

THE SPRING MANIFESTO

Looking for pointers on how to keep your interior stylings a cut above? Let GRACE CAIN be your guide to the best in décor, cutlery and more

THIS IS YOUR SIGN TO STAY IN, but not inside; to fill your home with joyful colour and curvaceous silhouettes that spill out of the front door and into the garden; to invite everyone for aperitifs on the terrace and (much later, after dinner) a nightcap in the still-warm midsummer air. This is a rallying cry to finally invest in the pieces you've always wanted – the lights, the sofas, the plates and the teacups – to really make yourself at home this season.



HOUSE STYLE

Christian Dior once noted that “living in a house which doesn’t reflect who you are, is like wearing someone else’s clothes”. Good news, then, if ‘who you are’ is a discerning fashion maven with a penchant for a night in. Whether you’re zigzagging around in Missoni or living La Dolce Vita in Dolce&Gabbana, you can now match the contents of your wardrobe to the rest of your home (and possibly the wardrobe itself). As for Monsieur Dior, he no doubt would have admired his eponymous brand’s new Lotus Collection, which celebrates both his own love of botanicals and the maison’s historic ties with Egypt. >

This page, clockwise from far left Dolce&Gabbana Casa Carretto dinner plates 26cm, £295 for set of two, Murano white wine glass £295, cashmere Jacquard blanket £2150, lounge chair (in Leo 001 Silk Velvet Black & Brown) £53,580 and Giacinto Armchair (in Carretto Velvet, without cushion) £8,772; Dolce&Gabbana Casa x Bialetti Moka Express medium coffee maker £75; Dolce&Gabbana Carretto dress, price on request. Opposite page, from far left Ralph Lauren Home Montgomery cocktail shaker £215 and Wilshire Espresso Cup gift set £105; Dior Lotus Collection placemat and napkin set £350, decorative plate £170, water glass £200, wine glass £200 and large Salento candleholder £240; Ralph Lauren Floral Smocked dress £349; Missoni Zigzag dress £750; Missoni Home Zigzag Belfast cushion 60cm x 60cm, £340, and Jarris teacup and saucer £229 for set of two



SLAYING THE TABLE

Time for some positive visualisation. It's summer, early evening. The air is filled with expressions of awe and the quiet tapping of thumbs against cameras as guests surround your carefully curated alfresco tabletop. A vibrant cacophony of plates by Cabana and Georg Jensen mingles with Richard Brendon's optic glassware and the beautiful floral arrangements you picked up from Neill Strain. Your dinner party is a roaring success – and the caterers haven't even brought out the hors d'oeuvres yet. The moral of the story? Tablescapes are going nowhere – and it's never too early to start planning your next one. >

Top Cabana 10-Year Anniversary Collection Garda tablecloth 170cm x 320cm, £390, Sicilia dinner plates £85 each, dessert plates £80 each and charger plates £110 each, Venezia wine glasses £160 each and water glasses £160 each; left, from top Richard Brendon carafe £80 and tumbler £65; Georg Jensen wine glass £75 for set of six and tumbler £55 for set of six, Henning Koppel dinner plate £40, dessert plate £35 and side plate £30, Koppel pitcher 1.5 litres, £140 and serving bowl £155



PLAY IT COOL

When it comes to your child's nursery, minimalism is less fun (and less realistic) than an air of whimsy and nostalgia. But – as you can see – that doesn't mean you have to skimp on aesthetics.



Jellycat Amuseable Daisy
£39.95



Kartell Moschino bear
table lamp £245



Bloomingville Mini Kalu
Bookcase £349



Donna Wilson
Maurice Ted £54.95

THERE'S NO SMELL LIKE HOME

Scents set spaces apart – from Dr. Vranjes Firenze's heady blends of amber and patchouli, to Culti Milano's floral (and exclusive) new capsule collection. And as a bonus they all look as great as they smell.



Dr. Vranjes Firenze Onyx Ambra candle 500g, £76



Culti Milano Onde di Tessuto diffuser 500ml, £106



D'Orsay x Laetitia Rouget 05.33 A Minha Vida Portuguesa Pink candle 250g, £130

MAKE LIGHT WORK

Even the staunchest member of the 'anti-big-light' movement may be tempted over to the bright side by this year's trend for sculptural chandeliers. But we're not talking *Beauty and the Beast*-style behemoths; this new era calls for minimalist shapes and an experimental spirit. Cattelan Italia's Magellano and Giorgio Collection's Charisma take the traditional expectation of a chandelier and deconstruct it into something more contemporary, while Tom Dixon's Melt pendants feature a mirror-effect surface when off. So even if you can't quite bring yourself to actually switch the Big Light on, it can still function as a striking work of art.

Above, from left Cattelan Italia Magellano suspension light £2,785; Tom Dixon Melt LED pendant £950; Giorgio Collection Charisma rectangular double chandelier £7,100; below Cassina Dudet chair £2,022; right B&B Italia Le Bambole armchair £6,425

BUBBLE AND CHIC

Children of the '90s; if you were ever denied ownership of an inflatable armchair because a parent or guardian insisted they would pop (they would), your time has finally come. Blow-up enjoys a glow-up thanks to renewed interest in comfortably chunky furniture that will not slowly deflate in line with your expectations. Leading the charge is Roche Bobois' Bubble Armchair (the design celebrates its 10th anniversary this year) and Fendi Casa's to-the-point Blow Up seating systems. □

Below, from left Roche Bobois Bubble Armchair £3,590; Fendi Casa Blow Up sofa £5,733

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