

HOME NEWS

BY BEN SPRIGGS



ONE TO WORSHIP MADE FOR TWO

When it comes to furniture, big can be beautiful. Take those Italian leather sofas that are as large as boats and look wonderful in spacious luxury penthouses and hip hotel lobbies. Transpose the same pieces to the more modestly proportioned rooms of our British homes, though, and the result can be ugly. After all, the golden rule of furniture is that it should complement rather than dominate. Thank the interior gods, then, for the two-seater settee — the perfect seating solution for many a homes, from quirky urban conversion to quaint country cottage. This dainty example is from Sofa.com, which sells well-designed, keenly priced pieces that come in a wide variety of finishes and fabrics. This pattern, by Angie Lewin, is from the brand's collaboration with the British fabric company St Jude's — and proves that florals can be fresh, modern and chintz-free.

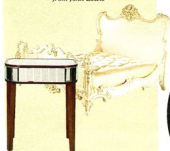
Iggy two-seater sofa covered in Hedgerow fabric, £1,580; sofa.com

WHAT GOES WITH WHAT BEDROOM



Soften a cast-iron bed frame with a graphic table

Swedish bed, £139, from Ikea. Chess side table, £199, by Conran, from John Lewis



Match a mirrored finish with baroque style

Belle de Jour bed, £1,695; frenchbedroom company.co.uk. Capri side table, £275, from Laura Ashley



Complement modern upholstery with chrome

Ruché bed, £2,939; lignorette.co.uk. Chess side table, £374, by Poliform



TREND WATCH

You know what it's like: you visit one of your supercool mates and spend the first half-hour quizzing them on the quirky pieces that give their home an edge. Well, Lifestylemirror.com should satisfy those urges. Featuring hipsters in their own homes — first up is Daphne Guinness (above) — every stylish detail is up for sale. So, whether you fancy Daphne's lush leather trousers, her red velvet sofa or the piece of raunchy artwork behind her, keeping up with the Joneses — or the Guinnesses — is only a click away.



FANTASY OF THE WEEK...

Whether it's Downton Abbey or one of this year's many Dickens adaptations, you probably spend many a Sunday evening in front of the telly pondering what it would be like to have your own stately pile. Well, dreams do come true. Invest in the wow factor of St Michael's Lodge, a beautiful bay-fronted Georgian villa in the Stoke area of Plymouth, and you could end up waiting through its 53ft pillared hallway, getting lost among its nine bedrooms and hosting raucous dinner parties before repairing to the elegant drawing room. Slip into some floaty Valentino and take a turn around the walled grounds like a modern-day Lady Mary. £895,000; lang.co.uk

BOW
WOW
WOW

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