffle frame, from £30



MY INTERIORS STYLE IS 'LIVED-IN'

The vibe is just as important as the aesthetic. I love artful, playful spaces – definitely not show homes. Because I have kids, I've focused on creating a cosy, individual space that works for everyone and I've become braver about using colour.

I want the boys to remember their home as a happy place that reflected us as a family.

BEING STOCKED BY ANTHROPOLOGIE WAS A 'PINCH ME' MOMENT

I grew up loving that store and would never have imagined I'd make a product that would be sold there. One of our frames was also recently used in a display at Selfridges, which was pretty surreal too.

NEXT, WE'RE GOING EVEN BIGGER

Frames, mirrors and lighting have been our focus so far, but we've got plenty more products in the pipeline. Watch this space!

For more information, visit bertolahomestudio.com



AS TOLD TO MARIE-CLAIRE DORLING PHOTOGRAPHS: TEREZA SHATT PHOTOGRAPHY



SHOPPING

FIND THE BEST

Hallway looks

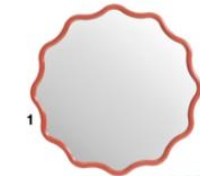
Make an entrance with consoles, mirrors and accessories that set the tone for your space

Playfully eclectic

Bold colour, characterful furniture and artful details create a hall full of personality



1 Scalloped-edge mirror, £93.50, Melody Maison 2 Endon Carnaby wall light in Apricot, £117.95, Kes Lighting & Home 3 Blaire Bobbin console in Navy, £140, Habitat



1 Wavy mirror in Red Coral, £45, Habitat 2 Remi scalloped console, £169.99, Dunelm 3 Out Of Vase Blooms 6 print by Shatha Al Dafai, £30.95 (unframed), Desenio



Zarina console, £1,199, Poppy original artwork by Ney Bellamy, £900, other items, from a selection, all Heal's



1 Blueberry Gelato vase, £95, Hodgepots 2 Talasa side table, £295, Oka 3 Pressed geum flowers in hand-painted frame, £150, Holly & Co



1 Annika rug, £159, Ruggable 2 Evelyn wooden mirror, £149, M&S 3 Oriol console, £299, MyFurniture

Minimal luxe

Deck the hall with pared-back design, muted tones and sculptural silhouettes



1 HK Living glass vase, £48, Cult Furniture 2 Stone diffuser wall light in Natural, £199, Industville 3 Ritz marble console, £479, John Lewis & Partners



1 Lago wall art, £420, Layered Lounge 2 Hump marble console, £849, Swoon x Orange Tree 3 Lunar mirror, £495, Cox & Cox



Luna table light in bronze and travertine, £1,650, J Adams & Co



1 Black wire mirror, £75, Next Home 2 Decor bowl with crackle glaze, £39, Very Home 3 Staffa console, £1,045, Ferm Living



1 Baloo mirror in Natural Whitewash, £175, Pooky 2 Lara marble console in Natural, £299, Dunelm 3 Concrete candleholders, £28/two, Michelle Keegan x Very Home

SHOPPING



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Decorate

FRESH LOOKS & BRIGHT IDEAS



DESIGN STUDIO ACCOUTER DESIGN

Heart-warming HUES

Rich, mineralised tones offer a cosier, more grounded take on a classic colour palette – a calm, cocooning way to reset your space for the year ahead

WORDS MARIE-CLAIRE DORKING



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CREAMY COCOA

A wash of chocolate over walls creates a soothing canvas – just add tactile touches, mellow lighting and plush seating that invites you to stay a while.

Opposite For similar wall paint, try Dirty Red, £26/1L, YesColours. For a similar boucle chair and pouffe, try Dunelm. For a similar side table, try La Redoute. For a similar lamp, try Habitat. For a similar wall light, try Lights & Lamps

BURNT TERRACOTTA

Carve out a warm welcome with chestnut shades, natural accessories and a statement black console.

Above For similar wall paint, try Pegwell Bay, £30/1L, Coast. Ariana console table, £179; Petal table lamp, £59; splatter vase, £15; ceramic centrepiece, £24; all M&S

PHOTOGRAPH CHARL MARELL, LIND HANSEN/IFRANK DOSSAN, FOUNDER STUDIO DUGGAN



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RICH DAMSON

A sumptuous blend of aubergine and berry, this rich yet vibrant shade brings instant warmth. Cloak the ceilings and woodwork in a hallway for an inviting welcome home.

