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JULY 2017



Easy breezy

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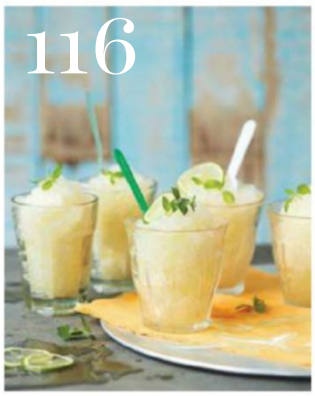
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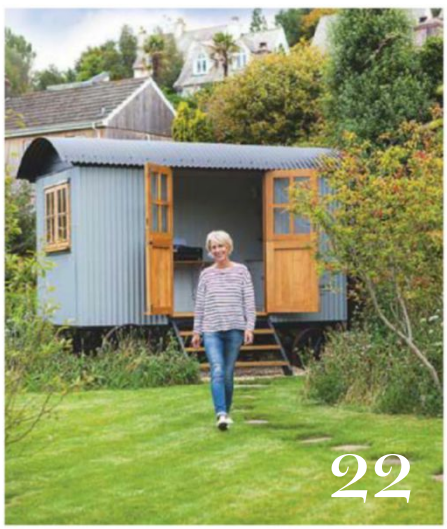
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COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

161 Marsh Wall, London E14 9AP
Telephone 020 3148 5000 **Email** countryhomes@timeinc.com

EDITOR
Rhoda Parry
CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Emma Williams 020 3148 7184
HOUSES EDITOR
Vivienne Ayers 020 3148 7194
SHOPPING EDITOR
Holly Phillips 020 3148 7195
NEWS AND FEATURES EDITOR
Thea Babington-Stitt 020 3148 7458
CHIEF SUB EDITOR
Anne Esden 020 3148 7188
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Sara Bird (Style)
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Sally Dominic 020 3148 7154
MANAGING EDITOR, HEAD OF OPERATIONS
Fiona Surfleet 020 3148 7358
ACTING CONTENT TEAM MANAGER
Heather Young 020 3148 7326
CONTENT EDITORS
Stephanie Durrant, Tara King and Holly Walsh
JUNIOR STYLE EDITOR
Rosanna Johnson 020 3148 7197
HEAD OF SUBS OPERATIONS
Maxine Clarke 020 3148 7136
SENIOR SUB EDITOR
Marian McNamara 020 3148 7192
HEAD OF ART OPERATIONS
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Clare Willetts 020 3148 7892
ART PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Matt Watkins 020 3148 7891

MARKETING
Marketing Manager Yasmin Christofi 020 3148 7692

PUBLISHING
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PA to Group Managing Director Donna McConnell 020 3148 5651
Managing Director Sandy Gale 020 3148 6214
Assistant to Managing Director Giulietta Vella 020 3148 6214
Publisher Belinda Cooper 020 3148 7666

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Production Manager John Botten 020 3148 5443
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Digital Producer Andrew Howe 020 3148 3366

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Things I've seen, done and loved this month

Easy breezy summer style was our catchphrase when planning this issue. From warm-weather design ideas to waterside homes and gardens, we've searched for the light-hearted people, relaxed places and live-in looks that sum up the month in all its loveliness.

If you want to revolutionise the way you live, be inspired by lantern roofs, lofty beams and pretty terraces; all of which were on our owners' wishlists when renovating their country barns, new-builds and village houses (from page 22).

Talking of trends, the outdoor kitchen is here, and here to stay. We shortlist the buys you need to prep, grill and serve in the fresh air (see page 72).

Finally if, like me, you're loving the upbeat freshness of this season's calming blues and sunshine yellows, turn to page 63 for all the ideas and inspiration you'll need to hot up rooms using the latest artisanal designs and washed woods. I hope you enjoy the zip and zing of summer days!

Rhoda x

PS... We have a special 20% discount with Garden Trading (page 99). I love its all-weather rattan furniture!

PPS... Are you a garden lover? Then why not escape to Madeira with Joe Swift on an exclusive travel experience (see page 132).

PHOTOGRAPH THE NATIONAL TRUST PHOTOLIBRARY/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO



Gathering a beautiful array of fresh and fragrant summer blooms from the garden. Willow **trug**, similar from Ella James.

Things we can't live without JULY



1 Bringing an exotic taste to the table. Tribe dinnerware, from £6 for a cereal bowl, Linea at House of Fraser. **2 A too-pretty-to-open soap!** Michael Angove English Pear & Freesia, £15 for 100g, Jo Malone. **3 Fresh foliage tumbling from earthenware.** Tenderling pot, H6.9x6.9cm diameter, £4, Anthropologie. **4 Co-ordinating everyday essentials.** Norfolk Stripe beach bag with purse, 40cm sq, £39.50, Ian Mankin.



Daring to bare a sun-kissed shoulder with a slouchy knit made from a luxurious twist of natural fibres. Horizontal Rib **top,** £135, Celtic & Co.



Adding textural interest to dining with linen prints. Runners, £24 each; Shimi **napkins,** £8 each; **crockery,** from £10 a piece, all Murmur.



5 Garden motifs giving kitchen linens a revamp. Herb kitchen towel, 50x70cm, £15, Lexington. **6 A rattan relaxer for the conservatory.** Frida chair, H70xL73xW67cm, £175, Broste Copenhagen at Amara. **7 Natural materials for your worktop.** Marble and acacia chopping board, 30.5cm diameter, £89.75, Lene Bjerre. **8 A decorative citrus colour pop.** Fitzgerald Lemon Grass lumbar cushion, 56x30cm, £35, Jane Hornsby. »



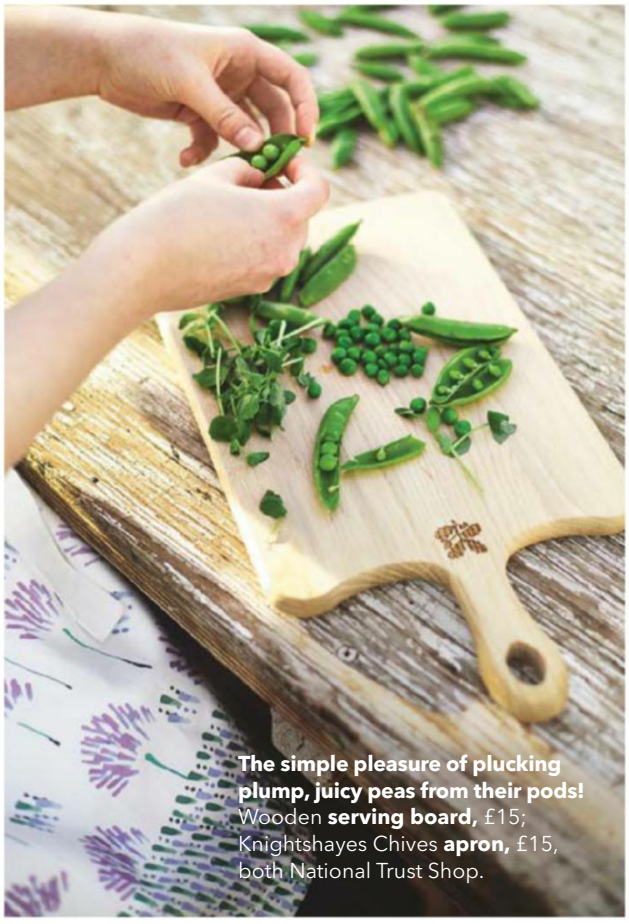
Simple and striking traditionally crafted Scandi designs made purely from wood and rope. Harmen outdoor **chair,** £128; **footstool,** £82, both Rowen & Wren.



9 Creating a display wall. Geo Bright frame, 16.5cm sq, £12, Oliver Bonas. **10 Hanging succulents in patterned stoneware.** Ceramic planter, H11.5cm, £10, V&A Shop. **11 Entertaining guests with yummy nibbles.** Living Wall platter, 32cm diameter, £38, Laura Ashley. **12 Sipping a virtuous infused tea with fresh mint from the garden.** Glass Teapot with Infuser, Small 300ml, £22, The Exotic Teapot at Notonthehighstreet.com.



13 Marvellous mini beasts on soft furnishings. Dragonfly cushion, 43cm sq, £7, George at Asda. **14 Being kind to ourselves.** Herb sentiment plaque, 16x12cm, £7.50, Gisela Graham. **15 A garden path with staggered hurricanes.** Captured glass lanterns, H18cm, £25; H35cm, £40, both The White Company. **16 An eye-catching distressed rusty finish on inside-out furniture.** Bistro table, H75x58cm diameter, £142, Mia Fleur.



The simple pleasure of plucking plump, juicy peas from their pods! Wooden **serving board,** £15; Knightshayes Chives **apron,** £15, both National Trust Shop.

Colour of THE MOMENT

SIMPLIFY YOUR SUMMER HOME (AND LIFE) WITH EFFORTLESS VANILLA TONES ACROSS LIVED-IN LINENS, FRESH-FROM-THE-WASHING-LINE COTTONS AND SUN-BLEACHED SHEERS...



Wallpapers (from top left), Wilma, col Light Green, £68 a roll, Sandberg. Hip Hop, col Gustavian Grey on White, £95 a roll, Peony & Sage. **Paint,** Fresh Air, £36.25 for 2.5L claypaint, Earthborn. **Fabrics** (from top left), Wreath, col Charcoal on Cream, £64 m, Peony & Sage. Kemble, col Parchment, £78 m, Lewis & Wood. Pure Net Ceiling Appliqué, col Paper White, £122 m, Morris & Co. **Napkin,** Arles, col Charcoal Stripe, £12.90, The Linen Works. Seagrass Herringbone **carpet,** £24.50 sq m, Alternative Flooring. **Trimming,** Ibiza Lace braid, col Latte, £30 m, Samuel & Sons. Heritage Natural **twine,** £4, Paperchase. (Background) Ashcroft **basket,** £44, Neptune. Buttons and scissors, stylist's own.

FEATURE HOLLY PHILLIPS **STYLING** (MOODBOARD) HOLLY PHILLIPS **PHOTOGRAPHS** (OPENER) POLLY ELTES, (MOODBOARD) KATIE HOWEY/RHAPSODY

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Home notes



Floored by style

Give your feet a treat with the beautiful Carlotta Sepia rug, from £1,595, Designers Guild. We love its relaxed floral pattern in gently faded tones of white, mimosa, lime and inky graphite. Team with neutrals or fresh greens to add a summer-garden feel to any modern country scheme.



Snowdrop **sofa** in Botanical, £1,680; Snowdrop **armchair** in Dots, £870, Sofa.com.

Ice cream pastels and beautiful blooms await...

Love to mix and match

There's nothing quite like summer to make us crave pretty prints and fabulous florals – and Sofa.com's latest Showcase Collection hits the spot! In two gorgeous fabrics – 'Botanical', a classic Arts and Crafts-inspired print, and 'Dots', a modern polka design – these pieces are an elegant way to introduce summer-fresh shades into your home. Our advice? Mix and match the two prints and your existing fabrics for a relaxed look that is pleasingly bespoke.

OUR FAVOURITE DESIGNER MAKER

Belynda Sharples

Belynda is an artist and designer from Norfolk who creates British countryside-inspired fabrics and wallpapers. She uses traditional printing techniques and the designs are then produced in her family-run factory.



Where are you based? In the north Norfolk countryside. My workspace is a bright and breezy converted chapel, full of colourful china and vintage fabrics – it's so inspiring.

What is your design process? My designs emerge from sketches and paintings, which I have produced over the years. I then cut, paste and redraw the motifs until I have a pleasing repeat that I am happy with. I try to balance spontaneity with the restraints of traditional surface design.

What inspires you and what do you hope to inspire in others? I find inspiration in the everyday things that I see around me: caravans, cows, crockery, the countryside. I also greatly admire the work of artists such as Henri Matisse, as well as ceramic artist Betty Woodman. I really hope that my designs are uplifting and that they bring pleasure to my customers.

Do you have a favourite piece or collection? Countryside Toile (shown in wallpaper, £65 a roll, above), which features a cow looking out over fields – it is one of my older designs, but remains one of my favourites. Also Birdcage, which started life as a fabric and will soon be a wallpaper, as I hugely enjoyed designing it.

Sum up your creative style in three words? Illustrative, spontaneous, decorative.



See more of Belynda's designs at belynda sharples.co.uk.

STORE AND DISPLAY

Painted furniture is a great way to add subtle colour to your home, so why not invest in this oak dresser base, £2,175, from Titchmarsh & Goodwin? Handpainted in dusty pink, it's a useful mix of storage and display space – and we can just imagine it topped with a vase of cornflowers fresh from the garden.



FEATURE HOLLY WALSH, THEA BABINGTON-STITT

Garden notes

Just what you need now...



With so much weeding to do in the garden this month, you'll need the help of a good pair of gloves. Delicate weeding is easier if your gloves act as a second skin and allow you a sense of touch. We love these Birds & Branches Magenta Seed & Weed gloves, which have excellent grip, plus a stretchable, breathable liner, fitted cuffs and a waterproof coating, £4.49, Briers.

Q&A WITH A SHARING GARDENER

Which bean would you recommend?

This year is 'Year of the Bean', so we asked chef Raymond Blanc to tell us about his top choice.





Which beans are you growing in your garden? In my Asian garden at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons in Oxfordshire, I am growing seven different beans all in pots – lablab, soya, winged, yard long, yam, black turtle and yin yang. For high yields, all of them need a very good summer, but if the weather fails us, they can be easily moved into a polytunnel or greenhouse. **How should the edible flowers of broad beans be served?** They're great in salads and go well with all foods that you would serve with broad beans. Place them on the plate at the last moment to prevent them wilting. If you're not using them straight after picking, place in iced water to maintain their freshness. **What's your favourite bean?** I do love French Tarbais beans. They are the essential ingredient in a cassoulet. I enjoy cooking with all beans – the fresher the better – but I also appreciate the height these plants can add to a vegetable garden. **You grow 23 varieties of beans in all. How do you ensure their success?** Good fertility helps, and it's important not to overcrowd the beds or pots. Also, you should try to keep the soil moisture level consistent.



Scented beauties... a vision of summer

The perfect picking flower

Renowned for her cutting garden at Perch Hill in East Sussex, Sarah Raven is also a writer and broadcaster. Here, she chooses her favourite bunch of summer flowers. 'This Harlequin Mix of three sweet pea varieties is my idea of perfection,' she says. 'The zappy pink of 'Prince Edward of York' is a brilliant contrast to the richness of 'Matucana' and 'Lord Nelson'. Place in a jug on the kitchen table or in the grandest place in a silver urn. The scent is magnificent – 'Matucana' is the benchmark of scented sweet peas. To make flowers last, add sugar syrup to the water and keep them cool.' Harlequin Mix is available as seed, £2.20 for 20, or seedlings in spring, from £16.95 for 12, from Sarah Raven.

NATURAL CHOICE



Beautiful to watch, butterflies are also valuable pollinators, so it's always worth trying to attract them into your garden. Plant a variety of nectar-rich, summer-flowering plants, such as buddleia, honeysuckle, lilac, dianthus and honesty in a south-facing spot that also offers a good degree of shelter. With luck, they will be fluttering by in no time.

FEATURE TAMSIN WESTHORPE **PHOTOGRAPHS** (BEANS) NICOLA STOCKEN, (BUTTERFLY) GEOFF DU FEU, BOTH GAP PHOTOS

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Food notes

We want this now...



Designed for barbecues on the go, this stylish design has an integrated food storage tray, prep board and a porcelain enamel firebox. Easy to set up, cook with and clean, it uses charcoal to add a distinctive smoky flavour to your food. Everdure by Heston Blumenthal CUBE portable charcoal barbecue, H23xW42.5x D34.7cm, col Graphite, £149, John Lewis.

OUR FAVOURITE FINE FOOD PRODUCERS

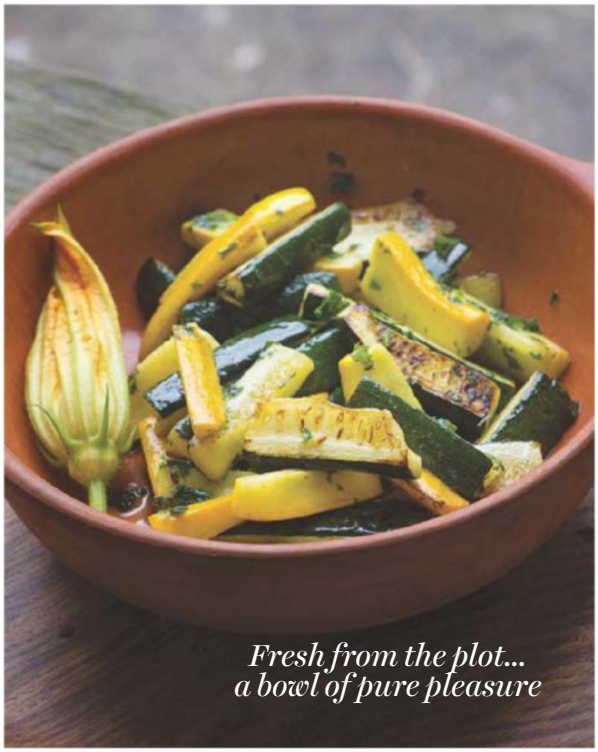
Ross & Ross



Based in the Cotswolds, Ross & Ross was set up in 2011 by Ross Whitmill and Ross Bearman, who previously worked at Malmaison and Paxton & Whitfield. They started by making pâté and terrines for Daylesford and independent delis and, since 2015, have focused on their range of Great British foodie gifts.

Tell us about your products? Everything is made with top quality ingredients from British suppliers, most based in the Cotswolds. It is rare that ingredients are sourced from more than 40 miles away.
Summer barbecue tips? Cook meat such as ribs, brisket and pork belly 'low and slow' in your oven, then finish off on the barbecue. And you can use different barbecue wood chips to achieve a variety of flavours.
What's your dream barbecue combi? Our Moroccan Rub for slow-cooked lamb, the Chipotle Jam on burgers, and our Cotswold Pig ale on the side. We're also big fans of our salmon curing kit, which just won a Gift of the Year award.
You've won many awards... We've been very lucky over the past couple of years: Best Small Business in Oxfordshire 2016, Cotswold Life Best Food Product 2015, and BBC Good Food Show Bursary Award 2013.
What's next? We're working on new ideas for our barbecue sauce range so watch out for new launches in the next few months.
Ross & Ross, 01608 645503, rossandrossfood.co.uk.

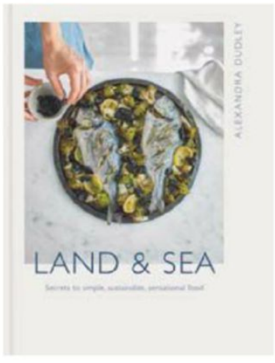




Fresh from the plot... a bowl of pure pleasure

Get creative with courgettes

We love this simple recipe, inspired by food writer Hattie Klotz's childhood home – Pashley Manor in East Sussex, famous for its kitchen garden. Slice 8 small courgettes lengthwise and then across the middle. Melt a large knob of salted butter in a pan and add 1 tbsp olive oil. As soon as it starts to sizzle, add the courgettes. Toss in the butter and oil until they begin to brown on one side. They should remain crisp in the middle. Remove the pan from the heat and add 1 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice, then stir in a handful of chopped parsley. For more recipes, see Hattie Klotz's *From The Garden* (£19.99, New Holland Publishers).



FRESH & SEASONAL

Pop-up supper club host Alexandra Dudley's new book *Land & Sea* (£25, Orion) focuses on simple, sustainable food. We're looking forward to having the spelt, honey and walnut loaf for breakfast and the beetroot, cucumber and mint gazpacho for lunch. Out 27 July.

FEATURE SARAH WILSON **PHOTOGRAPH** (COURGETTES) LEIGH CLAPP


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Sam Wilson uses her rustic country designs to create quirky screen-printed fabrics.





OUR FAVOURITE SHOP FOR HOMEWARES

Sam Wilson Studio

ENJOY NATURE-INSPIRED PRINTS IN THIS CHARACTERFUL COTSWOLDS BOUTIQUE

After a 20-year career as a freelance illustrator, Sam Wilson launched her own label in 2015, selling British countryside-inspired homewares in over 100 boutique stores, including her own flagship shop. Using traditional printmaking techniques, she captures the rich flora and fauna of the Cotswolds in her beautiful designs. We caught up with her to hear all about it...

WHERE ARE YOU? Chipping Campden High Street in the North Cotswolds. It's a charming market town with strong connections to the Arts and Crafts movement.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO OPEN YOUR SHOP? It was never really something we actually planned to do, but while looking for space to house our stock from our wholesale business, the shop came up to let. With its charming character and wonderful old-fashioned bay windows, we jumped at the chance.

WHAT'S YOUR SHOP STYLE? Rustic country – it feels like a home from home. After discovering some wonderful photographs from the 1900s, when it was a hardware store with beautiful wooden floors, we were inspired to keep to that style as much as we could.

WHAT DO YOU SELL? Our collection features our prints, which we use to turn into repeat designs for screen-printed fabrics. We make curtains, lampshades, cushions, stationery and wash bags, while a pottery in Stoke-on-Trent turns our designs into mugs and jugs as well. Together with old-fashioned hardware and quirky lighting and furniture, we really are a one-stop shop for gorgeous homewares!

WHY IS YOUR SHOP DIFFERENT? We mainly sell our own brand, working with small British manufacturers to make high quality, artisan products with an Arts and Crafts feel. We also carefully curate other pieces to sit alongside and complement our own.

WHAT'S NEW FOR THIS YEAR? We've just launched our first fabric collection, and are introducing upholstery and curtains. We are also expanding our china range, so it's all go for our busy little shop!

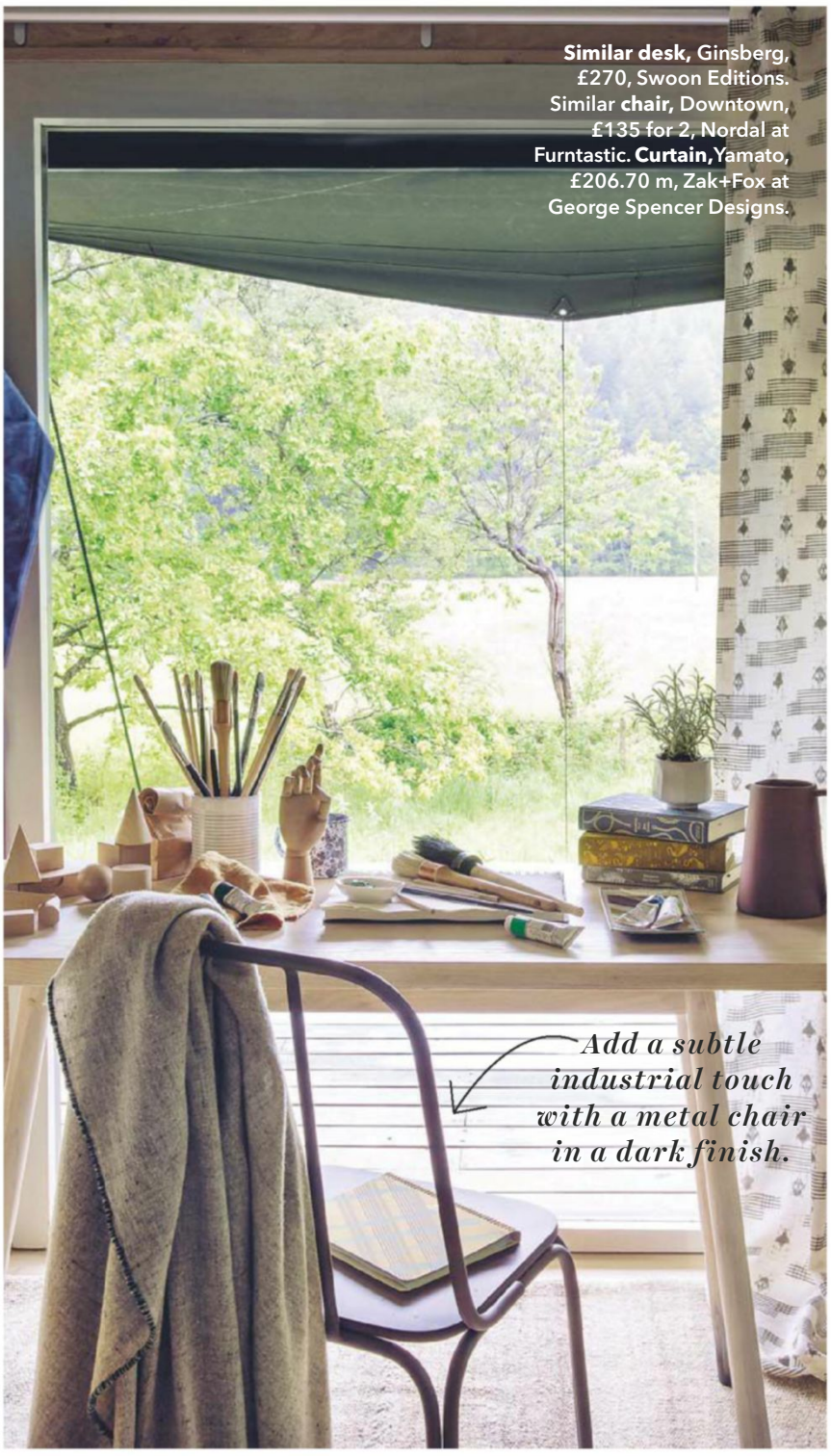
☎ Sam Wilson Studio, Elsley House, High Street, Chipping Campden, GL55 6HA, 01386 841116, samwilsonstudio.com.

