



Welcome

Imagine a world where you wake up in the morning, open your bathroom cabinet and nothing falls into the sink. Where you look in your wardrobe and choose from a row of neatly stacked shoes and freshly ironed T-shirts, colour-coordinated from crisp white to soft pink. Where all your books and CDs are filed alphabetically and nothing ever takes you more than two seconds to find...

I dream of living in that world, of having a home that's perfectly ordered, a garden that's weed-free and hair that always behaves itself. Then I wake up, tumble out of bed onto a pile of last week's washing and realise that storage heaven is still quite a way away. So it's three cheers all round for our deputy style editor, Jo Barnes, whose organising feature on page 43 is a breath of fresh air. A big shout also goes out to our talented art director, Helena Thomas, who's done some spring cleaning of her own and given Livingetc a bright new look for summer.

We love it – hope you do, too.

Jane

JANE BRITTON, Editor



Meet our contributors



Our picture editor Melba Johnson has just won an award for being totally brilliant at her job. Check out her stunning home on page 60.



Photographer James Mitchell is as relaxed as the kitchen-diner he shot for What's Next in Kitchens. Take a look at the results on page 77.



What brilliant photographer Tom Leighton doesn't know about interiors isn't worth knowing, as *The Living in Easy* (page 101) proves.



Over tenses moving abroad? Globe-trotting writer Sarah Ogden speaks to four couples who've taken the plunge, in *Go On, Live A Little* (page 54).



THE LIVINGETC SHOPPING PLEDGE We know how irritating it is when you live outside London and all the numbers in magazines have London codes. So we make sure that almost everything we mention is either available nationwide or by mail order. If something's so great that it deserves to be featured but isn't available nationwide, we try to make sure the shop concerned will post it to you.

PS: Don't forget to watch out for the Livingetc best buys stamp, which we've included to help you shop. The gear we think is particularly stylish or really great value gets one, and there are a few in each issue.



Missed last month's issue? Call John Denton Services on 020-8503 0588 to order copies of Livingetc, from the June 1998 issue onwards.

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Box 'em in

RIGHT Give your books a new lease of life with a shelf system that lets you store them in different ways – on end, piled high, with similar spines together or all the same size in a line. Arrange your favourite magazines in sleek, Perspex files to keep them tidy and easily accessible. And throw a few extras into the mix to break things up a bit – pretty ceramics, photos, gorgeous paperweights. Just make sure you don't mix too many collections together or it will look jumbled.

Chill out

BELOW Streamline your music system with a unit that works hard as a sleek surface and as clever storage for CDs.

Stack books at different angles to make a graphic impact



LEFT White Boom table, £600. Tim Hitchens at Havok. **SD-NX 10H 1-BIT CD and mini-disk system**, £1,000, Sharp Electronics. **Glass vase**, £36, After Noah. **Mini-disk drawer**, £11, Muji. **Wine glass**, £3.75, Graham & Green. **Cushion**, £45, Designers Guild. **Nightlights**, 45p each, Moonson Home.

RIGHT Qubes, £49 each, Patricia Adler at Peppermint. **Pink sunglasses**, £6, Bhs. **Linen Circa photo album**, £18, The General Trading Company. **Bag**, £16.95, The Conran Shop. **Magazine files**, £4.95 each, Muji. **Aubergine vase**, £33, Piumo. **Candles**, 95p each, Moonson Home. **Box ring binders**, £4.50

each, Bureau. **Lucite boxes**, from £25; **glass marbles**, £9.95 for 200; Lucite **photo frames**, £17.50 each, all Room. **Theatre paperweight**, £24.95, The General Trading Company. **Glass paperweight**, £16.50, Room. **Silk address books**, £12.95 and £14.95, Graham & Green. **Three-drawer plastic box**, £12.50, The Conran Shop. **Photo frame**, £4.50, Habitat. **Perspex cube**, £29.95, Room. **Purple glass**, £4.75, Graham & Green. **Small storage jar**, £2.50, WEA. **Pens**, from £1.95, Bureau. **Notebooks**, £7.95 each, Moonson Home. **Slippers**, £90, Toat. **Books**, from a selection, Borders.