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# HOMES & GARDENS AUGUST

## HOMES

- 46** **RELAXED APPROACH**  
Classic design brings a cool and welcoming feel to the Sobens' holiday home on the Cap d'Antibes.
- 57** **ENGLISH TRANSLATION**  
Country-house style in the heart of Gascony.
- 64** **CONFIDENCE TRICKS**  
Striking paint colours and decorative details are key to Marie Christine Nourry's chic riad in Marrakesh.
- 70** **KEYNOTES: SOPHISTICATED HARDWARE**  
Finishing touches like those used by Marie Christine Nourry.
- 72** **ECHOES OF THE PAST**  
How a new Languedoc villa embraces its historic heritage.
- 78** **KEYNOTES: CREATING SHADE**  
Stylish ways to shelter from the sun in your garden.

## GARDENS

- 132** **OPEN-AIR THEATRE**  
The dramatic gardens of Château La Ballue in Brittany offer enchanting views and intimate spaces at every turn.
- 137** **KEYNOTES: ALLÉES AND VISTAS**  
The best plants for creating sculptural paths, walkways and framed vistas like those in the gardens of La Ballue.
- 138** **DESIGNER SECRETS**  
Tim Rees's deceptively simple Provençal garden.
- 141** **FOUNTAINS AND WATER FEATURES**  
Traditional and contemporary focal points that add interest and soothe the senses.
- 146** **ONIONS, GARLIC AND SHALLOTS**  
How to grow these aromatic and nutritious bulbs which are a staple of vegetable gardens and kitchens alike. ►

# 91



# 24

### COVER STORIES

- Homes with effortless chic **46, 57, 64, 72**
  - Ideas for summer entertaining **91**
    - Clever water features **141**
    - Gardens with panache **132, 138**
    - Floor tiles **37**
  - Beautiful beds **105**
    - French flair by post **100**
    - Insider's Guide to France **38**
- PHOTOGRAPH**  
POLLY WREFORD



# 100

## SHOPPING

- 35 DOTS AND SPOTS**  
1950s-inspired fabrics for a whimsical look.
- 37 FLOOR TILES**  
Geometric and Moroccan styles are a great investment.
- 105 FRENCH-STYLE BEDS**  
Our choice adds unmistakable elegance to your room.

## DESIGN IDEAS

- 80 DESIGNER SECRETS**  
A beautiful château-style room with a view.
- 82 TRUE COLOURS**  
Red, white and blue epitomise the spirit of French design in six striking and contemporary schemes.
- 91 THREE LOOKS FOR SUMMER ENTERTAINING**  
We present set pieces that will create a sense of occasion, whether you are dining in or alfresco.
- 100 FRENCH FLAIR BY POST**  
Discover our favourite Gallic-inspired furnishings and accessories, all available online or by mail order.
- 109 DECORATING WITH CHANDELIERS**  
Bright ideas for using these sparkling light fittings throughout the house.
- 120 WALL TO WALL**  
Pictorial and colourful tiles add verve and focus in these unusual bathroom schemes.
- 124 BATHROOM NEWS**  
The latest fittings and accessories to update your space.
- 126 DREAM KITCHEN**  
Classic cabinetry and subtle character feature in Rob Morrison's Plain English design.

## REGULARS

- 19 AUGUST NEWS**  
Fun French style and smart zinc pieces; plus decorating, design, food, gardening, events and web news.
- 38 CRÈME DE LA CRÈME**  
Interior design aficionados reveal the places they love most in France and why.
- 42 HOUSE CLINIC**  
Your decorating queries answered by Celia Rufey.
- 115 ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO BLINDS AND SHUTTERS**  
Everything you need to know about choosing these neat and versatile window treatments.
- 151 SHORT AND SWEET**  
Clare Ferguson's delectable pastry offerings are enhanced with fruit and spices for a true French flavour.
- 159 WHERE TO BUY**  
Contact details for stockists in this issue.
- 178 WE LOVE**  
Château Dumas, a delightful retreat in southwest France.

## SPECIAL OFFERS

- 32 INTERIOR DESIGN COURSE**  
With KLC School of Design and *Homes & Gardens*.
- 99 H&G SPECIAL OFFERS**  
A beautiful mirror, £590; and console table, from £255.
- 128 HOW TO SUBSCRIBE**  
Our latest subscription offer for *Homes & Gardens*.



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# Welcome



Having spent many lovely holidays in France over the years, I often feel nostalgic whenever I see anything that recalls those happy times. Even a colour can evoke this; the sight of pale grey with a hint of lavender always reminds me of French doors and shutters. Throughout this issue we bring you features celebrating the many colours of France. We particularly love the Provençal home that epitomises the Gallic country look (page 46) as well as the more striking contemporary style of a house in the Languedoc (page 72). In contrast, a French woman, who now lives in Marrakech, shows us her confident approach to decoration with her bold use of colour (page 64). Alongside these houses, we reveal the best sources for finding those quintessentially French finishing touches (page 100), plus how to decorate with blue, white and red (page 82), colours that encapsulate the spirit of the Tricolore. We also bring you a dramatic château garden filled with painterly shades of green, including a beautiful topiary display set among frothing lime-green *Alchemilla mollis* (page 132).

Eating alfresco beneath a deep-blue sky is another lasting holiday memory. Again, the decorating team has been busy creating some delightful summer dining schemes (page 91), from a relaxed family lunch on the terrace to a more glamorous event beneath an Indian-style tent. They even show you how to capture the feeling of being outdoors when dining inside.

Let's hope that we have a glorious summer and can enjoy every minute of it.

Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR

**PS** So many of you called to ask about the Golfar & Hughes Lozenge mirror that was in our October 2009 issue that we have teamed up with the company to bring you the same mirror as a special reader offer. For details, please turn to page 99.

## HOMES & GARDENS ONLINE

**SUBSCRIBE** Turn to page 128 for our special offer and have all our inspirational ideas for your home and garden delivered direct to your door every month.

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## Don't miss...



**PAGE 72**  
Echoes of an historic past meet the present in a visionary Languedoc home.



**PAGE 100**  
The best sources for accessories full of Gallic charm – and all available by post.



**PAGE 82**  
Bold shades of blue, white and red evoke the spirit of contemporary French interiors.

A black and white photograph of a woman with her hair pulled back, wearing a light-colored V-neck sweater over a white collared shirt. She is looking down at a colander filled with dark vegetables, possibly mushrooms, on a kitchen counter. In the foreground, there are several small tomatoes and a white bowl. The background is a blurred kitchen setting with a window.

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# H&G AUGUST

SHOPPING **NEWS** DESIGN **FOOD**  
GARDEN **EVENTS** WEB

Decorative beads in a playful  
combination of red, white and blue  
evoke an exuberant French mood

**Beaded linen ruche**, 6.5cm wide, £45m, Jessica Light, 020 7256 1157,  
jessicalight.co.uk. **Background fabric**, Iridium in Sky 4244, polyester/viscose  
mix, 137cm wide, £23m, Harlequin, 0845 123 6815, harlequin.uk.com. ►

2nd floor - Sieger Design



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Well-loved urban design makes a colourful statement

**Louisiane bench** in Red, H80xW150xD72cm, £450, The Conran Shop, 020 7589 7401, conranshop.co.uk.

Freshwater pearls and black droplets add a theatrical twist  
**Four-arm vintage brass chandelier**, H62xW56cm, £850, Vintage Wonderland Chandeliers, 07775 520382, vintage.wonderlandchandeliers.com.



Traditional style with undeniable charm  
**Wide console** TD004, H80.5xW164xD46.5cm, £2,170, Grange, 0870 755 6486, grange.fr.



# Ooh la la!

French-style accessories with a sense of fun

FEATURE MARISA DALY  
PHOTOGRAPH (NAPKINS) MASTERPIECE



Tour de force for the dining table  
**Francophile dinner plate** with Eiffel Tower, 25cm, £24, Anthropologie, 020 3119 2907, anthropologie.eu.

Perfect for giving summer entertaining a light-hearted feel  
**Placement Spot napkins**, 41cm sq, £15 set of four different colours, Cath Kidston, 08450 262 440, cathkidston.co.uk.



Vibrant retro scene with distinctive flair  
**Paris cushion**, 46cm sq, £50, Michelle Mason, michellemason.co.uk.

Double corseting and slim glossy legs suggest bouboir chic  
**Can-Can chair**, H98xW47xD47cm, £825 plus 2.5m of fabric, Aiveen Daly, 020 8962 0044, aiveendaly.com.



Hand-painted with a vintage feel  
**Red ceramic three-tier cake stand**, H32xdiam28cm, £26, Laura Ashley, 0870 562 2116, lauraashley.com. ▶



The flavour of France comes to the table  
**French cuisine rectangular baking dish** in Cherry, L33xW22cm, £25, Heal's, 08700 240780, heals.co.uk.

# H&G AUGUST SHOPPING

**Vintage look with a contemporary edge**  
**French-style two-door shelf** in softwood and zinc, H28xW48xD16cm, £39.99, The Contemporary Home, 0845 130 8229, tch.net.



**A chic sheen adds glamour**  
**Rise and fall light** in zinc, diam40cm, £332, The French House, 0870 901 4547, thefrenchhouse.net.



**A simple shape suits any scheme**  
**Lucarne mirror**, zinc-tinted metal, H107xW87xD11cm, around £110, Maisons du Monde, 0033 2 51 71 17 73, maisonsdumonde.com.



**Matt patina for a smart look**  
**Luxembourg bow-fronted wall lantern**, zinc, H36xW24xD13cm, £402.15, Hector Finch Lighting, 020 7731 8886, hectorfinch.com.



## Metal works

Our pick of the most stylish zinc and zinc-effect pieces

**Rustic dining table with a practical surface**  
**Fermier zinc-topped table**, H78xW140xD90cm, £725, Lavender & Sage, 0845 601 0522, lavenderandsage.co.uk.



**Decorative detailing for an elegant place setting**  
**Heart lattice charger**, zinc, diam29cm, £8.95, dotcomgiftshop, 020 8746 2473, dotcomgiftshop.com.



**A sophisticated addition to any garden scheme**  
**Duck-egg blue bird table** with zinc roof, H193cm, £125, Cox & Cox, 0870 442 4787, coxandcox.co.uk. ▶



**A contemporary mix of materials**  
**Cast outdoor side table**, recycled solid aluminium plated in zinc, H55xdiam50cm, £395, John Reeves at Heal's, 020 7636 1666, heals.co.uk.



**Traditional style with a modern twist**  
**Lully chair** in Chapka, solid beech with black patina, H88xW60xD66cm, from £1,880, Les Provinciales collection, Roche Bobois, 020 8874 9818, roche-bobois.com.



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# On the edge

Content by Conran has introduced a new contrast piping option on upholstery designs from its 59th Street, Berkshire and Ellipse ranges. There are 32 contrasting colour combinations (see selection left), hand-picked by Sir Terence himself. The company's entire upholstery collection is now made in the UK using British workmanship and the decision to move back here was motivated by a desire for better quality, quicker delivery times and a wider choice of fabric. The 59th Street armchair in blue piping (left) costs £1,095. Contact 020 8963 0520, [contentbyconran.com](http://contentbyconran.com).



## STARTING BLOCKS

Les Indiennes produces hand-blocked textiles using natural dyes. The range includes quilts, £385; cushions, £95 each; and pillow cases, £40 pair. Now at Ben Pentreath, 020 7430 2526, [benpentreath.com](http://benpentreath.com).



Detailed, slimline and lightweight, these Luxe City Guides are full of useful information and are updated twice a year. A bespoke boxed set in a range of four new colours, including any five guides from a selection of 31, costs £35. Contact [luxecityguides.com](http://luxecityguides.com).



“French furniture has been given a twist this summer with warm woods highlighted with metallic finishes for a glamorous yet relaxed feel.”

**HOLLY JOHNSON,**  
MARKETING MANAGER,  
GRANGE, [GRANGE.FR](http://GRANGE.FR)



## ONE TO WATCH

Interior designer and stylist Katherine North has expanded her range of soft furnishings with a collection of furniture and lighting beautifully crafted from oak. Suitable for classic and contemporary schemes, the pieces are individually hand-turned from carefully selected reclaimed fine French oak. Table lamp bases start at £165. Contact 01892 784847, [katherinenorthdesign.co.uk](http://katherinenorthdesign.co.uk).



## IN THE PICTURE

Toile de Jouy fabrics have been given a makeover by the Manuel Canovas designers at Colefax and Fowler. We love Bellegarde in Rouge 04705/03 (above left) and Tortuga in Celadon 04707/02 (above right); both cotton, from £59m. Contact 020 8877 6400, [manuelcanovas.com](http://manuelcanovas.com).



## HANDLE WITH CARE

The simple shape of this elegant earthenware jug by Fliff, H11cm, £52, is accentuated with a gold glazed handle. Available exclusively at Roost Living, 020 7485 3455, [roostliving.com](http://roostliving.com).

## THREE OF THE BEST

*Lettering on cushions*



Pair of vintage postcard cushions, 36cm sq and 38x24cm, £37.50, Really Linda Barker, 0844 387 7272, [reallylindabarker.co.uk](http://reallylindabarker.co.uk).



French Sac cushion in Red, calico, 40cm sq, £30, Random Retail, 01983 568175, [randomretail.co.uk](http://randomretail.co.uk).



Concourse cushion, 65x37cm, cotton mix, £49, Andrew Martin at John Lewis, 0845 604 9049, [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com).





SEE THE LIGHT

Add a classic French element with the new nickel-finish Eze lantern (above), H60xW40xD40cm, £359. The French House, 0870 901 4547, [thefrenchhouse.net](http://thefrenchhouse.net).



HOME MADE

Renowned textile designer Lisa Stickley's new book, *Made at Home* (Quadrille, £16.99), is full of ideas to inspire you. With tips on simple sewing as well as hints of old-fashioned charm, it also explains how to reinvent items around the home with a twist. *Homes & Gardens* readers can buy the book for the special price of £12.99, including free p&p. Call 01256 302699, quoting 4BM.



PRIVATE VIEW

The new range of decorative film by Emma Jeffs will introduce style and privacy to any window. The Pearl design (shown) is a white printed pattern on frosted etched vinyl, £49 for a 100x120cm roll. Contact 020 8671 3383, [emmajeffs.co.uk](http://emmajeffs.co.uk).



BORDER LINE

Give a smart finishing touch to upholstery with Linen binding tape T19, £14m, in ten colours. Tissus d'Hélène, 020 7352 9977, [tissusdhelene.co.uk](http://tissusdhelene.co.uk).



Statement piece

The Barking Mad rug (above) is part of the new F.A.C.E. Collection by Loophouse. Designed by Lorraine Statham, the pattern takes its inspiration from bark and uses alternating cut and looped pile, with an elevated flash of colour. From £395sq m. Contact 020 7207 7619, [loophouse.com](http://loophouse.com).



"This summer flowers are all about elegance. Look for punchy, blowzy peonies grouped with zingy *Alchemilla mollis* and softened by pastel hydrangeas."

PAUL HAWKINS, PAUL HAWKINS FLOWERS, [PAULHAWKINSFLOWERS.CO.UK](http://PAULHAWKINSFLOWERS.CO.UK)

SHOP AT *New Paris showrooms*

These stylish brands have expanded and added the city to their portfolio



Ralph Lauren, 173 Boulevard St Germain, 75006 Paris, 0033 1 44 77 77 00.



Osborne & Little, 7 Rue de Furstemberg, 75006 Paris, 0033 1 56 81 02 66.



B&B Italia, 35 Rue du Bac, 75007 Paris, 0033 1 55 35 14 35. ▶

# John Lewis

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Barbara Chandler is H&G's design correspondent. She has 35 years' experience as a design writer and chairs the *Homes & Gardens Classic Design Awards* judging panel.

# Inga Sempé

This talented Parisian designer reveals the influences behind her work for Ligne Roset, now celebrating 150 years



## WHAT WERE YOUR EARLY INFLUENCES?

I grew up in

Paris surrounded by buildings, buses, stairs, doors, shops and street furniture – things built by humans. My parents are both artists and are sensitive to their environment, so I guess I am the same. As a teenager, I would go to flea markets every week, just looking at all the different objects and absorbing them without knowing where they were made or by whom. That has been a big influence on me.

## WHAT DOES DESIGN MEAN TO YOU?

It is a complex mix of function, looks, the market, materials, drawing, engineering, technology, ergonomics, and production. Every one of these is important and helps to explain why beautiful long-lasting

products made in Europe can often be costly for consumers.

## TELL US ABOUT LIGNE ROSET

I have been working with the company for four years and now have five ranges in production. I adore its attitude; director Michel Roset shares my ideas and my culture. The company's prototype workshop is very advanced. My first sofa, Moël, was in solid foam, so I wanted my latest design, Ruché (below), to be full of air with high legs – a kind of light chesterfield.

## HOW IMPORTANT IS SEWING TO YOU?

My mother hated it so I learnt on my own as a teenager. For the Ruché sofa, I did about 50 experiments on a machine I have owned since I was 14. We then had to transfer the idea to an industrial sewing

machine – a huge computer-driven frame, four metres square.

## ARE YOUR DESIGNS FEMININE?

That is a cliché that makes me mad. Who talks about male design? Men quilt, pleat and sew – do origami – and no one says that is feminine. I studied industrial design, which included metal work, and some of my "pleated" pieces are die-cast. I would love to design a hammer, but will anyone ask me?

## WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ON?

A group of five small lamps in a tough pleated paper-like plastic called Tyvek, for Moustache, (moustache.fr). I also designed an electric clock for them with a quirky pendulum.

Contact Inga Sempé at [ingasempé.fr](http://ingasempé.fr).



## PIPE DREAMS

London designer Nick Fraser works with copper piping, brass elbow joints and large gate wheel valves, but he won't be fixing your taps or heating. He first fashioned chunky hardware into a towel rail and now creates coat racks and umbrella stands.

"I like how an industrial look becomes almost light-hearted with a change of use," he says. Prices from £35 for a candelabra (above); contact 07737 367419, [nickfraser.co.uk](http://nickfraser.co.uk).



## ADDED DIMENSION

A new range of wallpapers from Osborne & Little, 020 7352 1456, [osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com), will bring an edgy glamour to your home. The Teatro collection utilises holographic printing processes more often associated with packaging to give each design, such as Ponti (shown), an ultra-shiny 3D effect. Other finishes include subtle dustings of glitter on colourful backgrounds. New company Beware the Moon has also developed holographic wallcoverings. The designs feature ostriches, skulls and the female form, representing denial, death and desire respectively. Contact 07590 849320, [beware-the-moon.com](http://beware-the-moon.com). ▶



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If you are searching for something stylishly different, take a look at the stunning Black Collection. It gives you appliances with all the energy efficiency, build quality and reliability you demand from a leading brand - like washing machines that can wash a full 9kg load in just 39 minutes. Features that are made to let you get on with your life and give you genuine added value. When you want to make a statement, make it Beko.



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[www.beko.co.uk](http://www.beko.co.uk)

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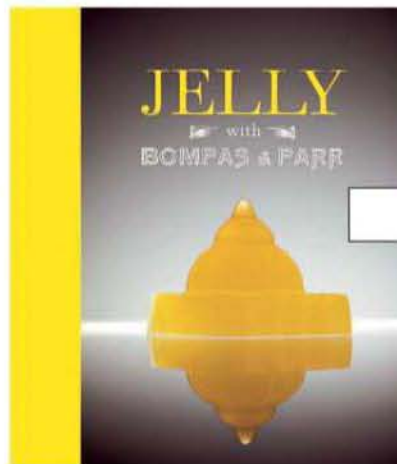


## KEEP COOL

Rehydrate in style this summer with Bodum's new Cool water jug, £60, and Canteen double-wall glass, from £15 for two. Contact Bodum, bodum.com.

# Bags of flavour

With a PhD in watercress, Steve Rothwell has used his extensive knowledge to create Steve's Leaves. Perkier than regular salad bags, his tasty medleys are bursting with goodness and flavour. For stockists, call 01264 732067 or visit stevesleaves.co.uk.



## WIBBLE WOBBLE

Jellymongers Sam Bompas and Harry Parr have turned this treat into an art form. Join in the fun with recipes from their new book, *Jelly* (Pavilion, £14.99). Buy it for just £12, including free UK postage and packing, by calling 0870 787 1724 and quoting reference CH1350.

Forget cupcakes, this year it's all about the éclair. The pastry chefs at Harrods whip up a fresh batch every day then add dreamy fillings, such as praline crème. £3.50 each; 020 7730 1234, harrods.com.



## THE PERFECT BARBECUE

Outdoor summer entertaining has never been so tasty



**Sausages.** £3.32 for 454g. The Traditional Welsh Sausage Company, 01492 576800, welshsausages.co.uk.

**Portable Marco-Grill.** Marco Pierre White for Heaven Chef, from £134.99, 0800 313 4720, heavenchef.co.uk.

**Tomato Chilli jam.** £4.95 for 340g. The Tomato Chilli Jam Company, 01284 735266, tomatochillijam.com.



## COOKING CLASS

With courses from vegetable growing to entertaining, the Thyme food school celebrates a love of the land. From £65 for a half-day class. Contact 01367 850174, thymeatsouthrop.co.uk.

## LIKE MAMAN USED TO MAKE

Raymond Blanc's tarte tatin recipe is legendary and now the chef has designed a specialist pan for Emile Henry's Flame range. Suitable for all heat sources, including induction (with a convertor plate), this heavy-duty glazed ceramic dish can be used from oven to table, and it is freezer and dishwasher safe, too. In two sizes and three colours, from £38 for 30cm. Contact 0845 680 0258, salamandercookshop.co.uk. ▶



# Sculpted glory

Discover the work of three contemporary artists whose sculptures have been selected for a selling exhibition at London's Flow Gallery, [flowgallery.co.uk](http://flowgallery.co.uk). On show until 4 September are Alison Crowther's textured furniture (right), Sue Halls's oversized terracotta rabbits and Gary Breeze's lettering intricately carved in wood and stone. All are magnificent but which takes your fancy?



**“Growing food should be accessible to everyone... I want land to be made available to growers, near where they live.”**

**HUGH FEARNLEY-WHITTINGSTALL ON HIS SECOND LANDSHARE CAMPAIGN, LANDSHARE.NET**



## BIJOU IDEA

Hartley Botanic has launched the smart new Patio Glasshouse which, despite its small size, H138xW127xD73cm, contains more than 30 square feet of growing space – perfect for urban gardeners. It is made from aluminium and safety glass, comes in a choice of nine colours and costs £900. Call 0845 434 8882 or visit [hartley-botanic.co.uk](http://hartley-botanic.co.uk).



## PHOTO FINISH

Homes & Gardens contributors were among the winners of this year's International Garden Photographer of the Year competition. See the work of Marianne Majerus (above), Mark Bolton and Rachel Warne at [igpoty.com](http://igpoty.com). You can also admire their photographs and other entries at Kew Gardens until 26 September, [kew.org](http://kew.org), and in the companion book (David & Charles, £14.49).

**ALL ABOARD**

**Orient-Express has extended its day trips on the British Pullman (below) and Northern Belle trains. There are visits to Chartwell, the former Oxfordshire home of Winston Churchill; Exbury Gardens in Hampshire; and Hardwick Hall in Derbyshire. For details, call 0845 077 2222, [orient-express.com](http://orient-express.com).**



## ECO GARDEN WARRIOR

We love Husqvarna's award-winning Automower Solar Hybrid. Not only does it cut the lawn for you, working within an almost invisible perimeter wire, it also has a solar panel that partially powers the machine, meaning reduced energy consumption and a longer battery life. It is rather fun to watch, too. Prices start from £2,349.99. For details of your nearest stockist, visit [husqvarna.com/uk](http://husqvarna.com/uk).

## STYLE SOLUTION = *Slatted accessories*



**Wooden planter**, from £42, Henry Richardson, 07779 585324, [henryrichardson.co.uk](http://henryrichardson.co.uk).



**A2 armchair** in White Oak, £250, The Balcony Gardener, 020 7431 5553, [thebalconygardener.com](http://thebalconygardener.com).



**Strip lantern** in Pink, from £15, Edge Company, 01273 491391, [edgecompany.co.uk](http://edgecompany.co.uk). ▶

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EVENTS

READER OFFER

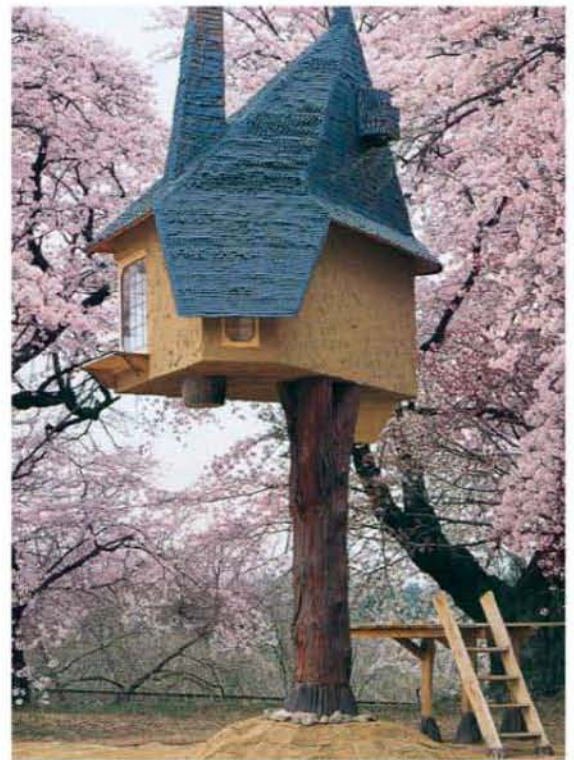
Learn how to be your own interior designer with the Design Your Own Home course from KLC School of Design and Homes & Gardens. The open-learning course usually costs £395 (with materials and project work), but is offered at the special price of £295 to H&G readers who enrol before 31 July 2010. Call KLC School of Design on 020 7376 3377, quoting HG0810, email [info@klc.co.uk](mailto:info@klc.co.uk) or visit [klc.co.uk](http://klc.co.uk).



In small measures

If you are a fan of architecture, take a trip to the V&A's new exhibition 1:1 Architects Build Small Spaces. Seven leading international architects have built a variety of compact structures under the theme of "the retreat", each representing an escape from the chaos of urban life. Look out for Terunobu Fujimori's wooden design (similar to the one shown, right) that visitors can reach by a ladder. Another highlight is Rintala Eggertsson's reading tower, which has shelves filled with more than 6,000 books that you can browse before retreating to cocoon-like booths to read them.

**WHEN** 15 June to 30 August. **WHERE** Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 2RL. **HOW MUCH** Free. **CONTACT** 020 7942 2000, [vam.ac.uk](http://vam.ac.uk).



The Cornish Design Fair is returning to Trereife House this month. You'll find a huge diversity of modern design, including this aluminium cuff (left) by Carole Allen Jewellery.

**WHEN** 21-22 August. **WHERE** Trereife House, Newlyn, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8TJ. **HOW MUCH** Adults, £5; children under 16, free. **CONTACT** 020 7729 3800, [hiddenartlondon.co.uk/cornwalldesignfair](http://hiddenartlondon.co.uk/cornwalldesignfair).

BOWLED OVER

The Art in Clay exhibition features the work of more than 170 of the best ceramicists in Europe. It includes talks, demonstrations and firings in an outdoor arena, as well as a variety of pieces on show. Large sculptural works are displayed alongside delicate porcelain items, such as this Pink Bowl (below) by Susan Nemeth. Check online before you go as each day is different.

**WHEN** 6-8 August. **WHERE** Hatfield House, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL9 5NQ. **HOW MUCH** Adults, £8; concessions, £7.50; children under 15, free. **CONTACT** 0115 987 3966, [artinclay.co.uk](http://artinclay.co.uk).



**Pure glass**

Stourbridge's historic Glass Quarter is hosting the fourth International Festival of Glass. Expect plenty to do, including masterclasses, bead making and glass-blowing, a fun auction and the prestigious British Glass Biennale, a major selling exhibition.

**WHEN** 23 August to 11 September. **WHERE** Various venues throughout Stourbridge's Glass Quarter, Worcestershire. **HOW MUCH** Most exhibitions are free; see website for more details and masterclass prices. **CONTACT** 01384 399410, [ifg.org.uk](http://ifg.org.uk).

Physalia chandelier by James Lethbridge.




SPOT ON

Emma Bridgewater Pottery is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a retrospective exhibition, showcasing the company's unique designs, such as the Polka Dot teapot (above). Why not combine the trip with a visit to the nearby factory where traditional pottery methods are still used and create your own masterpiece in the decorating studio.

