

Easy home hacks for instant luxe

A few creative touches are all it takes to elevate your interiors from standard to striking, says Emma J Page



Curate your cupboards

Give your kitchen a facelift and replace tired and outdated kitchen doors. Hølte (holte.studio) specialises in plywood or wood-veneer fronts and worktops for Ikea and other high-street cabinet carcasses, starting at around £1,150 for a small kitchen. It can also join together two existing cupboards to create a pantry-style space.

Make an entrance

Hallways can make a great first impression, but these transitional spaces are often overlooked. A few simple tweaks will set the tone as soon as guests step over the threshold. 'Repaint your front door and surround on both sides, as this makes an instant impact on hallways as well as adding exterior appeal,' suggests interior designer Beth Dadswell (imperfectinteriors.co.uk).

Supersize the bedroom

Don't be afraid to scale up when it comes to both your bed and bed linen. 'A double bed frame takes up the same floor space as a king-size divan, which has a very neat footprint,' points out Angela Moran, Silentnight's bed expert. The same logic applies to

linen – buy a duvet or sheets a size bigger than your bed for a decadent look. Natasha Teare of luxury hotel Thorpe Manor also advises swapping your standard pillows for bigger 50cm x 90cm versions, and adding square bolster cushions behind pillows, for when you're reading in bed.

Change up your hardware

Replacing handles, drawer pulls and doorknobs can lend chic to simple joinery. Think of these accessories as the expensive jewels added to a high-street outfit. Try Beardmore (beardmore.co.uk) for high-end, British-made options in a range of finishes; Superfront (superfront.com) for bespoke alternatives for Ikea kitchens; and Swarf (swarfhardware.co.uk) for a modern take.

'Choose a style that will match the old coverplate so that you don't have to touch-up door fronts,' says Dadswell.

Create a display

Add a natural focal point to your room by creating a vignette of favourite pieces, whether ceramics, glassware or art. Play with scale, mixing and matching different heights and finishes, maintaining one cohesive note through colour or material. 'Double up on the decorative and functional value of pieces,' says interior architect Natalia Miyar (nataliamiyar.com). 'I collect tableware – serving bowls are displayed on floating shelves in my kitchen. They don't need to be expensive to feel special.'



Play with fabric

A bold fabric will add texture, depth and interest. Be brave with a vivid print by reupholstering a favourite armchair or bench. Then pick up the colourway elsewhere in your scheme with a contrasting plain piece or a trim for cohesion. Use expensive fabrics where you need less, such as on headboards or stools to save money. Try sourcing fabric remnants from an upholsterer.



Invest in one hero piece

Introducing one special item, whether a designer chair, dining table or a statement rug, can inject instant luxe. The key is to give it space to breathe, so declutter before adding a big-ticket item.

Refresh joinery

Well-executed storage can transform a space, both practically and aesthetically. 'Grooved MDF boards that you can buy off the shelf are incredibly useful,' says interior designer Sarah Peake (studiopeake.com). 'I use them to build bespoke storage. Most joiners are happy to work with these and you can buy them primed, so they are easy to decorate, which saves on labour costs and materials.'



Far left: photo by Sara Hibbert. Main image and top right: design by Sarah Peake. Photo by Alexander James. Right: design by Imperfect Interiors. Photo by Chris Snook