

**SIOBHAN MURPHY**

**MORE**

**IS** 

**MORE**

**DÉCOR**

**A HANDBOOK FOR MAXIMALISTS**

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A STUDIO PRESS BOOK

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FSC DUMMY

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@blind\_design

This book is dedicated to the wonderful people in my life. My mum, Maxine, the greatest cheerleader I could wish for. You taught me to always work hard, be kind and never stop being curious about the world around us.

My gran and grandad, Jean and Paddy, who showered me with love from the minute I was born, letting me explore my creativity from an early age with drawing, painting, sewing and shopping. You gave the greatest gift of your time, which I will treasure forever.

My fabulous besties, Christina, Bern, Cat, Rachel and Jo... 38 years of friendship, belly laughs galore and a whole lifetime's worth of stories, many of which we could never share. Here's to many more years of mischief- and story-making.

And, of course, my husband Nick – you kind, patient, funny, handsome creature. I adore you with all my heart. Thank you for believing in me, encouraging me to follow my dreams and generally just being the best.

Massive, huge, enormous thanks to Stephanie and Maddox at Studio Press for believing in my vision, making it happen and being the absolute dream team. We did it!

I would like to thank all of my incredibly talented interior design friends who have contributed to this book with their inspirational photographs. I have added their Instagram handles so it's easy for you to check them out. Instagram has been such a great source of inspiration for me and a wonderfully supportive space to share and make friends. You can see more of my journey here: @interiorcurve



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# Foreword

What I loved about Siobhan from the minute that I saw her first project was her fearlessness. And once I started to get to know her, it was also her hunger to learn. She was so clear about who she was and what she stood for, but also so honest and open about what she did not yet know. And that's always going to be a winning combination for creative growth. To start with a provocative stance, and then, through putting in the work, and with practice and accrued knowledge refining it to a signature look – which is what you see all through the pages of this gloriously bonkers book – that's when the magic happens!

**Michelle Ogundehin**

*Interiors author, editor and TV presenter*

Siobhan's style is the absolute celebration of everything that's great about today's interiors. It's bold, brave, unabashed and 110 percent captures her creativity and generous spirit. Every now and then a superstar comes along and Siobhan's is one that glitters brighter than most. This book unlocks the secrets to a maximalist interior while you bask in all her colour-fuelled glory. It's an absolute feast for the eyes, from one page to the next.

**Sophie Robinson**

*Interior designer and TV presenter*

Siobhan's style is magnificently OTT. It's flamboyant, playful, exuberant. It's unabashedly audacious. Chatelaine is like an Art Deco ocean liner – the architecture is spectacular. What is behind the iron gates is jaw-dropping. Stepping through the front door is like emerging from black and white Kansas into Technicolor Oz. Imagine Jonathan Adler brainstorming a party look with Dolly Parton. Having had an early look, this book is everything I expected, and more!

**Katrina Burroughs**

*Interiors Editor for The Times and The Sunday Times*





## WELCOME TO **MORE IS MORE DÉCOR!**

**M**y principal aim with this book is to surprise and delight you. I have filled it with beautiful photos in the hope that you will use it as a visual reference as you set about embracing maximalism, revamping your interiors, and maybe even revamping your entire lifestyle. Equally, I hope that it will prove compelling enough to be read from cover to cover.

Your magical journey into maximalism will commence with an exploration of your wardrobe. I'll show you how to identify the colours, textures, patterns and prints that bring happiness into your life, then set about transferring them to your interiors. You'll also be inspired to work your hobbies, collections, interests and passions into your design schemes. A trinket box you picked up at a souk in Marrakech, a love letter tucked inside an old book, a brooch passed down from your granny, or even a candle you bought on a day out with your friends – these items each have their own story to tell and deserve to be displayed.

I am inspired by so many talented designers, past and present, so I'll introduce you to the very best of today's maximalists, as well as notable maximalists of the past. By showcasing the fun fashion and interiors of these incredible designers, I want to give you the confidence to experiment and be bolder with your own interior style.

Then, it's time to start playing with colour, pattern and print. By far the easiest way to transform a space, colour is the first thing I consider revamping.

And don't worry if using patterns and prints fills you with fear – a lot of people feel this way, but I'll show you how to find your confidence. Before you know it, you'll be incorporating your favourite patterns into your décor with flair.

I always say that home accessories are 'the jewellery of the home' – after all, styling your home is just as important as styling an outfit. This is where you can really let your personality shine, and I've got some great tips to help you create some showstopping displays.

I'll also talk you through the theory of mood boarding, and I'll share my sourcing hints and tips so that you can seek out your own brand-new treasures, as well as repurpose existing ones.

Above all else, I want to dispel the myths of maximalism and encourage you to banish the beige, ditch the drab and throw the interiors rule book out of the window. This is something I did a few years ago, and I have never been more confident, happy and free. So here's to joyful interiors that are packed with personality, colour and style!

Sibban x 





# What Is **MAXIMALISM?**





# WHAT MAXIMALISM MEANS TO ME

**A**s the title of this book suggests, maximalism is the 'more is more' approach to interiors, fashion and life in general – more pattern, more accessories, more fizz, more laughter and more fun! So, it's time to throw the rule book out of the window and embrace the creative freedom to follow your own style and decorate exactly how you want, regardless of trends or the so-called 'interior rules'. Always remember, if you love it then it can't be wrong!

Maximalism, for me, is all about using colour, patterns and textures in a happy and joyful way. It's about showcasing your personality and the things you love, both

in the way you dress and in the way you decorate your home. It's layered and personal, and it tells a story. It's decorating from the heart, going with your gut, and not worrying what anyone else will say. It's all the trims, all the feathers, all the fringes and all the tassels. And if you think it's too much, I say add an extra pom pom! Because more is most definitely more. More fun, more joy, more happiness and more love... always more love.

Let's be honest – I like stuff: trinkets, nick-nacks, collections... I like to surround myself with items that I find beautiful or that hold memories for me. A woven cushion I picked up

in a souk in Marrakech or a book I found at a swap meet in Santa Monica are just as important as an expensive Jonathan Adler vase or a precious piece of jewellery, as they have a memory and fondness attached to them.

Having said that, I am definitely more selective these days about the things I buy and bring into the house. My organiser said something the other day that totally resonated with me, and which is so simple: 'Just because you think it's nice, doesn't mean you have to own it.' It was a revelation! So, now, when I look at something I ask myself: do I really need it? Do I really love it? Do I have a place for it?





**EMBRACE  
EVERYTHING  
YOU LOVE**

**AND THROW THE  
INTERIORS RULE  
BOOK OUT OF  
THE WINDOW.**



# Dispelling the Maximalist Myths

Here are some of the most common myths associated with maximalism, and my feelings about them.

## 1. MAXIMALISM IS A NEW PHENOMENON AND IS ONLY TRANSIENT.

To suggest that maximalism is a new phenomenon is far from the truth. In the coming chapters, I will give you an insight into some of the most iconic people, both historically and from the present day, who have embraced maximalism and promoted its growth.

## **MAXIMALISM HAS ITS ROOTS FIRMLY IN THE PAST, ITS TRUNK IN THE PRESENT AND ITS BRANCHES IN THE FUTURE.**

Maximalism is only transient for those who want it to be. To me, maximalism is about having more of everything I enjoy in life, both in my home décor and in my wardrobe.



*Pink  
poodle  
perfection!*

## 2. MAXIMALISM IS JUST A REACTION TO MINIMALISM.

A reaction maximalism simply is not! There is plenty of room in the world of fashion and interiors for all styles and one doesn't evolve in response to another, it's just a matter of choice. Minimalism promotes itself as a way to aid mindfulness and we sometimes see images of serene spaces worthy of meditation and relaxation. I welcome minimalism as a contrast to my maximalist practices. You might not feel that my bright, colourful rooms would be conducive to relaxation, but for me, colour can be just as relaxing (if not more relaxing) than a white, minimalist space. There is another way to perceive minimalism: not as an escape from the world's madness, but as a practical solution to 21st-century living, and this is necessary for a lot of people.





### 3. MAXIMALISM IS THE EPITOME OF EXTRAVAGANCE, AN IDEOLOGY THAT CONVEYS GREED AND EXCESS.

Firstly, it is not possible to sum up a complex ideology such as maximalism in three simple words, like 'more is more'. Plus, 'more' isn't always synonymous with 'new'. We are all well aware of the greed and excesses in the world today, and the maximalist movement is not advocating this at all. In fact, it's encouraging the opposite: using what we have already, repurposing things, giving them new life and accessorising for a different look. Spaces can look extravagant and even decadent with a roll of patterned paper, a coat of paint, some remodelled furniture and some cleverly curated accessories that we have been meaning to showcase for ages. A maximalist look doesn't always have to involve new purchases.

**MAXIMALISM ISN'T ONE OF THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS!**

### 4. MAXIMALISM MEANS A CLUTTERED HOUSE WITH EVERYTHING ON SHOW, ARRANGED RANDOMLY.

Maximalism doesn't mean having a lot of clutter. It's about balance and coordination and carefully curated accessories. To do maximalism right takes a lot of skill and planning. We don't want all aspects of our life to be on show – we have cupboards, boxes and spare rooms for our less attractive items. What we do want on show are our beautiful things. Maximalism isn't an excuse to be untidy, with every surface piled high, but it does get a bad reputation, and this is sometimes the vision that people conjure up. Think again! Nothing is random in this process... unless you want it to be.

@thebeigeblues



## 5. MAXIMALISM IS ABOUT USING EVERY COLOUR IN THE RAINBOW ALL AT ONCE AND DOESN'T ALLOW FOR NEUTRALS.

The use of colour in maximalist design is explored later in more detail, but just to set the ball rolling I'd like to say I do love bright, clashing colours, and a rainbow dress is often my outfit of choice. However, when designing a maximalist space, I don't just choose colours for their clash and shock value. There are degrees of maximalism, and it depends on a huge number of criteria: the client's personality and wishes, the function of the room, natural light, what we have to play with already... All of these considerations dictate colour and pattern. Balance is crucial, as is ensuring our eyes move about the space freely and don't get stuck at certain points, and colour will help the flow and focus of a space. Too much stuff and the eyes won't be able to settle, so it's important to have a few focal points in the room and space for the eyes to rest.



## 6. MAXIMALISM IS ONLY FOR REALLY BOLD, CONFIDENT, OUT-THERE PEOPLE WITH NO INHIBITIONS.

This is quite simply not true. In fact, a lot of people who are not flamboyant in their personalities are able to express themselves in other ways: through their art, fashion or home décor.

Yes, I agree, sometimes you might have to take a leap of faith and push yourself to give something a go, but let's face it: if you get it wrong, the world will not end! You only need to have a vision, a plan and the confidence to try it – you don't need to be Zandra Rhodes, Vivienne Westwood, Louis XIV, Liberace, or even me! Believe me, anyone can be a maximalist.

@instagramcreative





# WHERE TO START

**W**hen it comes to maximalist décor, an excellent place to start is your wardrobe. Your personality and style are showcased through the individuality of the clothes you wear – the colours, styles, patterns and textures you embrace. So, looking to your wardrobe for inspiration is one approach that can help you develop your own interior style. Look carefully at your fashion collection, feast your eyes on your clothes, scan your accessories and consider your jewellery when looking for inspiration.

@homewithsisi



**MY WARDROBE IS A RIOT OF JOYOUS COLOUR. NO SIGN OF BLAND OR BEIGE HERE!**

I enjoy colour clashing as much as colour matching, probably more, in fact. Colour choice is such an important aspect of both your wardrobe and your interior décor. Wearing a kaleidoscope of colourful pieces is a wonderful experience for me, as my clothes reflect my cheerful personality; I'm sure you feel your personality shine when you don your favourite fashion creations, too. It's amazing how much colour can boost your confidence and elevate your mood; maximalist home décor can do that for you, too. Although our colour choices will, to some extent, be determined by place and time, throwing open your wardrobe doors will help you to realise what makes you happy and refine the colour palette for your home.

Perhaps it's not so surprising to know that many people's home décor reflects their wardrobe choices. Learning to focus on the little things that make us feel happy is so important for our well-being and general health, and our clothes, along with our homes, are such an integral part of this. 'Colours, like features, follow the changes of the emotions,' the artist Pablo Picasso once remarked. Hence, injecting the colours and patterns we love into our wardrobes and homes can be the ideal remedy to a low mood.

@luinluland



Colour is immensely powerful—it communicates action, shapes behaviours, and even influences physiological reactions. Certain colours have become deeply rooted in culture and symbolism, so our reaction to colours and colour combinations can be profoundly personal; prepare to be surprised! The transformative power of colour is instant, as any maximalist will tell you. And we all like instant gratification when it comes to a makeover!

@the\_idle\_hands



*Lovers of minimalism may prefer a white box to live in, but as a maximalist I see a white box as a project, a blank canvas to fill with colour and pattern - adding a dash of joy and a sprinkle of magic.*

Each colour supposedly has its own effect, but again this will depend on your own personal associations and experiences, and whether you are brave enough to spread your wings, fan your peacock feathers and disregard the 'rule book'. 'What rule book?' I hope I heard you say!

If you love it then it simply can't be wrong' is something I say pretty much on repeat in relation to both fashion and interiors. Personally, I'm a believer in the 'go with your gut' concept as it has usually worked out well for me. Looking at it logically, what's the worst that can happen? It's not a big deal to revise the paint colour, whip off a strip or two of wallpaper or return a rug to a store. Sometimes you need to make a mistake before you find the right path to a stunning interior. Just don't worry about it. Fear of failure is curtailing and immobilising, so don't go there!

@the\_idle\_hands







Here are some phrases you may have heard before, or even found yourself saying, and my feelings about them:

***YOU CAN'T PUT THOSE TWO COLOURS TOGETHER, THEY DON'T MATCH.***

Yes you can! Experiment with clashing colours – the weirdest combinations are often the most successful.

***OH, I LOVE IT, BUT I COULD NEVER PULL THAT OFF.***

Yes you can! What's holding you back? If you love it then give it a go.





## ***ALL WOODWORK MUST BE WHITE.***

Your woodwork can be any colour you want it to be. You may wish to match the colour of your woodwork to the walls as this will help to hide it. Alternatively, you might enjoy being a little bolder, like me: my landing has deep coving painted black, and my woodwork is three shades of ice cream colours – it has brought the whole area to life. The styling is easier too, as I can either contrast or pick up on woodwork colours – perfect!

©CharlotteBevor

## ***I'M JUST NOT BRAVE ENOUGH WITH COLOUR!***

If you are not brave enough for a full-on maximalist room initially, dip your toe in and perhaps begin with colourful accessories that reflect your personality and wardrobe, or maybe the wardrobe and personality you aspire to.







**NEVER PAINT  
A SMALL  
ROOM IN A  
DARK COLOUR.**

Paint it any colour you like! If a room is small, it's not suddenly going to look huge if you paint it white. A small room is a small room and you may as well paint it in a colour that you like, then focus more on the layout and storage to make the most of the space.

@allydowsingreynolds



**I WANT TO BE MORE  
COLOURFUL, BUT I  
JUST DON'T KNOW  
WHERE TO START.**

You are reading this book so already you are on your way the next step is totally up to you!

Just get on those starting blocks, be free, be unafraid and dance into the unknown. Trust me, you'll be glad you did.

@moneypennyinteriors



# A MAXIMALIST'S WARDROBE

**R**egrettably, I didn't invent the concept of 'dressing like your home', although in the last few years I have wholly embraced it. Since I did, I have never looked back. I feel at home now, and you can, too. Just remember, good design is self-expression – a way of showcasing yourself; you could say the way

you dress and how you style your home are both part of the same psyche – they are totally intertwined. I don't consciously think about the pairing of fashion and home now – it just happens naturally. You can use your wardrobe as inspiration for your home décor, but you can also look to your home décor to help you be bolder with your wardrobe choices.

