

Homes&Living

Alison Cork, from HomesAndBargains.co.uk, has put together a series of offers especially for Post readers.

Livingbargains

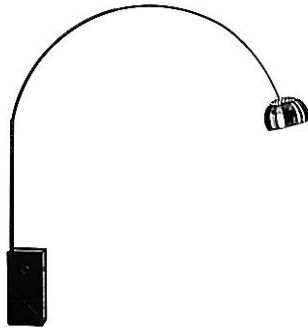
● Giveaway of the week
One lucky reader can win a £350 Arco Floor Lamp with a black marble base courtesy of leading designer lighting company Iconic Lights. Designed in 1962 by Achille and Pier Castiglioni, the Arco floor lamp is one of the most iconic pieces of Italian design, and this reproduction is as true to the original as possible. The tubular design creates an adjustable stem, full 2.4m height, a 75kg solid marble base and sleek bevelled edges. Though the original costs a daunting £1,250, the Iconic Lights version is just £350. For more details visit www.iconiclights.co.uk. To enter, text DESIGN to 83222 (texts cost 50p plus standard network rate). To enter online and for terms and conditions visit homesandbargains.co.uk/comps. Closes January 12. T&Cs apply

● Appeal Window Shutters
Bring cosy charm to your home this winter with Appeal Window Shutters. These sophisticated window dressings feature adjustable louvres, making it simple to control light, shade and privacy, keeping your home warm in winter and cool in summer. Whether you have a country cottage or a modern town house, they make a stylish alternative to curtains and are available in a range of colours and finishes. To claim your free colour brochure packed full of design ideas and a free fitting voucher go to www.appealshading.com/alisoncorkoffer or call 0800 975 5757 making sure that you quote 'Alison Cork Offer'. Offer ends December 31.

● SlumberSlumber
Ensure that visitors sleep soundly this Christmas with one of SlumberSlumber's half-price Aerobed offers. These comfortable and convenient guest beds rapidly inflate with the electric pump included, and can be just as quickly deflated and stored when you have the house back to yourself. SlumberSlumber has 11 different ranges of Aerobed in stock, in single, double and king sizes. Right now the Aerobed Active Raised Single is just £49.99 (RRP £99.99), with free P&P. Visit www.slumberslumber.com/aerobed or call 0800 121 4110 while stocks last. Bed pictured is the Platinum Raised.

● The Travelling Souk
This set of six jewel coloured teaspoons from The Travelling Souk adds a little Eastern enchantment to teatime. Made from nickel, they come in a muslin pouch and are normally £25, but Homes & Living readers receive an exclusive 15 per cent off, reducing the set to £21.25. Delivery takes approximately one week. Visit www.thetravelling-souk.com or call 01865 821835 and quote souk15 at checkout. Offer ends December 21.

● To follow Alison on Twitter, visit twitter.com/AlisonCork & for more fabulous homeware bargains visit homesandbargains.co.uk or alisoncork.com



Beds are edged with traditional handmade clay pavers



The style of this garden is a classic Victorian design of two crossed paths and a perimeter pathway

The paths are of consolidated gravel, forming a solid yet permeable layer

A question of taste

Katherine Roper fulfils an ambition to create a kitchen garden, both for growing food and for relaxation

Livingoutside

include an area for composting as well as space for relaxing and enjoying the fruits of labour.

The design of this garden is a classic Victorian design of two crossed paths and a perimeter pathway, which was reduced to one side only



due to space restrictions. This layout provides four main growing beds and a series of borders at the base of the surrounding walls, which offer shelter and warmth, ideal for fruit espaliers.

Here, all beds are edged with

traditional handmade clay pavers the central pathway is edged with a mix of limestone slabs and clay pavers leading to the square central dining area. The paths are of consolidated gravel, forming a solid yet permeable layer.

Kitchen gardens differ from vegetable gardens in placement, design and history.

Separated completely from the rest of the residential garden, the kitchen garden was the original supermarket for large country estates, providing herbs, vegetables, fruits and cut flowers for the house, staff and guests.

They demonstrate an elegant blend of year-round visual as well as practical interest.

The design is based on repetitive geometric patterns, which are formal in style and provide a practical layout suited to crop rotation.

On the other hand, the vegetable garden is reminiscent of small family farm plots placed within the main garden where crops are planted in rows.

With worsening economic conditions and an increased need for sustainable living, many people are turning to growing their own vegetables, and not just in rows but in mixed use spaces, just like the traditional kitchen gardens of yesteryear.

The satisfaction of growing your own food is priceless, and there is something almost magical in the

fact that you can sow a seed the size of a grain of sand and a few weeks later you're consuming your very own tasty carrot, lettuce or tomato.

These pictures were taken only four months after the project was completed, which just goes to show how quickly you can create a feast for all the family!

To make the most of next season's harvest, winter is the best time to start planning and building your new garden ready for spring. ● Contact Katherine Roper on 07930 565999 and quote Bristol Evening Post for a 10 per cent discount on design work before March. For further information, see www.katherineroper.co.uk



Think there's nothing new in baubles? Think again!

Livinginside

Expand your bauble mix with Peter Jenkinson's selection of six of the best tree decorations

It would seem the increase in popularity of real trees hasn't hampered the appearance of those with tinsel branches. Year after year, families deck their halls with oversized evergreens, their branches bowing under the strain of a vast collection of decorations.

But if you're bored with the traditional bauble mix, take a look at this selection of attention-seeking tree trimmings – there won't be a bare branch in sight!

Kitsch Cool – Reindeer and Santa Lights – £19.95 from www.dotcomgiftshop.com

It may be a tough decision to make, but this illumination collection comes in two retro designs – "reindeer" or "santa". A string of 10 lights, the cute characters are sizeable enough to be noticed among your other decorations, and are sure to bring some Christmas cheer!

Tree Treats – Jelly Belly Baubles – £14.99 from www.firebox.com

Some 85g of jelly beans sit inside each these four transparent baubles. With a random selection from the 50 flavours in the Jelly Belly range – from chilli mango to chocolate pudding – there's a flavour to please all palettes.

Silent Not – TannenBomb Prank Ornament – £9.99 from www.firebox.com

It's a time for giving, so present this to a friend or family member as an early Christmas treat, and your

thoughtfulness is sure to be appreciated... for a short while. Once hung up, this bauble will begin its stealthy operation, automatically emitting a range of annoying noises. It makes for a bit of fun, and a not so silent night...

Interior Design – Pantone Baubles – £8.99 from www.firebox.com

Anyone with a background in design or interior will instantly head towards the buy button after viewing these chic decorations. Celebrating the leading provider of colour systems (we say turquoise, they say Pantone 15-5519), these decorations are sure to attract glances that are tinged with a slight shade of 377, sorry, green.

Cracking Games – Cluedo Game Christmas Cracker – £12.99 from www.dogstrust-gifts.com

If you don't want your guests to be left disappointed with their Christmas cracker prize, invest in a set of these. Once all six have been pulled, there's all you need to enjoy a game of Cluedo, and, of course, a paper hat.

Under The Tree – USB Snowbot – £12.99 from www.firebox.com

Powered from a USB source, this slightly sinister-looking chap will sit pretty in any modern, high-tech home. Thankfully, this robotic snowman is not loaded with festive tunes, just an LED eye that scans from left to right, in either red or blue. If you're looking for something different, then you've found it right here.