FEATURE HOLLY WALSH

Make a house a home

A desk with a view

In our ongoing series, we select simple country-style hero pieces that look beautiful... and feel good



Similar desk, Ginsberg, £270, Swoon Editions. Similar **chair,** Downtown, £135 for 2, Nordal at Furntastic. **Curtain,** Yamato, £206.70 m, Zak+Fox at George Spencer Designs.

Add a subtle industrial touch with a metal chair in a dark finish.

As more and more of us work from home, creating a dedicated space is vital. Designed for motivation, creativity and purpose, a desk's raison d'être is to support those knuckle-down moments when you need to get things done. Choosing the right style and – just as important – setting, elevates a simple table top into a dedicated piece of furniture suitable for reading, writing and working.

WHAT'S THE STORY? Intended to hold heavy tomes and documents, the first desks were primarily found in religious or educational environments and featured sloped tops and sturdy supports to aid reading. The printing press changed all this and as books became smaller, the desk evolved. Originally intended for commercial use, level-topped tables are now preferred for the home. Once seen positioned in uniform lines in business settings, desks are now a household furniture staple with dedicated office areas a high priority when it comes to country house purchases.

WHICH STYLE TO CHOOSE For a modern country look, choose a pared-down Scandinavian-inspired style in light wood to create an airy feel. If storage isn't essential, go for a design with sufficient surface area to spread out and one without drawers for maximum leg room.

STYLE IT UP Position is everything – no one likes to look at a blank wall. A window offers views, light and a creative connection to what is going on in the world. Make the most of the outlook by placing the desk in front of the window and keeping the underneath clear of clutter. Hang a curtain to screen sunshine and bring a welcome touch of pattern.

FEATURE SARA BIRD **PHOTOGRAPH** TIMEINCUKCONTENT.COM

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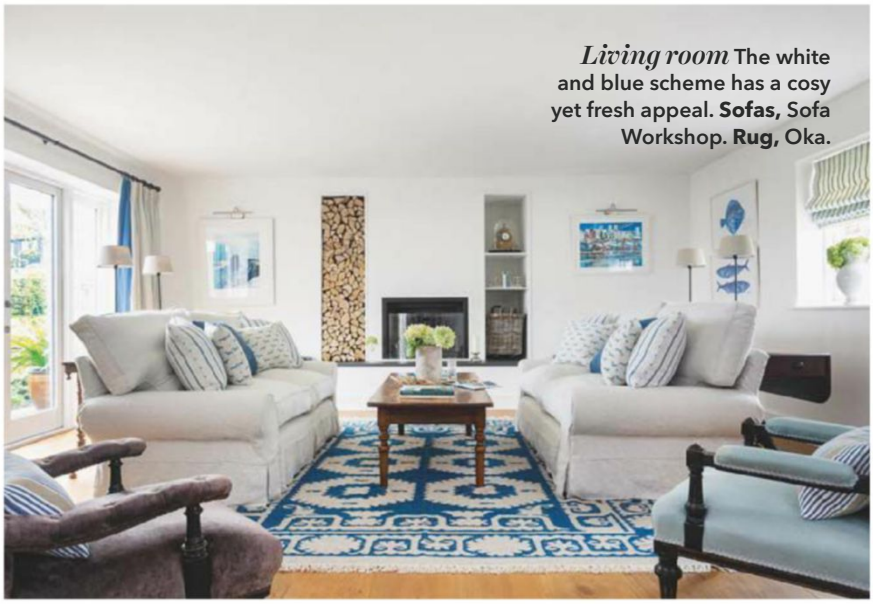
A SERIES OF HAPPY COINCIDENCES LED AMANDA WILLMOTT TO HER UNIQUE HOME IN BEAUTIFUL SOUTH HAMS





Terrace Amanda enjoys the glorious views overlooking the River Dart.

Garden Traditional planting, including white roses, clematis and fragrant lavender, helped make this relatively new plot feel well established. **Garden design,** Sam Westcott. »



Living room The white and blue scheme has a cosy yet fresh appeal. **Sofas,** Sofa Workshop. **Rug,** Oka.

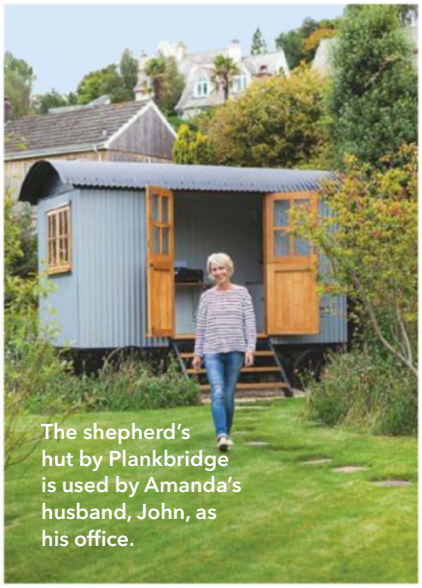


Hallway Overhead glazing follows the building's curvaceous lines. **Floor tiles,** Slimbrick.



What we love most about living here...

'We have so many happy family memories of this village through the years, which makes it especially wonderful to be here once more'



The shepherd's hut by Plankbridge is used by Amanda's husband, John, as his office.



Dining room **Table,** Colystock Kitchens. **Lamps,** Commerce Decor. **Ginger jars,** Oka.



Kitchen Pale-painted units add to the light, spacious feel. **Cabinetry, pendant lights, storage unit** (above left), Distinctly Living.

Living room Different patterns and fabrics are combined to great effect. Striped **cushion,** Designers Guild. Dachshund **cushion,** Emily Bond at John Lewis. Fish **artwork** by Christine Allison, White Sails Gallery. »





Main bedroom **The use of aqua and taupe hues ensures a restful mood. Headboard, covered in Bovary Old Blue by Colefax and Fowler. Blanket box, The Footstool Workshop, upholstered in Pretty Maids by Vanessa Arbuthnott.**

They say that good things come in threes, and there is more than a touch of serendipity about how Amanda and John Willmott came to own their home in a picturesque village perched beside the River Dart. 'We owned a boutique hotel in Bath, which we'd renovated a few years earlier,' says Amanda who, together with John, has successfully bought and transformed various businesses over the years. 'We lived in a lovely Georgian house in a village not far from the hotel and loved it but, with John's 70th birthday coming up, we'd started to wonder what we should do next.'

Then fate took a hand. All at once, a hotelier came forward with an offer to buy their hotel, neighbours declared an interest in buying their home and, not least, a house they'd long admired in the heart of a historic Devon village was put up for sale.

'We knew the village really well as we've had a holiday cottage there for almost 30 years,' says Amanda. 'As a family, we'd spent so much time there and we all loved it. When everything fell into place so easily, it seemed as if it was meant to be.'

Though it had potential, the house needed quite a bit of work. 'It was originally a cottage, but over the years had been re-modelled,' says Amanda. 'A basic extension had been added, along with a sun room, but neither really worked, and there was a warren of tiny rooms that made everywhere seem dark and cluttered.'

The couple had a very clear idea of how they wanted their new home to look and feel. 'We were effectively downsizing,' says Amanda. 'We wanted all of the space to be properly used and enjoyed, not only by us but by visiting friends and family, and that influenced our design decisions from the start.'

Once all the plans were in place, work began and the couple took up residence in their holiday cottage nearby so they could oversee the renovations. The footprint of the house was reconfigured to become both practical and more aesthetically pleasing. Walls were removed and a new extension built to incorporate a large, open-plan living area with a main suite upstairs, plus a conservatory-style dining room. A separate guest wing at the other end of the house was created to offer visitors a truly private space.

The couple moved in for Christmas 2015, albeit surrounded by a mire of muddy land. 'The time of year hindered the garden design project considerably,' Amanda says. 'It took four months to get the landscaping done. I felt so sorry for the team, who were trying to create a beautiful garden in such horrible conditions.'

Inside, however, a clean, fresh, white-painted canvas invited the couple to make their mark. 'We sold a lot of our old furniture at auction, only bringing with us things we really loved,' Amanda says. 'It was actually very cathartic to start again from scratch.'

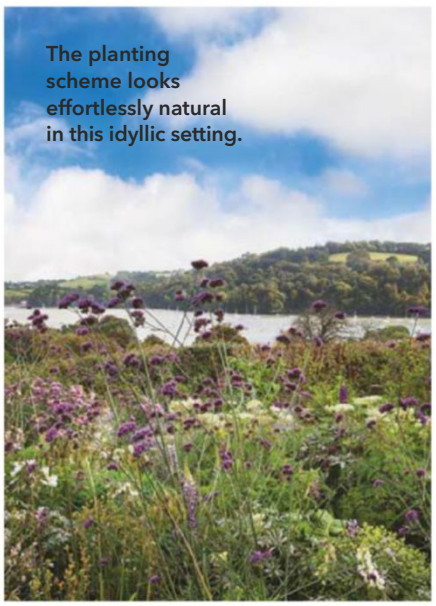
Along with new furniture, Amanda picked soft furnishings in a variety of subtle patterns and shades, and carefully chosen artwork and accessories to personalise the space without cluttering it in any way. 'We wanted this to be a very easy home to live in and keeping everything relatively pared-back has helped to achieve this,' says Amanda. 'It's a wonderful new way to live in an area we've loved for so long. We feel very lucky indeed.' »



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Amanda and John Willmott, who both retired from the leisure industry in 2015. They have two grown-up children, Henry and Poppy, and a terrier cross, Billy.

House An early-Victorian four-bedroom house, which has been extended and remodelled. It has a shepherd's hut in the garden.



The planting scheme looks effortlessly natural in this idyllic setting.



Bathroom The unusual shape of the room is used cleverly. **Bath, basin,** Waters Baths of Ashbourne. **Mirror,** Adrian Ager.



Dressing room The mirror was bought at auction. **Dressing table,** Swoon Editions.



What makes this house a home...

'We love that the traditional exterior doesn't hint at what's to come – a light-filled modern space. It's a surprising juxtaposition, and we really like that'



Guest bedroom **Window seat,** upholstered in Lawn Stripe, Clarke & Clarke.





Guest bedroom Tongue-and-groove panelling creates a New England mood. **Valance,** Ada & Ina. **Headboard fabric,** Atmosphere.

FEATURE SHARON PARSONS **PHOTOGRAPHS** RICHARD GADSBY



ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Greenway (01803 842382, nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway), in Galmpton, which was Agatha Christie's holiday home, just across the river. There are lovely walks through the grounds, and the house is beautiful.'

Shop at... 'Dartmouth – it's wonderful for foodies. We have Mark Lobb's wet fish shop (01803 832101), Saveurs (01803 835852, saveurs.co.uk) for bread and French pastries, and the Smith Street Deli (01803 833616) for great cheese and wine.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Anchorstone Café (01803 722365, anchorstone cafe.co.uk) in Dittisham. The seafood is really well presented and delicious.'

The outdoor seating areas are arranged to make the most of the stunning river views. **Chairs,** Hartman. **Table,** Chic Teak. »

Be inspired by Amanda's guest bedroom

Classic meets contemporary with this ribbed glass lamp. Charles **table lamp,** H58cm, £100, John Lewis.

For standout style, choose a statement pattern headboard.

Subtle and understated is the order of the day with this neutral woven flooring. Bell twist **carpet,** col Mineral, £39.99 sq m, Brintons.

Inject a splash of colour with a fun and quirky design. Circle print **cushion,** 40cm sq, £12, Debenhams.

Choose a solid oak statement piece in muted tones. Hampton painted wide **chest,** H91xW110xD45cm, £725, Next.

Add elegance and practicality with an upholstered head rest. Sophie **headboard,** H70xW151cm, col Antique Jacquard, £590, Sofa.com.

Amanda's style secret

Create a cosy, informal style by mixing and matching patterns against a plain background using complementary colours to complete the look.

Modern Country Classic Ottoman

Versatile and timeless, this modular piece can be incorporated into your home in a number of ways. An upholstered version, can be matched to other accessories to create a cohesive look. Used for handy, attractive storage, as a decorative item, or somewhere to rest your feet, an ottoman will forever be a favourite piece owing to its practicality and ability to add country character to any room.

Where to buy

- **Vanessa Arbuthnott** for country-inspired pieces.
- **Swoon Editions** for stylish, quirky models that have a mid-century twist.
- **The White Company** for neutral upholstered designs.



FEATURE ROSANNA JOHNSON

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A meeting of styles

ROZ BRUNEAU HAS GIVEN HER LISTED GEORGIAN HOME NEW LIFE WITH A BEAUTIFUL MARRIAGE OF OLD AND NEW, AND AN ELEGANT EXTENSION THAT HAS TRANSFORMED HOW THE HOUSE IS USED



Orangery This elegant space links the house with the garden. **Floor lamp,** Loaf. **Pendant,** Mariposa Interior Design. **Chairs,** covered in Linwood fabric at Lally Walford Interiors. **Rug,** Cowhide Rugs London. **Throw,** Arcadia Interiors. »



Extension As the house is listed, the extension had to be sympathetic to the property's heritage. Stonemason Scott MacDonald used local Markle stone for the base. **Extension,** Vale Garden Houses.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Roz and Jon Bruneau, who run a chain of children's nurseries. They live here with their children Hannah, 17, Max, 15, and Lochie, 13, along with their dogs Rhubarb and Basil. They moved here in 2000.

House A eight-bedroom Category B-listed Georgian property.

When Roz and Jon Bruneau started a family, their cosy flat – close to the Edinburgh hotel they were running at the time – began to feel as though it was bursting at the seams. The plan was to buy something just a little bit bigger, still in the city and within easy reach of the hotel, but then fate intervened.

After a walk on a beach in Dunbar, which is about 30 miles east of Edinburgh, Jon spotted a grand Georgian property that had just come on the market. It was the complete opposite of what Roz and Jon were looking for, but they were captivated. 'This was a purely emotional purchase,' says Roz. 'It was much bigger than anything we had envisaged buying, but we fell in love with the house and its stunning formal gardens. And the lure of the nearby beaches was too great!'

That was 17 years ago. Today the couple and their three children, who are now teenagers, can't imagine living anywhere else, but a lot has changed over the years. Soon after moving in, the commute into the city lost its allure and the couple sold their hotel and then set about creating their own chain of children's nurseries, the first of which was run from the basement in their new home. And while Roz and Jon did have big plans for the house when they first moved in, including adding an extension, those ideas had to be put to one side as running a new business and raising a young family meant life was too busy. Instead, the couple focused on cosmetic work. New paint, carpets and curtains gave the house a fresh feel and the restoration of »



Entrance hall An eclectic mix of colour and furnishings creates a welcoming space. **Walls,** painted in Light Gray by Farrow & Ball. **Portrait,** by Henry Fraser at Open Eye Gallery. **Rug,** John Lewis.

What makes this house a home...

'The things we've collected on our travels are everywhere and evoke great memories'



Living room Roz's schemes are not dictated by trends but by pieces she's collected over the years, resulting in a timeless look. **Throw, tripod light,** Time & Tide.

What we love most about living here...

'The fact that we can walk out to a deserted beach in two minutes, yet be in Edinburgh in twenty'

Summerhouse This space pays homage to the house's coastal location. **Walls,** painted in Pointing, Farrow & Ball and (back wall) Bowler Hat, Dulux. **Painting,** by David Renshaw, Bass Rock Gallery.

the wooden floors and staircase returned the house to its original elegance. All this was done bit by bit, and the inspiration for each room was drawn from objects, furniture, rugs and lamps that Roz and Jon had collected over the years.

It wasn't until two years ago that work began on the extension – and a new business and a busy family life weren't the only reason for the long delay. The financial crisis was another factor and because the house is a B-listed building, the design for the extension required a lot of toing and froing with the local planning department. The couple had to find a way to have what they wanted, while remaining sympathetic to the look of the house.

The reason the Bruneaus wanted to extend was the kitchen. Although spacious, it was at the back of the house and was gloomy. 'It had one small window, which meant that even on the brightest summer's day you needed the lights on,' says Roz. There was also no good view of the garden, which was the feature that made the couple fall in love with the house in the first place. What Roz and Jon wanted to do was to add an extension that would create one big kitchen-living-dining space that opened onto the garden. 'We also felt that the house lacked a good entertaining space, which this new room could also provide,' says Roz. The result is a stunning orangery-style add-on that blends seamlessly with the original house thanks to a stone base »



House The handsome Category B-listed Georgian property has typically symmetrical proportions, which are softened by Virginia creeper and clematis.


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En suite A gallery of pictures makes a stunning feature. **Basket,** Studio One Furniture. **Curtain,** made in Fabled Crane Print, Blendworth.



Bathroom Cast-iron claw feet add drama. **Sanitaryware,** Bathstore. **Tongue and groove,** painted in Cooking Apple Green, Farrow & Ball.



Cloakroom Roz chose two different shades of grey for a bold effect. **Walls,** painted in Herringbone, Crown Paints. **Tongue and groove,** painted in Bowler Hat, Dulux. **Blind,** made in Leaf, Blendworth. **Wall light,** Lighting Direct.

that complements the house. Nestled into the trees on one side of the plot, the extension has spectacular views right down the garden. Plenty of light streams in through the floor-to-ceiling-height windows and doors on three sides, as well as through a large cupola above. 'The doors can be opened right up when the weather is fine so that you feel like you're sitting in the garden,' says Roz. 'I quite often turn the dining table into my desk for the day and do all my work there.'

The extension incorporates a spacious kitchen area and while the dining/living space feels traditional with its chesterfield-style sofa and formal armchairs, in the kitchen the units are modern and minimal. Throughout the house, Roz and Jon have married old with new and this gives their home not only character, but also a wonderful lived-in feel. The mix of styles is apparent immediately upon entering the house – in the entrance hall, an antique sideboard sits happily with abstract art and a bold striped rug. Roz and Jon agree that the extension has changed the way they use the house for the better. Rather than everyone doing their own thing in separate rooms, the new design has provided a large family area where everyone congregates to cook, chat and gather round the table for relaxed family meals. 'It was a quality-of-life decision in the end to build the extension,' says Roz, 'and it has really revolutionised our life.' »

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Foxlake Adventures (01620 860657, foxlake.co.uk) near Dunbar. We like to spend the day wakeboarding.'

Shop at... 'The main street in Dunbar, which has a good mix of independent shops. After shopping, head to Espresso Black (01738 248189). The coffee is great.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Herringbone (01620 890501, theherringbone.co.uk) in North Berwick. The menu includes fresh fish dishes and an interesting and unusual choices of burgers. It's a great place to go after a walk on the beach at North Berwick.'

FEATURE MONICA LOUDON **PHOTOGRAPHS** MARK NICHOLSON

Main bedroom Grey walls and woodwork emphasise the Georgian features. **Walls,** painted in French Gray, Farrow & Ball. **Flooring,** Alternative Flooring at G & A Cochrane Carpet Services. **Curtains,** Sheena Carss at Seams Sew. »


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Be inspired by Roz's orangery extension



Snuggle down in your favourite spot with a beautiful, cosy design. Elemental **throw,** col Kilnsey Rhodolite, £89.95, Bronte by Moon.



This tough timber board has a matt finish with grainy notes in all the right places. Marsal PurePlank 207mm FSC engineered **wood flooring,** £67 sq m, Havwoods.

Add impact with this carved candlestick lamp. Big Boy **floor lamp and shade,** H185cm, £375, Loaf.

Make a bold style statement with large-scale lighting.



Use a modern print on a traditional style. Lynden **chair** in Lina Hedgerow, H81xW74x D90cm, £1,075, Laura Ashley.



Go for transparency. Amalfi Bent Glass **coffee table,** H43xW100xD50cm, £177.99, Julian Bowen at Bedroom World.

Choose a luxurious floor covering. Hanlin cow hide **rug,** 200x240cm, £199.50, Lifestyle & Heritage Co.

Roz's style secret

Mix comforting, familiar design classics with flowing contemporary lines.

Modern Country Classic Orangery

Not to be confused with conservatories, these walled structures with glass ceilings were historically used in fashionable residences to protect citrus and fruit trees. Hop, skip and jump forward to today, these light-filled extensions allow the outside to seamlessly merge with the interior. Harmonious and versatile, they create everyday living areas for lounging, informal entertaining and dining.

Where to buy...

- **Anglian** for bespoke, thermal-insulated designs.
- **Vale Garden Houses** for designs that add architectural value to any site.
- **Orangeries UK** for high-quality hardwood constructions.



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House The oak frame of the barn is a beautiful feature both inside (as shown in the living room, right) and out. Similar **front door** paint colour, Vert De Terre by Farrow & Ball.



Living area **Blue accents are pulled out to give the neutral palette interest. Bespoke sofas, stools, Alexander James Interior Design in Romo fabric. Coffee table,** Andrew Martin. **Console,** Decorus. »



Living area **Bi-fold doors allow for easy entertaining indoors and outdoors. Dining table,** Andrew Martin. **Dining chairs,** Eichholtz. Bespoke **cushions,** Alexander James Interior Design in fabrics by Ashley Wilde, Designers Guild, Kai and Thibaut.



AT HOME WITH...

Owner David Kirkby, the owner of Kirkby Homes (kirkbyhomes.com). He moved in in 2015.

House A four-bedroom new-build house with a French oak frame.

Surrounded by mature trees and paddocks filled with horses, David Kirkby's new-build barn with its rustic wooden cladding and pretty red roof tiles occupies an idyllic country setting. So it is difficult to believe that the location hasn't always been so picturesque. 'Originally there was an old run-down pig farm here that had been out of use for more than 60 years,' says David. 'It was a bit of an eyesore, but I liked the surrounding land and the fact that it's very easy to get to the South Downs.'

As the founder of Kirkby Homes, David knows a thing or two about building houses and he was keen to create a weekend bolthole for himself in this part of Surrey. He bought the land in 2014 and got planning permission to build three houses – one of which he planned to keep – with five acres, stables and a manège.

'I wanted to build a modern rustic barn filled with light,' says David. 'My vision was to create something bespoke in French oak.' To make this a reality, David worked with architectural technologist Jason O'Donnell of Arktec to come up with an oak-clad property. 'In the end, I drew up the design for a chic yet comfortable country home and Jason made it work,' says David.

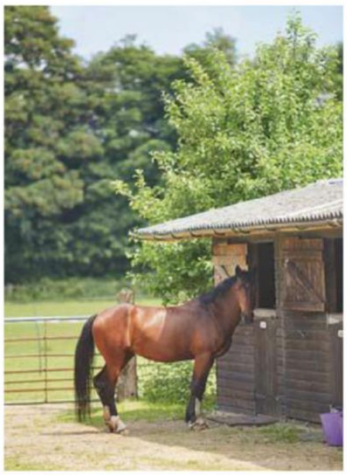
The bespoke French oak frame was made by a company that David has worked with before. The »



Dining hall **This vaulted space with floor-to-ceiling glazing is a wonderful place to entertain. Table, chairs,** Julian Chichester. Bespoke **rug,** DSH Flooring.







The property also includes stabling for several horses.

building work took around 10 months and included the installation of underfloor heating throughout the property and the addition of concealed solar panels on the roof to help keep fuel bills low.

David was determined that his home would have the wow factor and so wooden beams and vaulted ceilings are a feature of every room. 'I wanted to see the wooden framework and I am delighted with the finished result. It looks beautiful and I love how it blends into the surrounding area,' he says. In addition, his desire for a light-filled house was achieved with floor-to-ceiling glazing at the entrance and in the main bedroom at the rear, plus large bi-fold doors in the dining area and skylights in the kitchen.

The glazing at the entrance sets the scene for an impressive dining hall. 'I love entertaining and I decided to use the large reception room at the front of the house as a dining space. The high ceiling gives it a wonderfully atmospheric feel and it also looks lovely when viewed from the outside at night-time.'

In good weather, David entertains on the patio at the back of the house where doors in the breakfast room can be opened up. 'I love the way the space flows and outdoors becomes part of indoors,' he says.

As the outdoors was an integral part of David's vision, he employed garden designer Clifford Stanley, »

Kitchen
Skylights above the island flood the space with light. **Units,** similar from John Lewis |of Hungerford. **Bar stools,** similar from Garden Trading.

Dining hall
(Above left) Bespoke **armchair,** Alexander James Interior Design in Thibaut fabric. Occasional **table,** Porta Romana.



What I love most living about here...
'It is such a pleasure to head out into the countryside for my regular afternoon stroll'



Guest bedroom **A headboard in leather adds another textural element to the scheme. Bespoke bed,** Alexander James Interior Design in Crest Leather fabric. **Bedlinen,** The White Company. **Bedside table,** Flamant. **Lamp,** Chelsom at Houseology.



En suite **David opted for a freestanding bath, which is reflected in a mirrored wall panel. Bath,** similar from Soak. **Blind,** similar from John Lewis.

an RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal winner, to design and landscape the garden.

When it came to styling the interior, David enlisted the help of Alexander James Interior Design. Rebecca Soulsby, the interior designer who worked on the project, says, 'Our brief was to create an interior that was sympathetic to the structure and style of the property. David wanted to achieve rooms that had personality, but that still had a luxurious feel.'

