

THRIFTY TIPS FOR: YOUR GARDEN \* YOUR RENOVATION \* YOUR HOME OFFICE

# House Beautiful

MARCH 2026

MODERN LIVING / AFFORDABLE STYLE

## STYLE for LESS

THE BUDGET ISSUE

**300+**  
BRILLIANT  
BARGAINS &  
EASY ROOM  
UPDATES



The power  
of SOFT  
PASTELS GROW UP

### REAL-LIFE INSPIRATION

- \* SHOESTRING KITCHEN MAKEOVER
- \* A HANDS-ON SCOTTISH RENO
- \* THE MEWS WITH HEART
- \* A TINY GARDEN THAT FLOURISHES IN WINTER

Simple  
pleasures  
SWEET SCENTS,  
SHELFIES &  
GREAT BEDDING

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**CAROLINE MILNS**  
Head of interior design, Zulufish  
(zulufish.co.uk)

**SPEND  
DECORATIVE MOULDINGS**

Restoring or introducing refined elements such as panelling, cornicing and architraves can bring structure to a space, define areas and add sophistication.

**STATEMENT RUGS**

The right rug can offer texture, warmth and visual interest for real impact and, unlike paint or wallpaper, it can come with you when you move, so it's a wise investment. I like eco-friendly brand Weaver Green.

**SAVE  
WALLPAPER**

If you're drawn to a fabulous wallpaper but balk at the price, don't dismiss the idea entirely. Consider using it on a single wall, with a complementary paint across the other walls.

**COUNTERTOPS**

Marble is certainly stunning, but there are excellent alternatives that give the same smart aesthetic at a more accessible price point. Porcelain has beautiful veining but is more durable.



**RENOVATE**

Decorative mouldings and a striking rug are favourite choices for Caroline



WORDS: JAMES CUNNINGHAM PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVID WILMAN; YAM STUDIOS; BEN ANDERS; ANNA STATHAKI; BENEDICTE DRUMMOND; HELEN CATHCART

Melissa picks well-made taps that will last for years



**MELISSA HUTLEY**  
Co-founder, Hutley & Humm  
(hutley-humm.com)

**SPEND  
HARDWARE**

It's worth spending money on 'touch points' – the things you spend your day physically interacting with, such as taps, door handles and light switches. Catchpole & Rye offers pieces that elevate the space and stand the test of time.

**PAINT**

Using paint in a deep colour and rich finish will instantly elevate a room and make it look more luxurious. Paint from Farrow & Ball and Paint & Paper Library are our picks.

**SAVE  
TILES**

Often, simple is better. Classic, affordable tiles in neutral shades feel elegant when you choose a stylish layout or coloured grout; arranging rectangular tiles in a herringbone style is a design detail that won't increase the cost of your materials.

**ACCESSORIES**

Curating and collecting over time helps your home feel more personal and layered rather than instantly 'done'. Register at local auction houses and set search alerts online for pieces you love.

