



## Welcome to my home

### A BIT ABOUT ME

I'm Louisa Linde (@louisashome), 30, a German teacher in a German school. I live here with my husband, Ray Linde, 32, a car sales executive, and our daughter, Lorelai, who's eight months. I'm from Germany and Ray is Latvian.

### WHERE I LIVE

A three-bedroom, self-contained flat attached to a house near Uckfield, East Sussex. We began renting here in May 2023.

### WHAT I WANTED TO CHANGE

The flat had been a guest let and decorated in a low-key cream and grey scheme. I couldn't wait to add colour to bring in liveliness and warmth.

### HOW I MADE IT MY OWN

I love bright shades and have decorated every room in a different colour. I've added accessories in pinks, yellows and greens throughout so each room feels unique but still connected.

### MY FAVOURITE PART

I love the space in our home and having a guest bedroom is great for when my dad and siblings visit from abroad.



'We're lucky to have such a big space to hang out and have created areas for relaxing, work and eating. The dining table is ideally placed next to the kitchen door. Louisa found the various cushion covers at Oliver Bonas, one of her favourite homeware shops.'

SUNNY FLAT UPDATE

## My story

When my husband Ray and I first rented together in Kingston upon Thames, I played it safe with colour as I was unsure if he'd love it as much as I do. We decided to move to the countryside when I became pregnant, and my host family – I'm German and was a nanny for them – offered us their flat, which is part of their country home but entirely separate. We have lots of space and help with the garden and their kids, and they help me with Lorelai when Ray is at work.

I've loved colour since I was a child – back then, I chose a red carpet for my bedroom and yellow walls. I remember feeling like I was walking into sunshine.

In my opinion, you can never have too much colour!

My host family (and Ray) were completely on-board with my idea to decorate in pastels. We began by painting the bathroom in pink and the kitchen in yellow. I love quirky homeware, particularly the playful feel of products at Oliver Bonas. I offset the spend with Facebook Marketplace deals, like the £20 bamboo coffee table I spray-painted bright pink, and the free IKEA dining table.

We completed the transformation in just a few weeks, in time for the birth of Lorelai. Ray's been really supportive of all my decorating decisions and loves what I've done. Although we couldn't change the bones of the flat, living with colour around us has been transformative – this is such a happy home.

# OUR HOME IS PACKED WITH mood-boosting colour

Bright paint colours and patterned accessories sing out in **Louisa Linde's** rental, transforming it into a joyous and happy place to live





'Yellow is important for me to have in a room as it looks so cheerful. I love the bright pink bursts in the cushions and painted coffee table next to the yellow Habitat Callie armchair. The empire lampshade in Pink Paisley by Matthew Williamson is from Pooky



Louisa often changes up the display on the mantelpiece to show off her latest finds or to suit the season

## Living room

'The flat is part of a Victorian addition to the 1500s house and thought to have been where the servants cooked and ate. The large dresser used to hold the crockery. We painted it white, and chose a restful sage green for the walls. I've never lived anywhere with a fireplace, so I was excited to make this a feature and arrange the furniture around it. I love the romantic styling you see in period dramas – floral patterns, gold and ornate detailing.'



## How to put together a colour palette

Follow these tips to create a cohesive home with a colour scheme you love

- Picking three colours is usually the right balance, with the third one as an accent colour. You could use the 60%-30%-10% rule as a guide to how dominant each one needs to be.
- Think about the feel and ambience you want to create. You can energise your home with warm reds, oranges and yellows, or make spaces feel calmer with cooler blues, greens and lilacs, or soft neutrals.
- The colour wheel is helpful – colours on opposite sides are contrasting and create impact, while those alongside one another are similar in tone and mood.
- Consider the orientation of a room and when you use it. For example, east-facing kitchens will be bathed in light during the morning so bright colours will add to the vibrancy you need to begin your day. An injection of heated colour works well in a north-facing room if you want to create a stimulating entertaining space. But for a restful bedroom, embrace the low light and choose cool tones.
- Whites and light neutrals create a feeling of space and put the focus on bold colours, while darker hues – like blocks of navy or black – can feel cosy and enclosing. Use these on one wall and you'll add depth to the room.
- If you're unsure which colour to paint the walls, play with different accessory combinations by adding cushions, a throw, a rug, or art until you feel confident about the colours you like.

