

August
2025

Livingetc

Turn up **THE HEAT**

HOMES WITH SIZZLING IDEAS FOR SUMMER

NEW DESIGNS THAT HAVE US BUZZING
QUICK AND CHIC WEEKEND PROJECTS
URBAN EXTENSIONS TO INSPIRE
JEWEL-BOX DRESSING ROOMS

Easy wins

Totally transformative and done in a weekend (or less) –
these updates are small victories

FEATURE Ellen Finch

HIGHLIGHT WOODWORK

Repairing, replacing or highlighting decorative elements like wainscoting and plasterwork might feel like a lot of work, but in a room – particularly a grand dining room – these details can elevate your scheme with character and elegance. In this space by Parisian interior designer Marianne Evennou, woodwork, including ceiling beams, are painted a matcha green that pops against the white backdrop. The framed silk panels on the shelf depicting peonies add to the decorative backdrop of the wall.

PAINT YOUR KITCHEN CABINETRY

'Repainting your kitchen is one of the most impactful updates you can make in a weekend - it's fast, cost-effective and completely transformative,' says Sophia Ayrton-Grime, interior designer and founder of Studio Raff. 'With the right colour - something unexpected but elegant, like this pink we used in our Stockwell project - you can create an entirely new mood without the time, mess or expense of a full renovation. It's about using colour to bring joy and character back into the heart of the home.'

PHOTOGRAPHS (HIGHLIGHT WOODWORK) GRÉGORIE TIMSIT;
(PAINT YOUR KITCHEN CABINETRY) CHARLIE GOODGE





REPLACE THE STAIR RUNNER

'Changing your stair runner is a quick and easy way to impactfully transform a hallway without any building work,' say Ellen Cumber and Alice Bettington, co-directors of interior design studio Golden. 'Consider the width carefully and have the runner measured up by a specialist. We usually go for a gap at the sides of around 8cm, but it will be dictated by the width of your narrowest step. If you don't feel brave enough for a patterned runner, choose a fun binding tape to add a flash of colour.'

PHOTOGRAPHS (REPLACE THE STAIR RUNNER) KENSINGTON LEVERNE; (GIVE YOUR FIREPLACE AN OVERHAUL) TARAN WILKHU

GIVE YOUR FIREPLACE AN OVERHAUL

Be it by painting or, in the case of this space by interior design studio Angel O'Donnell, retiling your fireplace, you can give the room in which it sits a new lease of life. 'Just before I sold my Edwardian home, we gave this room an instant lift by contemporising the fireplace with glossy green finger tiles and a new stone hearth,' says Richard Angel, co-founder and CEO. 'The long, minimalist tiles contrast beautifully with the traditional decorative motifs in the fire grate and surround.' ►





TRY WALLPAPER DRENCHING

First time trying out an all-over wallpaper look? Experiment in the smaller rooms of your home, like a cloakroom and enjoy its transformative effect. 'Wallpaper has the power to completely transform a space - especially a transitional one like a dressing room,' says Carina Raymond, founder of interior design practice Studio Raymond, who created this scheme. 'We chose to wrap the entire space in an Ikat wallpaper by GP & J Baker, which immediately draws the eye through the suite.'

j9k0MTcC1Ra1HwPQsafD9Q==

CREATE A HEADBOARD WALL

Oversized headboards have never been more popular, but while a bespoke one can take weeks or months on order, you can create an extended effect to your current bed with a tiled backdrop. For the guest rooms in The Beachside hotel in Nantucket, Parts and Labor Design created this headboard wall. 'We wanted to provide a level of depth through our custom tiled headboard,' says Danu Kennedy, partner at the interior design studio. 'We then framed it in wood to lend some warmth.' ➤

PHOTOGRAPHS (TRY WALLPAPER DRENCHING) RACHAEL SMITH;
(CREATE A HEADBOARD WALL) MATT KISIDAY



**PERSONALISE
YOUR BATHTUB**

For free-standing, roll-top baths in particular, a bit of customisation to the outside of the tub can make a huge impact on a bathroom. 'A painted bath is such a simple but transformative change as it can bring in colour, contrast and a real sense of personality to a bathroom without the need for a full renovation,' says interior designer Laura Stephens. 'I love using strong tones or even a decorative detail, like a stripe, to make the bath the focal point of the room. Just be sure to use the right primer and a durable eggshell or specialist metal paint for longevity. It's a quick update, but one that makes a big impact.'



PHOTOGRAPH PAUL MASSEY