

Mood Of The MOMENT

Natural warmth

Use rich autumnal colours and textured accessories to create a cosy retreat where you can stay warm all winter

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN TO PAGE 231

Deep, dark shades create a cosy atmosphere, but if the idea of painting your walls in mocha or charcoal makes you want to run screaming to the safer realms of cream, have no fear. You can have dark walls and keep your room light. **PICK PALE FURNITURE** Light upholstery and flooring will make a room feel fresh, whatever colour is on the walls. Too much dark-wood furniture can feel heavy and dated, so mix darker pieces with a few lighter painted items. **BREAK IT UP** Hang mirrors or pale artwork on your dark walls to break them up and lighten the look. **LAYER TEXTURES** Mix and match snuggly woollen cushions, fluffy rugs and strokable faux-fur throws for a welcoming winter retreat.

Natural beauty
Display silvery sprays
Artificial honesty,
£129, Dunelm Mill

Comfort zone
Scrolled arms and a lovely plump cushion
Elgar armchair in Ash,
£550, John Lewis



Fuzzy felt
You'll want to dig your toes into this snuggly rug
Equine felt-able rug in grey, £249, (over)



Knit pick
There's a glass vase under the woolly cosy
Knitted vases, £29.99 for three,
Fern Living range, Stylish Life



Walnut wonder
A designer-style stool
Torino coffee table in Walnut,
£50, Tesco Direct



Wrap up warm
Cuddle up on a chilly evening
Anastasia blanket in Whisper
Grey, £75, Laura Ashley



Knitty gritty
Layer woollen accessories for a cosy sofa
Cushion, £14.99, H&M



Fabulous fake
No furry animals were harmed in making this cushion
Cushion, £15, Star by Julien Macdonald range, Debenhams

STYLING: VIKKI BIRCH
PHOTOGRAPHY: DAVID BRITTON

Come inside
Curl up in comfort
Walls in Velvet Truffle 3 matt emulsion, £21.99 for 2.5lit. Dulux, Sofa, £1300, Sofa.com, Chair, £1775, Sofa Workshop



Look what we found!



£4 each

Who'd guess these 1960s-style beauties are from the supermarket?
Candleholders, ASDA

£349

In the hot seat
We've fallen for the new Fjord collection at M&S – and this chair is the star of the show
Evelyn chair in Pisa Dark Blue, Marks & Spencer



£59

Start small
Dip a toe in the trend with ikat cushions
Silk cushion in Deep Indigo and Tawny Gold, Toast



EVERYBODY'S DOING...

Ikat

Bring a tribal touch to your home this month with ikat prints

From £17

Bold bedding
Give your boudoir an exotic flavour
Suzani double duvet cover, £85; embroidered and printed pillowcases, £17 each; cushion, £50; all Bedeck



£8

Tribal leader
Anthropologie's shelves are full of tribal prints this season, and this little bowl won't break the bank
Ikat mini bowl, Anthropologie



Diamond design
Be brave and plaster pattern across a wall
Ikat Bukhara wallpaper, £225 per roll, Ornamenta



Moody blues
This elegant designer ikat-print fabric isn't cheap, so we'd use it to make a few cushion covers
Kilm 8390411 fabric, Camengo

£51.90 per m



'It feels so cosy and welcoming now'

Try a modern country look to make your kitchen both cosy and contemporary, like the Bezants'

FOR WHERE TO BUY ITEMS SHOWN, TURN THE PAGE



When Sue and Kevin Bezan bought their 1920s bungalow in Chilworth, Surrey, in January 2010, they knew that bringing it into the 21st century

wouldn't be easy, as it needed complete renovation. The kitchen was in a time warp, so they gutted it and extended to the rear to create a dining area.

'The room was originally too small and dark,' says Sue. 'I wanted lots of light and storage, with an island unit because we enjoy entertaining and it's nice for friends and family to be able to sit and chat while I cook.' Warm woods and cream-painted units create a modern country feel, but the range cooker has a fast and efficient electric induction hob, giving them the best of both worlds.

A smart take on country

Sue has mixed traditional elements of rustic style, such as oak worktops and a butler's sink with contemporary features such as bar stools and sleek granite worksurfaces to get the best of both worlds. She chose units painted a rich cream tone, to add warmth without compromising the room's light, airy feel.