Above Walls and woodwork in Divine Damson, £56/2.5L, Graham & Brown. For similar **shoe storage**, try Ikea. For similar **straw brushes**, try Folk Interiors. For a similar **jug** (just seen), try Etsy

SMOKED AUBERGINE

Layer rich, purplish walls with metallic accents, glassy lighting and tactile textures to create an atmospheric dining space.

Opposite For similar wall **paint**, try Grenache, £35.50/750ml, Paint & Paper Library. Starsky recycled glass **chandelier**, £530, Pooky. For a similar **dining table**, try Cult Furniture. For similar **dining chairs**, try Habitat. For similar sheepskin **rugs**, try John Lewis & Partners



DECORATE

Aubergine shades
wrap a dining space
in warmth



A rich earthy green
adds lustre to a
snug – perfect for
hunkering down



DECORATE



MOSSY GREEN

Vibrant furniture and gold accessories meet their match with a lustrous deep green cloaking the walls.

Opposite Walls in Night Owl, from £20.75/0.94L, Benjamin Moore. Iggy sofa, £2,360; side table, £290; both Sofa.com. Rug, from a selection, Tate & Darby. Luna wall light, £69, Lights & Lamps

DEEP FOREST

Who says red and green are just for Christmas? A rich, verdant shade provides a sophisticated backdrop for furniture in a fresh coral red.

Above For similar door paint, try Green 05, £49/2.5L, Lick. For similar wall paint, try Olive Colour, £38/1L, Little Greene. Pillar five-drawer chest in Rosehip, £399; Floral silk Zen vase, £35; Tisse rattan table lamp, £175; Somerton rug, £320; Reed dining chair in Oak, £199; all John Lewis & Partners



WARM TRUFFLE

Team sumptuous chocolate hues with gold and black accents for a space that feels both dramatic and elegantly modern.

Above Walls in Cherry Truffle, £46/2.5L, Dulux Heritage. For a similar gold tray, try Nikku. For similar vases, try Dunelm and Next Home. For similar faux flowers, try West Elm. For a similar dish, try H&M Home.

CHOCOLATE IMMERSION

Moody shades can feel energising and inviting when paired with shots of yellow, bold artwork and playful accessories.

Opposite For similar wall paint, try Purple Brown, £40/1L, Little Greene. Ciel console table, from £560, [Sofa.com](#). For a similar chair, try Dunelm. For a similar floor lamp, try Industville. For similar artwork, try Etsy.

DECORATE

A dash of colour and shimmer energise a rich chocolate palette





Burnt orange and toasty
hues come together
in this cosy retreat

PHOTOGRAPH (BEDROOM) STEPHANE SAUVAGE-HOWELL, LONDON, UK

DECORATE



TOASTED TONES

Opt for these pale-brown shades for a bedroom that feels restful and restorative, with layers of warm, slubby textures.

Opposite Walls in Moleskin, from £20/2.5L; **Cloud boudle ottoman double bed**, £449; **duvet cover**, £29; cotton **pillowcases** in Chocolate and Natural, £7/pair; **Clara cushions** in Pecan, £22 each; **Castleton bedspread**, £40; **Brannock bedside table**, £179; **Pebble vase**, £16/pair; **Nese touch lamp**, £55; **Rune rug**, £165; **Reindeer faux fur rug**, £49, all Dunelm

AMBER BROWN

Explore the calm and cocooning atmosphere that drenching a bathroom in a sepia brown can bring – like a deep exhale at the end of the day.

Above Walls in London Brown, £66/2.5L, Edward Bulmer. For a similar **pot**, try Dana & Fabé. For a similar **black tap**, try Victorian Plumbing



ALL GROWN UP

Pastel tones feel modern and sophisticated when anchored by a mix of textures, natural materials and pops of colour. The look is poised with a hint of pretty

Words MARIE-CLAIRE DORKING

Dusky rose

A two-tone colour drench of soft blush shades creates a calm, cocooning backdrop for tailored furnishings and natural stone accessories. Aviator loveseat in Striped Cotton Rug, £979; Jasper side table in travertine finish (front), £278; Jasper side table in marble finish, £195; Beau pendant light, £90; all Arden and Thyme. For similar wall paint, try Light Pea chillesony for similar panelling paint, try Blush; both intelligent matt emulsion, £30/4L, Little Greene.



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DECORATE



Salmon pink

Pink doesn't feel sugary when it's punctuated by pattern and personal treasures that give it a lived-in, homely vibe. All accessories, from a selection, Casa by JJ. For a similar sofa, try Dunelm. For a similar coffee table, try Rockett St George or Vinterior. For similar shelving paint, try Isabel's Bloom eggshell, £33/1L, Claybrook.