**WHEN** 29 May to 26 September. **WHERE** The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3DW. **HOW MUCH** Free. **CONTACT** 01782 232323, [stokemuseums.org.uk](http://stokemuseums.org.uk).

FEATURE JANE AKERS





# hollyshouses.co.uk

Holly-Anne Rolfe's bespoke stamps offer a beautiful and unique way to personalise your stationery



## WHAT INSPIRED HOLLY'S HOUSES?

I've been fascinated by different styles of houses and buildings ever since I was a child. I'm a big heritage lover and was lucky enough to grow up in a beautiful Victorian house, which has been a constant source of inspiration for me. It was the subject of my first stamp. Suddenly a light went on; I knew I'd hit on a good idea and things went from there.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

It's really simple. All I need is a photograph of a house or building – the larger the better, so I can see all the details. Customers can send me their photos in the post or by email to [holly@hollyshouses.co.uk](mailto:holly@hollyshouses.co.uk). I'll do a black and white drawing and send this illustration to a manufacturer who makes the stamps. There is also the option to add an address or

date under the illustration at no additional cost.

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE?

Once I receive the photo and payment (from £69 for the stamp and ink pad), I can usually have the stamp finished and sent out to customers in around ten days. However, I can prioritise work if it's for a special occasion. I have done quick jobs for birthdays, Mother's Day and anniversaries before.

## CAN YOU ILLUSTRATE ANY KIND OF PROPERTY?

One of the things I love most about my job is the sheer variety of buildings I get to see and illustrate. They range from farmhouses and quaint English country pubs to cutting-edge architecture in stunning coastal locations. I also create stamps for weddings that include an illustration of the church, the names of the bride and groom, date and venue. My stamps can

personalise anything from letters and invitations to menus.

## ANY UNUSUAL REQUESTS?

People have asked me to create pictures of their dream home from a mix of properties they love. They're essentially asking for a fictional hybrid house. I've also added extensions on to illustrations that people haven't got round to building yet. It's great because it means I'm catering for people's dreams as well as their realities.

## WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PROJECTS?

I made a stamp for a well-known magazine editor and it was very interesting to see where she lived. I'm quite nosy, so I enjoy that part. I also made a stamp for a lovely couple in New York who were getting married in an amazing old Dutch barn. It made a fantastic stamp and they were really pleased with it. It's great to get feedback.

For treasures from more than 100 specialist retailers, such as The Kikapu Co (baskets, below), visit [thetravelling-souk.com](http://thetravelling-souk.com)'s newly improved website. It now features a useful account facility, gift certificates and a wish list, and continues to give 2.6 per cent of every purchase to charity.



## JOJOGLOSSDESIGN.CO.UK



Leading glass engraver Jojo Whittaker's uniquely stylish designs are now available to buy online. Inspired by her love of the English countryside, as well as her extensive travels in Kenya, her

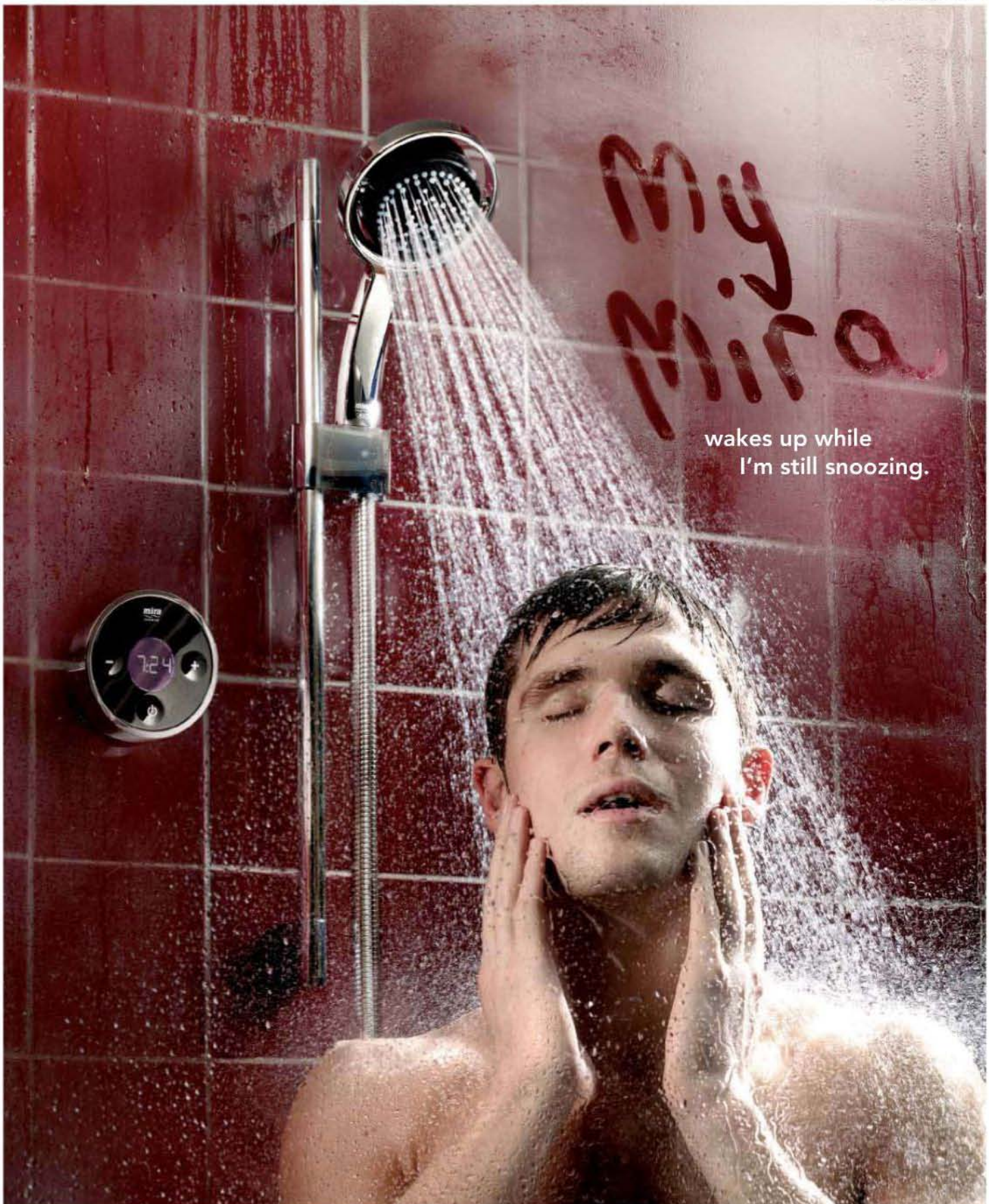
hand-blown and individually engraved pieces include the Woodland Heart Skye tumblers (above), as well as her popular African Animals goblets and storm lanterns. You will also find striking black glass bowls and centrepiece cakestands.

FEATURE JANE AKERS

## homesandgardens.com



If you are planning to decorate over the bank holiday but need some inspiration, take a look at our photo gallery of beautiful rooms. And if you want to discover how to use antique tiles or to see this season's paint shades, visit [homesandgardens.com/walls](http://homesandgardens.com/walls) to get started. ■



wakes up while  
I'm still snoozing.

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# Swatch DOTS & SPOTS

From uniform polka dots to bold spots, these fabrics have a charming 1950s feel

- 1. Relativity** in Cool Blues RLT3, cotton/linen mix, 132cm wide, £152m, Peter Fasano at Tissus d'Hélène.
- 2. Sapporo** in Turquoise NF44/T, linen, 124cm wide, £122m, Vaughan. **Trimmed in** Romney in Wedgwood TQ011/05, £66m, Designers Guild.
- 3. Confettis** 19316/675, linen, 150cm wide, £83m, Etamine at Zimmer & Rohde.
- 4. Ikat Geo** in Indigo, cotton, 140cm wide, £13.90m, Robert Allen Home. **Piped in** Pink spotted piping, £156m, V V Rouleaux.
- 5. Cloverly** in J577F/06, linen, 130cm wide, £55m, Jane Churchill
- at Colefax and Fowler.
- 6. Ocean** 21055/654, linen, 140cm wide, £89m, Hodsoll McKenzie at Zimmer & Rohde.
- 7. Polka Dot** in Lavender, linen, 138cm wide, £40m, Sarah Hardaker at From Britain with Love.
- 8. Seatown Small** G073, linen, 138cm wide, £35m, Elanbach.
- 9. Mirage** in Indigo, linen, 136cm wide, £60m, Threads at GP&J Baker.
- Wallpaper** Polka Dot in Green/White SPW/W1008/16, 68.5cm wide, £100 for 4.5m roll, Studio Print Works at Bruntschwig & Fils. ■

STYLING RACHEL CHRISTENSEN | PHOTOGRAPH SIMON BEVAN

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\*Minimum order values apply. Offers valid on all orders placed from 14th April 2010 for a limited period only. No other offers apply. \*\*Only available at point of purchase of Anglian Garden Room or Regency Conservatory.

Shortlist

FLOOR TILES

Moroccan-style and geometric designs are an inspired investment



1



2



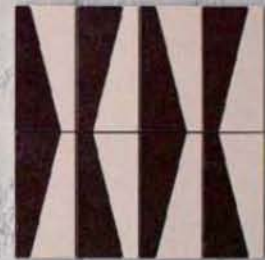
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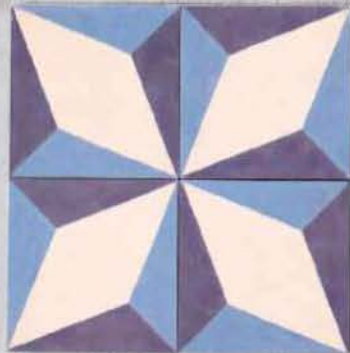
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9

STYLING RACHEL CHRISTENSEN | PHOTOGRAPH SIMON BEVAN  
Background paint: Light Blue; Exterior Masonry, £44.50 for 5 litres, Farrow & Ball.

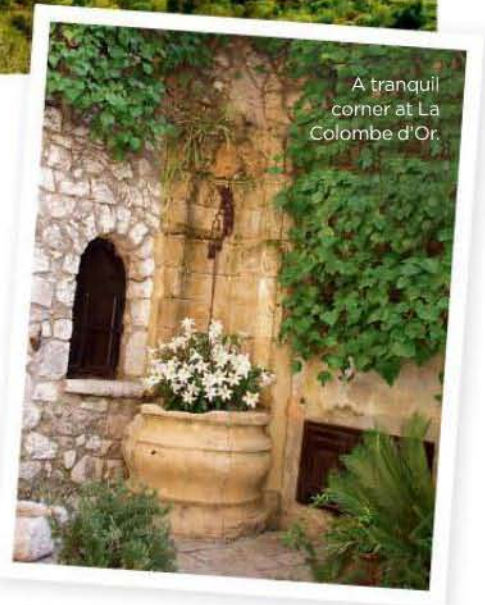
**1.** Corner tile 9019 BL/WI; border tile 9018BL/WI; centre tile 9012BL/WI; all encaustic, 20cm sq, £52.64 box of ten, Terra Firma Tiles.  
**2.** Grafham Design in colour D, square tile, 7cm sq; triangular tiles, 5x5x7cm; all clay, £298.45sq m, Olde English Tiles.  
**3.** Moroccan YEDM8 customised panel, enamelled chips set into plaster, £472.35sq m, Habibi Interiors.

**4.** Ottoman, limestone, 46x54cm, £500sq m, Steve Charles.  
**5.** Boomerang (top) in Cream/Black; Lattice Dot (centre) in Indigo/Cream and Wax/Cream; Thunder in Cream/Black; all distressed matt glaze terracotta, 20cm sq, £450sq m, Neisha Crosland for De Ferranti.  
**6.** Iridio Negra, porcelain, 30cm sq, £52.08 tile, Grespania, Tile of Spain.

**7.** Evora, encaustic, 20cm sq, £5.99 each, Fired Earth.  
**8.** Paccha Rings in Yolk/Milk, encaustic, 20cm sq, from £162sq m, Ann Sacks at Baker London.  
**9.** ZC2010S4, encaustic, 10x20cm, £2 each, Dar Interiors. ■  
Can't find what you're looking for? Try searching for more retailers at [housetohome.co.uk/directory](http://housetohome.co.uk/directory).



Saint-Paul de Vence on the Côte d'Azure, home of hotel La Colombe d'Or.



A tranquil corner at La Colombe d'Or.

# Crème de la crème

France's towns, hotels, shops and restaurants are legendary. Our francophiles pick their favourites



**ROS WINDSOR'S FAVOURITE CHEESE SHOP**

**Androuët**, 134 Rue Mouffetard, 75005 Paris, 0033 1 45 87 85 05, androuet.com.

"There are lots of wonderful cheese shops in France, which have been a real inspiration for me here at Paxton & Whitfield, but my favourite is Androuët, both for the breadth of its range and also for its spirit of openness, which makes shopping there such a joy. The staff are very happy to talk you through what is on offer and let you taste the cheese. I love their approach so much that Paxton & Whitfield collaborates with them and some of their range is available through our stores. The business was established in 1909 by Henri Androuët whose aim was to offer Parisians cheeses from all over France. The company has half a dozen branches in Paris, but my favourite is on Rue Mouffetard. With its rich and varied choice of food shops, restaurants and regular open-air markets, this street is an essential destination for anyone interested in French cuisine. British visitors, however, should remember that, like many food shops in France, Androuët is closed for much of the afternoon, but opens later into the evening."

*"The fairs in L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue in Provence – at Easter and in August – are great sources of antiques. Fascinating at any time, the town is not just about antiques; there are all sorts of other interests, too."*



**APPLEY HOARE'S FAVOURITE ANTIQUES MARKET**

**L'Isle-sur-la-Sorgue**, oti-delasorgue.fr.



**TRICIA GUILD'S FAVOURITE HOTEL**

**La Colombe d'Or**, Saint-Paul de Vence, 06570, 0033 4 93 32 80 02, la-colombe-dor.com.

"La Colombe d'Or is quite simply my all-time favourite hotel in France. Nestled in the hillside of Saint-Paul de Vence in Provence, it is a haven of tranquillity and style. Filled with works of art by Picasso, Matisse and Chagall – all of whom exchanged their work for board and lodgings when they were struggling artists – the hotel shares these treasures with its guests in a way that no gallery ever can: with a generosity of spirit and a good measure of Gallic élan. I particularly love the fact that the hotel is so different in summer and winter; summer sees the courtyard come alive with guests and diners. Beautiful tables are laid with polished cutlery and flickering candles; smart waiters effortlessly balance trays of the freshest salads and delicious goat's cheeses or piles of wild strawberries and melon. Relaxing by the fabulous swimming pool with its stunning Alexander Calder mobile or enjoying an aperitif on the balcony is a treasured summer treat for me and my family. In winter, with log fires lit, the atmosphere at La Colombe is entirely different – indulgent and cosy. The art on the dining room walls is the most magnificent accompaniment to any meal and the wonderfully evocative bar is the perfect spot for a digestif after dinner."

“Beaulieu-sur-Mer on the Cote d’Azur offers people-watching opportunities combined with typical Mediterranean charm. The Hotel Brise Marine on nearby Cap Ferrat is simple and pretty and every room has a sea view.”



**WILLIAM YEOWARD'S FAVOURITE TOWN**

**Hotel Brise Marine** (shown here), 58 Avenue Jean Mermoz, 06230 Saint-Jean, Cap Ferrat, 0033 4 93 76 04 36, [hotel-brisemarine.com](http://hotel-brisemarine.com).



A photograph of a garden with a winding path, tall grasses, and various flowers. The garden is filled with a variety of plants, including tall grasses, purple flowers, and green shrubs. The path is a vibrant green color. The background shows a large tree and a field of tall grasses.

“Le Jardin Plume near Rouen in Normandy is a contemporary garden created by two very knowledgeable plantspeople, Sylvie and Patrick Quibel. It has an organised, modular plan that relies on a contrast between simple, rectilinear shapes and complex planting. Yet despite its modernity, there is a classic French shift from order to a more naturalistic planting style.”



**TOM STUART-SMITH'S  
FAVOURITE GARDEN**

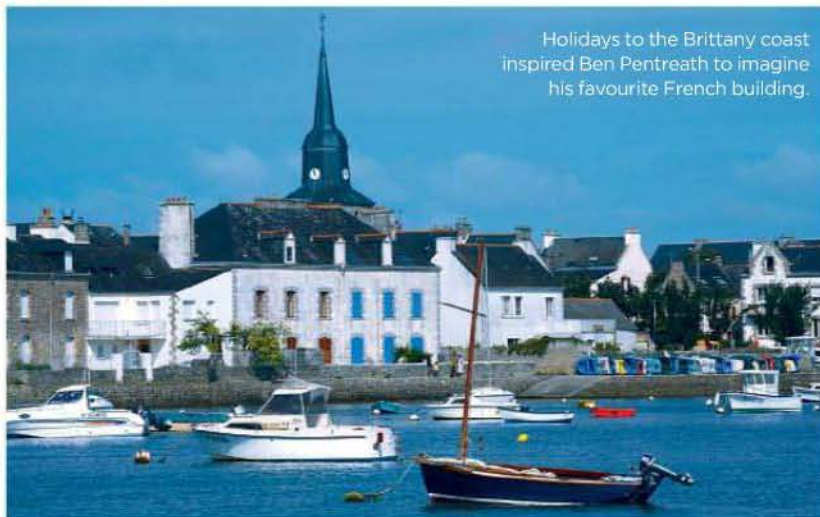
Le Jardin Plume,  
76116 Auzouville-sur-Ry, 0033 2 35 23 00 01,  
[lejardinplume.com](http://lejardinplume.com).





## BEN PENTREATH'S FAVOURITE BUILDING

"This is as hard to pinpoint as trying to suggest a favourite piece of music, art or food. My favourite French building exists in my imagination, inspired by childhood holidays on the Brittany coast and, later, trips to Paris, Aix-en-Provence and the Dordogne. It is a building that is at its best in the heat: stone-built with cool limestone floors and grey shutters, a view of the sea and the sound of gulls in the air. It is formal without being smart and is decorated in shades of white, with linen and old furniture that has seen better days. It is on the edge of a village with stone pillars and rusting metal railings, and has a quiet garden with vegetables in the flower beds and roses climbing up to a dark slate roof."



Holidays to the Brittany coast inspired Ben Pentreath to imagine his favourite French building.



*"Au Petit Bonheur la Chance in Paris is a tiny crammed treasure trove selling old and new post cards, coffee bowls, rubber stamps and old ink pots. It is absolutely not designed, but is evocative of how shops used to be."*



## ROGER OATES'S FAVOURITE RESTAURANT

**Domaine Gayda**, 11300 Brugairolles, 0033 4 68 20 65 87, [maisongayda.com](http://maisongayda.com).

"We've only been there twice but Domaine Gayda in the rolling countryside of the Languedoc offers the most wonderfully modern take on the southern French gastronomic experience. And, because it's also a working wine estate, you have the opportunity to taste wines that are produced there - the perfect way to pull it all together. All the classics are on the menu, from foie gras to sea bream, but with something of a twist. Situated on the edge of the Pyrenées, the restaurant is on the first floor so you get a breathtaking view of the vineyards and, beyond them, the stunning scenery. The whole feeling is stylish and contemporary without being over the top. ■"



## PRISCILLA CARLUCCIO'S FAVOURITE SHOP

**Au Petit Bonheur la Chance**, Village Saint-Paul, 13 Rue Saint-Paul, 75004 Paris.



The view across the vineyards from Domaine Gayda.

Domaine Gayda also has houses available for rent, contact [purefrance.com](http://purefrance.com).





Celia Rufey has been the *Homes & Gardens* decorating expert for more than 30 years and she also has her own range of fabrics.

# HOUSE CLINIC

*Our expert Celia Rufey answers your questions*

## Q WHICH FINISH IS BEST FOR A WOODEN KITCHEN FLOOR?

We are laying a solid oak floor in our kitchen and would like to know which finish would be the most practical and hard wearing.  
GP, CHRISTCHURCH, DORSET.

Lacquered and oiled finishes both have pros and cons. Lacquered finishes are more resilient, but when they need to be renewed, the whole floor has to be stripped. Peter Keane at The Natural Wood Floor Company, 020 8871 9771, naturalwoodfloor.co.uk, suggests a pre-oiled finish, which comes in a range of colours. Oiled finishes can mark easily, but their look is more accommodating. With an oiled finish, worn areas can be re-finished locally without treating the whole floor. This is an advantage in a kitchen where the area in front of the sink or cooker receives particularly heavy wear.



*"With our unpredictable weather it makes sense to choose weatherproof garden furniture that shelters from rain and wind as well as sun. When we built our first Old Rocker swinging garden sofa, the idea was to bring indoors comfort outside – and to leave it out all summer long."*

**BRIGETTE BUCHANAN,**  
ODD, 01993 830674,  
ODDLIMITED.COM.



## Q WHERE CAN I FIND A LONG CURTAIN POLE?

I need a 4m curtain pole for the windows and French doors that extend across one wall of our living room. The curtains are heavy so the pole needs to be sturdy, but hopefully also reasonably priced.  
KS, FARNHAM, SURREY.

A 4m pole will be supplied in two sections as it exceeds normal carriage restrictions, but will come with a joining piece, which is covered by a bracket and concealed once fitted. The Opera Bulb 29mm diameter pole from Copes, 0845 619 0135, copes.co.uk, comes in Antique Brass and Black Chrome finishes (above) and a set spanning 4m, including brackets, rings, ball finials and joining piece, costs from £60. Jim Lawrence, 01473 826680, jim-lawrence.co.uk, supplies 4m iron poles in two sections. Poles come in various finishes, including beeswax, and for a 25mm diameter pole with brackets, curtain rings, ball finials and joining rod, expect to pay from £190.

## Q CAN YOU SUGGEST A DINING TABLE FOR A MODERN SPACE?

We are thinking of a white-washed oak table for our contemporary space, but are open to suggestions.  
LT, LONDON W14.

The Vision dining table by Berrydesign, 01635 255352, berrydesign.co.uk, comes in solid oak with tapered legs and a curving top that appears to float. It can be made to any size and you can specify the degree of whiteness of its finish. Measuring L200xW100cm, it is priced at £3,107. The Bac table by Jasper Morrison for Capellini, 020 7014 5980, capellini.it, measures L240xW85cm and costs £3,100. You might also want to consider the Jack oak table (below) by Philipp Mainzer. It has a white finish, measures L210xW100cm and costs £2,221 from Viaduct, 020 7278 8456, viaduct.co.uk.



**Q HOW CAN I HANG PICTURES ACCURATELY?**

**What is the best way to hang a set of pictures in a precise grid layout?**  
EC, PAIGNTON, DEVON.

Jeff Pearman at JPW, 020 8789 3185, jpwfineart.co.uk, says that measuring is key to hanging pictures. Start by checking that the D-rings are exactly the same distance from the top of each frame. Next, lay the set on the floor face up and measure from top to bottom and left to right, including the spaces, for the group's overall height and width. If the pictures are to hang centrally on the wall, find and mark the centre point. Hang the top centre picture first by measuring from the top of the frame down to an imaginary line between its D-rings. Transfer this to the wall, check with a spirit level and hammer in two picture hooks. Once you have hung the first picture, use your spirit level to establish a top or base line with which to centre up and measure each additional picture.



**Q HOW CAN WE RE-USE A CARPET IN A LARGER SPACE?**

**We will be in temporary accommodation while our house is being renovated, and I want to lay a carpet in the nursery there. How can we re-use it when we return to our own house where the floor space is 50cm bigger all round?**  
RC, LONDON SE3.

You can add a 50cm border of carpet in a contrasting shade (right) or buy enough of the carpet to add the border when it is relaid but include a narrow strip in a contrasting shade between the two sections. Even if the main carpet varies slightly due to wear and tear, it won't be as noticeable when separated in this way.

Visit [homesandgardens.com/houseclinic](http://homesandgardens.com/houseclinic) for more inspirational decorating ideas



**Q ARE ANY BLINDS WASHABLE?**

**We need blinds for our garden room but, living opposite a farm, textiles suffer from fly deposits. I would like Roman blinds but fear they will fade. Can you suggest styles that can be washed and also provide insulation?**  
BK, NEWARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

If Roman blinds are your first choice, they could be made in a fade-resistant, washable synthetic fabric from the Al Fresco collection, £54.64m, by Osborne & Little, 020 7352 1456, osborneandlittle.com, or from Perennials Fabrics, from £75m, at Robert Spurway, 020 7351 6888, perennialsfabrics.com. These fabrics are not permitted for use on interior furniture unless given a fire-resistant treatment, but the restrictions do not apply to their use as blinds. For extra insulation, add a thermal lining. John Lewis, 0845 604 9049, johnlewis.com, sells this for £7.95m, but it is not washable, so you would have to wipe down the blinds. The alternative would be conservatory blinds such as Duette or Plissé (above) by Luxaflex, 0800 652 7799, luxaflex.com. Both have insulating properties and can be lifted down and washed in the bath.



**HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS**

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- List any furnishings you wish to retain and supply swatches or colour references for fabrics.
- Outline any particular preferences or dislikes you have in terms of colour, style or pattern.
- Are there children or pets to be considered?
- Provide a budget for any furnishings that you wish to replace.

**Send your letter, a colour photograph of the room, plus a cheque or postal order for £85 per room, payable to IPC Media Ltd, to: Decoration Service, Homes & Gardens, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU. ■**



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# RELAXED

Danielle and Anthony Soben have bright and spacious Seventies

WORDS ANNABEL FREYBERG

**LIVING ROOM**

*A simple Provençal-style chandelier hangs unobtrusively in this elegant space. The Sobens had the ceiling raised to house spotlights and air conditioning within its lower section.*

**Sofas** Meridiani Bogart, from £3,080, Cheetah Design, 01797 270149, cheetahdesign.net.

**Patterned cushions in** Coutances Negatif F2430, £71.67m, Pierre Frey, 020 7376 5599, pierrefrey.com.

# APPROACH

achieved a calm, welcoming feel in their home from home on Cap d'Antibes

PHOTOGRAPHS MARK LUSCOMBE-WHITE

## LIVING ROOM

*Here, as elsewhere, Pierre de Bourgogne flooring has been used. "It looks like the stone you find at the seaside," says Patrick Tyberghein, who helped the Sobens make the house their own. Blues and sandy neutrals complete the coastal feel.*

**Carlota coffee table** 19074, €6,540, Baltus Collection, 0034 952 764 171, [baltuscollection.com](http://baltuscollection.com).

**Sissi chairs**, Paola Navone at Casamilano, 0039 0362 340499, [casamilanohome.com](http://casamilanohome.com).

**Flooring**, £82sq m, Marmi e Granito, 020 7622 0438, [marmi.co.uk](http://marmi.co.uk).

**Jupp Linszen painting**, Galerie Dans Le Ciel, 0033 4 93 75 34 17, [dansleciel.com](http://dansleciel.com).



**DINING ROOM**

*The striped rug is a narrower version of the one in the living room so links the adjoining rooms visually. It is still broad enough, though, to make the room feel wider than it is.*

**Rug**, Ashby V17/09, £98.50m; **edged in T10/22** linen tape, £10.50m; both Roger Oates, 020 7351 2288, rogeroates.com.  
**Large Brompton metal lanterns**, £134 each, Artisanti, 0845 259 1410, artisanti.com.  
**For similar chairs**, try DC7030, from £679 each, Wychwood Design, 01993 851575, wychwood-design.co.uk. **Chandelier**, **Lustre Calissane 8 lumières**, €540, Les Comptoirs du Sud, 0033 4 91 21 40 00, comptoirsdusud.com.



## SWIMMING POOL

*A gloriette was designed for the end of the pool to provide extra shade and, hidden within, a storage cupboard for pool equipment and children's water toys.*

**Interior and architectural design,**  
CarterTyberghein, 020 8871 4800,  
cartertyberghein.com.



"Modern, sophisticated and practical." Those were the words Danielle and Anthony Soben used to describe the house they wished to create out of a Seventies property they bought on Cap d'Antibes a few years ago. "With three young children," Danielle explains, "we wanted a relaxed yet luxurious house that would be easy for the family to live in." The couple were also keen to have extended family and friends to stay, and wanted to be sure that everyone would slip into the holiday mood as soon as they arrived.

