

BEAUTIFUL
OLD HOMES

DECORATING
& SHOPPING

GARDEN
INSPIRATION

ANTIQUES
& VINTAGE

RENOVATION &
MAINTENANCE

BRITAIN'S BEST-SELLING PERIOD HOMES MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022

PERIOD LIVING

A vintage summer

Dreamy homes and alfresco
living spaces to inspire

Joyful blooms

Plant showstopping
borders with cut
flower favourites

**DECORATE
WITH YELLOW**
Ideas to bring
the sunshine
indoors

**FRENCH
COUNTRY
CHARM**
Living rooms
brimming with
rustic elegance

PLUS

Kitchen island
design

Homemade plant
remedies

Antique
enamelware

Block printing
craft project

ESCAPE TO THE GARDEN

Create a beautiful outdoor room of your own – from a timeless
summerhouse to a characterful shepherd's hut





This image: Pearl loves the Loft sofa, from £2,600 at Bailey's Home Store – opt for a sumptuous velvet and you will never want to get up
Right: Piglet in Bed sells a fantastic range of coloured bedlinen. Mix-and-match bundles start at £227

The cosy club

Designer Pearl Lowe proves that cosy can be stylish, and shares her top brands for making your home feel inviting in every season

I have always been a huge fan of cosy interiors. Roaring log fires, cashmere blankets, shaggy Icelandic rugs, vintage duvets, Moroccan lanterns and big vintage log baskets. But are they stylish, and can they work in the summer? Let's face it, we might have had a heatwave in the UK in 2020 that lasted from March to September, but last year was, quite frankly, a let down. We must have had all of about four sunny days. So us Brits need to decorate accordingly, all year round. Coming home to a warm and welcoming cosy place is such a great feeling and it can be fairly simple to master.

Set the atmosphere

Soft lighting is the key here. Table and floor lamps, candles and wall lights are all essential. Apparently, one should have around six table lamps per room to really give it a peaceful, ambient feel. For vintage

floor lamps, try Les Couilles Du Chien on Golborne Road, which is one of my favourite antiques shops. I go to House of Hackney for sweet fringe table lamps, and for wall lights, my first stop is Soho Home – its designs are retro but modern, so there's no need to find an electrician to rewire them.

To add atmosphere, I love to use Liberty's twisted candles and holders; in fact, everything at Liberty's homework department is beautiful, and I often walk around there in a trance. To add the perfect finishing touch, I found some lovely Moroccan lanterns on Not on the High Street.

A wood-burner is a must to make a living space feel inviting, and if you're not into trailing antique shops and markets for log baskets, then try Garden Trading, as it has a good selection.

When choosing colours, a neutral palette works best in a cosy room. I'm not a huge fan of grey, but I don't mind using it with browns

and creams. My favourite paint colours are Moscow, a grey by Francesca's Paints, Pointing, a cream by Farrow & Ball, and Bedford Brown by Abigail Ahern. Check out Abigail's shop, as she has got the cosy look down to a tee – her Emery butterfly chair and faux plants are fantastic.

Add soft touches

Another must-have in a cosy room is a soft, comfy sofa. I adore Bailey's Home Store; I bought so much stuff from there when we purchased our house last year, and its Loft sofa makes you feel as though you can spend hours watching a series on Netflix and not want to get up!

I love to layer up with wool blankets from The Natural Blanket Company,

and cashmere blankets and dressing gowns from The White Company – which also has the best big, fluffy white towels.

For the bedroom, I recommend mixing and matching linen sheets from Piglet in Bed – its colours are original and you won't find them anywhere else. I also have a few velvet throws by Soak & Sleep – not only are they luxurious but they last and are great value for money. The brand has frequent 20 per cent off sales, where you can grab yourself a bargain.

For beautiful Indian Kanthas, look at The Running Stitches. I'm also obsessed with the Icelandic sheepskin rugs by Hide Rugs – I have them all over my house and in the summer they go outside.



Toast is another shop that I feel is at the forefront of cosy interiors; I have one of its soft mustard velvet throws on our bed at home and it's so comfy. I also love Rae Lifestyle, a shop in Rye that sells handpicked antique Moroccan rugs and cushions, wool blankets, fringe towels, vintage woven baskets, the prettiest PJs and the dreamiest of oils.

When it comes to curtains, I always make my own. I recently made some fantastic candy stripe curtains for our front room using fabric from Merchant & Mills, and I also made white linen ones for my bedroom and my daughter Betty's room. I added black-out material and pom-pom trimming from Etsy, and they look great.

Cosy up in the garden

I spent most of last week searching the internet for a hot tub. I wasn't too keen on buying an inflatable one, as I wanted something more durable, and the wood-fired hot tubs seem a bit too much like hard work. I finally stumbled across a brand called Bushgear that sells a Hikki Bohemen hot tub, featuring aluminium on the front, that looked the perfect solution. Not only is it lovely to look at, but it only takes two hours to warm up. Within 24 hours it was in our garden! 🍷

Pearl Lowe's new book, Faded Glamour by the Sea, is out now, featuring her beautifully renovated 1940s seaside home. Order your copy for £25 at pearllowe.co.uk



Above: Soho Home sells vintage-inspired wall lights, such as this Benny design in antique brass, £250

Left: Try House of Hackney for beautiful fringed lampshades – this Flora Fantasia design is £395

Below: Pearl's Hikki Bohemen hot tub, £3,849 at Bushgear, only takes two hours to warm up



Left: Pearl's favourite paint colours for a cosy scheme are (from top) Moscow by Francesca's Paints; Bedford Brown by Abigail Ahern; and Pointing by Farrow & Ball
Right: The White Company's Hydrocotton towels are supremely fluffy, from £16