I have to say I am not really a trend follower when it comes to fashion or interiors. I like what I like, and I prefer to be individual, never paying much attention to the latest 'must haves' that social media and magazines encourage us to buy each season; but I guess subconsciously we are all inspired by what we see, and I often see trends on the catwalk, and elsewhere, that I find myself translating into interior design. The key is not to get wrapped up in 'good taste'; there is such a thing as too much of it, and it can become boring and uninspirational. If you feel like you're making mistakes with your design choices, remember that you're the only one judging, and the result just might turn out to be your best ever fashion or interior look. And if others love it too, that's just a bonus.

@wear\_the\_house





# MAXIMALISM THROUGH THE DECADES

Each decade of the twentieth century was dominated by a different design trend. Let's take a look at the common features of each trend so you can get a sense of which you might be most drawn to and where you could look for inspiration.

## 1920s AND 1930s FLAMBOYANT ART DECO

In the 1920s and 1930s, interior design was centred around glamour, flamboyance and sophistication – it was inspired by the Art Deco movement. When most people think of 1920s/1930s art deco interiors, they think of black and white, symmetry and clean lines. These were all common features, but there was also lots of colour – accents of bold colour within a simple scheme, leopard and zebra prints and many maximalist decorative touches, too.

@relovedmcr

### POPULAR TRENDS

- Lacquered wood
- Lush velvets and decadent silks
- Crystal, jade, chrome and glass
- Symmetrical design
- Geometric patterns
- Animal prints
- Oriental touches



Black



Soft pink



Green



Purple



Orange



## 1940s AND 1950s MID-CENTURY MODERN DESIGN

Pastel colours were a big thing during the 50s – baby pink, minty green, butter yellow and baby blue were all popular choices for kitchen and bathroom designs of the time. Pine wood panelling was a key trend on walls, as was bold damask wallpaper along with space age and atomic furniture shapes. Scandinavian style was also a big influence during this period. Mid-century has enjoyed a revival over the last few years, with people mixing in mid-century furniture into modern spaces.

### POPULAR TRENDS

- Pastels in kitchens and bathrooms
- Scandinavian style
- Space age/atomic age
- Functional and practical
- Dark woods like walnut, teak and mahogany
- New materials like aluminium and plastic



Pink

Mint green

Pale yellow

Pale blue

Turquoise

Navy blue





## 1960s

### THE SWINGING SIXTIES AND PSYCHEDELIA

In the 1960s, interiors really took their lead from the catwalks. Wallpapers burst into colour like springtime, with bright yellow and orange florals and repeated geometric designs reflecting the popular ideology of flower power. Look no further than the iconic Biba store in the 60s, filled with ornate mirrored furniture, opulent chaises, peacock feather lamps and oversized foliage. The 60s was also a time of space age home décor. Iconic 60s pieces such as egg chairs are still iconic today. New materials were introduced, such as leatherette on couches and plastic in furniture.

### POPULAR TRENDS

- Moroccan influences
- Space age sectional sofas
- Kidney-shape tables
- Reflective surfaces
- Chrome, glass, PVC
- Wallpaper – orange, brown and green



Green

Yellow

Gold

Electric blue

Neon pink

Neon orange



## 1970s FUNKY, TECHNICOLOR DISCO

When I think of 1970s interiors, the first picture that comes into my head is that of swirly orange and brown Technicolor wallpaper, shagpile carpets, macramé plant hangers and wood panelling. These were all very popular during this period – nature was a strong influence, and natural materials such as wood and exposed brickwork were common. 70s décor was pretty loud, eclectic and fun, with influences from disco and hippie culture making their way into interior schemes. Open-plan living also came into fashion, and a common goal was to let in as much natural light as possible.

@whinniewilliams

### POPULAR TRENDS

- Brown and orange wallpapers
- Teak wood furniture
- Stone fireplaces
- Crushed-velvet sofas
- Formica furniture
- Bright bohemian organic prints
- Carefree silhouettes



Gold



Avocado green



Orange



Brown



Red





## 1980s

### PASTEL PARADISE

I love 80s interior design and I have an entire interiors book collection dedicated to this decadent era. *Dallas* and *Dynasty* were the big TV shows of the time, and I coveted the extravagance of the interiors they portrayed: carpeted walls, mirrored ceilings, marble columns, and round beds draped in satin. And who could forget the most famous bedroom of them all, which belonged to Blanche Devereaux from *The Golden Girls*?

@the\_mot\_regency

### POPULAR TRENDS

- Memphis style
- Geometric shapes
- Graphic patterns
- Glass brick walls
- Pastel colours
- Foiled wallpapers
- Carpets in every room
- Tropical plants
- Lucite furniture
- Floral bedding



Lilac

Peach

Salmon pink

Baby blue

Gold

Black



## 1990s AND 2000s FIFTY SHADES OF BEIGE

Who can forget the damask wallpaper, stippled-effect walls and the frills and ruffles of the 90s home? The BBC programme *Changing Rooms* inspired us all to get creative in our interior spaces with various degrees of success – I remember trying to create suede-effect walls and rag-rolling paint effects, which were very popular in their day! The 90s also gave us zen minimalism – pared-back interiors that offered functionality and form over fuss.

@alizeslifestyle

### POPULAR TRENDS

- Zen minimalism
- Shabby chic/rustic farmhouse
- Damask wallpaper and fabrics
- Blonde wood/orange wood
- Ruffled/skirted beds/tables
- Paint effects: stippling, stenciling, sponge painting
- Wallpaper borders
- Sun and moon decor
- Dried flowers and pot pourri



Hunter green

Burgundy

French blue

Brown

Beige

Lilac







# INSPIRATION

*From  
Places &  
Things*



# PASSIONS & TRAVEL

**W**hat says more about us than our homes? Our interiors reflect our personalities: what we love, who we are, and also tell a story about our past. So, it's hugely important to let this shine through in what we display and how we accessorise our space; these things not only make us happy when we look at them, but they also help us to feel our most authentic self when at home.

We all have different passions, hobbies and collections, be it music, fashion, vintage items from a particular era or travel souvenirs. Whatever your passion, why keep your favourite items squirrelled away when they could enhance your living space and make your home more interesting? My office is a testament to this; my favourite shoes and bags are on display, along with an ever-expanding wig collection, colourful walls and storage solutions in pinks, oranges and leopard print.

I love changing my look, and wearing different-coloured wigs is a fun and easy way to switch up my style. I display my wigs on mannequin heads on floating shelves in my office. Some heads are also adorned with hats and necklaces to complement the wig's colour and style. Needless to say, it's a rather bonkers room: dog tooth-patterned walls, an array of colourful lampshades hung from the ceiling, my huge glittery upcycled desk and, of course, lots of pink.





I also display many of my interior and travel books in my office. They are there to give me inspiration as well as to complement the decor. I love sitting with a coffee in a quiet moment and pawing through them. The beautiful spines and glorious colours enhance the room, and they have been carefully chosen to pick up my key colours (black and white, pink and red). Looking at them makes me happy, so I wouldn't dream of hiding them away in a cupboard! I lie some books flat and display others upright, which creates a pleasing design and also makes them more accessible. Books are great for styling, and I use them in most rooms.

My mum told me that when she was at uni in the early 1970s, she had posters of pop stars plastered on her walls to cover the ugly flowery wallpaper in her bedsit. Unfortunately, she didn't save them, but I know many people do. Perhaps now is the moment to indulge your nostalgia and exhibit some of your most iconic posters. Alternatively, you could present your posters with other artwork on a gallery wall for an equally stunning effect. Here, Anna Straw has added posters from gigs along with an array of artwork and faux taxidermy in her wonderfully eclectic gallery wall.

**GALLERY WALLS ARE A FABULOUS WAY TO SHOWCASE ARTWORK, MEMENTOS, PHOTOS AND BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS. MAKE THEM PERSONAL AND THEY WILL ALWAYS BE A CONVERSATION STARTER.**

@annastrawinteriordesign





When it comes to styling up a room, it's a good idea to group similar items together, like a collection of pottery, books, jewellery or even shoes. Don't overthink it: start by placing a few different objects together and see how they look, then add more, take some away and move things around. I have been styling for years and I generally use this approach to get the desired result. A mistake a lot of people make when styling is to add lots of small objects, or objects of the same height or material. My top tip is to think of your surface as a zig zag rather than a straight line, adding your larger hero pieces first, then filling in with smaller items with different textures.



Another idea is to group objects by colour, like Jack D March has done here with his stunning collection of blue and white items. This approach creates such a high-impact space and the pop of yellow just makes the whole scheme sing!

### ***HOW MANY OF US KEEP LITTLE PIECES OF THE PAST STASHED AWAY IN DRAWERS AND BOXES?***

If I can't see something, then to me it doesn't exist – it's forgotten and unused. Best-case scenario, we glance at these hidden items occasionally; worst-case scenario, we forget about them entirely. Rail ticket stubs reminding us of a sentimental journey, gig posters of our favourite artists, ornate costume jewellery collected on our travels, ceramics handed down from a bygone age, a collection of embroidered linen – it all deserves to be admired.

But how can these accessories be used effectively? Won't they just look messy, like a heap of junk? Don't worry – it isn't difficult to successfully curate our collections in a cool and stylish way. We can play about with our accessories until we're satisfied with the effect – there is no time limit or pressure.

@jackdmarch





# Travelling For Inspiration

Travelling to different places and experiencing other cultures can have such a profound effect on your style and design choices. I always love to bring back a little trinket from the special places I have been to, and sometimes I take it further and use these places as inspiration for an entire room design.



## MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

In recent years, Morocco has held a huge fascination for me. It was the vibrant, bold colours, intricate patterned tiles and a myriad of textiles that first attracted my attention, coupled with the mystique of romantic riads, bustling souks, charismatic culture, and the great climate (300 sunny days a year). The light gives such a golden glow and photographers delight at how perfectly this complements the kaleidoscope of colours in the city. I felt that, too. The constantly changing light throughout the day alters the city's wonderful colour palette, generating dramatic light and shade, creating interest and fascinating anyone like me who lives and breathes colour. The idea of translating these colours into our interiors is a very exciting prospect; Marrakech shows us how unusual colour combinations can work together in surprisingly effective ways.

The natural tones of the buildings are simply stunning, and so reminiscent of the desert. From the ochre sandstone to the rich terracotta, the landscape is so evocative of *Arabian Nights*. I was swept away by the lush greens of the gardens, mini oases behind huge, crumbling wooden doors, the dazzling azure blue, turquoise, orange and yellow of the





glazed ceramics, mosaics and tiles, and the multicoloured opulent fabrics, silk babouche slippers and luxurious, deep-red woven rugs, all adding to the vibrancy of the place and giving me inspiration.

It's funny how my holidays tend to turn into research trips; I put this down to having a carefully trained 'interior-eye' that is unwittingly tuned in at all times, constantly vigilant and drawn to wonderful things. Marrakech didn't disappoint in this regard; it was wall to wall wonderful. It's a place you really have to visit and experience yourself to understand how its special mix of everything works so well. Chaotic markets and souks beguile you, and the medina is made for getting lost in, and don't be afraid to get lost – by doing so, you often find something even more magical off the beaten track.

Markets are my thing, and the stalls were like honey to a bee. The magnetic draw was just too much: beautiful hand-woven baskets, soft luxurious leather slippers, colourful purses, spectacular tassels, brass knockers and vibrant silks all vied for my attention. I was looking for anything I thought might fit into my suitcase and I could use at home, or in one of my projects.



Warm, terracotta-red buildings, garden greenery and the bluest sky ever make for a beautiful and powerful combination, as do the colours of the spice stalls, the carefully formed pyramids in saffron yellow, turmeric orange and rich nut browns. Never has the brown palette been so evocative! Not only is it a feast for the eyes but a delight for the nose, too. Just smelling those aromatic spices can transport you to far-off magical places. It really is an interior designer's paradise of colour and inspiration – dare I say, even for the minimalists.

We stayed in a riad that was right in the midst of the city's hubbub, but built around a beautiful garden, creating a tranquil oasis to relax in, which was the best of both worlds. The décor was stunning; exquisite tiles in the most glorious colours were fanned by the lush greenery of palms and banana plants. And the cerise-pink flowering bougainvillea arabesquing its way around the building contrasted beautifully with the bright blue of the splash pool tiles and the building's neutral façade.





It was interior inspiration and colour palette heaven, beautifully demonstrating how vibrant colours could work in harmony with each other, contrasted by neutral earthy tones and softened by foliage and flowers. Each arch in the city's amazing streets has been carved in the most exquisite symmetrical patterns – a feast for the eye by day, and even more evocative at dusk. Metal and wooden fretwork is visible in window shutters and screens, allowing the light to penetrate but keeping the intense sun at bay. It surrounds mirrors, adorns small tables and enfolds lights of all shapes and sizes. Designers across the world have adopted the elegance of wooden fretwork as screens, shutters and even radiator covers, all adding a little Eastern opulence to our living spaces. During a recent hotel bedroom transformation, I used fretwork panels as a backdrop to the lighting on my bedside tables to create interest and an opulent exotic Eastern vibe.

To me, Morocco is colour; when I shut my eyes and dream myself back there, I visualise the vibrancy of the kaleidoscopic colours, the warmth of the people and the climate, the pulsating spirit of life itself playing

out at Jemmaa el-Fnaa night market and in the beguiling souks. My mind also conjures images of the lush green of the trees and cacti in Majorella's gardens, and the surprise of vivid pops of yellow and orange against the most vivid blue buildings imaginable.

Marrakech was an exciting catalyst for new interior ideas for me, so much so that I decided to use some of this eclectic Moroccan influence to design the reception in my own home; I didn't hold back and commissioned a whole room mural, gold leafed all my door surrounds and bought a superb circular seat for the middle of the room. Looking up as you enter the space, you will see that the ceiling has not been neglected; I've added a beautiful bespoke sunburst mural and the most magnificent feather light. Mixing other elements and colours into the design kept the nod to Art Deco and the 21st century. This area delights visitors every time and has the ultimate "wow" factor. More importantly, it makes me happy when I come home to this warm and exotic welcome.

Marrakech is a wonderful source of inspiration for me, and it can be for you, too. It's a feast for the senses and you can transfer this experience into your own home.

@relovedmcr



## **PALM SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA – AN INSPIRATION TO ARTISTS AND DESIGNERS**

The Californian desert city of Palm Springs first became a playground for the rich and famous in the 1920s. But the allure it developed in the 1950s was even more significant – earning it a



permanent place on the map as a magnet for the glamorous art and design scene. Marilyn Monroe, Cary Grant, Frank Sinatra and Steve McQueen all owned houses there, which intensified its fame and attraction. And it was often described as the epicentre for mid-century modern design.

### ***WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THE 'PALM SPRINGS STYLE'?***

For almost a century, Palm Springs has shaped interior design; the sleek, colourful, chic but fun design style is not a new concept but rather an iconic decorating theme and architectural movement. It places an emphasis on fun and easy living and incorporates bold shapes and colours in order to create this unique style.

The relaxed retro vibe of Palm Springs is experiencing a renaissance. The tans and greys reminiscent





of yesteryear are being replaced with more vibrant colour palettes, introducing more pink, green, blue and yellow. The more conservative fan of the Palm Beach style will perhaps only add small pops of these colours through the use of vases, lamps, artwork and soft furnishings, whereas the brave will embrace the trend wholeheartedly, experimenting with brightly coloured furniture and textured and patterned wall coverings and murals for a striking effect.