To achieve their various objectives, the Sobens turned to husband and wife architect and interior design team Laura Carter and Patrick Tyberghein, with whom they had worked very successfully when decorating their family home in London only a few years earlier. Although the French house was of relatively new construction, it had not been very cleverly laid out and seemed unloved. It also lacked certain basics that the Sobens regard as particularly important, namely air conditioning and large bathrooms, and it had a huge, unconverted basement they were



**TERRACE**

*Sand and blue paintwork echo the colour scheme inside, while the rush-covered metal awning, typically Provençal, and contemporary wicker furniture fulfil the Sobens' brief for comfortable holiday living.*

**San Diego sofa** MA0403, from £2,112.38, Manutti at The Modern Garden Company, 01279 653200, moderngarden.co.uk

**Wall lanterns** PV1918, £459.73 each, Roger Pradier at Elstead Lighting, 01420 590510, elstead-lighting.co.uk

“We wanted to mix cool stone floors with wood, and light cottons and linens in contrasting patterns and textures”



#### GUEST BEDROOM

*The custom-made lit à la polonoise, enhanced by a sunburst mirror, creates a striking focal point in a predominantly cream scheme (also opposite).*

**Similar bed**, COL180, £4,900, Bed Bazaar, 01728 723756, bedbazaar.co.uk

**Antique sunburst mirror**, from £250, Brownrigg Interiors, 01798 344321, brownrigg-interiors.co.uk. **Turned Wooden Skittle Lamps** in Old Stone WLB/33, £474.70 each (excluding shade), Porta Romana, 01420 23005, portaromana.co.uk

**Throw in Rural** in Fern S5, £75m, de Le Cuona, 020 7584 7677, delecuona.co.uk

**Square cushions in Venecia** in Sage, £93m, Christopher Farr, 020 7349 0888,

christopherfarr.com. **Bolster in Light Linen** in Edemame XT/05031K, £118m,

Bruno Triplet, 020 7823 9990, brunotriplet.com.

determined to put to good use. Work on the house began during the winter of 2007, when it was stripped back to its barest state. The basement was made good and divided up into a playroom, two guest bedrooms and a staff bedroom. Upstairs, the layout was improved to include a large and much-needed dining room. Underfloor heating was installed throughout the house, and new fireplaces were created in the living room so that the house would be warm during the winter months.

With the interior of the house reconfigured and improved, the Sobens turned their attention to its decoration. The challenge, according to Danielle, was to devise a look that would be fresh and modern but not too urban. "We wanted to mix cool stone floors with wood, and light cottons and linens in contrasting patterns and textures," she recalls. "We showed Patrick and Laura a number of ideas we had seen in houses that we had visited in this part of France, as well as ideas from magazines and designers. Fortunately, they managed to capture the look, even if we weren't sure precisely how to express it."

With the conversion of the basement complete, the bulk of the rooms are now on or below ground level but both Danielle and Anthony confess that one of their



## MAIN BEDROOM

*A pair of oval mirrors echoes the curves of the pendant chandelier and adds quirky character, while upholstery studs on the bed and ottoman lend detail.*

**Castel oeil de boeuf mirrors.**

ZDI/1540/00, €480 each, Mis en Demeure, 00331 49 98 17 17, misendemeure.fr.

**Cushions in** Elba Rigato in Cream and White 149532, £228m, C&C Milano at Kathryn Ireland, 020 7751 4554, kathrynireland.com.

**Throw in** Jackdaw in Quartz JAC5, £95m, de Le Cuona, 020 7584 7677, delecuona.co.uk.

**Gassin chandelier** CLA93/R, £1,180 (excludes card shades, £8.22 each), Vaughan, 020 7349 4600, vaughandesigns.com.



favourite spaces is on the first floor. Family and friends can wander wherever they like throughout the rest of the house, but this floor has been turned into a self-contained arrangement for the personal use of Danielle and Anthony. It houses their bedroom and bathroom, dressing room and a study. "It has a beautiful balcony which overlooks the garden and swimming pool, the Cap itself and the sea beyond," says Danielle. "It's the perfect place to watch the sun go down."

Privacy is part and parcel of the Sobens' holiday experience, so they asked Patrick to make sure that each bedroom had a small patio in order for everyone to have somewhere they could go to read and relax on their own if they wanted. With different colour schemes for each bedroom and bathroom – "a typical feature of Provençal homes", says Danielle – the effect is both personal and relaxed.

The overarching emphasis, however, is on sociable group gatherings so the centre of the house is given over to a long, wide, light-filled living room with capacious sofas, and a pool and gloriette immediately outside. "From the living room, you can wander through large doors straight out into the garden," says Anthony, gesturing to the immaculate landscaping beyond. "You can spend all day beside the pool and if it gets too hot, we retire inside. At night time, when the pool and garden are lit up, we sit here and still feel that the outside is nearby." ■



## GUEST BATHROOM

*Sandblasted travertine adds texture to this bathroom, while two mirrors, one classically inspired, bounce back precious light into the small-windowed space.*

**Bevelled-edge wall mirror** FKM3007, £125, Graham and Green, 0845 130 6622, [grahamandgreen.co.uk](http://grahamandgreen.co.uk). **Similar travertine**, sandblasted Travertine Romana, from £235sq m, Marmi e Granito, 020 7622 0438, [marmi.co.uk](http://marmi.co.uk).



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# English translation

Judith and Nick Woodward combined soft hues and floral prints in their Gascony home to create a piece of England in France

WORDS JACKIE COLE | PHOTOGRAPHS SIMON BROWN

**HALL KITCHEN**

*The generous entrance hall provides a brilliant backdrop for some of Judith and Nick's larger pieces, as well as ample wall space for their collection of Staffordshire plates.*

**For a similar pine table**, try Antique Kitchen Tables, 01666 502440, antiquekitchentables.co.uk. **Louis XV armchair**, Station Mill Antique Centre, 01608 644563, stationmill.com. **For a similar antique bird print**, try Top Banana Antiques, 0871 288 1102, topbananaantiques.com

*Inspired by the English country-style kitchen she enjoyed in her Cotswolds home, Judith was keen to replicate the same welcoming look in her French kitchen (below right).*

**Georgian ladder-back chairs**, Village Antique Market, 01327 342015. **For a similar French sideboard**, try The Swan at Tetsworth, 01844 291777, theswan.co.uk. **Kitchen cupboards painted in Cream, Estate Eggshell**, £42.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com





Most people find house hunting quite traumatic, but for Judith and Nick Woodward it has become a career. They both work in property – Judith runs a residential search company based in the Cotswolds, while Nick works on the commercial side – and their combined experience is such that they both recognise a good house when they see one. So when images

of a striking six-bedroom *maison de maître* in southwest France arrived by email in Judith's inbox, she wasted no time in arranging an early viewing.

"Nick immediately flew out to see the property," she recalls. "It was summertime and all the roses were out and the combination, I think, caused a real *coup de coeur*. He is normally quite cautious, so when he said we had to buy it, I could not believe it. It seemed quite out of character for Nick as it was only the second house we had looked at."

It is easy, however, to understand Nick's enthusiasm. The honey-coloured *maître de maison*, or manor, sits snugly on the

### LIVING ROOM

*This room's soft colour scheme (above) forms a neutral but effective background for the couple's English furniture and favourite period portraits and Spode porcelain (above left).*

**Manhattan Knole sofas** in Ottoman Spice by Jim Dickens, from £3,495 each, David Gundry, 01159 729147, davidgundry.com.

**For similar porcelain**, try Spode, 01782 744721, spode.co.uk.



side of a hill amid the rolling landscape of Gers, a department in Gascony famed for its foie gras, Armagnac and for being the birthplace of the real captain of King Louis XIV's Musketeers, Charles de Batz-Castelmore. Visitors arrive by a track that winds up the hill past a lake and into a pretty courtyard framed by a pigeonier and stone outbuildings. Behind the 19th-century house, lawns and an orchard lead down to a walled garden planted with lavender and fig trees.

Idyllic it may be, but the house has not always looked like this. Twenty years ago it was owned by a farmer who bred black rabbits, both inside and outside the house. The property was almost derelict when it was rescued and renovated by a Parisian couple who used it as a holiday home. Great travellers, they chose to decorate the interior in a country style that owed more to the English tradition than the French.

"Not only did the house feel very English," says Judith, "but the previous owners had used the same colour scheme as our home in Oxfordshire, which was such a coincidence, so I could immediately picture all our furniture here." If Judith and Nick

### MAIN BEDROOM

*Judith chose a floral upholstered sofa to accentuate the striped wallpaper and toile de Jouy curtains (above and right) she inherited with the house.*

**Louis cane bedstead**, from £2,325, And So To Bed, 0808 144 4343, andsotobed.co.uk. **For similar wallpaper**, try Netherfield in Damson/Linen DNETNE308, Sanderson, 01895 830044, sanderson-uk.com. **For similar toile de Jouy fabric**, try Trellis Toile in Red J241F/02, Jane Churchill, 020 8877 6400, janechurchill.com. **Sofa in** antique fabric, from a selection at Richard Harvey, 01608 662168, rhcollection.co.uk.





**GUEST BEDROOMS**

*In one guest room a bathroom has been concealed behind wallpapered doors (opposite, top right), while in another (this picture) antique quilts flag up the country-house feel.*

**Hand basin.** Cox's Architectural Salvage 01608 652505, coxsarchitectural.co.uk. **Virginia brass bed.** £689, British Beds in Europe, 01752 782660, britishbedsineurope.com. **Antique quilt.** Jen Jones, 01570 480610, jen-jones.co.uk.

# H&G GASCONY MANOR

had harboured any doubts about completely changing their lifestyle to make a permanent move across the Channel, a second visit quickly dispelled them. By November the house was theirs and they had moved in by February. "It was cold and wet and it rained for the next month," says Judith. When the sun eventually came out in March, she realised for the first time that there was a view of the Pyrenees from the kitchen window.

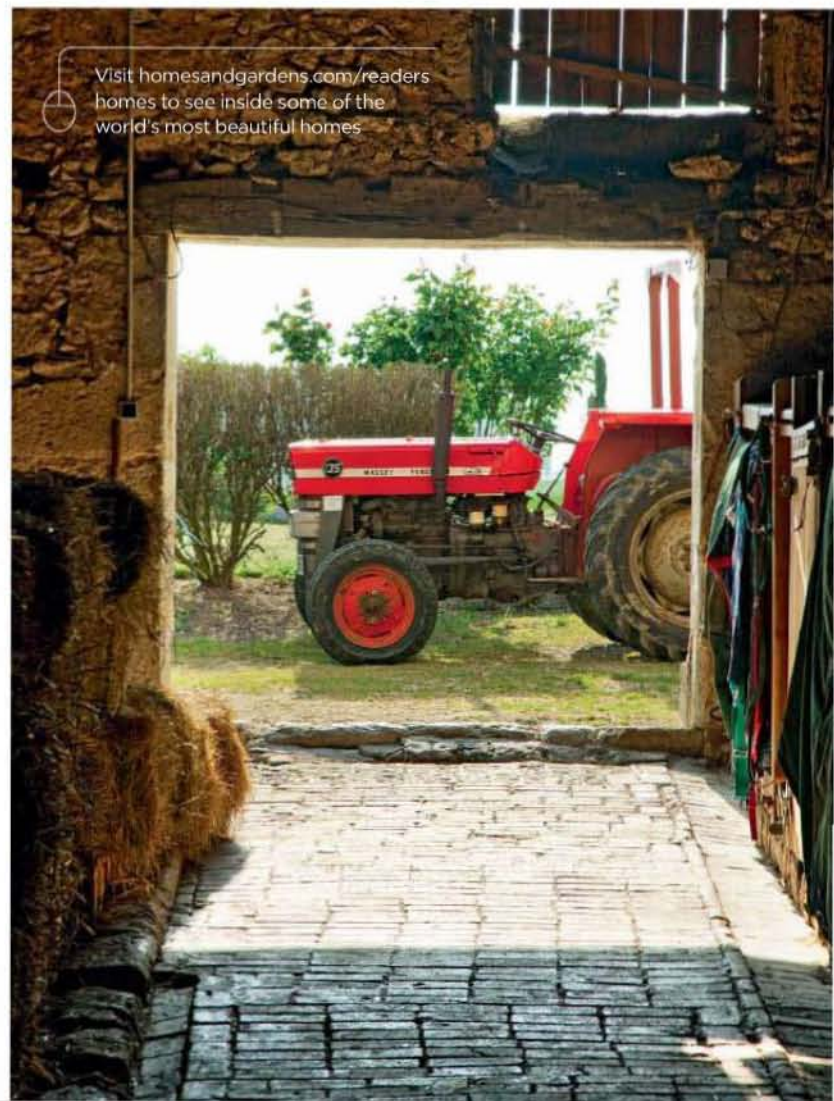
Although the house was comfortable, there was a certain amount of work to be done to turn it into a full-time home for the couple and all the livestock they had brought with them from England. They added guttering, converted the barn into stabling and fenced the paddock. They also re-fashioned the kitchen, adding an Aga, a butler's sink and new cabinetry.

The proportions of the house were so generous that most of the couple's furniture from their former home fitted perfectly, while the period portraits that Nick collects enhance the English feel. He has a particular fascination for the Duke of Wellington, whose portrait now hangs prominently in the living room. Proof indeed that there is a corner of a foreign field that is forever England. ■

## TERRACE

*The couple enjoy meals outside, here and on the lawn. Having moved their livestock to France, they also make full use of the outbuildings.*

**For similar garden furniture,** try Arrow table; Grisdale chairs; Parasol; all Cotswold Teak, 01608 682191, cotswoldteak.com.



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## THE FAMILY

Marie Christine with her grandsons Mathias, left, and Solal, right, on the balcony outside her bedroom.

For a selection of **reclaimed pine shutter doors**, try Cox's Architectural Salvage, 01608 652505, [cox.sarchitectural.co.uk](http://cox.sarchitectural.co.uk).

# Confidence tricks

Marie Christine Nourry's unique Marrakesh home is a self-assured mix of decorative details against a striking backdrop

WORDS JOHANNA THORNYCROFT | PHOTOGRAPHS ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL



## FIRST-FLOOR WALKWAY

*For those rare occasions when it rains in Marrakesh, Marie Christine has hung black cotton curtains lined with an outer layer of clear plastic to protect the walkways.*

For **shower-proof curtains**, try House Couturier, 020 7371 9255, [housecouturier.eu](http://housecouturier.eu).

While living in Paris, Marie Christine Nourry always dreamed of returning to Morocco where she grew up. Her wish was finally granted when she bought an old riad in the heart of the Marrakesh medina.

She has since transformed it into an unusual family home decorated throughout with a striking grey, black and red colour scheme but in the beginning, Marie Christine recalls, "It was an incredibly intimidating task. So many of these buildings have never been modernised but I speak the local languages – Arabic and Berber – so I felt confident about managing the project myself." Her local knowledge and a background in fashion also gave her the confidence to do all the interior design, although she did need to employ an architect to help her obtain the necessary permits.

A typical riad is one or two storeys high and is made up of narrow, linked rooms arranged around three sides of a courtyard with a terrace on the rooftop. The narrow enfilade arrangement, though, makes



#### DINING AREA & KITCHEN

*Long, slim benches were chosen for the dining area (left) to make the most of the narrow space. In the kitchen (below left) Marie Christine has hung a crystal chandelier that originally came from an old synagogue.*

**For similar bespoke metal-framed benches,** try Mark Francis, 01243 773431, markfrancis.co.uk.

#### COURTYARD

*Used as an outdoor living room, the courtyard (below) has a mosaic panel set into the tiled floor and boasts striking contemporary furniture.*

**Similar flooring,** Pewter Slate, £53.90sq m, Walls and Floors, 01536 314730, wallsandfloors.co.uk. **Saainen Tulip table,** from £675, Design Icons, 0845 241 3500, designicons.co.uk.



decorating the rooms a challenge: you want them to look coherent yet without feeling like a string of railway carriages. "The answer is to avoid lining everything up against the walls and to choose small pieces of furniture combined with large mirrors and lamps," advises Marie Christine.

Another of her solutions is to use a single colour scheme throughout. This unites the rooms but, by using the three colours differently in each, it also distinguishes one from another. Marie Christine describes her choice of colours as "sober but sensual", adding, "To me, red means life force." Her only deviation from the theme is in her own bedroom and bathroom where she has used a softer plaster pink. Of the bold colours she says, "I was influenced by New York loft style and I definitely did not want a typically Moroccan interior."

Seen from the street, a riad reveals little more than smooth walls and a single door; all the rooms face inwards, with windows and balconies looking over the courtyard. As the sun moves across the rooftops during the day and fills the courtyard of Marie Christine's home with light, the polished-plaster walls, inside and out, lose their dark cast and seem almost silver. The effect changes again at dusk and becomes particularly romantic; water splashes in the fountain and strands of creeper appear to float from the balconies like trailing lace, while a banana tree and palm stretch up to the moonlight. "When my daughter and grandchildren visit, we spend most

## LIVING ROOM

*For the riad's narrow living room, banquettes provide a space-saving solution, while a large chair (also opposite, top right) and a neat red sofa set at angles help to define the two separate areas of this room.*

**Similar velvet sofa**, Dream Range, two-seat, £1,850, Graham and Green, 0845 130 6622; grahamandgreen.co.uk. **Similar footstool**, Standard Buttoned stool, £1,756, George Smith, 020 7384 1004, georgesmith.co.uk.



### GUEST BEDROOMS

*In one room Marie Christine enhanced the Moroccan theme with a triple-arched bedhead (above), while pictures and pastel shades (left) give a softer look in another.*

**Similar paintings.** Antiquated Decorative Antiques, 01798 344011, antiquated.co.uk

**Vintage pillowcases,** from £55 each. Jane Sacchi Antique Linens, 020 7351 3160, janesacchi.com.

### ROOF TERRACE

*The low-level banquette (below) is covered by a canopy, which protects against the rays of the sun during the day and creates a cocooning space by night.*

For **similar silver candlesticks,** try Linden & Co, 020 7242 4863, lindenantiquesilver.co.uk. For a **similar Moroccan rug,** try François Gilles, 07803 237217, francoisgilles.co.uk.

### SHOWER ROOM

*Lit by a skylight, this room (above right) is reminiscent of a hammam. For simple decorative effect a single band of the plaster wall has been left unfinished.*

**Basin,** around £450, Travertine World, 01598 753335, travertineworld.co.uk.

**Similar tap.** Axor Montreux three-hole wall-mounted mixer tap, £466.96, Aquabrand, 01752 223645, aquabrand.com.

### MAIN BEDROOM

*A polished-concrete bed base and bedside shelves (right) help Marie Christine's bedroom feel clutter free; drawers in the base afford essential storage.*

**Similar wall colour.** Setting Plaster, £26.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com. **Rug.** Beni Ouarain at Larusi, 020 7428 0256, larusi.com.



of our time in the age-old manner, relaxing in the courtyard or on the roof terrace," says Marie Christine.

Although the house has an undeniably French sense of style, almost everything was made or bought in Marrakesh. "Our craftsmen and flea markets are famous," says Marie Christine. "There are wonderful dealers who can supply all sorts of antique or quirky items – it is a decorator's paradise. I like a touch of baroque so found old crystal lights for the guest bathroom, the living room and for the covered walkways."

In the dining area, she has used a row of pendant bulbs with a gilt and crystal light from an old synagogue for the kitchen. The only traditional details to be seen are the reclaimed doors with carved fanlights, and a wrought-iron screen outside the guest room windows.

The contrast between the bustling streets and the cool quiet of the riad comes as a complete surprise but, for Marie Christine, "Living in the medina is a special experience, a homecoming for me. It is also a place where you can realise your own design dreams and truly leave the world outside." ■

## MAIN BATHROOM

*A distinctive grey, black and red colour palette dominates throughout the riad, although the proportions of each vary from room to room. Here, red comes to the fore in the rug and curtains.*

**Small black tiles**, £135/sq m,  
Habibi Interiors, 020 8960 9203,  
habibi-interiors.com.

# KEYNOTES SOPHISTICATED HARDWARE

Finishing touches like those in Marie Christine Nourry's home



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

**1. Regency handle**, H7.3xW10cm, £10, Chloe Alberry, 020 7727 0707, chloalberry.com.

**2. Polished brass ceiling hook**, diam7.5cm, £14, The English Lamp Company, 01328 878586, englishlampcompany.com.

**3. NUD lamp and 3m cord** (includes bulb fitting and ceiling rose), £35; **35 watt tear-drop bulb**, £22.95; all Pedlars, 01330 850400, pedlars.co.uk.

**4. Brass oval door knob**, H6xdiam5.8cm, £42, Willow & Stone, 01326 311388, willowandstone.co.uk.

**5. Fabric-covered three-core twisted cable**, £3.50m, The Historic Lighting Company, 020 7193 2119, historiclighting.co.uk.

**6. Brass dolly switch**, diam7cm, £36, Baileys, 01989 561931, baileyshomeandgarden.com.

**7. Brass rim lock**, H8xW15xD2cm, £97.50, Jim Lawrence, 01473 826680, jim-lawrence.co.uk.

**8. Antique-style brass hinges** 1479068, 8.9x5.7cm, £26.18 pair, Door Furniture Direct, 0151 652 3136, doorfurnituredirect.co.uk.

**9. Door handle** KN100002, H16.5xW14cm, £110, The Beardmore Collection, 020 7351 5444, beardmore.co.uk. ■



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# ECHOES OF THE PAST

The ruins of a bishop's palace provided a unique starting point for Nicolas and Corinne Winter's contemporary home in the Gard

WORDS ARABELLA ST JOHN PARKER, SYLVIA HOWE | PHOTOGRAPHS FLORENT JOLIOT



## SWIMMING POOL

*The large white plant pot, which is in fact a light, stands in stark contrast to the Roman-inspired raised terrace overlooking the pool.*

**Bloom Pot light**, from €129,  
Bloomholland, 0031  
23 55 12 852, bloomholland.nl





## EXTERIOR

Stone from the ruins of the 17th-century bishop's palace (visible behind and below right) have been used in the outside walls of the Winters' home, neatly completing the marriage between old and new.



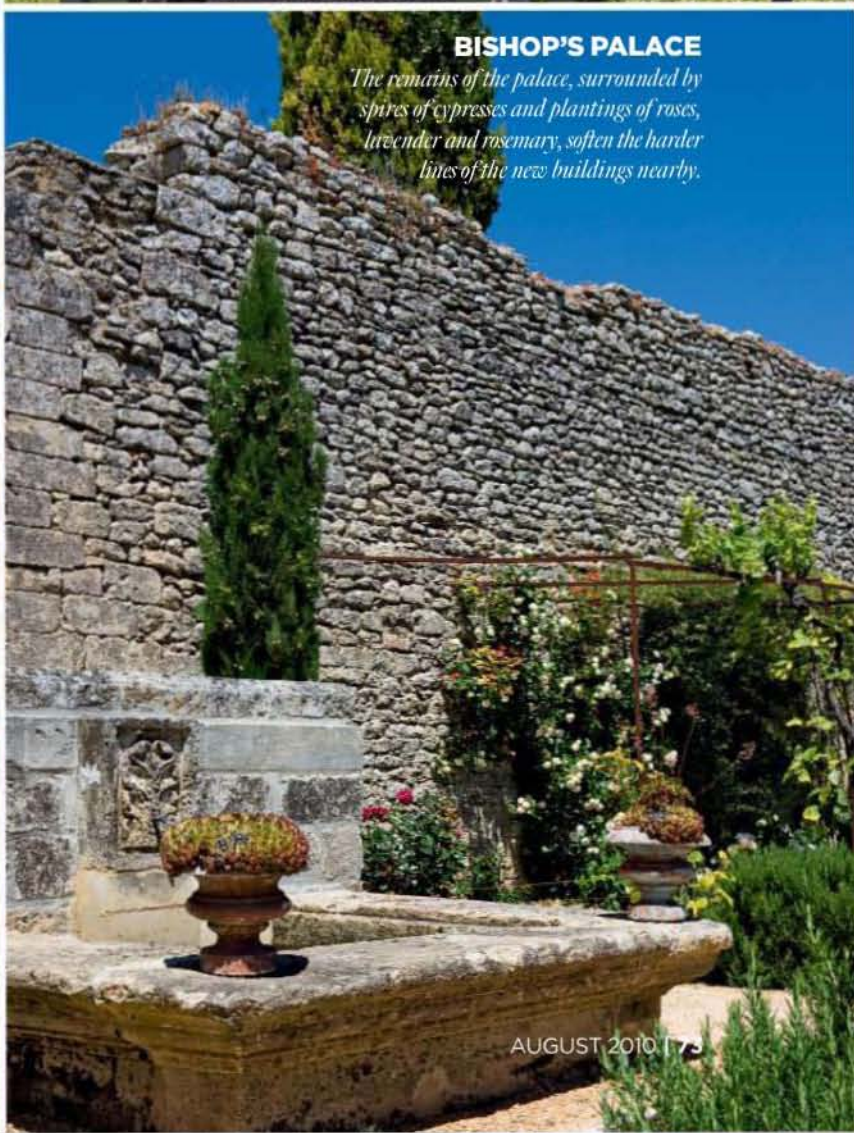
H&G GARD VILLA



## LAWN

Meals are often taken at a table outside the kitchen (above right), accessed through sliding doors.

**Soft dining table**, from £1,752;  
**Soft chairs**, from £425 each;  
**Via loungers**, from £616 each;  
all Kettal, 020 7371 5170;  
kettal.co.uk



## BISHOP'S PALACE

The remains of the palace, surrounded by spires of cypresses and plantings of roses, lavender and rosemary, soften the harder lines of the new buildings nearby.



**KITCHEN**

*"I cook a little but my wife is a very good cook and we entertain a lot here in the kitchen," says Nicolas. Guests are very fond of their bar-style table.*

**Kitchen B3**, from around £48,000. Bulthaup, 020 7495 3663, bulthaup.com.

**B**uilding a new home that successfully incorporates the ruins of a much older one is not a project that anyone undertakes lightly but, for antiques dealer Nicolas Winter and his wife Corinne, it presented a challenge they could not resist.

The couple were happily living in a modern house in the ancient town of Uzès in the Gard, Languedoc, south-west France, and had no thought of moving. Then one day while out and about they came across a plot of land for sale and were so struck by its position and potential that they decided to put their house on the market and make plans to build a new one.

The site was in a perfect location – near the town centre and within range of, but not on top of, neighbouring properties. The Winters, who are devotees of contemporary architecture, had visions of building a house that was modern without being too harsh, and sympathetic to the surrounding buildings but distinctively different at the same time.

The question they faced was how to make their vision work with the ruins of a 17th-century bishop's palace that happened to stand on the site. Fortunately for the Winters, the ruins were deemed of no historic interest and were also relatively straightforward in construction. What remained standing were just three partial walls of the original building, along with the foundations of some outbuildings and a few old lime trees nearby. It seemed a waste not to use the stone from the palace within the new building so, instead of filling in the foundations, Nicolas and Corinne were inspired by the layout and decided to incorporate it into their design.

They produced some rough sketches and to help them turn their ideas into a real home, the couple approached fellow countryman and friend, architect Stéphane Ziack. They had seen one of Stéphane's projects elsewhere in the Gard and felt sure he was the perfect person to help.

Three years on, the Winters live in a house that is new and distinct from its neighbours but also wears its past with ease and style. Constructed as a combination of flat-topped and shallow-roofed boxes laid in a row with verandas interspersed between, the house has exterior walls softened by Stéphane's use of stone from the ruins while, inside, the Winters have added

**LIBRARY**

*More intimate in style, this room (right) is in sharp contrast to the living room, which feels lighter and brighter. The limed floorboards were specially chosen in preference to dark and the walls were panelled and painted.*

**Armstrong Stars and Stripes leather sofa**, £3,495, Andrew Martin, 020 7225 5100, andrewmartin.co.uk.  
**For reclaimed cupboard doors**, try DDS Demolition, 01843 821555, reclamation-yard.co.uk.



## LIVING ROOM

*An outsize apple and a painting by a local artist add colour to this scheme.*

**Leather sofa**, Zanotta, 01279 718151, zanotta.it. **Apple, antlers and glass Papillon tables**, all Antiquité du Duché, 0033 4 66 62 38 99, antiquiteduduche@wanadoo.fr.



## BEDROOMS

*Floor-to-ceiling muslin curtains filter the harsh sunlight that bakes the Languedoc landscape during the hottest months. Besides keeping the rooms (this page and right) cool and insect-free, they introduce a soft romantic feel.*

For a white **Eames RAR (Rocking Armchair Rod)** chair, around £450, try Firefly House, 020 7428 3366, [fireflyhouse.co.uk](http://fireflyhouse.co.uk).



touches of grandeur – beamed ceilings and panelling, as well as a great stone fireplace – all of which the old bishop might have approved.

The interior decoration is equally mixed but beautifully judged. “We decided against clutter and wanted to use a monochrome palette – plenty of black, white, chrome and mirrors,” says Nicolas. The search for the right pieces to fill the house was easy, as Nicolas could combine it with buying trips for Antiquité du Duché, his shop in Uzès. The 1960s chair in the living room, for instance, was meant for the shop but ended up staying in the house: “I don’t know who made it but it is marvellous.” Recovered in black leather, it sits in stark glory on an antique zebra skin daring anyone who sits on the extra-long white sofa to come and try it out for size.

