

Retro take

Add vintage-fabric cushions mixed with shades of brown and green.

Colour is back

This reader's newly redecorated bungalow is brimming with ideas to get the latest looks with colour and pattern – but without spending a fortune

Folksy living room

The hub of the home was given an oriental flavour by introducing bold shades and tactile patterns. The large corner sofa and oversized wood coffee table are modern, but Shella used scraps of vintage fabric bought from car-boot sales to make gorgeous cushions that guests want to sink into. There's more dramatic colour with the pink pouffe that contrasts beautifully against the earthy green rug. Floorboards are a feature throughout and add to the rustic look.

GET THE LOOK Karlstad Corner sofa in Korndal brown, £744, Ikea. Moroccan pouffe in Cyclamen, £129, Graham & Green. Plain Mahal Indian Rug Design in Green, H183xW122cm, £199, FrithRugs. Coffee table picked up from an antique shop, for similar at a good price try oakfurnitureolutions.co.uk.

GET THE LOOK For similar handmade patchwork tablecloth, try Folksy from £43. Summerhouse painted in Tranquil gloss by Albany, £26.82 for 2.5 litres, Brewers. Go to forestgarden.co.uk for summerhouses from £260.

MEET THE OWNERS

Shella Anderson and husband Alan live in a four-bedroom house in the coastal village of Tollesbury, Essex, with their daughters, Freya, 7, Millie, 5, and Bibi, who's 18 months. Their home is a mix of old and new items that are colourful and eclectic. Shella says, 'Buying old furniture is my ongoing hobby. When I'm decorating I begin by cutting out styles I like from magazines, but I usually opt for a lived-in comfy look. Vintage fabrics from the '50s, '60s and '70s are great for adding colour.'



Farmhouse-style kitchen

Cream units with beech worktops make an easy backdrop for bursts of accent colours. Open shelves in the corner display colourful vintage china and appliances including the must-have for retro-lovers – a Smeg fridge freezer in matching cream. The rustic-style barstools picked up at a junk shop were painted in gloss blue for a modern lift.



Retro take
Add punchy colour with china and enamelware made in '60s print style.

GET THE LOOK Canterbury design kitchen in Schoolhouse White starts from £6,000 for a fully fitted kitchen, Möben. Stools painted in Kentucky Blue gloss by Albany, £13.88 for 1 litre, Brewers. Enamel cookware and china, all from fairs and car-boot sales.



Tip Before painting furniture, sand it then wipe over with white spirit. Paint on an undercoat and finish with a topcoat in gloss.

TRY A similar undercoat colour makes the job of painting your favourite furniture easy.

'50s-inspired dining

One feature wall in retro-style wallpaper provides a fab focal point. The dining room table was rescued and restored from a friend's garden, with country pine chairs collected from junk shops, painted white and blue for a co-ordinated look. Bench-style seating adds a cosy feel.

GET THE LOOK For similar retro wallpaper, we love the '50s-inspired collection, £32 a roll, from Sanderson. For similar lamp shade, Paloma Pendant Shade, £40, John Lewis. Find similar wooden furniture to paint at junk shops.



Retro take
Try geometric-look wallpaper and café-style pendant lights.

Outdoor living

The couple built the veranda onto the back of the house to give them an outdoor room, and it comes into its own during the summer months when it's used as a second dining room. Shella found the patchwork tablecloth in Zara Home, while the bench and chairs were bought from junk shops, boot sales and markets. Beyond the veranda is a lush garden with a summerhouse painted in soft blue, used as Shella's utility room.

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What to shop for...

Unfussy furniture, retro accessories, patchwork and lots of '50s, '60s and '70s-style pattern.



Converts into a double bed – Edwardian **daybed**, £539, The Original Bedstead Company.



Brunel pendant light in Coffee Bean, £55, Garden Trading.

Oria Kiely Multi Oval mug, £7.99, Strawberry Fool.



Matthew Williamson Wedding blanket, £100, Debenhams.



Felt Purple Flower pouffe, £49.99, Matalan.



Hertford coffee table, £155, Metro Furniture.



Matthew Williamson Elephant cushion, £20, Debenhams.



Set of three tall bulb vases, £44.99, The Contemporary Home.



Aztec Pink rug, W120xH170cm, £149.99, Plantation Rug Company.



OLLE chair in white, £22.47, Ikea.



Folksy cushion, £6.99, H&M.



Green lamp with Mustard shade, £24.99, Homesense.



Colourful throws, from £16.99, Homesense.

For stockists, see page 139 FEATURE: JENNIFER NEWTON & SELINA LAKE PHOTOS: SUSIE BELL



Yellow paint and wallpaper offcuts made over this old cupboard for £15.

Retro take

Rose flower trailing wallpaper makes a feature for walls and cupboard inserts.



GET THE LOOK For similar wallpaper, Daisy by Grandeco, £25.40 a roll, Wallpaperdirect. Tromsnes daybed frame with slatted base, £127, Ikea. Jeff Banks Shiny Stripes Waterloo rug, H180xW120cm £135, Rugstore NE.