

Media Outlet: *House Beautiful*

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House Beautiful

All you want from where you live

REVAMP YOUR HOME for under £500

Inexpensive changes with maximum style!

Refresh an armchair or sofa

If your chair's frame is in good condition but the cover is worn, consider giving it a new one. For a professional result it's worth employing an upholsterer. Contact the Association of Master Upholsterers & Soft Furnishers, 01494 452965; upholsterers.co.uk, to find one in your area. For a modern look, go for shades of indigo, airforce blue or navy, and one of this season's neutrals, such as pale taupe or sunny ochre. Accessorise with scatter cushions in coordinating patterns and shades.



ARMCHAIR covered in Vintage
Stripe 1 in Airforce, £2950 a
meter, Velvet in Airforce, £45
a meter, South Sea Marjorie

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SOFA covered in Etch 130633, £46 a metre. **CUSHIONS** covered in Thom Britt Toss 130640, £40 a metre. **POPPLE** 130729, £18 a metre. **WALL** 130647, £14 a metre. All the Motherhouse collection, Harveys.

1 KINROSS FABRIC in Navy, £11.50 a metre, V&A Shop
2 WALLACE FABRIC in Natural/Seaspay, £32 a metre, Laura Ashley
3 DHURRIE FABRIC, £30 a metre, the Wabi Sabi collection, Scion
4 FEATHER COTTON FABRIC in Navy, £11.50 a metre, V&A Shop

1 STAIR RUNNER painted in Dove Tile floor paint, **STRIPES** painted in Babouche, Mahogany and Acrylic floor paints, all £21.50 for 750ml, Farrow & Ball
2 Cath Kidston Spot Red vinyl FLOOR TILES, £42.95 a sq metre, Harvey Maria
3 Columbia Pink CARPET, £5.99 a sq metre, Carpetright

MAKE IT WORK

Mark Findlay, Managing Director of Harvey Maria, gives his advice on choosing vibrant flooring

★ Move away from neutrals and opt for vivid colours for a fun and quirky update.

★ Brights work well in kitchens, bathrooms, kids' playrooms and even living rooms. And be bold, a daring splash of colour can work well in even a small room.

★ Ensure the flooring is practical for the room. Luxury vinyl, for example, is good for kitchens, as it's easy to clean and resistant to slipping.

★ A patterned floorcovering will look good for longer and be more forgiving to general wear and tear than a solid-colour floor.

Flooring update

Be bold with something colourful underfoot. From carpet and vinyl to paint, all sorts of floor coverings are now available in bright shades and contemporary patterns. Opt for stripes for a smart look and confident pinks and reds for full-on personality.

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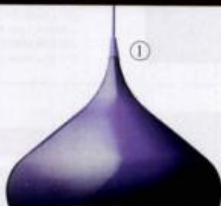
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Hang a statement light

With so many fabulous pendant lights around, you can easily find one to enhance your dining room or kitchen. Oversized shades hung low over a table add wow factor and create a focal point. Bright colours and metallics are on trend – or try a glass chandelier for an elegant look.

1 Tradition Spinning **PENDANT LIGHT** in Purple, £339, Cloudberry Living 2 Sharnley **CHANDELIER**, from £175, Laura Ashley 3 Abby **EASYFIT PENDANT**, £118, 8hs



Paper a wall

For maximum impact at low cost it's hard to beat a feature wall. Take a cue from the trend for wallpapers in strong graphic shapes, colourful botanicals and retro designs in zesty shades.

1 MRS PEEL **WINTER WALLPAPER**, £55 a roll, Fired Earth 2 **PAISLEY CRESCENT WALLPAPER** in Lido, £45 a roll, Mini Moderns 3 **FLORA WALLPAPER**, £68 a roll, Linnea collection, Sandberg



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Sort your storage

Invest in a shelving unit or wardrobe to clear your clutter. Look for pieces that slot into unused alcoves or, for a more individual look, choose a bespoke unit that can be painted in a shade to match your existing scheme.

1 Bespoke fitted alcove **WARDROBE** with inset shelving (H1840mm x W750mm x D400mm), about £420, Jali
2 Unpainted **THREE-DRAWER WARDROBE**, £455, The Dorny

House 3 Oka Two Door Doctor's **CABINET**, £475, The Holding Company 4 Narrow **BOOKCASE**, £140, Habitat



TONGUE-AND-GROOVE PANELLING, from £18.64 for a H800mm x W600mm x D18mm sheet, The English Panelling Company; Triple **STORAGE BENCH**, £310; Triple storage **PEG SHELF**, from £155, The Dorny House