While the living room is outward looking, open and airy, with views of the lawn, pool and wooded landscape beyond, the library is more intimate and enclosed. Its windows are infinitely smaller and louvred to keep the room dimly lit and cosy, while the walls are panelled and painted. You can see that Nicolas has had fun decorating this room; the panelled effect was created by using cupboards salvaged from a 19th-century chemist’s shop in Anneyron and, instead of hanging a still life or family portrait above the fire, he has hung a side of beef or, rather, a 19th-century painting of one.

The Winters’ irreverent take on interior design is echoed in their treatment of the newly landscaped garden. A large white flowerpot that is, in fact, a light stands at one end of the swimming pool, providing a strikingly modern note which contrasts nicely with the Roman-inspired raised sun terrace at the other end. “A few people think this area was at one time the bishop’s kitchen garden but nobody really knows,” remarks Nicolas.

The old limes that were on the site when the Winters arrived have since been carefully moved to a better spot and the garden planting amplified with roses and orange trees, hydrangea, lavender, bay and rosemary. Aptly enough, there is also a small vineyard, from which the Winters harvest the grapes to make a red wine *de la maison* each year. “Nothing special,” says Nicolas, “just enough for us and our friends.” ■

See inside some of the world’s most beautiful homes at [homesandgardens.com/readershomes](http://homesandgardens.com/readershomes)

## BATHROOM

*Black granite and simple white porcelain fittings have been used in this and the other bathroom. “We wanted to create a Zen-like mood,” says Nicolas.*

For 30mm thick **Zimbabwe granite**, £528.75sq m, try Cargo Granite, 01234 853439, [cargogranite.com](http://cargogranite.com).



# KEYNOTES CREATING SHADE

Inspired by the Winters, we look at stylish ways to shelter from the sun

**Introducing a selection of shady spots in your garden has a wonderfully cooling effect. While eating is best suited to almost complete shade, relaxing and reading can be enjoyed in something more dappled. To create a structure similar to Nicolas and Corinne Winter's veranda (right), you will need to commission an architect – find a local company through the Royal Institute of British Architects, 020 7580 5533, architecture.com. For other ways to create shade, take a look at the ideas below.**



## SEASONAL FIXTURE

Perfect for outdoor parties, canvas canopies are a stylish way to protect from the sun. Cox & Cox, 0870 442 4787, coxandcox.co.uk, has a retro striped version, £250, while White Canvas, 0844 249 9007, whitecanvastents.com, hires out its Cupola model (right), from £2,550, which will accommodate ten diners.



## USING LIVING PLANTS

Subtle shade can be created with groupings of sun-tolerant trees in pots, including olive trees from Terrace Gardener, 01732 832762, terracedgardener.co.uk, or tree ferns from Eden Project, 01736 336998, edenproject.com. Permanent structures, such as loggias and pergolas, can be combined with planting to create sheltered dining areas. These can be tailor-made by design companies, such as Plan to Garden, 01508 488490, plantogarden.co.uk (below), or bought ready-made from Garden Chic, 01636 858290, garden-chic.co.uk. ■

## INSTANT SHADE

One of the quickest ways to create shelter is to hang a length of translucent fabric above or beside seating. Hand-embroidered sheers (above) from Malabar, 020 7501 4200, malabar.co.uk, make gorgeous impromptu sunshades, from £38.30m. However, this romantic look does need constant rearranging to intercept the rays. Decorative screens are also an effective way to soften direct sunlight. Modular designs with shelves, such as the Greenwall, from £900, Outer Eden, 0116 270 810, outer-eden.co.uk, can be planted up to create a verdant wall. Parasols, such as the Indian canopy, £250, The White Company, 0845 678 8150, thewhitecompany.com, will add pizzazz to a picnic and are lightweight enough to reposition easily.



## PERMANENT FEATURES

A gazebo is a decorative structure, made mostly of metal, over which roses or clematis can be trained. Fabric can also be draped across it to create shade. Try the Metal Gazebo (above left), £495, from John Lewis, 0845 604 9049, johnlewis.com or the Chelsea Gazebo, £1,686, by RaymentWire, 01843 821628, raymentwire.co.uk. Another option is a solid, or trellis-sided, painted wooden structure complete with seat, such as the Lynford pitched roof arbour (above right), £980, from Burford, 01993 823117, burford.co.uk. Ideally, these structures should be positioned where shade-seekers can enjoy gazing at a beautiful view.



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# DESIGNER SECRETS

The Lafourcades' flair for simple château style open this room up to views of the Lubéron



## DESIGNER PROFILE

**BRUNO AND ALEXANDRE LAFOURCADE** run an

interior design and architectural practice in St-Rémy-de-Provence which specialises in renovating châteaux and French country houses. They have also undertaken projects outside France and boast a discerning clientele.

**THE BRIEF** To create a relaxing living room that links seamlessly with the terrace so the owners can make full use of both spaces all year round.

The English clients of this project bought what they originally termed a "shack", a tiny residence perched on a steep south-facing hillside in the village of Ménerbes in the Lubéron. They asked Bruno and Alexandre Lafourcade to use the site to build a modern home – but which would look 200 years old – and to transform the existing building into a guest annexe.

The space shown here, one of a series of bright, airy rooms, was designed for entertaining and relaxing, and links seamlessly with an ample terrace thanks to three pairs of bespoke metal and glass French windows. The terrace is shaded with a traditional awning of split bamboo mounted on an iron structure, through which dappled shade helps to keep the room cool in the fierce heat of summer. Off-white plaster walls and a pale grey polished-concrete floor also have a cool, calm effect, while serving as a good foil for the furniture – elegant French and Gustavian designs. By choosing these pieces in the same restricted palette of cream and muted grey, the Lafourcades have achieved a sophisticated scheme in natural harmony with the stunning views outside.

## FRENCH WINDOWS

The traditional-style glass and metal French windows, designed by Bruno and Alexandre and made by local craftsmen, are painted off-white on the inside and black on the outside. When open, they bring a strong accent colour to the predominantly pale scheme.



WORDS RACHEL LEEDHAM | PHOTOGRAPH ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL





## WINDOW DRESSING

Linen curtains hang from a single iron pole that runs the full length of the wall, ensuring a simple, uncluttered effect. When drawn back, they fit neatly in the space between the windows.

## FLOORING

Two types of flooring have been used: polished concrete for the living space and smooth local stone for the terrace. Both floors are flush with each other to help blur the boundaries between the two spaces.

## FACT FILE

### FURNITURE

**Similar chair** (far left), Axet dining chair, H95xW48xD37cm, £240, The Swedish Chair, 020 8657 8560, [theswedishchair.com](http://theswedishchair.com).

### Similar side table.

Gunnebo three-tiered side table in Nordic White, H66xW55xD40cm, £245, Oka, 0844 815 7380, [okadirect.com](http://okadirect.com).

**Similar outdoor chair**, Florentine wrought-iron dining chair, H100xW43xD46cm, £195; **cream cushions**, £30 each, all Mark Francis, 01243 773431, [markfrancis.co.uk](http://markfrancis.co.uk).

### ACCESSORIES

#### Similar table lamp.

Ceramic Vase with Scroll Handles CE23/L, H55xdiam23cm, £335;

#### Carlisle Ivory linen lamp shade

diam56cm, £155; both Vaughan, 020 7610 6544, [vaughandesigns.com](http://vaughandesigns.com).

### FLOORING

#### Similar polished concrete floor.

around £100sq m, Steyson Granolithic, 020 8553 2636, [steysonconcretefloors.co.uk](http://steysonconcretefloors.co.uk).

### CONTACT

**Bruno and Alexandre Lafourcade**, 0033 4 90 92 10 14, [architecture-lafourcade.com](http://architecture-lafourcade.com). ■

# *True colours*

Ever since the revolution, the Tricolore has symbolised the spirit of France. Here, it inspires schemes that evoke the effortless feel of contemporary French style

STYLING KATE FRENCH | PHOTOGRAPHS JAKE CURTIS



*Contemporary elements such as a striped runner and clean-lined armchair make this minimalist hallway both practical and stylish*

**FURNITURE** **59th Street armchair** in Somerton, H67xW122xD81cm, £1,095, Content by Conran.

**FABRIC** **Cushion in Talera** in Poppy, cotton, 142cm wide, £40m, William Yeoward at Designers Guild.

**ACCESSORIES** **Vintage red coat stand**, £118, Winter's Moon. **Striped scarf**, £35, The White Company. **White bag**, £35, The Conran Shop. **Red striped jute basket**, H39cm, £23.45, Pedlars. **Dora plimsolls** in Rojo and Blanco, £32.50 pair, Victoria Plimsolls. **Maya picnic dhurrie**, 155x248cm, £69, Oka.

**LEFT** **Dora plimsolls** in Indigo, £32.50 pair, Victoria Plimsolls. **Ribbon**, £3m, Cloth House. **Bistro high stool** in Signal Red, H71xdiam42cm, £245, Lloyd Loom of Spalding. ▶



*Dividing a room into coloured sections generates visual impact. Here, sleek lacquered furniture is juxtaposed with upholstered seating and modern lighting, while tactile soft furnishings lend vibrant accents*

**FURNITURE** Utrecht chairs,

H70xW64xD85cm, £1,950 each, Cassina at Chaplins. **Hiip nest of tables,**

H50xW50xD50cm, £1,055, Leonardo Talarico for Cappellini at Aram.

**Tours bookcase** in White lacquer with Lavender Blue panels, H152xW55xD45cm, £906, Pascal Mourgue at Ligne Roset.

**Oracle coffee table** in White lacquer, H40xW120xD60cm, £495, Heal's.

**Pauline sofa,** H81xW207xD88cm, £3,788 including three back cushions (not shown) plus 17m of fabric, Pierre Frey.

**FABRICS** Sofa in Palmarola in

Amarante 04, Trevira, 137cm wide, £93m;

**red and white cushions** in Tina in

Amarante 04, Trevira, 145cm, £93m; both Pierre Frey. **Red and grey cushion** in

Manacor in Poppy cotton mix, 140cm wide, £65m, William Yeoward at Designers Guild.

**WALLS** Pure Brilliant White, matt emulsion, £11.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux.

**ACCESSORIES** Painted dome,

H40cm, £225, Selfridges. **Solid bronze**

**paperclip sculpture,** L22cm, £275, William Yeoward. **Rondo vases** (top shelf), from H24cm, from £74 each, Roche Bobois.

**Antique French books,** from £35 each,

Artefact. **White bowl,** £121, Oggetti. **Large blue bowl,** H43xdiam43cm, £660, Roche Bobois. **Rug,** Organic Lines 029 in White,

240x170cm, £1,950, Stepevi. **Calypso striped planters,** H12.5cm, £28 each, Oka.

**Photograph,** Hermione Hodgson. **Arctic Pear chandelier,** H26xdiam60cm, £3,384,

Ochre. **Red lacquered table lamp,** H80xdiam23cm, £198; **red lacquered reading lamp,** H170xdiam45cm, £383; both

with Red chintz shade, Pascal Mourgue at Ligne Roset. **Tall coral candle holder,**

H72cm, £35, Oka. **Metal side table,** H38xW31.5xD31.5cm, £310, Ronan and

Erwan Bouroullec for Vitra at Aram. **Spot round table,** H66.5xdiam40cm, £375,

Tom Dixon. **Duralex tumbler,** £9.80 for six, Skandium. **Nautical card,** £16.95 set,

Liberty. **Antique letter notebook,** £9.95, Cabbages and Roses. **Dora plimsolls** in Rojo, £32.50, Victoria Plimsolls. ▶



*The solid colour of a statement wall makes a striking foil for a sleek white table. Ceramics provide texture, while framed French phrases add a humorous touch*

**FURNITURE Doppia** extending console table in White gloss lacquer, H74xW110xD48cm, £1,628, Pagnon & Pelhaître at Ligne Roset. **Bistro high stool** in Signal Red, H71xdiam42cm, £245, Lloyd Loom of Spalding.

**WALL Ceylon Blue** Lt 27-27T, vinyl matt emulsion, £28.50 for 2.5 litres, Sanderson.

**ACCESSORIES Glass jar**, H22.5cm, £24, Designers Guild. **White bowl**, diam36cm, £202, Roche Bobois. **Turquoise bottle vases, large**, H37.5cm, £60; **medium**, £45; **mushrooms, large**, £23.50; **small**, £14.50; all Atelier Abigail Ahern. **Letterpress prints**, £35 for A4, Thursday Press. **Bacall picture frames**, 24x30cm, £15 each, Habitat. **Striped scarf**, £35, The White Company.



*A custom-made lampshade can be the starting point for a tricolore scheme*

**FURNITURE** **Similar dining table**, from £1,200, Elemental. **Eames DSW chairs** in White, H80xW47xD55cm, £280 each, Vitra at Aram. **Eames DSW chairs** in Ocean, H80xW47xD55cm, £282 each, The Conran Shop. **Modernica DSW chairs** in Red, H80xW47x D55cm, £315 each, SCP.

**FABRICS** **Lampshade in blue fabric**, 9260 in Denim; **white fabric**, 9287 in Lily; both cotton mix, 138cm wide, £28m, Harlequin. **Red fabric**, Ravello in Scarlet, linen, 138cm wide, £40m, Designers Guild. **Napkins in Rio Bravo**, Trevira, £72.30m, Nya Nordiska.

**ACCESSORIES** **Empire lampshade**, H60xdiam50cm, £235 to order, Antonio Aarevalo at Aarevalo. **Taste dinner plates**, from £68 each; **deep plates**, from £50 each; all Paola Navone for Porzellanmanufaktur Reichenbach. **Duralex tumblers**, £9.80 for six, SCP. **Red pot**, H17cm, £17.50, Atelier Abigail Ahern. **Delphine carafe**, H28cm, £235, Ralph Lauren Home. **Seletti glass bottle**, £19.92; **Nud classic pendant cord** in Red, £30.99 for 2.1m; both SCP. ▶



*A bold fabric helps to soften the feel of industrial-style metal, while nickel accessories continue the metallic theme in a bright manner*

**FURNITURE** **Docksta table**, H75x diam105cm, £109, Ikea. **Drum stool**, H43xdiam45cm, from £99, Marks & Spencer.

**FABRIC** **Stool in** Rio Grande, Trevira, 140cm wide, £72.80m, Nya Nordiska.

**ACCESSORIES** **Red bowls**, medium, £98; small, £70; both Roche Bobois. **Red coral place-mat**,

diam32cm, £12, Oka. **Pisa table lamp in nickel**, H49cm, £211; **white drum shade**, 8in, £28; both Vaughan. **Large nickel tilt dressing mirror**, 64x41cm, £1,305, William Yeoward. **Bird make-up box**, £29, The Conran Shop. **Glass jar**, H22.5cm, £24, Designers Guild. **Eau de toilette**, from £45 for 50ml; **room spray**, £34 for 150ml; all Diptyque at John Lewis. **Flowers**, Scarlet & Violet.





*Patchwork is a great way to add character to a headboard which, combined with plain bedlinen, creates a sophisticated feel*

**FURNITURE Bespoke headboard.** 155x100cm, £450 plus 4.5m of fabric, Lockwood Design. **Prestige divan** (includes Herald Supreme mattress), 135x190cm, £3,120, Vi-Spring.

**FABRICS Headboard in. Blue fabrics,** Maya 9260 in Denim, cotton mix, 138cm wide, £28m; Allegra in Indigo 9689, polyester/cotton mix, 138cm wide, £30m; both Harlequin. Manilla in Oxford Blue, linen, 137cm wide, £39.50m, Linwood. Alaro in Navy, linen, 140cm wide, £45m, William Yeoward at Designers Guild.

**White fabrics,** Alba in Ivory, cotton, 140cm wide, £31m, Designers Guild. Mojo in Dove, viscose/linen mix, 137cm wide, £33.90m, Linwood. Maya 9287 in Lily, cotton mix, 138cm wide, £28m, Harlequin. Linara in Chalk, cotton/linen mix, 140cm wide, £29.95m, Romo. **Red fabrics,** Maya 9255

in Poppy, cotton mix, 138cm wide, £28m, Harlequin. Cotton Club in Il Pivoine, cotton, 140cm wide, £37m, Manuel Canovas. Alaro in Poppy, linen, 140cm wide, £45m, William Yeoward at Designers Guild. Madura in Strawberry, cotton mix, 137cm wide, £28.50m, Linwood.

**WALL Pure Brilliant White,** matt emulsion, £11.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux.

**ACCESSORIES Simple lamp,** H165xW56cm, £1,300, Serge Mouille at Tanguy Rolin. **Red Cord bedlinen,** double duvet cover with two pillowcases, £59 set, The Conran Shop. **St Remy Stripe canvas-weight linen throw blanket,** 180x137cm, £250, Ralph Lauren Home. **Ceramic chopping board** (used as tray), £27.08 set of two; **Duralex tumbler,** £9.80 for six; **Polka sugar pot and spoon,** both £13; all SCP. **Ruled notebook,** £1.50, Paperchase. ■



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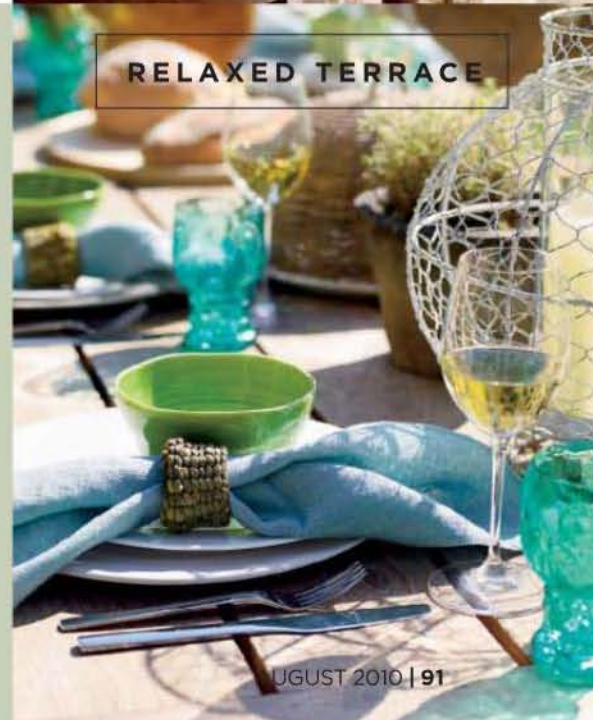
SMART GAZEBO



RUSTIC DINING ROOM



RELAXED TERRACE



STYLING ALI BROWN AND RACHEL CHRISTENSEN  
PHOTOGRAPHS POLLY WREFORD

*Three looks for*

# SUMMER ENTERTAINING

*Whether dining alfresco or eating in, we have a table setting to suit your mood and impress your guests*

## SMART GAZEBO

A romantic Indian-style tent makes a fabulous venue for outdoor dining.

Using a circular table ensures a sociable feel, while cushions add extra comfort and are a good way to introduce pattern.

Oversized pouffes in outdoor fabrics are great for guests to use as informal seating both before and after dinner.

As evening falls, a twinkling pendant light (wired back to the house) and flickering nightlights lend further atmosphere.

**FURNITURE** **Maharani tent**, H3.2xdiam4m, £4,500, The Indian Garden Company. **Large Norsebury table base** in Black finish, H72xdiam130cm, £1,310; **Cabucca limestone tabletop**, diam150cm, £2,285; both The Heveningham Collection. **Henriksdal chairs**, H97xW51xD58cm, £64 each, Ikea. **Pouffes**, H50xdiam100cm, £450; H50xdiam70cm, £350, both Clockhouse Furniture.

**FABRICS** **Chair covers** in Skye Linen F5680/08, linen, 140cm wide, £52.88m, Osborne & Little. **Cream bolster (left)** in Meander in Smoke, linen, 134cm wide, £65m, Threads at GP&J Baker. **Beige bolster (right)** in Brancha in Fossil, cotton mix, 138cm wide, £36.95m, Romo. **Large pouffe** in Alfresco in Marquee F5362/02, acrylic, 145cm wide, £54.64m, Osborne & Little. **Small pouffe** in Jake Stripe in Pebble Beach 800/40, acrylic, 137cm wide, £75m, Perennials at Robert Spurway.

**FLOORING** **Coir Panama bleached flooring**, 4m wide, £15.35m, The Alternative Flooring Company.

### ACCESSORIES

**Embroidered bolster cushion** (centre), L45xdiam18cm, £150, de Le Cuona. **Ektor neckroll cushions** used as bolster pads, L35xdiam15cm, £6.99 each, Ikea. **Footed bowl**, H22xdiam32cm, £95; **sparkle glass tealight holder**, £6.95; both Indian Ocean. **Oriental champagne flutes** in Ambre, £17 each; **Oriental large stem glasses**, £22.99 each; **Oriental carafe**, H14cm, £29.50; all Nina Campbell. **Moroccan colander tray**, diam30.5cm, £99; **Chaville coupes**, H11cm, £9.50 each; all Summerill & Bishop. **Zephyr Platinum dinner plates**, £7 each; **soup bowls**, £7 each; all Heal's. **Rivelin cutlery**, £29.15 for seven-piece place setting, Sophie Conran at Arthur Price. **Vintage silver napkin rings**, £80 each, Eskandar. **Napkins** in Brera Alta in Zinnia, £40 set of four, Designers Guild. **Bluma decorative pendant light**, £175, Laura Ashley. **Lamu rug** (far left), wool, 250x170cm, £229.89, BTC by Design. **Alvine Rand rug** (right), 240x170cm, £119, Ikea. ▶





## RUSTIC DINING ROOM

Plaster walls polished to a smooth, clean finish enhance existing architectural features, such as these impressive French windows. Simple decoration in the form of muted textiles and accessories, including earthy stoneware jugs and bowls for a country-style feel, play to the room's strength. A lavender centrepiece provides a fragrant finishing touch for the table while also linking inside and out.

**FURNITURE** Halmstad dining table, H76xW240xD101cm, £1,465; Horseshoe dining chairs, H97xW59xD51cm, £158 each; all Oka. Deauville console table in solid oak, H94xW150xD50cm, £434.24, BTC by Design.

**FABRICS** Curtains, and napkins in Roxburgh Linen 30003/941, linen, 147cm wide, £65m; curtain lining and cushion backs in Harriet Stripe CS7283, cotton, 137cm wide, £50m; all Warner Fabrics at Zimmer & Rohde. Green cushions and place-mats in Lamorna Linen F1650/18, linen, 135cm wide, £53.46m, Osborne & Little.

**WOODWORK** Light Blue, Estate Eggshell, £15.50 for 750ml, Farrow & Ball.

**FLOORING** For similar floorboards, try Traditional Oak, from £38.32sq m, Broadleaf.

**ACCESSORIES** Reed mat with leather edging RM2, 160x300cm, £129, Chairworks. Grey Blue linen chair covers, £45 each, Oka. Pink porcelain bowl, £395, Wild at Heart. Terracotta pancheon with

yellow interior, £135; small terracotta pancheon (containing lavender), £125; confit pot, £110; all I&JL Brown. White vase, £140, Astier de Villatte at Designers Guild. Sorbet glasses, £16 set of four, Pimpernel & Partners. Aegina vase lamp, H47xdiam30cm, £282; Carlisle shade in Pale Grey silk, 22in, £200; both Vaughan. Provence Creme cutlery, £16 for spoon, knife, fork and teaspoon, Dibor. Clear glass carafe, £35; tealight jar, £8; both Designers Guild. Porcelain plates, £18 each; yellow carafes: small, £25; large, £33; wine glasses, £12 each; water tumblers, £8.50 each; white linen napkins, £12 each; all Daylesford Organic. Stoneware soup bowls, £13 each; stoneware jug, £39; all Richard Batterham at David Mellor Design. Lavender, £3.95 pot, Alleyn Park Garden Centre. ▶





## RELAXED TERRACE

Simple good-quality tableware is key to this informal outdoor arrangement. Colour is added to the dining scheme with china and glassware in aqua and leaf-green tones, while a mix of textures including rustic chickenwire, natural wicker and chunky wood impart a contemporary French-country feel. As a final flourish, table decorations of potted herbs provide great effect for minimal effort.

**FURNITURE** Reclaimed **teak table**, H80xW90xL330cm, £2,500; **Roma wicker seats**, H95xW60xD70cm, £350 each; both The Chelsea Gardener.

**FABRIC** Cushions in Lantana in Jade, acrylic, 139cm wide, £76m, Manuel Canovas.

**ACCESSORIES** **Grilltech C1 barbecue in stainless-steel finish**, H90xW176xD44cm, £1,100, Mode. **Swiss check kitchen towel** in Grey, 50x70cm, £9.75; **Gozan plate** (on windowsill) in Green, £13.50; both David Mellor Design. **Buzz bamboo food cover**, small (shown) H15xdiam20cm, £22 set of three different sizes, Jamie at Home. **Chickenwire storm lanterns**, £34.99 each; **distressed clay flower pots**, £8.99 each; **woven**

**wicker dome**, £8.99; all The Chelsea Gardener. **Turquoise glasses**, £8 each; **small white latte bowl** (with olives), £2.50; all Anthropologie. **Vinum Sauvignon Blanc glasses**, £37.30 pair, Riedel. **Harley cutlery**, £45 for 24-piece set, Habitat. **White dinner plates**, £21 each; **lemonwood salad servers**, £15.50 pair; all Summerill & Bishop. **Ray Key rounded wooden salad bowl**, £112; **DM fine bone china dinner plates**, £12 each; **Gozan deep bowls** in Green, £6.50 each; **Felicity Irons rush napkin rings**, £8.50 each; **DM natural pepper grinder**, H25cm, £35; all David Mellor Design. **Brera Aita napkins** in Celadon, £40 set of four, Designers Guild. **Bjuda PS Blue carafe**, £5.99, Ikea. ▶





## HOW TO MAKE IT WORK



### SMART GAZEBO

- Using sisal flooring and rugs in tents and gazebos makes it more comfortable underfoot for guests.
- A simple monochromatic palette can be enlivened with a twist of colour – use bright napkins and flowers to keep the look fresh.
- Inexpensive upholstered dining chairs with loose covers are a good choice for relaxing into the evening.
- Set up drinks tables shaded by parasols close to the gazebo. This will save journeys to and from the house and continue the Indian theme.

**Indian parasol**, H270xdiam200cm, £235; **Baby Bridal parasol**, H250xdiam118cm, £165; both The Indian Garden Company. **Tray table**, £95, The Balcony Gardener. **Orange Rosso table**, £45; **cocktail shaker**, £15; **decanter**, £7; all Habitat. **Cast table**, £395, John Reeves at Heal's. **White cloth in Brera Alta in Calico**, linen, 296cm wide, £95m; **tumbler**, £25; both Designers Guild. **Ceramic pot**, £49.50, The Chelsea Gardener. **Striped cloth** in Illusion in Domino, £49.47m, Hertext at Henry Bertrand. **Grisaille tray**, £73.57, BTC by Design. **Cocktail spoon**, £138, Eskandar. **Wine cooler**, £39.95; **ice bucket**, £55; both Indian Ocean.



### RUSTIC DINING ROOM

- During the summer, an empty fireplace can be decorated with flowers and favourite accessories.
- Bare plaster walls blend naturally with the texture and colour of a stone fireplace.
- A console table provides a handy surface for tableware and cutlery.
- For extra detail, line curtains with a simple stripe or small dot pattern that contrasts with the main fabric.
- If you have washable curtain fabric left over, use it for matching cushions, place-mats and napkins.

**Vintage conservatory chairs**, £150 pair, The French House. **White vase**, £175, Astier de Villatte at Designers Guild. **Green glass bottles**, £125 each; **large green glazed pot with faux hydrangeas**, £475; all I&JL Brown. **Vintage floral jug**, £75; **bulbous green glass bottles** (on floor), from £80 each; all Wild at Heart. **Clear glass vase** with narrow neck, £29, Daylesford Organic. **Clear glass vase** with wide neck, £60, Designers Guild. **Decorative French cast-iron grill**, £110 pair, Pimpernel & Partners.



### RELAXED TERRACE

- Set up garden chairs with cushions made from outdoor fabric for drinks before lunch or supper. A stackable Tolix stool can be used as a handy side table and then for a lantern when it grows dark.
- Invest in a large table and generous wicker chairs so that guests can linger at the table in comfort.
- Simple white tableware and good-quality wine glasses keep the look simple, with accessories such as water glasses and napkins in pale aqua and leaf green.

