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INSIDE

THE SUNDAY TIMES SECTION 8 | FEBRUARY 27, 2011

# home

WITH INTERIORS AND GARDENING



## Writer's block

The £595,000 Surrey flat where Hilary Mantel wrote her bestselling novel *Wolf Hall* **P12**



# Northern brights

The new stars of Scandinavian style are ditching the minimalist look and embracing all things bold and beautiful



## TOP TIP

Unleash your mania for patterned textiles to get the new Nordic look. Mix a collection of big, bold prints with colourful plains. A white background, on the fabrics and in your interior, will magically create Scandinavian calm amid the chaos.

## KATRINA BURROUGHS



bold colour, and elegant 1950s-inspired china has been joined by bulked-up *jolie-laide* tableware. It makes a nice change from all that unremitting good taste, and one that will filter perfectly into our slightly more slovenly British homes.

The biggest surprise is the chunky feel of some of the new designs, a particularly fetching look for china. The new collection from Hoganas includes substantial stoneware teapots, bowls and oversized teacups in glossy white, black or apple red (teacup with cover, £12; 01428 681474, scandiliving.co.uk).

Likewise, Muuto's new Bulky china is a satisfyingly solid tea set, simple and toylife, with huge charm, and appearing in UK stores from April (020 7584 2066, skandium.com). In fact, if you want to cast an eye over some of the most exciting new Nordic designs, Muuto's website is a good place to start. This young design firm's mission is to "add new chapters to the proud Scandinavian design tradition". Kristian Byrge, the creative director, explains: "It's more about relaxing and enjoying your home than making it a showpiece. One example is our new sofa, Rest, with its

## 'IT MAKES A NICE CHANGE FROM ALL THAT UNREMITTING GOOD TASTE'

welcoming, baggy character — a contrast to many sofas that are more about looking good than feeling good."

To make the most of Scandinavian style this year, you first require a child. It doesn't matter whether it's a toddler or a preteen, interiors kit for kids of all ages is being done brilliantly by the northerners. Their secret is the application of adult rules (good quality, simple, functional) to junior interiors. "Kids from the 1970s have now become parents," says Corina Papadopoulou, founder of Kidsen, the Scandinavian children's store. "Colours that were popular then — brown, orange, green, Volkswagen grey — which evoke happy memories, are making a comeback."

Although sofas may be softer and

colours stronger this year, the Scandis haven't forgotten their design heritage. Far from it. The established firms realise that the true genius of new Nordic lies in preserving skills and prizing tradition while at the same time producing fresh, relevant designs.

Ary has been making birch-wood trays in Sweden for more than half a century, and though the products are still handmade in the traditional way, they are now a riot of funky pattern and quirky prints by contemporary designers such as Ella Doran and Michael Angove ([www.arytrays.com](http://www.arytrays.com); UK stockists include [husandhem.co.uk](http://husandhem.co.uk)).

The Finnish fabric house Marimekko marks its 60th birthday this year with a new print by Kristina Isola. Yhdessa is a bold black patchwork of the firm's trademark floral patterns with some fresh new geometrics mixed in (£35 per metre; 020 7486 6454, skandium.com).

## SUNDAY TIMES ONLINE

Get more Nordic inspiration online at [thesundaytimes.co.uk/home](http://thesundaytimes.co.uk/home)

## Shop for Scandi style

The best brands can be hard to track down in UK stores, so here are the top websites specialising in Nordic chic

- Cloudberry Living [cloudberryliving.co.uk](http://cloudberryliving.co.uk)
- 95% Danish [95percentdanish.co.uk](http://95percentdanish.co.uk)
- Drift Living [driftliving.co.uk](http://driftliving.co.uk)
- Hus & Hem [husandhem.co.uk](http://husandhem.co.uk)
- Illustrated Living [illustratedliving.co.uk](http://illustratedliving.co.uk)
- InForm Scandinavian Furniture & Lighting [www.informfurniture.co.uk](http://www.informfurniture.co.uk)
- Isak [isak.co.uk](http://isak.co.uk)
- Kidsen [kidsen.co.uk](http://kidsen.co.uk)
- Scandi Living [scandiliving.co.uk](http://scandiliving.co.uk)
- Skandium [skandium.com](http://skandium.com)

