

## Homes&Living

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### Fantastic lights for all budgets

#### Livinginside

Designer lookalike lamps are all the rage after Samantha Cameron bagged a bargain. Gabrielle Fagan picks lights for all budgets

● **SPLURGE:** A design classic, the dramatic Flos Arco Silver Floor Light, with its white marble base, designed by Achille Castiglioni in 1962, is £1,615 from Heal's.  
● **SAVE:** Samantha Cameron bought the Arco Floor lamp, £250 from Iconic Lights.

● **SPLURGE:** The Helena large ceiling spiral pendant, £850 (currently on offer at £595), is a stunner from Laura Ashley.  
● **SAVE:** Mimic the sparkle with a mini Astoria easy-fit pendant, £39.99, from Homebase.

● **SPLURGE:** A Leo Black Easy-fit ceiling beaded pendant, with frosted glass droplets and a metallic gold lining, available in black or white, £80 from Laura Ashley (currently on offer from £56).  
● **SAVE:** A chandelier, £39.50, with tiered droplet display hanging from black/red shade, Marks & Spencer.

● **SPLURGE:** Authentic Models Marconi spotlight, on a tripod, £1,011 from Occa-Home.  
● **SAVE:** A Cover floor lamp, £289, more pared-down version but does the business, from BoConcept.

● **SPLURGE:** A Fifties-style Tripod lamp, with a black shade, £179 from Graham & Green (matching table lamp available).  
● **SAVE:** Gunmetal Chrome Tripod floor lamp, £125, Marks & Spencer.

● **SPLURGE:** A 12-light pendant cluster ceiling light, with glossy black shades, £199, Marks & Spencer. Available by mail order.  
● **SAVE:** Clusta Seven-light ceiling light, £55.98, B&Q.

● **SPLURGE:** A black Moooi rabbit lamp, with a black shade and gold interior, has emerged as a designer must-have. It's £341 from Occa-Home.  
● **SAVE:** Rabbit fans on a budget would find it hard to resist a Bunny Lamp, £35, Next.

Katherine Roper takes inspiration for water features from landscape. Here, she talks about an urban wildlife pond



**T**HE design and installation of water features and ponds are an exciting and specialist part of my work. Whether I am designing a pond or feature into an existing setting, or designing for a garden from scratch, the principles are the same.

When deciding on the style and aesthetics of the water feature, I need to take the surrounding buildings and natural landscape into account.

If the client wants to incorporate a naturalistic pond into their garden then it is best to locate it an area away from the house, especially if the garden is in a less formal setting where there are views of landscapes beyond.

If, however, I am designing a feature nearer the house, so the client can view it from their lounge or kitchen window for example, then I look to the shape and style of the house and the period of its architecture for inspiration.

Often a more geometric design would be appropriate for smaller town gardens. In larger gardens, a fusion of these two design principles is possible, however.

If the client would prefer the pond near the house, while enjoying vistas towards the countryside or less formal landscaping beyond, then it is possible to design straight angles nearer the house giving way to curves furthest away which can merge and soften into the landscape beyond with the use of swathes of planting.

Another consideration when designing an informal pond into a landscape is to site the pond at the lowest level within the garden or somewhere along the fall of the land.

This gives the impression that the water has naturally flowed to the area, creating a body of water.

If natural ponds are in the highest point of a garden they tend to look a little ridiculous as water can't flow upstream!

The pond shown in these pictures was designed for a formal garden in an urban environment in Westbury-on-Trym. The garden wraps around a house whose architecture is very symmetrical and formal in appearance.

The client wanted to install a pond into their garden to encourage wildlife.

I therefore decided to set the pond within the sunken garden in order to create a relaxing environment for the clients to sit and enjoy the pond, while taking in views back to their house.

The garden has been recently completed and a copse of silver birch and informal planting includes swathes of grasses surrounding it.

Before installing a pond it is always best to consider the planting of a pond before you commence construction.

