

COSMOPOLITAN

# Life Stylist

• SIMPLE AND INSPIRATIONAL IDEAS THAT MAKE LIFE SO MUCH SWEETER •

Introducing elements of nature to your home helps breathe new life into it.



## BLOG YOUR WAY TO A BETTER HOME

### Five of the best give their decorative tips

Sometimes, there's just nothing nicer than scrolling through interior design websites and blogs for a touch of style inspiration for your abode. From where and how to hang wall features and prints, and how to make the most of second-hand or budget furniture, to creating a sense of calm in your home by introducing elements of nature into your decor, five fabulous bloggers have some of the best advice around. Read on to find perfectly simple ways to revive your home's style... >



**Holly Becker (based in Germany and the US), blogging for four years**  
[decor8blog.com](http://decor8blog.com)

Find simple, creative ways to add colour and patterns to your home. For example, you can frame postcards or pages from magazines as art and lean them on shelves, or use wrapping paper to line dresser drawers – double-sided tape will secure it.



**Pia Jane Bijkerk (based in Australia, France and Holland), blogging for two years**  
[blog.piajanebijkerk.com](http://blog.piajanebijkerk.com)

I like to bring found elements from nature into my home, like creating a collection of golden leaves in autumn, or gathering pretty wildflowers in summer or spring and placing them in individual glass jars and interesting bottles.

Grouping together things that have something in common – be it colour, texture or style of theme – is an affordable way to refresh your home. I always tend to change seasonally; I don't necessarily buy new things, but instead re-group what I already own.



**Kim Johnson (based in Canada), blogging for three years**  
[desiretoinspire.net](http://desiretoinspire.net)

Matchy-matchy furniture doesn't have any soul – something you've found yourself and painted, restred or re-purposed holds so much more meaning. Cover a table with a retro piece of fabric, add a piece of glass and you have a one-off desk or dining table.

Or, pick up a cupboard from a second-hand store and remove the doors. Paint the outside and cover the inside with funky paper. Storage has never been so stylish or affordable!



**Jo Walker (based in Australia), blogging for three years**  
[desiretoinspire.net](http://desiretoinspire.net)

Artwork can be as simple as fabric stretched over canvas, vintage maps collaged on boards (foam core is nice and light), or simple colour blocks of paint. Etsy.com is a great source of affordable prints. Teeny-tiny gets lost, unless it's put together in a large group, so choose bigger sizes or create an art wall. Can't nail a hook in the wall? Lean large pieces against it. Lightweight pieces can also be hung with removable adhesive hooks and strips. □



**Maxwell Gillingham-Ryan (based in the US), blogging for six years**  
[apartmenttherapy.com](http://apartmenttherapy.com)

No matter what the size of your home, everyone needs what I call a "landing strip" – a designated area surrounding your front door that acts as a filter and helps keep your home free of any other unnecessary clutter. A landing strip can include a few components, such as:

- A shoe parking lot.
- Coat, hat and bag hooks.
- Space or holder for keys, wallets, phones and spare change.
- A mirror.
- A letter holder for quick mail sorting.