**Similar vintage metal chairs**, £75 each; **cushions** in Callella in Aqua (left) and Callella in Duck Egg (right); both PVC mix, 140cm wide, £55m; **Brera Alta napkin**, £40 for four; all Designers Guild. **Tolix metal stool**, H45xW39xD39cm, £135, Graham and Green. **Gozan bowl** in Green, £6.50, David Mellor Design. **White latte bowl**, £2.50, Anthropologie. **Vinum glass**, £37.30 pair, Riedel. **Small metal lantern**, H26cm, £13.99, The Chelsea Gardener. **Boules**, £74.75 set of three, Pen-y-Coed Petanque. ■

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- Comes with single drop handles (shown) or wooden knobs.

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Daisy box, £35.99; Bussero vase, H23cm, £14.99; both Zara Home. Teakwood candlesticks from £22 each, Heals. Similar bowls, from £13.50, The Conran Shop. **WHERE TO BUY, PAGE 159.**

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# French flair by post

We select our favourite mail-order and online accessories to fill your home with Gallic charm

STYLING MELANIE MOLESWORTH | PHOTOGRAPHS TOM LEIGHTON



A painted antique frieze can create a dramatic bedhead (left), offset by pretty floral bedlinen.

**Similar painted bedhead**, The French House Antiques. **Heloise reversible king-size duvet cover**, £139; **square pillowcases**, £19.95 each; all La Maison Bleue. **Vintage French linen sheet**, £150, Appley Hoare Antiques. **Ceramic Crinkle lamp**, diam29cm, £79, The French House.



White chairs with faded fabric seat covers, none of it matching, lend an air of shabby château chic.

**Reclaimed pine X-frame table**, £1,900, A&L Antiques. **Similar painted cupboard**, Josephine Ryan Antiques. **Paris chair** (left), £299; **Larsson chair** (right), £285; both Chic Shack. **Seat covers** in Harvest No 2 (left), linen/cotton mix, 140cm wide, £18.50m, Ian Mankin. Constance in Multi (right), linen, 140cm wide, £30m, Cabbages & Roses. **Vintage café cloth**, £55, Parna. **Aubusson rug** 616, £320sq m, The Rug Company. **Large urn**, H24.5cm, £41, The French House. **Brasserie bowls**, £5.50 each, La Maison Bleue. **Charmille glasses**, £78 set of six, Lavender & Sage. **Palme nine-light chandelier**, H60x W60cm, £1,805, Bella Figura. **Inspire candle holders** on mantelpiece H27cm, £14.99 pair; **Inspire candelabra**, H42cm, £24.99; all Argos. **Similar vases**, glass storage jars, £21 for six, Summerill & Bishop. **Similar tassel**, from £10.95 for six, V V Rouleaux.

French-style kitchenware is both classic and useful.

**Antico side plate**, £15.28; **olive dish**, £4.25; both Divertimenti. **Olive wood salad servers**, £29.50 pair; **iron trivet** diam23.5cm, £9; **blue-striped linen runner**, 150x70cm, £69.50; **pen knife**, £35; **espresso glass**, £4.95; all Summerill & Bishop. **Wooden platter**, diam40cm, £25, Cox & Cox.



A simple arrangement of stoneware in earthy shades has a typically French flavour.

**Large antique confit jar**, £150, Appley Hoare Antiques. **Provence stoneware wine cooler**, £45.90; **large Rumtopf jar**, £59.50; both Lavender & Sage. **19th-century pot**, £220, Artefact. **Pewter brasserie tray**, 22.5x15cm, £17, Brissi. **Similar tealight holder**, £6 for three, Niki Jones. **Pierre Joseph Redoute print**, 51x36cm, £19.98, Arc Prints. **Aluminium frame**, 50x40cm, £12.50, Paperchase. ▶

# H&G FINISHING TOUCHES

A generously upholstered chaise longue is French in feel and a perfect place to relax.

**Fauberg lounger** in Wheat linen H96xW137xD71cm, £1,250, India Jane.

**19th-century French bistro table**, £350, Artefact.

**Similar painted cupboard and large armoire**, Josephine Ryan Antiques.

**Vintage French books**, £35 each, Appley Hoare Antiques.

**Charleston ceramic table lamp**, £145, Cologne & Cotton.

**Framed music print**, £69 set of two; **white pitcher**, H20cm, £35; both

Brissi. **Ivory cashmere throw**, 135x180cm, £649, Yves Delorme.

**Similar glass vase**, Anais column vase, £20, Habitat.



Tactile linen towels and soap cubes add understated Provencal style.

**Similar washstand**, Pimpernel & Partners.

**Syrie linen bath sheet**, £83; **hand towel**, £39; **Balineum glass**, £9.50 pair; all Summerill & Bishop.

**Version Originelle Marseille soaps**, from £3.50 for 150g, Lifestyle Bazaar.

**Bowl**, £220, Appley Hoare Antiques.

**Pitcher**, £39, Brissi.

**Similar light**, Enscenced light, H56xW29xD16cm, £89, The French Bedroom Company.



A weathered archive box is a practical and attractive way to store treasured photographs.

**Photograph archive box** (includes 12 hanging files; two shown), H15xW32xD20cm, £29, Plümo.

**Vintage French jar**, £10, Appley Hoare Antiques.

**Caran d'Ache 18-piece pencil set**, £25, Paperchase. ■



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1



2



3



4



5



6

## UPHOLSTERED

**1. Provencale** in Plain natural linen, H119xW160xL215cm, from £1,850, Laura Ashley.

**2. Henrietta** in Pebble, H119xW152xL249cm, from £1,895, Feather & Black.

**3. Pushkar** in Dark stained oak with upholstered headboard, H95xW167xL214, £849, Habitat.

**4. Inferno** in Taupe brushed linen

cotton, H137xW143xL201cm, from £590, Sofa.com.

**5. Louis XVI à Socle** in Serena linen by Manuel Canovas and beech, H135xW161xL212cm, £2,394, excluding fabric, Simon Horn.

**6. Louis** in Natural linen and oak, H129xW147xL201cm, £745, The Sleep Room. ▶



**WOOD**

- 1. Rubens classic lit bateau** in limewood in Clunch by Farrow & Ball, H98xW165xL235cm, £4,050, And So To Bed.
- 2. Ditsy** in French Grey, H97xW165xL208cm, £525, The French Bedroom Company.
- 3. Cap Ferret** in lindenwood, H170xW170xL220cm, from £1,998, Roche Bobois.
- 4. Louis** in oak, H148xW183xL210cm, £975, The French Furniture Company.

- 5. Florence Cane** in tulipwood, H124xW146.5xL201.5cm, £995, The White Company.
- 6. Indochine Canopy** in cherrywood, H209xW140xL190cm, from £3,115, Grange.
- 7. Madeleine** in Flannel Grey, H123xW164xL230cm, £1,650 including mattress, Oka. ■

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FEATURE LUISA FERDENZI



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# Decorating with chandeliers

These sparkling light fittings make arresting features in any scheme



1

**WOW FACTOR**

A pair of Venetian-style chandeliers lends double impact to this dining area; the intricacy of the designs plus the sleek lines of the architecture are an interesting juxtaposition, too.



2

**PERFECT MATCH**

Multifaceted drops offer maximum sparkle when the chandelier is switched on. Here, the turquoise glass beads echo the colours of the painting.



3

**SAFETY IN NUMBERS**

A decorative chandelier can be used in a bathroom if it hangs outside the IP rating zone of 2.25m from a basin or bath. This Scandinavian-style light works perfectly with the room's blue and white scheme.



4

**INFORMAL STYLE**

A dining table is one of the few places where it's possible to hang a chandelier low, as the table prevents it from being knocked into. The position of this tiered glass design adds a sense of intimacy. ▶



# 5

### SIMPLE SPACE

The pared-down elegance of this large chandelier suits the light and airy feel of its traditional orangery setting.



### DRAMATIC IMPACT

Fashioned from antlers, this unusual design fits well with its country-house setting, enhanced by toile de Jouy wallpaper and fabrics. Its size emphasises the room's generous proportions.

# 6

# 7

### STATEMENT PIECE

Charcoal-coloured walls provide a good foil for this distinctive porcelain chandelier from Atelier Abigail Ahern, 020 7354 8181, atelierabigailahern.com.



# 8

### MODERN LINE

This impressive cutting-edge stainless-steel light fitting complements the sleek style of this kitchen beautifully. Use a dimmer switch to ensure a soft, subtle light.





# 9

## OPPOSITES ATTRACT

Contemporary wrought-iron chandeliers are unbeatable for simplicity; here, white walls show off this striking design to great effect.



**THEATRICAL FLOURISH**  
Jet-black crystal drops lend a sense of drama to this kitchen by Clive Christian, O2Q 7349 9200, clive.com. The same design is used in the living room beyond, drawing the eye the full length of the space to reinforce its spectacular proportions.

# 10

## CENTRE OF ATTENTION

A large crystal chandelier creates a dramatic focal point in this entrance hall. Its elaborate style brings unexpected sparkle to the otherwise all-white, pared-down space. ▶

# 12

# 11

## CANDLE-LIT

Most electric chandeliers are not safe for bathrooms; instead, consider using an unwired model with candles, such as this glamorous design.



# DESIGNER INSIGHT

Our three experts extol the virtues of these dramatic light fittings



**MICHAEL VAUGHAN**  
Creative director, Vaughan,  
020 7349 4600,  
vaughandesigns.com.



**ANDREW HILLS**  
Managing director, Porta  
Romana, 01420 23005,  
portaromana.co.uk.



**LOUISE BRADLEY**  
Interior designer,  
020 7589 1442,  
louisebradley.co.uk.

## HOW DO YOU USE CHANDELIERS AS PART OF A SCHEME?



**MV** Much depends on the size and purpose of the room and the type of chandelier but, as a general rule, I like to use chandeliers that are oversized to provide an arresting decorative effect. Conversely, I don't like chandeliers to provide too strong a light. I prefer a soft glow, combined with other light sources in a room; I therefore use dimmers or very low-voltage bulbs.

**AH** A chandelier generally has the ceiling all to itself and therefore the perfect, uncluttered space in which to take centre stage. It can, of course, provide excitement and impact simply by being grand and impressive. I always prefer to see something original, sculptural and with a unique character that will add another layer of interest to the room's decoration.

**LB** I use chandeliers to give an interior a special atmosphere. During planning, I find placing chandeliers in key locations helps to structure the flow and carries a certain theme throughout the rest of the property. Chandeliers look their best in dining rooms (right) or entrances where they take centre stage. They generate interesting light that bounces off ceilings and walls, giving a warm, luxurious glow.

## WHAT ARE THE PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS?

**MV** Owing to the weight of many large chandeliers, it is important to consider installation requirements early on in the design process. It may be necessary to access ceiling beams from the room above, or to use specialist fittings. Also, chandeliers can be costly, so to avoid mistakes seek the professional advice of an interior designer about the right fixture for the room.

**AH** Sadly, a chandelier is not for every room and, with the best will in the world, you will not be able to create the sense of a ballroom in a low-beamed cottage. One solution is to lower a chandelier over a dining or hall table; the furniture will prevent anyone walking into it and the area will take on an intimate feel. If you are lucky enough to have three-metre-high ceilings, then almost anything is possible.

**LB** An interior designer or architect can help you get the proportions right. The most obvious measurement to have is that of your ceiling height and you need to think about ceiling supports, too. A chandelier's primary task is a decorative one, therefore other sources of task lighting should be available if necessary. Always use a trusted and qualified electrician to install your chandelier.



## DO YOU HAVE ANY FAVOURITE DESIGNS AT THE MOMENT?

**MV** We manufacture an enormous range of chandeliers – more than 100 different models – in both traditional and contemporary styles in many different materials. My favourite at the moment is the Verbier CLA68/L (left), one of our modern crystal designs. I like the clean style of this chandelier and relish the contrast between the solid clear crystal balls and larger mottled circles.



**AH** I love the Porta Romana collection, of course, and my favourite piece is the Blossom chandelier (above). I wish I could take credit for it but it was designed by my partner, Sarah. It combines hand-forged metal branches gilded in our workshop and scrunched-up pieces of crystal. The crystals sparkle softly when lit and become the blossoms on the tree. Sublime.

**LB** I have always been very fond of using unusual and distinctive materials such as rock crystal, which brings an ethereal element to a room, or coloured glass beads. As part of our range of bespoke lighting, we have recently designed a chandelier with a set of asymmetrically arranged sections of chipped-edge glass; it hangs in the entrance of our flagship showroom in Brompton Cross. ■



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ABOVE, FROM LEFT Portable picnic table, £99.99; blueberry bush collection, £21.15; Louis garden bench, £139.99; porous seepage hose, £24.99.

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Cheshire *Atlantic Timber Co. Ltd* - 0161 928 1696

## **Midlands**

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Sutton Coldfield *Sutton Interiors* - 01213 784 445  
Newark *Belvoir Interiors Ltd* - 01636 705 892  
Stamford *OQS* - 01780 756 514  
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Cambourne *Parks Interiors* - 0800 9885663  
Chiverton Cross *Parks Interiors* - 0800 9885663  
Tincleton *Tincleton Lifestyle Centre* - 01305 848 391  
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Bay Pole shutters,  
from £500sq m,  
Thomas Sanderson.

# BLINDS & SHUTTERS

*Sleek, smart and incredibly versatile, these window treatments are also pleasingly simple*

As window dressings, blinds and shutters are extremely adaptable. Blinds can be simple in a "barely there" way or swagger with pattern and voluptuous folds, while shutters are a decorative feature in their own right. Used alone, both treatments can make a room feel spacious and open or, when teamed with curtains, give a luxurious look. "A new blind is a cost-effective way of making a dramatic impact when updating a room," says Lucy Wright, blinds, tracks and poles buyer for John Lewis. "They are also immensely practical for privacy, controlling

glare and offering a sophisticated means of adjusting light levels." Blinds are one of the easiest ways to dress an awkward-shaped window, such as an arch, dormer or porthole; shutters can be made to measure for these windows too. Blinds also provide a solution for large expanses of glass, including French windows and bi-folds. Here, vertical blinds and floating panels come into their own, providing privacy when needed, then sliding neatly to one side when not. With a vast choice of ready-made and bespoke solutions, there is a perfect match for every window. ►

# CHOOSING BLINDS

*From simple rollers to soft folds and smart slatted styles*

## SOFT OPTIONS

Fabric blinds are a versatile decorating element. Using far less material than curtains, they enable you to choose more luxurious fabrics.

**ROLLER** As flat panels that roll up out of sight, these are the best solution for flush windows. They can easily be layered with curtains and are ideal used alone in more functional spaces like bathrooms, kitchens and hallways – they are also simple to operate for children's rooms. If the top of the blind is going to be visible, opt for a reverse roller where the fabric sits in front of the mechanism. Ready-mades are available from high street stores such as John Lewis, B&Q and Marks & Spencer. Or you can take the bespoke route. Look out for specialist finishes such as blackout backing or patterned voiles to provide privacy. Hillarys have wipe-down Teflon-coated fabrics for kitchens and bathrooms, while Pret à Vivre will laminate any fabric of your choice on to standard or blackout backing and the company 55Max will reproduce your own photograph on a blind.

**ROMAN** A simple panel pulled up into concertina folds, this style of blind is unfussy yet elegant and works in both relaxed and formal room schemes. The folds are created by a series of cords, making the blind easy to operate, and it can sit inside or outside the architrave. These blinds are well suited to rooms with bountiful soft furnishings such as bedrooms, living and dining rooms.

**ROLL-UP** Also called Swedish blinds, these tailor-made options consist of two contrasting fabrics sewn back to back, which roll up from the bottom and are secured in place with ties at the top. Suited to kitchens, breakfast rooms or bedrooms, they have a clean simplicity and a relaxed, country-style charm. Slim in design, they also suit windows with narrow sills.

**AUSTRIAN** With full, feminine ruching, this decorative option takes on a smart look when made up in formal fabrics. The gathers are created by cords attached to a curtain-style heading tape to create soft folds across the vertical and the horizontal, thus creating a scalloped edge along the bottom.

**PLEATED** No longer seen as utilitarian, pleats are back in fashion. Crisp fabric folded into narrow pleats offers an ideal solution for awkwardly shaped or angled windows. The 3D effect is better at filtering strong light than flat panels, making pleated blinds a good choice for loft conversions and conservatories.



Venetian blinds, from £170sq m, Lombok.

## SLATTED BLINDS

Made from stiff gauze, wood, bamboo or aluminium, slatted blinds are designed to reduce glare without blocking out light. These blinds are some of the most responsive window treatments available.

**VENETIAN** These are made up of horizontal slats, varying from 15mm, 25mm, 35mm to 50mm wide, strung together by a series of cords. Attached to the underside of the window recess, they can simply be tilted, raised or lowered to control the light. Most commonly available in wood or aluminium, they are usually made to order, but there are affordable ready-made options too, and these can be trimmed for a precise fit. For moisture-prone rooms, such as kitchens and bathrooms, Aluwood from Hillarys has the style of wood but is made of resilient aluminium.

**VERTICAL** A series of upright slats held together with cords along the top and bottom, vertical blinds, like Venetians, can be angled, opened and closed as required. They're ideal for large windows such as those in conservatories or where access is required, as with French windows and patio doors.

**SLIDING PANELS** A more extreme form of the vertical blind, sliding panels operate in a similar way but with larger panels that run along tracks in the floor and ceiling. Silent Gliss offers an innovative panel glide system that can be installed on straight or curved windows, while House Couturier offers a good choice of fabrics, including patterned voiles, plains and blackout fabrics.



Vertical blinds in Fondant fabric, from £240sq m, House Couturier.



**Glamour roller blind.**  
£22.19 for a 61cm sq  
blind, Apollo Blinds.



**Roman blinds** work in  
both formal and more  
relaxed room schemes.

## A PERFECT FIT

Accuracy is essential; use a metal ruler and measure to the nearest millimetre. Some companies offer a full measuring-up and fitting service. The person making your blind will carry out any necessary adjustments for the mechanism but be aware that roller blinds will be around 3cm narrower than your window.

### FOR BLINDS OUTSIDE THE RECESS

- Work out how much you wish the fabric to overlap the wall – a minimum of 45mm offers a substantial look.
- Measure the width of the window and add the total desired overlap.
- Measure the drop plus the overlap.
- There is a useful video on how to

measure up for blinds on the website, [naturalcurtaincompany.co.uk](http://naturalcurtaincompany.co.uk).

### FOR BLINDS INSIDE THE RECESS

- Check the recess is at least 75mm deep to allow for the mechanism.
- Measure the width at the top, middle and bottom and use the narrowest measurement. Repeat for the drop.



**Roll-up or Swedish blinds**  
have an informal country  
style that is ideal for  
kitchens or bedrooms.



**In a conservatory** blinds  
help with temperature control,  
providing shade in summer  
and reducing drafts in winter.

## READY-MADE OR BESPOKE

Most of the large high street stores stock a decent choice of ready-made blinds in a range of sizes that can be trimmed to fit standard windows. You will find roller, Roman and Venetian as well as a few roll-up options in limited colourways, most often in neutrals and fashionable shades. Ready-made blinds offer an affordable and instant solution if you can find a style to suit but, for a sharp fit and a wealth of colours, patterns and styles, you cannot beat bespoke.

On the high street, Laura Ashley and John Lewis both offer a seven-day express service using stock fabrics and a choice of trimmings and mechanisms, while most interior designers and specialist companies take commissions, usually with a measuring-up and fitting service. The added benefit of using a designer is access to a wider range of fabrics. Specialist companies, such as Hillarys and Pret à Vivre, also offer a comprehensive range of fabrics and a nationwide service.

## CONSERVATORIES

With metres of glass to cover, conservatory blinds are some of the most challenging window treatments. Performance is key to keeping this room comfortable all year round and, with blinds on both ceiling and wall windows, they need to be easy to operate and robust enough to keep their shape without sagging. A traditional choice is woodweave or Pinoleum, made of narrow closely bound strips of wood. However, these offer little in the way of insulation. Roller, Roman, pleated and Venetian blinds can all be adapted successfully. Pleated fit neatly in each window rebate and, when fully retracted, virtually disappear. Roller blinds can be backed with aluminium to reflect up to 85 per cent of the sun's heat in summer and retain up to 18 per cent more heat in winter. Venetian blinds can be made super slim to fit neatly inside each window rebate and reduce the height of the stack when fully retracted. Try Thomas Sanderson and Appeal Blinds for specialist solutions. ▶

# SHUTTER OPTIONS

*Finding the best solution to ensure enduring appeal*

Fitting shutters is a good way to provide privacy and to control light. Prices vary greatly depending on the quality and service and, with three key styles available in a vast choice of wood and painted finishes, the designs are less fussy than fabric options and more durable. They are also suitable for use in the bathroom and kitchen. "Shutters are practical, low maintenance and very hardwearing. Having a longer lifespan than blinds or curtains, they make an excellent investment choice," says Sarah Quilliam of Hillarys.

## STYLES AVAILABLE

Louvred shutters give best the light control, while solid shutters, such as those from Sashes and Shutters, are historically accurate for Georgian properties. Some manufacturers, including The California Company, offer shutters that have solid panels at the lower half with slatted tops. Or you might opt for a more decorative Gustavian or French design. The plantation shutter has louvres that can be 47mm, 64mm, 89mm or up to 114mm wide.

## MATERIALS AND FINISHES

Cedar, yellow poplar and elm are three timbers used for internal shutters, as the wood grows straight, has a smooth grain and is lightweight. Some have an engineered core finished with veneer to combat warping. Cedar is the best choice for bathrooms and kitchens as it is naturally water-resistant, although waterproof polyvinyl is available too. Wooden shutters can be stained or oiled. Most companies offer a palette of wood tones and neutrals, while others offer a bespoke colour service.

## SHUTTER FORMATION

You can control light levels through your choice of configuration. Full-height shutters are a good solution for bedrooms, as little light seeps in when closed. Tier-on-tier shutters are split into two rows (usually of equal height) allowing you to open and close the top and bottom halves independently. Café-style shutters cover just the bottom half of the window, letting light in at the top; this is a popular format for kitchens and bathrooms.



**Kelly's Shutters**, available in eggshell, gloss or stain finish, from £99sq.m, Kelly Hoppen at B&Q.



**Tier-on-tier bespoke shutters**, from £375sq.m, The New England Shutter company.

## MEASURING UP AND ORDERING

The majority of shutters will be made to order with a measuring-up, fitting and adjusting service all included in the price. The nature of the housing stock in the UK results in fairly irregular windows, and most shutters are set on a battening system for easy adjustment. Decide whether you want your shutters to sit within the window recess or to fold flat against the wall – the representative for your shutter company should be able to go through all the options with you.



**Fan-shaped shutters** for arched windows, from £250sq.m, Custom West.



Tier-on-tier shutters in premium basswood, from £500sq m, Hillarys.



Visit [homesandgardens.com/shuttersandblinds](http://homesandgardens.com/shuttersandblinds) for ideas on how to dress your windows



Shutters in Duck Egg, from £650sq m, Laura Ashley at Thomas Sanderson.

FEATURE JILL MORGAN | PHOTOGRAPHS IPC+ SYNDICATION

## WORKING WITH AWKWARD WINDOWS

Slimline and fuss-free, blinds and shutters are particularly useful for providing successful window treatments where curtains would not be suitable.

■ **BAY WINDOWS** Even when open curtains can reduce light in a bay, while roller blinds will have gaps at the edges when pulled down. Fitted shutters don't have these problems. Thomas Sanderson has developed the BayPole shutter system for bay windows in 60 colours plus a colour matching service.

■ **SKYLIGHTS & LANTERNS** Light and glare can be controlled with integral roller, Venetian or pleated blinds, which are fitted inside the double glazing unit or as separate panels that sit neatly on top. Flying pleated blinds from Velux are fixed to side channels so can be positioned as required.

### ■ FRENCH WINDOWS & PATIO DOORS

These need to remain uncluttered to provide access and not hamper the view. Opt for a series of retractable full-height panel blinds. Fitted to a track either inside or above the window recess, the panels can slide across or retract back as needed.

### ■ ROUND & FAN-SHAPED WINDOWS

Even though both types can look great in a bathroom or on a stairwell, they are actually rather difficult to dress. A bespoke shaped shutter is the most effective solution and will enhance the window's outline and character. Expect to pay around £250sq m.

## DIRECTORY

Essential contacts for where to buy shutters and blinds

### BLINDS SUPPLIERS

■ **Apollo Blinds**, 0800 915 3030, [apollo-blinds.co.uk](http://apollo-blinds.co.uk).

■ **Appeal Blinds**, 0800 975 5757, [appealblinds.com](http://appealblinds.com).

■ **Creatively Different Blinds**, 0800 085 2055, [creativelydifferentblinds.com](http://creativelydifferentblinds.com).

■ **Digetex**, 0161 873 8891, [digetex.com](http://digetex.com).

■ **The Fabric Box**, [thefabricbox.co.uk](http://thefabricbox.co.uk).

■ **55Max**, 0845 056 8728, [55max.com](http://55max.com).

■ **Habitat**, 0844 499 1111, [habitat.co.uk](http://habitat.co.uk).

■ **Heal's**, 0870 024 0780, [heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk).

■ **Hillarys**, 0800 916 6524, [hillarys.co.uk](http://hillarys.co.uk).

■ **House Couturier**, 020 7371 9255, [housecouturier.eu](http://housecouturier.eu).

■ **John Lewis**, 0845 604 9049, [johnlewis.com](http://johnlewis.com).

■ **Laura Ashley**, 0871 230 2301, [lauraashley.com](http://lauraashley.com).

■ **Luxaflex**, 0800 652 7799, [luxaflex.co.uk](http://luxaflex.co.uk).

■ **Marks & Spencer**, 0845 603 1603, [marksandspencer.com](http://marksandspencer.com).

■ **The Natural Curtain Company**, 0845 5000 400, [naturalcurtaincompany.com](http://naturalcurtaincompany.com).

■ **Pret à Vivre**, 0845 130 5161, [pretavivre.com](http://pretavivre.com).

■ **Rufflette**, 0161 998 1811, [rufflette.com](http://rufflette.com).

■ **Silent Gliss**, 01843 863571, [silent-gliss.co.uk](http://silent-gliss.co.uk).

■ **Sunway Blinds**, 0161 442 9500, [sunwayblinds.co.uk](http://sunwayblinds.co.uk).

■ **Thomas Sanderson**, 0800 056 2929, [thomas-sanderson.co.uk](http://thomas-sanderson.co.uk).

■ **Trade Blinds Direct**, 01423 562555, [tradesblindsdirect.co.uk](http://tradesblindsdirect.co.uk).

■ **Velux**, 01592 778225, [velux.co.uk](http://velux.co.uk).

■ **Web Blinds**, 0845 604 9611, [web-blinds.com](http://web-blinds.com).

### SHUTTER COMPANIES

■ **American Shutters**, 01628 586986, [americanshutters.co.uk](http://americanshutters.co.uk).

■ **B&Q**, 0845 850 0175, [diy.com](http://diy.com).

■ **The California Company**, 0845 123 5661, [thecaliforniacompany.co.uk](http://thecaliforniacompany.co.uk).

■ **Custom West**, 0845 166 7604, [customwest.co.uk](http://customwest.co.uk).

■ **Jali**, 01227 833333, [jali.co.uk](http://jali.co.uk).

■ **Key West Shutters**, 0845 165 8353, [keywestshutters.co.uk](http://keywestshutters.co.uk).

■ **Lombok**, 0870 240 7380, [lombok.co.uk](http://lombok.co.uk).

■ **The New England Shutter Company**, 020 8675 1099, [tnesc.co.uk](http://tnesc.co.uk).

■ **Plantation Shutters**, 020 8871 9222, [plantation-shutters.co.uk](http://plantation-shutters.co.uk).

■ **Sashes and Shutters**, 01793 855044, [sashesandshutters.co.uk](http://sashesandshutters.co.uk).

■ **Shaftesbury Shutters**, 0845 166 4103, [shaftesburys.co.uk](http://shaftesburys.co.uk).

■ **Shutter Master**, 01942 676722, [shuttermaster.co.uk](http://shuttermaster.co.uk).

■ **Shutterly Fabulous**, 0845 644 2873, [shutterlyfabulous.com](http://shutterlyfabulous.com).

