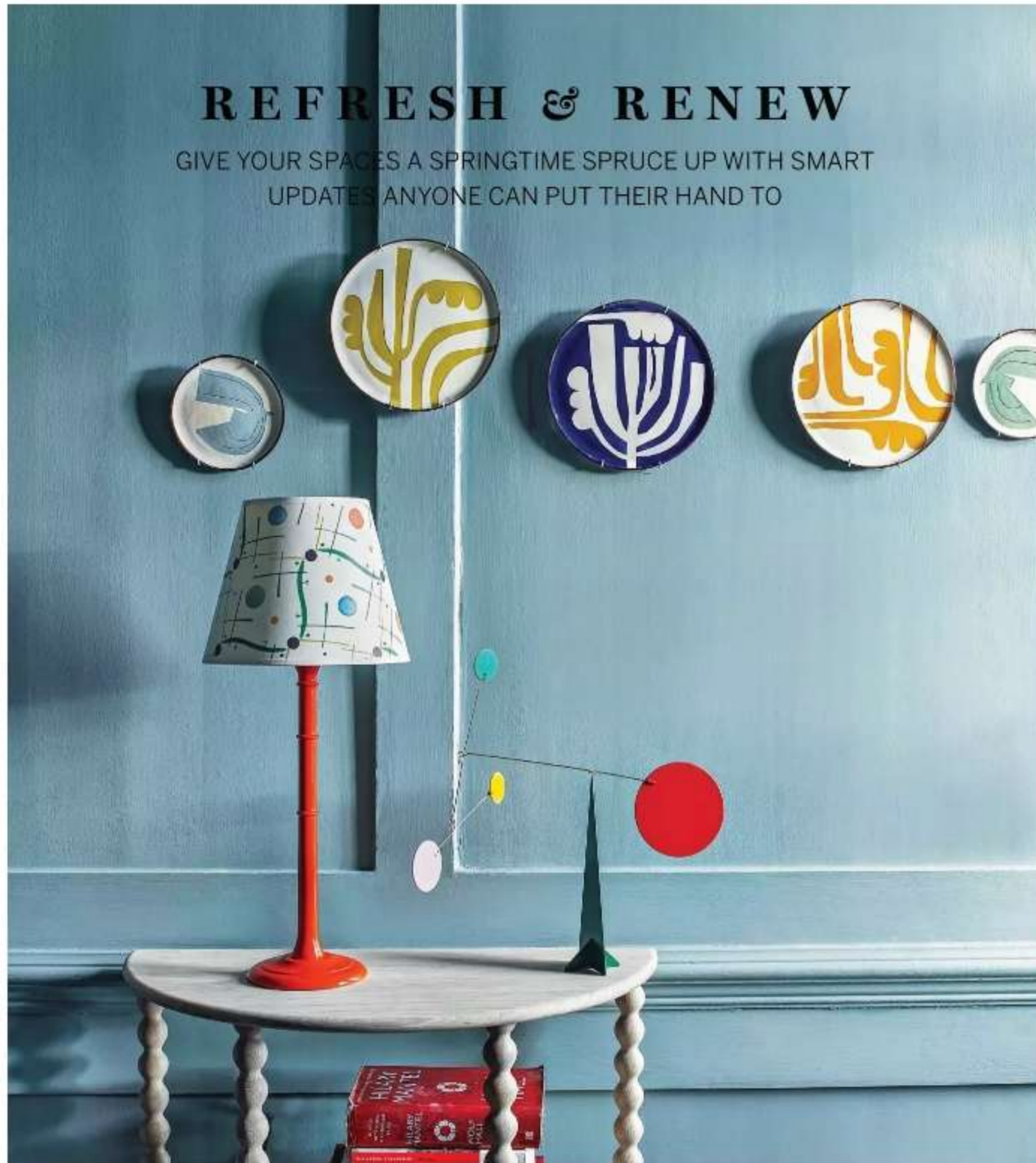


REFRESH & RENEW

GIVE YOUR SPACES A SPRINGTIME SPRUCE UP WITH SMART UPDATES ANYONE CAN PUT THEIR HAND TO



FASHION A DISPLAY

If your best china is too good to eat off, or perhaps you have decorative antique plates hidden away in a cupboard, make a gallery wall display with them. Select a few of varying sizes and patterns and measure up the placement of each piece on the wall before you go in with a hammer and nails, to make sure you get the spacing right. Once you're happy, attach the plates to hanging wires – you can get ones especially designed for plates that will hold them firmly without damage – and hook onto the walls.

Plates, from £45 each, Lucy Ogden. Tall Asker **lamp** in Poppy Red, £205; Improvisation **shade** in Green, £85, both Rosi de Ruig. Dallas Multi **mobile** in Green, £139, Volta at The Conran Shop. Bobbin **table**, £540, Alfred Newall at The London Workshop. **Wall and panelling in** Oval Room Blue estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

LIVING ROOM

FRESH COAT

Think about a fresh lick of paint, but in small doses. 'Most of us have an old chest, chair or table that has seen better days,' says Helen Shaw, director of Benjamin Moore UK. 'Painting the inside or the legs in an eye-catching colour can make it feel like you have a brand-new piece at a fraction of the cost of buying new furniture.' Remember to clean down the surface before you begin, followed by a smooth sanding and a repair of any cracks. 'We recommend two coats for a flawless finish,' adds Helen.