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Soft lemon

Pared-back styling, rustic accessories and the subtle contrast of creamy cabinetry help to ground the wash of pale yellow in this kitchen.

Walls in Sandy Castle claypaint, £60/2.5L, Earthborn. For a similar wooden **board**, try Dusk. For a similar **cooking pot**, try Etsy. For a similar **cafetière**, try John Lewis & Partners. For a similar **tea towel**, try La Redoute.



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DECORATE

Vanilla cream

'Colour-capping' the ceiling in a slightly deeper shade of paint adds depth to a neutral palette and envelops this dining room in a subtle, golden glow. **Ceiling and above dado** in Yellow Squash; **below dado** in Bone White; both from £20.75/0.94L, Benjamin Moore. For a similar chest of **drawers**, try Mustard Vintage. For a similar dining **table** and chairs, try Fusion Living. For a similar mirror, try M&S.



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Lavender tint

This whisper-soft shade of lilac feels cool and contemporary when offset by clean lines and graphic black accents.
Walls in Winter Gray, from £20.75/0.94L, Benjamin Moore. For a similar **shelving unit**, try Perch & Parrow. For a similar **dining table and chairs**, try Ikea.



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DECORATE



Parma violet

Coloured glassware brings softness to pale mauve walls and adds a delicate decorative sparkle to your tablescape.
Pink glass lantern tealight holders, £32/two; **glass bud vase**, £28/two; **rattan cutlery**, £32/five-piece set; all Rosie Dalia. For similar **paint**, try Pale Amethyst matt emulsion, £44/2.5L, Laura Ashley.



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Pale peach

Soft peachy walls take on a quiet sophistication when paired with honeyed wood and stoneware accessories.

Rustic scallop wooden **tray**, £28; Pear **ornament**, £15/set (including apple); **bud vases**, £22/three; Twist wooden **candlestick**, £28/two; all Very Home. For a similar **paint**, try Riviere Y406 in Optima matt, £18.64/1L, Tikkurila



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Apricot crush

A gentle wash of pale orangey-pink behind retro wooden shelving creates a serene backdrop for an elegant but easy-going space. Walls in Isabel's Bloom, £45/2.5L, Claybrook Studio. For a similar shelving unit, try Dunelm or Dusk. For a similar chair, try Cult Furniture. For a similar mirror, try Heal's



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DECORATE



Simple pleasures

Taking a moment to savour a few everyday rituals at home – the first coffee of the day, lighting a candle at dusk, a long chat at the dinner table – is the most affordable luxury out there

Words MARIE-CLAIRE DORKING

1 GET LOST IN A GOOD NOOK

Having a space dedicated to hunkering down is the perfect way to press pause on the day. When you want to create a quiet reading corner, the only elements you need are a chair large enough to curl up in, a table or shelf to set down a mug of hot chocolate (or a hot toddy) and a lamp. But we wouldn't say no to a cosy cushion, a soft, slubby throw and a natural rug – jute or sisal – for snuggliness underfoot.

Amalia accent chair in Ivory Bouclé, £349, Dwell; Eos side table in Smoke Oak, £159; Martello rug, £229, at DFS. For a similar cushion, try Duneira



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USE SCENT TO UNWIND

Interiors brand Nkuku recently launched a debut home-fragrance collection. We asked Claire Horn (above), the brand's interior designer, how to create a comforting ritual using scent.

SCENT IS A POWERFUL WAY TO LAYER ATMOSPHERE WITHIN YOUR HOME. It can evoke a range of moods and emotions, and also has a remarkable ability to stir memories, which is a lovely feeling to bring into your living space.

CREATING A RITUAL AROUND FRAGRANCE CAN HELP SET THE TONE FOR YOUR DAY. Lavender and camomile promote calm and relaxation. Energising scents, such as grapefruit, citrus, peppermint and tea tree, can refresh and clear the mind, while warming fragrances like clove and fig evoke a cosy, comforting atmosphere. Over time, you begin to associate these fragrances with certain moods and routines, helping to create a positive daily rhythm.

FRAGRANCES WORK BEST IN THE HOME WHEN THEY'RE USED CONSISTENTLY. Placing a scent diffuser in the entrance of your home can create a welcoming atmosphere. A fresh-cotton fragrance in the utility room complements the practical nature of the space, while a soothing, spa-inspired or 'ozonic' scent in the bathroom enhances relaxation. In the bedroom, a gentle misting spray and luxurious hand pomade on the bedside table can help you unwind and drift off to sleep.