■ **The Shutter Shop**, 020 7751 0937, [shuttershop.co.uk](http://shuttershop.co.uk). ■

# WALL TO WALL

*The trend for decorative tiles is seeing a welcome return to colour, texture and pattern in the bathroom*

Something new is afoot in the nation's bathrooms. Formerly subdued whites and neutrals are blossoming into decorative detail. From playful mosaics and Moorish tiles, to classic patterns and rich glazes, bold choices have burst on to the bathroom scene. Many motifs and finishes, such as flocks, metallics and woven textures, will be familiar from fabrics and wallpapers. "Today's consumers are rebelling against neutrals and using graphic designs and vivid colours to make more of a feature of their bathrooms," confirms Tracey Jenks of Evitavonni. The price per metre for bespoke mosaics and more exotic choices can be unnerving but, in the context of the whole project, it is usually achievable, especially if the room is small. The best thing about statement

tiles is that you only need to cover a small area. Tighter budgets will find plenty of choice too, as top design studios including Hemingway Design and Studio Conran, are joining forces with mainstream manufacturers.

Many designers recommend the floor, or the wall opposite the room's entrance as the ideal place to site a design centrepiece. The rest of the room can be finished in less expensive field tiles. How you lay the tiles can be a design element in itself. Rectangular tiles laid brick-bond style has retro appeal, while mixing colours and sizes has a bohemian patchwork flavour. The latest trend for textured tiles is witnessing raised patterns for a tactile dimension, while mosaics continue to be a top choice when it comes to striking decoration.





## BRANCHING OUT



For the guest bathroom in his Lincolnshire home, Mark Ander's brief to Neil Partridge and Darren Cherry of NGI Design was, simply, "Do something I wouldn't expect." Having admired Bisazza's Corallo range by Marco Braga for some time, Neil realised this was the perfect opportunity to use it. "It's simple but glamorous with bits of white gold that sparkle. Also it is quite timeless so it doesn't overpower the small space," Neil adds.

The original coral mural was redesigned at Bisazza's Italian headquarters to ensure a symmetrical fit with the sloping ceiling. The tile company tweaked the height and width of each coral branch, interspersing bubbles of white gold tesserae (individual mosaic tiles) through the fronds. Once the design was approved, a team of Italian tilers was flown to the UK to install it. "The tiles come in 30cm sq sheets, but they're paper faced so you can't see what you're putting on the wall. For this reason it's a highly skilled job, so it was well worth flying specialists over," says Neil.

Crisp white and sleek chrome finishes for the rest of the bathroom fittings keep the spotlight firmly on the mosaic pattern. "With bold tiles like these, it pays to use them sparingly and to keep everything else simple," says Neil. "Mark absolutely loves the space. He is very focused on detail so appreciates the craftsmanship that has gone into this feature wall."

### FACT FILE

**DESIGNER** Neil Partridge and Darren Cherry, NGI Design, 01780 766899, [ngidesign.co.uk](http://ngidesign.co.uk).

**THE BRIEF** To create something special with an element of surprise.

**BUDGET** £30,000.

**SOURCES** Mosaics, Bisazza, 020 7584 8837, [bisazza.com](http://bisazza.com). Bath, Victoria & Albert Baths, 01952 221100, [vandabaths.com](http://vandabaths.com).

**WC, shower tray and basin**, GSG Ceramic Design; **shower screen**, Elements;

**brassware**, Bonomi; all available in the UK from NGI Design, as above. ▶

## SMALL SCALE



Maia and Tom Hale admit the guest bathroom in their Notting Hill home is tiny, but they felt it called for big personality. Inspired by Emery et Cie's Paris showroom, they chose Rosiers and Oeillets concrete floor tiles from the In A Garden range, and Chacours zelliges (fish-scale-shaped terracotta tiles) for the walls. "Each wall tile is hand cut so no two are the same," says Milla Gough-Willetts of Studio Azzurro, "and the graduated shades lend a beautiful cloudy effect." While the tiles are stunning, laying them proved a challenge and Studio Azzurro went through two tilers before

they finally found someone with the required patience and skill. "Having different depths, the tiles can be hard to interlock, and to ensure a random blend of colours you need to lay the tiles out like a puzzle on the floor," says Milla. She also suggested pushing the original flat ceiling up to the rafters to give the tiles breathing space. DK Joinery created a cantilevered vanity unit in teak veneer, punctuated by Pierre-Yves Rochon porcelain basin taps in a silver damask pattern that complement the floor tiles, while a bespoke teak tray was made for the shower. "It took time, especially the tiles," says Milla, "but the end result was worth it."

## FACT FILE

**DESIGNERS** Milla Gough-Willetts, Studio Azzurro, 020 7349 7082, studioazzurro.co.uk.

**THE BRIEF** Create a statement shower room.

**BUDGET** £25,000.

**SOURCES** Tiles, Emery et Cie, 020 8969 0222, emeryetcie.com. **Shower controls**, Dornbracht, 024 7671 7129, dornbracht.co.uk. **Shower tray**, William Garvey, 01404 841430, williamgarvey.co.uk. **Shower surround and vanity top**, Stone Interiors, 0870 066 5590, stoneinteriors.co.uk.

**Basin taps**, Bathrooms International, 020 7838 7788, bathroomsint.com.

## MAKING IT WORK

■ If using decorated tiles, create a tiling plan to ensure the pattern is central and meets seamlessly at corners.

Some designers have a CAD service that provides a computerised image of the tiled space in advance.

■ Good tiles demand decent fitting. Find a reputable fixer through The Tile Association's directory at tiles.org.uk.

■ When fixing tiles in wet areas it is essential to tile on to a water-resistant background. Sand/cement render, dense concrete or tile backer board are all ideal materials for this. Also pay attention to sealing the gaps between tiles and shower trays or bath tubs, using a good-quality anti-fungicide silicon sealant.

■ For more inspiration, visit a tile showroom to see displays and samples in every shape, colour and texture imaginable. Three to try are: World's End Tiles, 020 7819 2100, worldsendtiles.co.uk; Surface Tiles, 020 8481 9588, surfacetiles.com; and Porcelanosa, 0800 915 4000, porcelanosa.com/uk.



## SMOOTH AS SILK



Interior designer George Bond first saw Porcelanosa's Deco Silk tiles during a tour of the company's factory in Valencia, Spain, last year, and he was entranced by their silky sheen and delicate floral pattern. His clients, Gabriel and Sian Butler, who commissioned George to do a complete overhaul of their Edwardian home in Sunderland, were similarly impressed and gave him the go-ahead to use the tiles in their en suite bathroom. The Butlers were keen for their home to be light and uplifting with modern fittings. Contemporary fittings, including Porcelanosa's striking Round bath

and geometric Básico Teide basin units, combined with sleek chrome brassware from the Future range, bring a crisp, clean edge to the classically tiled backdrop. The "his and hers" basin units are made from natural Cardoso limestone so each piece is different, which adds a unique element to the design. The floor is clad in a plain Silk field tile that matches the buff tones of the wall tiles, while the shower area is finished in mosaics that also share Porcelanosa's Deco Silk colour palette. "Plantation shutters enhance the airy feel and the whole space has an understated elegance that is very soothing," adds George.

### FACT FILE

**DESIGNER** George Bond, George Bond Interior Design, 0191 281 7799, email: enquiries@georgebond.tv.

**THE BRIEF** To create a light and airy bathroom using modern fittings that would work in a traditional property.

**BUDGET** Around £25,000.

**SOURCES** All bathroom fittings, including tiles, Porcelanosa, 0800 915 4000, porcelanosa.com/uk.



Visit [homesandgardens.com/bathroomgallery](http://homesandgardens.com/bathroomgallery) for more inspirational bathroom schemes

WORDS LINDA CLAYTON | PHOTOGRAPHS DARREN CHUNG (NGI DESIGN), DOUGLAS GIBB (GEORGE BOND)

## GALLERY More tile designs featuring bold patterns or colours



**ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH**  
Fresh pattern with a mixed gloss and matt finish gives a shimmery surface. Cherie tiles add 30x60cm, £43sq m, **Villeroy & Boch at Urban Interior**, 020 7739 4644, urbaninterior.co.uk.



**NATURAL SELECTION**  
Inspired by the textures found in nature. Seagrass in Black, 24.8x39.8cm, from £27.73sq m, **Studio Conran at British Ceramic Tile**, 0845 618 7151, britishceramictile.com.



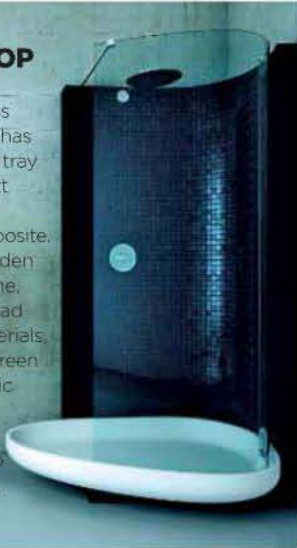
**ALTERED IMAGES**  
Digitally printed patterns make these tiles a versatile choice. Sapphire collection, 15cm sq, from £350sq m. **Dominic Crinson at Evitavonni**, 0800 130 3180, evitavonni.co.uk.



**INSPIRED BY POP ART**  
Porcelain patchwork in glowing hues. Collage tiles, 15cm sq, £59.97sq m; matching pencil border tiles, 15x1.5cm, £2.95 each. **Fired Earth**, 0845 366 0400, firedearth.com. ■

**IN THE LOOP**

The Beyond Shower by Glass Idromassaggio has an egg-shaped tray made from matt white or black Pietraluce composite. Plumbing is hidden behind the frame, which can be clad in a choice materials, while a glass screen hugs the organic shape. From £7,038, 024 764 68850, glassidromassaggio.com.



**HOME AND DRY**

The Saturno electrically heated towel radiator, £880, from Bisque is veneered in rich wenge (right) or dark ebony and boast a towel warming output of 450 watts. Contact 020 7328 2225, bisque.co.uk.



**IN BLOOM**

Tapestry roses on jacquard cotton make Anthropologie's new Perpetual Blooms towels, from £8, the perfect finishing touch. Contact 020 7529 9800, anthropologie.co.uk.



# Bathroom news

Update your oasis with our choice of the latest fittings and accessories



**SILVER STAR**

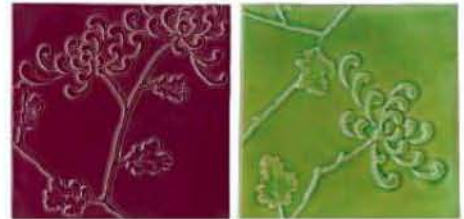
Hand-carved stone basin specialist Finwood Designs, 01926 484037, finwooddesigns.co.uk, has launched this beautifully crafted Cone washstand. In solid lavastone with a sleek metallic band and ridged detailing, it stands 85cm high and costs £1,599.



“Holistic values are at the

**forefront this year, with an emphasis on water usage, sustainability and relaxation for body and mind.”**

**LUDOVICA AND ROBERTO PALOMBA, ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS**



**ORIENTAL BEAUTIES**

These beautiful Chrysanthèmes Pham Tien Khang tiles by Agnès Emery are available in five patterns and three colours: Wine Red, Celadon Green (both shown above) and Warm Yellow. Handmade in Vietnam exclusively for Emery et Cie, they cost £64 for a 30cm square tile. For details, contact 020 8969 0222, emeryetcie.com.



**ON THE COUNTER**

The Living collection from Laufen, 01530 510007, laufen.co.uk, includes a 150cm-wide basin unit, £626. Its integral 90cm ceramic side surface comes as right or left facing.

**HIGH SHINE**

Add glamour to your bathroom with a counter-mounted basin from Galassia, £605, in a choice of metallic finishes. Choose from Gold (shown), Bronze or Platinum. Contact 0113 239 4447, ceramicagalassia.com.



**RAINING DOWN**

Shower under a cascade of colour and scent with the new Stella Spa showerhead, £3,995, from Alchemy Design Award, 0845 388 0782, alchemyaward.com. Touch-screen controls access the 16 shades of light and there are three different fragrances: Relaxing, Energising and Floral Notes. ■



FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON | PHOTOGRAPH (PORTRAIT) GIAMPAOLO SGURA



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# DREAM KITCHEN

Rob Morrison used classic cabinetry with a soft colour scheme to create an airy feel in his clients' coastal home

## CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE ORIGINAL SPACE?

The first kitchen was small, gloomy and opposite farm buildings, so owners Joanna and Steve Brooks added a double-height extension to maximise the natural light and also changed the room's aspect.

## WHAT WAS THE BRIEF?

The couple wanted a simple, classic, handmade kitchen that would blend naturally with the flow of the house. Steve is an explorer and extremely driven. His perfectionism pushed the project to new heights as he was determined to see how things could be improved.

## HOW DID YOU PLAN THE ROOM'S LAYOUT?

There was a brick column where the island now stands. We tried to design around it but, in the end, the couple

chose to install steel joists that criss-cross the ceiling without the need of a central support. This opened up the space and allowed me to create a more free-flowing layout.

## WHAT MATERIALS DID YOU CHOOSE?

The cupboards are based on our Williamsburg range, which features Shaker-style details such as pillow-front drawers, chunky stiles and boarded end panels. Painting the cabinets and walls in the same soft shade created a sense of cohesion throughout the space. Using another pale colour on the floor meant that we were able to choose darker worktops. Honed black granite provides a tough surface next to the Aga, but elsewhere aged iroko was chosen for its lovely warm finish; it will eventually darken to a rich chestnut colour.

## WHAT ABOUT THE APPLIANCES?

We added an electric oven and induction hob for backup during the summer when the Aga is switched off. To avoid the fridge-freezer dominating the space, we had it recessed into an alcove between the steel joists. There is a smaller retro-style model near the main sink, which is used for drinks.

## ARE THERE ANY ADDITIONAL FEATURES?

There is an amazing walk-in pantry just to the left of the stairs, which has a door that came from a boat's cold room store and a huge, clunky lock. As the room takes the storage pressure off the kitchen, I didn't need to include wall units. A chalkboard on a hinged door next to the couple's fridge-freezer is handy for shopping lists and messages, and also

hides the electrical supplies, as well as access for maintenance.

## TELL US ABOUT THE LIGHTING CHOICES

The reclaimed pendants over the dining table were originally factory lights. They really are rather big and look fantastic. The kitchen gets limited natural light, but pale materials and a minimal use of wall cabinets mean that light is carried through from the windows in the dining area.

## WHAT IS THE KEY TO THIS KITCHEN'S SUCCESS?

The trust the clients showed allowed me to go beyond the expected. Elements such as the white-washed floorboards, high portholes and antique dining chairs covered in French hessian grain sacks have created a chic coastal feel that does not go over the top. ■



## FACT FILE

**DESIGNER** Rob Morrison, Plain English, 01449 774028, plainenglishdesign.co.uk.

**BUDGET** £50,000-£60,000.

**SOURCES** Range cooker, Aga, 0845 712 5207, aga-rayburn.co.uk. **Fridge-freezer**, Maytag, 0844 499 0101, maytag.co.uk.

**Worktops**, Plain English (as above).

**Sink**, Villeroy & Boch, 020 8871 4028, villeroy-boch.co.uk. **Taps**, Lefroy Brooks, 01992 708316, lefroybrooks.com.

**Antique grain sacks** (on chairs), Parna, 0844 357 2339, parna.co.uk. **Pendant lights, pantry door and pot rack**, Lassco, 020 7394 2100, lassco.co.uk.

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Deborah Barker, Editor

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The Green Room, with its views of the Brittany countryside, is just one of many intriguing areas in the gardens of La Ballue, page 132.

# H&G GARDENS

PHOTOGRAPH BY ALLAN POLLOCK MORRIS

## **OPEN-AIR THEATRE**

Dramatic plantings create an intimate feel in the enchanting gardens of La Ballue in Brittany.

## **KEYNOTES: ALLÉES & VISTAS**

The best plants for avenues and focal points.

## **DESIGNER SECRETS**

Tim Rees's design for a relaxed Provençal garden.

## **GARDEN SOLUTIONS: FOUNTAINS & WATER FEATURES**

Traditional and contemporary designs that are perfect for adding interest and soothing the senses.

## **IN SEASON: ONIONS, GARLIC & SHALLOTS**

These aromatic and nutritious bulbs, so beloved by cooks, are the staple of every kitchen garden.



# OPEN-AIR

*With inspirational vistas, enticing at every turn, the enchanting gardens*

WORDS KIRSTY FERGUSSON

Unclipped spirals of yew and box topiary in *Le jardin mouvementé* rise above a frothing sea of *Alchemilla mollis* that is punctuated with stone statues.

# THEATRE

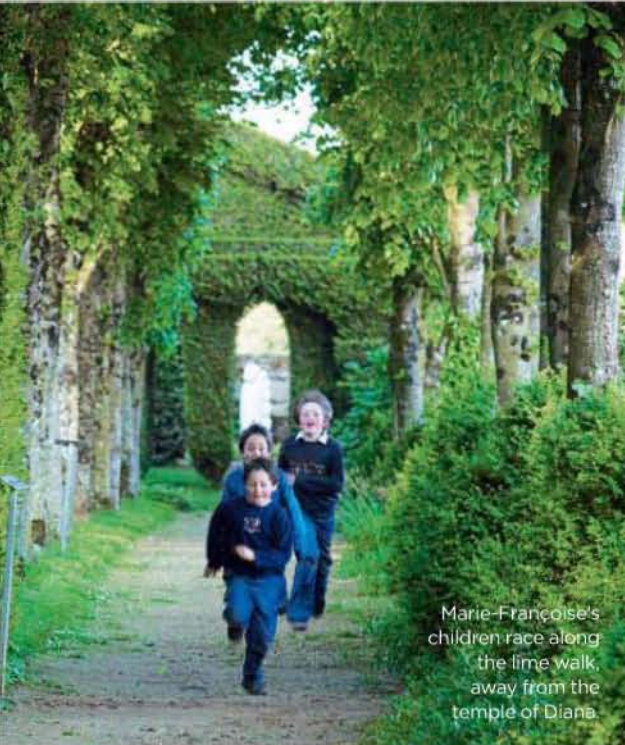
*pathways and contemporary sculpture  
at La Ballue in Brittany are pure drama*

PHOTOGRAPHS ALLAN POLLOK-MORRIS



Supported by columns of yew, the enticing wisteria allée edges the classic parterre at the front of the château.

*“It was the quiet energy, the lack of ostentation in its beauty, that won us over. Once through the gates, I was completely under its spell”*



Marie-Françoise's children race along the lime walk, away from the temple of Diana.



The Green Room affords amazing glimpses of the Breton landscape.

Approaching Château La Ballue on a clear day and looking north, you can see all the way to the Bay of Mont Saint-Michel across the wide open valley of the River Couesnon. Standing on a wooded bluff, the unadorned but elegant château occupies a strategic position: perfect for Brittany's peace-maker, Gilles de Ruellan, who built the château in 1620, and perfect for the rebels, writers, artists and free spirits who found sanctuary and inspiration at La Ballue in the centuries that followed.

The past four decades have seen the gardens swept up in this spirit of creativity, then tumble into neglect and rise again under the imaginative guidance of La Ballue's successive occupants. The garden was planned and planted 40 years ago by publisher Claude Arthaud, her architect husband François Hébert-Stevens and their friend Paul Maymont. In 1989, however, it was left to run wild before being rescued six years later. More recently, since 2005, the present owners, Marie-Françoise Mathiot-Mathon and her family, have cherished and developed this extraordinary site.

"It was the quiet energy, the lack of ostentation in its beauty, that won us over," says Marie-Françoise. "Once through the gates, I was completely under its spell."

The garden is a theatre operating on a delicate balance of opposites: by turn open and enclosed, light and shaded, playful and austere. Luscious green architecture rather than colour prevails. Visitors are guided through chambers of clipped hornbeam and yew, thuja and laurel towards swirling topiary and grassed parterres. Far from submerging you in formality, however, the rhythms and sudden changes of mood lend a dynamism to the experience. Occupying



Impressive serpentine hedges of *Thuja plicata atrovirens* create a sheltered spot in *Le bosquet mystérieux* (the mysterious grove).

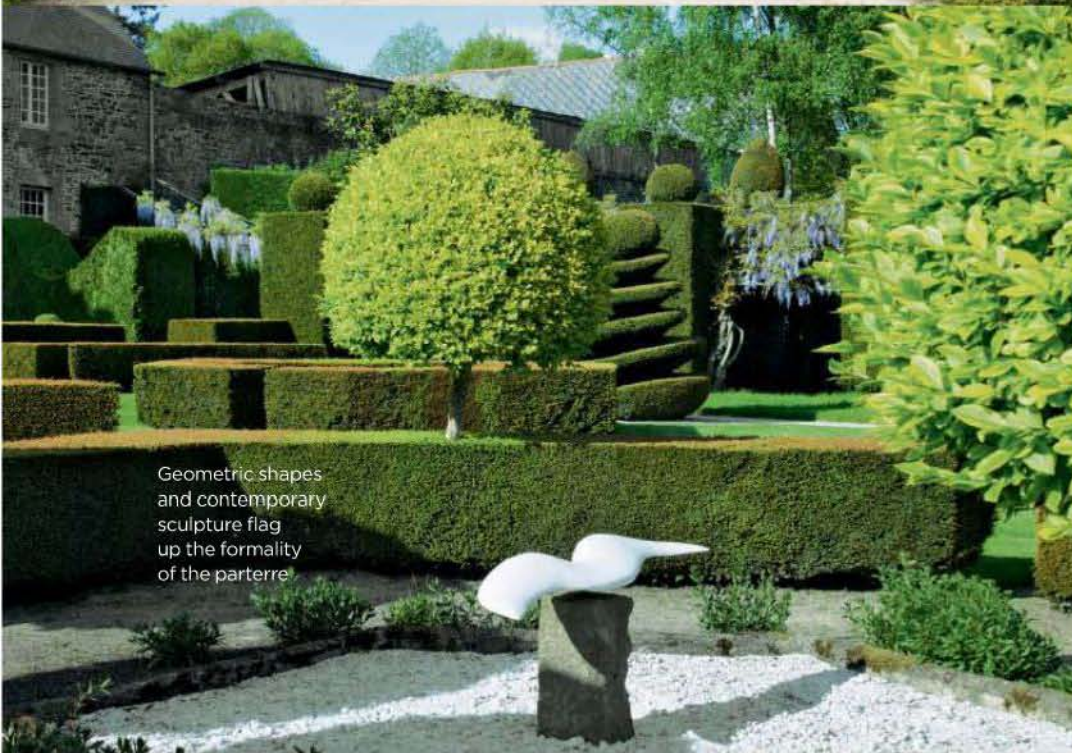


A dense and undulating yew hedge forms the boundary to the parterre.

# H&G CHÂTEAU GARDEN



Clipped greenery complements the facade of the 17th-century house.



Geometric shapes and contemporary sculpture flag up the formality of the parterre.

no more than two or three acres, La Ballue suggests seductive intimacy rather than overwhelming grandeur.

For the original designers there was never any question of restoring or recreating a 17th-century garden. The plot was divided into two parts. Directly in front of the château, a garden of classical formality is charged with terrific vitality by a yew hedge which undulates along the southern perimeter like a rippling ribbon. To the south-east of the château, numerous green chambers were planted along two diagonally intersecting axes. Each of these is themed: first, a small fern garden anchors La Ballue firmly in its landscape (this part of Brittany is known as *Le Pays de Fougères*, or fern country); next, yew spirals and obelisks rise through a frothing sea of alchemilla in *Le jardin mouvementé*; beyond, cathedral-like arches of leylandii cypresses lead to a circular “theatre” and “temple” of clipped thujas dedicated to Diana.

Contemporary sculpture inhabits every part of the garden: here, a contemplative face rises serenely above water lilies in the scented grove; there, pale hands and feet reach for the sky. There is much to entice and amuse, not least the sudden glorious openings onto the wide landscape and the dual perspectives of two allées: one leading into the light, the other into the shade.

“La Ballue is so much more than the sum of its parts,” says Marie-Françoise. “It is the wonderful interaction between the château, its garden and the landscape that makes it sublime.” ■

Be inspired by more gardens at [homesandgardens.com/gardenschemes](http://homesandgardens.com/gardenschemes)

## GARDEN GUIDE

**ORIENTATION** South facing.

**SOIL TYPE** Clay loam.

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

Sculptural topiary; allées; series of garden rooms; play between light and shade; classic parterre.

**TO VISIT** The gardens at Château de la Ballue are open 10.30am to 6.30pm, 15 March to 1 November. Call 0033 2 99 97 47 86, or visit [la-ballue.com](http://la-ballue.com).



ILLUSTRATION SCOTT JESSOP



# KEYNOTES

## ALLÉES AND VISTAS

Inspired by the gardens at La Ballue, we find the best plants for creating sculptural paths, allées, walkways and framed vistas



**Apple tunnel** at Aberglasney, Carmarthenshire, [aberglasney.org](http://aberglasney.org).  
**Malus sargentii** (crab apple), £29 each, Weasdale Nurseries, 01539 623246, [weasdale.com](http://weasdale.com).



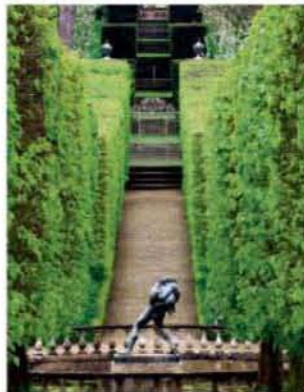
**Beech allée** at Hidcote Manor, Gloucestershire, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Fagus sylvatica** (common beech), £5.95 each, Trees by Post, [treesbypost.com](http://treesbypost.com).



**Lime avenue** at Erddig, Denbighshire, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Tilia** (lime) £170 for 1.5m pleached spread, Landford Trees, 01794 390808, [landford-trees.co.uk](http://landford-trees.co.uk).



**Hop-hornbeam allée** at Buscot Park, Oxfordshire, [buscot-park.com](http://buscot-park.com).  
**Ostrya** (hop-hornbeam), £7.50 each, Mallet Court Nursery, 01823 481493, [malletcourt.co.uk](http://malletcourt.co.uk).



**Hornbeam allée** at Ham House in Richmond, Surrey, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Carpinus betulus** (hornbeam), £2.85, 01884 266746, [thornhayes-nursery.co.uk](http://thornhayes-nursery.co.uk).



**Hazel nuttery** at Sissinghurst Castle, Kent, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Corylus avellana** (common hazel), £9 each, Keepers Nursery, 01622 726465, [fruittree.co.uk](http://fruittree.co.uk).



**Rose walk** at Polesden Lacey, Surrey, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Climbers**, from £11.95 each, David Austin Roses, 01902 376300, [davidaurinroses.com](http://davidaurinroses.com).



**Box topiary** at Tintinhull, Somerset, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Buxus** (box), from £1.99 each, Buckingham Nurseries, 01280 822133, [hedging.co.uk](http://hedging.co.uk).



**Yew vista** at Hinton Ampner, Hampshire, [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk).  
**Taxus baccata** (common yew), £6 each, Burncoose Nurseries, 01209 860316, [burncoose.co.uk](http://burncoose.co.uk). ■

WORDS: HAZEL SILVER | PHOTOGRAPHS: GRAHAM RANKIN; NTPL/ANDREW LAWSON, GEOFF MORGAN, DAVID DIXON, STEPHEN ROBSON, JONATHAN BUCKLEY, ANDY WILLIAMS, DEREK CROUCHER

# DESIGNER SECRETS

Tim Rees reveals the inspiration behind this Provençal garden's deceptively simple scheme



## DESIGNER PROFILE

**TIM REES** graduated from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in 1982

and formed a design partnership with Brita von Schoenaich in the 1990s. Together they developed their own naturalistic style of planting design. In 2003, Tim started his own practice, Trees Associates. He has received international acclaim for his modern country gardens and restoration work, as well as for his bolder, more contemporary urban designs. In addition to designing landscapes and gardens across the UK, he has worked in France, Corfu, Italy and America.

**THE BRIEF** The clients wanted their garden at the foot of the Alpilles in Provence to be divided into themed rooms. The olive garden (shown) was created close to the house as a shield against the mistral.

"When I first visited the garden, it had just a partial allée of plane trees, a few cypresses and the remnants of plastic greenhouses set around an old farmhouse. The rest of the plot was made up of open fields with no wind protection from the damaging mistral, so my first job was to provide a shelter-belt. We enclosed the main part of the garden with a wall and in one area created this olive garden.

"Provençal gardens demand a structural palette and I was inspired by Nicole de Vésian's use of clipped, rounded shrubs and topiary in her iconic garden. The design works well here, creating a thoroughly relaxing landscape; to my mind, perennials send a subliminal message of staking and hard work. I used two types of santolina punctuated by eight olive trees that form a square pattern – you can see just two of them here. The only other colours are the red of the dwarf pomegranate – a highlight among the silvery cerastium and a useful spreading plant that knits the other shrubs together beautifully – and a few spires of lavender."

INTERVIEW ZIA ALLAWAY



## USING A MONO-CULTURE SCHEME

"I like to create very simple gardens using just one or two types of plant, which provide a refreshing contrast in scale and complexity to more intricate plantings. Here, I have chosen a silver and green form of santolina, a tough ground-hugging evergreen shrub native to the Mediterranean. To add interest, I set out the plants in a geometric pattern, like a contemporary parterre."



