

# Livingetc

BRITAIN'S  
BEST-SELLING  
MODERN  
HOMES  
MAGAZINE

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livingetc

## MIXING COLOUR

*Decorating with berry shades, acid accents and the new neutrals*



## Fabric A BUYER'S GUIDE TO MODERN UPHOLSTERY

## NEW KITCHEN INSPIRATION

Beautiful looks and must-have appliances for all budgets

## Smart spending

From taps to tableware – autumn's best investments

# Dare to be different!

STYLISH HOMES THAT BREAK THE DESIGN RULES





## THE BEST... PAINT SHOPS

Get advice, in-depth knowledge and the best results from these passionate paint purveyors

WORDS SARA NORRMAN

**FARROW & BALL**

38 Cross Street,  
N1 (020 7226 2627  
farrow-ball.com)

With three showrooms dotted throughout the capital, you're never far from a Farrow & Ball. The staff know their James White from their Pointing and the colour cards are made with the actual paint, in order to give a more accurate rendition.

**FIRE EARTH**

174 Chiswick High Road,  
W4 (020 8994 5355  
fireearth.co.uk)

The paint-crazy Londoner is spoilt for choice with eight Fired Earth branches. Brilliant for picking up just that right shade of Plumbago, with the added bonus of stocking tiles, flooring, furniture and bathrooms, too.

**FRANCESCA'S PAINTS**

34 Battersea Business Centre,  
99/109 Lavender Hill, SW11  
(francescaspaint.com)

Apart from offering colour matching and on-site consultations, the lime washes from this company are renowned for their quality and coverage. The chalky emulsions are also well-regarded. The names of the colours came from the owner, Francesca Wezel, asking her friends what their favourite shades were – look out for Federico's Aubergine and Casa Bruciata's Muddy Green.

**LEYLAND SDM**

88-90 Farringdon Road,  
EC1 (020 7278 8933  
leylandsdm.co.uk)

With 14 branches all over town, this specialist decorators merchant is a favourite with the trade for its own-brand basics. Also stocks the major heritage brands, including Paint Library and The Little Greene Paint Company's Catwalk Collection.

**NORDIC STYLE**

109 Lots Road, SW10 (020  
7351 1755 nordicstyle.biz)

With shades to go with a soothing Swedish palette, this is a one-stop shop for all things Scandi. Its range of colours would go as well with an Eero Aarnio Bubble chair as a shabby-chic dresser. The furniture paint range is brilliant – Antique Ash and Gustavian Grey are perfect for sprucing up wooden pieces and the floor paints are also worth considering.

**PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY**

5 Elystan Street, SW3 (020  
7823 7755 paintlibrary.co.uk)

Beauty is in the detail here as creative director David Oliver is passionate about sourcing the exact shades and presenting them in an easy and accessible way to his customers. The Architectural Colours range is a justified bestseller, but you don't need a stately home to

display them in. Shades like Thames Mud and Lead IV would sit equally well in a modern London home.

**PAPERS AND PAINTS**

4 Park Walk, SW10 (020 7352  
8626 papers-paints.co.uk)

This beautiful little shop in Chelsea has a Royal Warrant of Appointment, and if it's good enough for HRH, it's good enough for us. Owner Patrick Baty consults for manufacturers such as Dulux and The Little Greene Paint Company. Check out the huge

ABOVE Wall in Pavilion Gray; skirting in Charleston Gray; floor in London Clay; all Farrow & Ball. LEFT Fired Earth's quality range.

range of off-whites (there are 24) and the Fifties and Sixties shades. You might even find out which colour is on the walls of the royal bedchamber...

**SOUTH LONDON DECORATORS MERCHANTS**  
547-549 Norwood Road, SE27  
(020 8655 9595)

Local shop with a helpful staff that sells the well-known heritage brands. If you can't find the exact shade you want, they'll mix to match anything from a swatch of paper to a page from a magazine.

