

INSIDE TODAY

WEST COUNTRY

# Together

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'The floor on our brand new house is falling apart!' *page 9*

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What can you buy for \$1 million around the world? *page 7*

# Property

**25**  
cheap and easy  
tips for a spring  
home refresh

Bring a breath of fresh air to your interiors with colour and style.  
*By Jessica Salter*

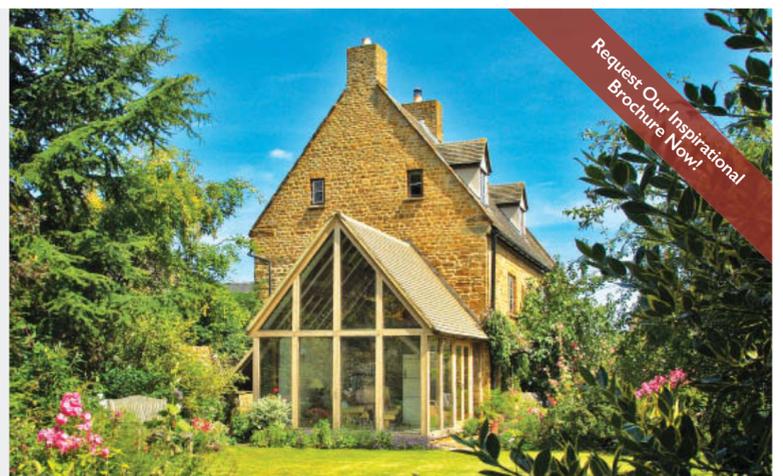
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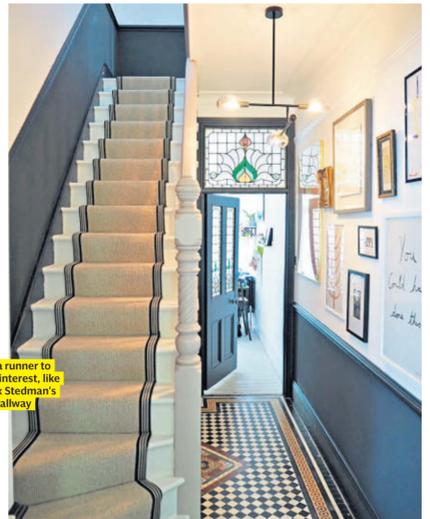


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Add a runner to create interest, like in Alex Stedman's hallway

**HALLWAY REFURB**

**14 SHADERUNNER**  
A stair runner can instantly smarten the hallway, but it can be pricey, especially if your stairs are a complex shape. Alex Stedman, founder of interiors blog The Frugality, says she has discovered a hack to save money. "We bought carpet remnants for our straight narrow runner in our last flat and it came in under £300, including taping and fitting. But in our current home we have a turn in the stairs and we were quoted £7,000 for a weave with a stripe in it. We went for a classic wool runner and managed to find stripe taping instead."

**15 THE OLD WAYS ARE THE BEST WAYS**  
If your hallway is looking a bit tired, consider cladding it with wood instead of repainting it. "It takes about the same amount of time and gives quite a dramatic finish," says Justin Salisbury, co-founder of the hotel chain Artist Residence. "We have a dog, a cat and a four-year-old, so wood is especially good in a high traffic area like the hall, as it's more durable than just paint alone."

**16 LEAN ON ME**  
Interior designer Rebecca Richwhite suggests using ledges to create an ever-changing display of curios. "I like to use ledges casually, almost like mood or pin boards, for prints, recently bought books, material samples, tear sheets and fabric swatches."

**UPDATE YOUR LIGHTING**

**17 LIGHT IT UP**  
Lighting is often overlooked but makes a huge difference to the ambience of a room. Fitting a dimmer instantly helps, as does "changing all your light bulbs to a warm glow, ideally something like a 2400k warm white bulb," according to interior designer Eliaz Namaki. Meanwhile, designer Natalia Miyar suggests going for "non-directional lighting, such as a corner floor lamp or additional table lamp, rather than overheads."

**18 MAKE SURE IT MATCHES**  
If you're installing a wall lamp, "swap out a black cable for a white one (to match the walls) or vice versa if you have a dark room," says Brantmark. "Always take a few extra seconds to tuck the cable to the wall so that it runs in a straight line."



Brass wall light £52, ARBOL (arbolhouse.com)

Pineapple lamp £65, (frenchbedroom.com)



A living room with non-directional lighting designed by Natalia Miyar

**MIX IT UP WITH PAINT**

**19 GET REFRESHED**  
One update that may sound extreme, but is eye-catching and effective is to paint the ceiling in a contrasting colour. "A deeper tone acts as a foil for the lighter one on the walls," says Ruth Mottershead, marketing director at Little Greene and Paint & Paper Library. "This works especially well in high-ceilinged rooms. It makes them seem more intimate, less lofty, and

introduces a stylish touch while increasing their cosiness factor."