***THERE IS NO NEED TO DITCH THE CLEAN, MODERN LINES, RETRO FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES IN ORDER TO EMBRACE PALM SPRINGS STYLE.***

Bright colours can work happily beside these elements – very often, they enhance them. Striking the right balance between natural and high tech, vintage and modern, is the key to interior design success, no matter what styles you are working with – experimentation is the key. Don't take it too seriously, play about with different furniture pieces and various colours and see what suits you and your space. We are all unique and want our home to reflect that.

As you might expect, palms will take centre stage for this style, and can appear in sumptuous fabrics for curtains and cushions, flamboyant palm print wall coverings, or as simple palms in floor-standing pots. We have seen this trend hit the UK and recently it has become very popular. Many of us have embraced palms with gusto, taking pleasure in bringing the natural world into our homes while nodding to the Palm Springs style.

The Palm Beach colours include beautiful, bright peachy flamingo and ocean blues, as well as citrus colours like lime and lemon; any and all colours that remind us of sunny beach holidays. The white or pastel background is still in vogue for some settings and works really well against these more vivid tones.



## THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL, BEVERLY HILLS

Sometimes called the West Coast Jungle, Los Angeles, and in particular Beverly Hills, has given us an aesthetic that has influenced designers worldwide. Hotels around the world have boldly showcased eye-catching designs and radiated beauty and elegance for hundreds of years, but only a select few have set the design dialogue alight and truly influenced interior decision making at the highest level; The Beverly Hills Hotel is the first that springs to mind.



The hotel's legendary lobby, enveloped in a striking Martinique banana leaf wallpaper, was a pioneering vision of architect Paul R Williams, and is still hugely popular today. This decadent design and use of colour inspired me to decorate my master bedroom in a similar style. Avalana Design created some wonderful leafy wallpaper that was perfect for the project and helped to get my creative design juices flowing. Stripes inspired by the hotel's pink and green lobby were a must-have too, but I chose a gentler candy colourway of pink and white for my ceiling.

Using the hotel as a starting point, I added elements of my own style to create the finished design. You can do this, too – don't try to copy an existing design to the letter, make sure you put your own mark on it and make it your own.

I take so much inspiration from retail spaces, hotels, bars and restaurants – the decor always seems to be grander, bigger, more glamorous, and more luxurious and I always wonder how I can achieve that look in smaller residential properties.

*When people mistake my house for a hotel, then I know I'm on the right track.*







# INSPIRATION

*From  
Influencers  
Past*



# MEET THE MAXIMALISTS

**H**istory is full of examples of people who adopt the 'more is more' approach in all aspects of their life: anti-minimalist Dorothy Draper, the flamboyant Elvis and Liberace, to name a few.

**I'M REALLY EXCITED TO INTRODUCE YOU TO SOME OF THE MAXIMALISTS WHO'VE HAD A SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON MY STYLE.**



## DOROTHY DRAPER

Dorothy Draper, American interior designer and the prima donna of the decorating business, wrote a column in *Good Housekeeping* magazine and decorated luxury hotels, restaurants, nightclubs, houses, apartments, stores and planes. Her designs were boundless.

As a designer, Dorothy was anti-minimalist. She also dismissed the idea that you needed specialist knowledge in order to refurbish your home. This was a popular misconception at the time, and made many people feel that they couldn't attempt to design and decorate their own homes, in their own styles, with their own colour choices. Dorothy advocated that all you needed was yourself and your own taste; she gave would-be home designers the permission to trust their own vision and forget about the antiquated, outdated rules that told them to leave it to the experts.

Dorothy didn't see the point of 'prescribed style' if it didn't make you happy. In her book, *Decorating Is Fun*, she laid out a set of principles (not rules), which sound remarkably rational today, but at the time were





considered rather radical. She advocated making a room comfortable, using unusual, beautiful pieces and decorating with bold, bright colours. Her belief was that your home should be your sanctuary – hosting your friends, and a colourful and comfortable shelter from the world and its troubles. Colours that invariably got Draper's seal of approval were cherry red, emerald green and turquoise blue; all vibrant colours that I love to use in my wardrobe and, in the case of the turquoise and emerald, in my interiors as well.

Her exuberant style was often referred to as 'modern baroque'. She was renowned for glamming up the classical with her own cheerful flair, using dramatic, vibrant and often clashing maximalist colour schemes in surprising, radical combinations (at the time), like aubergine and pink with a dash of acid-yellow chartreuse and a hint of turquoise blue.

Black and white were also a huge favourite of Dorothy's, finding its way onto walls in stripes and theatrical chequered floors. Dorothy loved glossy finishes, and pops of shiny gloss paint are being championed today to add contrast to paint palettes – a clear move away from the matt finishes of recent years. Beautiful monochrome floors are particularly timeless and are being used in bathrooms, kitchens and living areas to create a dramatic effect and providing an excellent contrast with wallpaper, paint or fabrics. Inspired by Dorothy, I have recently added a black and white chequerboard floor to my own kitchen and it has made such a difference to the overall look. Floors and ceilings should never be ignored and I love adding pattern and colour to these once-forgotten areas.





Dorothy introduced the world to her trademark and much-admired cabbage-rose chintz in the 1930s. A firm believer in mixing patterns, she often paired it with bold stripes. Today, large, bold floral wallpapers in the spirit of Hawaii, Brazil and Spain are often combined with beautiful, bold, clean stripes and are perfectly at home on the walls of today's maximalist interiors. Be warned: they are not for the faint-hearted as they do pack a punch.

Dorothy loved painting things shocking pink and hated beige, which struck a chord with me. I'm singing from that same hymn book, and loudly! My admiration for Dorothy Draper is rooted in the fact that she was a strong and courageous woman – a go-getter who had the courage to move away from the work of her predecessors, as well as her contemporaries who continued to design in the classic manner.

She was confident, and she had ideas that were ahead of her time – she wasn't afraid to push boundaries. People admired Draper's judgement because of her uncanny understanding of people, as well as her expertise in scale, proportion and colour and her knowledge of the pitfalls and pleasures of home decorating. In her heyday, she was the most famous and trusted decorator in the whole of the United States, and she remains a huge influence on today's interior designers.



Draper also believed that public spaces should radiate beauty and make people feel elevated. She loved designing spaces where the senses could look at, feel and absorb the meaning of a quality life. To achieve this, she used 'splashy', vibrant colour combinations in the restaurants and hotels she designed, along with elaborate and ornate plaster designs and mouldings, black and white chequered floors, and massive, impactful lacquered doors; all guaranteed to give the 'wow' factor. A pioneer of her age in the world of interior design, she was unafraid to disregard the staid 'period room' model that still dominated the style of the day, and instead introduced exciting new concepts. There was no stopping her.

Life is not simple. It can be difficult to balance all of our responsibilities, but it's still important to be fired up and excited by life. Dorothy understood that maximalism could fuel your passion and creativity and remind you of all the things that excite you and give you energy. Maximalism, in one form or another, has been with us for centuries. It hasn't always been at the forefront of popular interior design, as it was in Draper's day, or today, yet it has always been there, bubbling away and influencing the brave.





## BLANCHE DEVEREAUX

You might be surprised to learn that Blanche from the 1980s American sitcom *The Golden Girls* is one of my inspirations, but she quite honestly has the bedroom of my dreams. Since childhood, I have loved the glamour and opulence of her bedroom, and Blanche's bedroom was my first introduction to the magic of my favourite ever wallpaper – Martinique, the iconic banana leaf wallpaper that also adorns the walls of the utterly glamorous Beverly Hills Hotel bedrooms. Blanche uses it in the same way as the hotel, with the famous leaves cut out of the paper at the top to create an almost mural-like effect.

The quilted Martinique bedspread that the art department made for the show was so precious that the production designer took it home in between

seasons – the fabric was \$50 per metre, even back in 1985! It is opulent, glamorous, over the top and utterly fabulous, just like Blanche.

Blanche was also fond of a pink cocktail chair or two and had the most beautiful shell-like pink velvet chair in her famous bedroom, along with a decadent gold dressing table filled with the most luxurious lotions and potions. She was a real glamourpuss.

I'm totally channelling my inner Blanche with this collection I designed for Freemans – we have candy stripes, banana leaves and, of course, every boudoir deserves a glamorous pink velvet cocktail chair!



@freemans



## LIBERACE AND HIS FAMOUS MANSION

Between 1950 and 1970, Liberace was the highest-paid entertainer in the world, and his maximalist wardrobe and marble-clad mansion are a testament to that. Liberace designed his home, which sits near to the Las Vegas strip, as an homage to his love of excess and glitz – his walls were mirrored; Greek pillars, ornamental sconces and statues lined the hallways; and he even had a replica of the Sistine Chapel

painted on the ceiling of his master bedroom. Of course, each room featured one of his famous candelabras, strategically placed on top of a piano. And, of course, one chandelier was not enough for Liberace – his mansion boasted 21 sparkling chandeliers.

His love for dramatic, decadent interiors was also evident in the bathroom – it was home to a marble bathtub that reportedly cost over \$50,000, complete with golden swan taps



and another dramatic ceiling mural. I myself am partial to a bit of gold and love a gilded ceiling, floor or doorframe. I think gold adds a certain opulence to a room and I love the way it catches the light and gives everything a peachy warm glow. If you are not adventurous enough to gild a full wall or ceiling, pops of gold can be added in more subtle ways. Gold fixtures and fittings, like light switches and handles, look great and add a real sense of

luxury to any scheme, whether traditional or contemporary.

Unfortunately, after Liberace's death, the mansion became dilapidated and was eventually bought for the bargain price of £500,000 by Martin Ravenhill, an English businessman, who has spent millions restoring it back to its former glory. It's now open for private events and tours.





## JAYNE MANSFIELD'S PINK PALACE

Hollywood starlet Jayne Mansfield's famous pink palace was a sight to see. The exterior was entirely pink and it glittered in the Los Angeles sunshine. In its heyday in the 1950s, the mansion was filled with the most wonderfully opulent

decor and furniture, including a heart-shaped bath with pink marble surround and, of course, gold swan taps with a floor-to-ceiling pink shagpile carpet – the epitome of glamour at the time. Today, carpets in bathrooms are totally out of fashion (mainly for practical reasons) but I can't help loving the idea of getting out of the bath and stepping onto a luxuriously deep, fluffy carpet!

Jayne's office was a testament to the colour red – everything, including the desk, ceiling and walls, was fully covered in shiny red leather. I just love this bold approach to interior design – when people really go for it, they can create a truly show-stopping room. I love the idea of choosing a colour and basing everything in the room on that colour choice – you can really play around with textures, mixing matt and shiny wall surfaces and

various silks, cottons, leathers and velvets in the soft furnishings.

Jayne's back garden was equally magnificent. It had a heart-shaped swimming pool with the words 'I love you Jaynie' written in a mosaic of gold leaf tiles – how romantic! Even more romantic was the heart-shaped, mirrored headboard in the master bedroom, nestled in among more pink shagpile, Cupids and candles.

Speaking of Cupid, there was even a Cupid candle fountain that was designed to offer her guests champagne – the epitome of opulence! One of my favourite rooms was the living room, which was decorated in white and creams with heavy drapes and a white baby grand piano. Never one to shy away from colour, Jayne added the most delightful purple curved sofas with an array of cushions in teals and mustards – perfection!



Jayne decorated from the heart, and the themes of romance and love were showcased throughout her home with cherubs, candles and heart-shaped features like the bath. It was also designed to entertain and wow her guests, which is something I love to do in my own home – if the first thing that people say when they walk through the door is 'wow' then I know I must be doing something right.

## ELVIS PRESLEY'S GRACELAND

The cultural icon that is Elvis Presley, known as the king of rock and roll, bought the 13.5 acre property, lovingly named Graceland, in 1957. He lived there until his death in 1977, and it is now the second-most visited home in America after the White House – a far cry from the shack he was born in, in Tupelo, Mississippi.

Full of quirky items, and dominated by unusual colour schemes, the house's flamboyant décor was comparable to the stage costumes Elvis wore when he performed in Las Vegas shows. One of my particular favourites is the stunning black and yellow media room, complete with three TVs, monkey ornaments and an enormous number of cushions!

The music room screams decadent abundance, with its gold piano, opulent mirrors, gold floor-to-ceiling swagged curtains and elaborate furniture. In the 1960s, Elvis added the famous 'Jungle Room', featuring green shagpile carpet reminiscent of a lawn, but which also cleverly created a natural sound barrier. Boasting a built-in flagstone waterfall, the room was furnished



with plants, shiny lacquered furniture and ornaments, in a true tiki bar style; hence Elvis's fans nicknaming it 'The Jungle Room'. But to Elvis, it was simply 'The Den', and latterly it was used as a recording studio. I love the idea of a den – an emotional escape room filled with everything you love, that you can retreat

to when needed. The idea of the Jungle Room really inspires me when decorating. It makes me think, why hold back? I had the Jungle Room in mind when designing my tiki style beach hut for BBC *Interior Design Masters*, complete with bamboo cladding, bamboo bar and grass skirts hung from the ceiling!





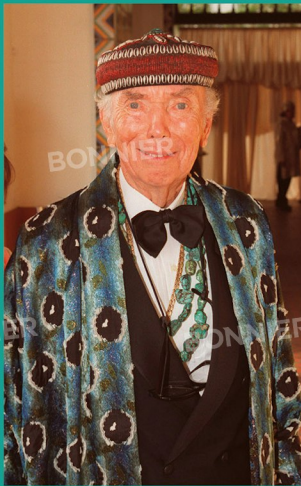
## TONY DUQUETTE

Born in Los Angeles during the Depression, American artist Tony Duquette specialised in design for stage and film. He was also renowned for his fantastical artwork, sculpture, jewellery, gardens and, of course, interiors. He was creative from a young age, influenced by his mother, a cellist, and his uncle, the business partner of William Morris, who founded the Arts and Crafts movement.

When people think of Duquette, they may think of a delightful mix of glistening chandeliers, folding screens, chequered floors and animal print – an eclectic combination of old and new. His sitting room at Dawnridge – flamboyant, unique and full of wondrous colour – is the essence of this. Duquette didn't care what others were doing. He vowed to always be true to himself and he never compromised. That's why his work was so exceptional – it was pure creativity, straight from his gut. He even abandoned clients who questioned his designs. His goal was always to create original and personal interiors, unique to the individual.

It's almost as if Duquette knew that unapologetic maximalism would be the next great epoch. He believed that people were yearning for colour and imaginative design, and today, many people are returning to Duquette's teachings and the philosophy of 'feeding the eyes as well as the soul'. It was the way Duquette put things together that showcased his true style. A man ahead of his time, he was bold and unafraid of reimagining even the most precious antique to work with his own designs. 'We aren't just making interiors; we are making environments for living,' he reportedly said, and how true it is.

Duquette has been such an inspiration for me – particularly his use of bold colours and the fact that he mixed antiques with thrift store finds to create the most decadent interiors. He understood the true importance of interiors and how they make us feel, and that's something I'm passionate about, too.





**GREAT DESIGN  
BEGINS WHEN INSPIRATION,  
IMAGINATION AND A WILLINGNESS  
TO EXPERIMENT COLLIDE...**

**THAT'S WHEN THE  
MAGIC  
HAPPENS**





# INSPIRATION

*From  
Today's  
Influencers*

# TODAY'S MAXIMALISTS

I'm in awe of people whose lives are full of creativity, passion for what they do and an air of eccentricity. I am inspired by creatives who are bold enough to try something new and out of the ordinary. Instagram has been a huge source of inspiration for me. It's given me the confidence to push boundaries in interior design. I have also made lots of wonderful new friends and have found a community who, like me, can appreciate a good cushion or a new wallpaper! I'd like to introduce you to a few inspirational people that I really admire.



