

The

ENGLISH HOME

20
years
ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating the essence of English style

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ELEVATE THE EVERYDAY

Simple ideas & beautiful buys to make life at home special

KITCHEN DESIGNS

Create a scheme to enhance your lifestyle

PLOTTING AHEAD

Planning now for an idyllic summer garden

SEASONAL REFRESH

- Chic conservatories
- New paint colours
- Spring decorating

WHERE THE HEART IS

Eclectic, colourful, stylish houses full of personality



Touch

"Homes are tactile spaces," says Bernie de Le Cuona, founder of de Le Cuona. "As we spend more time at home, we need to choose healthy interior textiles that appeal to our senses. Keep your homes free of any synthetic material with harmful chemicals. For me, all fabrics should be a joy to touch and my favourites fabrics are linen and cashmere.

"With our natural textiles, it is all about mixing and layering textures to create depth and interest. This tacticity becomes the pattern when you use plainer fabrics. With linen, it's about layering the weights to lend a room depth instead of one 'ta-dah' print. Some of our linen is finished to be buttery soft and rumpled, whilst some is raw and gravelly. We also combine linen with silk, which gives it a lustrous feeling and beautiful ball-gown drape for curtains."

Interior designer, Emma Sims-Hilditch, reminds us that it is not just textiles that introduce much-needed texture to our homes: "Panelling can be a clever way to introduce texture into a room. Half-height panelling, paired with patterned or coloured wallpaper, can be slightly softer than full-height alternatives. For a more rustic look, a lime-washed timber used on ceilings, particularly in kitchens, creates the perfect natural texture for a modern country home. Be sure to use a 50/50 water and paint emulsion wash to create the perfect lime-washed finish."



ABOVE Fabrics from de Le Cuona's Pure 2 collection. Clockwise from left: Night Shadow, Silver Fog, Pale Noon and Dawn Breeze



Olivine Design believes the rule of three is a useful principle to follow when hanging pictures or displaying objects, and of course, remember to move items around to keep things looking fresh.

Sight

"It is true what they say, feeling house-proud and creating a space that makes you feel good impacts how you feel," says interior designer, Katharine Pooley.

"Declutter your space, remove what no longer serves you, and fill it with objects and items you love and that represent memories. I've filled my home with a number of things I've collected on my travels," she continues, "and whenever I walk into a room and see an object from a trip, I'm transported back to that time. I believe it's always best to have fewer homewares and accessories on display, rather than feeling overwhelmed with the number of trinkets or belongings you have showing. Work with matching colours that help to highlight them in a space."

Findlater and Gray, of Olivine Design, offer helpful advice, when it comes to displaying objects on shelves and arranging photo frames, to avoid the problem of no longer 'seeing' what is on show. "You can't go wrong if you stick to the rule of three, especially for bigger decorations," they say. "Group them closely together, then leave space between



this and the next selection of items, the eye will then know what to rest on and enjoy. Hanging pictures is a real art. Don't be tempted to hang prints or pictures evenly around the room; group them together for more impact and remember to hang them at eye level so you can see them. Change objects and favourite accessories. Put one group away and bring out another, that way you'll rediscover and appreciate things in turn. Or move them from one room to another every now and again - you'll be amazed how different they can look and feel in another space."

ABOVE A selection of patterned cushions from A Rum Fellow add character, colour, texture and comfort.