

# Livingetc

LEADING BY DESIGN

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2023

## CELEBRATE IN STYLE

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ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS GIFTS

NEW DECOR TRENDS FOR KITCHEN,  
DINING AND BEDROOM INSPIRATION



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# SERENE DREAM

It may be cold outside (and they may have two kids and a dog), but Laylah and Matt still have a home that is the epitome of welcoming warmth and laid-back luxury

PHOTOGRAPHY Darren Chung  
WORDS Kate Jacobs

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### THE OWNERS

Having pivoted into interiors from fashion (Ralph Lauren), Laylah Holmes founded Holmes Bespoke in 2017, creating bespoke handmade rugs and interior accessories. Laylah lives here with husband, Matt, and daughters, Savannah, six, and India, three, as well as their miniature dachshund Benny.

### THE PROPERTY

This double-fronted Victorian house in leafy west London has a family living room-cum-playroom, as well as a more grown-up lounge where Laylah sometimes meets clients. At the back of the house there's a kitchen-dining space and WC, while upstairs there are the two girls bedrooms, a family bathroom, Laylah's dressing room and the couple's bedroom suite.

### LOUNGE

'I was inspired by the tones in the original fire surround tiles to create a warming colour scheme of red, orange and gold in this sophisticated living space,' says Laylah. Her own-design tapestry, hanging over the fireplace, brings together all the colours in the room to create a considered effect.

Ceiling in Dead Salmon, Farrow & Ball. Dandy sofa, Massproductions. Lovett chairs, Soho Home. Oro rug, Abstract Arc tapestry, Barcelona cushions, all Holmes Bespoke. So'home mirrors, La Redoute. Lamp, The Chiswick Lighting Company. Flooring, Avenue Interiors



**HALLWAY**  
Period-style floor tiles in graphic black and white make a striking first impression, which is echoed in the black of the stairs. 'I designed the bespoke stair runner with a pink trim to pick out the colours in a painting hanging nearby,' says Laylah.  
Osterley floor tiles, Topps Tiles. Olivia stair runner, Holmes Bespoke

**i**n this house, all is calm and cosy. There's an emphasis on soft, hazy colours and tactile textures; think curvy bouclé sofas and deep-pile bamboo silk rugs. It's easy to forget that this is a family home with two young children – and a dog. For owner Laylah, the key to balancing a beautiful home with a busy family lifestyle is to create what she calls 'livable luxury'. 'The house hadn't been touched in 50 years. As well as featuring lots of bespoke, natural and sustainable materials, I wanted the place to feel luxurious, but to also be comfortable and practical for everyday life. That means being able to tidy up quickly and easily.'

Hence, storage is at the heart of the design, with plenty of bespoke cabinetry close at hand wherever it's needed, such as a huge built-in toy cupboard in the family living room. Just off the kitchen, a good-sized utility-laundry houses 'all the messy stuff, as well as big coat cupboards.' Stepping away from the open-plan idea, each space in this house can be closed off with sleek pocket doors, 'so that we can have friends for dinner and drinks and not disturb the children or someone can be reading in the lounge, while someone else is watching a movie in the family living room. Then, when we want to, we can open it up for a lovely sense of flow with no doors flapping around,' Laylah explains.

Laylah's livable luxury concept can also be seen in her material choices. For example, she opted for a chevron-patterned floor in a mid-tone engineered oak. 'It's practical but it doesn't make the space feel dark,' she explains. The children's play space in front of the bay window, meanwhile, is defined by a circular bamboo silk rug – her own design. 'It has a multitude of colours and shades, so it's very forgiving of any marks.' As a rug designer Laylah is a champion of what rugs can do for a space. 'They will anchor a key piece of furniture, zone an open-plan area and make a room feel bigger. They're like a work of art on the floor, but they also bring comfort, warmth and texture to a room,' she enthuses.

Equally welcoming are her choice of warm colours, with lots of soft whites and cossetting pinks, used alongside tranquil blues and greens. In the lounge, inspired by the tiles in the fire surround, there's a rich palette of russet, gold and terracotta – colours that come together in Laylah's bespoke tapestry, framed by the chimney breast panelling. Tactile upholstery and a sumptuous rug further go to create a warm retreat on winter days and somewhere glamorous to retire to when the couple have friends and family over. 'We love to entertain, especially around Christmas and New Year,' says Laylah. 'It feels like this house slips really easily between family life and a more social space.'

holmesbespoke.com



#### LIVING ROOM

'Carefully planned bespoke cabinetry is the key to conquering all the toys and other clutter in this space,' says Laylah.

