

The background of the entire page is a repeating geometric pattern of interlocking diamonds and chevrons in various shades of teal and green. The pattern is centered around a white rectangular area that contains the text.

HOUSE
& GARDEN

The List

DIRECTORY 2023

Our global directory of design professionals

Q&A: Your problems solved

Expert members of The List Directory explain to TICKY HEDLEY-DENT how to deal with a variety of domestic dilemmas, from top decorating tips to garden guidance



What are your tips for decorating a north facing bedroom?

'Maximise the available light. Source fine sheers - Gastón y Daniela do lightweight voiles or de Le Cuona's 'Orchestra' is a delicate linen sheer with vintage metallic thread. Soft yellows and pinks - such as Edward Bulmer Natural Paint's 'Creami Colour' and its 'Cuisse de Nymphé Emue' - work well for north-facing rooms. For a great subdued pink, 'Chai Firoji' by Francesca's Paints is ideal. Consider lighting carefully: it needs to work for dark winter mornings and evenings year round. Combine John Cullen's downlights, Soane's reading lights and a stylish central pendant for added interest.'

Katie Glaister, K&H Design

How can you work inherited antiques into a room scheme?

'I often find that inherited pieces of furniture can look incongruous - they might be a bit worn out and not quite fit in, but you should try to remember that even if they do not speak to you immediately, they will in time. I always recommend people to live with them for a while. I inherited a large mahogany dining table in a very used condition and I made it work in my tiny North Wales cottage by mixing it up with a set of mid-century pagwood chairs. Knowing that my family has dined at this table for many decades, has endeared it to me and I would not get rid of it for the world.'

Drew Pritchard, Drew Pritchard Antiques

What is an interesting way of using an empty space under the stairs?

'The area beneath the stairs holds many possibilities just waiting to be maximised. Incorporating a cupboard with pull-out shelving will help to make the most of available space. Consider adding panelling to conceal the cupboard and add architectural detail, as this area will be visible. Alternatively, leave it free from built-in joinery for an open and spacious appearance. To create an eye-catching focal point, place a console with a piece of art or a decorative object under the slope of the stairs. This will add to the overall charm of the space.'

Thomas Cox, H&M Interiors

Which plants would you recommend for the changing climate?

'Plant a tree. As temperatures soar, shade becomes more important. By 2050, it is predicted that the south coast of the UK will have a similar temperature to the South of France today. Sitting under the canopy of a tree or a climber-clad pergola will offer welcome respite. The species selection needs to take into consideration the increased temperature. The best trees to help with climate change are larger varieties such as oak and beech. Both are under threat and a good alternative species for our native beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) is *Fagus orientalis*. Nothing quite beats an English oak (*Quercus robur*) but good options for the future of our tree canopy are *Quercus coccinea*, *Quercus palustris* and *Quercus rubra*. The Judas tree (*Cercis siliquastrum*) is a smaller tree with a huge impact.'

Helen Elks-Smith, Elks-Smith Landscape & Garden Design