## FACT FILE

### KEY PLANTS

- *Cerastium tomentosum* (snow-in-summer).
- *Ceratonia siliqua* (carob).
- *Erigeron karvinskianus*.
- *Lavandula stoechas* (French lavender).
- *Olea europaea* (common olive).
- *Perovskia atriplicifolia* (Russian sage).
- *Pittosporum tenuifolium* 'Variegatum'.
- *Punica granatum* (pomegranate).
- *Rosmarinus officinalis* (rosemary).
- *Santolina chamaecyparissus* (syn. *S. incana*), *S. rosmarinifolia* subsp. *rosmarinifolia* (syn. *S. virens*).
- *Stipa tenuissima*.
- *Teucrium fruticans* (tree germander).

### WHERE TO BUY

#### Perryhill Nurseries,

01892 770377,  
perryhillnurseries.co.uk.  
Supplies a variety of sun-loving shrubs suitable for Mediterranean-style gardens.

#### Merandal,

0033 4 90 49 16 10,  
pepiniere-merandal.com.  
Supplier of a wide range of sun-loving shrubs. Based in St Etienne du Grès, Provence.

#### Pépinière Filippi,

0033 4 67 43 88 69,  
jardin-sec.com.  
Nursery with mail order, specialising in drought-tolerant plants. Based near Montpellier.

### LANDSCAPE MATERIALS

The landscaping here is primarily soft green lawn made up of drought-tolerant grasses. A protective wall behind the planting was made from breeze blocks with a simple concrete render.

### WHERE TO BUY

#### Castorama,

0033 8 10 10 41 04,  
castorama.fr.  
The French arm of B&Q, offering a good range of building materials.

### CONTACT DETAILS

#### Trees Associates,

020 8965 7085,  
treesassociates.com. ■

## 2 MAINTAINING GARDENS IN PROVENCE

"Although I have worked with a drought-resistant planting scheme, I installed an eco-friendly irrigation system for the lawn, whereby water is pumped up from an underground well. Regular pruning is required to maintain the rounded shapes of the trees and shrubs. We clip the olives in January or February and the santolina and evergreens early in spring. For the rest of the year, the plants take care of themselves."

## 3 CHOOSING TREES FOR A MEDITERRANEAN CLIMATE

"As well as the olive trees, I have used another Mediterranean native, the carob tree. It has a long tradition in this area as the pods are used for animal feed and as a cocoa bean substitute in chocolate. Both trees are drought-resistant and, with a bit of shelter, can withstand the harsh winds."

**odd**, *adj.* differing in nature from what is ordinary, usual, or expected; individual.



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# Fountains & water features

Focal points that add design interest and soothe the senses



## BUBBLY DISPLAY

Breathe life into a still summer's day with a gently murmuring bubble fountain in a terracotta urn. Set it near a seating area so you can enjoy it while you relax.

I



2

## CONTEMPORARY PARTERRE

Introduce sound and movement to a formal garden design with small frothy fountains set in square tanks of water. Edge the pools with neatly clipped box walls for a modern take on a classic French parterre.



3

## WATER CURTAIN

Create a sleek modern design with a stainless-steel water blade. The pump for this fountain has been cleverly hidden beneath a pile of pebbles, while the pipes are set within the rendered cavity wall.

4

## PEACOCK FOUNTAIN

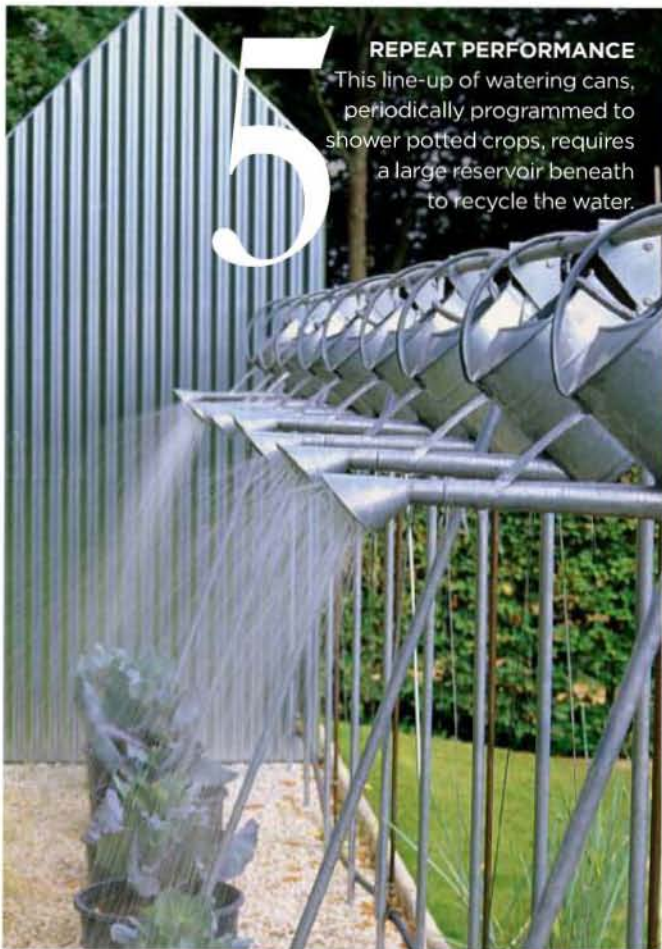
To reproduce this striking effect, produced by one of the 50 fountains, cascades and jets at Les Jardins d'Annevoie in Belgium, you will need a semi-circular fountainhead that sprays water in the shape of a fan. ▶



5

**REPEAT PERFORMANCE**

This line-up of watering cans, periodically programmed to shower potted crops, requires a large reservoir beneath to recycle the water.



**ROMANTIC PERSUASION**

Billowing borders of herbaceous planting create the perfect setting for a classic fountain. Period designs are available from reclamation specialists, or consider buying a replica in reconstituted stone.

6

**FRENCH ELEGANCE**

Take inspiration from landscape architect Michel Semini's understated design in which lush conifers and a raised pool animated by a single water jet combine to cool the atmosphere.

7



**ISLAMIC INSPIRATIONS**

Narrow rills and spouts symbolise oases in traditional Islamic gardens, and translate perfectly into contemporary Minimalist designs.

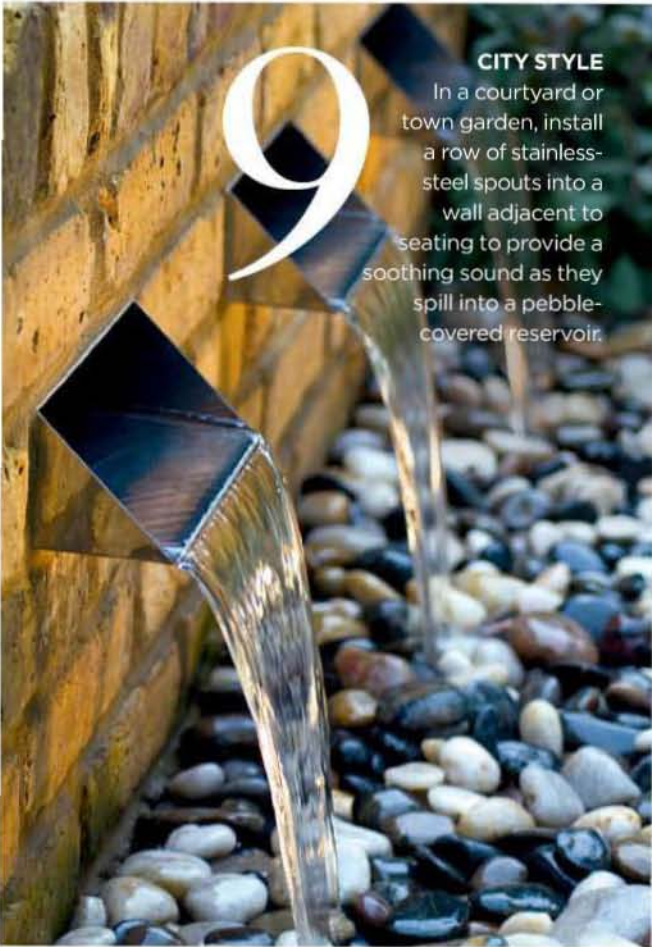
8



# 9

## CITY STYLE

In a courtyard or town garden, install a row of stainless-steel spouts into a wall adjacent to seating to provide a soothing sound as they spill into a pebble-covered reservoir.



## ON A SMALL SCALE

In a contemporary setting you could try a solitary stainless-steel feature such as this design by Allison Armour. Place it where the water catches the sun, illuminating the garden with spangles of light.

# 11



# 12

## THE MAGIC OF THE ALHAMBRA

Recreate Moorish style with canals and water jets like those in the gardens of the Palacio de Generalife in Granada, Spain. Certain elements would work just as well in an urban space. ▶



## PARISIAN FLAIR

These water jets set in topiary-style mounds, seen at the Parisian gardening show *Jardins Jardin*, can be recreated by making hummocks out of hardcore and soil topped with turf. They require a reservoir and a pump beneath.

# 10



# DESIGNER INSIGHT

Our experts explain how to choose a fountain to suit and where to site it



**FIONA DYMOTT**  
Director,  
Privett International,  
01306 611040,  
privettint.co.uk.



**IAN SMITH**  
Co-director,  
Acres Wild,  
01403 891084,  
acreswild.co.uk.



**ADAM PETERS**  
Founder,  
Fountainhead,  
020 8876 9595,  
fountainheadlimited.com.

## WHAT SORT OF FOUNTAIN WORKS BEST WHERE?



**FD** "In a small contemporary courtyard, try a mirror-polished sculpture, while for a terrace, I would recommend a central feature such as our stainless-steel water chalice – a bowl underlit for a beautiful night-time effect. A sculptural fountain would also work well. For one client we made a large fountain from glass, which helped to mask the noise of a motorway and made a dramatic focal point."

**IS** "We rarely use large fountains – on occasion a water jet is all that is needed to animate a space. We tend to go for understated designs, perhaps using a jet in a pond to break the surface with ripples. One design we created for a small city garden was a simple cube of basalt with water spilling over the top (far right). This is both child- and pet-friendly because the reservoir is covered."

**AP** "Your choice of fountain depends on how much space you have and the level of noise you want. Remember, too, that you'll need a reservoir that is the same diameter as the water height; so a feature that shoots water two metres into the air needs a reservoir two metres in diameter. If you want the vertical impact of a tall feature in a small garden, opt for a water wall (above) rather than a fountain."

## ARE FOUNTAINS "GREEN" AND CAN I USE THEM IN A DROUGHT?

**FD** "You can use some features under a hosepipe ban but others may not be allowed, depending on how much water evaporates and how often they need to be topped up. We have installed features with reservoirs linked to underground drainwater tanks, so these don't use tap water. We also use extract of barley straw rather than chemicals to keep the water clear. You can buy this online."

**IS** "You need an electricity supply for most fountains and features – solar power is often not an option – and the amount of power used depends on the pump size. Water that just spills from a bubbling feature like our cube needs a small pump and is therefore more eco-friendly than a tall fountain, while the reservoir circulates the water. You lose some water through evaporation but not a significant amount."



**AP** "A fountain in a large natural pool should be fine under a drought order, but fountains falling on to paved surfaces evaporate a lot so may be restricted. The energy needed depends on the height – the higher the water is pushed up, the more power it needs. A solar-powered pump may be an option for a small water wall. Also, try eco-friendly ozone rather than bromine to keep the water clear."

## HOW DO YOU MIX GARDEN STYLES AND FOUNTAIN DESIGNS?



**FD** "You could mix traditional and modern designs if your garden is large enough. A stone feature would work well close to a period house, while a more contemporary sculptural piece (left) could be used at the end of a route that takes the eye away from the property. I always choose the materials carefully. Stainless steel is best for modern schemes, while copper and basalt work well in traditional settings."

**IS** "There are no hard and fast rules about what fountain designs look best where but you do need to pay attention to the setting. Generally, a period fountain in a modern setting doesn't look ideal and, likewise, we would never use a stainless-steel feature in a traditional landscape. A simple spray, without a sculptural head, which creates pulses of water or ripples over a surface, will suit most designs."

**AP** "A modern feature can work well with an old building if it creates a stark contrast, but it depends on many factors, and we always consider the setting and the clients' wishes. The material you use, rather than the design, is important. A modern water wall in natural stone will look good in a traditional garden. I would never use mock period fountains – they always look fake, whatever the setting."



## USEFUL CONTACTS

### ALLISON ARMOUR

**01293 871575,**  
**allisonarmour.us.**  
Designer of contemporary water sculptures.

### ANDY STURGEON LANDSCAPE AND GARDEN DESIGN

**01273 553336,**  
**andysturgeon.com.**  
Innovative garden designer and water feature expert.

### ANDY THORNTON

**01422 376000,**  
**andythornton.com.**  
For marble, sandstone and cast-iron fountains.

### ART IN THE LANDSCAPE

**01285 760880,**  
**artinthelandscape.com.**  
Specialist water feature sculptor.

### BYGONES

**0800 0433012,**  
**bygones.net.**  
Architectural reclamation and salvage yard specialising in reclaimed garden fountains.

### DAVID HARBER

**01235 859300,**  
**davidharbersundials.co.uk.**  
For a selection of contemporary fountains and water features.

### THE FOUNTAIN SOCIETY

**fountainsoc.org.uk.**  
For a list of registered fountain designers and suppliers, plus advice on building and maintenance.

### HADDONSTONE

**01604 770711,**  
**haddonstone.com.**  
For contemporary and period fountains in reconstituted stone.

### JARDINIQUE

**01420 560055,**  
**jardinique.co.uk.**  
For antique and quality handmade fountains.

### JARDINS JARDIN

**0033 1 39 63 48 28,**  
**jardinsjardin.com.**  
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garden design show at the Tuileries in Paris.

### JUSTIN GREER GARDEN DESIGN

**020 8286 3376,**  
**justingreer.co.uk.**  
Garden designer specialising in cascades and small water features.

### LES JARDINS D'ANNEVOIE

**0032 82 67 97 97,**  
**annevoie.be.**  
Spectacular water gardens in Belgium.

### MAY & WATTS GARDEN DESIGN

**01892 770284,**  
**mayandwattsgarden  
design.co.uk.**  
Award-winning garden designers with fountain expertise.

### PONDS AND FOUNTAINS

**ponds-and-fountains.com.**  
Information and tips from water-feature experts.

### ROBERT MYERS ASSOCIATES

**01544 232035,**  
**robertmyers-associates.  
co.uk.**  
Award-winning landscape architect with water feature expertise.

### STAPELEY WATER GARDENS

**01270 623868,**  
**stapeleywg.com.**  
Specialist water garden centre with impressive feature displays.

### SWELL UK

**0161 351 4700, swelluk.com.**  
For barley straw extract to keep your fountain clean naturally.

### WILLIAM PYE

**williampye.com.**  
Award-winning water sculptor.

### WORLD OF WATER

**01580 243 333,**  
**worldofwater.co.uk.**  
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# ONIONS, GARLIC & SHALLOTS

Piquant, aromatic and nutritious, these bulbs are key ingredients for every vegetable garden and cook.

WORDS VAL BOURNE | PHOTOGRAPHS ANNAICK GUITTENY

**H**ome-grown sun-ripened garlic, onions and shallots are kitchen essentials. All three belong to the allium family. Onions are bred from *Allium cepa* and have been eaten for thousands of years. The Romans used them medicinally to cure coughs and colds. Shallots, which are a mix of two, possibly more species, originated in Asia but soon spread to India and the Mediterranean region. The bulb's name is derived from the city of Ashkelon, now in Israel, and it does best in sunny and warm conditions. Garlic (*Allium sativum*) also likes sun and warmth but there are hardneck varieties, which are suitable for growing in cooler climates.

**Black garlic** is garlic that has been subjected to an ageing process using heat and humidity over a period of time. The cloves have a sweet molasses-like richness with tangy garlic undertones that do not taint the breath. Available from [blackgarlic.co.uk](http://blackgarlic.co.uk).

**Spring onions** are in fact very young onions harvested before the bulb has had a chance to swell. They are good either raw or cooked and have a milder flavour than onions. The seeds can be sown from March to July and are harvested ten weeks later.

## How to grow

- Onion, garlic and shallot bulbs are all shallow-rooted and so benefit from an application of blood, fish and bone (a slow-release fertiliser) straight after planting.
- A dry spring can cause bolting so water well in the early stages.
- Onion and shallot sets (small bulbs) are available early in the year and can be planted from January onwards; leave the tips sticking out. Heat-treated sets go on sale in March and April; these are less likely to bolt.
- Garlic takes 36 weeks to mature. Plant in November, burying the bulbs 10cm deep and spacing them 22cm apart. Split large cloves into sections before planting.
- Shallots take 26 weeks to mature. Plant sets 22cm apart to allow enough room for the cluster of seven to nine bulbs.
- Onions mature at 20 weeks; plant them 15 cm apart.
- Loosen onions and shallots with a fork in August to aid ripening. Lift two to three weeks later.
- Dig garlic up between July and September. ▶





Lift **Setton onions** with a large fork, rubbing some of the old, papery skin off before storing.



The heavily cropping Shallot '**Jermor**' has pink-tinged flesh and a coppery outer skin.



Onion '**Sturon**' will store until March, but allow to dry naturally and ensure the neck does not get bent.



Garlic cloves keep for three weeks in the open air. To store for longer, put them in a dark, cool place.



**Banana shallots** are not great keepers so use quickly.



'**Iberian Wight**' garlic is a softnecked variety that will store for three months.

## Recommended varieties

### ONIONS

'**Red Baron**' **AGM** The best rounded, red onion with wine-red glossy skin and a strong flavour.

'**Sturon**' **AGM** The best-selling onion, producing medium-sized straw-coloured bulbs. Stores well.

'**Setton**' **AGM** Light golden skin, a rounded shape and an excellent flavour; this one also stores well.

'**Jet Set**' **AGM** A hybrid onion that matures early and crops heavily.

'**Hi-keeper**' A very hardy Japanese onion grown from seeds sown in August and harvested early summer.

'**White Lisbon**' The classic spring "bunching" onion with white bulbs.

'**Santero**' A new F1 onion with a coppery skin. Available exclusively from Thompson & Morgan in 2011.

### GARLIC

'**Early Purple Wight**' **AGM** Originally from Cadours in southwest France, this is the earliest hardneck variety.

'**Iberian Wight**' This variety produces 12cm bulbs that store until January.

'**Tuscany Wight**' This softneck variety is widely grown in Tuscany, where its cloves are used in local dishes.

'**Elephant Garlic**' More closely related to the leek than garlic, but its 15cm-wide cloves are often roasted.

'**Black Garlic**' This has been aged to reach a sweet flavour. It has twice as many antioxidants as white garlic.

### SHALLOTS

'**Golden Gourmet**' **AGM** Large golden shallot with deep flavour.

'**Pikant**' High-yielding, red-skinned shallot bred in Holland. Keeps well.

'**Devald**' **AGM** A pink-tinged shallot that produces eight to ten bulbs.

'**Jermor**' **AGM** Also pink-tinged and with an excellent flavour.

'**Longor**' A 'Jersey Long' variety, with a robust flavour.

## Storing

■ Dry the bulbs thoroughly before storing, preferably in the fresh air, and always handle them carefully.

■ Keep garlic in a dark, cool, airy place.

■ Shallots can be kept in a wicker basket and onions are traditionally strung up with string; a dry shed is ideal.

■ Rounder onions and shallots store better than longer, narrower ones.

■ Golden skinned onions and shallot varieties are easier to grow and they also store for longer.

Events

■ **The Isle of Wight Garlic Festival**  
 Fabulous food, great stage and arena entertainment and hundreds of stalls all held in Britain's largest garlic growing region. From 14-15 August. Call 01983 614612 or visit [garlic-festival.co.uk](http://garlic-festival.co.uk).

■ **Newent Onion Fayre** This festival of food, drink and merriment, held this year on 11 September, can be traced back to the 13th century. Visit [newentonionfayre.org.uk](http://newentonionfayre.org.uk).

Seed suppliers

**Thompson & Morgan**, 0844 248 5383, [thompson-morgan.com](http://thompson-morgan.com).  
**Suttons**, 0844 922 0606, [suttons.co.uk](http://suttons.co.uk).  
**Marshalls**, 01480 443390, [marshalls-seeds.co.uk](http://marshalls-seeds.co.uk).

Garlic and garlic products

**The Isle of Wight Garlic Farm**, 01983 865378, [thegarlicfarm.co.uk](http://thegarlicfarm.co.uk).  
**The Really Garlicky Company**, 01667 452193, [reallygarlicky.co.uk](http://reallygarlicky.co.uk).

These **red salad onions** should be harvested young and eaten raw.

Garlic bulbs and onion sets special offer

*Homes & Gardens* is offering readers the chance to buy a choice of garlic bulbs and onion sets for less with this special offer.

**The Garlic Collection** includes one bulb each of Albigenian Wight, Early Purple Wight, Iberian Wight, Lautrec Wight, Purple Moldovan Wight, Wight Cristo, plus five large cloves of Elephant Garlic.

Buy one collection pack for just £16.99. Please quote XHG363, code 88950.

**The Onion Collection** includes 50 sets each of Senshyu and Shakespeare onions. Buy this for just £14.97 and receive ten nets for onion storage. Please quote XHG363, code 90876. **Call 0844 573 1683 to order and**

**for terms and conditions, or send in a cheque, made payable to H&G Offers, to: H&G Garlic/Onion Offer, PO Box 99, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2SN, with your order request on the back. Please add £1.99 per order for p&p. Orders will be despatched from September 2010. The closing date is 29 October. ■**

For delicious recipes visit [homesandgardens.com/cookery](http://homesandgardens.com/cookery)

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You'll also be guaranteed squeaky clean dishes – of any shape and size – every time. The specially engineered baskets are easy to load and they angle dishes so the innovative spray arm reaches every corner.

There's a new Hygiene option for items such as chopping boards, knives and jam

jars, which has a hotter final rinse. The new self-cleaning filter allows better water circulation to remove all food particles.

All this, and the chances are you won't even know it's on because the ProClean's™ Silent Technology makes it one of the quietest machines yet. And, with extremely low water and energy consumption, it costs less to run so you can enjoy your dinner without having to worry about washing up later.

To ensure optimum performance from your dishwasher, AEG recommends Finish Quantum dishwasher tablets. From glasses and cutlery to the dirtiest pots and pans, your dishes will come out sparkling every time.

## TOP TIPS FOR SPARKLING DISHES

- **Clean your dishwasher** at least once a month for optimum results.
- **Place larger, dirtier items** on the bottom rack and cups, glasses and less soiled items on the top.
- **Always place cutlery** in the basket with the

handles down.

- **Don't overload** to get a thorough clean.
- **Avoid putting in** non-dishwasher-safe items. Wood can split, delicate glass can break and some metals, like cast iron and copper, can deteriorate or

even cause damage to other dishes during the wash.

- **Use only Finish Quantum** wrapper-free, three-in-one dishwasher tablets for an amazing shine on all your plates and dishes. For more information, visit [aeg.co.uk](http://aeg.co.uk) and [finish.co.uk](http://finish.co.uk).

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\* AVAILABLE AT PARTICIPATING RETAILERS ONLY, FROM 1 JULY TO 14 AUGUST 2010, WHILE STOCKS LAST. SEE LEAFLETS IN-STORE FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

# Short & sweet

Enhanced with fruit, spices and even flowers, Clare Ferguson's delicious patisserie offers the distinctive flavour of France

STYLING KAREN AKHTAR | PHOTOGRAPHS PETER CASSIDY



Lighter than their savoury cousins, sweet pastries melt in the mouth and are notoriously tempting. Scan a good patisserie window and you'll see them filled with jewel-like summer fruits, splashes of orange or lemon, chocolate and, often, lashings of whipped cream. All make for sensational desserts and teatime treats. The pastry itself is a cinch to make, and choux and sweet shortcrust pastry should certainly be made fresh. But there is no shame in using shop-bought varieties of the more arduous types such as puff and filo. The filling will sing out just as beautifully. ►

**Platter**, £82, Summerill & Bishop. **Covered in** Merci Rose print tape, £4.50 for 3m roll, Liberty. **Dessert forks**, £24 for six, The Dining Room Shop. **Ribbon**, 90p m, John Lewis. **Simple tumbler**, £28; **backdrop in** Brero Lino in Pale Rose, linen, 140cm wide, £45m; both Designers Guild.

## Ready-made shortcrust, puff and filo

What to look for when buying and using

**SHORTCRUST** You can use standard shortcrust for most sweet tarts. Buy in a block or ready rolled and look for all-butter recipes. There are also sweet shortcrust pastries available.

**PUFF** Making puff pastry at home can be labour intensive

and shop-bought versions give perfectly good results. Buy in a block or pre-rolled.

**FILO** Available to buy fresh and frozen, these thin sheets are easy to use. Cover the unused sheets with a damp tea towel while working, to avoid them drying out.

## How to make sweet and choux pastry

These types of pastry are usually best made at home and are easier than you might think

### SWEET SHORTCRUST PASTRY (PÂTE SUCRÉE)

This rich, short pastry has a biscuity texture. It crumbles easily but is very malleable so just push it back together.

**150g salted butter, diced, at room temperature**  
**75g vanilla sugar**  
**250g plain white flour**  
**¼ tsp salt**  
**1 medium egg, beaten with 1 tbsp iced water**

Use a hand-held electric beater to whisk the butter until creamy. Whisk in the vanilla sugar until the mixture is pale and light, then sift in

the flour and salt. Stir using a fork to combine, then mix in the egg-water to form a ball of sweet pastry. Wrap in clingfilm and then chill for at least 20 minutes to rest.

**To make this pastry in a food processor**, which is very easy to do, blitz the butter until creamy, add the vanilla sugar and blitz briefly again. Add the flour and salt, and blitz in 2-second bursts until evenly mixed. Finally, drizzle in the egg and water with the machine still running until the pastry clumps and forms a ball. Wrap and chill as before.

### CHOUX PASTRY

The name of this pastry means "cabbage" because of its fluffy appearance. This is created by steam when the pastry is baking, during which the water in the recipe turns to vapour and the egg protein sets firm in a billowing shape. The cooked pastry is hollow, perfect for holding cream or other fillings. As choux isn't sweet, it can take chocolate, coffee, caramel or flower-scented icing glazes beautifully.

**175g butter, diced**  
**½ tsp salt and 225g plain white flour, sifted together**  
**6 medium eggs**

In a medium-sized saucepan bring 225ml water and the butter to the boil. Tip in the sifted salt and flour, then beat hard with a hand-held electric whisk until the mix forms a ball that leaves the side of the pan. Take off the heat and add the eggs, one at a time, beating hard with the electric whisk to form a rich, glossy paste.

## Filo Baskets with Honeyed Figs (PREVIOUS PAGE)

Light but crunchy, filo makes a delicious case for fruit. A butter-honey glaze adds flavour and shine

**MAKES 4**  
**5 ripe figs, halved lengthways**  
**4 tbsp flower-scented honey**  
**2 tbsp elderflower cordial**  
**12 green cardamom pods, crushed open**  
**50g salted butter, melted**  
**5 sheets filo pastry (about 140g) unrolled, covered**  
**2-4 tbsp rosé or red wine**  
**4 tsp icing sugar, optional**

Set the halved figs, cut sides down, in a non-stick frying pan with 2 tablespoons of honey, the cordial and 2 tablespoons of water. Add the black seeds from four of the cardamom pods. Cook over a high heat for 1-2 minutes or until the figs are aromatic, slightly wilted and sizzling. Turn the figs over and leave to cool in their scented, sticky, honeyed juices.

Spoon off 2 tablespoons and stir into the melted butter to make the pastry glaze.

Pre-heat the oven to 180°C, Gas Mark 4. Have ready a muffin tin, if possible lined with 4 silicon (non-stick) muffin moulds. Cut the filo sheets in half lengthways and then in half widthways, giving a total

of 20 rectangles or squares, depending on the original shape of the sheets. Push 2 rectangles at a time, their points offset, into 4 muffin tin hollows. Repeat this until each hollow has 4 layers of pastry, firmly pressed into position; add a fifth and final layer, again offset. Bake these unbuttered baskets for 8 minutes towards the top of the oven. Remove the baskets. Gently paint the scented honey and melted butter glaze mixture over them, then bake for 5 minutes more. Turn off the oven but leave the pastries in. Remove the figs from the glaze. Halve each to give long segments and set 5, pointing upwards, into each warm pastry basket. Set each on a serving plate. Reheat the remaining honey with the glaze for 2 minutes with enough wine to make a pink syrupy sauce. Drizzle some over the figs and the remainder around each basket (not shown). Add 2 open cardamom pods to each dessert, then dust with sieved icing sugar, if liked. Serve warm, or cool within 4 hours.





