

✦ The magazine for today's country home

COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS

9 770951 301204 03 >

MARCH 2011 £3.80
US\$8.50/AUS\$9.95/NZ\$12.95
RECALL 03/03/2011. *UK mainland only.

Spring looks

REFRESH & RENEW ROOMS
WITH THE LATEST
DECORATING TRENDS

10
GORGEOUS
BATHROOM
UPDATES

**'WE LOVE THE
VIEWS & FIELDS'**

The best things
about country life

**GET CREATIVE
WITH BUTTONS!**

Easy ways to trim
cushions & curtains

**SAVE
20% AT
THE WHITE
COMPANY***

**WANT TO
RUN YOUR
OWN BUSINESS?**
Enter our competition

Wake up to a new season!

- ★ PACK A PICNIC FOR A WOODLAND WALK
- ★ MAKE BUD & BULB FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS



SHOP TALK

*John Lewis of Hungerford,
70 Tranquil Vale, London SE3 0BN,
0700 278 4726, john-lewis.co.uk.*

Based in a beautifully restored Victorian property in the heart of London's Blackheath village, John Lewis of Hungerford's 11th showroom showcases the latest appliances and finishes amid original architectural features. The company's retro Crème de la Crème range has enjoyed a modern makeover, set against opulent marble and outsized mirrors, while its Cool Piano Gloss range sports handle-less cabinets in striking Damson. *Kitchens, from £4,000, John Lewis of Hungerford.*



Bright idea!

Turn your iPad into a virtual cookbook with this worktop stand that helps you get the most from apps such as iRecipes and CookIt. Griffin A-Frame, £35.99, Apple, 0800 048 0408, apple.com.

WEB VIEW For funky kitchen accessories, visit online store josephjoseph.com, which is regularly updated with style guru twins Richard and Antony Joseph's latest innovations.

OF THE BEST... Modern taps

STYLISH DESIGNS THAT ALSO WORK BRILLIANTLY

OBERON MIXER TAP IN CHROME, £295, PERRIN & ROWE

There's no wobbly spout or stiff operation with this tap; its robust construction and ceramic-disc flow control guarantee smooth working. It also boasts easy-grip lever handles and simple styling.



MANHATTAN SPRING NECK TAP IN CHROME, £239, B&Q

This professional-looking mixer tap with detachable high spring hose is perfect for rinsing dishes and washing salad leaves and vegetables.



BOILING WATER TAP IN POLISHED CHROME, FROM £790, QUOOKER

Delivering boiling water at the touch of a button, this tap replaces the kettle and is a great time-saver when cooking. Its unobtrusive stainless-steel heater tank slots neatly under the sink.



5 minutes with...



LAURENCE PIDGEON,
FOUNDER OF
KITCHEN DESIGN
COMPANY
ALTERNATIVE PLANS

What are the current trends in modern kitchen furniture? A leaner, cleaner look. Not sterile, but sparing with detail, such as doors with recessed handles. **What works best in an open-plan country kitchen?** I like the room to take on a relaxed living-room feel by playing down obvious kitchen features. Streamlined built-in appliances fade into the background, while refrigeration and dishwashers can be fully integrated. Then add a rustic dining table to bring texture to the room, and maybe an Aga if you like that style of cooking.

What colours and finishes would you choose? I prefer simple, elemental, natural materials; pale lacquers mixed with wood, stone worktops, and some stainless steel, used judiciously. Darker timbers like walnut are beautiful, especially contrasted with high gloss.

What hi-tech features are your favourites? I still love a big American-style fridge, and induction cooking also gets a big tick for speed and efficiency.

Any advice on finishing touches? Lighting is crucial and needs to be flexible; bright to work by and soft over the table. It can also be used to emphasise features such as a fireplace or beams.

Kitchens from £25,000, Alternative Plans, 020 7228 6460, alternative-plans.co.uk.



Twenty kitchen collection with recessed handles by Modulnova at Alternative Plans.