## JONATHAN ADLER

Jonathan Adler is the interior king of all things eclectic, elegant and bold. He began his creative life as a potter, after being introduced to the pastime at the age of twelve whilst at a summer camp. Pottery is the centre of Jonathan's life even today – he has a pottery studio at the heart of his business in the SoHo building. He has gained many other titles during his career: home décor guru, top tier interior designer and talented artist, all of which fit him like a glove. His signature stores across the world are a testament to his creative success and business acumen.

Making groovy stuff for groovy and inspiring lifestyles is his goal. He shuns mediocracy and advocates that the things around us should reflect us at our most glamorous. I can relate to this ideology. It's exactly what I have sought to do in my home, which of course includes some of Jonathan's stunning pieces. Jonathan believes that everything you buy for your home should be carefully considered. It's important that you love each item, since they will hopefully grace your home for the long haul. He isn't telling us to spend a fortune, he is just encouraging us to be interesting and eclectic. This is his mantra, and it's one I wholeheartedly agree with. Combining different bold patterns is something I love to do in my home and wardrobe. I don't just throw things together, I take care to ensure that the overall look is perfected and balanced. This is something that Jonathan, as a maximalist, actively encourages. I am in good company.

Jonathan's playful home accessories are easily recognised – distinctive and uniquely Adler, with heaps of charm and character, there is something to enhance everyone's home. My Adler collection is pretty eclectic, ranging from striking black-and-white striped ceramic pieces and a beautiful snake design circular rug in my reception to eye-catching rocket-shaped drinks decanters, cushions and trinkets.





Would-be home designers can find plenty of inspiration by examining Adler's work at The Parker Springs Hotel in Palm Springs. Here, his inspired combining of glamorous fabrics, eccentric pottery and sculptures, furniture, artwork and magnificent lighting have truly transformed the space. Although contemporary, it still stays true to its 1950s and mid-century architecture – this is clear to see when looking at the stunning colours, the striking bespoke rugs, the elegant modern and mid-century style furniture, the vibrant lush upholstery and the soft furnishings. Every detail creates interest and makes the rooms sing; he describes one of the spaces as having 'cheeky, hedonistic luxury', and it is this glamorous and unconventional aesthetic that attracts visitors from all over the world. People flock to experience the cool restaurants and bars featuring a variety of styles and tastes, with brass and mirrors and luxurious velvet seat cushions, not to mention the eccentric two-metre iconic banana sculpture that graces the hotel's gardens. It's a feast for the eyes, both inside and out.

Jonathan declares that there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to interior design – a theme that runs through the heart of this book. His only stipulation is that being eccentric is important. So, what are Adler's own living spaces like?

Believing a strong sense of place is important, his former Greenwich NYC Duplex apartment is glamorous, eclectic, grand and formal. It's extremely playful, with a life-size gold giraffe and a large white ceramic poodle staring into a mirror – all quite surreal but very beautiful. A seriously wonderful decoupaged cabinet sits alongside modern items made by Adler and others. In contrast, his house on Long Island is more open, airy and rustic, reflecting the area where it's situated. Whether it's Adler's own living spaces, his design projects or his eclectic mix of high-street offerings, there are so many things to inspire us from this iconic designer.





## IRIS APFEL

'More is more and less is a bore.' Iris's famous quote is pretty much my daily mantra. The fashion maverick self-identifies as 'the world's oldest living teenager.' Iris encourages us to work out who we are, what we are and what we are comfortable with – because we are all unique. She advocates experimenting with fashion and working hard to attain the results we desire. Her success has been demonstrated by the longevity of her career as a fashion icon, which, incidentally, she says was not planned but was something that she just fell into.

Iris is an American businesswoman, interior designer and fashion icon. She was in business with her husband Carl for over 40 years; her textile-led career meant she was involved in lucrative contracts with the White House that spanned presidencies. She is one of the most dynamic personalities in the fashion, textiles and interior design worlds. She infuses her bold, colourful designs with her trademark wonder, humour and curiosity. This is what having your own style, and making your own fun, is all about.

### ***TO ME, IRIS IS A GENUINE FASHION ICON, WITH STYLE IN HER DNA.***

She meticulously curates what she wears, but she is unafraid of what people might say and this is what I admire about her. 'Be more like Iris,' I say, and that's what I try to do in both my fashion choices and in my home. I choose what I like, not what others expect me to choose – and the result is always unique.





Bright red lips, bold fashion choices and oversized glasses are Iris's signature style. She successfully combines designer pieces with charity shop finds – modern classics with vintage. I love that she mixes high-end, luxury couture pieces with jewellery she has picked up from the dollar store – the results are magical. When it comes to your home interiors, you can take inspiration from Iris and find your unique style with an eclectic mix of colours, furnishings and accessories.

Growing up in Queens, Iris was entertained as a child at her grandparents' house in Brooklyn. They let her play with bags brimming with brightly coloured fabric scraps, which made Iris's eyes pop with delight. The textures, patterns and colours of these scraps taught her to hone her creative eye and instilled a deep interest in fabric, but it wasn't until later in life that she became a famous style icon. When Iris was turned into a one-of-a-kind Barbie doll to coincide with the launch of her book, it was clear that she had achieved mainstream fame.

***IRIS'S AFFINITY FOR COLOUR, TEXTURE AND PATTERN WAS SEEDED AT A YOUNG AGE, BUT NOT TO WORRY IF THIS ISN'T YOU; THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!***



## SOPHIE COCHEVELOU

Sophie is an exciting young French artist, based in East London, who specialises in fashion, costume and jewellery design, as well as performance making. A graduate in both Performance Design and Practice, and French Literature and Drama, her artistic talent knows no bounds and her fantastical creations seek to explore the concept of 'wearable art'. She says that her inspiration comes from many different universes, performances and happenings, in theatre and fashion. When these inspirations are combined with her love of shiny things, bright colours and clashing prints, her work attains an interesting, playful vibe that appeals to her fans and the general public alike. She enjoys presenting her work in an outdoor setting, which creates a wonderful juxtaposition between ethereal nature and her playful creations. She is, quite literally, a walking, talking installation, which is so much more fun and interactive for her audience.

@sophiecochevelou



Sophie is equally at home developing and executing vibrant costumed performances and spending time in flea markets and charity shops, scouring obsessively for junk such as dolls and old-school toys. Sometimes, she even picks up discarded items found in the street. She uses these abandoned everyday objects in her colourful and diverse jewellery and costume art. Many of her costumes are made from materials other than fabric; she enjoys crossing boundaries and experiments with many different materials. She has created all sorts of outfits, from a dress made of brown paper carrier bags to a headpiece constructed out of salvaged Lego characters. Sophie's designs instantly bling up an outfit and make a statement, offering you an effortless way to perfect a look, who wants to blend in when they can stand out?







Recycling objects and giving them a new lease of life, and a different function, is one of her trademarks. The interactive nature of her performances is another – she likes to surprise her audience by inviting them to take her dress apart and rearrange it, even as she is wearing it. The Barbican Centre, Battersea Arts Centre, Brighton Fringe Festival and Camden People's Theatre are just some of the venues that Sophie has performed at, and she never fails to wow her audience.

There is a deeper, more thoughtful side to Sophie's designs. She uses toys as a way to evoke nostalgia and remembrance, since toys are a part of most people's earlier years, regardless of their origins. She reveals that her performance art seeks to 'explore women's bodies in post-modern society'; particularly how clothes can simultaneously glorify and objectify women. 'It is the paradox of powerfulness and fragility that the woman's body becomes the art,' she says.

Having said that, the observer is free to interpret Sophie's artistic creations in their own way and take from them what they will.

***THAT'S WHAT ART AND FASHION IS ALL ABOUT, ISN'T IT – IT'S FOREVER PUSHING BOUNDARIES.***

I am a big believer in mixing textures; consciously striving to make a regular outfit into a really luxe one. It's important to take care and plan, and to try different combinations; contrary to belief,

@sophiecochevelou

maximalists like me are never random. I'm certainly not an advocate of just throwing anything on. But I am keen on self-expression and I like to project my personality through my fashion and interiors; this is something that anyone can do.

With her bespoke creations, Sophie helps people to be creative and enables them to feel unique, original and different. Her jewellery is stunning – intricate, and so exacting, but also accessible; it's such fun wearing a piece from her collection – they are always showstoppers.



## MISTER FINCH

Mister Finch is a man that sews a mystical web. He's part modern-day hipster, part Victorian dandy and eccentric, whose obsession with the mysterious and the flora and fauna of the natural world rivals his 19th-century counterparts in terms of Darwinian flair. He delights us with his creations – stories and magic are sewn and woven into the creatures he creates, executed perfectly to the smallest detail. His boundless imagination has fashioned a fantastic other reality, which he has populated with foraged delights and shared with his loyal followers at his meticulously curated exhibitions, as



well as in his books. The process of sewing and making things is where he finds his release, but it's also incredibly important to him to recycle, reuse and reimagine objects. The lost, found or forgotten all have a place in what he makes, which is good for the environment from an ethical point of view, as well as the aesthetic he wants to achieve, since he values authenticity and charm.

Velvet curtains from an old hotel, a threadbare wedding dress, a vintage apron... all of these items are reimagined to become birds and beasts looking for new owners and new adventures.

**THESE  
STORYTELLING  
CREATURES ARE  
PERFECT FOR  
PEOPLE WHO FEEL  
A LITTLE LOST  
AND FORGOTTEN  
THEMSELVES.**





Mister Finch humanises the creatures that he makes, and turns them into stunning displays to bring life to home interiors. His animal creations have their own personalities and back stories, and each is immaculately dressed in incredible outfits that Mister Finch designs and makes himself. They are fantastically intricate – every detail has been thought through and the perfect items sourced for accessories.

Mister Finch finds British folklore to be 'beautifully rich' and he enjoys gleaning interesting facts to incorporate into his books. Being fascinated by flowers, insects and birds – in particular their behaviours and life cycles – allows him to create the most exquisite pieces for exhibition, to photograph for his books and also for sale. Furthermore, the fantasy of the creatures springing to life during the night and executing an almost humane, kind and helpful role helps fuel his imagination and his books' narratives.



The animals and creatures he creates all have a mysterious or magical element to them, like moon-gazing hares, shape-shifting witches and a smartly dressed devil ready to invite you to stray from the path, to name a few. Some of the creatures are not animalistic but still have intriguing lives of their own. His recent creations are called 'figments' and are made from household objects such as a candlestick holder or bottle of perfume.

Mister Finch brings all his creatures to life in his exhibitions, where he displays them in amazingly intricate and detailed bespoke furniture, such as cabinets, tables and shelving.

***ACCESSORIES LIKE MISTER FINCH'S CREATURES CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE ANY SPACE MORE INTERESTING, COMMANDING TO BE TALKED ABOUT AND ADMIRER.***

@misterfinchtiles

## PAULA SUTTON

Paula Sutton, AKA @hillhousevintage on Instagram, has had an amazing journey. She swapped a jet-setting life in fashion for a career as a lifestyle influencer, writer and blogger in the Norfolk countryside. Contributing to Paula's massive popularity has been her immense positivity; ask yourself, do you ever see Paula without a cheerful smile? Uplifting, colourful and happy are words that come to mind when viewing Paula and her social media account; joyous country living at its best.

@hillhousevintage



Whilst renovating her beautiful Georgian home, Hill House, she has created timeless design elegance by mixing antique, vintage and new – always with slow decorating and sustainability in mind. Tailoring her décor and designs to everyday family country living, Paula has also ensured that her choice of décor actually 'fits the house', something that is very important to her.

Not being a fan of the formal, dark Victorian flock wallpapers adorning the walls when she purchased her home, she sought advice and decided on a much softer, more traditional palette. A combination of the tried and trusted Farrow & Ball French Grey and Bone gave her the look she desired, and she lifted the feeling of her space with vibrant pink accessories. This enabled Paula to retain a homely, cosy ambience by playing with fun striped cushions and accessories in pinks, blue and white, and even including an abundance of colourful fresh flowers for another dimension.

Generally, we wouldn't equate Paula's style with full-blown maximalism, but she is rocking the cottagecore style, which has elements of maximalism in its chintzy fabrics, florals, and its pops

of stunning colour. Paula has demonstrated how we can elevate our spaces by adding elements of colour to contrast with neutral walls, using furniture and soft furnishings to their best advantage.





Although Paula uses some vibrant colours in her schemes, she is not a fan of jarring or jolting colours and prefers a gentle theme flowing from one room to the other. She achieves this by sticking to a cohesive colour scheme, giving a sense of peace in her home, which promotes happiness and contentment.

If you are seeking coffee table-styling inspiration, take a look at Paula's wonderful eclectic ideas – this is where I noticed her maximalist side coming into play. Beautiful ceramics, a chess



board, potpourri, books and flowers, domes containing foraged treasures, candles and fresh fruit all adorn one of her coffee tables, adding an abundance of interest and texture to the room. It makes for quite the talking point, and further adds small splashes of colour within her cohesive colour scheme. Simply stunning!

Pride of place in one of Paula's living areas is a fabulous pink sofa, with a beautiful backdrop of a gallery wall of mirrors, cleverly positioned to reflect other interesting things she has styled in the room and also bring the outside in. Carefully curated vintage pieces also help her to give this particular living space a sense of timelessness, whilst the plants and flowers help to generate the country ambience.

Paula has shown us how city dwellers can successfully and happily drop their fast-paced lives, changing their lifestyles completely in order to fully embrace and experience the total bliss of country life and living.

@hillhousevintage



*A freshly baked cake styled with some flowers picked from the garden will always delight.*



*Playing  
With*  
**COLOUR**





Using colour to transform a space is quick, easy and not too expensive – you could say it's the oldest trick in the book. Its transformative powers can alter the mood, form and even the shape of a room, visually manipulating it in an instant. I like to embrace the bold, bright colours that make my heart sing, and I want to show you how to do the same. So, hang on to your hats and get ready to throw yourself into a kaleidoscope of colour!



Have you ever heard a child say that their favourite colour is grey? No? But I bet you've heard them gush over rainbows and unicorns. Out of the mouths of babes – I rest my case. For centuries, colour has played a significant role in culture, religion, fashion and interiors throughout the world. I guarantee you've acquired quite a bit of knowledge about colour already, even if you aren't aware of it. You understand that our attention is firmly grabbed by warm colours like red, orange and yellow, and that they induce feelings of pleasure, cheerfulness and warmth. You also understand that we are soothed and calmed by the paler blues and greens – cooler colours that remind us of water and the natural world. But it might surprise you to know that our reaction to colour is entrenched in psychological effects, biological conditioning and cultural imprinting – well, who would have known? It seems a pretty complex concept, doesn't it?

I've said it before and I'll say it again: you don't need to stick to trends, just go with what appeals to you and makes you happy. When it comes to interior design, there is nothing quite like colour to reveal your personality. It's very potent. Be more like Claude Monet, who famously said, 'What I need most of all is colour, always, always.' It's a quote that resonates with any maximalist.

So, before we start playing with colour charts, let me share a few tips, and put some myths to bed. Just remember, there are no hard and fast rules; transforming your space should be a happy time!



@alizeslifestyle

## TONES OF SHADE

Each colour has many shades, tones and hues (or whatever you like to call them). Rather than using many different colour families, I'd suggest sticking to two main families as the best way to find harmony – believe me, this will give you tons of scope to get creative. For instance, just imagine how many shades fall under the 'blue' umbrella – aqua, azure, Byzantine, Capri, cornflower, cyan sky, denim, duck egg, indigo, iris, Majorelle, navy, midnight, Pacific, peacock, periwinkle, slate, teal, Twitter and Facebook blues, turquoise, violet... and there are many more. See what I mean? I've barely touched the tip of the blue iceberg. Another trick is to introduce a third, more neutral colour to tone down or calm the overall effect.