**20 COMPLETELY FLOORED**  
If not the ceiling, then you can always update the floor, as Tom Corbett-Winder, founder of the renovation company Blockhouse Build, did recently. "After a very wet winter, the pine flooring in our kitchen made the room feel very dark, so we painted it French Grey by Farrow & Ball [inset left] and it has completely lifted the space."



Painted ceilings by Little Greene and Paint & Paper Library



**BRIGHTEN BEDROOMS**

**21 CHANGE IT UP**  
Tailor your fabrics to the season. "I turn velvet bed throws over, showing the plain linen reverse or replace heavier woollen throws with lighter, more delicate kantha quilts," says Suzie de Rohan Willner, the boss of Toast. "Likewise, I swap velvet cushion covers for cotton."

**22 FILL IN THE GAPS**  
If a teenager's bedroom has holes in the walls, refill before you paint to give it a professional finish. Jason Orme, property expert for the Homebuilding & Renovating Show, says it's an easy fix. "You first need to clean off the surface around the hole by vacuuming it to remove the dust, then you apply a small amount of filler with a painting knife smoothly on to the wall, fill it in, scrape it and leave it to dry, so it can then be sanded down as a final step."

**23 ADD HEIGHT**  
The height of your curtains can help make the room feel larger. "It's a common misconception that curtains can make the room feel smaller, but, if you hang your curtains higher, it can create the illusion of a larger window," says Sue



Room divider £199, Cuckooland (cuckooland.com)



Velvet cushion covers £45, Toast (toast.co.uk)

Brodie, head of creative design at holiday home company Willeby.

**24 HIDE IT AWAY**  
Fed up of open plan and want more privacy? "Folding screens will allow you to reinvent your interior - accenting different spaces and bringing disregarded corners back to life," says Isabelle Dubern, co-founder of The Invisible Collection.

**25 GET SOFT**  
"Don't underestimate the power of bedding to change the whole vibe of a room," says Maja Olsho, kidswear designer at Newbie. "I personally love adding in coordinating soft toys to really add a bit of personality to a child's room."



Kids' bedding £50, Newbie (newbiestore.com)



**THE WEEKLY ROUND UP**

Selected snippets from the world of property



Elite enclave: The Hamptons

**LUXURY RENTALS BOOMING AS NEW YORKERS JUMP SHIP**  
Ultra-wealthy New Yorkers don't fancy being stuck in self-isolation in a city sky-rise. Instead, many are fleeing to The Hamptons, the elite coastal enclave of large country homes on Long Island. Agents report that the prime rental market is going crazy. The summer lets season has started early and prime rents have jumped by as much as 20 per cent compared to the same period last year. There are also reports of bidding wars, including one eight-week rental listed for \$300,000, which was let for \$400,000 (£338,000). One agent claims moving to The Hamptons will mean "you can really get to know your kids". Perhaps the super-rich didn't have it quite so good before.

**JASON STATHAM SELLING LA HOME FOR \$7M**  
Rosie Huntington-Whiteley's fiancé Jason Statham is a man of many talents. Before his action movie career, he grew up playing football with his future co-star Vinnie Jones, had a stint modelling for Levi's, and even competed in the Commonwealth Games on Britain's diving team. Today, he is the ultimate tough guy and normally does

his own stunts. But he also has a canny eye for home renovations.

In 2015, he bought a run-down mid-century modern home in Los Angeles for \$2.7 million and embarked on an 18-month overhaul. The 3,000 sq ft home now has an indoors-outdoors, open-plan layout with glass walls, a cedar-clad roof and a saltwater pool. Plus, he had to create a serious stuntman's workout space. So there's a barrel sauna and a Hoshizaki ice maker for baths too. Statham has added value to the property: it is currently for sale with a massively upgraded listing price of \$7 million.

**IKEA MAKES REAL-LIFE 'PIZZA TABLE'**  
Who doesn't love an unexpected marriage? The latest is Ikea's collaboration with Pizza Hut. Enter the real-life "pizza table" - effectively a giant version of the "pizza saver", the little plastic stand Pizza Hut puts in its takeaways to stop the box lid sticking to the pizza. In a Swedish riff, it is named Sava, and comes flat-packed in a pizza box. It is available in Hong Kong as a limited edition. And in return, Pizza Hut has created a Swedish meatball pizza.

Fast furniture: Ikea's new 'pizza table', Sava



ALAMY, CHRIS PIZZELLO/GETTY IMAGES

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