Kerala Cane **BEDSPREAD**, £100; **SHAM PILLOWCASES** (back), £42 each; Cane **STRIP PILLOWCASES** (inside), £30 a pair; **BRIAR PILLOWCASES** (front), £25 a pair, all from by Christine Lemieux for House of Fraser

EXPERT TIPS

Jon Madeley, founder of Scumble Goose and The English Panelling Company advises on panelling a room

- ★ Choose good-quality MDF panelling, preferably moisture resistant, as it's easier to paint and is suitable for bathrooms.
- ★ Consider the proportions of the room when deciding on the height of the panelling. Avoid cutting the room in half; taking the panelling about one-third of the way up the wall looks better and will help make the ceiling appear higher.
- ★ Cure damp walls before panelling. If residual dampness remains, provide an air space between the wall and the panelling and ensure the panelling is moisture resistant.

Add some panelling

Wall panelling can be used to create interest in an otherwise featureless room and also rebalance the proportions of an unusually shaped space. Either fix it to the wall yourself or employ the services of a local carpenter. For suitable tradesmen, check out ratedpeople.com.

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Source vintage furniture

Include a mix of contemporary furnishings and older pieces to stunning effect. Many retailers offer vintage items – or hunt down a bargain at an antiques fair or salvage yard. For listings, see iscf.co.uk and salvoweb.com. And by upcycling a cupboard or a chest of drawers, you're also doing your bit for the environment.



1 Vintage pine **DINING TABLE** painted in Red Station 2 Eggshell; vintage **PINE CHAIRS** painted in (from left), Venetian Crystal 3; Bahama Dream 6; Rock Candy 3; all £13.09 for 500ml, Paint Mixing Collection, Dulux, Dulux Rose Check **OILCLOTH**, £22 a metre, Cath Kidston 2 Small **FARMHOUSE TABLE** with mustard legs, £195, from a selection at Avec-Des-Si 3 Vintage **CHEST OF DRAWERS** sanded and stenciled. Taken from *Colour Recipes for Painted Furniture and More* (£14.99, Cico Books)



Change the kitchen doors

Transform your kitchen without the expense of a complete refit by hanging new cabinet doors. They tend to suffer the most wear and tear, so if the carcasses are fine, simply buy replacements. Units usually come in standard sizes and companies such as thedoormaker.com offer a range of styles and finishes to fit. Look out for the current trend for neon brights and combine colourful doors with natural wood accessories.

EXPERT TIPS

Steve Larkin, Managing Director of Lark and Larks advises on replacing kitchen doors and drawers

- ★ Measure the height of door and drawer fronts, then the width – in millimetres to get an accurate fit.
- ★ Get the hinge holes cut in the same position as on your old doors. This will allow an easy installation.
- ★ Ensure you have the basic DIY tools, such as a measuring tape, screwdriver, spirit level and drill, and you should be able to fit new doors in a day or less.
- ★ Fit new handles to finish off the look.



1 11 Gloss White Slab standard 600mm **BASE UNIT DOOR**, £21, 88Q 2 Zurlitz Ultragloss Saffron standard **REPLACEMENT DOOR**, £31.48, Lark and Larks 3 **CABINET KNOBS**, from £1.10 each, from a selection at Lark and Larks

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Classic poplar wood **SHUTTER** in custom colour, from £299, The California Company

Turn windows into a feature

Whether ready-made or made-to-measure, new blinds or curtains can transform a lacklustre window into a stunning feature. Bold fabrics work best when used for simple treatments such as Roman blinds or eyelet curtains. In a kitchen a roller blind is an inexpensive way of adding character, while coloured shutters will add eye-catching style to a bathroom and offer privacy. For another fabulous roller blind idea see p92



1 BLIND made from Elise fabric, £37 a metre, Voyage Decoration
2 Natural Woven Check Eyelet CURTAINS, from £55 for a lined pair, Next Home

FOR STORE DETAILS SEE 'WHERE TO BUY' PAGE

MAKEOVER IDEAS



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3



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1 Three **POTS** on tray in Clay, £18, Garden Trading
2 **BAY TREE** in black zinc cube, from £199.70, Terrace Gardenier
3 Satin nickel **LETTERPLATE**, £63.50, Willow & Stone
4 Satin Nickel **HOUSE NUMBERS**, £33 each, Willow & Stone

Create kerb appeal

Now is the best time of year to spruce up your home's exterior. Repaint your front door and update the door furniture with a new letterplate and door knob in a style appropriate to the period of the property.

And if you have any budget left, give benches and other garden furniture a fresh coat of paint and invest in some new pots and windowboxes.

For low-maintenance planting, go for herbs, lavenders and bedding plants. Try box or standard olive trees in pots – they'll create an elegant first impression. **33**

WORDS SARAH EMBLE