@allydowingsreynolds

## DARK COLOURS

Dark colours can be a bit daunting for the novice, since they are said to 'advance' and bring the walls in. The 'rule' that says dark colours can only be used in large spaces and rooms with high ceilings, because they make a small room look smaller, is nonsense! Don't believe it. Navy, charcoal or even black can be used successfully in smaller rooms. A darker colour is very cocooning and cosy and, if used on walls and ceilings, blurs the lines between them, so the dimensions of the room won't be an issue. The key is good lighting, and lots of it, in the shape of lamps and candles as well as natural light from windows (south-facing windows are ideal).



## LIGHT COLOURS

Paler, passive colours help the walls recede, creating a feeling of space and brightness that can evoke a lighter mood and a more relaxed ambience. You can add interest to pale rooms by way of patterns and textures in soft furnishings and accessories. White, on the other hand, can appear stark and even a bit clinical, so use this colour carefully. You could limit it to skirtings or coving, to give a clean outline to darker walls. You could also use white paint on the walls of a very small room that you will enrich with colourful soft furnishings and furniture, to ensure it is anything but boring.



## WARM AND COOL COLOURS

You probably know which colours are warm and which are cool, but do you know how to harness the full effect of these colours? Are you aware of how the position of a room and its natural light can affect them, too? A cool palette, like muted greens, soft greys, and blues, will give the illusion of space. They are receding colours and are best used in south- or west-facing rooms as they have the ability to help to tone down bright sunlight. Warmer colours like reds, pinks, oranges and yellows are more suited to north- and east-facing rooms where sunlight is limited; they are advancing colours that make for snug, cosy rooms. Do you know which way your rooms face? If not, it's time to find out. You can use the compass in Google Maps and stand in front of the window. Choose the window that provides the biggest source of natural light, if there's more than one.

@homewithisla



## COMBINING COLOURS

This comes down to personal taste and the mood you are trying to create in a space. Are you trying to create drama, or calm? Do you want to feel energised, or relaxed? It's best to examine different colour combinations before getting the tester pots out. Creating a mood board is a good idea, too.

Sometimes it's impossible not to be influenced by what others are doing, but try to go with your gut and choose colours, tones and hues that resonate with you, rather than being a slave to fashion and trends. Think about the colours of the items you already have in your room that will need integrating, too. Looking at colour from different perspectives might help you to focus on exactly what will be best for you and your spaces, and hopefully give you inspiration to try more and be bolder. Come on, then – let's delve into the colours that self-proclaimed maximalists like myself love to use in their homes and wardrobes!



## RED

Let's begin with red, the colour of lipstick, love and Louboutins. It's not just a colour, it's an attitude – a total attention grabber. What does the colour red conjure up for you? Is it desire, passion and love hearts, or is it 'danger' and 'stop'? Maybe it's a mixture? Red is the colour of life, the blood that courses through our veins like ever-flowing rivers; it can also give our wardrobe and space life, too.

When it comes to home interiors, using different tones of red – particularly the darker ones – can create an ambient, decadent atmosphere, especially in a dining room, drawing room or snug. I'm not talking vampire's lair vibes here, just a cocooning space with a depth of colour that relaxes our minds and bodies after a busy day.

Brighter, stimulating reds teamed with black, white or metallics can invigorate and raise excitement. They can also create a contemporary, dramatic statement. Red is indelibly linked with fresh fruits and vibrant veggies, so it can work particularly well in a kitchen. Red also has the clever ability to draw attention to a particular design element, allowing us to keep focus on an object or area. This is extremely helpful for interior designers when designing and styling a space for maximum impact.

Since red is a primary, happy colour, it's great for kids' playrooms; it's dramatic, energising and uplifting and can make kids feel alert. For this very reason, it's also perfect for a board room or office, or any place where decisions need to be made.

Red isn't for everyone, or every space, because it can provoke the strongest emotion of any colour. It can raise metabolic rate and blood pressure. Some people see it and think 'red flag' rather than 'red carpet', but not me. I love red and I have lots of red items in my wardrobe and in my home.

@bland\_design x @coatpaints







@annalyjacob

## YELLOW

Yellow is the colour of sunshine, sunsets, youth and positivity – it's a happy colour that makes you think of balmy summer days, giving us the feel-good factor. Additionally, yellow is a very versatile colour as it inspires different emotions with its different tones, making it perfect for most rooms. Pale, soft tones give a warm, cosy feeling, which can be very soothing and restful – perfect for nurseries, sitting rooms and dining areas. Brighter yellows create optimistic, sunny interiors that are welcoming, light and full of energy. They create a springtime vibe reminiscent of new life and the emergence of beautiful spring flowers.

@homewithsisi

Yellow's strong association with happy things and times has a powerful psychological effect. It's firmly embedded in childhood memories: daisies and buttercups, bees and bananas, cornfields and ice-cream lemon tops, sunshine and fluffy chicks. The massive re-emergence of yellow in fashion and interiors could be a response to the troubling political, economic and social period we currently find ourselves in – a way of saying 'no' to doom and gloom and 'yes' to positivity and optimism.

***BY CAREFULLY CHOOSING THE RIGHT SHADE OF YELLOW WE CAN BRIGHTEN OUR LIVES AND BOOST OUR CONFIDENCE.***

In the past, hope has been expressed by women tying yellow ribbons around trees when waiting for loved ones to return from conflict. If we look back to the years after World War II, we can see that vivid yellow, pink or bright blue kitchens were the must-haves of the day. It shows how people instinctively use colour to counteract negative emotions and create positive new ones. My grandma, Queenie, had the ultimate kitchen table in a bright acid-yellow Formica – at one point she teamed it with a yellow-fronted cabinet, too. Her kitchen was always a happy place, and when I think of it I can still smell the home-made scones baking.



Consider the recent resurgence of sumptuous mustard yellow in wallpaper, paint, furniture and soft furnishings; a magic colour that can tone down the most exuberant of maximalist interiors and warm up the blandest white room. Due to its clever powers, mustard is proving immensely popular; it can work successfully with most colour schemes, particularly the more subdued black, grey or navy, to bring an exciting burst of colour or an accent. It can also be injected into a bolder pink scheme for impact and contrast.

@annalysejacobs



Black and white chequered floors perfectly complement a mustard velvet sofa or floor-to-ceiling mustard curtains for a luxe look. Those of you with a more neutral palette of earthy colours are not to be left behind, either – mustard can be your 'go-to' choice to add a welcome sophisticated and contrasting focus.

Bolder individuals may enjoy adding a playful mustard wallpaper to a downstairs cloakroom or snug. This will surely create impact in a small space, and there are so many fabulous papers out there for you to choose from. If you are renovating your bathroom or shower, take the opportunity to explore Mexican mustard tiles, like Gold Arabesque by Milagros. They look amazing with bright blue paintwork, accessories and even a shower cubicle; this colour scheme will give you that exotic holiday feeling every day.



@michaelasharpdesign





## ORANGE

If autumn was a colour, surely it would be orange; all those vibrant pumpkins and spices, so cheerful and full of energy and warmth. When you think of orange, do you think of the burning embers of a fire; a warm, cosy feeling; or the smell of Christmas tangerines? Are you conjuring up memories of exotic travels and novice Buddhist monks in orange vestments, scurrying across the road to their religious temple lessons in Thailand and Laos? Or do you think of the citrus fruits of summer – fresh juices to quench your thirst; a bright, sun-drenched feeling; and the emergence of summer flowers? Marigolds, gerberas, begonias, flaming lilies... orange is such a happy colour.

### **WHO COULD NOT ENJOY THE UPBEAT VIBE OF ORANGE? IT'S FLAMBOYANT AND INTRODUCES FUN.**

Looking back to the 1970s flower power era, bold orange flowers were everywhere; there was no room for shrinking violets or wallflowers if you aspired to be fashionable in this decade! Big, bold, stylised flowers are making a comeback, so if you fancy injecting some retro chic into your home you could add some vintage wallpaper, pictures or cushions. Sourcing these items is pretty easy – you can find them online or at vintage fairs. Remember to mix and match from different eras to build up an interesting and eclectic look.



@homewithsisi

Vintage florals not your thing? Well, how about injecting colour with fabulous orange walls or paintwork instead? You just have to find the right tone. If you're looking for a paint colour for a relaxing space, choose a paler tone, but if it's vitality you are after the Pantone Tangerine Tango might be for you. Even the big names in electrical kitchen appliances have been brave enough to create appliances in this vibrant colour.

It's welcoming to know you don't need to team orange with the browns and beiges of the 70s any more. Instead, you can bring it firmly into this century by colour clashing it with pinks and reds, or turquoise and greens, for an absolutely stunning maximalist effect.





## PURPLE

Royal, creative and bold, purple is a decadent colour, rich in its depth and hue. Some call it the colour of kings, but purple is associated with a host of other things too, like magic and mystery, peace, wisdom and loyalty. For me, purple conjures up images of voluminous velvet wizard cloaks and magic, but I always did have a vivid imagination.

When it comes to jewellery, amethyst quartz stones are a favourite of mine. I love the violet subtlety and variety of colour; the Greek name 'Amethyst' means 'intoxicate', and I do believe that, when used cleverly in the home, purple can certainly do that. It is also said to dissolve negativity, dispel rage, help manage fear and anger, and act as a natural tranquilliser. Dark, saturated purples can have a cocooning effect, creating a comforting and relaxing vibe, whilst simultaneously making a rich and luxurious statement. This is especially true when they're used on walls, large pieces of furniture and curtains in a sitting room. Bedrooms decorated in darker shades of purple are bold but inviting, and help to promote sleep.

***PURPLE IS, QUITE LITERALLY, A BLEND OF PASSIONATE, LOUD RED AND PEACEFUL, CALMING BLUE; IT COMBINES WHAT IS MOST DESIRABLE ABOUT THE TWO COLOURS.***

The purple palette ranges from soft, subtle pastels, heathery mauves and pale lavenders, which are perfect for a restful nursery or bedroom, to bright, vibrant lilac and violet, which inject vitality into a space. Whatever your preference, they are all a match made in heaven for pinks. Pale lilac also works well with pastel yellows and greens, creating a spring-like vibe and a restful ambience, so it can work well in bedrooms and dining areas. When accessorising with lilac, choose large, bold accessories to ensure they don't get lost amid other colours. At the other end of the spectrum, deeper purples like grape, eggplant and wine are very dense, rich colours – think Farrow & Ball's Pelt, and Graham & Brown's Buddleia, both of which look stunning with bright orange, baby blue or dusky pink.

@therachelhendersonstudio







@instagramdesign

THE

## GREEN

Nature, hope, new life and beginnings, freshness, spring shoots and precious emeralds all spring to mind when ruminating on the colour green. There are so many shades to choose from: dark green brassicas, courgettes, sprouts and avocados, pale celery and crispy lettuce, peas and beans, grapes and kiwis – and there are many more greens inspired by the kitchen. The palette is a whole other ball game!

@annalysejacobs

***GREEN IS GENERALLY A SERENE COLOUR, BUT IN ITS DARKER SHADES IT CAN BE QUITE THEATRICAL.***

It's often used in elite clubs, since it complements the warmth of natural wood and adds a bit of Hollywood glamour – think floor-to-ceiling velvet drapes or fabulous emerald furniture.

Some cooler shades of green are extremely popular because they appear soft and neutral, making them versatile choices; but they can also present as rather cold, so they need to be coordinated with warmer colours to help lift them. Rich colours like violet, magenta and grape can do the trick and help to give a space more energy. These colours are just about opposite to pale green on the colour wheel.

For a bedroom or bathroom, combining pale green with white paintwork creates a fresh, clean look. Use white picture frames and white accessories against green walls and perhaps white or green-and-white striped bed linen, for a coordinated and calming effect.





## BLUE

Blue conjures up images of nature: fast-flowing rivers, warming lagoons, the ocean, the sky, the Mediterranean Sea and cold, icy landscapes. Close your eyes and think of something blue – what blue do you see? Is it the famous Tiffany Blue? The deep blue of a sapphire? Vibrant Moroccan turquoise? Or a dark and dusky navy? The spectrum is vast.

@amywilsoninteriors

Ancient Chinese dynasties, the Greeks in the Mediterranean and the Moors from North Africa have favoured this colour in all its tones, but particularly the more vibrant turquoise and sky blue. The mosaics and tiles that decorate the Alhambra in Granada, Spain, are testament to this.

Oxford Blue is a very popular midtone, shaded, twilight blue with a lavender undertone. It's highly versatile and can be brought to life by sunny yellow. Just picture the Oxford University scarf; very chic. Stunning patterned wallpapers, curtains and soft furnishing in these colours make for fresh yet cosy spaces.

**SCIENTISTS HAVE PROVED THAT BLUE HAS A SUBCONSCIOUSLY CALMING EFFECT, WHICH IS A GREAT BONUS.**

This makes it perfect for bedrooms, sitting rooms and any other rooms where we want to relax. When it comes to choosing a tone, think about the room's orientation, as light is very important. Try turquoise or a bright sky blue in a light-deprived north- or east-facing room and contrast it with warmer colours like peach or coral.





Cooler blues are better suited to a south- or west-facing room, where they will be warmed up by bright sunlight. You can also use soft furnishing in a variety of patterns and textures to achieve a more interesting, layered effect. You could use several shades of blue to add interest, but I would go for a wider palette and introduce other colours such as terracotta, corals, pinks and greens – particularly in the furnishings and all-important accessories.



Darker, inky shades of blue can be used to create cosy rooms, and can also feel quite mysterious. Gold accessories and luxurious, carefully planned lighting can create an opulent vibe. Abigail Anon showed me the advantages of 'going dark'. Although she usually advocates using dark colours that are more attuned to nature, her Bowery Blue is a very rich, dark blue shade which is brilliant for drawing attention. Farrow & Ball's wonderful Pitch Blue provides a great backdrop for showcasing our lovely accessories, furniture and art.

Clearly, blue is a very versatile colour. It doesn't make us 'blue' – quite the opposite, in fact. The more vibrant tones and hues can be incredibly uplifting, but blue can also have a calming effect. If blue is for you, gather some paint colour charts and get searching Instagram and Pinterest for inspiration.

@thebeigeblues





@wear\_the\_house

## WHITE

What does white make you imagine? Is it serenity; clean, pristine and pure things; soft, fluffy clouds or cotton balls; a feeling of calm; or marshmallows and meringues? Many people live in wall-to-wall white and love it, whilst others use it only as a complementary colour to make others pop. While white would never be a colour of choice for my walls, I do love a black-and-white stripe, and have extolled its virtues many times in this book. This said, white is still undoubtedly the most commonly used colour in interior design, particularly in bathrooms and areas that require pristine cleanliness. But, contrary to belief, successfully styling a room with white walls is not the easiest of feats.

White walls can be pretty daunting. White presents several questions and considerations; we need to think about how to prevent the space from looking boring, which colours work well with it and which tones of white to use. Some whites have warm yellow undertones and are much softer, others are crisp with a blue undertone, so it's vital to choose the right one. Again, your choice will be influenced by the light you have in the room and the vibe you are trying to establish; it isn't easy choosing the right shade, so take your time.

White has the ability to temper bolder shades, which is why it is often used on the woodwork in darker-painted rooms. White-painted skirtings and fireplaces



@mirinajariankhayat

accentuate black or slate walls a treat – a high contrast but a successful pairing.

## **DISPLAYING ART ON A WHITE BACKDROP WILL MAKE IT STAND OUT AND COMMAND ATTENTION.**

Beauty salons and clinics choose white because of its clean and pristine aesthetic. Traditionally, bathrooms were white rooms, with white sanitary wear – that is, until the kitschy-coloured suites hit the shops in the 1960s and 70s, when an explosion of colour was all the rage. Although sanitary wear has come full circle, and although white is the preferred colour once again, our taste in wall colours, tiles and accessories has evolved, giving us the opportunity to let our imagination run riot with these elements instead.