The elegant look that David wanted is underpinned by a pale colour palette and extensive use of natural materials. 'The chosen accent colours of soft blues and chalky greens were influenced by the rural surroundings,' says Rebecca. 'And at every point we aimed to enhance the beautiful beams in the property.'

David selected handpainted Shaker cabinets to complement the oak framework in the kitchen, adding skylights to bring in more light. 'I was after a particular look that was achieved by having extra light over the island,' he says. The modern rustic style continues in the bathroom with a contemporary freestanding bath and wooden washstand.

'A house like this is a lifestyle choice,' says David. 'It's so relaxing here – it recharges my batteries.'

☎ Alexander James Interior Design, 0118 932 0828, aji.co.uk. »

ON MY DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'The South Downs Way – I love to cycle from Shackleford to the Devil's Punch Bowl. The views are stunning and there are loads of country pubs on the way.'

Shop at... 'Greyfriars Vineyard (01483 813712, greyfriarsvineyard.co.uk). Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, this vineyard produces a wonderful English sparkling wine.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Kennels at Goodwood (01243 755132, goodwood.com/estate/the-kennels). This restaurant offers a lunch experience that is off the charts!'

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS **PHOTOGRAPHS** BRENT DARBY



Main bedroom An oversized headboard makes the most of the vaulted space. Bespoke **bed, sofa,** by Alexander James Interior Design in Romo fabric. Bedside **tables,** Julian Chichester.

What makes this house a home...

'The open-plan layout creates a relaxing space that's ideal for spending time with family and friends'

Be inspired by David's kitchen



Tempt your guests with delicious home-baked treats displayed in mouth-blown glass. Aurelia **dome and stand,** H34x25cm diameter, £60, LSA International.



An exposed oak framework makes a fabulous backdrop to a country kitchen.



Choose a timeless design to pop under the breakfast bar. Hambledon Raw Oak Tall **stool,** H80x33cm diameter, £130, Garden Trading.



Keep an eye on the time with this stylish skeleton timepiece, complete with distressed metal patina and Roman numerals. Lascelles outdoor **clock,** 50cm diameter, £45, John Lewis.

The chiselled good looks of this Lincolnshire limestone will feel wonderful underfoot. Aged Jervaulx Stone **flooring,** col Sand, from £110 sq m, Martin Moore Stone.



Liven up a countertop with remarkably realistic faux plants – perfect for those of us without green fingers! Lavender mini pots in wooden tray, £50, Sweetpea & Willow.

David's style secret

Resist the urge to over-fill a large space – instead choose statement pieces that add interest without detracting from the architectural detail.

Modern Country Classic Wine storage

Grape connoisseurs realise the importance of storing their wine correctly. Finding the right solution for your country home shouldn't be difficult as there is a plethora of stylish designs on offer. Depending on whether you'd rather hide your collection discreetly away or showcase it as an attractive focal point, you'll find bespoke wine cellars, walls or pods, or you can go for a freestanding, adjustable shelving system.

Where to buy...

- **Neptune** for solid wood storage for up to 44 bottles.
- **Cellar Maison** for high-quality and bespoke temperature-controlled solutions.
- **The Wine Cave Company** for an innovative cylinder design.



FEATURE HOLLY PHILLIPS

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Clare's barn shop
Clare stands outside the showroom of her furniture business, Mrs G-D Interiors, with black Lab Stanley. Her chalkboard message changes each week.



Living room This open-plan vaulted space has plenty of surfaces for Clare to add decorative touches. Antique French **sideboard, coffee table,** Mrs G-D Interiors. **Sofa,** similar from La Maison Chic. **Artwork,** Gayle Shapton. **Mirror,** similar from Laura Ashley. »



Kitchen **With most of the house built in oak, the choice of worktop was an easy one. Cabinetry,** similar from Rencraft. **Blind,** similar from John Lewis. **Tea towels,** Plain Useful.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners Clare Gamble-Dale, who runs a vintage furniture business, and her husband Dan, who has a building company. They live here with daughter Ruby, 10, their three dogs, plus four horses. They moved here in 2007.

House A converted 19th-century stable block with four bedrooms.

Clare Gamble-Dale grew up loving everything to do with horses, so it's fitting that she and her family have made their home in converted stables. The doorways where horses once looked out from have been reworked into French doors. And what was the yard is now a secluded walled garden that catches pockets of sunshine.

Moving to the country also brought about a change for Clare, who switched from a demanding job in finance to running a business from a barn a few easy strides from her doorstep. The story began when her husband Dan's parents bought a rambling old farm with lots of outbuildings. They renovated the farm's oast house for themselves, leaving Clare and Dan, who had been living in nearby Tunbridge Wells, to buy and convert the stables.

'We leapt at the chance,' says Clare. 'It meant moving out to a beautiful part of the county and being near to Dan's parents. We knew we wanted to start a family, and then once Ruby came along living close to her grandparents made even more sense.'

As Dan runs a building company, he was able to create a home full of character from scratch, at times working alongside his father, Ted, a cabinet-maker. Although the stables weren't listed, Clare and Dan wanted to keep the structure and footprint just as it was. Handsome original oak beams run through the building, and old sandstone »



What we love most about living here...

'With horses and dogs, we have the best possible incentives to get out and enjoy the beautiful countryside'

Family room This informal space leads off the kitchen. The table was made by Dan. **Desk,** Mrs G-D Interiors. **Artwork,** Gayle Shapton. **Table, benches,** similar from Neptune.



Family room Fox Terrier Robin waits for his walk. **Chair,** similar from Swoon Editions. **Coat rack,** similar from The Good Shelf Company.



Main bedroom This space occupies a new floor above the open-plan living area. **Throw,** similar from The White Company.

What makes this house a home...

'Our rural setting and the original stable block architecture, which always shines through'



En suite One of the best features of the room is the view over the fruit trees in the walled garden. Mosaic **tiles,** similar from Walls and Floors. **Basket,** similar from Olli Ella.



Clare's parents-in-law converted the nearby oast house, which was part of the old farm, along with the stables and outbuildings.



Ruby's bedroom **The decor is pale and versatile, so that Ruby can adapt it as she grows older. Bedside tables,** Mrs G-D Interiors. **Bed,** similar from Laura Ashley. **Cushions,** similar from Mink Interiors.

walls were revealed in the central open-plan area. Now this living space is where the family spend most of their time. It's where lazy summer garden parties start, before spilling out through the French doors. 'I love having this big open-plan area, it feels a very natural and sociable way of living,' says Clare.

A more modest family room leads off the kitchen in the other direction, and this is where homework is done or Clare catches up on paperwork for her business, Mrs G-D Interiors, selling vintage painted furniture.

'I keep most of the furniture and newer accessories in the barn shop,' says Clare, 'but a special cabinet or table might find its way into our home for a while.' This has proved handy as the couple moved from a smaller Victorian townhouse and found most of their old furniture was suddenly dwarfed by the height and scale of the stables – they more or less had to start from scratch. It also helped that Dan and his father can make furniture, so pieces such as the benches and table in the family room were made especially for the space.

Clare's new line of work means she is far freer to enjoy her idyllic surroundings. 'With three dogs and four horses, I'm never stuck in the shop for very long,' she says. 'I love that I can work for a few hours, then head out for a ride or a dog walk to recharge my batteries.'

☎ Mrs G-D Interiors, 07889 085562, mrsg-d.com. »

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Penshurst Place (01892 870307, penshurstplace.com), near Tonbridge. We love this beautiful historic house. There's a great children's adventure playground and the gardens include manicured areas and wilder orchards.'

Shop at... 'Juddwood Farm Shop (01892 871080, juddwoodfarm.co.uk), also near Tonbridge. It is great for farm-fresh meat and seasonal fruit and veg.'

Go for a meal at... 'The George & Dragon (01892 863125, speldhurst.com) in Speldhurst. It's a great gastro pub that dates from the 13th century, so always feels very atmospheric.'

FEATURE JO LEEVERS **PHOTOGRAPHS** BRENT DARBY


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Be inspired by Clare's eating area



Hang a statement timepiece and practise punctuality! Dormitory wall **clock,** 40cm diameter, col Posh Grey, £70, Amara.



Painted pieces bring decorative charm to a country room.



Add simple style with elegant glassware. Bistro **carafe,** H25x10.5cm diameter, £4, Garden Trading.



Adorn your walls with some animal magic. Holstein cow **print,** £8.99, 20x25cm, James Coates Fine Art at Etsy.



Protect high-traffic areas with this hard-wearing flatweave rug in neutral tones. Lumi handwoven **rug,** 170x240cm, £250, Cox & Cox.



Turned legs and brass antiqued knobs give this handpainted storage console a traditional twist. Camille console **table,** H74xW94xD33cm, col White, £119.95, Melody Maison.

Clare's style secret

Bring humour – as well as a talking point – to a country dining space with art inspired by life on the farm.

Modern Country Classic Farmhouse table

Brimming with character and the setting for many stories told, the farmhouse-style kitchen table is lovingly made for everyday living. The family focal point for a hearty roast or a generational bake-off, its traditional features may include sturdy turned legs and an oak or pine top treated for heavy-duty daily use. Today, painted styles in refreshed country neutrals offer a modern twist in a rustic setting.

Where to buy...

- **The Cotswold Company** for extendable models in oak, pine or painted finishes.
- **Loaf** for distressed, beached and hand-buffed designs.
- **Farmhouse Table Co** for tables with contemporary style.



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EASY BREEZY *Summer style*

Relax into the season with modern artisanal looks in calming blues and sunshine hues. Embrace the tie-dye trend created by folding, crumpling and pressing textiles. Developed to give form to simple cloth, this home-dye method now features on pottery, wallpapers, weaves and linens. Mix with rustic furniture and accessories, along with plenty of plains, to create a fresh, upbeat look for all summer long. »

FROM TOP LEFT: DURALEX **GLASS,** £10 FOR 4, PALE & INTERESTING. DRIFT **TEA TOWEL,** £14 FOR 2, CREATIVE TOPS. GARMENT WASHED LINEN **NAPKIN,** COL LIME, £25 FOR 4, ALSO HOME. LINEN **NAPKIN,** COL GREY, £24; BLUE PASTA **BOWL,** £20, BOTH MURMUR.



Arrange a signature shelfie

Mix and match pattern and colour to make a summery-looking shelf display.
See page 70 for details.



Add zing to summer dining

Combine modern graphics on accessories and soft furnishings with classic country wares and furniture to bring an on-trend look to mismatched ceramics.
See page 70 for details. »



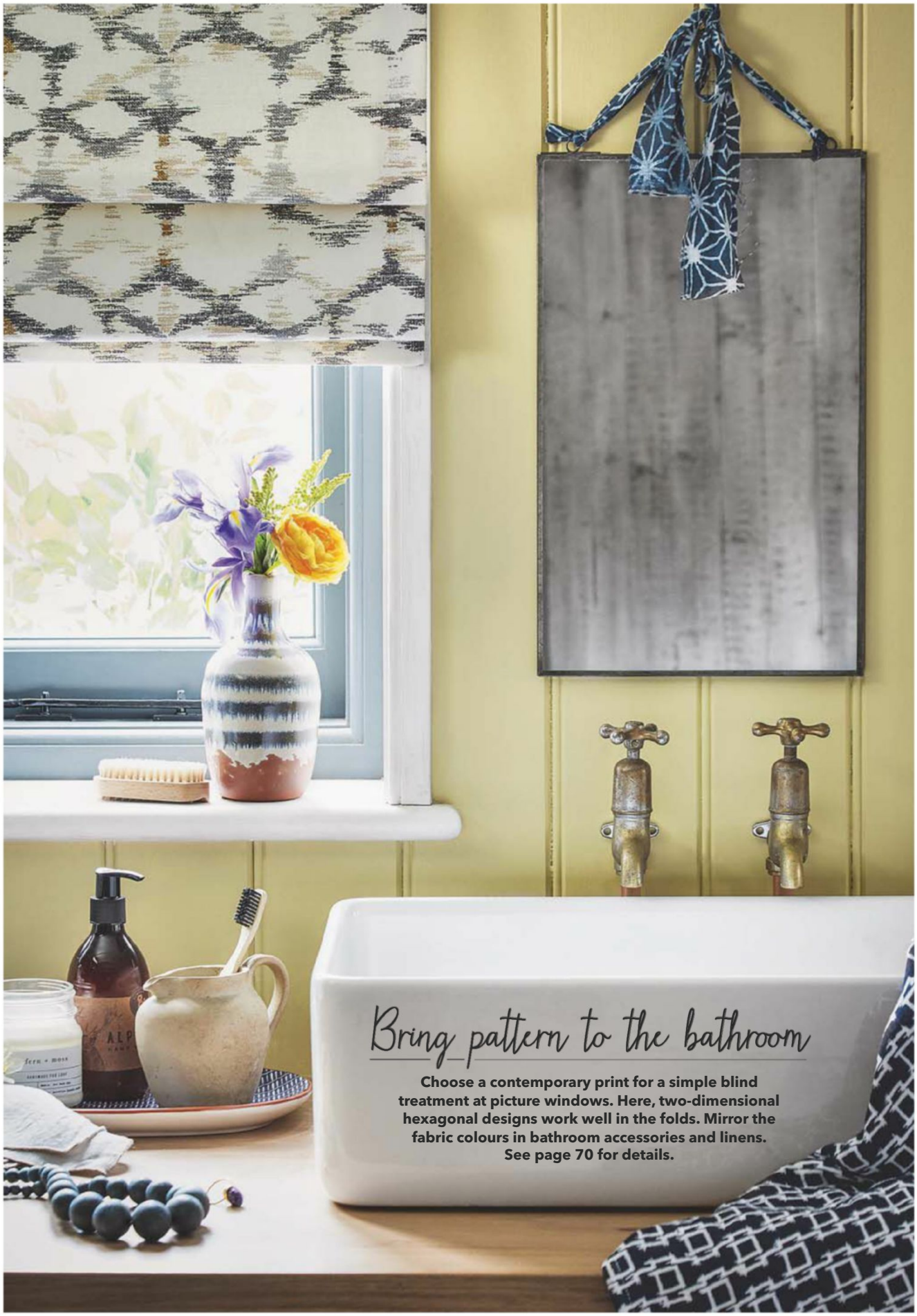
Go bespoke with beautiful linens

Upholster armchairs with patterns and plains for a unique-to-you look. Arrange near windows featuring gauzy linens to make the most of natural light and garden views. See page 70 for details.



Draw the eye with dyed details

Create a focal point with a bespoke light installation by grouping ombré and tie-dye designed pendant shades. See page 70 for details. »



Bring pattern to the bathroom

Choose a contemporary print for a simple blind treatment at picture windows. Here, two-dimensional hexagonal designs work well in the folds. Mirror the fabric colours in bathroom accessories and linens.
See page 70 for details.



Cover a headboard with a hero print

Show just the right amount of pattern with a simple and streamlined headboard treatment. Bold buttercup yellow on the bed adds a splash of summer colour. See page 70 for details. »

All the details
PRODUCTS AND PRICES

Pages **64-65**



ARRANGE A SIGNATURE SHELFIE

Plates (from left): **1** Quail's Egg, £10.95, Rigby & Mac. **2** Stoneware side, col Chartreuse, £10, Murmur. **3** Reactive Glaze dinner, col Black/White, £12, West Elm. **4** (On wall) Drift Markmaking side, £8, Creative Tops. **5** Japanese Floral dessert, col Chartreuse, £16, Murmur. Wide Stripe Hand Painted **coffee cup,** £7, Also Home. Cupola **tray,** £40, Imogen Heath.

ADD ZING TO SUMMER DINING

Walls, painted in All White; **cupboard,** painted in Down Pipe, both £60 for 2.5L Estate Eggshell, Farrow & Ball. Internal **door,** painted in Mister David, £59 for 2.5L Intelligent Eggshell, Little Greene. Large Coolie Hat **pendant,** col Navy Blue, £72 (with pendant kit), Pooky. Farmhouse kitchen **table,** £800, Peppermill Interiors. Wardley oak **dining chairs,** £300 each; Wardley **dining chair,** col Smoke, £270; Castleford tall **bottle,** col Grey, £45; Snowball **faux flowers,** £17 each, all Neptune. **Cushions** (from left): **1** Origami, col Saffron, Pigeon, £49.50 m, Vanessa Arbuthnott. **2** Emily Indigo, £45, Ondine Ash. Garment Washed linen **tablecloth,** col Silver Grey, £59; Garment Washed linen **napkins,** col Lime, £25 for 4, all Also Home. Diamond **table runner,** col Chartreuse, £24; Stoneware dinner **plates,** cols Grey and Chartreuse, £12 each; pasta **bowls,** col Indigo, £20 each, all Murmur. Fine Stripe large **bowl,** £18, Also Home. Drift **jug,** £14; Drift **cereal bowls** (on stool), col Ombre Blue, £8 each, all Creative Tops. Smoke hi-ball **glasses,** £8 each, House of Fraser. Pure water **bottle,** £7.95, Pale & Interesting. Fig **bowl,** col Soft Grey, £49.95, Dassie Artisan. **Stool,** similar from Home Barn. Hasani Moroccan **shopper,** £39.95, Nkuku. **Faux buttercup stems,** £12 each, Olive & the Fox.

Pages **66-67**



GO BESPOKE WITH BEAUTIFUL LINENS

Walls, painted in All White; **window frames,** painted in Down Pipe, both £60 for 2.5L Estate Eggshell, Farrow & Ball. **Curtains,** Akina, V3221/03, col Carbon, £49 m, Villa Nova. Spoonback **chairs** in Ivory finish, £910 each, The Dormy House (plus 5m fabric). Covered in Japonica, col Saffron, £49.50 m; Plain Linen, col Cream, £46 m, both Vanessa Arbuthnott. **Cushion** (on left), Bani Indigo, £10 m, Merchant & Mills. Metabi **basket,** £45.95, for 3 assorted, Dassie Artisan. Felix **footstool** in Dijon Soft Wool, £210, Sofa.com. (On footstool) **Fabric,** Indigo Splodge, £12 m, Merchant & Mills. Handmade **mug,** £17.95, Wonki Ware at Rigby & Mac. (On shelf) White **jug,** similar from John Lewis. Large column **vase,** £40, col Grey, Gray & Willow at House of Fraser. Rustic wooden **side table,** £100, Cox & Cox. Jonah **vase,** £35, Gray & Willow at House of Fraser. Glass **bottle,** similar from Home Barn. Humphrey **table lamp,** £189, Olive & the Fox. Roo Abrook Single Butterfly Antique Page **print,** £10, Rigby & Mac. **Picture clip,** £12.50, Cox & Cox. **Cushion** (on right), Sudare, col Carbon, £37 m, Villa Nova. Vintage hand-dyed Indigo crochet **throw,** £125, Pale & Interesting. Country House Natural sisal **carpet,** col Grey, £34.99 sq m, Carpetright.

DRAW THE EYE WITH DYED DETAILS

Pendant shades, Blue Pallet, Small, £44.99; Yellow Pallet, Medium, £54.99, both Factory Twenty One. **Drum shade,** made to order, £27.95 (plus fabric), Shady Lady Lampshades. Covered in Ink Blot Marine, £75 m, Ian Sanderson. **Curtain,** Linara, col Chalk, £37.50 m Romo. **Butcher's block,** similar from Wells Reclamation. Seagrass **bread basket,** £30, Also Home. Quail's Egg **jug,** £26.95, Rigby & Mac. Postcard, stylist's own.

Pages **68-69**



BRING PATTERN TO THE BATHROOM

Wall, painted in Lemon Tree, £47 for 2.5L emulsion, Little Greene. **Blind,** Sudare, col Carbon, £37 m, Villa Nova. Kiko Antique Zinc **mirror,** £34.95, Nkuku. Fabric **tie,** Bani Indigo, £10 m, Merchant & Mills. Bottle **vase,** £14.95, Madam Stoltz at Ruby & Mac. Drift **platter,** £18, Creative Tops. Fern & Moss **candle,** £25, Loaf. Lolite Oval Druzy **ring,** £38, Pale & Interesting. Hama bath **towel,** £30; linen napkin (as **facecloth**) £24 for 4, both Murmur. Nail brush, jug, toothbrush, handwash, necklace, all stylist's own.

COVER A HEADBOARD WITH A HERO PRINT

Grey Grunge Watercolour **wallpaper mural,** from £25 sq m, Murals Wallpaper. **Headboard,** covered in Kicho, V3235/04, col Acacia, £63 m, Villa Nova. Olivia **pillows,** col Lime, £60 each, Also Home. Lordy Linen **pillowcases,** £50 for 2; Lazy Linen double **duvet cover,** £145, all Loaf. **Cushions** (from left): **1** Meadow, col Blue, £60, Imogen Heath. **2** Botanical, £75, Cox & Cox. Organic Harmony double flat **sheet,** col Horseradish, £25, West Elm. Hand-dyed grey crochet **throw,** £85, Pale & Interesting. Pyper Pom Pom **throw blanket,** £40, Urban Outfitters. Shallow-sided **tray,** £26, Scumble Goosie. (On tray) Handmade **mug,** £17.95, Wonki Ware at Rigby & Mac. Reactive glaze **bowl,** £8, West Elm. Vintage rustic wooden **bench,** similar from Home Barn. Quail's Egg **jug,** £10.95, Rigby & Mac. Hand-tie-dyed cotton **scarf,** £34.95, Pale & Interesting. Antiqued metal **side table,** £120, Cox & Cox. Bottle **vase,** £10.95, Madam Stoltz at Rigby & Mac. Domeco **lamp,** £115, Loaf. Drift large **jug,** £20, Creative Tops. Stripe Indigo **hanging basket,** £45; Indigo Mali blanket (as **rug**), £75, both Ondine & Ash.

FEATURE SARA BIRD **STYLING** MARIE NICHOLS **STYLE ASSISTANT** CHARLOTTE MURRAY
PHOTOGRAPHS DAN DUCHARS

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Morsø Forno Oven **outdoor package** (includes table on castors, flue pipe, oven door, Tuscan grill, ash scraper, pizza peel, fire tongs and cover), £1,999; Eucalyptus four-seater round **dining table** and **chairs,** col Natural, £999; Leonardo 24cm garden **lanterns,** £15 each; Rustic-effect ivory **pillar candles,** £5 each, all John Lewis.



Handpainted **napkin,** 45cm sq, col Green Stripe, £29 for 2, Designers Guild.

Linen crossover **apron,** 95x65cm, col Natural, £59, Toast.

Mustique **bottle holder,** H21xDia12cm, £22.50, India Jane.

Natural woven bamboo **tray**, H9.5xDia41cm, £45, Also Home.

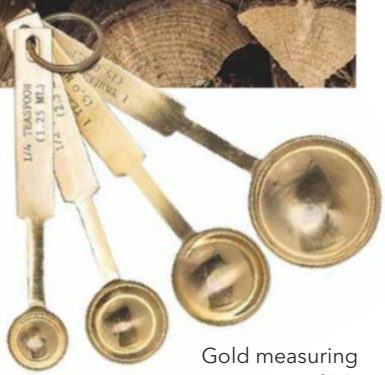


Cornbury **drinks dispenser,** £22; **pizza paddle,** £30; enamel **pitcher,** £28; granite salt and pepper **pots,** £12 for 2; round marble **board,** £25; sprinkle **jars** with cork lid and spoon, £5.50 for 2; drizzle **bottle,** £6.50 for 2; bottle **tray,** £17.50, £24, all Garden Trading.

Prep fresh seasonal ingredients beneath never-ending blue skies...

CH&I LOVES

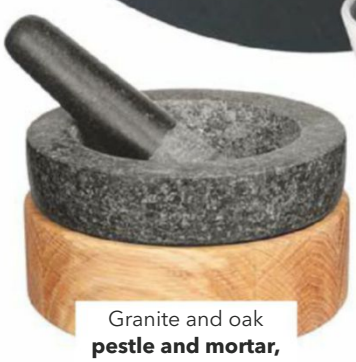
Epicurean **pizza board,** 43x18cm, £35, Habitat.



Gold measuring **spoon set,** £14, Rockett St George.



Arles Stripe **runner,** col Charcoal, £32; **placemat,** £17.50; **napkin,** £12.90, all The Linen Works.



Granite and oak **pestle and mortar,** H8xDia14cm, £45, Leon at John Lewis.



Porcelain **table grill,** Dia30cm, col White, £240, Eva Solo at Nisi Living. »

3 GO-TO SPECIALISTS FOR OUTDOOR KITCHENS

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✻ **WINCHESTER OUTDOOR KITCHENS** designs, supplies and installs your new external lifestyle with anything from a portable grill, through to a bespoke entertaining area. Prices start from £6,000.

✻ **OUTDOOR KITCHENS UK** use a professional design team of structural engineers, steel fabricators and skilled carpenters to build high-specification, tailored designs (below) without the top-notch price tag, from £5,000.



CH&I LOVES

✻

Diamond **table runner,** 180x40cm, col Chartreuse, £24, Murmur.



Oval Oak **oil/vinegar bottles,** £23.50 for 2, Scandi Living.





Jeans **napkins,** 50cm sq, £12 each, Lexington.



Peccioli melamine **dinner plate,** Dia28cm,col Forest Green, £38 for 4, Oka.

Neema bone **salad server,** £23.95 for 2, L26cm, Dassie Artisan.



Add pretty details to every-occasion dining with delicate beaded glassware.

Glass Dimple **tumblers,** £18 for 4, Rowen & Wren.



Utility **tapas set,** Dia31.5cm, £85, LSA International.



