



Young ideas for the home

The Geffrye Museum

This museum has the best history of interiors in London and over Easter has holiday activities based on all things domestic, for young children and teenagers, including making crazy cutlery by giving old forks, knives and spoons new clay handles, designing stained-glass window biscuits and favourite-food place mats (below). Events are free but must be booked in advance; age restrictions apply.

The Geffrye Museum,
Kingsland Road, E2
(020 7739 9893; www.geffryemuseum.org.uk).



Steffano goes bananas for carrots

Alessi

Bring a smile to the table with Italian designer Stefano Giovannoni who specialises in creating iconic, if eccentric, pieces for Alessi, including a range of household products such as corkscrews, toothpick holders and salt and pepper cellars. His latest ranges include the Banana Family and Bunnies with Carrots, with egg cups (£15) and place markers (£11 set of four), and this quirky paper towel holder (£24).

Alessi, 22 Brook Street, W1
(020 7518 9090), or Westfield
W12 (020 8576 6100; www.alessi.com).

DESIGN NEWS

Katie Law

Cosy for kids

Cath Kidston

Today only, Queen of all things floral. Cath Kidston, is offering a discount of 15 per cent off all products from her shops and website. In the shops, children will be given cut-out cardboard bunny ears and a chance to "guess the number of eggs in the jar" with a £30 gift-voucher prize. Look out for a range of 10 bespoke wallpapers — vintage designs reprinted on high-quality paper at £150 a roll, and murals for £300 each printed over three standard wallpaper lengths. For your nearest shop, call 0845 026 2440, or visit www.cathkidston.co.uk.

Power plates

Ralph Lauren Home

Poppies, tulips, ranunculus and wild roses feature on the Eliza Floral Plate collection, the latest from Ralph Lauren Home. At £180 each, one or two will do nicely for a bit of style impact. Handmade by one of the oldest porcelain factories in Furstenberg, Germany, the plates are part of the Summer House range, which also includes fresh blue and white striped fabrics (from £73 a metre), simple glazed linens (£65 a metre) and wicker furniture (lounge chair, £2,390). The Ralph Lauren Home Collection, 16 Cork Street, W1 (020 7535 4669; www.ralphlaurenhome.com).



Book of the week

Living with White by Gail Abbott, photography by Mark Scott (Cico, £19.99)

Our love of white has not gone away. The great advantage of the white palette is that you can use it almost anywhere and in almost any light, to brighten up a dark place or to create contrast with other colours.

Gail Abbott, whose previous books include *Decorating with Blue and White*, travelled as far as the Greek islands, Miami, Cape Town and Morocco in search of her perfect white settings, like this elegant veranda in the Cape Peninsula, South Africa.

Living with White is available at the special price of £17.99, including free p&p, by calling 01256 302699 and quoting GLR2AK.



Parasol from paradise

Chaplins

Beat the drought. Forget about investing in your herbaceous borders, which need incessant watering, and splash out instead this summer with the Ensombra, a Spanish-designed, folding parasol. It is a wonder of hi-tech, with a base made of galvanized, thermolacquered iron, a pole made of thermolacquered iron and stripes made of phenolic plate. It comes in five colours and costs a lot — £1,250. Other hot new products include Patricia Urquiola's new metal Re-Trouvé collection, which combines new techniques with old-fashioned curl and spiral designs to create a range of tables, chairs and vases — from £360 for a chair.

Chaplins, 477-507 Uxbridge Road, Hatch End, Pinner, Middlesex (020 8421 1779; www.chaplins.co.uk).

Cut-price classics

Spacecraft

This is a new website that sells authorised design classics such as Knoll, Vitra and Fritz Hansen at competitive prices.

Originally a trade-only showroom in the City, Spacecraft is now branching into the domestic market. Managing director John Hogan says the company offers a huge selection of specifications, an extensive range of furniture and superb after-sales care. Further inducements include a 25 per cent discount until the end of April to customers who sign up to Spacecraft's Iconic Design VIP Club, a chance to win a Knoll chair worth more than £700. In addition, H&P readers who quote HP01 when ordering online will get free delivery within the M25.

For more information, call 020 7253 5800, or visit www.spacecraftint.com.



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