## BLACK

Dark and mysterious, and associated with death and danger, the connotations of black aren't exactly rosy, but it can be an extremely useful friend when it comes to décor. The great impressionist painter Matisse said 'black is a force' and Renoir mused, 'I've been forty years discovering that the queen of all colours was black.' Please don't spend 40 years thinking about black, like Renoir did – embrace black now.

@sallydoessassy

When it comes to fashion, black is regarded as a safe colour – a neutral – yet when it comes to interiors, people are still shocked when a whole room is painted black. That is, until they actually try it themselves and experience that inky depth that no other colour can create. When painting a room black, it suddenly becomes very glamorous, almost intoxicating. Making a statement and commanding attention with dramatic black decor isn't everyone's thing, but if you're on the fence, keep in mind that almost anything you put against chalky, deep matt black walls suddenly looks super chic and expensive. Artwork pops and accessories are highlighted; it gives such a decadent and atmospheric vibe.

***I DO THINK THAT EVERYONE  
COULD USE A LITTLE BLACK  
IN THEIR ROOMS – IT'S VERY  
STYLISH AND INTENSE.***

It also creates an anchoring effect, allowing the eyes to rest. If you aren't ready for black walls, black accessories, furniture or curtains could be the right move for you. If bold, blocked black isn't your thing, why not think about combining black with other colours, like white? Black-and-white stripes and dog tooth check can also knock your socks off, if it's 'wow' factor you are going for. These options aren't quite so anchoring, but very striking nonetheless.



If the dark side is beckoning and you are tempted to paint full walls or even a whole room, remember you will need to carefully accessorise and light your room to create the mood you visualise in your head. Mirrors placed near light sources like wall lights and table lamps are perfect for dark rooms, but also consider lamps of different heights – a beautiful floor lamp can illuminate a dark corner, creating another area that draws the eye from a space that might otherwise have been overlooked.

Matt or gloss? Now there's a question! When painting furniture or woodwork black, this dilemma will likely rear its head. Yes, gloss can be appealing because of its durability and chic look, yet matt black has its charm, too. Stylists usually prefer a mix of both to create interest in a room, so you shouldn't feel that you have to stick to one finish – in fact, it's best if you combine them. You'll likely want your walls to be matt, but there are many matt-type finishes to choose from.

You may be thinking 'what colours can I introduce alongside my black walls to give me a chic, glamorous look?' Black is so versatile, it complements just about every colour in most palettes and even the smallest sliver of black can instantly accentuate whatever tone it's paired with. However, depending on its undertones, black can be deemed either warm or cool, so this is something to consider when incorporating black into your scheme.

Combine black with lush emerald green for a rich, sophisticated 'wow' statement, or pale pinks or mauves that warm it up and create a striking yet calm vibe. I like to use black or black and white with a saturated hot pink, like cerise – a bold move you might want to try after seeing my office (you'll either love it or hate it, but either way, check it out!).

Navy paired with black is the height of sophistication and has an intense impact if it's a moody feel you're going for. Using different textures – a blue velvet sofa, a Moroccan rug or shiny, cobalt-blue Venetian glass accessories – helps to enhance the interest of a room, and carefully considered lighting will draw the eye to accent areas.

@sallydowsingreynolds

@sallydoessassy







## PINK

Flamingo, salmon, peach, Barbie, baby, fuchsia, rose, strawberry, bubblegum, hot pink, coral, magenta, cerise, blush, raspberry... I love them ALL. Pink is my happy colour and features heavily in both my wardrobe and home; my hair is sometimes pink, too.

In recent years, there has been an emergence of pink on the fashion runway. It's been a bit of an uphill struggle for pink to prove that it's a serious contender in the world of interiors, but today the future is looking distinctly rosier. There is a misconception that pink is a very 'girly' colour, and I agree – it was. But nowadays men are embracing it and loving it; luckily, colours are not so gender specific in the world of interiors today.

The juxtaposition of pinks is something to consider. On one hand, pale blush pink feels romantic yet subtle, nostalgic and even quite sophisticated, and perhaps more importantly, easier to live with and not overly feminine. On the other hand, a bold, in-your-face, lively cerise or magenta pink can create much more of a statement in your home – these colours sway more towards femininity, sexuality and strength. When choosing pinks, it's really important to have a clear idea of your end goal.

Are you a peachy pink lover or do you go for a pink with blue undertones? It is hugely important to know what type of pink you are working with because, generally speaking, peachy pinks coordinate with different colours to bluey pinks due to their differing base tones. Colour charts can help you to see how tones coordinate – even those from different colour palettes, which is why mood boarding can prove invaluable. It takes a bit of time, but you will see which tones sit happily together and this will influence your choice.

@sophiecochevelou

***IT'S NO SECRET THAT PINK IS MY FAVOURITE COLOUR. MY WORLD IS FILLED WITH PINK!***



Pink can be used as a neutral colour in its softer tones, and it can be more interesting than using a beige or magnolia. It can help furniture, art and accessories to really stand out, and it can also help to ground other colours, particularly charcoal greys, black and white; it can successfully keep a palette from becoming overwhelming.

Pinks cry out to be layered, so consider different textures of pink in your furnishings and accessories – pink leather and suede can give such a sophisticated look, whilst velvet is sumptuous and gives an air of richness when used in furnishings, bedding, throws, curtains and cushions. A pink fringe on a rug, the unexpected pile on a pink throw or curtain, or a shiny gloss on a pink ceramic piece can all add interest.

Some of the bolder pink tones like plaster and terracotta can look handsome in the right setting, particularly if they are cleverly combined with more masculine colours such as dark rich browns, greys or black.

Personally, I believe there is a place for pink in every room. Rich pink can warm cold spaces; in its paler hues it has an amazing ability to flatter, complement and temper other colours and it can create bold statements in its braver tones, particularly in halls and receptions. Pinks are emerging more in kitchens too, and I have embraced this wholeheartedly. A kitchen is a happy place – the heart of the home – so pink is perfect to reflect that.



The Gallery at Sketch  
Photo credit: Ryan and Robert



A top-down view of a pink surface covered with numerous small, multi-colored cylindrical sprinkles in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and white. The word 'BONNIER' is faintly repeated across the background.

**MY  
FAVOURITE  
COLOUR IS**

**RAINBOW  
SPRINKLES**



*Pattern*  
**& PRINT**



# DARE TO BE BOLD

**D**o patterns and prints fill you with dread? Don't worry! You might be surprised to hear that most people do feel a little trepidation at first. I'm going to talk you through how I, and others, have embraced patterns and prints, to help you feel more confident about giving them a go yourself.



# Let's Talk Stripes

Whether it's the clean lines of a monochrome stripe, muted pastels or bold rainbow colours, there's a stripe to suit everyone's taste. The diversity of stripes is huge: from subtle, narrow pinstripes to bold, broad, 'in your face' stripes. My wardrobe is testament to that; presently it boasts a beautifully bold, bespoke, black-and-white 'humbug-esque' striped jacket, as well as rainbow dresses in bright primary colours and beautiful pastels.

## HOW CAN A RAINBOW EVER BE WRONG?

If you're not quite ready to go 'full stripe', cheerful rainbow-coloured striped bags and accessories can be teamed with just about anything – they will jazz up a colour-blocked or patterned outfit to perfection.



Perhaps 'striping' a whole room might be too bold a move for some, but as with an outfit, you can opt for a pop of bold stripe or team it with a plain block colour for a stunning effect. On the other hand, you may want to take inspiration from me and go the whole hog and be extravagant. My hallway has stripes on the walls that extend up and over the curved ceiling. These definitely qualify as 'in your face' – dramatic, 16-inch-thick monochrome beauties set against gold-leaf doors, which make for a fabulous greeting as you walk through the front door. Timeless and classic – what better way to make a statement about your personality?

## THE HALLWAY IS THE ALL-IMPORTANT ENTRANCE TO YOUR HOME.

It can set the scene and mood for the rest of the house. In my hallway, I chose to pair my stripes with stunning gold-leaf doors and a couple of full-size resin swan lights for added drama. To me, accessorising a room is just like accessorising your outfits – it's all about adding a bit of glam and glitz.



## THE VERSATILITY OF STRIPES

One of the reasons stripes are so popular is because they can be combined with just about anything. For instance, checks and stripes can work well together, creating an agreeable, almost classic vibe. A striped shirt under a classic checked jacket has always made sense, so why not transfer this partnership to your home decor?

Be assured that all patterns work well with stripes, even in dramatic, clashing colour combinations, which can give a very pleasing effect. Don't be shy – experiment! Pair stripes with botanicals or florals for a super-cool look. Layering stripes on stripes on stripes for soft furnishings, particularly bedding, has proved very popular. The trick is not to match things – play about with mixing styles, colours and proportions to give your room the desired effect. This is where mood boards can come in handy.





## UNIFORM OR RANDOM?

This is your choice. I love bold, uniform stripes and I have used them in three areas of Chatelaine. A recent addition are the heavenly pink stripes on my bedroom ceiling, complementing the beautiful botanical wallpaper and giving a Hollywood ambience. Heavily influenced by a trip to The Beverly Hills Hotel on our honeymoon, I wanted to bring this beautiful extravagance to my bedroom. I think I have achieved a similar vibe, which not only looks luxurious but also creates an appropriately soft mood for a room where you want total relaxation.

A fabulous canopy effect has been achieved by my clever decorator, based on my design, to give the ultimate Beverly Hills effect. I have used the same Ralph Lauren pink-and-white candy stripe wallpaper in my dressing room, but this time on the walls. The pink-and-white stripe is clean, light and seasonless and can be used in various settings to create different effects. And, of course, I couldn't resist a 'dress like your home' moment with matching candy stripe pyjamas!





## HORIZONTAL, VERTICAL OR BOTH?

Not everyone has a large house and oodles of space, but putting a little thought into how vertical stripes can help you to create a clever illusion by redirecting our eyes.

We know that vertical stripes help to make low ceilings look higher, but they can also accentuate the ceiling height in a large room and, in so doing, emphasise the

spaciousness of the room, if that's the effect you are seeking to create. You can use these 'tricks' to your advantage when creating your space.

Horizontal stripes can also help to create the illusion of space in compact rooms as they can make a space appear wider. But I've discovered that there are NO hard and fast rules for using stripes. Mixing horizontal and vertical stripes works equally well; for example, vertical stripes on a bedroom wall combined with a horizontally striped headboard gel amazingly well and give a stunning, theatrical effect.



## STRIPY CEILINGS

If you want your room to ooze character and interest, try using stripes on the ceiling. It's a tried and tested trend which will make your ceiling feel higher and your space appear wider. Most importantly, it will give your room the 'wow' factor by drawing the eye and surprising your guests.

Despite being fabulous, striped ceilings aren't a simple job because they can be time-consuming to paint, and difficult to execute well for a good result. However, with the enormous array of fabulous striped wallpapers that are available today, anyone can get this effect with minimal effort.

You can also find striped wallpapers with amazing designs incorporated – the best of both worlds.

*This table has been lovingly upcycled by @doneupnorth*



## STRIPY FLOORS

Striped carpets, ceramic tiles and other flooring materials can elongate a room and create the illusion of a bigger space. The unique element that a striped floor can add to any room is not only a game changer, but also stripes can brighten up a child's bedroom and add an air of playfulness, whereas the sophistication of wide black-and-white stripes can coordinate, or indeed clash with, the décor of a contemporary living room. Rainbow flooring has become trendy and can add a quirky touch to rooms, as well as synchronising with the vogue for rainbow fashion.

# ANIMAL INSTINCTS



**T**he natural world is clearly a huge influence when it comes to colour and pattern, particularly in terms of the amazingly colourful creatures of land, sea and air. Today's fashion and décor incorporate animal prints galore, in a million and one different colour combinations. Some of these are true to nature and others stretch the boundaries to the limit with bright colour clashes.





Before they were a fashion statement, people wore animal skins as a symbol of power and status; some even believed that by wearing an animal skin, the animal's power was transferred to the wearer. Although this myth has been dispelled today, wearing animal print can give a luxe vibe, and it has a similar effect if it's used in the home.



Our love of a faux fur animal print rug or wallpaper is thanks to royalty, who started the trend for animal skin rugs and ermine collars to demonstrate social status.

In the 1930s, we began to see a rise in the demand for animal prints due to the influence of Tarzan, one of the biggest films on the big screen. The actors who played Tarzan and Jane wore animal print clothes that caught the eye and the imagination of the viewing public. Animal prints were seen as adventurous, exciting and attractive. Manufacturers saw a huge opportunity and there was an explosion of animal print garments on the high street: blouses, scarves and coats began to pop up everywhere. And this trend continued into fashionable homes of the day with animal print wallpapers and soft furnishings.

***IN MY VIEW,  
LEOPARD PRINT  
IS TIMELESS.***



The 40s saw Bettie Page, a fashionable pin-up model, wearing a leopard print mini dress, creating an upsurge in demand for animal prints in the fashion world. Perhaps, like their predecessors, women in the 40s felt empowered, fierce and rather risqué wearing animal prints and it likely wasn't an accident that this coincided with the early stages of the women's movement. Women were becoming bolder and brighter in their fashion choices, and this began to spill over into their interiors, too.

@sallydoessassy







Later, Dior – influenced by Mitzah Bricard and his obsession with leopard – brought out a new range of animal-inspired prints that quickly became statement, must-have pieces for every woman. Animal prints had evolved to become beautiful and chic. However, this was soon to give way to a more exotic, ‘out there’, wild and free hippie look in the 60s, where bold experimentation led to an explosion of new colours; there were no limits. Then, in the punk rock 70s, animal prints were everywhere from underwear to bell bottoms.

***I SEE ANIMAL PRINTS AS NEUTRALS – BOTH IN FASHION AND INTERIORS.***

Snakeskin was extremely popular in the 70s, but it’s never really gone out of style – it’s classic and neutral whilst also adding a bit of magic and pizzazz. Elle Decor referred to it as ‘evocative of jet-set glamour’ and, like many trends, it works for both clothing and interiors. Snake print can be found on luxurious wallpapers, fabrics and accessories, giving an expensive and sophisticated look, which is still in vogue with interior designers today.





Wild-cat prints such as tiger and leopard have always been popular, but domestic-animal prints have also become more prevalent; the common tabby has really come into its own. And a variety of surprising colourways are available these days, with designers getting creative – nothing is off limits. Designers Poodle & Blonde have created this fun poodle print wallpaper which I have used in a couple of design schemes for pet shops. It's also great for a fun dressing room like Jack D March's.

@jackdmarch



Transferring fashion trends to home interiors has resulted in the monochrome cow print becoming extremely popular for furniture and rugs. Iconic fashion houses Gucci and Dolce & Gabbana have made animal prints their signature, with a whole host of creatures celebrated in their ranges year after year – giraffes, zebras, tropical birds, and rainforest prints, too.

***FASHIONISTAS KNOW THAT ANIMAL PRINTS ARE STILL AS RELEVANT AS EVER.***

They're a wardrobe staple but they also make a statement and will never go out of fashion. Of course, this is also true of home interiors; a zebra rug, a leopard head vase or a snakeskin wallpaper can transform a space and transport you to exotic places. Expect palpable delight and compliments from visitors! Animal prints are an effective way





to induce a sense of adventure and glamour, but they have never been for the shy or faint-hearted; shrinking violets look away now! If you are up for the journey, buckle up and let animal prints rock your wardrobe and your home.

The bold throw an animal print on their floor to grab attention, but an imitation reindeer or cowhide can give a more subtle, neutral effect. A full-on zebra print in monochrome or vibrant colours will definitely be a talking point and could be a feature of a room. You can also partially conceal a rug under some furniture to make a slightly more subtle statement.