**Cranberry custard cup.** £10; **silver spoon**, £40 for six; both The Dining Room Shop. **Zelliges tile** in 47, around £125m sq, Emery et Cie at Retrouvius. **Paisley on Pink banana paper**, £2 sheet; **place-mat** in Batik print in Bordeaux, £2.75 sheet; both Paperchase. **Tablecloth** in Bréro Lino in Pale Rose, linen, 140cm wide, £45m, Designers Guild.

## Cinnamon-Cherry Towers

This dessert is made with sweet shortcrust pastry (pâte sucrée) and coated with a vanilla-cinnamon glaze

### MAKES 6

**1 sweet shortcrust pastry recipe** (see opposite page)

**2 tsp vanilla extract**

**2 tsp ground cinnamon**

**2 tbsp clear honey, warmed**

**For the filling**

**100g pitted cherries, cooked and puréed**

**300g mascarpone or cream cheese**

**50g sieved icing sugar**

**1 tbsp dark rum**

**200ml double cream, whipped**

**6 fresh cherries, stems left on**

Make the sweet shortcrust pastry and leave to rest. Mix together the vanilla, cinnamon and honey with 1 tablespoon of boiling water to make a spiced glaze. Set aside.

Whisk together half the cherry purée and all the mascarpone,

sugar and rum to create a mousse-like mix. Fold this into the cream. Swirl the remaining purée into this to marble it. Chill. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C, Gas Mark 6. Roll out the pastry to 3mm thickness on a floured piece of baking parchment, measuring about twice the size of your baking sheet. Cut 18 circles with an 8cm pastry cutter, spacing each about 2cm

apart. Remove the excess pastry. Cut the paper in half and slide each onto a baking sheet. Prick the pastries a few times with a fork. Bake for 25-30 minutes. Brush some cinnamon-glaze liquid on to each hot pastry, then leave to cool on wire racks. To serve, layer the pastry discs with the cherry mousse, as shown, and put a fresh cherry on top. Serve within the hour. ▶



Wire cooling tray, diam23.5cm, £15; hand-block-printed napkin, £168 for four; both Tobias And The Angel. Scallop-edged bowl, diam10cm, £45, Summerill & Bishop. Sugar shaker, £125, Astier de Villatte at Designers Guild. Antique French shutters, £375 pair, Maison Artefact.

*Chaussons Feuilletés aux Abricots* (FLAKY APRICOT TURNOVERS)

In these turnovers, jam, liqueur and the chopped kernels of apricots intensify the fruity flavour of the filling

- SERVES 4-6 (MAKES 12)**
- 375g puff pastry, chilled**
- 6 fresh apricots or 411g can apricots in syrup, drained**
- 4 tbsp apricot jam**
- 2 tbsp apricot or peach schnapps or liqueur**
- 25g icing sugar, sifted**

Pre-heat the oven to 220°C, Gas Mark 7. Roll out the pastry on a floured surface to a thickness of 3mm. Cut out circles using a plain 15cm cutter, then roll each gently in one direction to create 18cm ovals. To make the filling, halve and pit the apricots. Smash 8 of the pits with a meat hammer. Retrieve the white kernels and chop these finely. Cut each apricot half into four. (If using

canned apricots, chop and crush 6 hazelnuts or almonds and sprinkle with 1 teaspoonful of almond extract). Stir the jam and liqueur together to make a glaze. Set 4 pieces of apricot on one half of each pastry oval, drizzle with some glaze-mix and scatter with chopped kernels. Brush the pastry edges with water, fold the lid over the fruit and press closed. Scallop the pastry edges. Continue

until all the pastry, kernels and fruit are used up. Slide the pastries onto a lightly oiled oven sheet and brush with the remaining glaze. Use a sharp knife to cut 3 or 5 decorative curved slashes on the top of each turnover. Bake towards the centre of the oven for 22-25 minutes or until the pastries are dark, puffed and aromatic. Serve hot, warm or cool, dusted with icing sugar.

**Sobre teapot**, £240, Designers Guild. **Victor small platter**, 28x18cm, £59.95, Liberty. **Antique fork**, from £10; **19th-century French book**, from £35; all Maison Artefact. **Black and white ticking**, linen, 220cm wide, £16m, The Cloth Shop. **Ribbon**, 90p m, John Lewis.



**MAKES 6**  
**1 sweet shortcrust pastry (see page 152)**  
**300ml milk**  
**6 large egg yolks**  
**75g vanilla sugar**  
**50g plain flour**  
**Grated rind of 2 lemons**  
**60ml freshly squeezed lemon juice**  
**25g butter, diced**  
**2 large egg whites**  
**Pinch of salt**  
**100g caster sugar**  
**Icing sugar to decorate**

Make the pastry and leave to rest. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C, Gas Mark 6. Roll out the pastry to 3mm thick and cut 6 circles with a 15cm pastry cutter. Press into 10cm fluted metal flan tins with removable bases. Prick the pastry. Bake blind (using baking parchment and baking beans) for 20 minutes. Remove the paper and beans and bake for a further 10 minutes. To make the crème pâtissière, heat the milk until almost boiling. In a medium bowl whisk the egg yolks, vanilla sugar and flour. Add the hot milk and whisk the mixture again for 1 minute. Pour it into the hot pan. Bring nearly to boiling point and cook over

a moderate heat for 2-3 minutes or until thick. Stir in the lemon rind and then the juice and butter. Cool over iced water. Divide the mixture between the tart cases and bake for 5 minutes more. To make the meringue, whisk the egg whites and salt in a deep, clean bowl until soft peaks are formed. Whisk in most of the caster sugar until slightly stiffer peaks form. Fold in the rest using a palette knife. Pipe, spoon or swirl the meringue on to the tarts. Reduce the oven temperature to 150°C, Gas Mark 3 and bake for 10-15 minutes until the points of the meringue are just beginning to colour. Serve warm or cool, dusted liberally with sieved icing sugar. ▶



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(CHOUX PASTRY DESSERT WITH FLOWERS)

This work of art receives an unusual twist with hints of rose, orange and jasmine. Decorate with edible petals

**SERVES 8-12**

**Choux pastry (see page 152)**

**For the glaze**

**50g icing sugar, sieved**

**1-2 tbsp squeezed orange juice**

**2 tsp each of orange flower**

**water and rose water**

**2 tsp cassis or sloe gin**

**For the filling**

**300ml double cream, chilled**

**75g icing sugar, sifted**

**15g each of clean, scented**

**pink and red fresh rose petals**

**and clean scented fresh**

**jasmine flowers, all de-stalked**

**3 scented pink roses and a**

**handful of jasmine flowers,**

**all on the stem, to decorate**

paper. Pipe the remaining choux into single rosettes on the baking sheets, 3cm apart. Bake the first choux ring and puffs for 30-40 minutes or until golden (they should sound hollow when the base is tapped). Repeat for the second ring. Turn off the oven, returning all the pastry to it to dry for 30 minutes, then cool on a wire rack. For the glaze, mix all the ingredients. Dip the single puffs into the glaze, letting it trickle down slightly. Attach the iced puffs to the top of one choux ring with half a teaspoon of glaze. Trickle extra glaze between each puff. For the filling, whisk the double cream until soft. Add the icing sugar and whisk again until fairly firm, then fold in the rest of the glaze. Use this mix, adding some petals, to cover the upturned (flat) side of the second ring. Set the first iced ring on top and decorate with roses and sprigs of jasmine pushed into the centre of the ring. Serve within two hours. ▶

Make the pastry and, when the eggs are added and the paste is firm, shiny and dense, spoon it into a piping bag with a plain, 1cm nozzle. Cut 2 x 12.5cm circles of baking parchment and set each on a wetted baking sheet. Turn the circles over, so the wet sides are up. Pipe a circle of 12-14 paste rosettes on each, following the shape of the



**Vintage cake stand.** £18, RE.  
**Flamingo and rose side plates.** £30 each, Lou Rota. **Spoon.** £10, Maison Artefact. **Napkin in** Capucheen in Peony F1469/01, silk, 137cm wide, £70m, Designers Guild.

*Feuilletée aux Fruits* (BERRY SLICE)

This dessert bursts with fresh berries and couldn't be easier thanks to the puff pastry (pâte feuilletée)

**SERVES 4-6**

**350g pre-rolled puff pastry**

**125g redcurrant or**

**pomegranate jelly**

**90ml squeezed lime juice**

**200g each of redcurrants,**

**de-stemmed; raspberries;**

**strawberries, hulled and**

**halved lengthways;**

**blackberries, hulled; and**

**blueberries**

**½ tsp ground cinnamon**

all over. Bake for 20-25 minutes towards the centre of the oven until the edges are deep gold, raised and puffed, and the centre is pale and slightly risen. Leave to cool, pressing the centre to flatten it. Melt the jelly with the lime juice in a small pan over a high heat, crushing and stirring to a thin syrupy glaze. Brush a little over the pastry case base to seal it. Arrange the fruit in rows, then sprinkle with cinnamon through a sieve. Using a soft pastry brush, paint some of the cooled syrupy glaze all over, then bake for 5 minutes only. Remove from the oven and brush on more glaze. Serve while still warm, or when cool.

Pre-heat the oven to 220°C. Gas Mark 7. Roll out the pastry and trim to 32x18cm. Using a pizza cutter or very sharp knife, mark a frame 2cm in from the edges, cutting part-way through the pastry. Prick the inner rectangle

**Paper case in** Batik print in Bordeaux, £2.75 sheet, Paperchase. **String** in Fuchsia and Pink, £5 spool, RE. **Marble table.** £2,315, Poul Kjaerholm at Sigmar.



## Nut-Mocha Palmier Hearts

These little coffee, chocolate and nut-scented flaky biscuits are very easy and make perfect petits-fours

**MAKES 24-32**  
**500g puff pastry, rolled out to 42x32cm**  
**4 tbsp plain flour**  
**75g toasted hazelnuts, chopped finely**  
**4 tbsp cocoa, sieved**  
**4 tbsp molasses or Barbados sugar**  
**3-4 tbsp hot strong espresso**  
**Icing sugar to decorate, if liked**

Dust the rolled-out pastry with 2 tablespoons of the flour. Mix together the remaining flour, the hazelnuts and cocoa. Stir the sugar into the hot coffee to make a thick syrup. Brush the coffee syrup all over the pastry, then sprinkle with the dry nut and cocoa mixture. Pre-heat the oven to 200°C, Gas Mark 6. To create the palmier hearts, starting from one short edge, roll the pastry up tightly, stopping at the centre. Repeat from the other side to give a double spiral. Carefully turn this upside down and with a sharp knife cut into 5mm-thick slices. Arrange the palmiers on 2 lightly oiled oven trays. Chill for 20 minutes. Bake the pastry, a tray at a time, towards the top of the oven for 20-22 minutes or until golden and crisp. Do not let them brown too much. Cool completely on wire racks and store in an airtight tin. Serve 3-4 per person, dusted with icing sugar, along with a tiny strong coffee, herbal tisane or iced liqueur as a dessert. ■

**Label in Paisley on Pink Banana paper, £2, Paperchase.**  
**Striped ribbon, £2.05m, John Lewis.** **Antique French maps** (stacked, behind, and unfolded, used as background), £120 each, Maison Arteract.

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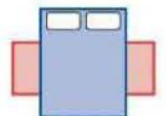
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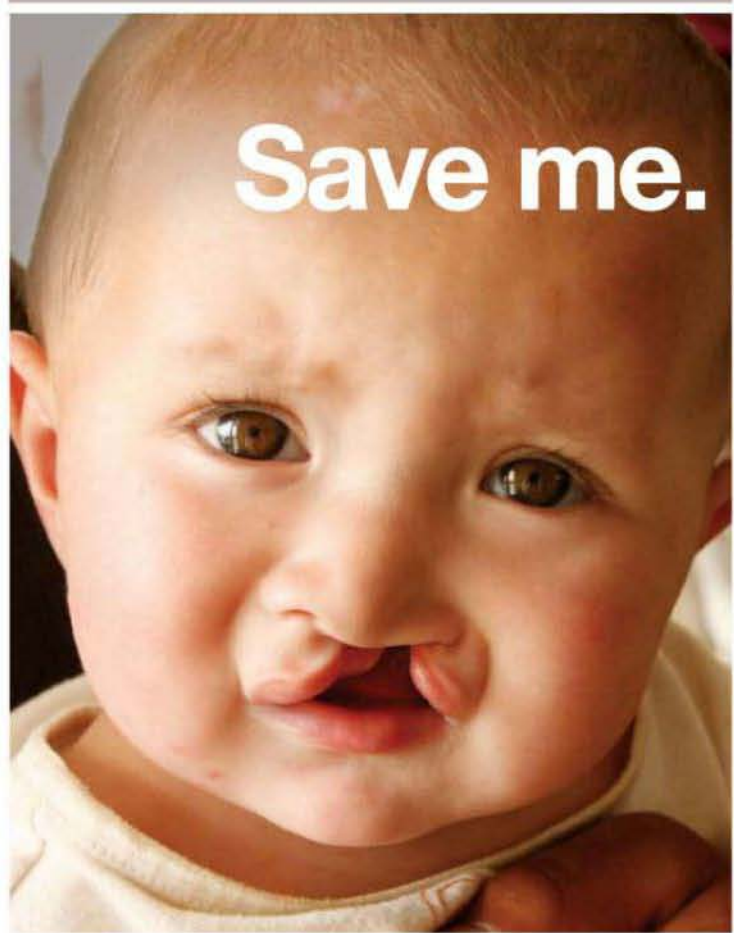
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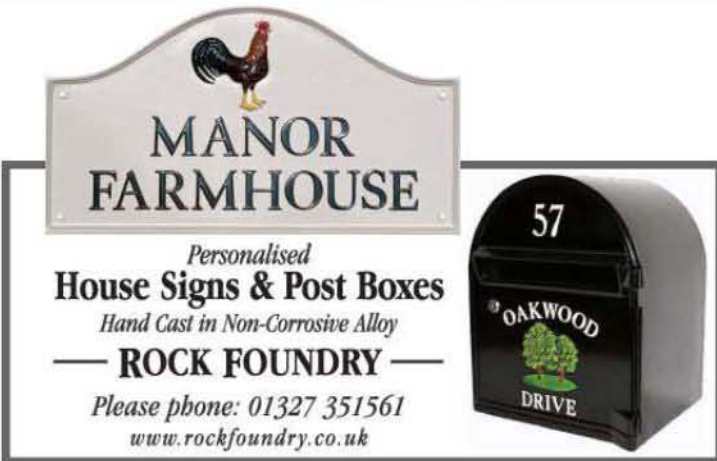
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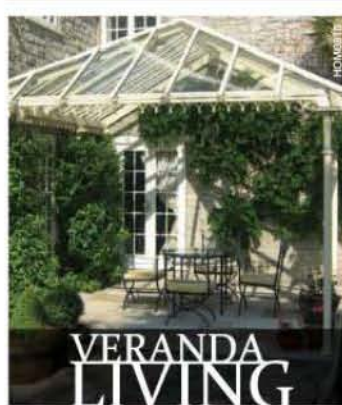
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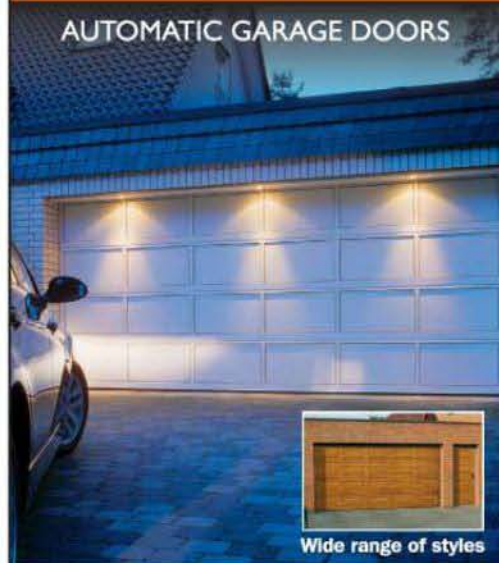
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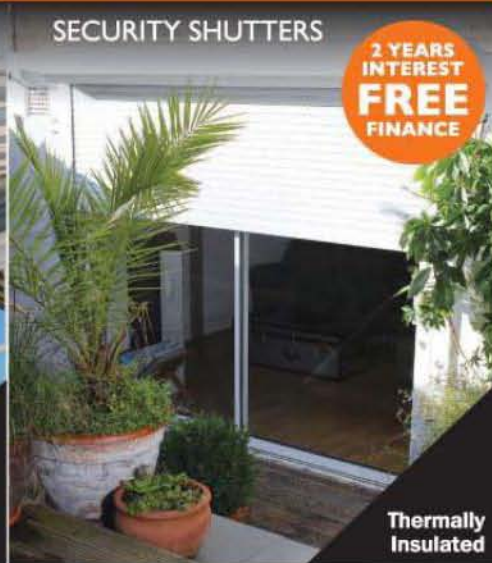
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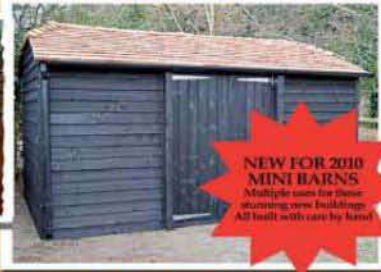
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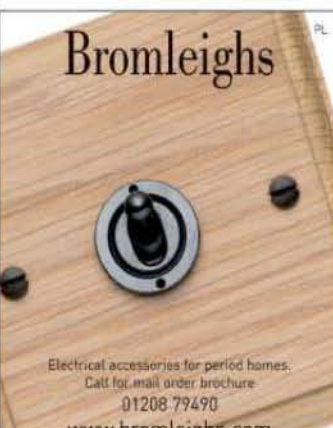
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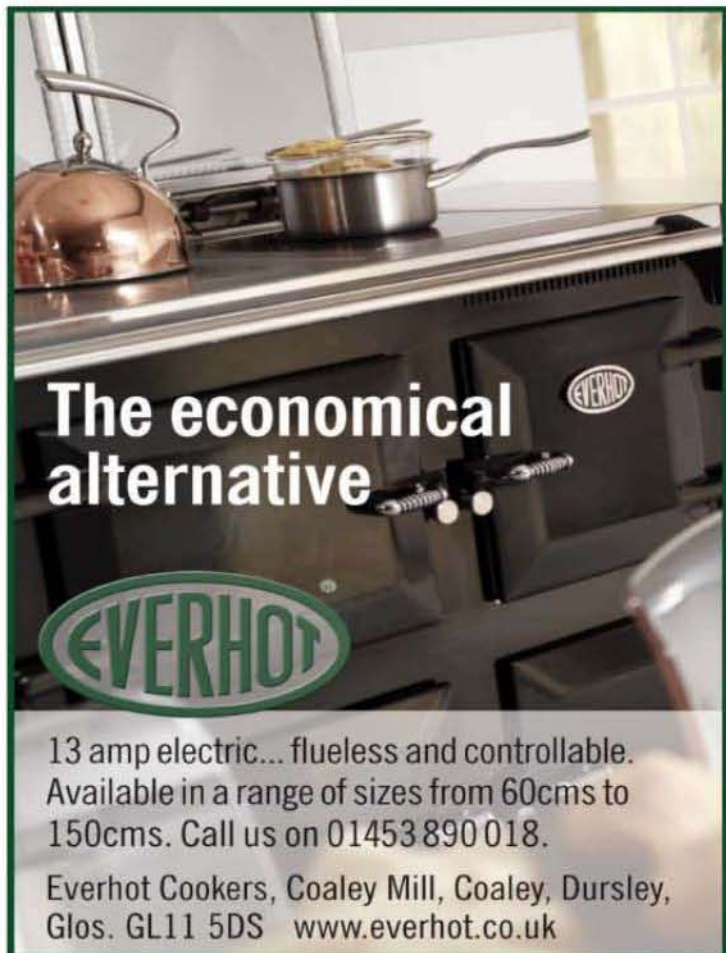
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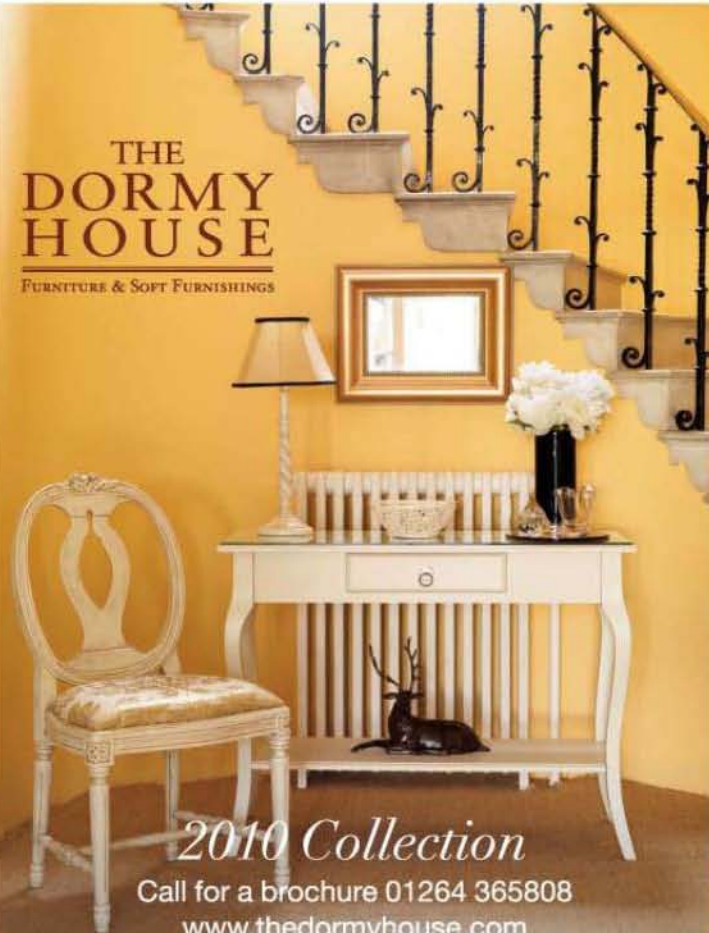
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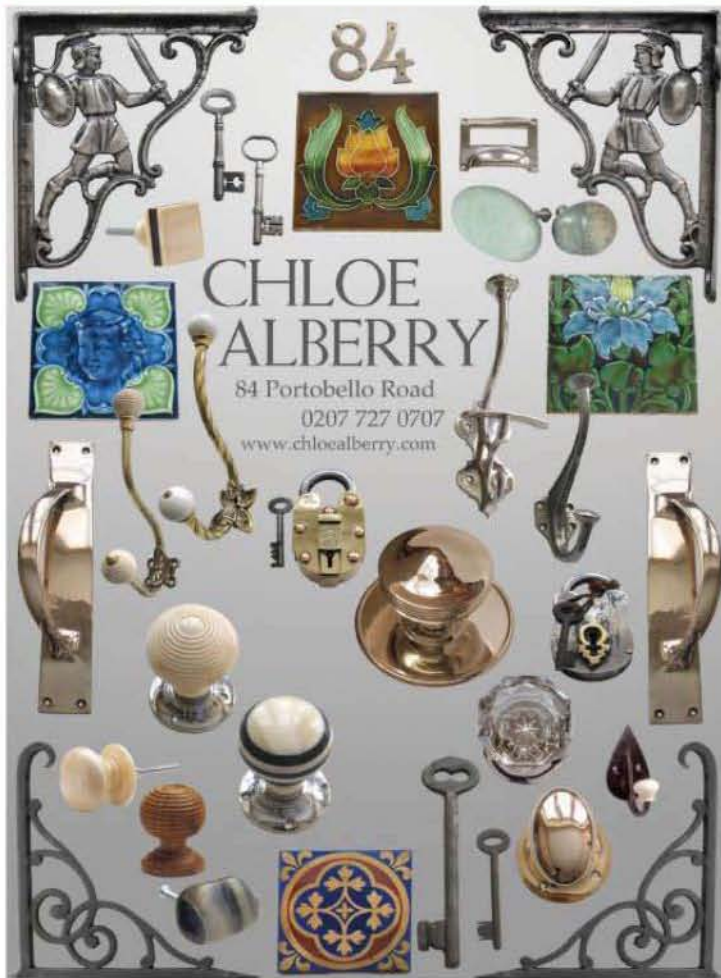


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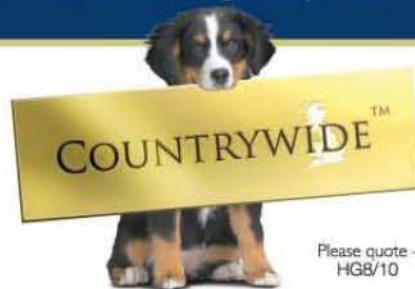


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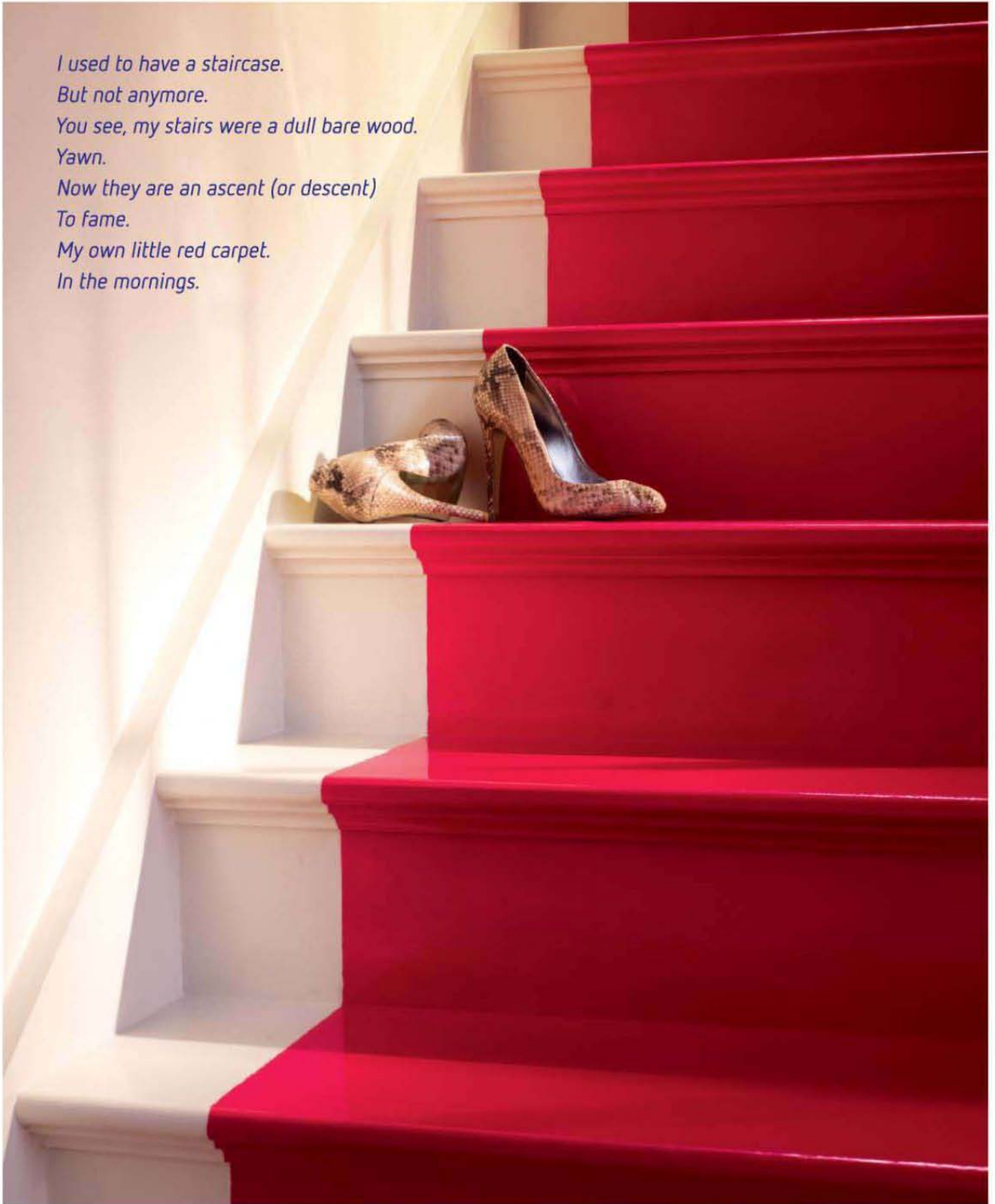


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