

Fully Booked
Available from Scumble Goose (01453 731 305), these bespoke bookcases start at £750 each, while the mirror is priced from £444.



Pretty Patterns

Hearts, checks and stripes make the perfect accessories, as seen in these decorations from Lavender & Sage (0845 601 0522) and cushions from Nordic Style (020 7351 1755).



“paint furniture and walls using cool, pale shades”



Settle Down

Featuring under seat storage, this Annik settle, £595, is available from Belle Maison (0870 850 6207).



▲ **Studied Elegance**

Available from Nordic Style (020 7351 1755), this Drottningholm carver chair is priced at £695, while the Sundborn Bonde desk costs £895.



◀ **Northern Lights**

Visit Matalan (020 7298 6530) for these folk art lanterns, priced at £2.50 each.



Bright & Breezy
Available from The Dormy House (01264 365 808), this armchair is priced from £395, while the carver starts at £235.

Hang Out The Flags ▲

Priced at £8.99, this Scandinavian bunting is obtainable from The Contemporary Home (02392 469 400).



Heart To Heart ▲

This hanging decoration, £2.99, is available from The Contemporary Home (0845 1308 229).

Snuggle Up ▶

Prefect for those cold winter nights, this snowflake knitted blanket is available from John Lewis (0845 604 9049). It costs £30.



Scarlet Splendour ▲

Relax in style on this cosy sofa from George Smith (020 7384 1004). It is priced at £2,845.

NEXT MONTH: Oriental style



“add splashes of red for a warm, rustic feel”

Sweet & Simple ▼

Pop to Hunkydory Home (0191 645 4004) for these red and white gingham cushions at £15 each.



◀ **Glassy Looks**

Priced at £24, this candelabra is available from Kaleidoscope (0844 556 4100).

Soft Touch

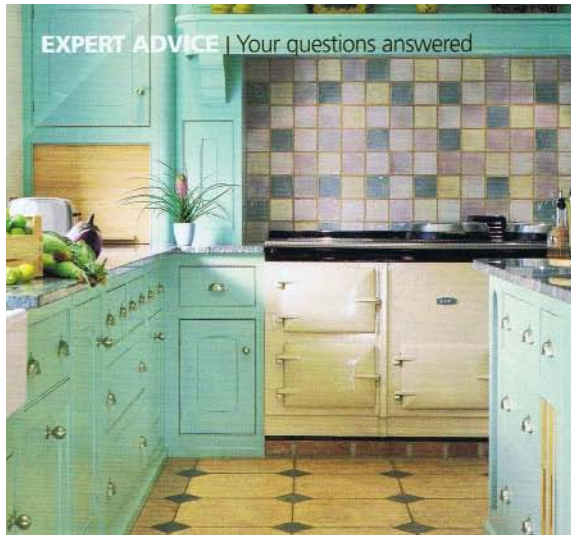
Lavender & Sage (0845 601 0522) stocks this pretty heart motif cushion. It's just £23.

Expert Advice

Moussie Sayers of Nordic Style explains the origins of the Gustavian look:

“Gustavian painted furniture came about as a result of King Gustav III's travels to Europe in the late 18th Century. While visiting France, the monarch developed a passion for the Neo-Classical designs that graced the court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. He brought them back to Sweden where they were reproduced and developed. Keen to combat the dark Scandinavian winters with light, bright interiors, the Swedes began painting this furniture using a pale palette of soft greys and whites. Pieces were then teamed with gilt mirrors and candlelit crystal chandeliers to maximise light.”

To find out more about Nordic Style call 020 7351 1755 or visit nordicstyle.com.



EXPERT ADVICE | Your questions answered

Kitchen Counsel

Q I'm about to choose my dream kitchen and I want a design that will look good for years to come. What kind of figure should I be looking to spend on a bespoke design for a five-bedroom family home?