Invest in the best with durable concrete and colour-of-the-year green. Concrete **outdoor kitchen,** H1.3m, col Light Grey with stainless steel sink, from £2,972, Wwoo. **Barbecue,** from £850, Big Green Egg.

Design your dream kitchen to perfectly fit your garden space and sizzle in functional style with the latest built-in features and practical storage options. »



Present oversized wooden platters of deliciousness and let the summer landscape do the entertaining!
Oak dining **table,** £1,500; spindle-back **chairs,** £330 for 2; Aubrey **seat pad,** £20; Aubrey **napkins**, £25 for 4; Seville **tablecloth,** £75; Stanton **cutlery,** £95 for a 16-piece set; Heart **bread basket,** £22; large everyday **board,** £55; square everyday **board,** £35; Elgin **glassware,** from £5; Porto Heart small **oven dish,** £20; jam spoon and butter knife **set,** £12, all The White Company.

Welcome diners in relaxed style with beautiful washed-out table linens and sharing-is-caring serveware.

FEATURE HOLLY PHILLIPS

NEXT MONTH MULTIFUNCTIONAL STORAGE





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‘I LOVE THE WAY THE LIGHT PLAYS ON THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS’

Textile designer Ellen Calvert

Textile designer and scion of the legendary David Austin family – famous around the world for their breeds of English roses – Ellen Calvert brings her background in flowers and a cast-iron artistic heritage together in a passion for print. Having grown up in the Shropshire countryside, surrounded by plants, birds, hedgerows and flowers, she loves to incorporate the colours and textures of nature into her work. Ellen now juggles her job as a freelance design director and trend forecaster, working for the likes of Zara and Anthropologie, with her own business, Mae, designing and manufacturing stunning printed scarves and other accessories. We headed to Shropshire to meet her…

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT THE SHROPSHIRE COUNTRYSIDE? I enjoy the feeling of space and freedom, and being surrounded by hills and trees. This time of year, I love spending time outdoors.

IN WHAT WAY HAS YOUR FAMILY BACKGROUND INFLUENCED YOUR WORK? Because of my family’s English roses business, I have always been around flowers, and artists. My mother, Claire Austin, trained in illustration, and also has her own nursery business specialising in perennials, while my grandmother was a sculptor. Countryside, nature and art all lie deep within my core. I have always appreciated them and they intrinsically inform my work. But I am also inspired by many other things – cities, history and fashion. I often seek adventures elsewhere, but I always bring new experiences and ideas back, teaming them with the essence of country, which is at the heart of everything.

WHAT ARE YOUR EARLIEST CHILDHOOD MEMORIES? I remember visiting Grandma Austin. We’d spend lots of time together in her garden. I used to press all sorts of flowers and also make perfume from rose petals. And I painted a mural on the bathroom wall when I was about 12, although they have painted over it since.

HOW DID YOU BECOME A DESIGNER? I wanted to have a career where I could draw and paint, so I did an art foundation course, then moved into textile design as a good way to earn a living. I have been a designer for 10 years now and I love it. I can work where I want and with whom I want, and for a »









Ellen's loose, flowing style lends itself to painting flowers such as irises.



Watercolour designs are conveyed from paper to scarf.



Roses take centre stage at the David Austin nursery.



Flowers in Ellen's Shropshire garden are perfect for sketching ideas.

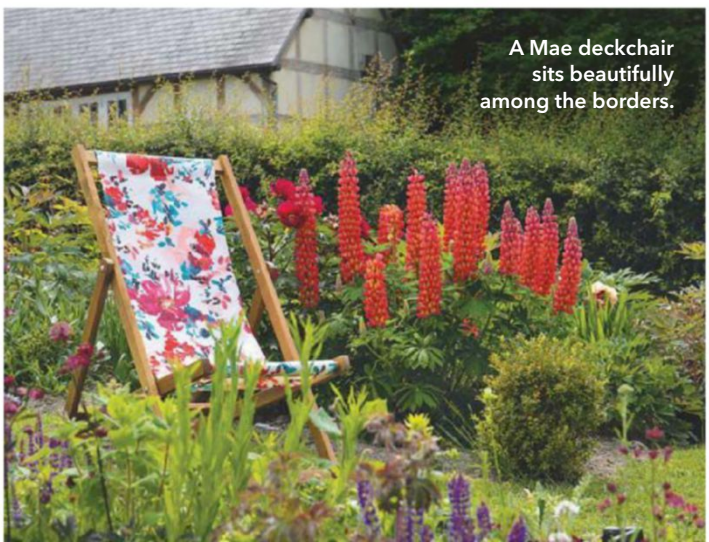


The Kerry Ridgeway has glorious views of the Welsh and Shropshire hills.



Peonies have inspired Ellen's new winter collection.





A Mae deckchair sits beautifully among the borders.





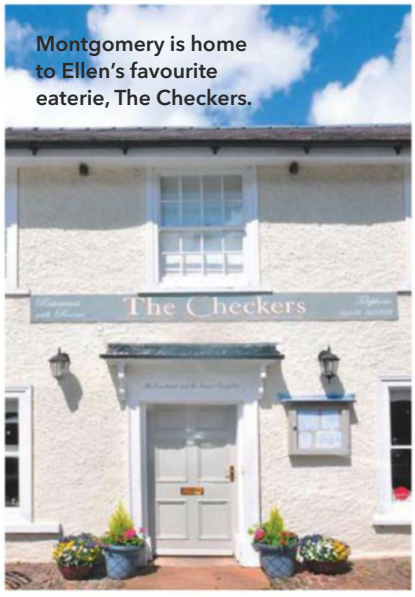
Artist and horticulturist Claire Austin has been a big influence in her daughter's creative life.



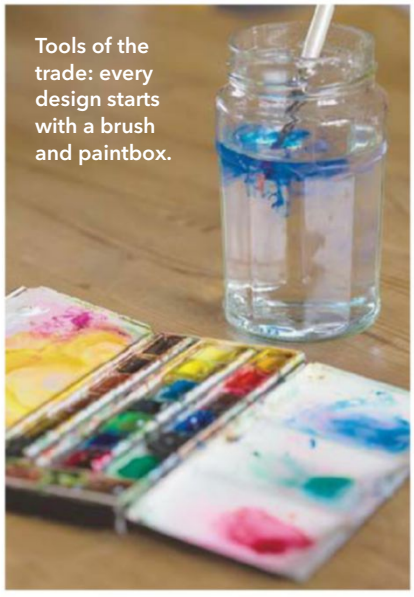
Coming from a family business famous for its roses, Ellen has been immersed in nature from childhood.

I couldn't live without...

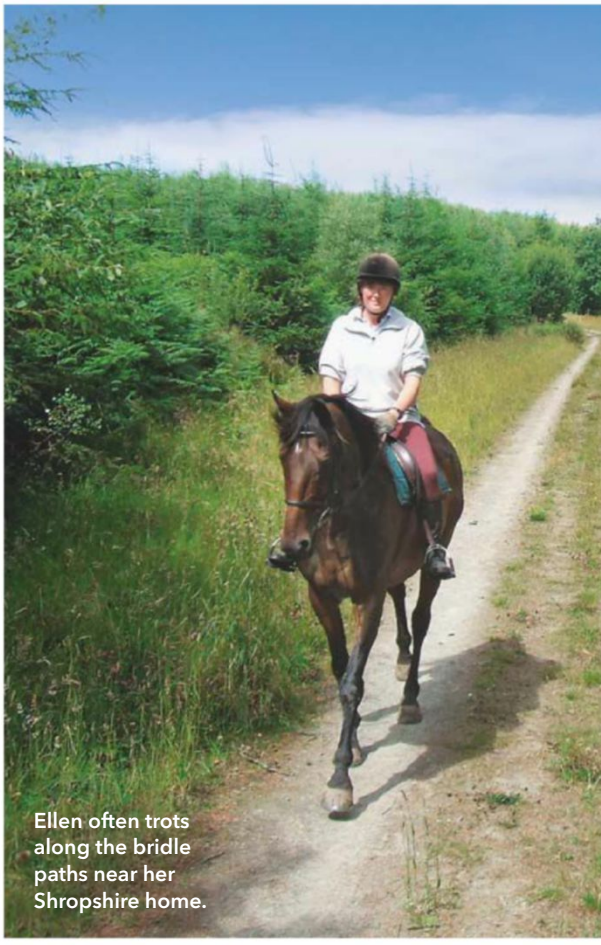
'A CUP OF COFFEE IN THE MORNING, A PENCIL AND SKETCH PAD. RADIO 4 IS ALWAYS ON – I LIKE GOOD MUSIC TO DRAW TO, AND I ENJOY LISTENING TO JAZZ SINGER GREGORY PORTER'



Montgomery is home to Ellen's favourite eaterie, The Checkers.



Tools of the trade: every design starts with a brush and paintbox.



Ellen often trots along the bridle paths near her Shropshire home.





range of clients. Designing for Mae, especially the scarves, enables me to create something for myself that is not necessarily dictated by fashion. It all started when I wore a yellow floral dress I'd designed myself to a swanky fashion party. Loads of people asked me where I had got it from, and that is when the idea for my label was born.

WHAT INSPIRES YOUR WORK? I look at old books, or old fabrics and wallpapers – antique materials that were created beautifully and skilfully. In drawing the outline of the flower, for instance, I look at a real-life peony, but also use old photographs and drawings. I take the concept of a peony from more than one place, capturing its movement, the light, the atmosphere, its personality. It is not an exact botanical drawing – if you are going to do that you might as well take photos!

TELL US ABOUT YOUR ARTISTIC PROCESS? I start by sketching and photographing flowers, leaves, animal prints, and looking at books on natural history and botanical art. I always use watercolours, because I like the way the paint moves on the paper, and the picture is then completed on a computer. To preserve details such as the watercolour tones and brush marks, the image is digitally printed onto modal – a fine, beech-fibre fabric, which has a lovely, luxurious softness. I like the clothes I design to be highly wearable – and they also have to be machine washable and, above all, fun.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGN AND WHY? Most of my designs are floral or inspired by the patterns of nature, but I particularly like the one with peonies. They are so big and fluid, as well as intense and colourful, and they are great fun to paint. The sense of movement that I incorporate is exemplified in the techniques used by my mother and grandmother in their art – expressive and quick. It works well with peonies, irises and roses.

IN FASHION, WHOSE WORK DO YOU ADMIRE? I grew up surrounded by Laura Ashley at my grandmother's house – I love the floral layered effect of patterns on patterns that was the style at the time. More recently, I like Gucci, Prada and Erdem. I enjoy the mix of different, contrasting styles, such as florals paired with vintage paisley.

ELLEN'S COUNTRY VIBE

What gets you out of bed in morning? The dawn, still cool, as the sun rises, and the early-morning flowers opening.

What is your flower of the moment? Definitely peonies – I like the contrast between the massive double shapes and the elegant singles.

What do you love most about this time of year? The garden blooming and full of pops of colour and scent.

WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW? Besides my consultancy work, I'm planning my own winter collection. I'd love to do a range of rich winter florals – peonies, anemones, perhaps a few insects – using a palette of earthy, dark browns, black, rich orange, red and cobalt. I am inspired by old Dutch paintings. It is a completely different look from the scarves I have done so far.

DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT WEEKEND? On the Saturday, I'd head into Ludlow and go to the antiques market to look for design ideas and fabrics, followed by a glass of wine in the garden in the evening with the family. The next day I'd go for a long walk along the Kerry Ridgeway, a 15-mile track through Powys and Shropshire, and revel in the wide, open spaces while drinking in the view.

IF WE WERE COMING TO YOUR AREA, WHAT MUST WE SEE? Well, first you must immerse yourself in nature by taking a long walk. Having worked up an appetite, dine at The Checkers, a Michelin-star restaurant in Montgomery, just over the Welsh border (checkerswales.co.uk). Chef Stéphane Borie trained under Michel Roux Senior, and the food is marvellous. Or travel a little to the east, towards Wolverhampton, to have a delicious tea at my grandfather's nursery and gardens (davidaustinroses.co.uk).

☎ To see Ellen's work, go to mae-online.com.

FEATURE NAOMI SLADE **PHOTOGRAPHS** LYNN KEDDIE

Step into a cool and calming SHOWER ROOM

More refreshing than taking a bath, and faster, too, now's the time to fall in love again with your shower. Take your cue from these modern country schemes...



Elcot **tiles** in Driftwood, £110 sq m; Chichester double-door **washstand,** painted in Driftwood, £1,910, both Neptune.

1 *Store well*

Allocating a dedicated space for storing shampoo and soap inside your showering area is essential. One of the smartest solutions is niche shelving, as seen in this chic layout by interior design studio Sims Hilditch, which can be built into a stud wall at construction stage. Unlike chrome racks and rails, niche storage doesn't encroach on your showering space. It's important to tile the actual shelf on a slight gradient to prevent water from pooling at the back. Add discreet, waterproof lighting to softly illuminate.





Richmond **bath,** £1,635, Victoria & Albert Baths.

CH&I LOVES

Similar **showerhead,** ceramic Tear Drop Rose, £357.50, Drummonds.

2 *Double up*

'Side-by-side showers are perfect for bathrooms designed for sharing,' says Jonathan Carter, Marketing Director, Victoria & Albert Baths. 'It's often a style you'll find in luxury hotels and allows plenty of personal space while making a bold statement. Try pairing with a freestanding tub to enjoy the best of both worlds.' In this en-suite designed by American agency Acre Creative, the floor has been raised and tanked, essentially creating a giant shower tray. »

3 *Drain away*

While a rustic stone wall lends country charm to this modern walk-in shower, it's also working on a more practical level underfoot. 'If an invigorating power shower is on your wishlist, you'll need to install a drain that can handle high water volumes quickly and efficiently,' says Raffaela De Vittorio, Marketing and Brands Director, Geberit. A flush-fitting, channel-style drain collects water across its full width, effectively preventing floods. Look for a drain with an easy access dirt trap to help keep the water running freely.



Choose sleek, modern drainage to cope with a powerful shower.

CleanLine **shower channel,** from £442, Geberit.



CH&I LOVES

V&A Owen Jones Decor **tiles,** £300 sq m, British Ceramic Tile.

Comtesse **basin,** £640; thermostatic **shower** and **rose,** £3,000, Thomas Crapper & Co.

DESIGN TIP

MAKE YOUR NEW SHOWER 'FUTURE PROOF' WITH AN EASY ACCESS, LOW-PROFILE OR FLUSH-FIT TRAY, BUT DO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE FLOOR DEPTH TO TAKE ANY UNDERMOUNTED PIPEWORK.

4 *Stay exposed*

'Exposed shower valves work well in a country bathroom scheme and provide an authentic and classic aesthetic,' says Paul Dwyer, Managing Director, Thomas Crapper & Co. 'As an alternative to concealed valves, they are easier to install as they generally only require the hot and cold water feed pipes to be chased into the wall.' Co-ordinate the finish of an exposed shower with your brassware to achieve cohesion throughout. Vintage-style tiles add rustic charm to the mix. »



5 *Think open*

Forget cumbersome cubicles with wobbly doors because shower enclosures have come a long way. Using structural glass and barely-there hinges, a minimalist enclosure with slim-line tray allows you enjoy the open feel of a wet room, without the cost of tanking. 'If you have an older property with awkward angles, consider a bespoke enclosure that can be specially tailored to fit,' says Fraser Holmes, Product Manager, Crosswater.

Design hinged **shower door** with Inline panel, from £569; 25mm-thick stone resin **shower tray** and **waste,** from £250, both Crosswater.

COUNTRY STYLE NEED-TO-KNOW

WATER PRESSURE

- **IF YOUR EXPERIENCE** is more pitiful drizzle than power shower, it could be time to investigate your water pressure. Low pressure is commonly caused by a gravity fed system, which is particularly prevalent in older country homes. A cold-water tank in the loft, and hot-water cylinder in the airing cupboard, are evidence of a gravity fed set-up.
- **AS GRAVITY IS** the only thing forcing water through the pipes, water pressure will usually be less than 1 bar, so it's important to have a shower valve and showerhead designed for low-pressure use.
- **OTHER CAUSES** of low pressure are a leak or air lock, increased local demand and the location of your home in relation to the service reservoir or water tower. If you suspect your problem is external, contact your water company, which can measure the flow.
- **IF YOU'RE UNDERGOING** a major renovation, it could be worth upgrading to a mains pressure system with a combi/megaflow boiler. Do be aware, though, that you will need to find space for a tank of at least 250 litres, called a break tank, from which its pump will draw water.
- **THE LEAST OBTRUSIVE,** and cheapest, water-boosting option on a gravity-fed system is to install a pump on the shower itself.
- **THE TYPE OF** pump you buy depends on whether the water tank is above or below your shower. Centrifugal pump designs are thought the quietest (try Stuart Turner for these) and it's worth mounting your pump on an anti-vibration pad.
- **DON'T FORGET THAT** a faster flow equals higher volumes of hot water required, so a more efficient boiler and/or bigger storage tank may also be necessary.





Hansgrohe's Raindance Classic shower collection starts at £159 for a **hand shower,** Ripples. Victorian Plumbing's SC210 **shower curtain,** £19.95, is similar.

For flexibility, go for a showerhead with multiple options that lets you switch from rainfall to pulse, waterfall or jet.

CH&I LOVES

Similar curved **curtain rail,** Oval rail, from £189, Victorian Plumbing.

6 *Curtain call*

'Shower curtains are having a renaissance and now come in various styles and colours that can be easily updated with little disruption or expense,' says Ripples' Bathroom Designer Jo Crane. 'Not everybody enjoys the freedom of a wet room, so the option of cocooning inside a curtain offers a flexible solution. Even if it is pulled back against the wall, a curtain will soften a tiled shower room, and absorb sound to reduce the echo effect.' »

7 *Stay ahead*

Wet room-style showering can work brilliantly in small spaces and will provide maximum elbow room. However, it is important to contain the spray to prevent other areas, such as the toilet seat and basin, becoming sodden. 'A fixed, overhead shower, which directs the water straight down, is ideal,' says Tina Simpson, Marketing Director, Triton Showers. 'Showerheads with rub-clean nozzles minimise limescale build-up and so give the best performance.'



Kensey dual-control **mixer shower** with oval chrome cover plate, from £290, Triton Showers.

DESIGN TIP

IF YOU ONLY INSTALL A FIXED SHOWERHEAD, IT CAN BE HARD TO AVOID GETTING YOUR HAIR WET – ANNOYING IF YOU DON'T SHAMPOO EVERY TIME, AND THEY'RE NOT TERRIBLY USEFUL FOR CLEANING THE SHOWER. THE BEST SOLUTION IS TO ADD A DIVERTER TO AN ADJUSTABLE HAND SHOWER.

STYLE IDEAS FOR A COUNTRY SHOWER ROOM

Shower enclosures tend to be rather contemporary by design, which can jar with the more relaxed interiors favoured in country homes. Barbara Sallick, Senior Vice President of Design at Waterworks, advises how to make this union a beautiful one.

- Soften the space using a varied mix of materials and finishes. Brass is particularly effective in a country shower room, especially as the colour matures and it achieves a rich patina. Used on traditional or transitional fittings, brass also lends natural warmth.
- Try to build layers of interest using a range of earthy materials. Handmade tiles in powdery encaustic, reclaimed timber tops and shelving, rattan or wicker baskets – anything with a hand-hewn, rustic element or natural provenance will boost the feeling of authenticity.
- Do consider proportion and scale, especially when choosing and installing fittings, in order to create a shower room that fits harmoniously into your country home. The length of this washstand was designed to accommodate two sinks – the size, shape and simplicity of the mirrors make the space both aesthetically and functionally appealing.

Rowan **washstand,** from £3,316; brass Easton gooseneck three-hole **taps** with oak handles, £1,726 each, Waterworks.



FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON **PHOTOGRAPHS** (1) SIMS HILDITCH, (2) ACRE CREATIVE, MAX KIM-BEE PHOTOGRAPHY

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The new looks for GARDEN LIGHTING

Celebrate the most glorious evenings in the garden with beautiful lighting ideas that will extend your stay far into the night

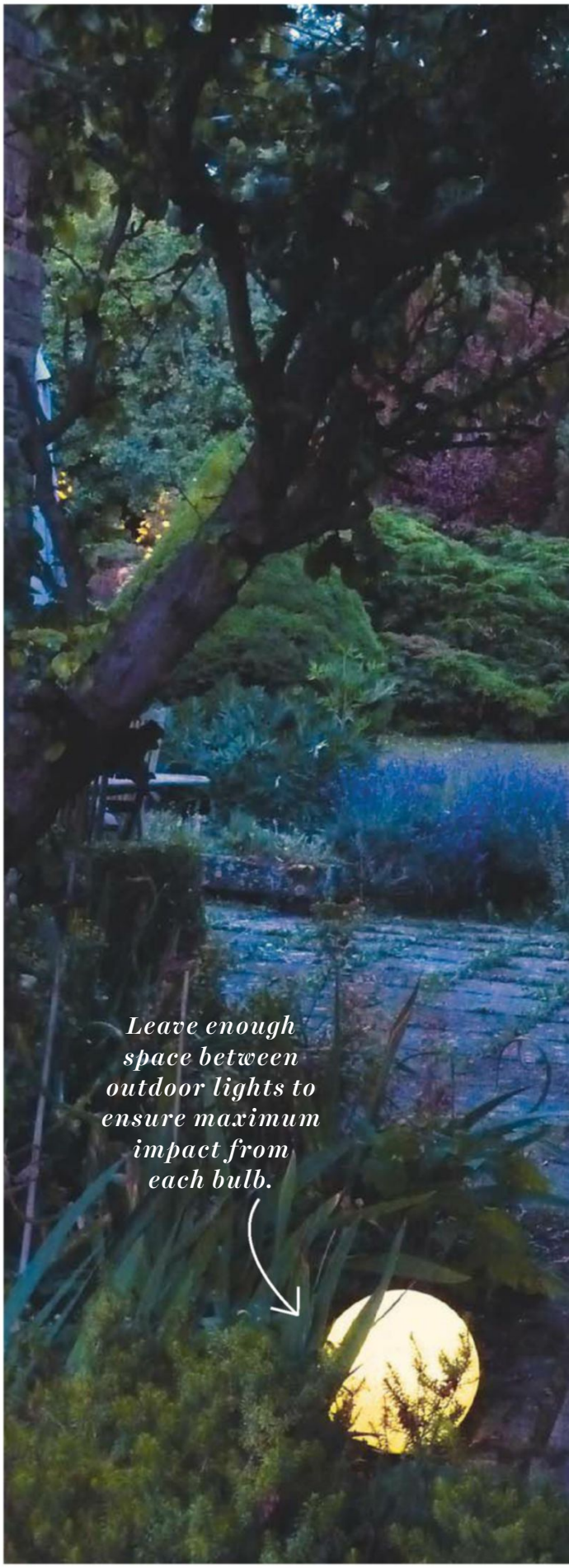
AS THE SHADOWS LENGTHEN and summer days turn into balmy evenings, the country garden takes on a new ambience. This is when exterior lighting works its magic. In some areas, the light fittings themselves are the stars of the show, in others, discreet lighting throws the emphasis onto plants and garden features. Consider clever lighting tricks that will make it look good from all angles... in winter as well as summer.

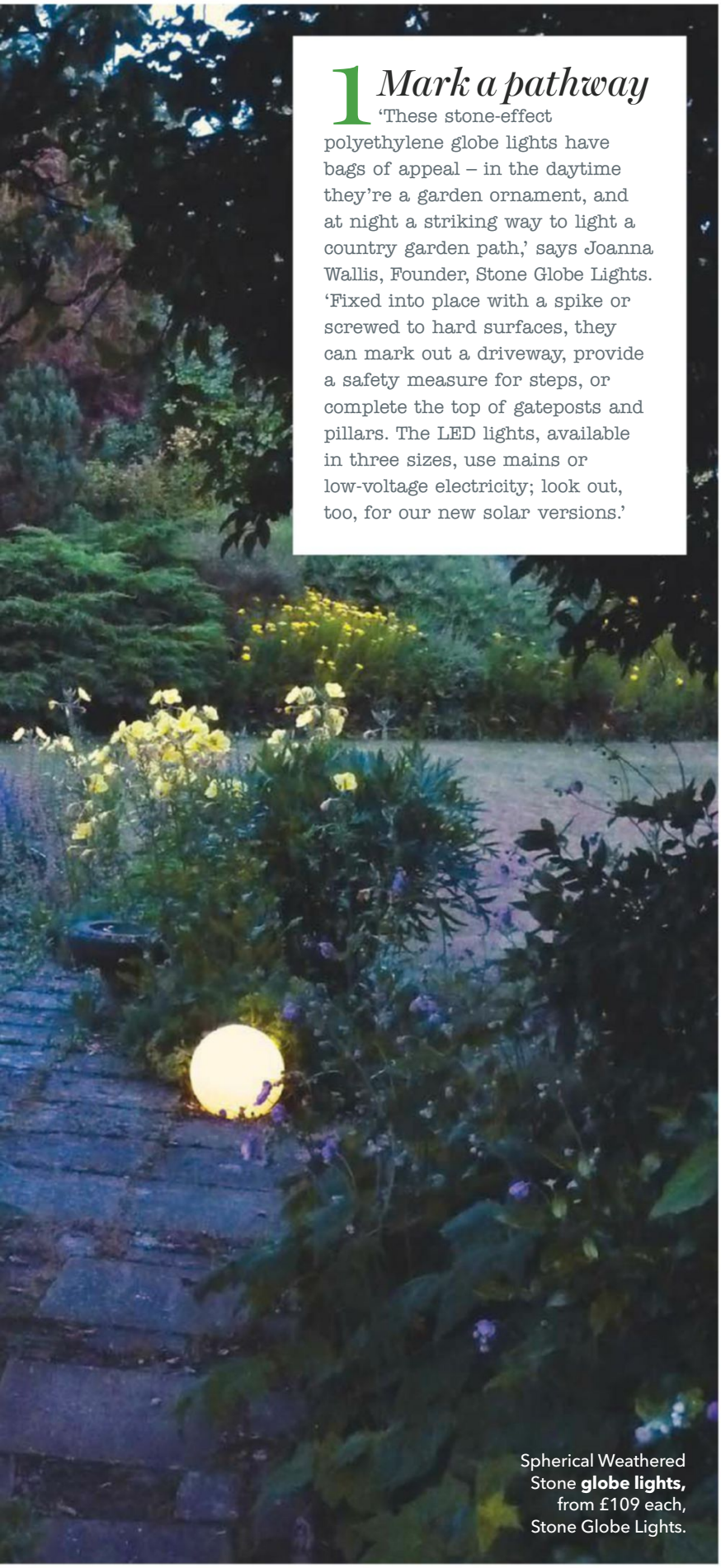
MOST OF THE LIGHT should be concentrated close to the house. Beautiful lanterns can highlight an entrance door, and an age-old stone or rustic brick wall can be enhanced with a wash of light from a fitting with a wide beam. The table will become a focal point for meals if set with candles or small lanterns. Place large lanterns directly on decking or paving – choose pierced metal sides to create pretty shadow patterns on the wall or floor.