DECORATE

Cedarwood and Fig scented candle, £40; reed diffuser, £45; both Nkuku. For a similar coffee table, try Ikea



HOME SCENTS



Sentiments room spray, £8, M&S



Solei incense burner, £12.50, Oliver Bonas



Cedar Atlas candle, £30, La Bougie



Glass bud vase/diffuser, £8, Habitat



Gratitude wardrobe fragrance, £28.50, Rituals

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DECORATE



Wilbur hand towel rail, £58, Rowen & Wren. For similar crockery, try Habitat. For a similar tea towel, try Ikea

4 CREATE A SPOT TO GATHER

When your day is packed with screens and schedules, carving out an area to get together in real life is a restorative ritual.

CONSIDER THE MOOD YOU WISH TO CREATE Do you want to encourage conversation, connection or relaxation? This should guide how you style your space, whether it includes a kitchen island, a shared table or a sociable sofa set-up.

ANCHOR YOUR GATHERING SPOT Define the area with a tactile rug, round table or statement light. These visual cues help define the zone by subtly inviting people in.

CHOOSE COMFORT OVER PERFECTION Opt for seating that allows you to linger, be it mix-and-match upholstered chairs, a puddle of cushions or a bench with layered textiles to balance ease and style.



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3 ORGANISATION IS AN ART

Believe it or not, the act of creating order in your space can help restore calm – in the kitchen especially. Keep your most beautiful everyday pieces – a collection of jugs, a stoneware bowl – on show, grouping crockery on open shelving in similar colour palettes, but varying heights to create interest and visual harmony. Invest in stylish yet thrifty storage such as woven baskets, ceramic jars and wooden pots to keep things tidy.



Aptos extending dining table, £1,339; Marin dining armchairs, £359 each; Larkin dinner plates, £49/ four; Tava placemat, £18; Zwiesel Glas Pure wine glasses, £59/ six; all other products, from a selection at Pottery Barn UK



Striped glass tumbler, £24.50/two; Lion tile coaster, £7.50; engraved Lion egg cup, £12.50; ceramic basket, £45; Lenny Lion plate, £20; plaid placemat, £20; striped glass coupe, £24.50/two; crocheted tablecloth, £98; other products, from a selection at Shrimps x Oliver Bonas

5 CELEBRATE THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL

Breakfast can be such a great start to the day, but it's so easy to rush it or eat while multitasking. Use thoughtfully chosen objects to bring the ritual to life and create joy and meaning, advises Kate Butler (above), head of home design at Oliver Bonas.

LAYING A TABLE IS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO ELEVATE YOUR MORNING ROUTINE A tablecloth adds a lovely sense of occasion. I have a collection that belonged to my family and using them always makes me feel nostalgic. I also doant things like butter and jam into small pots – it makes the table look more thoughtful.

DON'T SAVE THINGS FOR BEST! IF YOU LOVE IT, USE IT – AND USE IT OFTEN I use my antique silver cutlery all the time. For me, it's about using pieces that have meaning. I have a slightly bashed pewter butter dish that was always on our breakfast table growing up, along with elegant silver candlesticks. I mix those sentimental pieces with plates and bowls I've collected on my travels. Nothing matches and I love that. It's that blend of personal stories and beautiful objects that makes it feel unique.



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6 MAKE SOME ROOM TO DRESS

You only need a little corner to create a pretty styled space.

DEFINING DIFFERENT ZONES IN YOUR SPACE CAN MAKE EVERY SPOT FEEL MORE PURPOSEFUL. A console, slim desk or wall shelf can double as a mini dressing station and signal the start and end of your day. **CHOOSE SOMEWHERE YOU CAN**

MOVE EASILY, SIT COMFORTABLY AND REACH WHAT YOU NEED. A soft stool or upholstered chair transforms a simple corner into a welcoming zone rather than a rushed pit-stop.

GOOD LIGHTING MAKES THE MOMENT FEEL MORE MINDFUL. Position yourself by a window for soft morning light or use a warm-toned table lamp to induce evening calm.

Areca screen, £995, Samina ottoman, £250; Kastel Washed Grey console table, £1,400; Parnesse mirror, £200; Thomastin table lamp base, £235; Argyle Warm Red lampshade, £125; Lilian vase, £245; Silk Road Aruba Blue candle, £50; all Oka

DECORATE



7 SHINE A LIGHT INTO EVERY CORNER

Designer and portable-lighting evangelist Abigail Ahern explains how wireless lamps create soothing spaces.

'My coffee table always has a stack of books, botanicals for a nod to nature and soft lighting to create a relaxing ambience. Portable lights are brilliant for creating cosy pockets of glow wherever and whenever you need them. In the summer evenings, I take them outside and in the winter months, I pop them everywhere from the side of the bath to my kitchen surfaces to add an extra layer of light.'