If planting is left until after construction then it becomes extremely difficult, sometimes impossible, to incorporate it after because there will

The pond was designed for a formal garden in an urban environment. The garden wraps around a house whose architecture is very symmetrical and formal in appearance.



A range of marginal plants have been incorporated that helped soften the formality of the design and encouraged wildlife.

Formal ponds such as this one are usually constructed using a combination of walling and a liner. In this example, a planting ledge that sloped away from the edge was also designed around its perimeter.

The garden has been recently completed and a copse of silver birch and informal planting includes swathes of grasses around it.

"I decided to set the pond within the sunken garden in order to create a relaxing environment for the clients to sit and enjoy the pond, while taking in views back to their house ..."

## Wild at heart

#### Livingoutside

be no enclosures to retain the plants. The types of plants you would like to see in your pond also need to be considered at the design stage as the depth of planting within the pond differs between species.

Formal ponds such as this one are usually constructed using a combination of walling and a liner.

In this example, a planting ledge that sloped away from the edge was also designed around its perimeter.

The construction of this allowed for a range of marginal plants to be in-

corporated that helped soften the formality of the design and encouraged wildlife.

Plants include water lilies, irises and water marigold among other lesser known aquatic species.

Since completing the garden I have been advised that the pond has already attracted dragonflies, newts and kingfishers, even though there are no fish for him to pinch!

Contact Katherine Roper on 07930 565999, or visit [www.katherineroper.co.uk](http://www.katherineroper.co.uk)



● Nine-year-old Allegra Allen co-designed her bedroom with artist Mollie Parry-Jones

Photographer: Gavin Crilly

## Set young imaginations free

#### Livinginside

Mollie Parry-Jones is an artist, mother and music lover and has managed to combine her love of all these elements to forge a career. Her bedroom designs for children are particularly popular

**W**OULD you dare let your child design their own room? Specialist children's interior designer Mollie Parry-Jones believes that giving children a say in the style of their bedroom makes them happier and more contented.

The Knowle-based primary school teacher and mother of two runs Hulahoop Design, creating imaginative and beautiful living spaces for children, who are involved in the project from the start.

Mollie says: "There are clear benefits in allowing children the freedom to choose their own décor, whether it means dinosaurs roaming over a wardrobe, a mural of wild flowers, a cheeky alien peeping out from behind a curtain, fairies dancing across the ceiling, or a rainforest growing around a bunk bed.

"By being involved in the design of their own personal space, children gain a sense of being in charge, greater independence and ownership.

"Most importantly, they will really love to play in their room and psychologists have proved that play is the key to motivation in children, which in turn leads to self-confidence and success in future life.

"As a teacher, I am encouraged to teach children as young as four or five to develop their sense of 'self' and to pursue their own interests. The aim of Hulahoop is to continue this work, but in the home, helping children to create a beautiful space inspired by their own ideas."

Dr Simon Claridge, senior educa-



"Children will develop a growing sense of autonomy and, therefore, are much more likely to become motivated in childhood, and later, as adults."

Nine-year-old Allegra Allen, from Knowle, co-designed her bedroom with Mollie and clearly had a great time doing it. She says: "It is so much fun! Mollie painted a fairytale forest on my bedroom wall just how I'd imagined it. I love going to bed, feeling like I'm in a forest with the animals watching over me.

"I like to sit in my hanging chair and pretend I am actually in the forest, reading quietly and relaxing. And when I wake up every morning, the most brilliant picture in the world is there, right in front of me."

There are many educational and interactive elements to Mollie's designs, including magnetic doorways for attaching letters and numbers, a chalkboard flower, handmade clocks and hoopla bars and dart boards, which can help children with reading, writing and numeracy, as well as physical development and co-ordination.

In addition to creating murals and advising on décor, Mollie sells hand-painted wooden clocks for children and, with her sister Tara Perchard, has launched singing groups for children. The sisters have always sung together and play several instruments. Their classes, under The Singing Tree banner, run in Upper Knowle, Long Ashton and Corsham.

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