IN THE GARDEN, highlight a tree with a spotlight, or alternatively create a twinkling effect using a net of lights. Downlights set high up in trees can direct a pool of light onto the ground.

LED LIGHTING, using a fraction of the energy of older-style fittings, or relying on solar power, works in most settings. Draw attention to pathways or borders with inexpensive stake lights. Rather than setting them out regularly, pop one in whenever the direction changes.

NO GARDEN PARTY is complete without a string of lights, hanging from a branch or draped around a bush. Introduce some fun with novelty shapes such as bees, dragonflies or even watering cans.





1 *Mark a pathway*

'These stone-effect polyethylene globe lights have bags of appeal – in the daytime they're a garden ornament, and at night a striking way to light a country garden path,' says Joanna Wallis, Founder, Stone Globe Lights. 'Fixed into place with a spike or screwed to hard surfaces, they can mark out a driveway, provide a safety measure for steps, or complete the top of gateposts and pillars. The LED lights, available in three sizes, use mains or low-voltage electricity; look out, too, for our new solar versions.'

Spherical Weathered Stone **globe lights,** from £109 each, Stone Globe Lights.



NOMA light bulb 7-cluster **parasol light,** £22, Wyevale Garden Centres.

2 *Dine in style*

Cluster lighting, a must-have for any fashion-conscious home, has made the move from indoors to outside. Hung from a garden parasol, this group of vintage-style bulbs use warm-light LEDs to shed a gentle glow onto the table, turning dinner into a special occasion with all the atmosphere of meals taken outside on Mediterranean holidays. The solar lights operate with a timer – just set it and they'll come on for up to six hours. »

DESIGN TIP

IF YOU FIND AN ANTIQUE LANTERN YOU'D LIKE TO USE, IT CAN BE MADE ELECTRICALLY SAFE BY LIGHTING SPECIALIST HECTOR FINCH, WHO ADVISES THAT YOU CHECK THE GLASS IS CLEAR AND METALWORK IS CRISP. AS WELL AS A RESTORATION SERVICE, THE SHOP SELLS NEW LIGHT FITTINGS.



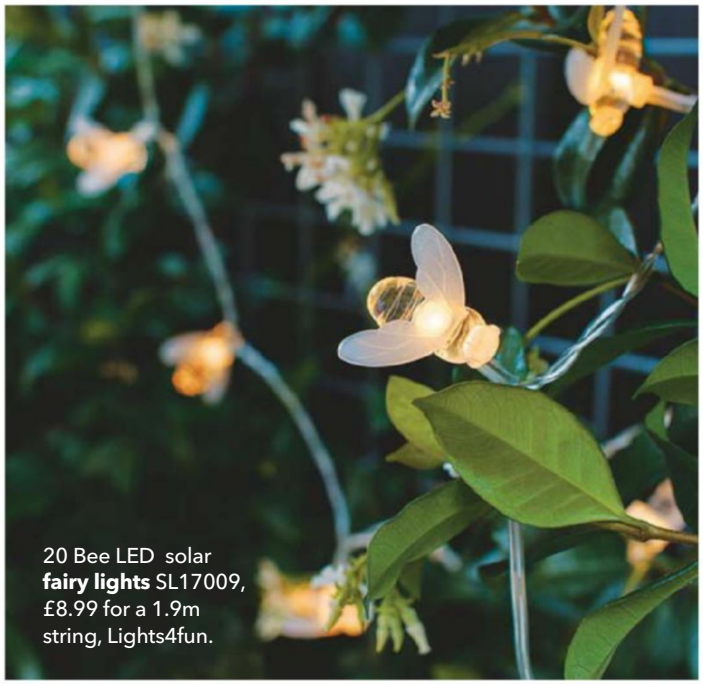
Portico **wall lights,** £675 each, Davey Lighting.

CH&I
LOVES

Pear Squirrel Cage Filament **bulb,** £17.40, Urban Cottage Industry.

3 *Welcome home*

'Think of the exterior of your house as a visual introduction to the interior,' says Peter Bowles, Managing Director, Davey Lighting. 'A pair of clean-lined box lights flanking a front door looks balanced and completes the entrance. The simple, streamlined shape and timeless aesthetic work beautifully with all architectural styles. Seek out natural metal finishes like bronze, copper and brass as they are low maintenance and weather beautifully. Weathered brass, for example, creates a pleasing contrast against a white weatherboarded exterior.'



20 Bee LED solar **fairy lights** SL17009, £8.99 for a 1.9m string, Lights4fun.

4 *Add a touch of fun*

'Trailed around a climbing plant, tucked into a hedge or draped across to the entrance to a summerhouse, these buzzy bees are a welcome reminder that we should all do our bit to make our gardens bee-friendly,' says Jo Naughton, Co-founder, Lights4fun. 'As dusk falls, the solar-powered lights come on automatically for up to six hours. Just pop the panel with its rechargeable battery in a spot where it will get maximum sun during the day.'



Southwark **exterior light** in Charcoal, £95, Idyll Home.

5 *Made to last*

'We love this light for its retro styling, industrial shape and chic charcoal colour,' says Claire Krier, Owner, Idyll Home. 'It's perfect for outside a country home and in particular for a coastal property, since the powder-coated finish and steel are built to withstand the worst weather. It is compatible with a motion sensor, so you won't be fumbling for your keys in the dark when you come home.' »

COUNTRY STYLE NEED-TO-KNOW

HOW TO LIGHT FOR MAGICAL EFFECT

From discreet fittings to stunning spotlights, Sally Storey, Creative Director, John Cullen Lighting, advises how to turn the focus on to your favourite garden features.

- **'A LITTLE LIGHT** goes a long way at night,' says Sally. 'Use lighting selectively and remember that darkness can be used to conceal areas.'
- **ONE OF THE GARDEN** designer's best friends is a directional spiked floodlight, which provides a wash of light across large-scale planting areas. It can easily be repositioned as the seasons change or as shrubs increase in size.
- **LIGHTING DESIGNERS** will use a mix of designs to create layered effects; often the fittings are discreet or hidden. 'Most garden light fittings are black, but olive green blends into the garden better. Copper fittings can also be good as they patinate to a neutral green colour with age,' says Sally.
- **USE A SPOTLIGHT** to highlight a favourite shrub, tree or statue. Set the light close to the base or under foliage for a dramatic look, or use a pair of lights either side for a softer effect.
- **'MOVING WATER** is a wonderful medium to light as the refraction creates patterns which reflect on the surrounding area,' says Sally. 'Use a simple underwater spotlight in a water flow or, alternatively, consider using fibre optics within water jets to create a magical candlelight effect or add fibres set into the base of a water feature at random – appearing as stars.'



Kew **spotlights,** from £182; Hampton **floodlights,** from £165; Contour HDX27 **LED strip,** from £124 (below seats), all John Cullen Lighting.



Solvinden LED solar-powered floor **lamp,** £45, Ikea.

CH&I LOVES

Falholmen **chair,** £190 for table and 4 chairs, Ikea.

6 *Indoor style outside*

Now that patios and gardens are the new outdoor rooms, it's natural to expect a few of the comforts more usually found indoors to become part of the scene. This quirky lamp, complete with a retro shade, is just the thing for a spot of reading in the evening garden. Made from steel and with a polyester shade, it has no cables to trip you up and needs no electrical connection, being powered the eco-friendly way, via a solar panel.

DESIGN TIP

ABOVE ALL, LET SAFETY BE YOUR WATCHWORD. SELECT FITTINGS DESIGNED FOR EXTERIOR USE, WITH AN IP RATING FOR WATER RESISTANCE THAT SUITS THE AREA THEY ARE TO BE USED IN, USUALLY IP44, OR HIGHER. EMPLOY A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN TO INSTALL THEM SAFELY.



Somerton **wall lantern** in Matt Black, £358, Jim Lawrence.

7 *Reflect highlights*

'The classical design and clean lines of this exterior wall light make it an ideal choice for introducing elegant period detail to any country garden,' says Sheena Lawrence, Designer and Co-owner, Jim Lawrence. 'A favourite of garden designers, this light features an oval mirror that neatly reflects the surrounding garden in the day, and then doubles the light output by night. It's finished in a high quality UV-protected matt black paint to shield it from even the most extreme weather.'

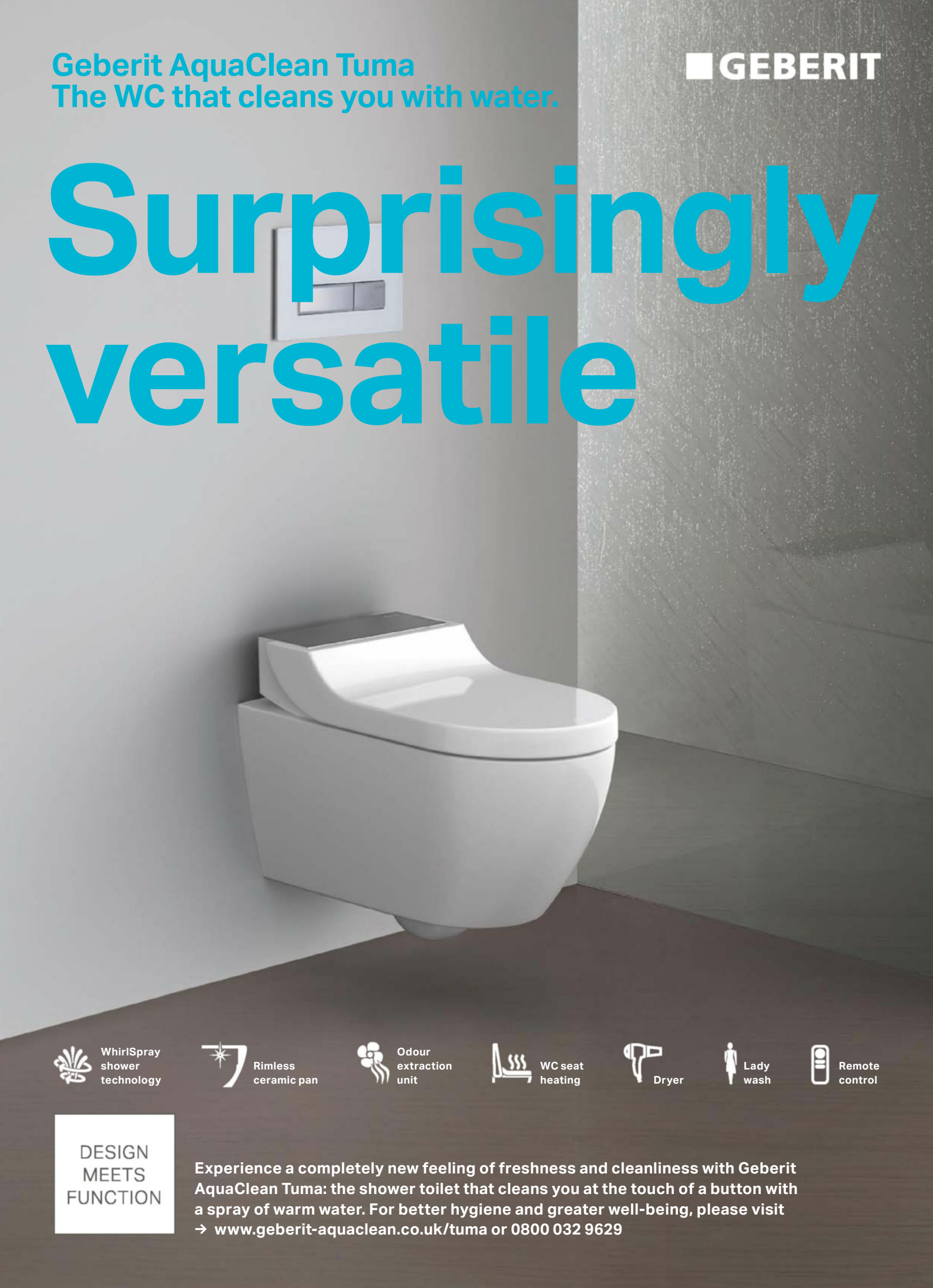
FEATURE CAROLINE RODRIGUES

NEXT MONTH FLOOR RUNNERS

Geberit AquaClean Tuma
The WC that cleans you with water.

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Surprisingly versatile



WhirlSpray shower technology

Rimless ceramic pan

Odour extraction unit

WC seat heating

Dryer

Lady wash

Remote control

DESIGN MEETS FUNCTION

Experience a completely new feeling of freshness and cleanliness with Geberit AquaClean Tuma: the shower toilet that cleans you at the touch of a button with a spray of warm water. For better hygiene and greater well-being, please visit → www.geberit-aquaclean.co.uk/tuma or 0800 032 9629

6 REFRESHING NEW WAYS *to keep it cool this summer*

FEW THINGS CAN BEAT AN ICE-COLD DRINK IN THE SUNSHINE, SO WE'VE ROUNDED UP THE VERY BEST WAYS TO KEEP YOUR FAVOURITE TIPPLE AT THE PERFECT TEMPERATURE



1 *Best for...* ENTERTAINING

St Mawes drinks/planter bar table, £500, Garden Trading

Inspired by planter boxes, this robust reclaimed teak outdoor table (H110xW120xD90cm) has a galvanised steel trough along the middle that's perfect for filling with ice and keeping your wine, beer and water chilled. The table can be left outside throughout the year and even planted up for a pretty display when not in use in the winter.

DID YOU KNOW?

SMART REFRIGERATORS ARE NOT NEW TO THE 21ST CENTURY. IN 1937 ONE COMPANY SOLD A FRIDGE WITH A RADIO BUILT IN!



2 *Best for...* WINE CONNOISSEURS

KWT 6112 iG built-in wine conditioning unit, £2,399, Miele

Designed to slot into a built-in microwave cavity (H45xW56x D55cm), this cooler has three temperature zones to store red and white wine together under perfect conditions. The flexible pull-out drawer layout provides space for those awkwardly shaped champagne bottles and it has UV-filtered glass to help protect your finest vintages.



3 *Best for...* NEVER RUNNING OUT

RB38K7998S4 A++ Family Hub, £1,999, Samsung

This internet-connected fridge freezer (H193xW60xD65cm) not only has a touchscreen tablet display – watch TV, shop online or find recipes – but also built-in cameras so you can see inside without opening the door and even check what you need to buy using your phone at the supermarket to ensure all your favourite drinks are stocked up.



4 *Best for...* COUNTRY STYLE

Meneghini La Ghiacciaia Mia, £7,997, Robeys

From the outside it looks like a vintage lead-lined ice box, but inside you'll find a modern, efficient appliance (H158xW144 xD69cm). Featuring a solid cherry wood frame, you can choose from 250 colours and multiple handle designs and trims. The bespoke design can be built as a side-by-side fridge freezer, double fridge freezer, or even a fridge larder.



5 *Best for...* KEEPING HYDRATED

Genesi 90 French Door, £3,328, Steel Cucine

This A+ rated design (H178x W91xD69cm) has a double-width fridge compartment and handy pull-out freezer drawer. It has humidity control, super-fast cooling and multiple temperature zones, plus a 4L water dispenser and ice tray to provide a constant supply of cool, filtered water.



6 *Best for...* THIRST QUENCHING

Cool Stool, £35, Keter

Once your guests know what's hidden inside, this stool, made from weather-resistant woven resin, will become known as the best seat in the house. Lift the reinforced lid to reveal a 39L insulated cool box, fill with ice and add your drinks – it's better suited to small bottles and cans than wine. Available in black, white, pink and blue.

COUNTRY STYLE NEED-TO-KNOW

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

- **CAN I STORE WHITE AND RED WINE TOGETHER?** Yes, as long as your appliance has multiple temperature zones. White should be stored at 10-12°C and red at 12-16°C. In case you're wondering, the perfect serving temperature for our favourite bottle of Picpoul de Pinet is 8°C.
- **WHAT OTHER EXTRAS SHOULD I CONSIDER?** Built-in water and ice dispensers can transform any party. Make sure you look for models with replaceable water filters - especially if you live in a hard-water area. Plumbed-in models are the most convenient, but you'll need to factor in where the mains water supply comes from before positioning your appliance.
- **HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF A COOL BOX?** Aim to keep the lid on as much as possible, move it away from direct sunlight and avoid putting room-temperature bottles inside. A well-insulated design should keep its contents cold all day.

FEATURE CHRIS HASLAM

8 reasons to love RATTAN CHAIRS

BEAUTIFULLY SHAPED AND WOVEN FOR COMFORT, THIS CLASSIC FINISH IS GETTING A WELCOME REVIVAL ON ALL MANNER OF SEATING FOR INDOORS AND OUT



1 *Gentle curves*

Lightweight yet strong, this rounded shape is a contender for the dining room, living room or home office. Urban **chair,** £195, Puji.





2 *Delicate comfort*

Soft cushions and a distressed finish give this hand-carved oak design an elegant look. Oakville Salon **chair,** £924, Sweetpea & Willow.



3 *Vintage style*

The retro charm of this ornate style would make a statement in a conservatory. Nepal peacock **chair** in Natural, £731, Alexander & Pearl.

4 *Natural good looks*

Crafted from all-weather willow, this generous carver seat is ideal for relaxed dining in the garden. Pesaro **chair,** £320, Neptune.



5 *Timeless classic*

Combining durability and style, this is a beautiful piece from a heritage brand. Lloyd Loom Havana **chair,** £365, Holloways.



6 *High life*

Slot neatly under a breakfast bar – or move outside for an impromptu drinks station! Lymington **bar stool,** £180, Garden Trading.



7 *Great shape*

With a shower-resistant cushion, this airy woven design will look good whatever the weather throws at us this summer. Marietta **chair,** £790, Oka.



8 *Bold buy*

Introduce colour with this contemporary style also available in blue, pink or natural. Capri **chair** in Jade, £199, Marks & Spencer.

FEATURE STEPH DURRANT



Nest chair in all-weather rattan with matching cushions, £300.



Marden **corner sofa set** in all-weather rattan with armchair and ottoman, £2,450. (Below) Vence **planters** in Zinc, from £32 each.

20% off at Garden Trading

ENJOY YOUR COUNTRY GARDEN TO THE FULL THIS SUMMER WITH THIS EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNT

With a wealth of garden furniture and dining and entertaining essentials, plus stylish accessories, Garden Trading's outdoor collections will provide you with everything you need for the perfect summer.

Relax in comfort and style on good-quality garden furniture, such as the luxurious Marden corner sofa set, which allows you and your family to soak up the sunshine with the reassurance that the all-weather rattan and shower-proof cushions can withstand the British weather. For effortless entertaining, choose from a wide range of options including the St Mawes drinks/planter bar table in reclaimed teak, which has an integral trough to fill either with potted plants or ice to keep your drinks chilled. If you're short on space or are looking for seating for a sunny corner, try a simple bistro set. Or why not curl up and relax in the cocooning Nest chair? There is also an inspiring collection of planters to choose from in a variety of shapes, sizes and finishes to suit your garden.

- **How to claim your discount**

For your 20% discount, simply visit gardentrading.co.uk, add your chosen products to your basket and enter code SUMMER20 at the checkout – remember that UK delivery is free when you spend over £60 – or call 01993 845559.

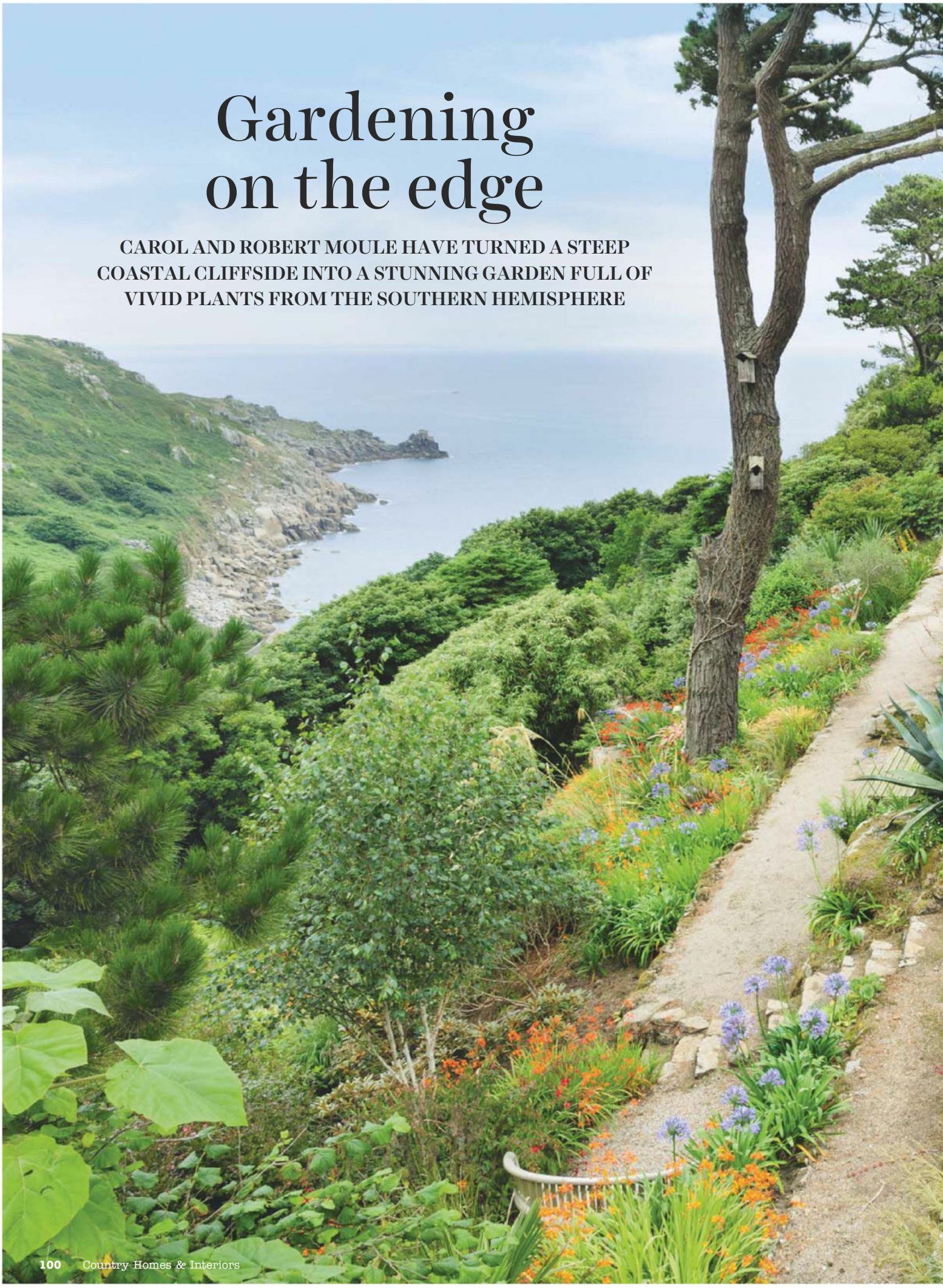


TERMS AND CONDITIONS Offer expires 31 August 2017. The code SUMMER20 must be entered at the checkout to claim this offer. The discount can only be used once per customer. Only one discount code can be used per order. Free standard UK delivery applies when you spend over £60, after the discount has been applied. Deliveries outside of mainland UK or using alternative shipping methods may be subject to delivery charges.