Morganware, £14; Lendro table lamp in Flax, £45; Hydrangea Morning Mist artificial flowers, £14.50 each; all Abigail Ahern

GORGEOUS WIRE-FREE LIGHTING



Phoebe lamp, £55, Atkin and Thyme; Mushroom lamp, £42.95, Sparkle Lighting; Portobello lamp, £65, Rose & Grey; Wyman lamp base, £60, Dar Lighting; Keswick lamp, £40, Abigail Ahern



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CHORES – BUT MAKE THEM CUTE

Laundry is a non-negotiable part of life, so why not make it as stress-free and stylish as possible? If you don't have the space for a dedicated utility room, a cupboard or corner in the kitchen can become a charming laundry zone. The key is tapping into the idea of 'beautility', where efficiency looks chic – think delicately scented detergents decanted into pretty glass Mason jars, tuck-away airers and cute jute storage baskets for all the little extras.



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FIND YOUR GOLDEN HOUR

Rearrange your space to make the most of mood-lifting natural light. Not only will a sunny spot help you top up your vitamin D, but the glow also beautifully softens the edges of the room. Add a touch of greenery (monstera and fig trees both thrive in sunny spots) to deepen the sense of connection to nature.

Marlborough Terracotta Diamond floor tiles, £89.24/sq m, Ca' Pietra. The Brambles velvet cushion in Antique Rose, £155, Divine Savages. For similar chairs, try Daals. For a similar console table, try Perch & Parrow. For similar wall lights, try Dunelm.



PHOTOGRAPHS: THE COTSWOLD COMPANY/JON DAY; DIVINE SAVAGES X CA' PIETRA/ADAM CARTER

Chester Shaker cupboard, £499; baskets, from £20 each; Ravello vases, from £23 each; Ravello jug, £36; garden tool basket, £32; laundry basket, £85, all The Cotswold Company

DECORATE

10 SURROUND YOURSELF WITH THE THINGS YOU LOVE

Giving your most cherished pieces pride of place is an instant mood boost. Here's how to curate your collection.

EMBRACE A LIVED-IN FEEL BY AVOIDING ANYTHING OVER-STYLED A collection of mismatched jugs and vases with freshly cut blooms makes for a pretty display on this dressing table.

TRY OUT A STYLIST'S FOOLPROOF TECHNIQUE: THE RULE OF THREE Display with one vertical piece for height, a horizontal one for balance and a sculptural element.

DON'T FORGET TO ADD SOME CONTRAST Layering a deep or bright colour, or mixing materials, brings character and depth.



Morzy Twisted Oak mirror, £398, Rowen & Wren. For a similar cupboard, try Etsy. For similar vintage-style jugs, try charity shops.

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Spa Restore fragrance collection, from £10, The White Company

11 TRY WATER THERAPY



Chrissie Rucker OBE, founder of The White Company, shares her advice for curating a soothing spa-like sanctuary.

'After a stressful day, a bath can be a powerful ritual to calm the body and mind by immersing yourself in warm water with bath foam or oils. For extra comfort, I use a magnesium-enriched bath soak to help me drift off to sleep when I'm ready for bed. To really enjoy that post-bath feeling, I recommend drying off with a fluffy towel and wrapping yourself up in a snugly robe before lighting a sleep-inducing candle in your bedroom.'

SPA-THROOM ACCESSORIES



Bamboo duck board, £20, Dunelm



Rib soap dispenser, £12, Next Home



Mango wood bath bridge, £30, Habitat



Linen-blend towel, £19.99, H&M Home



Vado robe hook, £35.75, Sanctuary Bathrooms



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MAKE BEDTIME DELICIOUS

Dressing your bed is an art everyone can master, says Molly Freshwater, co-founder and creative director at Secret Linen Store. She reveals her favourite tips.

BEDSCAPING IS LIKE SETTING A BEAUTIFUL TABLE – but for sleeping. It's about creating a space that feels layered, inviting and full of texture. Start with natural bedding, then add

layers: a throw or two at the end of the bed and cushions in different shapes and sizes. **PILLOWS ARE LIKE FRIENDS:** a few great ones are better than too many that just get in the way. I'd say you need two to sleep on, two to prop up and maybe one or two cushions. **WE'RE ALL FOR NATURAL FIBRES** Buy the best bedlinen you can afford and think of it as an investment in your sleep.