3 TIPS FOR cosy country

1 Mix and match materials Use painted finishes, natural wood, leather and ceramic tiles to give the room interest and depth. This way your kitchen will look evolved rather than created.

2 Install a range No country-style kitchen is complete with a range cooker at its heart. A traditional piece, it will also work as the focal point of your kitchen layout.

3 Add in accessories Open shelving is key to the country look – use it for displaying kitchenware, beautiful china and favourite finds.

Take the 60-SECOND TOUR

THE PROPERTY

A detached three-bed 1920s bungalow in Chilworth, Surrey.

WHO LIVES HERE

Sue and Kevin Bezan. They bought the house in January 2010.

WHAT IT COST

Units.....	£9,969
Worktops.....	£4,505
Sink & tap.....	£624
Appliances.....	£6,254
Wall tiles.....	£180
Floor tiles.....	£1,900
Underfloor heating.....	£1,000
TOTAL.....	£24,432

WHAT THEY DID

Gutted the kitchen, which hadn't been changed since the 1960s and so was desperately in need of an update, and extended it to create a dining area for a more sociable space.

THE LOOK

Country meets contemporary, with a classic range, Shaker units and wood-block worktops combined with brick tiling and a modern island unit.

LESSONS LEARNED

66 Sort out your colour scheme and design before you start. We went through seven designs before we got what we wanted. And shop around for appliances – we looked at the internet and magazines to get the best prices. **77**



THE LAYOUT The main run of units is in an L shape, with an island in the middle and a larder unit in the corner next to the fridge-freezer. The dining table is by the bi-fold doors out to the garden.

Love their STYLE?

THE NEPTUNE CLASSICS UNITS ARE FROM SURREY FURNITURE ££. FOR SIMILAR, TRY PARLOUR FARM'S SHAKER-STYLE RANGE £££ OR WICKES' STAMPFORD £

TURN OVER TO FIND OUT HOW
Sue and Kevin created their new kitchen

FAMILY SIZED

Industrial look >

Durban, B&S

SAVVY SHOPPER SAYS Thanks to its rugged oak-plank top and welded metal frame, this dining table is virtually child-proof.

Seats Six Dimensions H75cm x W90cm x L180cm **Material** Reclaimed elm, steel **Matching pieces** Bench; coffee table; console table



△ Versatile oak

Hereford, Tesco Direct

SAVVY SHOPPER SAYS Classic oiled oak will look great in any scheme, from trad and country to contemporary – great if you love to ring the changes.

Seats Six Dimensions H75cm x W90cm x L150cm **Material** Solid oak **Matching pieces** Chairs; coffee table; nest of tables

GOOD TO KNOW

Need your table in time for Christmas? Double-check the order-by deadline before you buy so you won't be let down



△ Modern country

Chichester, Neptune

SAVVY SHOPPER SAYS

A love-it-forever table, as it's beautiful in its simplicity and a great-quality investment buy.

Seats Six Dimensions H75cm x W90cm x L170cm **Material** Oak, painted oak **Matching pieces** Eight-seater dining table; sideboard; dressers; coffee table; console table; side tables

SHOPPER'S CHECK LIST

Dining tables

✓ STURDY CONSTRUCTION

Before buying a table, check if any of the joints are loose by lifting it, pushing the legs and leaning on the corners. If it's extendable, test the mechanism by opening and closing the table to see how smooth and easy-to-operate it is.

✓ PRACTICAL FINISH

When it comes to wood or veneer tops, polyurethane finishes provide good protection and vary from low to high sheen, while wax gives more of a subtle sheen but needs more maintenance. Glass surfaces can't be damaged as easily, but fingerprints can be a nuisance.

✓ CHAIR SPACE

To work out how many chairs you can fit comfortably around a table (with elbowroom for guests), allow 60cm per diner. Remember that chairs with arms will need extra space.

✓ LEGROOM

If you're buying them separately, make sure your chairs will be the right height for your table. Allow 18-20cm between the underside of the table and the top of the seat. Check that chairs with arms don't touch the table.

...10 BEST DINING CHAIRS *continued*

A soft seat for extra comfort
Nil, IKEA



Get a trad country look
Shabby Chic, House of Fraser



Work the Victorian trend
Coron, Laura Ashley



Comes in red or yellow, too
Wishbone, Interior Addict



1960s chic is still swinging
Durban, B&S