Circular Glacier rug, Millie cushion, both Holmes Bespoke. Ekenäset armchair, Ikea. Custom joinery, HUX. Albers blind fabric, Larsen; made by The Boys Who Sew. Pouffe, Made.com. For a similar side table, try Vinterior





**WC**  
'I love the subtle imperfection of handmade tiles. I've used these in different colours in all the bathrooms.'

Loom green **wall tiles**, Stone & Ceramic Warehouse. Dark Emperador marble **Calla basin** and **Luxe tap**, both Lusso Stone. **Wall in** Pink Clay chalk wash, Craig & Rose. **Wall lights**, The Chiswick Lighting Company. Similar **mirror**, Graham and Green



# KITCHEN

'We opted for a light and airy shade, somewhere between green and blue, for the cabinets.' Laylah chose not to use wall cabinets, instead going for a simple stone shelf to display art and objects picked up on her travels.

Kitchen **joinery**, HUX. Pentabulous **chandelier**, Pooky. Hewitt **bar stools**, Habitat. Similar **worktops**, Planet Marble. Jodie **runner**, Holmes Bespoke



# DINING AREA

'I wanted this space to be a real contrast to the kitchen, somewhere darker and more atmospheric for evening entertaining,' says Laylah. For the bar area, she opted for a richly patterned black marble worktop to bring some drama to the space.

Cabinet **handles**, Corston. **Table**, bespoke; for similar, try Gubi. Johan **dining chairs**, Barker and Stonehouse. Odin **chandelier light**, Pooky. Diamonds **jute rug**, Holmes Bespoke



## big ticket: home bars

UP YOUR HOLIDAYS HOSTING GAME AND EMBRACE STAYING IN WITH YOUR VERY OWN GLITZY BAR

Whether it's an all-singing, all-dancing wet bar complete with a stocked mini fridge, or a humble bar cart styled with your favourite glassware, turning an unloved corner into a dedicated zone for entertaining feels decadent, glamorous and perfect for the festive season. If you're looking to bring the feel of your favourite cocktail bar to your home, here's where to start.

**If you have room to play around with and your budget allows, you might be best going bespoke** to create a piece that perfectly slots into the space. 'It is really worth investing in a show-stopping bespoke home bar to ensure you make the most of this investment piece of furniture,' says Felix Milns of residential joinery specialist Hux London. 'Not only can you add custom functional elements such as cupboards, shelving and lighting, you can also choose a palette of colours and materials.' If you're not put off by having to get a plumber in, a wet bar with sink and fridge will bring wow factor to your home. Take inspiration from kitchen fittings. 'A designated bar with a work area, shelving and storage can be designed using kitchen cabinetry and components so it is possible to incorporate plumbing for a sink and electrics for a fridge and lighting,' says Simon Temprell, interior design manager at Neptune.

**An expanse of wall is the most obvious place to position your home bar** – but, as Felix says, 'if you don't have the luxury, a custom piece can be crafted to fit into a corner of a room instead.' Alternatively, a spare living room alcove could be perfect for your commissioned piece, slotting satisfyingly into the space and bringing it to life. Add a mirrored splashback to help bounce light around and add timeless glamour.

**If going down the replumbing route isn't a viable option, choose a standalone piece.** 'There are some great vintage home bars for sale that are total show-stoppers,' says Gemma McCloskey, founder and creative director of Cúpla. 'The Willy Rizzo mobile light-up bar, available on Anemone Interiors, makes a glamorous statement.' Alternatively, you can buy off the shelf. We're obsessed with Soho Home's art deco-style Benedict bar cabinet. 'It doesn't matter how much space you have, you can create a bar anywhere,' insists Simon. Drinks trolleys are a great buy, too: see House of Hackney for Anthropologie's scalloped bar cart trolley or the Duo by Ceccotti Collezioni drinks trolley for inspiration. You'll be surprised by what pieces of furniture you might already have that can double up as a home bar – a console table sat flush against the wall and accessorised with a cocktail shaker might be all you need.



**Lighting the space is key.** 'Low level decorative lighting can provide a warm glow while also acting as a decorative object,' says Gemma. Create an atmosphere with a table lamp, or bring that coveted cocktail bar illumination to the space with tealights or candles. 'The hand-blown Murano glass portable tealights from our new Caramella Collection provide the perfect glow and pop of colour,' says Gemma. For a more permanent fixture, wall lights and sconces are best, and don't forget a dimmer. 'Low-dimmed LEDs can really set the mood of your bar cart space,' says Gianpiero Gaglione of Gianpiero Gaglione Interior Design.

**Don't miss out on the opportunity to create an elegant vignette that speaks to your style.** 'I love a story behind the bar,' says Gianpiero. 'Collected items from your travels, adventures or old friends are most welcome.' Let ingredients like fresh lemons, limes, cinnamon sticks and pomegranates be your decor. Intricately carved liquor bottles can also be used as decor in itself, even when empty, and a tray is a great buy, working as an accessory catch-all. Finally, emphasise the zone by giving your bar cart a background on the wall. From mirrors to wallpaper, this is a space to have fun.

FEATURE OONAGH TURNER PHOTOGRAPH MICHAEL P H CLIFFORD