Sophie Stripe linen double duvet cover, £195; Sophie Stripe 100% linen pillowcase, £23; Dark Olive Clover 100% cotton throw, £155; Amber Finn 100% cotton throw, £125; all Secret Linen Store

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BOX CLEVER

We've gathered 10 imaginative ways to unleash big-space energy in your humble box room

1 CREATE A BED NOOK

A bed in a tucked-away corner makes a cosy place for guests to sleep over or for you to retreat to – complete with curtains and under-eaves shelving, as seen in this scheme by Tiffany Duggan, founder of Treve by Studio Duggan and Studio Duggan.



2 STUDY TIME

An unused alcove is the perfect spot for encouraging a bit of working-from-home creativity, and a colourful shelving unit alongside provides storage for life's little extras.

Walls painted in Haven Optiva matt, from £18.64/1L, Tikkanila UK

4 A CORNER TO CURL UP IN

Shelving and bench storage under sloping ceilings turn an awkward nook into a practical, well-used space, while squishy cushions crank up the comfort.

Shaker Nook storage in Graphite, from £2,000, Sharps

3 FIND SHELTER

Transform the smallest room in your home into a cosy hideaway with cocooning tones, complete with snugly furnishings and a sofa just made for sinking into.

Walls painted in Winding Waterway, from £20.75/0.94L, Benjamin Moore

5 NEVER A CHORE

Recast a box room upstairs into a welcoming utility room with chequerboard tiles and sunny yellow units. We'd happily linger over the laundry in this space designed by Lonika Chanda.

DECORATE



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WORDS MARIE-CLAIRE DORRINGTON PHOTOGRAPHS BY IDEAN HEATNE, (5) MILO BROWN

DECORATE



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6 LOW-KEY LOUNGING

Create a pared-back hangout corner with a sculptural beanbag in bougie bouclé or linen, along with chilled-out lighting, a muted palette and a textured rug. Adult Humberg Snugg bouclé beanbag in Oat, £134.99, Rucomfy

8 AIM HIGH

Small rooms need smart storage. Shelving that ladders up to the ceiling not only draws the eye upwards, creating an impression of space, but frees up precious floor space too. Bespoke storage unit, from a selection, Sheld



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7 A WALK-IN WARDROBE

Clever cabinetry, a multipurpose window seat and a designated spot for everything makes a dreamy dressing zone out of a biojou box room. Design by Tiffany Duggan, founder of Trove by Studio Duggan

9 TAKE A SEAT

Make use of every inch of space by installing hidden storage under a versatile daybed, adding DIY bookshelves, curl-up cushions and a restful palette. Walls painted in Sea Star, from £20.75/0.94L, Benjamin Moore

PHOTOGRAPHY/DEAN HEARNE



10 GET TO WORK

An unused alcove can conceal a surprisingly functional desk set-up, with bold patterned fabric serving as a backdrop for an inspirational moodboard. Fictor wall light, £329, Original BTC



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LOVE STORY

Sometimes it takes two colours to bring out the best in a room. Here are some perfect couples that add depth, warmth and personality to your home

Words MARIE-CLAIRE DORKING

DENIM BLUE + SALMON

Calm tones of blue can temper orange's heat, resulting in a characterful but considered space. The darker denim door frame introduces a visual pause as you enter from one room to another.

Front wall in Hyacinth; doorway border in Damselty; inside wall in Spring Puffin; all pure matt emulsion, from £28/1L, Fenwick & Tilbrook



1 Akira floor lamp in Rust, £70, Value Lights 2 Dweller kitchen chair in Shipping Forecast Clever Velvet, £595, Loaf 3 Spindle desk in Burnt Orange, £199, John Lewis & Partners 4 Amalfi Coast vase, £40, Casa by JJ 5 Leela wall light in Orange, £100, Pooky

DECORATE

SKY + SAGE

These hues are natural companions in the landscapes around us. Referencing them in a dining room creates a serene vibe for chilled-out gatherings.

Lower wall and shutters in Sap Green dead flat; upper wall and shutter in Kakelugn modern eggshell; all from £33/750ml, Farrow & Ball



1 Contemporary napkins, £28/four, Rosie Dalia 2 Wishbone chair in Ilse Crawford Colours by Carl Hansen & Son, from £626, Heal's 3 Columbia rug, £895, Nordic Knots 4 Nordlux Viljo 60 lampshade in Blue, £19, Debenhams 5 Woven tray in Hedge Green, £60, Birdie Fortescue

TOFFEE + RUSSET

These natural hues have a warmth and earthiness that helps them blend rather than clash. Pale toffee walls create an enveloping backdrop, while russet on the door subtly defines the transition between spaces.