Garden Trading®

Gardening on the edge

CAROL AND ROBERT MOULE HAVE TURNED A STEEP COASTAL CLIFFSIDE INTO A STUNNING GARDEN FULL OF VIVID PLANTS FROM THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE





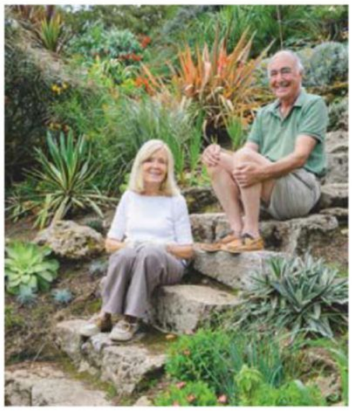
The glorious view from the terrace takes in sloping beds planted with phormiums, *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer', agapanthus, cordylines and succulents, with Lamorna Cove below. »



Succulents and grasses are surrounded by self-seeded daisies *Erigeron karvinskianus*.



The terrace that winds around the house is home to agapanthus, a pot of white phlox and troughs of succulents.



AT HOME WITH...

Owners **Carol and Robert Moule, plus their two Border Terriers, Harry and Ronnie.**

House **Built in 1908 in the Arts and Crafts style with granite from the quarry on the opposite side of the Lamorna Valley.**

Garden **A steeply sloping three-acre site facing north-east with spectacular sea views, lushly planted terracing and paths that wind down the slope between massive granite outcrops.**

The rugged coastline, crystal clear light and inspirational wild beauty of the Penwith peninsula has lured artists and writers to the far western tip of Cornwall for centuries. Carol and Robert Moule were attracted to Lamorna, a small village south of Penzance, once home to painters Laura Knight and Alfred Munnings, by the promise of life beside the sea and the opportunity to create a garden in a heart-stopping location.

'We had a boat then,' says Carol, 'so overlooking the sea was appealing – and we wanted a project.' In 1997, when the couple first made the journey from their home in Cheshire to visit Chygurno and its three acres of clifftop ground above Lamorna Cove, the garden was so overgrown they could hardly get into it. 'The place hadn't been lived in for over 20 years and the garden was so full of brambles, honeysuckle, escallonia and fallen trees that the sea view was completely obscured.'

The first year was spent clearing the top area and reclaiming the glorious view to the densely wooded slope opposite and to the distinctive rocky form of Carn Du at the cove's entrance. 'It was inspiring to get the sea view back,' says Carol, 'and after building retaining walls and terracing we began planting.' It wasn't plain sailing, though, as the choice rhododendrons and azaleas they had brought south to their new home soon showed signs of wind damage. 'What we hadn't considered was that the garden faces north east and winds from that direction are very cold. We also don't get as much sun as we would if we faced the other way.'

After moving the struggling shrubs down the slope to shelter and better soil, Carol and Robert began visiting other gardens »



Eucomis bicolor – the two-coloured pineapple lily.



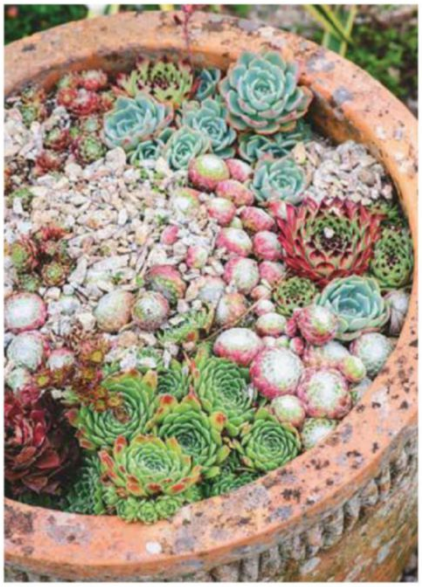
The dining area is framed by cordylines, crocosmias, hypericum and watsonia.



Winches and pulleys are used to move materials up and down the steep garden.

What makes this garden so special...

'The challenge of creating it in such a steep and exposed place – sometimes it feels more like mountaineering than gardening!'





A clump of silvery astelias and exotic palm trachycarpus rise above the tree fern glade.



The distinctive bottlebrush flowerheads of callistemon.



A stone seat close to a sunken pond in the corner of the terrace provides one of many opportunities to sit and enjoy the garden and views.

in the area to see what they could grow here. 'When we saw all the succulents growing in the garden at St Michael's Mount it was like a light bulb going on in our minds.' Trewidden garden near Penzance, with its renowned dell of tree ferns, and the exposed cliffside garden at the Minack Theatre were also inspirations as the couple discovered a whole new range of plants that could survive and even flourish on their windy slopes, many deriving from the southern hemisphere. 'We had a lot of success with succulents including aeoniums, some of which grew to 3ft or more – though we lost most of them when the temperature went down to -7°C in the winter of 2009. Since then, we've taken them inside to overwinter.'

Nowadays, the view from Carol and Robert's house is a striking combination of natural drama, human creativity and determination, as layers of intricate planting stretch eastward toward the sea. Neatly gravelled paths are framed with tall cabbage palms wearing topknots of spiky leaves and bold phormiums of assorted colours and stripes. These contrast with diaphanous bamboos and grasses, all forming a permanent structure among which smaller, more delicate plants find shelter.

Late summer sees a kaleidoscope of intensely coloured flowers blooming, many deriving from South Africa, perfectly suited to the site's gritty, fast-draining soil. Deep orange-red *Watsonia* 'Stanford Scarlet' mingles with blue agapanthus, delicate *Bulbine frutescens*, with its spikes of starry orange and yellow flowers, and arching crocosmias, ranging from intense scarlet 'Lucifer' to soft apricot 'Merryman'. Succulents, including dark purple *Aeonium* 'Zwartkop' and blue-green *Agave americana*, add »

Modern Country Classic

Succulents

Encompassing small-leaved trailing varieties to those that look like miniature trees, succulents are an excellent way to create a modern look in a country garden.

- Succulents store water within their fleshy leaves making them perfectly adapted to high temperatures and low rainfall, though they also do well in other conditions as long as you understand their needs.
- They like full sun, good air circulation and gritty, well-drained soil – so make sure pots have good drainage and dress with fine horticultural grit to prevent damp around the plant collar.
- Tender succulents such as *Aeonium* 'Zwartkop' and *Echeveria elegans* are best taken inside in winter to a frost-free spot, so plant in containers.
- If you live in a mild, coastal area, you may be able to leave some established plants outdoors, though during very wet and cold winters they will suffer.
- Sempervivums (houseleeks) and sedums such as *Sedum spathulifolium* 'Cape Blanco' are hardy so can stay outside all year.



The decked dining terrace is sited to take full advantage of the cliff-top views. Below it is a network of paths that weave through the sloped garden.

What we love most about this garden...
'The way it frames the ever-changing view of the sea is very special'



Chygurno has an impressive tree fern grove, including many fine specimens of Australian native *Dicksonia antarctica*.

strong, fleshy shapes in borders, in large stone troughs on the terrace and in pots that can be taken indoors during winter.

Winding paths connected by sheer flights of steps with the occasional wooden handrail on particularly precipitous sections crisscross the slope through lush planting, including South American *Fuchsia boliviana*, Chilean myrtle *Luma apiculata*, silvery astelias from New Zealand and a cool, mossy glade of tall tree ferns, *Dicksonia antarctica*. Buttresses and pavements of rough granite force their way out of the ground at every turn, giving the garden the feel of a 'lost world', particularly where exotics such as Andean native *Puya berteroniana*, with its spike of turquoise and orange flowers, looms into sight.

Carol and Robert had to invent new ways of gardening in order to succeed on such a sheer, rock-studded gradient. Paths between the granite outcrops were gravelled using an ingenious system to deliver the chippings. 'We shovelled gravel into a hopper at the top of the garden connected to a series of drainpipes that funnelled it down to where it was needed,' says Robert.

Special places need special people to bring out the best in them; Chygurno got lucky when Carol and Robert Moule decided to up sticks and head south.

☎ Chygurno, Lamorna, Cornwall TR19 6XH (01736 732153, rmoule010@btinternet.com). Open April to September, Wednesday and Thursday (2-5pm) and by arrangement. Open 22 and 23 July (2-5pm) for the National Garden Scheme (ngs.org.uk).

ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'St Michael's Mount (01736 710265, stmichaelsmount.co.uk), Marazion, an island garden full of great plants. It's fun to get there too, either walking across the causeway or taking the boat depending on tide times.'

Shop at... 'Lower Kenneggy Nurseries (01736 762959, lowerkenneggynurseries.co.uk), in Rosudgeon, for very good quality plants that do well in a coastal location, including lots of succulents and southern hemisphere shrubs that are all propagated on site.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Shore Restaurant (01736 362444, theshorerestaurant.uk) – a consistently brilliant fish restaurant in the heart of bustling Penzance.'


1


2


3


4

Carol's favourite exotics that love the coast

1 *Watsonia* 'Stanford Scarlet' has sword-like leaves and scarlet flowers.

2 *Bulbine frutescens* is a small drought-tolerant plant native to South Africa.

3 The tender tree-like *Fuchsia boliviana* has elongated waxy red flowers.

4 Succulent *Aeonium* 'Zwartkop' carries neat rosettes of glossy deep purple leaves.

5 The funnel-shaped flowers of *Lilium nepalense* open to reveal a maroon centre.

6 *Mitraria coccinea* 'Lake Caburgua' is an evergreen climber with tubular flowers.

7 *Crocosmia* x *crocosmiiflora* 'Merryman' is a vigorous, clump-forming perennial.

8 *Hypericum* Magical Red Flame has long-lasting scarlet berries.


5


6


7


8

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHS CAROLE DRAKE



Prime Oak's beautiful orangeries start from £25,000. A structure similar to this one would cost around £60,000.

MAKE THE MOST OF SUMMER WITH PRIME OAK

BESPOKE ORANGERIES TO EMBRACE AN INDOOR-OUTDOOR LIFE

Summer's here, and it's a chance to get out and enjoy the garden at its best, and with an orangery you can make the most of your outdoor space and countryside views all year round. While in the 18th century orangeries were for protecting citrus trees over cold winters, these days they are a thoughtful way of extending your home.

Using the natural warmth and beauty of oak, a Prime Oak extension is made to the highest quality, adding space and light while retaining the character of even the most classic country property. Oak is not only valued for its strength, but its organic elegance means it blends seamlessly into a rural landscape – perfect for a country home.



Prime Oak offers you the chance to create a new space within your home, which adds to the property, rather than detracting from it. Bi-folding doors enable a smooth transition to your outdoor space, while a raised glass lantern set into a solid roof brings in extra sunshine and warmth, whatever the season.

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www.primeoak.co.uk

Request a brochure or complimentary design consultation on 01384 296611, contact info@primeoak.co.uk, or visit primeoak.co.uk for more details.

Make Life Lovely

FASHION, WELLBEING, ECO, PETS AND OTHER NICE THINGS

Wrap a summery scarf

Brighten up any outfit with a lightweight scarf from the National Trust's seasonal accessories collection. Choose from a range of bold handpainted patterns inspired by the delights found inside historic English orangeries and glasshouses. Prices start from £18, with a percentage of every sale going to the conservation charity.



Peckover Premium Silk Photographic Floral **scarf,** £35, National Trust Shop.



Be a natural beauty

We've fallen for the new organic collection from Cotswold-based beauty brand, 100 Acres. As well as beautiful handpainted packaging, each product features a fragrant botanical blend specifically chosen to soothe both body and mind. Prices range from £14 for hand washes and creams to £28 for the brand's signature candle scented with lemon myrtle, lavender and rose geranium.

Light up!

***The floral notes of Iris and Lady Moore combine to create this year's Jo Malone Charity Candle. With 75% of proceeds going to their charity partners, this £46 does more than just smell good!* »**



3 REASONS TO...

Clear out your wardrobe

- **We don't wear all our clothes.** It's estimated that most people wear 20% of their clothes 80% of the time!
- **Our clothes don't fit.** At least 85% of British women hold on to clothes that are the wrong size.
- **We keep clothes that we never wear.** The amount of clothing hanging in UK wardrobes that hasn't been worn for at least a year adds up to £30bn-worth of unused garments.



Save waste and learn how to create a 'conscious' closet with *Dress [with] Sense* by Redress (£14.95, Thames & Hudson).

FACT

IAMS Proactive Health*
CONTAINS MORE ANIMAL PROTEIN
than the top 2 leading brands**



No.1 Ingredient
is chicken and turkey



helps support healthy, active lives

IAMS

I am more than just a cat. I am an IAMS cat.

*Adult Rich in Succulent Roast Chicken dry cat food compared with GO Cat Chicken & Duck and Purina One Cat Adult Chicken And Rice.
**Top 2 leading brands sold in supermarkets based on IRI data for 52 weeks ending 31 Dec 2016 (see here www.IAMS.co.uk/proactivehealthcat)



GATHER FOR FESTIVAL FROLICS

Make time for music, arts and culture at FarmFest in Somerset. On 28-29 July, Gilcombe Farm near Bruton hosts seven music venues, craft workshops and children's events, although opening your tent in the morning and seeing the beautiful scenery is reason enough for us! Visit farmfestival.co.uk for details.

3 OF OUR FAVOURITE...

Espadrille sandals

FROM CLASSIC SLIP-ONS TO WRAPAROUND DESIGNS, THIS STYLISH FOOTWEAR IS A COUNTRY ESSENTIAL



1 *Rope detail*
Pair with cropped jeans to show off the lace-up fastening. Hacienda espadrille in Stone, £140, Whistles.



2 *Natural touch*
This two-part woven design has a slim waxed leather strap. Santorini sandals, £65, Plümo.



3 *Relaxed look*
The epitome of laidback style, with a moulded footbed for extra comfort. Woodstock sandals, £69, Hush.

Know that bird!

How many times have you heard chirruping and tried to work out which bird you're listening to? Say goodbye to debating if it is a chaffinch or blackcap with the Bird Song ID app, £3.99. Simply record the warbling and get your answer within seconds.



Stop Fido from being overfed with this handy double-sided personalised sign, £13.75, Angelic Hen at Notonthehighstreet.com. »







Protect against pesky pollen

Do you suffer from hayfever? Neal's Yard offers a range of natural remedies to help soothe seasonal irritations, including skin lotions, salves and gels, as well as a delicious Summer herbal tea, £2.99 for 18 teabags. Once you've enjoyed a brew, keep the used teabags in the fridge and place over irritated eyes to calm and de-puff.



MIX A BLOOMING BEVERAGE

Surprise guests at summer soirées by adding edible petals to drinks. Try Lakeland for hibiscus flowers in syrup, £9.99.



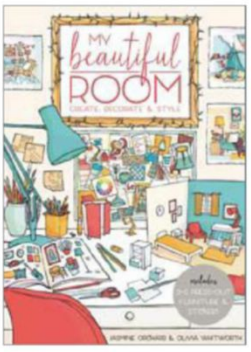
BUY BRITISH

Pashley

'Manufacturers of every type of bicycle', Pashley's slogan from the 1920s, still rings true today. While no longer a family-run business, it remains privately owned with a dedicated team of just 54 including 48 craftsmen, one of which has been with the company for over 40 years. Take your pick from the leisurely sophistication of classic cycles or the sporty styling of touring models. We've got a soft spot for the Britannia, from £675 – nothing says country charm quite like a leather seat, wicker basket and vintage bell!

KEEP A GRATITUDE JOURNAL

Did you know that practising gratitude each day results in a happier outlook on life? Simply spend 10 minutes jotting down things to be thankful for each day – it won't be long before you feel your spirits lift.



TEACH LITTLE ONES THE ART OF DESIGN

Instill a passion for interiors in children with *My Beautiful Room* by Jasmine Orchard and Olivia Whitworth (£9.99, Quarto Publishing). This interior design workbook is packed with engaging activities and challenges, as well as press-out furnishings and a 3D room set, to inspire creative kids aged nine and above.

FEATURE TARA KING **PHOTOGRAPH** (DRINKS) GETTY IMAGES

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**24 months interest free credit is available on orders over £3,000 +VAT, with an upfront 30% deposit. Finance is subject to status, terms apply.



This glorious manor house lies in acres of Kent gardens and countryside.

Each space is curated to a perfect blend of classic and modern.





The suites are the last word in luxury cool.

OUR FAVOURITE CELEBRATION VENUE

Goodnestone Park

BE INSPIRED BY JANE AUSTEN AND ENJOY A SPECIAL OCCASION AT THIS STATELY HOME

Set within 150 acres, Goodnestone Park is a luxurious country retreat near Canterbury, Kent. Built in 1704, the Queen Anne-style house recently received extensive renovations by interior designers Francesca Rowan-Plowden and Marcus Crane. The two-year overhaul has brought this stately home into the 21st century and its 12 bedrooms create a stunning venue for rural mini-breaks, parties and weddings alike.

INDULGE AND UNWIND... The grand house at Goodnestone was frequented by Jane Austen after her brother Edward married into the FitzWalter family, the owners of the park. Take yourself back to the days of *Pride and Prejudice* by meandering through the 18th-century Serpentine Walk and picking fresh fruit from the quintessentially English kitchen garden. Inside, things are worthy of a modern-day hotel – think Oka kitchenware, de Gournay wallpaper and Burlington bathrooms. It's difficult to think of a reason to leave the park, as you have your own concierge service who can arrange staff, grocery deliveries or call in a private chef.

ENJOY ACTION AND APERITIFS... The park is packed with spots for activities from badminton to croquet, and provides bicycles as well as its very own cricket pitch – not to mention one of the largest walled gardens in the south. After all that excitement, relax in the evening with some cocktails in the drawing room overlooking the lavender-filled formal gardens.

AN IDYLLIC VENUE... A short walk from the house sits the Church of the Holy Cross, perfect for country weddings. Newly-weds can book into the luxury Fitzwalter suite, while a house party can begin in style with a trip to nearby gastro-pub Duke William in Ickham.

SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS... In honour of the 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death, the Chapterhouse Theatre Company will provide an evening performance of *Emma* on 26 August – but you don't necessarily have to be staying at Goodnestone to be able to enjoy it.

HOW MUCH? From £80 per person per night for a minimum stay of three nights.

☎ Goodnestone Park, The Street, Canterbury, Kent CT3 1PL, 01227 806987, goodnestone.com.

FEATURE STEPHANIE DURRANT

Put zip & zing into SUMMER SUPPERS

Let lemons and limes take centre stage on the menu with food writer and chef Ursula Ferrigno's pick of drinks, starters, mains and desserts showcasing the sharp and aromatic flavour of citrus fruits



Lemon & mint granita



Mussels with lemon & samphire »

LEMON & MINT GRANITA

This ice-cold granita couldn't be more refreshing – enjoy it in the garden on a warm summer's day.

SERVES 8

150g granulated sugar
Grated zest of 2 unwaxed limes
90g fresh mint (Ursula likes to use apple mint)
100ml freshly squeezed lime juice
Lime slices, to serve

1 Pour 600ml cold water into a small saucepan, add the sugar and lime zest and bring the mixture to a simmer. Cook, stirring, until the sugar has dissolved.
2 Add half the mint (there's no need to chop or remove stalks) to the saucepan, then take it off the heat. Cover with a lid and allow to stand for 10 minutes, then remove the lid and let the mixture cool to room temperature.
3 Once cool, strain the mixture through a sieve into a large jug, pressing firmly on the mint to extract all the flavour. Stir the lime juice into the mint syrup and then pour into a 30x15cm airtight lidded freezer container.
4 Place the granita in the freezer, then check it after an hour. Once it begins to freeze around the edges, stir the mixture with a fork, breaking up the frozen parts near the edges into smaller chunks and raking them towards the centre.
5 Return the container to the freezer, then check the mixture every 30 minutes, stirring each time and breaking up any large chunks into small pieces with a fork, until you have fine crystals of granita. If at any time the granita freezes too hard, simply leave it out at room temperature for a few minutes until it softens enough to be stirred again with a fork. You can then rake it back into crystals before returning it to the freezer.
6 Serve in small glasses with the remaining mint and lime slices.

MUSSELS WITH LEMON & SAMPHIRE

This seafood recipe has wonderful flavour and colour contrast. Stringless green tips of samphire are best.

SERVES 4

4 handfuls of samphire tips
200ml dry white wine
2 small shallots, finely chopped
About 1kg mussels, debearded and cleaned
2 garlic cloves, crushed
A generous pinch of saffron
250ml sour cream
A generous handful of fresh flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped
Zest and juice of 2 unwaxed lemons
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 medium-sized leeks, cut into matchsticks
2 small organic carrots, cut into matchsticks

1 Bring a pan of water to the boil and prepare a separate bowl of ice water. Add the samphire to the boiling water, cook for 1 minute or until tender, then plunge into the ice water.
2 Place the wine and chopped shallots in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the mussels and the garlic. Cover and leave for 3 minutes until the mussels are open; discard any unopened ones.
3 Remove the mussels from the pan. Take the meat out of the shells, leaving a few mussels in their shells. Put the meat back in the pan, reserving the mussels in shells. Add the saffron, cream, parsley, lemon zest and juice to the pan. Season.
4 Place the samphire into bowls with the reserved mussels in the shell. Spoon over the mussel broth, and leek and carrot to garnish. Serve with crusty bread to mop up the juices.

CITRUS CEVICHE

The acidic juices essentially 'cook' the fish, while imparting their unique flavour.

SERVES 4

450g mixed raw white fish fillets, such as hake, haddock and sole, skinned and pin boned
Juice of 3 unwaxed lemons
Juice of 3 unwaxed limes
2 tsp chopped fresh oregano leaves
½ tsp cumin seeds
1 large ripe tomato, finely diced
1 small red onion, finely chopped
1 green chilli, deseeded (optional) and finely chopped
A handful of coriander leaves, chopped
A handful of mint leaves, chopped
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp olive oil

1 Cut the fish into 1cm cubes and place in a glass container or bowl with the juices and oregano. Mix well, cover with clingfilm and leave in the fridge for up to 12 hours.
2 Meanwhile, toast the cumin seeds in a dry frying pan over a medium heat, stirring constantly until fragrant. Remove and allow to cool.
3 Drain the fish, discarding the juices, and put it into a clean bowl and mix with the toasted cumin seeds, tomato, onion, chilli, coriander and mint. Add salt and pepper to taste, drizzle over the oil and divide up into small bowls to serve. Alternatively, at this stage, the fish mixture will keep for up to two days in the refrigerator in an airtight container.



RECIPES URSULA FERRIGNO **PHOTOGRAPHS** CLARE WINFIELD

NEXT MONTH TASTES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN

PERUVIAN KEY LIME PIE

Ursula's version of this classic dessert is as close as possible to the original recipe.

SERVES 6-8

12 oat cookies, approximately 300g (Ursula often uses chocolate-covered ones)
150g unsalted butter, melted
2 large egg yolks
397g condensed milk
1 tsp sea salt
Finely grated zest and juice of 4 unwaxed limes, plus 1 extra lime to garnish
250ml double cream

1 Preheat the oven to 160°C/Fan 140°C/Gas 3 and grease a loose-bottomed 23cm tart pan. Crush the cookies to a fine crumb and mix with the melted butter. Turn into the tart pan and press evenly into the base and up the sides. Chill in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

2 Once chilled, transfer to the preheated oven and bake for 12 minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool on a wire rack.

3 Place the egg yolks in a large bowl and mix well. Add the condensed milk and continue mixing. Add the salt, lime zest and juice and mix thoroughly. Pour into the cooled base and bake for 20 minutes.

4 Cover and chill for at least 4 hours. To serve, whip the cream and pile on top of the lime filling, then sprinkle the pie with extra lime zest.





Recipes taken from *Lemons and Limes* by Ursula Ferrigno (£14.99, Ryland Peters & Small). Readers can buy the book for the special price of £10.99 including p&p by telephoning Macmillan Direct on 01256 302699 and quoting the reference KB8.



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From the makers of PRIME OAK

PERFECT RECIPE

FOR PROFESSIONAL CATERER SANDRA MASTRANGELO PERFORMANCE IS EVERYTHING, BUT HER NEW KITCHEN ALSO GIVES HER A RELAXING SPACE TO COOK IN ON PRECIOUS DAYS OFF



PROJECT PROFILE

Owner Sandra Mastrangelo, who runs a catering business, and lives here with her sons Dominic, 18, and David, 15.

House A detached five-bedroom red-brick and timber-frame home in rural Hertfordshire.

The project A dark, dated kitchen was extended internally, and also into the garden with a conservatory creating space for dining.

Kitchen size 3.5x7.9m.

Designer Peter Humphrey, Humphrey Munson.

Cabinetry Humphrey Munson's Nickleby range painted in Cobbles and Linen with wood accents in Westminster smoked oak.

The classically designed Quooker boiling water tap is a much-loved timesaver in Sandra's kitchen. »



The traditionally glazed conservatory creates a dining area with panoramic garden views.

'It's like dining alfresco, all year long,' says Sandra Mastrangelo of her country kitchen. While the entire house has been redecorated under her tasteful eye, as a professional caterer she paid particular attention to the kitchen. 'I've come to realise the importance of a good ergonomic layout and plenty of prep areas and storage,' she says. 'I was keen to incorporate these functional ideas, but also create a sociable space, where I could enjoy cooking for pleasure not work.'

As her home backs on to a beautiful garden and woodland, Sandra wanted the kitchen to connect with the outdoors. So after combining the original kitchen and dining room to create more space internally, she then extended outwards with a conservatory. When it came to commissioning a kitchen, Sandra asked around for recommendations and was encouraged to visit Humphrey Munson. With the help of designer Peter Humphrey, the layout began to take shape. Sandra had three priorities. Firstly, she needed a separate pantry that would take some of the storage pressure away from the kitchen. Secondly, she wanted as many integrated appliances as possible, again to keep the spacious feel, and, finally, a breakfast bar area at the island. 'I wanted somewhere close for a quick lunch or to enjoy coffee with friends. We probably use it more than the dining table if I'm honest,' she says.

