

[HOME](#)[CONTENTS](#)[PROPERTY](#)

The White Company

This month interior designer Clair Strong looks at ten ways to get your home ready for the summer months

The change of the seasons is a great opportunity to mix up the style and ambiance of your home. Celebrate the summer sun with some fun, uplifting updates to your home.

Bring the outside in

Nothing says summer like lush green trees and blooming flowers. To bring the outside in, fill your home with big leafy house plants. A fiddle leaf or Monstera plant can be a real focal point, while a collection of succulents are easy to look after and add some desert style to your home. Remember too that plants are known to improve mood, reduce anxiety and clean the air too! I think house plants also make any home feel more lived-in.

If you don't have room for big house plants, how about a window sill herb garden? I also love fresh flowers. I forage from the hedgerows on my daily walk or pick some up from my local florist. Seasonal flowers displayed in a big vase on your kitchen table will add colour, texture and scent to your home – and make you feel happy every time you see them.

No matter what the season, one thing is for sure: plants will never go out of style.



Clair Strong



Go green

We associate green with nature, energy and the Great Outdoors and so it's the perfect colour choice to use in the summer. Green is a quiet restful colour that can help you feel chilled out. Think of looking up at a canopy of trees, the expanse of green in a lovely park, a summer lawn and rolling fields; all relaxing spaces. There are more shades of green than of any other colour, from soft moss greens, through bright emerald greens to zingy lime greens. There are bright grass greens, dark forest greens and soft pale eau de nil greens.

Green is everywhere in interiors for 2024 and it's a very easy colour to work with. It is neither hot or cold and it neither projects or recedes. You can treat it as a neutral and mix it with a huge number of other colours. It works in many different rooms and on many different surfaces.

Totally tropical

According to Pinterest, Tropical Chic Décor is one of the hottest trends for 2024. From striking wallpaper and patterned sofas to brightly coloured cushions, tropical prints are everywhere. The trend has evolved from the botanical trend of a few years ago and our recent obsession with house plants. Think palm leaves, brightly coloured flowers, butterflies, pineapples, flamingoes and exotic animals.

Try wallpapering a statement wall with botanical or jungle leaf patterns to add life and vibrancy to your space or simply add a pop of exotic hot-house pink, fiery orange, vibrant purple or sunshine yellow, whether through art, cushions or blankets, to add a splash of tropical zing to a neutral room.

Boho chic

Another big trend for summer 2024 is Boho Chic. Think of a relaxing 1970s vibe with lots of natural materials, handmade textiles and arty bohemian artwork. Use light woods, neutral colours and interesting accessories like musical instruments, dreamcatchers and embroidered tapestries.

The key to this look is to use natural materials - they make amazing neutrals and give an instant feeling of cool bohemian style to any space. They're durable, environmentally friendly, and look stylish. Choose from woven baskets, natural-fibre rugs, unvarnished wood and natural collections of all kinds; seashells, stones, driftwood, pressed leaves and flowers - anything from nature will create a boho chic vibe.

Natural materials are also great neutrals that work with many different interior styles so it's a timeless look.

Update your window dressings

In the summer, the heavy curtains that have kept the heat in all winter just don't work. Swap them out for light breezy curtains that let in lots of natural light in the summer months.

Curtains and blinds let you introduce some gorgeous, patterned fabrics into your home, and you can change them to match the season – bold florals are wonderful for the summer. If you have a neutral home, just the introduction of a bit of pattern on a Roman blind can be all you need to lift a room from bland to beautiful. Using an interior designer to help you choose fabrics and get your curtains and blinds professionally made is a wise investment.

Update your bedding

Never underestimate the power of fresh summer bedding. Swap the bed linen from winter's chunky blankets and throws to light summery floral quilts. Treat yourself to a fresh new duvet cover and pillowcases in a pretty shade. Linen bedding is affordable on the high street and comes in so many gorgeous muted shades.

Add some wallpaper

Wallpaper is really on trend this summer. Paper a whole room, an accent wall or panelling. From traditional florals to contemporary geometrics and tropical botanicals or animal motifs, there is something for everyone.

Mixing wallpaper and paint is a great way to create contrast and interest in a room. I like to paper one wall in a really gorgeous expensive designer wallpaper and paint the rest of the room in its background colour, so it blends in perfectly. Use wallpaper in panels or as a headboard and don't be afraid to use more than one wallpaper design in a room; one wall in a flamboyant botanical and another in striped wallpaper can look really striking.



Think with your feet

At the height of summer, when things get really warm and sticky, the last thing you want is a home that makes you feel even warmer. Thick pile rugs have no place in a summer home. If you have wooden floorboards, remove the rugs altogether. If you do need some kind of floor covering, opt for a beautiful Kilim or flat cotton rug.

Link your inside and outside spaces

Summer is the time link your inside and outside spaces. As soon as the sun comes out, I love to get outside. I treat my outside space as an extra room. Whether you have a large countryside garden or just a small urban courtyard, you can do the same.

The most important thing is to make your outside space feel connected to your indoor space. Plan the space as you would any other interior design project. If you love the minimalist Scandi look, then your outside space should be clean and modern. If your house is bohemian and colourful, bring that eclectic look into your garden. Maximalist inside? Then go for it with cushions, throws and rugs outside. Make your outside space look and feel like a true extension of your home and it will work as an extra room. Even if you only have a balcony, you can make it feel like an extra room just by using the right furniture and keeping your paint colours consistent throughout.

Spruce up your front garden

After winter, you'll find your front paths, windowsills and any paintwork can be a bit grubby. Pressure wash any dirt away, repair any loose mortar and get your gutters cleaned.

Summer is the best time to give your front door a refresh. A couple of coats of paint will create an entirely new look for your home. Neutral painted doors in black, white, and grey always look classy, but fun colours create impact.

Fill hanging baskets and planters with fresh plants, trim your hedge and your house is summer ready!

If you are looking to revamp your space, working with an interior designer will really help you use your budget wisely and create a look that feels cohesive, pulled together and will stand the test of time.

We are a friendly, boutique business based in Bath, providing a range of interior design services for residential and commercial projects. With over 15 years experience, we work with a trusted network of professionals and trades offering complete design and refurbishment. From city centre apartments and retail units to large Georgian houses, our portfolio includes projects of all sizes. Our ethos is to take a collaborative approach with our clients, working with them to create spaces that meet their needs, improve their lives, and exceed their expectations.

You can see many of the projects I have worked on since 2006 on my website at www.clairstrong.co.uk or click the buttons below.