A Your budget depends on a number of factors, starting with what you can comfortably afford and how long you intend to stay in the property. The latest figures from the National Association of Estate Agents suggest that a stylish new kitchen can add from 5% up to 10% to the value of your home, so this is a good starting point for thinking about what to pay. If your house is valued at £500,000, you may well recoup any outlay on your kitchen from £25,000 to £50,000. If you intend to stay in your home for a long time, you might choose to invest up to 20% of your home's value in your kitchen because you and your family will be enjoying the benefits of the design you really want. Speak to a reputable company about your requirements and they will be able to advise you on the various options available, and the styles you can choose that will have timeless appeal. Prices for stunning Mark Wilkinson kitchens, like the one shown here, start from around £30k and have lasting appeal.

Ben Kember



Hot Stuff

Q There seems to be a trend in cookery books lately to involve recipes that you start in a frying pan on the hob, and then finish off under the grill or in the oven. Where can I get a frying pan like this from, and what should I look out for?

A One-pan meals like Spanish Omelette are fantastic as they help to cut down dirty dishes! However, as this type of cooking puts very high demands on the pans, it's well worth investing in good-quality designs, ideally with a non-stick surface and riveted, cast stainless steel handles. The new range of Le Creuset Toughened Non-Stick pans are just the ticket and they look good enough to use from hob to table. Expect to pay £80 for a 30cm pan. Click on lecreuset.co.uk for more details or call 0800 373 792 for your nearest stockist.

Chris Bates



In The Know

GEN UP ON OUR SAVVY ENERGY SAVING ADVICE AND YOUR UTILITY BILLS COULD BE CHEAPER THAN YOU THINK!

- 1 Get into the habit of always setting your washing machine at 30 degrees – this is usually as hot as you need. It's kinder to your clothes and it's a staggering 40% cheaper on average than washing them at 40 degrees.
- 2 Wait until you have a full load before you wash – this not only saves money on washing powder and electricity, it leads to a better clean, and saves you lots of time and effort.
- 3 Turn things off properly rather than leaving them on standby. Computers and TVs can use 70% of the energy on standby that they do when they are on. Once you are in the routine of turning things off it becomes second nature.
- 4 Before using a fan heater or similar electricity-guzzling device, check to see if there is a cheaper solution to the problem. It may be that all you need to do is bleed your radiators or get thicker curtains.
- 5 Save time and money by only boiling the exact amount of water you need in the kettle. When cooking vegetables or pasta for example, it is much cheaper and faster to boil water in the kettle first and pour it into the pan. Aim to put a lid on the pan whenever you can (you may be surprised how much you can turn the heat down when a lid is on!).
- 6 Where possible plan your cooking in advance and save yourself time by making a batch of something and then simply reheating it. Try to avoid wasteful things like putting the oven on for one baked potato.
- 7 A shower uses 70% less energy than having a bath. You'll save money if you enjoy a bath as an occasional luxury rather than having one every day.

Jeannine McAndrew



Family Matters

Q Help! It's my big sister's 15th wedding anniversary soon and I want to buy her something really special. I believe 15 years is usually celebrated with a gift of crystal, and she and her husband have very classic taste. Any ideas?

A Make her day by choosing some Waterford crystal. The new Jasper Conran range is very aptly named Eternal, and it features stunning designs that would be ideal for this special occasion. Find out more by clicking on waterford.co.uk.

Natasha Robertson

Cover Story

Q I was delighted last week to buy eight lovely Georgian dining chairs at an auction. They were a bargain because they had rather worn seats and thought it would be simple to get them reupholstered. However, when I got a quote it turns out that the work would cost more than I paid for the whole set! What's more I'll have to wait for at least 10 weeks to get them finished. What do you suggest?

A There is a simple and stylish solution to your problem in the form of chair covers from Nordic Style.

Priced at just £39 each, they are available in a range of beautiful colours, such as timeless raspberry check. Slightly more ornate versions with a frill are also available for £45. The covers are 40cm wide and all you have to do is tie them into place with simple bows at the back. Best of all, delivery only takes around two or three days. You can also order bespoke covers, which take around five or six days for delivery. Call 020 7351 1755 for more details or click on nordicstyle.co.uk.

Jeannine McAndrew