For the materials, Sandra chose paints from Humphrey Munson's own palette and used accents of wood – a bespoke smoked oak – to bring warmth and richness. 'All paint might have been too bland, and the smoked oak really brings the room to life,' says Sandra.

The working heart of the kitchen, Sandra's domain, is centred on a professional range cooker. A false chimney breast was built to boost its presence and conceal powerful extraction. Two 'secret' cupboards have been added in the sides to keep oils, herbs and spices close to hand but hidden away. 'I love these clever details that make cooking easier, while helping to keep the kitchen tidy,' says Sandra. 'It is a fantastic space for cooking in and we are all over the moon with it.'

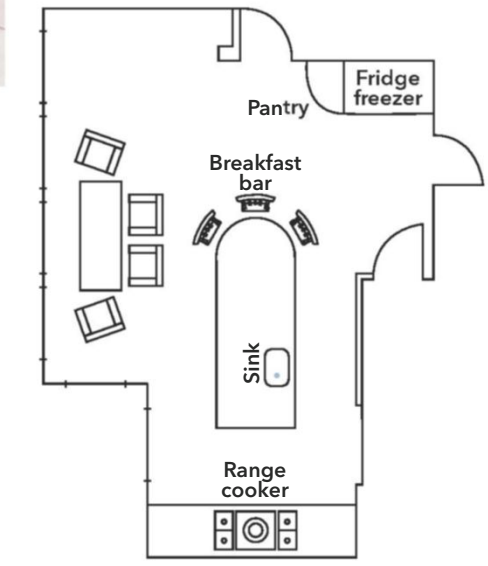




CH&I LOVES

Saulieu stainless-steel **range cooker,** £7,250, Lacanche.

Cute cupboards in the cooker alcove keep oils and spices close to hand.



The layout

Centred on an island that's nearly 3m long, the layout flows naturally to the cooking space at one end, with food storage and refrigeration at the other. A conservatory-style extension creates a spacious dining area and the kitchen is supported by an adjacent walk-in pantry/utility room.



The tall oak unit holds the fridge and freezer, and has a curved pantry unit at the end. »

3 design solutions TO INSPIRE YOU

1 BREAKFAST BAR

The curved front of the breakfast bar, which has been enhanced by vertical-grain oak veneer, creates a striking statement as you enter the room. The round top is also oak, which is much kinder on crockery, glassware, and even elbows, than stone. A round surface is also considered more sociable than a square one, as eye contact is easier. 'Everyone naturally gravitates towards it and we use it all the time,' says Sandra.

Smoked oak veneer with a strong vertical vein brings natural warmth to the breakfast bar.

2 ANTIQUED MIRROR

The antiqued mirror splashback is Sandra's favourite design feature. 'I love the way it bounces light back across the room,' she says. 'It also means that when I'm cooking I can chat to family and friends behind me, without having to constantly turn around.' Mirrored glass can't be toughened, but a protective safety film on the back will prevent it shattering far and wide if it's accidentally smashed. And, as a single panel, there's none of the stained grout issues you often get with tiled splashbacks.



A bevelled edge detail gives the mirror splashback a glamorous touch.



Gliding smoothly in, built-in trays are conveniently close to hand.

3 BUILT-IN TRAYS

The kitchen trays are multipurpose. They have a decorative role, making a visual link between other smoked oak elements, and, on a more practical level, they are in frequent use when eating outside and for taking snacks and drinks to the living room.

The details

CABINETRY

Nickleby **cabinetry** painted in Cobbles and Linen from the HM Paint Collection, with wood accents in Westminster smoked oak. Humphrey Munson's kitchens start from around £40,000.

SURFACES

Composite stone **worktops** in Tigris Sand, £400 sq m, Silestone by Cosentino. Rupert Bevan supplies similar antiqued mirrored glass **splashbacks,** from £450 sq m. Fairford Limestone Tumbled **flooring,** £59.95 sq m, HM Stone Library at Humphrey Munson.

APPLIANCES

K8315X0 integrated larder **fridge,** £1,999; G4655X7GB integrated **freezer,** £1,189, Neff. G6890 SCVi integrated **dishwasher,** £1,899, Miele. Cache 110cm-wide twin motor **extractor,** £1,296, Westin.

SINKS & TAPS

Callisto mixer **taps,** £656.76, Perrin & Rowe. Deerfield under-mounted **sink,** £788, Kohler. Classic boiling water **tap** with crosshead handles, from £1,197.60, Quooker.

ACCESSORIES

Mia glass **pendant lights** in Antiqued Brass, £108 each, Jim Lawrence. Montague **bar stools,** £175 each; Tuscany **armchairs,** £320 each, Neptune.

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON **PHOTOGRAPHS** PAUL CRAIG

Modern country makes

HEARTFELT FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS

BRING A FRESH AND FRAGRANT TOUCH TO SUMMER GATHERINGS WITH THE GREENERY OF GARDEN HERBS, FOREST FERNS AND DELICATE SPRAY ROSES



Party name cards

Style tip

Use individual letter stamps instead of printing the name cards for a 'letterpress' style.

Decorative candle pots



Style tip

Make a larger arrangement using jam jars or preserving jars. »

Flavour bundles



Style tip

Make ahead and keep the bundles fresh by storing them somewhere cool.



Hanging wreath

Style tip

Use the twiggy wreath base throughout the year and decorate with different seasonal accessories and plants. »

VIDEO
Watch our 'Modern Country Makes' videos at **facebook.com/countryhomesandinteriors**

How to MAKE THEM YOURSELF

Party name cards

Who needs a table plan when everyone can choose where they sit – and who they sit next to! Why not make table place-setting name cards and hang them on a wall for guests to unclip and use. Not only do these look good on the table, they are great when hung on the wall. Using secateurs, clip a few herb cuttings, gather and tie together with some string or florist's wire. We added spray roses and waxflowers as a pretty detail. Make name cards or labels for your guests by printing onto paper, cutting out as label shapes and sticking onto card postal labels with double-sided tape. Clip these in front of the herb bundle, hiding loose herb ends behind the card. Clip and hang along twine for a rustic touch or use butcher's twine or ribbon for a colourful look. Then, display on a wall for guests to find.



Card, labels and **twine,** from a selection, Hobbycraft. Kikkerland **clips,** £6.50, for 6, John Lewis.

Decorative candle pots

This cute candle idea is really easy to achieve and is great for repurposing glass yogurt pots into individual place-setting candles or using them grouped together for more impact. Give the pots a good clean and dry thoroughly. Wind around the pots some covered wreath wire, string or, for a bright touch, coloured wire, now widely available from good florist suppliers. Before tying, cut some sprigs from your favourite herbs and slip them under the wire or string. Tie securely and pop in a candle. Light, then arrange a few on a tree slice, if you're going for a rustic look, or on a tray. These candles look really sweet lined up on a mantelpiece, too, or – if taking your party outside – placed on window sills or hung up from tree branches. Just add another loop of wire from which to hang them up.



Marquis & Dawe **cutlery,** £19 for 4, Notonthehighstreet.com. Modern country utensil **pot,** £10, Pastel Lane. All other items, stylist's own.

Flavour bundles

For a country lunch or dinner, put together herb bundles as a garnish for guests to use. First, decide on the herbs you want, a mixed bundle is a good idea matched to the menu, but single bunches work for less complicated seasoning. To make the bundles, snip the herbs, and wash and tie in place with string or twine. Place upright in water in a glass dish so the stems are on show and are kept fresh. Display with other condiments and fresh flowers to echo your colour theme. For a summery twist, why not add edible flowers, such as nasturtiums, pansies or borage. This is a great idea for parties with lots of courses as new herb bundles can be added with each one. Alternatively, you can serve them on the side with drinks. Cheers!



Biviri side **plates,** £14.95 each; **platters,** £36.95 each, both Nkuku. **Napkins,** £35 for 6, Neptune. **Cutlery,** as before. **Pot,** as before. Cake **plate,** £51.50, Sophie Conran for Portmeirion at John Lewis. Hand-forged (small) **scissors,** £2.97, Fred Aldous. Baroque **board,** £22.99; Beehive salt and pepper **shaker,** £1.50 each, all T&G Woodware. **Bowl,** £15, Pastel Lane.

Hanging wreath

An easy way to decorate a room with an extra dash of scent, this hanging wreath features herbs, on-trend foliage and pretty paper birds. First, make the wreath base by taking some cut branches of pre-soaked willow, twist two together forming a ring shape, twisting the ends around and in as it is formed. Work more branches in until you have the desired thickness. Leave to settle and dry. Next, taking separate stems of woody herbs, such as rosemary and thyme, plus fern sprigs and ivy tendrils, weave with covered wreath wire – then hang up with twine or wire. We cut birds from handmade paper and hung them with string and butcher's hooks. Find bird images from free art websites, print and cut out to create a template. As the wreath hangs, the herbs and foliage dry and will look good for a while. It's also a base for more herbs or spray roses.



Willow, from a selection at World of Willow. **Florist's wire,** available from all good florists.

FEATURE AND STYLING SARA BIRD **PHOTOGRAPHS** DAVID BRITTAIN
NB NEVER LEAVE BURNING CANDLES UNATTENDED

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THE GARDENS OF MADEIRA *with Joe Swift*



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Thanks to its balmy subtropical climate, Madeira is home to many of the world's most beautiful gardens. So imagine exploring these horticultural heavens in the company of top garden designer, writer and TV presenter Joe Swift.

We have joined forces with Joe to offer this exclusive six-day experience, during which you'll get the benefit of Joe's huge expertise – he's been presenting BBC2's *Gardeners' World* for almost 20 years, as well as reporting from RHS flower shows, including the prestigious RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

You'll be taken on private tours with Joe around the island's most famous gardens, enjoy a scenic walk with him along the levadas – Madeira's famous network of canals – and join him for dinner and an exclusive talk and Q&A.

You'll also enjoy afternoon tea at the famous Belmond Reid's Palace, plus relax at your five-star hotel, the Meliá Madeira Mare.

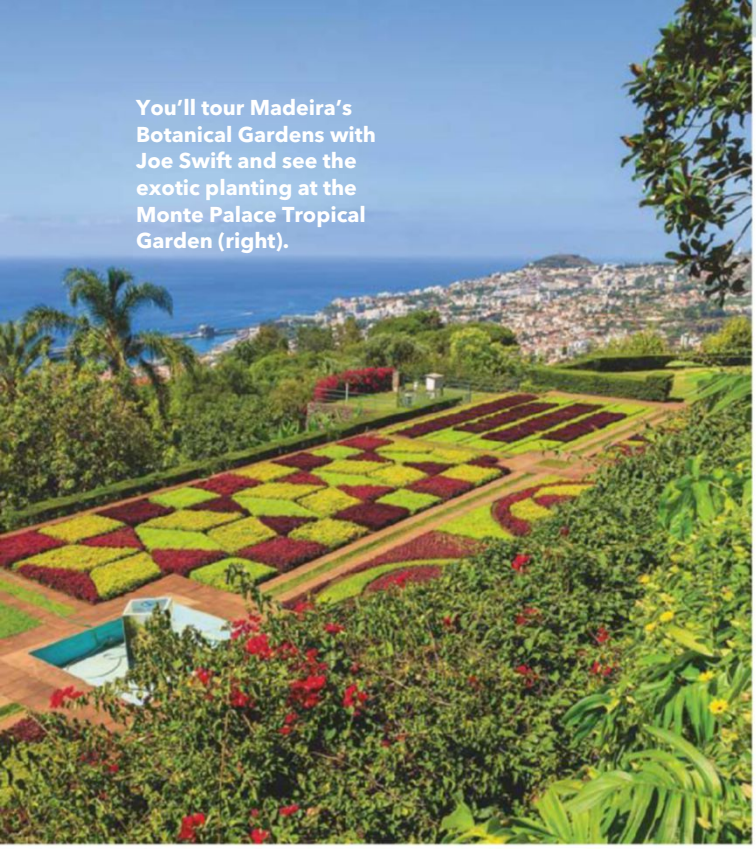
It's an absolute must for anyone passionate about plants and gardening. See you there!

'I've always wanted to visit Madeira, "the floating garden in the Atlantic". Its climate is ideal for growing a huge range of plants and there are fantastic gardens to visit'

Joe Swift, Gardeners' World *presenter*



Enjoy the best of Madeira's beautiful gardens, thriving in its perfect climate against a magnificent backdrop.



You'll tour Madeira's Botanical Gardens with Joe Swift and see the exotic planting at the Monte Palace Tropical Garden (right).







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You'll be staying in style in the five-star Meliá Madeira Mare in the Madeiran capital of Funchal. Known for its friendly and efficient service, it boasts both indoor and outdoor swimming pools, an excellent health spa and fitness centre, and a choice of first-rate bars and restaurants, all with fantastic ocean views.

Your exclusive itinerary

DAY 1 WELCOME TO MADEIRA

After flying direct from London to Madeira, you will be transferred to your luxurious home for the next five nights: the five-star Meliá Madeira Mare hotel in Funchal. The afternoon is free to relax before a welcome buffet dinner at one of the hotel's excellent restaurants.

DAY 2 MADEIRA'S BEST GARDENS WITH JOE SWIFT

Your adventure starts with visits to some of the island's most beautiful gardens.

• **Exclusive experience** Joe Swift will join you for a morning tour of the spectacular gardens of Quinta do Palheiro in the hills to the east of Funchal. Together with Joe, you will then explore the Botanical Gardens, where you will receive a private tour from the garden's curator. Joe will also join you for a special restaurant lunch before you explore handpicked privately owned gardens in and around Funchal.

• **Exclusive experience** During this evening's dinner, Joe will give a fascinating talk about his career as a garden designer, journalist and TV presenter, featuring behind-the-scenes stories about his time on *Gardeners' World*, and what makes a great garden. You will even get the chance to ask him your gardening questions!

DAY 3 WALKING THE LEVADAS WITH JOE SWIFT

Today you have the chance to discover some more breathtaking highlights.

• **Exclusive experience** In the morning, Joe will take a stroll with you along the levadas, Madeira's ancient system of aqueducts and canals. You have the afternoon free to relax at your hotel or explore more of Madeira before dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 4 FROM MONTE TO BELMOND REID'S PALACE

You will start today with a 10-minute cable car ride to Monte, a pretty village in the hills above Funchal that's home to the Monte Palace Tropical Garden. After your tour of the gardens, there's the chance to take part in one of Madeira's most treasured traditions: a ride through the streets from Monte to Funchal in traditional wicker toboggans. It's safer than it sounds! The historical theme continues with a visit to Belmond Reid's Palace (belmond.com/reidspalace). As well as seeing the hotel's beautiful sloping gardens, you will also enjoy a luxury afternoon tea. The rest of the evening is free.

DAY 5 A TOUR OF MADEIRA

This morning there's an expert-guided tour of the island, including two impressive scenic viewpoints, at Pico de Barcelo and Eira do Serrado, before taking lunch in Funchal. The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own pace. This evening's farewell dinner at a local restaurant also features Madeiran folk dancing.

DAY 6 RETURNING HOME

After saying goodbye to Madeira and the Meliá Madeira Mare, you will be transferred to Funchal airport.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Return flights and transfers ✻ Five nights' 5-star accommodation at the Meliá Madeira Mare hotel ✻ All breakfasts, four dinners and two lunches, including a special lunch with Joe Swift during your tour of Madeira's finest gardens, plus a luxury afternoon tea at Belmond Reid's Palace ✻ Exclusive dinner, Q&A and private talk from Joe Swift ✻ Guided tours of Madeira's best gardens in the company of Joe ✻ A guided walk with Joe along the levadas ✻ All excursions and activities listed in the itinerary ✻ The services of an expert Brightwater tour guide.

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‘WE LOVE THE FREEDOM OF WORKING BY THE RIVER IN AN IDYLLIC SETTING’

Boating and restaurant business owners Vanessa Ferrett and Alex Bolton

Originally from Kent, Vanessa Ferrett was living in Bath with partner Alex Bolton and their two children, Izzy and Billy, when a conversation (and a few glasses of champagne) at a wedding led them to a life-changing decision. ‘In January 2012, we were running a tapas restaurant in Bath and life was really frenetic,’ says Vanessa. ‘Then we came down to Kent for a family friend’s wedding. My sister Mel was there and we were having a chat about our mum’s plans to move back to the county and we suddenly decided we wanted to do the same.’

Luckily, Alex was on board with the idea, and Izzy, now 14, and Billy, who is nine, were equally excited. ‘The restaurant wasn’t very conducive to family life and we wanted to have a business that gave us a better balance. We also told Izzy that she could have a dog if we moved to the countryside, so it wasn’t a hard sell,’ says Vanessa.

So the couple set about finding a viable work/home property in Kent. ‘Soon after the wedding, we noticed that a ramshackle cottage and a small boating and camping business was for sale next to the River Rother, not far from Rye near the south coast, so we came to have a look,’ says Vanessa.

Alex adds, ‘We didn’t fall in love with it straight away – there was mud everywhere and it was a fairly rudimentary set-up with a small house and a river boat. But we went home and started doing some research. We looked into visitor numbers to local attractions like Bodiam Castle and the Kent & East Sussex Railway and realised how popular the area is. We thought that if we could get even a small slice of the action then we could be on to something.’

However, by the time the couple decided they wanted to take the leap, persuaded by the potential of the business and its location – in a valley overlooking the steam railway line – there was another party bidding for the business, so they took matters into their own hands. ‘We pleaded with the owner to hold fire on making a decision, jumped into the car and took the kids down,’ says Vanessa. ‘The vendor was walking us around the property when he took Izzy up to the wall by the river, pointed at a tree on the other side and said, “Can you see the »



The family are now able to enjoy quality time together after several years of hard graft.

What we love most...

'IT'S AMAZING WORKING FOR OURSELVES. WE HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MAKE DECISIONS AND ACTION THEM IN THE SAME BREATH'

kingfisher? There's a family of them living in that tree and you'll see lots of them when you're here." And that's the moment we knew the business was ours.'

In order to fund the move, they took a big risk by selling their house and business in Bath. But the couple were confident they could make it work – they planned to build on the boating and camping business and also open a restaurant on site. 'Although our careers began in sales, we have a background in catering. Alex's Spanish grandmother taught him to cook, my degree was in catering and we'd been running the restaurant in Bath for four years,' says Vanessa.

Just over two months after making the decision to move, Bodiam Ferry Company was theirs. 'We got the keys in March 2012, moved in and opened for business two weeks later, after settling the kids at school and rebranding as Bodiam Boating Station,' says Vanessa. But it wasn't all plain sailing to start with. 'That first summer it just didn't stop raining. There was mud everywhere. I don't think a day went by in six months when I didn't wear my wellies,' she says.



Vanessa prepares to take out a group of kayakers.

The deluge didn't stop them making changes. 'When we took over, there were two camping bookings in the diary and neither turned up,' says Vanessa. 'Now, we are taking bookings until 2018. We also invested in two more boats for trips to Bodiam and Rye and added kayaking and rowing.'

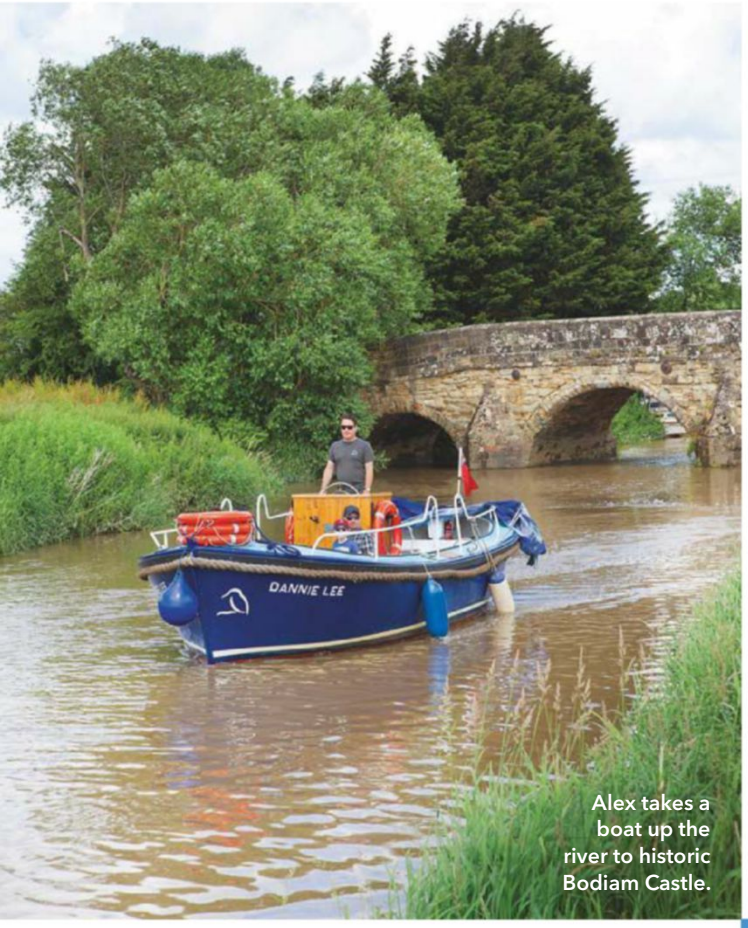
In the summer of 2013, they set about transforming their living quarters. 'We moved out of the house and into a caravan on site for a few months while the existing Victorian cottage was knocked down and rebuilt,' says Alex. The resulting home is a charming, energy-efficient white weatherboarded house with blue shutters.

By April 2015 they had built a wood-clad building overlooking the 1.5-acre camping paddock with views of the valley and opened it as a fully-licensed restaurant, which serves fresh, simple dishes and specialises in tapas.

Vanessa says they are now reaping the rewards of their hard work. 'When there's a queue of people checking in for boats, every table is taken in the restaurant and kids are playing on the grass outside, I pause and take it in and it's really rewarding,' she says.

It has been challenging, but things are getting easier. 'Juggling everything has been tough, but our team is getting stronger all the time,' says Vanessa. 'We have finally got a better work/life balance. We love to watch the kids in their school sports matches, catch up with friends and take our dog, Oona, to the beach for walks. We have brilliant people working with us, allowing us to let go a little.'

☎ Bodiam Boating Station, Rye Road, Newenden, Kent TN18 5PP, 01797 253838, bodiamboatingstation.co.uk. »



Alex takes a boat up the river to historic Bodiam Castle.



Vanessa in the restaurant, which was completed in spring 2015.

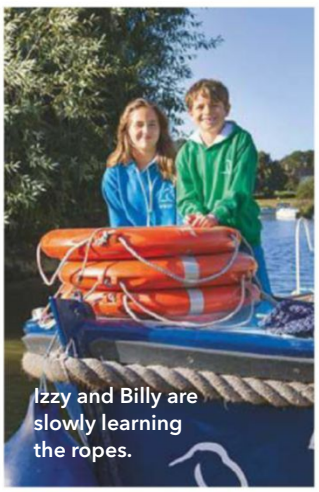


The couple have worked hard to build their brand – the logo (far right) features the kingfisher that sealed the deal.



Vanessa follows her group of kayakers.





Izzy and Billy are slowly learning the ropes.



ON OUR DOORSTEP...

Visit... 'Great Dixter (01797 252878, greatdixter.co.uk) in Northiam. The former home of writer and gardener Christopher Lloyd, it has the most beautiful gardens. It's a real oasis in these busy times we live in.'

Shop at... 'The Shop Next Door (01797 228626, thegeorgeinrye.com) in Rye for a great choice of colourful gifts and homewares.'

Go for a meal at... 'The Globe Inn Marsh (01797 225220, globe innmarshrye.com), also in Rye. This pub has a great atmosphere, quirky interiors and wonderful food.'

The couple realise the importance of making time for one another when running a business together.

Small business advice

HOW TO WORK WITH YOUR OTHER HALF

Our guide to being successful partners in life and business







Setting up a business with your partner, like Vanessa Ferrett and Alex Bolton have done, is not uncommon. But it can be hard to ensure things run smoothly when you are living in each other's pockets night and day. How can you achieve a harmonious partnership both at home and work? Mentor, life and business coach Anita Bevan has the following advice:

Take your time with planning when setting up in business together. 'Before starting, examine the challenges you will face both at home and in your future business and devise a plan to deal with them. It is essential that you share the same passion and vision, so you need to plan your business and what you want to achieve. Identify your market, which can help you see opportunities that might not have been obvious. Who are your potential customers and how many are there? Financial planning and forecasts are essential for the survival of a business. Be sure that you maintain clear and up-to-date accounting records, reviewing them regularly to spot trends early.'

Discuss what complementary skills you can bring to the business. 'A division of responsibilities will allow working flexibility for both parties. Clear lines of authority need to be defined, but important decisions and problems should be shared and solutions agreed together. Ensure both parties are happy with their work allocation. Pinpoint areas of weakness that you might have to hire someone to help out with.'

Be aware of the risk of a downturn in the business. 'It's essential that both partners have an agreed strategy on how to deal with difficulties. Blaming each other for problems will only jeopardise the business further. Explore ways to gain an advantage over your competitors. Recognise what you are good at and diversify where possible. Identify the key indicators that will tell you how your business is doing, monitor these closely and be prepared to take action as appropriate.'