Walls in Bombolone intelligent matt emulsion; cupboard doors in Bombolone intelligent eggshell; window trim in Silt intelligent eggshell; all from £70/2.5L, Little Greene



1 Barton Croft mug in Dijon, £28, Heal's 2 Washed linen napkin in Red Clay, £12.50, Toast 3 Louise jug, £105, Maison Flâneur 4 Chamois Cypress tablecloth, from £150, Abask 5 Nov wall light in Rust Red, £99, Plank Hardware

DECORATE

BUBBLEGUM + TOMATO RED

It's an unexpected colour pairing that works, thanks to the warm bases that both shades share. Using them side by side adds richness to the space while creating a joyful feel.

Walls in Rumesco dead flat; shelving and lower wall in Shallot dead flat; cupboard door (just seen) in Au Lait modern eggshell; all from £33/750ml, Farrow & Ball



PHOTOGRAPH: JAMES MERRELL



1 Burford footstool in V&A Threads of India Opulent Velvets Ikat Mirage, £1,522, Sofas & Stuff 2 Eleanor Bowmer Wavey Stripe rug, from £95, Next Home 3 Matthew Williamson Candy Stripe table lamp, £150, John Lewis & Partners 4 Striped vase, £12, George Home 5 You Make Loving Fun art print, £33 (unframed), Wolf & Badger

MUSTARD + ROYAL BLUE

Repetition is the key to making a colour scheme feel intentional and cohesive. Here, yellow is splashed across the walls and on decorative pottery, while the blue appears on the cabinet and lively chequerboard rug.

For a similar wall paint, try Yellow-Pink intelligent matt emulsion, £70/2.5L, Little Greene. The Collector display cabinet in Navy, £749, Mustard Made



1 Jaque outdoor rug, £299, Rugsable 2 Large stoneware vase, £34.99, H&M Home 3 Slipper accent chair, £199, M&S
4 Murphy lamp base, £130, 40cm straight empire gathered lampshade in Temple Blue block-printed cotton, £80, both Pooky
5 Jolly in Blue cushion cover, from £22.95, Desenio

DECORATE



OLIVE + OCHRE

Olive green and ochre are an unconventional combination, but as they both have roots in nature, the scheme in this modern kitchen feels harmonious rather than high contrast.

Monterey tiles in Mustard and Coconut, from £69/sq m; cupboards in Baby Olive matt emulsion, £54/2.5L; all Claybrook



1 The Must Have table lamp, £189, Birdie Fortescue 2 Arici side plate, £20, Nikku 3 Glazed jug, £30, Rockett St George
4 Harmony kitchen towel, £17.90, Maison Flâneur 5 Ochre Bobble bowl, £40, Next Home



CHOCOLATE + CREAM

This cocooning bathroom scheme is a softer sepia-toned take on classic monochrome, with creamy cabinetry and limewashed walls against the rich chocolate wall panelling.

Widcombe 800 freestanding vanity unit in Matt Parchment, £1,080, Roper Rhodes



1 Yard Hebden Stripe bath towel, £15, Habitat 2 Scallop bathmat, £15, M&S 3 Twined Shapes print, £18.95, Desenio
4 Mays pendant shade, £10, Dunelm 5 Elderton interior eggshell, £38/1L, Graham & Brown



DECORATE

SAGE + BLUSH

The painted arch effect in blush pink alludes to the room beyond and adds a subtly playful charm to a restful shade of green.

Bedroom woodwork and door in Dream Whip interior eggshell; bedroom walls in Whispering Woods interior matte; front room walls in Grenadier Pond interior matte; scallop detail in Dream Whip interior matte; all from £20.75/0.94L, Benjamin Moore



1 Primrose wall fitting in Turquoise, £58; 16cm empire gathered lampshade in Eau De Nil linen ikat, £40; both Pooky 2 Stella storage stool in Blush Pink, £70, Next Home 3 Wave throw in Pale Blush, £95, Cox & Cox 4 Bloma mirror, £90, La Redoute 5 Amalfi ottoman bed in Sage Green velvet, from £549, Danetti

GATHER ROUND

From a breakfast nook carved out of a busy kitchen to a designated area styled for a celebration, we've rounded up some beautiful spaces that will please a crowd and make every meal feel special

1 CAPTURE THE CAFÉ VIBE

Recreate the charm of your favourite coffee spot with a bistro-style table, statement pendant and art-filled walls. It works just as well for a morning brew as it does for a small dinner party.

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DECORATE



2 GO ECLECTIC

You can pack a lot of personality into a small space – a scheme full of patterns, colour and quirky accessories has a joyful feel. Keep to a complementary palette to stop it looking too chaotic.

