

The complete lifestyle magazine

May 2009 | £3.80

# COUNTRY LIVING

HOUSES • GARDENS • FOOD • CRAFTS • HEALTH • TRAVEL • RURAL ISSUES

## SPRING *garden special*

25 pages of  
DESIGN IDEAS,  
COTTAGE GARDEN  
FLOWERS AND  
GROWING YOUR  
OWN VEGETABLES

plus win a  
*green roof*

A RIVERSIDE  
*retreat*  
OUR SELECTION  
OF DREAM  
HOMES BY  
THE WATER

NEW SERIES

Decorating  
FROM  
SCRATCH

FOLLOW OUR  
ESSENTIAL  
ROOM BY ROOM  
STYLE GUIDE



## Green living extra



ECO GIFTS, ORGANIC BEAUTY, INSPIRING RURAL  
BUSINESSES AND A HONDA HYBRID TO WIN



# Emporium



## Eco home

**1 Manufactured in Gloucestershire**, this range cooker from Everhot, £4,575, was originally designed to run off a wind turbine but can be plugged into a 13A socket (01453 890018; [www.everhot.co.uk](http://www.everhot.co.uk)) ☑

**2 Made from two pieces of oak** slotted into each other, this stylish handmade wall light, £375, is from Benchmark's range of FSC\* and PEFC\*-certified furniture (01488 608020; [www.benchmark-furniture.com](http://www.benchmark-furniture.com)) ☑

**3 Eco Centric's environmentally friendly** range of wallpapers include this Harry's Garden design (£85 for a 10m roll), which is printed with water-based inks on chlorine-free paper (020 7738 3888; [www.ecocentric.co.uk](http://www.ecocentric.co.uk)) ☑

**4 Hand-woven on traditional looms** onto a cotton and jute base, these eco wool carpets by Alternative Flooring cost £45/sq m (01264 335111; [www.alternativeflooring.com](http://www.alternativeflooring.com)) ☑

**5 Using sustainable, home-grown timber**, recycled plastics and coloured acrylics, Sarah

Thirkwell makes unique vessels, such as these plywood and acrylic vases, £80 each (07847 316288; [www.sarahthirkwell.com](http://www.sarahthirkwell.com)) ☑

**6 This simple August bench/day bed** (£349) from Ikea's new PS collection, which features affordable cutting-edge design, is made from sustainable pine and white leather (0845 355 1141; [www.ikea.com/gb](http://www.ikea.com/gb)) ☑

**7 The new eco paint finishes** from Farrow & Ball are low in odour and have minimal or zero VOC\* content. From £15.50/750ml, including primers, undercoats and varnishes (01202 876141; [www.farrow-ball.com](http://www.farrow-ball.com)) ☑

**8 Eco Kitchens Online's sink unit**, from £2,832, is created from strawboard (an agricultural waste product), covered by FSC\* sustainable oak, and can have a worktop made from recycled yogurt pots (0844 848 9880; [www.ecokitchenonline.com](http://www.ecokitchenonline.com)) ☑

For more eco information and ideas, visit [www.allaboutyou.com/greenliving](http://www.allaboutyou.com/greenliving)

### ECO TERMS\*

**FSC** - The Forest Stewardship Council is a non-profit making organisation promoting responsible management and conservation of the world's forests. This is the highest accreditation there is for wood and paper products.

**PEFC** - The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification is an international forest certification system to promote sustainable forestry.

**VOCs** - Volatile Organic Compounds are organic chemical compounds that evaporate easily and can contribute to air pollution and ozone depletion.

## Lighting

A sitting room needs to be conducive to relaxation, so avoid harsh over-lighting. Install a basic level of background lighting (recessed spotlights on a dimmer switch work well for low ceilings; a decorative pendant style such as a chandelier makes the most of a high ceiling and has an impact even when unlit), then add low-level lamps to do the real work. Floor-standing beside sofas or set on tables and clipped to bookshelves, these create areas of contrast that bring the room to life as well as providing practical illumination for reading, etc.

BELOW Melon vase lamp, £970, Emily Tordhunter at Best & Lloyd, Brighton; turned-wood floor lamp, £250, Heal's



## Colours and fabrics

Certain shades work particularly well in sitting rooms, combining elegance with comfort, a gentle sense of colour with a restful air of neutrality. A scheme of blues and taupes has this quality, as does the mix of greens and greys used in our scheme. The greens are leafy and natural, from the cool sage of the rugs to the warm chartreuse of the velvet cushion and armchair, while the greys incorporate hazy lilac tones fading to pale, misty silver. These organic shades can be splashed with brighter florals such as blues and pinks, and teamed with linens and hessians to keep the overall look neutral. If you limit pattern to accessories, you can play with its style and scale.



TOP Wharton wallpaper in black/white and acacia, £42/roll, Designers Guild. ABOVE LEFT Sofa, £2,550, The French House. Green cushion in Kiss velour in absinthe, £69/m, Lorca at Osborne & Little. Floral cushion in Atlanta linen mix, £162.47/m, Bennison. Bolatar in green gingham, £23.50/m, Barbara Coups. Floor-standing Bestlite lamp, £429, Geoffrey Harris Lighting. LEFT (clockwise from top left) Duralex glass, £7.45 (set of six), Le Tom. Siye linen (background), £49/m, Osborne & Little. Grovehurst Green cotton mix (floral), £58/m; Linton Green cotton mix (small green motif), £46/m; both Jane Churchill. Chardon linen, £43/m, Nina Campbell. Kiss velour in absinthe, £69/m, Lorca at Osborne & Little. Carpet (from top) Moccasin, Linen, and Fawn, all £45/sq m, Wool Nature range at Alternative Flooring Company. Paint chart, Paint & Paper Library ▶

*Perfect planning:* Work out where you want lamps and sort out the wiring early on