If you are confident, you can experiment with mixing and matching various animal prints

across your furniture, rugs and accessories, in the same way you might combine them when putting together an outfit. The monochrome zebra wallpaper I've used in the sitting room at Chatelaine has allowed me to play with colour in other areas, as you can see from the turquoise woodwork, pink sofas and chairs, and a variety of colourful accessories. Animals have reared their heads in playful pops of vibrant colour on my cushions – in some cases, the whole animal is part of the design, rather than just the skin pattern. My beautiful original Art Deco furniture and fire surround marry exceptionally well with the new pieces, ensuring the room is timeless whilst still drawing attention in all the right ways.





# Playing With Botanicals and Florals

Botanical design refers to the use of plants and plant-like features. As far as interiors are concerned, botanicals come in the guise of tropical leafy wallpapers and murals, natural raw wood, green-painted walls, and other nature-themed accessories. The shoots of this trend have grown at full speed, and we have welcomed botanicals into our interiors with open arms.

Reminiscent of The Beverly Hills Hotel and Hollywood, we have worked this vibe into our home in all sorts of different ways. My travels took me to Hollywood, and I simply fell in love with botanical interiors; I love the way the lush, leafy greens bring the outside in. Of course, with my passion for pink, it was a marriage made in heaven. Pink teamed with green botanicals really is the perfect combination.

A leafy wallpaper caught my eye, and soon it was to cover all my bedroom walls. Matching bedside lamps were a must to coordinate, as were the extravagant fringed cushions. At first, I added the pink with linen bedding and throws, and draped velvet curtains. However, like





everything in my house, things have evolved in the bedroom and it now has a candy-striped pink-and-white ceiling. Full-on maximalism, and so lush!

If you want to add a botanical touch without going all out, you could begin with changing your bedding or your headboard, or wallpapering just one feature wall. Botanical bedding can be picked up from supermarket chains and high-street shops inexpensively, so it's the perfect way to begin your botanical journey. You could leave the walls plain if you prefer, and add large floor-standing potted palms (real or faux) to create drama and soften the look.

A headboard is relatively cheap and easy to reupholster, and can make quite a statement without breaking the bank or being too challenging. Similarly, a large botanical wall hanging or a few botanical pictures can be equally effective against a plain white wall. Vintage plant and horticulture books often contain beautiful images that could be framed, too. There are also plenty of places that sell beautiful vintage reproduction wall hangings and prints.

The use of botanicals in interiors is far from a new concept. Botanicals and all things green and natural have been an obsession throughout history; it's a theme that has been visited time and time again. We have an innate desire to connect with nature and the outdoors, and we have been expressing this through our interior décor and architecture for thousands of years, creating indoor oases. Styling plants into my

interior designs is always a must, particularly as they soften some of the hard lines created by furniture. Ancient Egyptians had courtyards filled with greenery; they valued bringing nature indoors as much as we do. Luckily, these days, we can bring nature indoors relatively cheaply, whereas only wealthy Egyptians had the same privilege. The use of exotic palms, papyrus and lotus flowers is just as popular today as it was then. However, it was Gothic architecture that really set florals and botanicals up for success, and so the obsession continued into the present day. You only have to visit a stately home to see that botanicals have played a huge part in exteriors as well as interiors for a very long time.

*How fun are these extra-large botanical-inspired cushions by Daniel Bland!*



@bland\_design







# ACCESSORIES

*The  
Jewellery  
of the  
Home*





# THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCESSORISING

**F**ashion magazines have been talking about the incredible importance of accessorising clothes for decades, and we have embraced this wholeheartedly. As a result, the global fashion accessories market has grown at a phenomenal pace. We all know we can take an inexpensive, plain dress and style it with a superb piece of costume jewellery, a designer scarf, a belt or a sparkly collar to make it look a million dollars. Well, styling your home is just as important as styling an outfit!



Stylist Dolly, AKA @brokedirtyblonde on Instagram, spreads joy one outfit at a time. She's an advocate for the maximalist approach to accessorising and believes in wearing ALL the accessories, ALL the time. When it comes to interior styling, we can learn a lot from fashion in terms of layering and mixing things up.

**STYLING IS SIMPLY A MATTER OF SHOWCASING OUR UNIQUE PIECES IN THE BEST WAY POSSIBLE.**

The most captivating homes are those that are individual and don't follow trends and rules – those that burst with vision and personality. So lay your fears aside and be confident. This is where your personality is revealed, these are your choices, and I will help and encourage you to make them for yourself. Remember, style is all about attitude, so let's ramp ours up!

@brokedirtyblonde





## What is interior styling?

The term 'interior styling' is surrounded by an air of mystery. Often, it's used synonymously with the term 'interior design'. Yes, it's true that the focus of both the designer and the stylist is to create an exceptionally beautiful and captivating space; however, the stylist will concentrate on the end result rather than the making and construction of a space, which is generally the designer's remit. In my bedroom I've used Avalana botanical wallpaper and soft furnishings to create a Beverly Hills vibe.







In my opinion, giving a room the 'wow' factor through interior styling, and bringing everything together in a focused and considered way, is like putting the icing on the cake. It's the best stage in the whole process; it's what we have been waiting for! Your goal as a stylist is to chop and change the details until the most aesthetically pleasing space has been created (in your own style, of course).

Practicalities and comfort are certainly important and need careful consideration, but style should be at the forefront of your decision making. When all is said and done, finishing touches are the be all and end all for serious interior stylists; they can make or break a room.

Remember that styling a room can be a perpetual pastime and a long-term work in progress. There is no real end to the process, because you will be forever adding and removing different pieces to keep things fresh and interesting. Be prepared to enjoy the journey and don't try to sprint to the end! Live with what you've created for a while, and you'll get a clear sense of whether your styling is working. Take your time – there's no rush, no stopwatch pressuring you to reach a conclusion. Plus you know if you don't gel with it, you can easily change things around.

Your aim, as your own interior stylist, is to ensure that your home is picturesque from every conceivable angle. You want it to be

unique and to showcase your sense of style and what makes you you. It doesn't happen overnight, so don't panic! What you want to avoid is duplicating someone else's style. It's much more satisfying to see your own signature style develop. It will grow and contract with the natural ebb and flow of the process, and over time. Be prepared to be amazed at what you can achieve and to marvel at your own creativity.

By all means, take inspiration from other spaces (I usually have hundreds of idea giving Pinterest images saved to review) but don't copy them like a mirror image. Browse interior books, magazines and social media accounts, visit interiors exhibitions and shop the high street for inspiration. You can also find some exciting and imaginative ideas from the many interiors TV programmes available to view right now; their stimulation and motivation can be invaluable.

What I'm saying is, be individual, be you. With a little bit of help and a few tips and hacks, you'll be on your way to styling a beautiful space.

As soon as your room is decorated and furnished, it's time for the fun bit: styling your space. Whoopee, I hear you cry! I can guarantee that you'll be champing at the bit to bring in all your wonderful pieces and showcase them in your space. This will bring your room to life, making a house a home and creating a truly individual space.

Let's get started!



## GROUPIES OF GROUPING

Perhaps you already know I am not a fan of following rules, but generally the rule of three is used in interior styling for a very good reason. Styling objects in threes helps to create interest, rhythm and depth, particularly if the objects have various dimensions, textures and patterns. I often choose a lot more than three items to group together, but I'd suggest starting with three, then building up until you get the desired look.

Grouping items together does help to make a bigger statement. And it's not a new concept – it's the same classic principle that has been used successfully in writing and photography through the ages. Go with it – it clearly works!

There is also a bit of psychology behind using odd numbers. Odd numbers encourage your eyes to move around a group of objects, and subsequently, the room. Visual interest is created by this forced movement, so sets of three or five objects tend to be more memorable and appealing than even numbers. Ultimately, there is something more satisfying about seeing things in groups rather than in ones and twos. When your eye is drawn to beautiful objects, buy three or five, then group them together. Alternatively, look around at what you've already got; I'm a great advocate of using objects you've collected over the years.

As a stylist, you will be constantly thinking about balance. In some instances, one or two items could actually work, but remember the maxim that even numbers create symmetry, but odd numbers create interest. Which do you want to create?

In a nutshell, an odd number is more effective at capturing your gaze and therefore very important when styling your space.

Here are my top pointers for grouping items:

- Choose a set of three, five, seven or nine objects to create visual interest, but make sure you pay attention to dimensions; different heights, shapes and sizes work well together.
- Consider textures too; smooth, textured, glossy, matt... Include a nice mix to add interest – add in some metallics and you have a perfect combination.
- Consider the grouping of furniture. Two sofas facing each other will add symmetry to the room, three will create more of a cosy space.
- Remember, gallery walls also work well with an odd number of pieces.
- Group different patterns together in your space to add interest and encourage the eye to wander.
- Choose designs that share a common colour palette to create unity and flow; a common ratio of 60/30/10 for patterns is often used to guarantee that the patterns sit perfectly together and do not fight against each other.





Decorators talk about anchoring a room with furniture, soft furnishings and other objects.

Grouping objects tends to anchor them – creating structure. When you are styling a room, you don't want each piece to be battling for attention, shouting 'Look at me!' Your goal is for the room to work as a whole. Yes, some pieces might look good on their own, but integrating them with other items is generally the key to success. Anchoring a room properly creates a lasting unity and helps the space to be more visually accessible; this means ensuring there is always enough contrast between the different elements in a design to draw the eye of the onlooker.

Think of it as a composition of elements created to draw your attention through the room. Seeing the same colours, design patterns and shapes throughout a room gives it a cohesive aesthetic; just keep this in mind when you are standing back to check your own styling.

## VASES

English author and garden designer Vita Sackville-West was famous for her exuberant aristocratic lifestyle. She once said, 'A flowerless room is a soulless room, to my way of thinking; but even a solitary little vase of a living flower may redeem it.'

Vases are such useful and decorative objects that they are often at the top of a stylist's list of room accessories. There are so many different styles, colours, materials and textures and they can all elevate any room in a moment. From the antique to the modern, the classical to the quirky, we all have a place for at least one in every room. The variety of materials is immense: glass, metal, ceramic, porcelain or even wood. Versatility is the name of the game with vases, because you can display them just as they are or fill them with all manner of exciting things like beautiful blooms, tropical foliage and coloured pampas grass.

Personally, I love the huge floor-standing vases that draw your eye immediately. They can be filled with tropical palm leaves (faux or real), a swathe of pampas grass in a colour to coordinate or tall-stemmed flowers like lilies or gladioli, which make such a robust, eye-catching display. They can make a great first impression on visitors if positioned in the hallway, reception or sitting room. But if you want your stunning, over-sized vase to be practical as well as decorative you could use it in the hall as an umbrella stand.







An alternative use for a tall ceramic vase is as the base of a table: just turn it upside down and get a top cut to size, then attach it with strong adhesive. The tabletop could be painted in a colour to coordinate with the base and sealed for durability. This bespoke make will add style and functionality to your room.

Smaller vases can be displayed on a coffee table, on a stack of books, to give height. This works particularly well if you have statement pieces that you want to highlight. Windowsills, dining tables and fire surrounds are also popular spots for vases. Wherever you choose to place them, use the rule of three and find complementary objects to style alongside your vase, thinking about colour, texture and size.

A grouping of simple vases containing flowers is the perfect way to add lightness to a room and bring in a feeling of nature. They'll look great on a mantelpiece and the look can be changed as frequently as you change the flowers. Easter, summer, Halloween and Christmas themes can all be implemented with relative ease. You can change the mood of your vases by adding a few drops of food colouring to the water – a simple but effective little hack.

©helenagarciafp



*'The right lighting can set the mood and tone for the entire space, enhance the shape and size of the room, and create a magical interior.'*

### STYLING WITH LAMPS

Even back in the 1940s, the value of styling with lamps was widely recognised, and it remains as important as ever today. In my opinion, lighting is one of the most important factors when it comes to the success of a room, and one that is often neglected; time and again I've seen it tackled as an afterthought. Decisions concerning lighting should really take centre stage with other important choices such as selecting furniture and décor, because lighting goes that much further in terms of how it can affect our emotions. Lighting, it's said, can make or break a room.

Just because things are useful doesn't mean that they can't look good, too. Take a look at the huge variety of lamp bases and shades there are today – there's something to suit everyone's taste, and if you can't find one you love, there's an abundance of great tutorials on YouTube that can help you create your own design.



Recently, we have seen an emergence of animal bases, from mice and birds to monkeys and hares, as well as a multitude of wonderful shades in all manner of fabrics and patterns.

Getting the lighting right is crucial to the overall effect of a room, and not the easiest thing to achieve. Effective lighting can even increase productivity by creating the right mood. Brightening dingy, unappealing corners can make a room feel bigger, whilst playing down others can create cosy nooks.

The right lighting can enhance the colours of walls and soft furnishings, highlight interesting statement objects and illuminate wall art. All this can be created with a bit of careful thought and the perfect lights.





## **WHO DOESN'T LOVE AN OVERSIZED SWAN WALL LIGHT?**

When researching lighting, you'll see that it comes in three 'flavours': ambient, accent and task. A combination of these is called layered lighting, and most living spaces benefit from this. Most of us use our ambient or central ceiling lights very little as they can sometime appear a bit harsh and clinical, making everything appear flat. We generally rely more on the accent light from lamps and candles to provide lighting that illuminates certain areas of the room, or specific objects. Other areas are left unlit, which helps to create the atmosphere or ambience we desire; the contrast between light and dark makes a space feel more appealing. Personally, I use candles a great deal to supplement the light from lamps, adding another source of soft lighting.

## **LET'S MAKE OUR LAMPS WORK FOR US, AND THE ROOM.**

Lamps or accent lights can be placed on tables next to seating areas, sconce lights can be positioned on the walls, and tall lamps can be floor-standing, illuminating dark corners. My floor-standing feather lamps have been a fabulous addition to the sitting room, bedroom and landing – they create a lovely atmosphere. Placing an oversized lamp on the floor, in the corner next to a desk, is a clever idea; it creates a lovely statement piece in your room, brightening a corner, but it's also great for illuminating your work space. Some lamps do need to be practical as well as interesting and beautiful; we all need reading lamps or a light to illuminate a favourite piece of art.



But how many lamps do we actually need? What size do they need to be? Every room is different, and it really depends on how you use the space. In a sitting room, you're likely to carry out quite a few different activities, so you'll need different types of lighting – layered lighting. In a bedroom, the emphasis is on lamps as accent lights, except near the dressing table where we would need task lighting to put our makeup on or style our hair. When it comes to these tasks, poor lighting could spell disaster!

A common mistake is buying lamps that are too small; they're neither functional nor decorative and will never make a statement or give a room 'wow' factor. As a rule of thumb, 5-6 feet is a good height for a lamp; this measurement includes the height of the table or piece of furniture it's sitting on, as well as the base, and the shade. A lamp should also have some bulk about it, so it isn't apt to fall over easily, which can be a nuisance. Plus, it can be difficult to source a suitable shade for a flimsy base.

## BOOKS

Books are so widely celebrated that we even have a World Book Day! They are a great addition to any room and can be used in various ingenious ways to create interest. Who doesn't enjoy styling beautiful hardback coffee table books, then flipping through them whilst chilling with a cappuccino or a glass of wine? So many of these beautiful objects have colourful covers and spines. It would be a shame to hide them away.

When it comes to coffee table books, we really do judge a book by its cover! Some stylists prefer to remove the dust jackets from books, as what's underneath can sometimes work better. A jacketless book can have a cleaner, crisper look. And, more often than not, books come without dust jackets these days. So heed the wise words of Dr Seuss and 'fill your house with stacks of books, in all the crannies and all the nooks'. He's not wrong; carefully styled books will look amazing in any space.

Whether you are styling a coffee table, a single bookshelf or library-style shelving, you have the creative freedom to do what you like, but the following tips will help you to achieve successful styling.