GIVE IT AN EDGE

Swapping out your soft furnishings is a quick and easy way to keep rooms feeling refreshed season to season. But how about going one step further and adding a little extra detail to your cushions with new trimmings? If you have a sewing machine, then it's a relatively simple look to achieve. Pick up your beading, braids, piping and tassels – we love Samuel & Sons – then pick out a colour that matches the fabric for a sophisticated finish or opt for a contrasting tone for a contemporary twist. →



FEATURE: YVETTE MURRELL, EMMA THOMAS PHOTOGRAPHS (CREATE A DISPLAY) JAN BALDWIN/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM; (FRESH COAT) JON DAV/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM; (GIVE IT AN EDGE) POLLY WREDFORD/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM

Mia **wallpaper** in Poudre, £156 a roll, Pierre Frey. Molly **dresser**, £1,195, Loaf. Orkney Spool **chair**, £1,450, Nina Campbell. Seat **cushion in** Penelope in Ocean, £166m, Teyssier. Kimono B floor **tiles** in Pea Green/Pure White, £139sq m, Marrakech Design. Thando wall **lights** with cables, £410 each, Ilala. Vintage **creamware**, from £48-£375 per piece, Nick Jones. Short gourd **basket**, £365, As'Art at SCP



For similar **trimmings**, try Jane Clayton & Company

HALLWAY

DECORATIVE OVERHAUL

A patterned floor can really lift the look and feel of hallways and opting for a flooring such as luxury vinyl tiling (LVT) works well in high-traffic areas as it is highly durable against water and moisture, as well as being stain and scratch resistant. Take the flooring into under-stair cupboards and cloakrooms. A built-in bench seat to take shoes on and off is also good usage of an alcove. Make it comfy with a padded cushion and reflect light with a landscape mirror.



For similar **flooring**, try Amtico

STEP IT UP A NOTCH

Stencilling or even tiling the side of each step on a staircase will bring an unsuspecting splash of pattern. Look to use similar colours or shapes found elsewhere on your landing or hallway to create cohesion. You may even want to introduce wallpaper for extra impact. 'Wallpaper is seeing another renaissance, as people seek out colour and pattern that injects joy into an interior,' explains Ruth Mottershead, creative director at Little Greene and Paint & Paper Library. 'Green and blue tones are becoming increasingly popular,' she adds.



For similar **wallpaper**, try Paint & Paper Library.
For similar **tiles**, try Otto Tiles & Design

PHOTOGRAPHS (DECORATIVE OVERHAUL) RICHARD POWERS/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM; (STEP IT UP A NOTCH) JAN BALDWIN/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM; (BRING IN THE GREEN) CAROLYN BARBER/FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM



BRING IN THE GREEN

'Spring is a great time to get into indoor plants,' says Dr Katie Cooper, founder of online indoor plant store Bloombox Club. 'As the weather gets warmer and daylight hours increase, houseplants enter their active growing phase and come out in full force.' Previously a practising therapist and psychology lecturer, Katie explains it is important to research your plants to ensure they sit in the best light. 'It's nice to bring together plants of varying shapes and sizes, but maintain a theme throughout, whether that's jungly and rugged or neat and ornamental,' she adds. →

For a similar **table**, try Perch & Parrow. For similar indoor **plants**, try Bloombox Club



BOUTIQUE LOOK

A matching upholstered headboard and footboard may sound like a luxurious hotel-chic look, but is actually quite easy to achieve. You'll need plywood for the board, wadding to pad the piece out, fabric of your choice, as well as trim or edging – plus a staple gun to bring it all together. Small panels with patterned fabric add a subtle amount of detail, such as in this framed bed, but it can be fun to play around with dimensions too. Consider creating an extra wide or tall headboard for dramatic effect, as it'll bring the focus on the room straight to the bed.

Waterloo double four poster **bed frame**. £899, The Original Bed Co; **painted in** Marine Blue 95 intelligent satinwood, £73.50 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene. **Head and footboard in** Psycho Sprig in Tropical Blue, £74m, Kit Kemp at Andrew Martin

BEDROOM

MAKE A MURAL

You don't have to put your artistic nature to the test when it comes to picture walls. There are plenty of wallpapers that are designed to do just that with trompe l'oeil illustrations that can quickly add an extra dimension even in small spaces. For a relaxing bedroom scheme, turn to images of escapism, like this tropical pictorial wallpaper that evokes the memory of faraway shores. Complete the look by choosing furniture, bedding and cushions in earthy ochre and a pinch of ginger for a fully immersive design.



PHOTOGRAPHS (MAKE A MURAL) SIMON BEVAN/FUTURECONTENT.HUB.COM; (DESIGN & DESK) DAVIDE LOWATT/FUTURECONTENT.HUB.COM

Tana Grisaille **wallpaper** panel, 220 x 200cm, €260. Ananbo. Harrington **headboard**. £2,300 plus 4m fabric, 5m piping and 2m border, Kitesgrove at Ensemblier London. **Headboard in** Alto Straw linen, £110m; Christopher Farr Cloth; **edged in** Onyx leather piping, £34m; Frida **border in** Obsidian, £67m, all Samuel & Sons. Padma **scence** with rattan shade, £604, Arteriors

DESIGN A DESK

Whether we are working from home or the kids need to do their schoolwork, these days there's always a need for a dedicated workspace. It needn't be imposing, so it's a good idea to make the most of an unused corner or alcove. We love how this floating desk doubles as a dressing table with a sleek round mirror, and the design doesn't take up any unnecessary floorspace while still providing plenty of room to work. Soften up the space with a lamp, flowers and a suitable chair or stool that fits in with the rest of your room's existing decor. ■



JWDA table **lamp**. £280, Jonas Wagell for Menu at The Conran Shop. Georg **stool**. £275, Skagerak at Skandium. Similar metal framed round **mirror**. £150, John Lewis & Partners