

Help me beat panel problem

HOW do I get rid of the wood panelling in my front room? - *Andrew Dickson, by email*

TAKE it off the wall and underneath there will be a thin wooden frame that should be able to be screwed off. Fill the screw holes. Alternatively, you could plasterboard over it. However, I prefer to remove than cover.



What's a must for getting rid of dust?

I WANT to stop the dust forming on my garage floor because I want to turn it into a workshop. Will painting it be sufficient? - *David Green, Epping, Essex*

FLOOR paint is especially suited to garage floors and workshops. It differs from ordinary paint as it can withstand mild chemicals, oil, grease and other spillages.

Jewson sells excellent

heavy-duty floor paint. Just two coats will withstand most things you're likely to throw at it.

Red floor paint provides the perfect background for finding anything you drop, and it will seal the porosity of the surface allowing dust to be kept down and the floor to be easily wiped clean.

Bare concrete would absorb moisture so that dust just attaches itself to the surface, making it difficult to clean.

Top tip

If you have a rust spot on your car or other metal item, try using *Jenolite* remover to penetrate the rust and prevent it from spreading.

Best buy

A ROUTER (rotating cutting tool) can be used to form a bullnose on a plain section of timber, making it more decorative.

Fencing? Look at the hole picture

I WANT to build a fence in my back garden over a patio area but I'm worried about lifting the slabs. How big do the posts need to be as I want the fence as high as possible? - *David Mustard, Manchester*

FOR a standard 6ft fence I would always recommend setting an 8ft post into a 2ft hole, secured by concrete/post

mix. For the patio area, you have to secure the posts to the slabs instead of digging them up.

This is where metal sockets come into their own. Simply drill the holes in the slab and bolt the metal sockets to them. Slot the post into the metal socket and tighten up the socket to secure the post.

My uncle has left me such a rotten gift

I'VE inherited an old boat from my uncle which had been sitting under tarpaulins for years. The problem is the roof. The plywood is rotting and the fibreglass has split over the rot. Please help! - *Alan Cruikshank, York*

CUT out the rotten plywood in a straight line and replace. Then all you need to do is apply fibre glass over the plywood and lap the edge of the old section and then paint. It's really easy.

Garage window is proving a pane

MY garage window is made from wood. Having cut back some shrubs, I've noticed the putty around the glass is loose and the cement where the window meets the brick wall is crumbling. Can the window be saved? - *Kris Turnbull, Durham*

IT will be mastic not cement that seals the window. Check that the

timber is not rotten by prodding with a screwdriver.

If the timber doesn't fall apart then it might not be too late to repair it by re-pointing the mastic and re-puttying the glass before painting.

The worst-case scenario may be to have it overhauled so the sills can be replaced. With a bit of attention you can have that window looking as good as new.

Write to Donny at Homes & Holidays, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5AP or email DIY.Donny@sundaymirror.co.uk

Artic Design

SPECIALISING in unusual furniture and accessories from Scandinavia's top designers, Artic is the place to go for quirky contemporary style.

Look out for Retro-inspired lighting. Buy NUD lamp, £31.06, Normann Copenhagen Table in warm grey £195.23, Camp Cirrus Hus tray, £18.19 (www.artic-design.co.uk, 020 8133 9308).



95% Danish

LAUNCHED in 2006 to bring contemporary Danish brands to Britain.

Look out for Quirky storage ideas. Buy Ferm Living buttering boards £16.95 each, Elfa wardrobe system, £999; Eva Solo deli jars, from £30 (www.95percentshop.co.uk, 01993 867078).