'I fell in love with a set of chinoiserie blue and white coasters from Oliver Bonas, and the pattern led me to choose the rug and the wallpaper I wrapped around the structural pillar.' Louisa added the Addilyn four seater sofa from DFS for cosy, family-friendly seating

## Kitchen

'The existing kitchen is still in place, but I gave it a lift with some easy updates. The room is north-facing and had been decorated a cold, pale blue. I took inspiration from @thehousethatcolourbuilt as I like how Jessica posts colour charts and explains which colours work best in which rooms. I decided on Rust-Oleum's Mustard as this shade is lovely and warm.'

*'I've loved colour since I was a child... back then, I chose a red carpet for my bedroom and yellow walls. I remember feeling like I was walking into sunshine. In my opinion, you can never have too much colour.'*

## Dining area

'The dining chairs were given to us by my host family, and Ray sanded them down before painting them white. I wrapped the faux leather seats in a pink striped fabric. I like how it looks with the yellow stripes in the tablecloth. It's the first time we've had space for a table and it's nice we don't have to eat on our laps anymore.'



'It's lovely to sit by the window and look out onto the garden. The built-in utility cupboard formed the perfect alcove, and the chair looks like a high-end brand, but was a bargain on Amazon,' says Louisa. The green birds roller blind is a Sara Miller design from DotcomBlinds



'I chose the Erwin Fruits floral blind from Dunelm for the green tones and the rug with the green trim to connect with the adjoining living room, painted in Rust-Oleum's Laurel Green,' Louisa explains. The A Collection of Vases poster is from Junique



'I considered painting the chairs a bright colour but Ray preferred white, and he was right as it's given a bit of balance to the room,' Louisa says. She added the large Colourful Flowers Meditation poster from Junique for contrast





The free-standing hanging rail with space for coats and shoes is an ideal set-up for renters who don't want to fit hooks to the walls. The tasselled cushion is a design from Joules

## STEAL MY STYLE

Get Louisa's fun home style with these buys



Cynthia Spencer small sunflowers scatter cushion, £18, Doro



Wobbly lemon ceramic salad bowl, £8, Dunelm



HKLiving ceramic Hot Pink vase, £24, Spicer & Wood



Strala Meadow tea towel, £14, Abigail Borg



A chest of drawers doubles up as a dressing table in front of the sunny window. Louisa has kept it clear of clutter for guests, styling it with a fun lamp and trinket dish

## Guest room

'We didn't want to spend too much on this room, so it was lucky we were able to make use of furniture we already had from the bedroom in our previous flat. We've used various shades of green elsewhere in the house so effectively, so I knew it would work beautifully in here too. As it's not one of the main rooms, I decided to experiment with a slightly stronger shade – a spearmint green – and was really pleased when I found this duvet cover with details in the same colour. I couldn't resist the dog table lamp as it looks exactly like our mixed breed dog called Lana.'

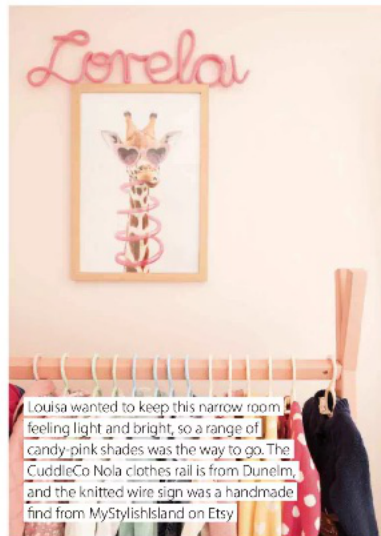


Tropical prints give the guest room a holiday vibe. The Floral Paradise art print is by La La Land on Fyl, the walls are painted in Rust-Oleum's Wanderlust, and the duvet cover is from Juicy design

make this  
Frill cushion  
p30

## Hallway

'I wanted a cheerful welcome and really loved the results of the mustard colour we'd painted the kitchen, so I used up the leftovers here. I appreciate neutrals but never choose them as brights cheer me up, especially in the winter months – this is a gorgeous sunny yellow.'