- 1. Choose your books.** Begin by assessing what type of books you intend to use; are you choosing them for their aesthetics, because they fit with a theme or because they're based on your personal interest like interior design, fashion or travel?
- 2. Size matters.** If it's aesthetics that you're focusing on, choose covers that are visually interesting and not too small. You might want the stack to be sturdy enough to hold a beautiful personal object, a candle or perhaps a plant.
- 3. Aim high.** Your stack of books will give your display some height, so you can better showcase an interesting object and create visual drama. Layer them up!
- 4. Bare all.** Remove the covers if you prefer what's underneath.
- 5. Buy second hand.** Antique books can be beautiful and full of character, creating a talking point. Try mixing the old with the new; this can work really well to create layers of interest.
- 6. Get cosy.** Pair your books with other objects. You could try a decorative bowl, a scented candle, a neon sign, a beautiful plant or a shell from your travels.
- 7. Stack for style.** Books placed on a shelf or coffee table can create a platform for other home accessories. We advise you to use a stack of three with interesting spines and covers, perhaps in different sizes.
- 8. Turn around.** Colour-coded spines look very chic on a bookshelf, but some stylists prefer to turn books around, so that their pages are facing out. This creates a more neutral effect, and it can be quite the talking point!







## ORNAMENTS

Ornaments are as varied as their owners – they can be old, personal, sentimental and reminiscent of travels or people you've met. They can also be brand spanking new, something you picked up because it caught your eye or would coordinate with a particular room.

Ornaments and knick-knacks tend to migrate to our living rooms. They aren't all worthy of being displayed, but don't be hasty and throw them out if they aren't working; you might be able to reimagine them. I have two rather handsome leopards that started out silver but are now a lovely shade of turquoise and have found a perfect home in my reception room on the mantelpiece, against my exotic Avalana mural. Similarly, two large life-size poodles have changed their coats from white to fabulous lilac and are currently taking pride of place in my

reception. They're bonkers and I love them – they make a statement and are a talking point.

Ornaments are easy to transform in minutes; spray paint is your friend. Initially, an object has to have some appeal – this could be its shape or theme (I particularly like cats and dogs). Using an undercoat spray gives a good foundation for your colour – the little bit of extra time spent is worth it. Make sure you wear a mask, and ensure the room is ventilated, or spray outside. Two coats of colour will give you the best result. Personally, I use a matt paint, but gloss can work equally well; it depends which finish you prefer. *Et voilà!* You have a bespoke piece, ready to use when styling your room. Alternatively, you could gold leaf a dowdy object to bling it up and create the 'wow' factor. Perhaps a tad fiddlier, but with practice a rather professional finish can be achieved.





## FASCINATING OBJECTS, HEIRLOOMS AND SENTIMENTAL PIECES

We all own interesting objects that we have picked up on our travels and absolutely love. Wouldn't it be a crime to hide these treasures out of sight, in a cupboard gathering dust, when they could add interest to our spaces and bring us joy every time we look at them? Reminding ourselves of exciting past experiences is such a pleasure, and styling them into our homes makes our designs truly unique. In the same way we show off clothes or jewellery that hold wonderful memories of past trips, we should enjoy displaying our treasured objects, too. Guests will be charmed, and these objects will become a talking point. Not all items purchased on trips will make it into your home – we've all bought things 'in the moment' and then wondered why once we got home, but a carefully curated collection can be fabulous.

Many of our own items that have been passed down through the generations. Often, we really want to display these items but find it somewhat daunting, especially if our home is modern. Don't be afraid to layer heirlooms and modern pieces; I often pick up antique objects at car boot and antique sales, then display them alongside new items. Equally, beautiful heirloom items from my family sit perfectly with new pieces and are infinitely more appealing.

I display my collection of beautiful vintage ceramic orange and lemon bowls, jugs, plates and decorative objects in a bespoke 'cabinet de citrons' cabinet as you can see on the previous page.

@thepretentioushome



Anything can be art – a napkin, a drawing, a feather or a brooch. We can choose what we believe is art, and our decision will never be wrong. There are no limits, and we can display our art in all manner of different ways in our spaces. Some pieces, like paintings and drawings, will naturally lend themselves to being exhibited on the wall, whereas other pieces will be better displayed on surfaces or shelving. Pieces such as vintage ashtrays, decorative trays and plates – things that tell a story or are just visually pleasing to the eye – look particularly great on coffee tables.

Most living spaces would benefit from a piece of statement art; something that commands attention but doesn't overpower the space. It could be a stand-alone piece or the catalyst for an entire gallery wall; a work in progress that evolves over time. It all comes down to personal taste and available funds. One of the most visually exciting spaces have a mixture of artwork – vintage finds mixed with modern décor. If everything is brand new and shiny, I find it a tad boring, but as soon as you start to mix in objects that have lived a life and have a few scratches here and

*'Art washes  
away from  
the soul  
the dust of  
everyday life.'*

Picasso

there – a bit of patina – that's when things get interesting. A collection of old, worn books next to a modern acrylic sculpture or a beautiful old chair falling to bits with an exquisite throw draped over it looks fabulous.

Many of us enjoy a timeless gallery wall where we display our precious pieces of art (in odd numbers, remember!); a visual display of loveliness that is interesting, evokes emotions and delight. By mixing horizontals and verticals, and art of different dimensions in a variety of frames, you can create something that not only commands attention but also adds to the style of your room.



# Plants - Bringing the Outdoors In

A space automatically feels more relaxing when it contains real plants, as they tend to give a room positive energy. Plants not only add interest and vitality but can also promote healthy living as they can purify the air, so including them makes sense on several levels.

When it comes to plants, the choice is vast. Most will last a long time, and they are easy to pick up in a nursery, online, or at your local supermarket. Look out for trailing varieties – these are particularly popular with stylists because they create the illusion of softening hard lines and surfaces. Real lush palms of all sizes look amazing and create a tropical or Beverly Hills vibe. They thrive in most rooms, but they particularly love

a bathroom where the air is moist. Good faux palms can also look attractive and require little to no maintenance; a quick once-over with a feather duster and they are good to go. I often move my plants into different positions or into different rooms to create a variety of moods.

I was going to title this section 'greenery', and generally plants are green, but there are some very interesting exceptions out there that could add warmth and colour to your room. Having a penchant for pink, I particularly like the tradescantia, which has beautiful baby-pink leaves and can also be variegated pink and green. There is something about bringing plants into your space that makes it much more comfortable and cosy, don't you think?

You don't need to be a gardening expert to keep a few house plants alive; just do your research about where in a room they thrive best and how often you need to feed and water them. Honestly, it's not rocket science, although I must admit one or two have met their demise in my home, either through sheer neglect or overwatering; but please don't be put off! If your busy life doesn't lend itself to caring for real plants (perhaps you travel a lot) or you just don't need the extra work, don't feel guilty about sticking with faux plants. My house is home to several real plants in the kitchen, sitting room and bathroom, but also has many faux ones too; a combination is perfect.

@hotelmetroptolevenezia





# Mood Boarding & SOURCING



# MOOD BOARDING

So, you want to decorate a room but don't know where to start? I often find that a mood board is the answer – this valuable design tool helps us to explore possibilities and ideas before firming up our final choices. Filling a page with wallpaper, paint samples, fabric swatches, magazine clips and photos helps us to see how our ideas work together and determine the direction we want to go in; it is also a practical way to minimise mistakes. The process is amazingly therapeutic and exciting. I love it!

When teaching mood board classes, I encourage participants to bring in any items that inspire them, whether for their colour, pattern or texture. This could be a ballet shoe in plaster pink, a shell, a piece of driftwood or a colourful postcard. Remember not to limit yourself to interiors when hunting for inspiration: turn to nature, food, places, architecture and anything else that inspires you, to help evolve your ideas. You can collect photos on your phone, save them on Pinterest or print them out in colour. You don't need oodles of resources, or to be any kind of artist, you just need to be prepared. Specifically, you will need some paper,

perhaps a flat piece of card, a pencil or pen, maybe a few crayons and a paint brush.

Once you've gathered everything you might use in one place, you can play about placing things on your board. There is no right or wrong way to do this – experimenting is the only way, and it's fun, too! I often advise people to use paint samples directly on the board, to create a background colour, or paint small tiles of colour. You might prefer to stick branded paint colour cards onto your board, and that works equally well. Some mood boards will be totally covered, whilst others might be more reserved, with fewer items – both approaches are fine. One person's board might hold pictures of furniture, accessories or even a room decorated in a similar style, whilst other boards will concentrate on a single colour and mood. You might want to add some text – perhaps the name of a paint colour, or an instruction on how to incorporate an idea. Do what feels right for you.







I always end up with far too many images, swatches and colours, and I invariably deviate from my original idea; remember, it's a process and a journey. If you end up in a different place than you were expecting, that's a good thing, because you have honed your ideas, been inspired by your research, and now you have a mood board that you love. You can create several boards, then decide on your preference later. You can also edit them as you go – nothing is set in stone.

Another way to see if your ideas will work is to create a sketch of how you want your room to look; sometimes I create a sketch alongside my initial mood boards, usually for myself, but sometimes to share with clients. The sketches on these pages were created for me by @behindcanvas, and the attention to detail is just stunning. Some people have a talent for this and you shouldn't be afraid to enlist their help – I do!

If you want to take your ideas further, a professional render or 3D model would be the next step. These are particularly useful when designing spaces such as kitchens and bathrooms where fixtures and furniture are usually fixed and it's super important to get the planning spot on.

## MOTIVATING MOOD-BOARDING CHECKLIST (NON-DIGITAL)

- Get a cup of coffee/glass of wine, find a quiet space, and relax.
- Think about the style or theme you want for your space – this could be colours, mood, an era, or even an object that you want to work around. They don't have to be exclusive; you can work them into one board or, if you prefer, have several boards. Sometimes jotting down words on a spider diagram or list can help, and you can add words or phrases to your board.
- Gather everything together, including your tools. There'll likely be too much, but that's a good thing – don't worry! Spread everything out if you can, as this will give you a better overview.
- Begin placing items onto your base – I usually start with colour combinations painted on the board in tiles, adding in images of those colours from different sources, then images of furniture and accessories. There's no right or wrong way to mood board – everybody will have a different technique, and it's perfectly OK to swap items in and out as you work through the process.
- When you are happy, secure everything in place on your board. *Voilà!* Now you have a tangible visual reference to take you forwards on your design journey.







# SOURCING YOUR INTERIOR TREASURES

I have loved shopping since I was a child. It's a trait inherited from Jean, my granny, who is the keenest browser and shopper I have ever known. There's nothing more satisfying than a day of joyful rummaging and perceptive perusing, followed by the joy of examining your haul when you get home.

Sometimes I don't have a particular item in mind when I embark on a shopping trip, and end up buying something beautiful or interesting, with no clear idea of where it will go in my house. At other times I have a list, but even then, there is usually some deviation. I can get wildly distracted by a stunning object, especially if I can visualise where it might go in my home, or how it might fit into a project I'm working on. It can be a 'eureka moment', which makes the pulse race – even better if it's for a bargain price.

But where to shop? Many people ask me where I shop, and I am more than happy to share my sources. Mostly I use a variety of high-street and online retailers for new items, but I'm not averse to a charity shop find and, of course, bespoke pieces from small businesses. Supporting the small-business community is a passion of mine.



@jonathanscottinteriors

## THE HIGH STREET

High-street shopping is still a joy for me, despite the rise in online shopping over the last few years. I love to be outside, looking in shop windows and physically going in and out of shops. I welcome the push towards supporting these shops and I'm rarely disappointed in what they have to offer. Mostly you'll find a different type of friendly customer experience, with people who know their product inside out.

## SUPERMARKET KNOCKOUTS

The big supermarkets have raised their game in the fashion and homeware arenas, and the strong growth in this market is set to increase further over the coming years. Competition is fierce, which keeps prices at a reasonable level. I like to mix and match gorgeous supermarket homeware with high-end items and vintage pieces.

## INDEPENDENT BRANDS

There are so many wonderful independent brands. I could fill a dozen pages listing them all, so I suggest you do some research on Instagram! Many offer both off-the-shelf products and bespoke services. One of the many things I relish about buying from a small business is knowing that products have been made with love, and that I am supporting someone else's dream. Buying bespoke and handmade goods also means you aren't going to see hundreds of them everywhere. Every time you buy independent, someone does a happy dance!

## ONLINE SHOPPING

In the UK we have access to lots of online channels offering everything from furniture and lighting to flooring and wallpaper. Who wants the hassle of collecting items from a high-street store, where parking is limited and expensive? Online, there's no sales pressure, no crowds, and price comparisons are easy. Being a 'people person', I love interacting with others, plus I'm very tactile and like touching and feeling objects and fabrics. All of this is lost with online shopping, so consider the pros and cons to assess which is best for you. I find a mixture of both suits me fine.

My high-street favourites:

- HomeSense
- Next
- Zara Home
- Anthropologie
- Matalan
- Oliver Bonas
- Dunelm

My supermarket favourites:

- George at Asda
- Sainsbury's
- Waitrose
- Tesco
- Marks & Spencer

My independent favourites:

- Avalana Design
- Emma J Shipley
- The House of Beau
- Coldharbour Lights
- Wendy Morrison Design
- Marcie K Designs
- Bland Design Ltd
- Dowsing & Reynolds

My online favourites:

- eBay
- Rockett St George
- Freemans
- Audenza
- Amazon
- Wayfair
- MADE.com
- AMARA



## RECYCLING AND REPURPOSING

Although I change my wardrobe and my interiors quite often, I sell the items I want to discard, or take them to a charity shop – nothing goes to landfill. We all want to do our bit towards saving the planet, so upcycling can be very satisfying. Check out Done up North, Micaela Sharp Design or Marcie K Designs for great furniture projects to give you an idea of the miracles that can be performed. Vintage furniture can be picked up quite cheaply at second-hand shops, on Freecycle, Gumtree, and at charity shops and auctions. Local charity shops often have sales on – you could pick up a fashion item or some kitsch homeware pieces for next to nothing. Don't be shy about haggling a little, particularly if you are purchasing several items – it's expected, and it isn't rude.

## TREASURE SEEKING ABROAD

Wherever I am in the world, I will always seek out a market – the sights, the smells, the trash and the treasure, all are alluring to me. Markets tell me a story about a place, and there's always something interesting to see, touch, smell or eat. Whether it's a gentle sunny stroll in La Braderie in Lille or the hustle and bustle of a Bangkok night market, I just can't get enough! Sometimes I even plan my trips around my favourites.

## SHOP YOUR HOME

One of the things I really love to do is to 'shop my home'. What this means is spending a few hours moving things around the house to give a different look and feel. My mum calls this 'faffing'. But who doesn't love a bit of that? Sometimes I strip an entire room and then put the items back in a different arrangement, or swap out furniture and accessories from other rooms, creating new and different styling vignettes. It's a great way to refresh without spending a penny. Take photographs of the before and after to see how your transformation has panned out; you can give a room a whole new feel with this simple, fun technique.

My charity shop and second-hand favourites:

- Oxfam
- eBay
- British Heart Foundation
- Sue Ryder
- Tip/refuse shops
- Vintage/junk shops
- Salvage yards
- Gumtree and Freecycle
- Facebook Marketplace
- Car boot sales
- Skips... but remember to always ask permission

My favourite markets:

- UK – Newark; Arthur Swallow Fairs; Portobello Road, London; Spitalfields Market
- France – Braderie, Lille; Saint-Ouen, Paris
- Thailand – Chatuchak Market, Bangkok; night markets in Chiang Mai and Hua Hin
- Central market Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- Los Angeles – Melrose Trading Post, thrift stores (I like Goodwill and Out of the Closet) and designer consignment stores on Melrose



## IMAGE CREDITS

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