



Welcome to my home

A bit about me

I'm Corinne Young, a textile artist, and I live here with my family. We have two cats, Luna and Yanto.

Where I live

My home is a semi-detached former farmworker's cottage in East Yorkshire.

What I wanted to change

It needed a new kitchen and I wanted to turn a series of tiny store rooms into a light, spacious studio for my artwork.

How I made it my own

I upcycle, transform and re-invent almost everything I buy to create an individual look which is full of colour and character.

My favourite part

I absolutely love the patchwork walls in the living room. I created them from squares of old wallpaper, stuck directly onto the wall, and glazed them to create an aged look.



My cottage

'I knew I could create a really individual look on a very small budget'



GOOD IDEA

Maximise light by draping fabric around windows rather than fitting heavy curtains

Shopping

Organise your life with our stylish storage on page 56

My home is full of

Using her artistic eye and extraordinary needlework skills,

Corinne's studio, created from a series of small rooms, features an old TV cabinet, cupboards and tables, most of them painted in Annie Sloan's duck egg blue chalk paint



Studio

The light, spacious studio has been created from a series of small rooms, including a former toilet and a coalshed. 'I had a skylight installed to draw more natural light into the room. It's where I create most of my textile artwork, such as framed fabric pictures, samplers, embroidered handmade linen paper and fabric crockery.'

second-hand textiles

textile artist **Corinne Young** has turned an ordinary house into an unusual home

'I designed the kitchen myself, creating units from furniture I picked up for next to nothing at auctions'



Corinne made her papier mâché sewing machine for a London pop-up show and it's now a fun feature on the mosaic table in her studio, and sits well with her collection of brightly coloured threads and pretty storage boxes.

Corinne picks up many items of furniture from auctions, like these dining chairs which she recovered to give them a new lease of life. This small table is the perfect size to tuck against a wall of her living room.



Pale blue and white is the theme uniting Corinne's collection of kitchen crockery, all displayed on painted shelves. Along with the revamped cabinet doors, these complete the unfitted, country-style kitchen that Corinne wanted.

Kitchen

The kitchen was virtually non-existent when Corinne bought the house. 'There was literally just a sink in it and no units,' she says. 'I didn't want to spend a small fortune on a fitted kitchen – I preferred an unfitted, individual style.' So Corinne bought two sideboards for a total of £10 and, with the help of a friend, turned them into kitchen cupboards. 'I created a whole new kitchen for around £200,' she says.



A random collection of drawers and cupboards have been painted and fitted with wood worktops to create a casual country kitchen for around £200



My story...

I moved to this house because I loved the location, in a quiet village close to the sea. It is south-facing which means the main rooms are full of natural light – very important to me as an artist – but the property itself was pretty unremarkable.

It was quite basic inside, with just an old sink in the kitchen, and there were four small disused rooms at the end of the property. I didn't have a lot of money to spend on doing it up so I had to be creative from the outset. One of the first jobs I did was design a new kitchen, creating units from pieces of furniture bought at auction. I then knocked the store rooms into one large studio space, adding a skylight to draw more light from above. I decorated every room in colours I mixed myself and then furnished the house with second-hand bargains.

I grew up in a family where we reused and recycled, so my mum, and aunt, who was a great seamstress, were always making things and I spent hours watching them and learning how to knit, sew and embroider. This passion for making things developed into interiors, especially decorative techniques, and when I was 40, I took a degree in textile design. When we moved into this house I knew I could create an individual look on a small budget. I bought furniture at auction for just a few pounds and re-invented it by adding decorative features with paint or fabric. I bought fabrics to make cushions, curtains and quilts, and textiles for covering sofas and chairs. I am always making or upgrading something – it means I can create an individual look without spending a fortune.

Steal my style

Assemble country chic accessories like Corinne

Ready, set, bake!

Cath Kidston scales, Daisy Park



£25

Rustic charm

Set of two willow storage baskets, Wilko



£8

£12



Flutter by Butterfly cushion, Next

Living room

Corinne has decorated the chimney breast in a patchwork style with squares of old Laura Ashley wallpaper glued directly onto the wall, and coated with a pale yellow glaze to give it an aged, uniform tone.





The original fireplace was black and quite dull, so Corinne bought a cream fire inset to replace it



Making Display blooms all year round with our **fabric flower** idea on **page 58**

GOOD IDEA
Stencil your own design onto a wall for a bespoke take on wallpaper



Expert advice

How to choose your second-hand fabrics

- Consider the type of fabric you need for your project. If you are upholstering a chair, choose a strong fabric which will withstand wear and tear, i.e. tightly woven fabric with a high thread count. The larger the thread count, the more durable the fabric.
- When choosing second-hand textiles check them for marks, tears and frayed edges, and take these into account when deciding what you want the fabric for, and whether or not the imperfections can be disguised or repaired.
- Hand-wash delicate fabrics, such as silk and wool, in lukewarm soapy water and let them dry thoroughly before storing if you're not stitching with them straight away. Others may be machine washed, but avoid drying linen in the dryer or in direct sunlight to prevent shrinking.

Bedroom

Handmade quilts, painted wall designs and homemade lampshades have turned the main bedroom into a room full of decorative ideas. 'The bed is one of the few things I bought new, although even then it was ex-display,' she says. 'I love butterflies so I couldn't resist the Bhs bedding, which I finished off with a vintage 1950s quilt.'



Her south-facing bedroom is one of Corinne's favourite spaces in the house. She bought the side tables in an auction and painted them a soft cream colour



Bathroom

Corinne didn't have the budget to refit the compact bathroom, so she gave it a colourful boost with a pink shade she mixed herself and an £80 wall cupboard from Bowley & Jackson in Malton.

'I decorated every room in colours I mixed myself and then furnished the house with second-hand bargains'

What I learned...

- Shop around to find bargain textiles that you can turn into all kinds of soft furnishings. I love car boot sales and second-hand shops because I find all kinds of beautiful vintage fabrics.
- I don't like to see anything go to waste so I sometimes buy a piece of battered old furniture for just a few quid and give it a totally new look with handles and paint.
- Mix your own paint colours to create warm tones in each room, then add lots of colour and interesting layers to make it feel comfortable, personal and lived-in.

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