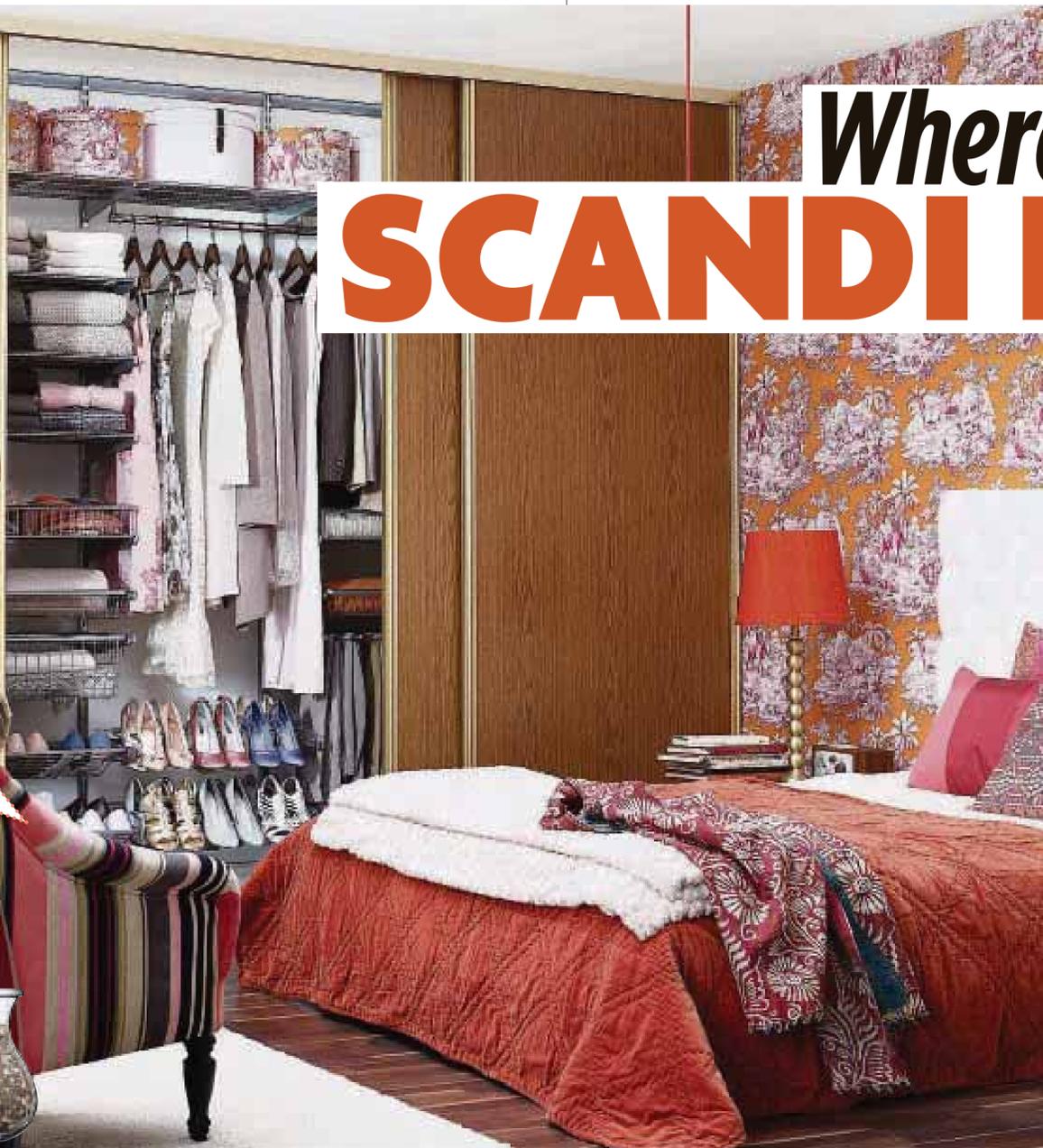


Scandi Living

SCANDI offers a hand-picked mix of homely and modern soft furnishings from Swedish brands.

Look out for Funky wallpaper, rugs, cushions.

Buy ECO Retro wallpaper, £36 a roll; Pappelina Viggo star rug, £79; Linum Metro cushion, £39 (www.scandiliving.com, 01428 608050).



Where to get the SCANDI LOOK

BIG in the Fifties and Sixties, it seems we are falling in love with the cool, modern Scandinavian look all over again.

Today's version is light, bright and seriously stylish.

Check out our pick of the best Scandi stores and online boutiques...

By FRANCESCA COOKNEY

IF you fancy bringing some Scandi style into your home, here's what to look for...

1. Naturals

Wood and other natural materials feature heavily in Scandi design.

2. Muted colours

White, grey, petrol blue and mauve create a fresh and calm backdrop.

3. Simple shapes

Steer clear of ornate furniture and fussy details and go for clean, uncomplicated styles.

4. Fun!

A cool, modern scheme can still be playful. Add funky details to a neutral scheme with unusual designs, retro patterned accessories and splashes of colour.



Rice

BEST known for its melamine kitchenware and glazed ceramics.

Look out for Funky, brightly coloured kitchenware.

Buy Glazed Italian tableware, from £5; Bamboo lacquered fruit plates, £28 each; Thermo teapot, £16.50 (www.rice.dk).



Ikea

THE latest PS Collection range of furniture and accessories sees new designers offer a fresh take on Ikea's affordable flatpack style.

Look out for Bright colours and playful designs.

Buy Three-seat sofa, £695; Yellow stool, £25 (www.ikea.co.uk, 0845 355 1141).



Nordic Bliss

NORDIC Bliss focuses on small designers from Scandinavia.

Look out for Muted colours, natural materials, shabby chic style.

Buy Antique desk lamp, £129.90; Woven tealight holder, £7.90; Wood magazine holder, £14.90; Embroidered cushion cover, £26.90 (www.nordicbliss.co.uk, 01344 452412).



Cloudberry Living

AS well as supplying a host of Scandi designers, Cloudberry Living also sells a quirky range inspired by the cult Swedish-Finnish Eighties cartoon The Moomins.

Look out for Funky kids' furnishings. Buy Darling Clementine Marionette prints, £29.95; Moomin tray, £19.95 (www.cloudberryliving.co.uk, 07780 693034).



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