

ASK ANTONIA

Essex Life interiors expert Antonia Edwards answers your questions

You can visit Antonia's brand new blog at www.upcyclist.blogspot.com



Q1 Where can I find some nice, grey flooring for a bedroom?



GREY is a versatile, neutral colour that can achieve a more modern look than the beige tones. It can also look great against bright white or cream, as well as a dusky pink – ideal for creating a calming feel in a bedroom.

In terms of carpet I'd recommend ranges from Crucial Trading. The 100% wool Chicago collection in steel or pewter has a stripy design in a mix of grey tones which will add texture and depth to a room. Also look at their Wool Olympus in Eos, which is a lovely

silvery grey, or for a warm grey try the Wool Kyoto or Wool Boston in Mist. You can see a large selection of samples at Andrew Adams in Leigh on Sea. Call **01702 421132**.

As an alternative to carpet, you could also consider grey wood flooring. Kahrs do some fab ranges of rich textured real wood flooring in grey hues (pictured) such as Oak Dome, Oak Plantaganet and Oak Nouveau Grey. These are available at Specialist Floors Ltd in Colchester (**01206 579603**).

Q3 I'm looking for advice on choosing a kitchen worktop, where do I begin?

I SPOKE to Nicola Scott from CKI Kitchens. She says: 'Some work surfaces are more durable than others. Solid wood surfaces bring natural warmth to the kitchen, but they are a medium maintenance product and therefore require regular attention to keep their natural beauty, particularly around the sink area.'

'A natural stone product, such as granite or quartz, would be well suited to an avid baker as they are a constant cool surface to work on. One of our new displays features a 60mm thick surface with a slab end in Silestone Haiku, which also includes a Silestone Integrity sink. Contemporary features such as these are very popular at the moment and create unique spaces (pictured). Mixing work surfaces is a lovely way to introduce extra detail into a room, such as an oak island with granite runs or a butcher's block within a granite run or overhang.'

For more help from CKI Kitchens in Colchester, call **01206 825181**.

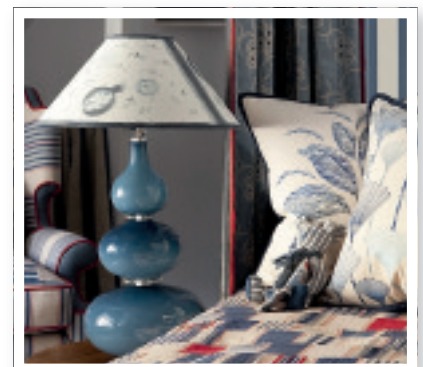


Q2 Where can I find contemporary home accessories to furnish a small coastal cottage?

FOR DECORATIVE objects with a handmade feel, Snape Maltings have a range of terracotta ceramic hand-finished tableware called Shorelines which comes in aqua, blues and sand tones. The lovely tall Brompton lanterns would also work perfectly in a coastal interior setting. Call Snape Maltings, near Aldeburgh in Suffolk, on **01728 688303**.

I'm a big fan of the new William Yeoward collection of fabrics from Designers Guild (pictured) which have a fresh but homespun feel. The Polperro marine stripe fabrics are woven in a traditional fashion and inspired by Yeoward's collection of vintage pieces from 19th century European and British sources – perfect for a laid back coastal feel and available at Brightwell Interiors near Ipswich (**01473 611130**).

Lastly, in Saffron Walden The Blueberry Store's range of New England style furnishings is certainly worth a look, namely cushions and textiles by Lexington with seaside motifs and stripes, not to mention a great selection of nautical ornaments including some fantastic ship models. Call **01799 516345**.



INTERIORS ADVICE?

Do you have a question that needs Antonia's advice? Please email julian.read@archant.co.uk