Ergonomic but elegant, pared-back, bleached-out interiors featuring masterful mid-20th-century designs, softened with traditional textiles and natural wood furniture. The archetypal Scandinavian look has long been easy to define. Except, this year, it's not. Punchy geometric patterns are appearing alongside the folksy florals, white-on-blond palettes are accommodating

**A new leaf from £81**

A joyful jumble of patterns in vibrant colours characterises new Nordic style. Elephant cushion, £81, and green-leaf Celotocaulis upholstery linen, £118 per metre, by Svenskt. 020 7734 1234, liberty.co.uk



**Switched on £59**

This E27 light, by the Swedish designer Mattias Stahlbom, is as simple as can be: a bare bulb with a pop of colour at the top. Made by Muuto, it's typical of the young brand's innovative output. 020 7584 2066, skandium.com

**Blond on blond £3,030**

Get the classic northern look with a pale backdrop and natural textures. Matthew Hilton's Balzac chair and ottoman complements oak-veneer shelving units (from £425) and a sheepskin rug (£445). 08700 240780, heals.co.uk



**Smooth running £20**

Retro prints add Nordic flavour to the dining table. The herring pattern on this linen-and-cotton mix runner is a 1950s design by Marianne Nilsson. 45cm x 140cm. 01989 740380, newhousetextiles.co.uk

**Rock chic £525**

Kids' furnishings are a Nordic speciality. This Ellnor children's walnut rocker is made in Sweden by Heirloom. 55cm x 43cm x 52cm. 020 8969 7565, kidsen.co.uk; 020 7351 5775, designersguild.com



**Dream on £29 per metre**

Textiles from Spira are the archetypal pretty Scandi prints, featuring motifs and hues drawn from nature. The Swedish firm's new 50% cotton, 50% linen fabrics include Jaffa (on the headboard) and a geometric print called Pomeran. Cushions, £26 each. 01531 631044, husandhem.co.uk

*Interiors notes*

**INSPIRE**

New Natural Homes, by Dominic Bradbury, will delight anyone interested in cutting-edge design and green living. Packed with delicious images of ecofriendly houses in beautiful natural settings around the world, it's an inspiration for those thinking seriously about building their own. Out on March 21, Thames & Hudson, £19.95



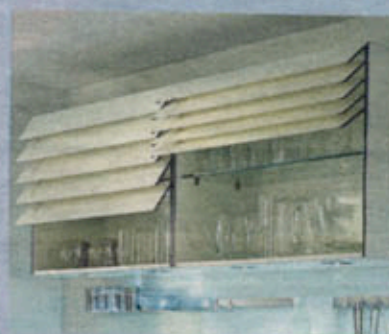
**INDULGE**

The print designer Jocelyn Warner has just launched a range of 100% linen fabrics to sell alongside her wallpapers, all from Liberty. Blossom (far left) is a delicate oriental-inspired pattern, and Leaf (inset) has an opulent gold motif. Fabrics, £49 per metre, wallpaper, £59 per roll; 020 7375 3754, jocelynwarner.com



**INNOVATE**

These Climber kitchen cabinets, 65cm x 60cm, from Neil Lerner, are fitted with clever cupboard doors. Opaque glass one moment and then, at the touch of a button, slats appear and they fold up like venetian blinds. Very elegant. £1,163; 020 7433 0705, neillerner.com



**INVEST**

Marnie Moyle's chunky chopping boards are hewn from a solid section of locally sourced green oak. Buy them ready-carved with succinct legends such as Chop or G&T, or you can even request your own motto. £37.50-£45; 01635 281786, greenoakfurniture.co.uk



**HOW TO...**

**Insulate a loft**



Prepare for the spring chills by putting on a few extra layers. This is one of those satisfying jobs that a rank DIY amateur can excel at. Insulation comes in rolls that can be cut to fit around joists, pipes and tanks. While the superstores stock a good range of traditional glass mineral wool products, some of these can cause itchy hands. Try ecofriendly options such as Black Mountain Sheep Wool insulation or the ultra-efficient, breathable Black Mountain Hemp. Both £7 per square metre. 01920 821069, www.naturalinsulations.co.uk