Louisa wanted to keep this narrow room feeling light and bright, so a range of candy-pink shades was the way to go. The CuddleCo Nola clothes rail is from Dunelm, and the knitted wire sign was a handmade find from MyStylishIsland on Etsy

## style idea

Seek out a cute lampshade for a DIY-free way to add charm to a nursery

Compact Mylra light turquoise nursery furniture from IKEA offers the storage Louisa needs without overpowering the space, and she's picked out the blue with artwork and accessories to pull the scheme together



## Nursery

'This room is quite narrow, so I didn't want to fill it with bulky furniture. A hanging rail was a great solution, as it feels so much more open than a closed-off, imposing wardrobe would, and the clothes being on display adds a little extra colour to the scheme. This is one of my favourite palettes in the house – I love the combination of pink shades with the walls, clothes rail, and Lorelai's name in the artwork, and how it all works with the soft blue. The hot air balloon pendant looks really cute too. It feels really playful yet restful in here, which is exactly what I wanted.'







'This room's blue and pink scheme also led to me choosing soft pink for the blackout curtains from Next – an investment buy, but totally worth it as the tassel trim is beautiful'



The velvet chair from Wayfair ties in with the headboard, and the large Koppang IKEA drawers provide additional storage. 'The mirror was a lucky find at TK Maxx,' says Louisa. 'I always buy things as soon as I see them'

## Main bedroom

'The bedroom still has its original parquet floor and built-in wardrobes. I used Duck Egg by Rust-Oleum for the walls and chose a patterned duvet cover – I've always been drawn towards bright bedding, even when I lived in a house share. I wanted the room to be a light shade of blue, and this tone is interesting because it looks different depending on the light and time of day. I would've loved a bamboo or rattan headboard, but they were too expensive. Instead, I found the pink velvet headboard on sale for £60 at Dunelm, which was a bargain for a king-size bed and looks so lovely next to the blue.'

*Although we couldn't change the bones of the flat, living with colour around us has been transformative – this is such a happy home*

## Bathroom

'I wasn't able to change the existing bathroom, but painting the walls pink instantly brought the space to life. I like pretty things in quirky designs, which are pleasingly arranged. The large mirror makes a great centrepiece, as the shell shape is unusual and really draws the eye.'



Louisa painted the room in durable bathroom wall paint in Pink Champagne by Rust-Oleum, adding Fresh as a Daisy artwork from Oh So Daisy and a shell mirror from Next

## style idea

*Mix fabric prints by using the same colours and pattern style – like the mustard yellow cushion and duvet cover here*



'I love the quirky look of the blue bird bedside table lamp paired with the yellow striped shade from Oliver Bonas,' says Louisa. 'The vintage-looking Trogan Bird Study on Ticking Stripe print and Daisy Study on Blue Tile print are both from Oh So Daisy'



## What I Learned

- Be patient when you paint old, dark wood furniture in white! It took more coats than we thought to cover the dresser in the living room.
- Don't be afraid to use colour in a rented home if the owner says you can. We found it fairly easy to paint the walls white before we moved out of our previous flat, although colour-blocking and murals are harder to conceal.
- Make the most of small spaces and don't overload a room with bulky furniture. For example, a clothes rail can look pretty and doesn't take up much space compared to a wardrobe, and a coffee table with a glass top makes a room brighter and more spacious as you can see the flooring underneath.