4 MIX UP YOUR CHAIRS

Forget dining sets – combine styles and mix colours and materials for a relaxed, collected-over-time vibe that will help make visitors feel at home.

3 BRING BACK THE BIG LIGHT

A striking pendant or chandelier is a great mood-setter in a dining space; use a lightbulb with a 'cap' to prevent glare or set on a dimmer to create the perfect ambience.

5 ADOPT CLEVER SEATING

Benches offer a perfect way to squeeze in a plus one or two. Pull them out for a sociable supper and then tuck neatly away when the guests have gone.

PHOTOGRAPHY: A. TITANI, DESIGNER: JESSIE MARSHALL, AND HANDED BY FURNITURE RELEASE (ON DAY 1) LUTON, LAMPING IN POKY (2018) - LUTON DINING SET, HOUSE BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION

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- 6 TELL A STORY WITH COLOUR**
Use bold pattern and colour for the perfect conversation starter. Choose bright prints for curtains, wallpaper or even furniture. Unusual lighting will complete the look.
- 8 USE DIFFERENT TONES**
Layering subtle variations of the same colour creates depth and dimension but also a calm, cohesive backdrop that's perfect for sophisticated entertaining.



- 7 CHOOSE TEXTURE**
If your dining space feels a little sparse, add furniture and accessories in wood, rattan, linen and natural stone for a look that feels warm and lived in.
- 9 BUILD IT IN**
Banquettes make the most of tight spaces and give a cosy, nested-in charm – look for one with hidden storage underneath if space is at a premium.

WORKS MAKE: CLARE JORDAN PHOTOGRAPHY: © SPENCER BRIDGEMAN/CONUELM (7) JOHN LEWIS & PARTNERS
ART: FURNITURE POLICE IN NEPTUNE LTD BARNET AND STONEHOUSE



- 10 TRY EVERYDAY TABLESCAPING**
Why save your favourite dining decor for best? An always-dressed table – even if just a runner, candle or flowers – will elevate any meal (even your morning granola).



Easy room updates (that don't cost a fortune)

From stencilling a chest of drawers to refreshing a splashback, we've gathered some clever design and styling tricks to refresh every space in your home

1 OVERSIZED MIRROR TRICK

It's the principle designers swear by: reflective surfaces bounce light around, double your view and make even the most bijoux spaces feel bigger.

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WORDS: MARIE-CLAIRE DORNING; PHOTOGRAPHS: JEFFREY & TILLBROOK/IRENE STUDIO; (2) SAMUEL & SONS; (3) ROCKETT ST GEORGE; (4) V33; (5) MARLBOROUGH TILES



2 HOME GALLERY

Create a bespoke piece of artwork with some beautiful fabric. Attach it to the wall with a wooden dowel or curtain pole for a work of art that's less expensive than traditional framed prints.

4 THE SPLASHBACK GLOW-UP

Refresh tired tiles or stained splashbacks with a one-coat paint for a simple, affordable decorating win – choose a light, reflective shade to brighten or an earthy tone to warm up the space.

3 LIGHTING – WITH A SIDE OF DRAMA

Swap bedside lamps for an oversized hanging pendant for an instant sense of grandeur (and more space on your nightstand).

5 DISPLAY WITH A STORY

Curate all your treasures on a single shelf unit, console or mantelpiece to give them a gallery-like presence and tell your home's story.

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- 6 STROKE OF GENIUS**
Rescue a tired piece of furniture with a hand-painted decoration, such as an all-over pattern on a chest of drawers – it's a chic update that you can tailor to the colour scheme of the room.
- 8 HEADBOARD UPGRADE**
Re-cover an existing upholstered headboard in an abstract, floral or animal print, or craft your own with a sheet of plywood, glued-on foam and statement fabric.

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- 7 PAINTED PICTURE RAIL**
Painting or stencilling a border around the edges of the room is a genius way to reference traditional architectural details such as picture rails – and to inject character into the space.
- 9 SIMPLE DIY SHELVES**
Repurpose decorative trays as mini wall shelves, mounting them with hidden brackets to create charming display ledges for favourite trinkets.

PHOTOGRAPHS (6) ANNE SLOAN; (7) EARTHBOUNCE; (8) ABIGAIL BORG; (9) PUCKETT ST GEORGE; (10) SORBET DREAMS; (11) INTERIOR TALES



10 WALLPAPER MOMENT

Using a single roll of wallpaper to line the back of a bookshelf, alcove or hallway niche is a bite-sized way to introduce depth and colour.

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