Have a back-up plan should the business fail. 'When building your business plan, identify at the start what could go wrong and what actions need to be put in place to try to rescue your business or what options you have if it fails. Ensure that your financial assets are set up in such a way that you and your family are protected should anything go wrong.'

Remember that is vital to make time for your relationship. 'Personal time is very important. Respect each other's breaks from work, but also be sure to organise family time accordingly. When appropriate, try to take a weekend away together. This will enable you to focus on the important things in your personal life and also come back re-energised into the business. Recognise excellence in your employees and don't be afraid to delegate some responsibilities so that your business can continue to run successfully in your absence. It's important – and beneficial – to be able to let go once in a while.'

Bear in mind that communication and trust is the essence of a strong business partnership. 'Open and honest communication should be part of a healthy relationship. When it comes to important work conversations, talk in person where possible and avoid sending texts or messages that can be misinterpreted. If you have difficulty formulating your thoughts, write them down, highlighting the main points. This will release some of your stress and should enable you to discuss things in a less emotive way.'

☎ Anita Bevan, 07795 205747, anitabevan@gmail.com.

The one lesson we have learned...

'TAKE A CHANCE. OUR ADVICE TO ANYONE WANTING TO START A NEW VENTURE IS TO DO YOUR RESEARCH AND THEN JUST GO FOR IT. WHAT'S THE WORST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN?'

FEATURE AMY MAYNARD **PHOTOGRAPHS** RICHARD GADSBY

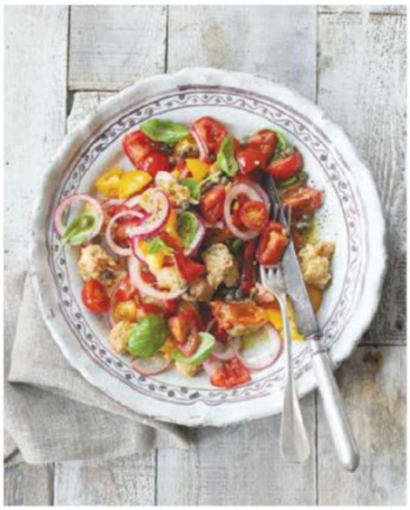
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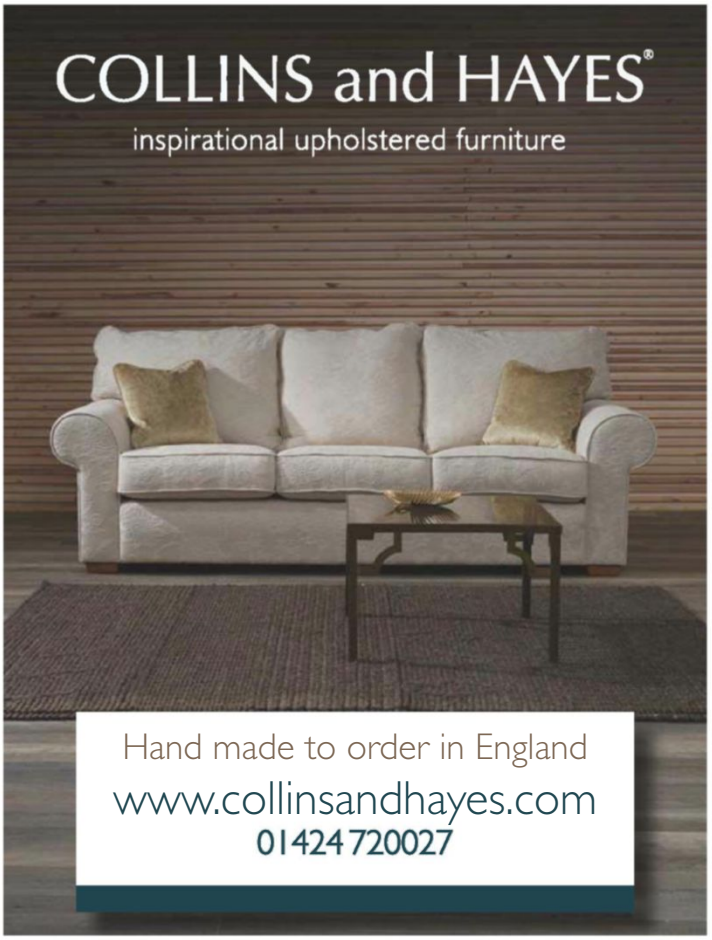
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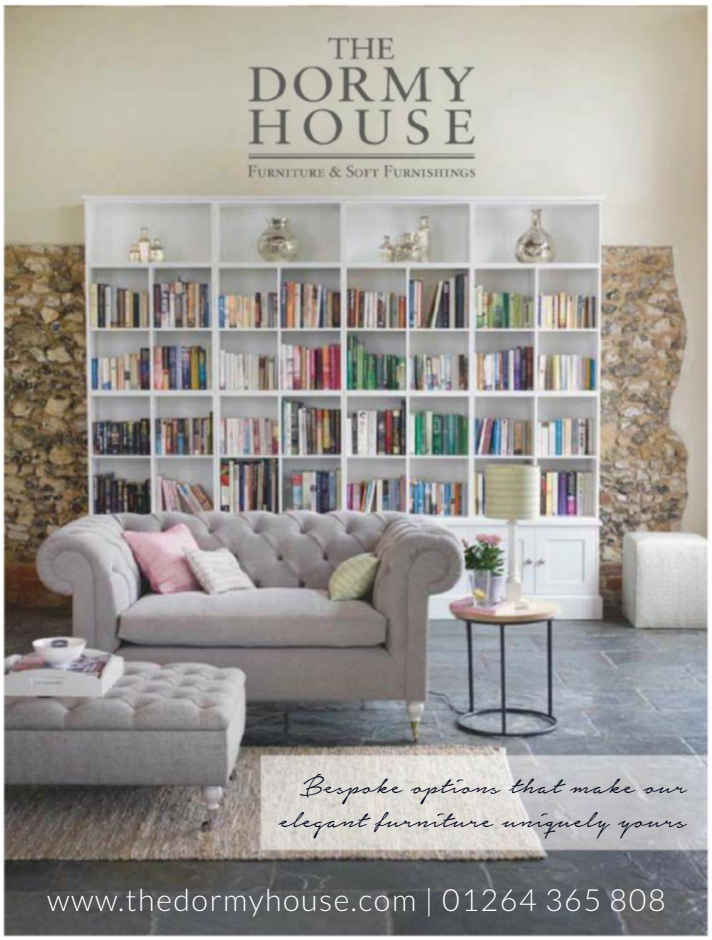


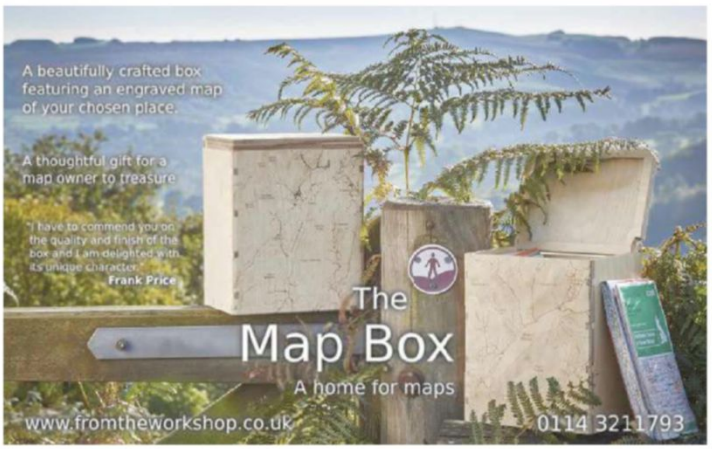
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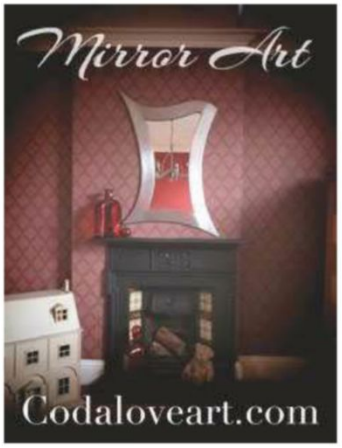






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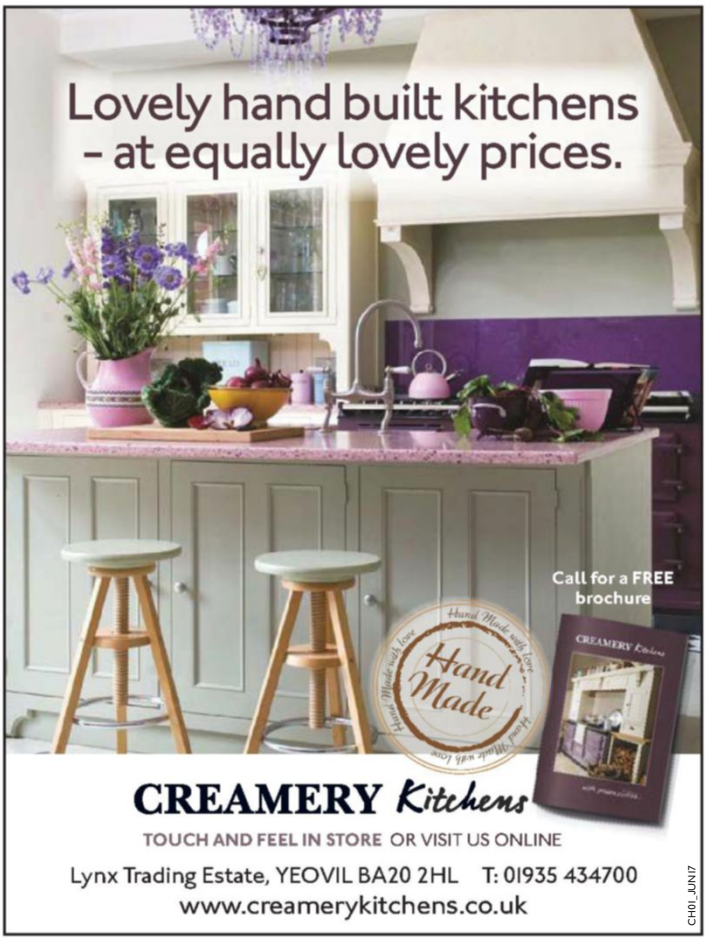
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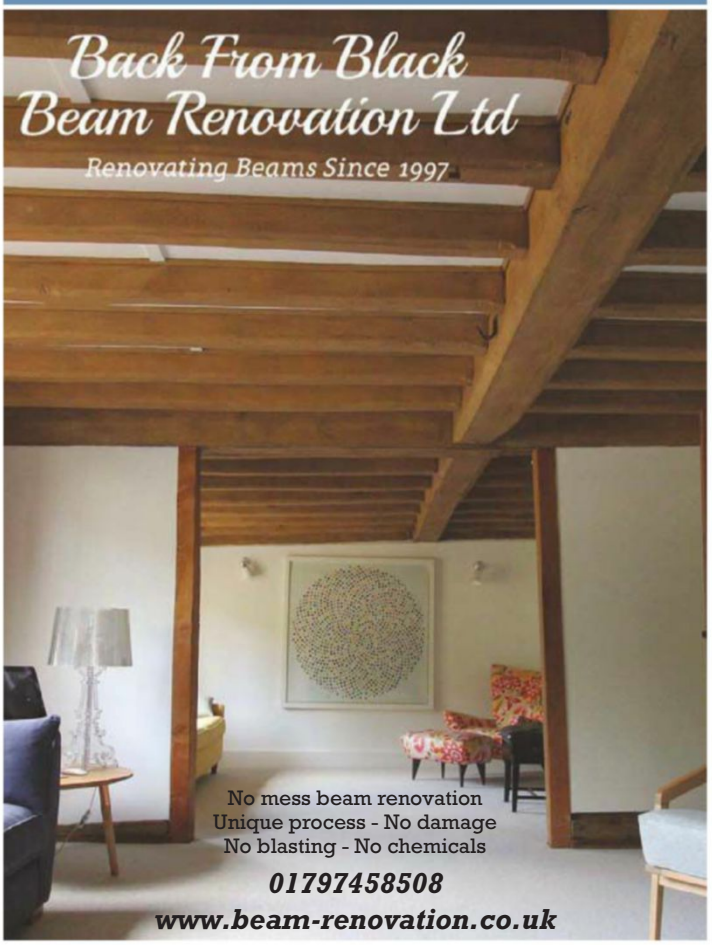
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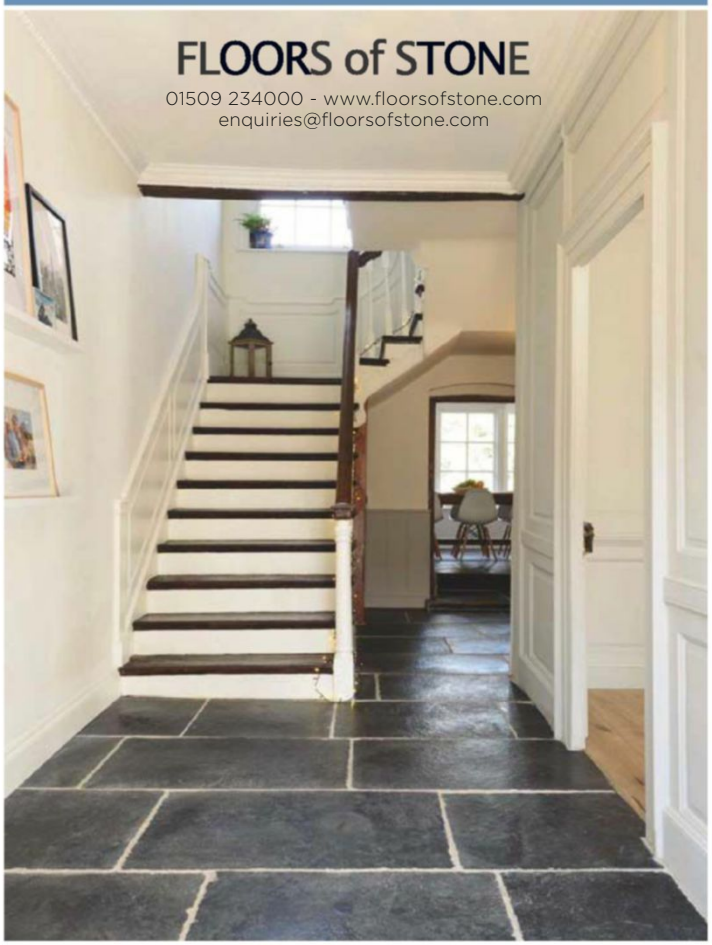




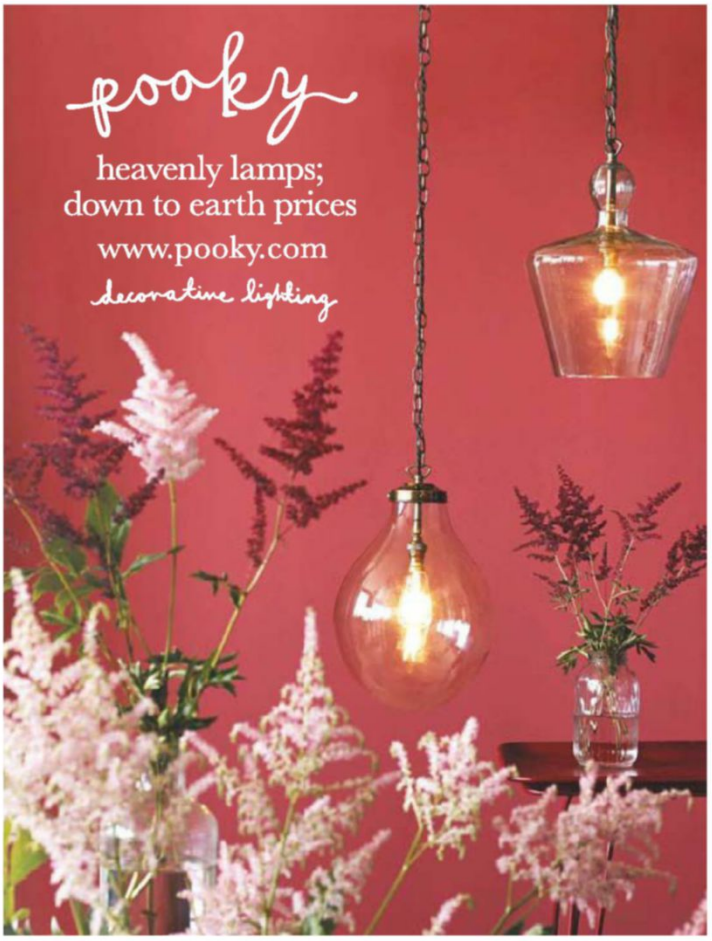
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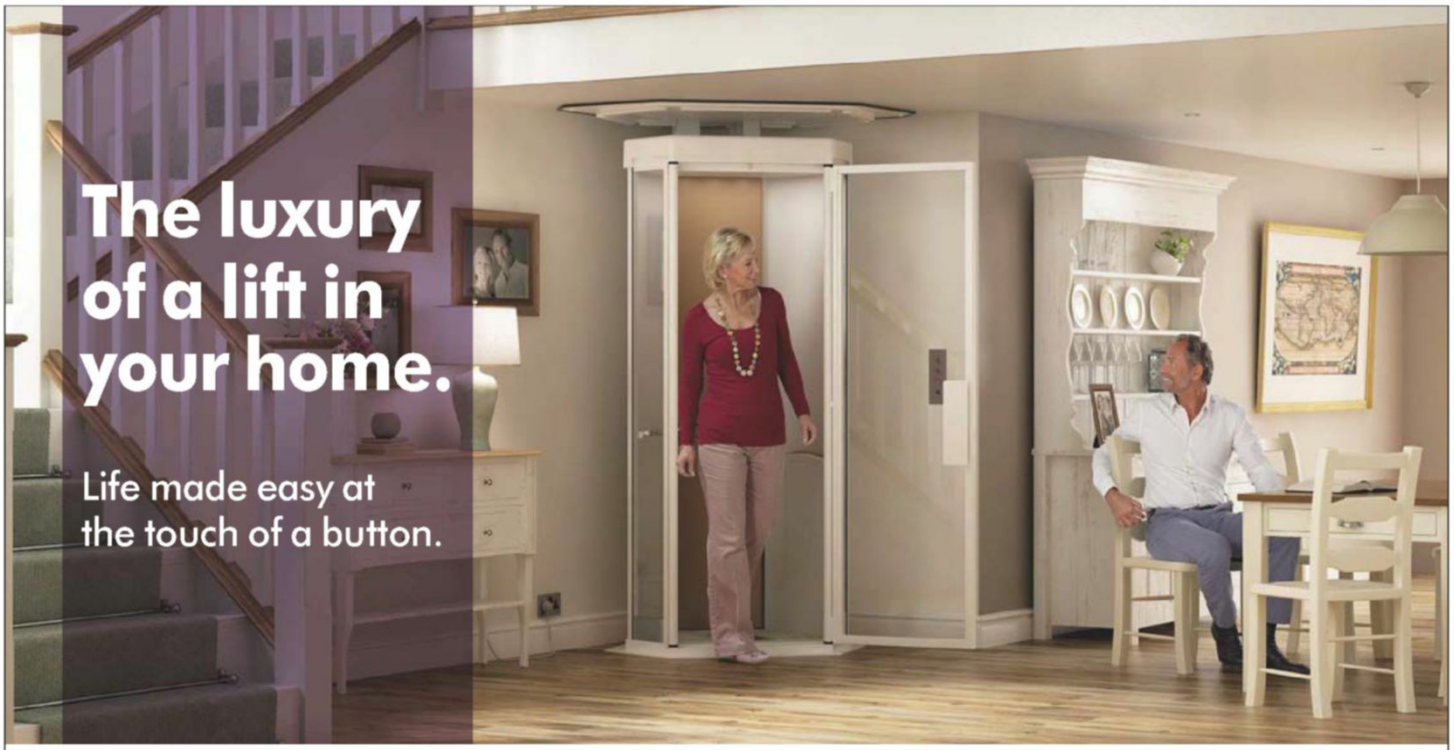
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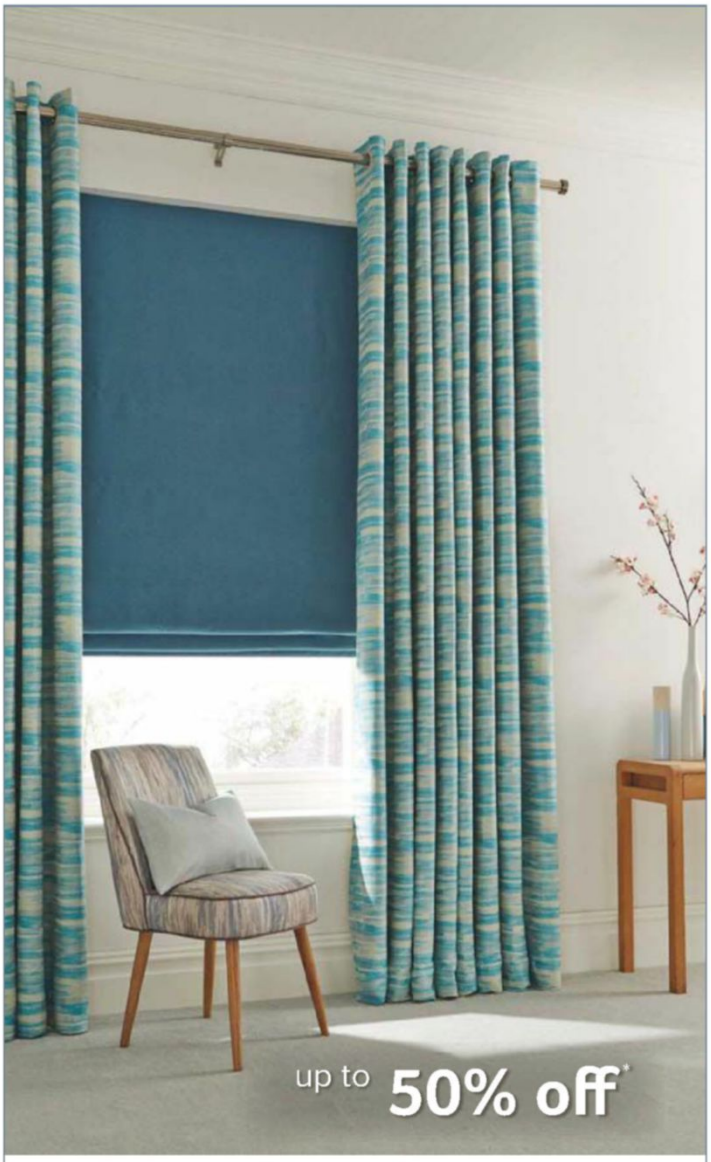
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‘LOOKING OUT TO SEA OVER ROCKHAM BEACH FEELS SO TIMELESS’

Anatomist, author and broadcaster Professor Alice Roberts



I love the outdoors and being by the sea, and I got to explore both these passions when I was a co-presenter on BBC’s *Coast*. The British coastline is wonderful, but I probably know the south west best as it’s closest to me, and I often head there when I have a weekend off. On just about any stretch of the shoreland, the views are amazing, and I always want to see what’s round the next point. But I also love being at sea, either sitting on a surfboard waiting for the next wave or paddling around in a kayak, looking back towards terra firma. You experience the coast and the lie of the land in a completely different way; you feel part of nature.

My favourite view is from the hills above Rockham Beach in North Devon. Looking across the fields and out to sea, there’s a fantastic 180-degree vista. Gaze to the west and you see the low profile of Lundy Island. To the north and north west, there’s the coastline of Wales, stretching from Gower to misty Pembrokeshire. I love to go there with family and friends, camping on the hillside. I like to find a spot that’s high up – it’s often very windy, but it’s worth enduring for the view.

I love escaping in my campervan with my husband, David, and our two children. We explore new places every year, but we also like to revisit old favourites, and the North Devon coast, between Saunton Sands and Ilfracombe, feels like my second home. Depending on the time of year, we’ll go rock-pooling, swimming and kayaking, or just walk the coastal path, discovering new things. I enjoy writing in the van, too. It’s a cosy space to work in the evenings, when the kids are tucked up in their sleeping bags.

Rockham Beach is great all year round, but particularly lovely in the summer. We’ll happily spend a whole day here, exploring, building towers of pebbles, making patterns in the sand, finding treasures. At the end of the day, we’ll use the wooden steps to climb back up the cliff, before heading back to the campsite for a barbecue. Sitting on a blanket eating dinner, we’ll watch the sun set over Lundy. As night falls, the light of the Bull Point Lighthouse to the north flashes in the dark.

I’m supporting organic beauty brand Green People and its Change the World in 20 Ways campaign, which is looking for individuals or groups who have great ideas for making a positive difference in their community, no matter how small – 20 projects will receive funding of £1,000 each. I hope it inspires people to have a go at doing something they otherwise wouldn’t have tried – it’s not too late to enter (closes 31 July 2017).

☎ Find out more about the Green People campaign at greenpeople.co.uk/change. *Tamed: 10 Species that Changed our World* (£20, Hutchinson) by Alice Roberts is published on 19 October, and provides the subject matter for her tour, which starts off in Manchester on 15 October. Visit alice-roberts.co.uk for further details.

FEATURE SARAH WILSON. **PHOTOGRAPHS** (MAIN) STEVE TAYLOR ARPS/ALAMY STOCK PHOTO, (PORTRAIT) DAVE STEVENS

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