

| STYLE HOUSE |

“IT’S FULL OF luxed-up neutrals”

LYNSEY EVANS REVEALS HER STYLE SECRETS WHEN IT COMES TO COMBINING CLASSIC NEUTRALS WITH SPARKLE IN HER HOME



NEUTRAL FOUNDATION

A silver-grey scheme is low key, allowing Lynsey to add colour with accessories, while a grey wall and chimney breast frame the room.



HOME NOTES

WHO LIVES HERE?

Lynsey Evans, an interior designer (evansandknight.com) lives here with her husband, Warren, who runs a property letting business, and their grown-up children, Ellie, 23, and Charlie, 21

THE PROPERTY

Five-bedroom 1940s detached house in Hove, East Sussex

“A large sofa grounds the whole space”

‘My goal was to have a huge sofa in the snug. Warren thought it was going to be too big but now we both think it’s the best purchase we made. This is our family space where we gather in the evenings and the sofa fits perfectly and fills the room. The snug is part of the open-plan kitchen extension and I wanted to keep the chimney breast as a feature focal point, which I’ve painted charcoal to tie in with the kitchen island.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Long Island sofa in Squirrel matt cotton velvet, £4,570, [Sofa.com](https://www.sofa.com). Walls painted in Charcoal matt emulsion, £2.5ltr, £38, Neptune. Pershore coffee table, £599, Evans and Knight Interior Design. Timothy Oulton Paradise three-ring chandelier, £1,900, Barker & Stonehouse

“Spending a year **PLANNING** the layout and **DRAWING** furniture to scale is why our home now works **PERFECTLY** for us”



SURFACE ISSUES

Lynsey chose quartzite for her worktops. This natural material, with its smoky-grey veining, has the look of real marble but is much more robust

2 “A dark grey island creates impact”

‘An extended room like this needs an unfussy kitchen that won’t dominate the space. We liked the frameless look of Neptune’s Chichester drawers combined with doors that have a subtle decorative moulding. Colour contrast was important, too. Mainly the cupboards are painted an off-white to balance out the charcoal grey of the island in the centre of the room. The bold colour draws the eye and encourages everyone to gather around it. For continuity, I’ve repeated the same charcoal shade throughout the house – on the dresser, a wall in the snug, a cabinet and vanity in our en suite.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Units painted in Salt eggshell; island painted in Charcoal eggshell, both £54 for 2.5ltr, Neptune. Classic square cup pull handle is similar, £9, Yesterhome



3 “A mirrored splashback bounces light”

‘Timeless elements work well in this 1940s house and, besides, I’ve always longed for a double range cooker beneath a traditional kitchen mantel, which at Christmas time I decorate with lots of green foliage. I’m pleased with the antiqued mirror splashback I had made locally, it looks really effective. This part of the kitchen is quite dark and the mirror makes it feel lighter and more open, plus the surface is really forgiving and doesn’t show marks.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Antiqued mirrored splashback with rough-edge finish, £1,500, Rough Old Glass. Shelves, around £44 each, Ben Simpson. Quartzite worktop, £600sq m, Granite Worktops Sussex



4 “Key pieces tie spaces together”

‘I don’t want rooms to look the same but they need continuity. I think a room looks far more interesting with something eye-catching, particularly in the hallway and I’m a huge fan of over-sized lamps. The antiqued mirror is an echo of the splashback behind the cooker and the living room mirrored alcoves.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Cowrie table lamp, £195, Oka, is similar. Try Odessa mirror, £330, William Wood Mirrors



6 “I upcycle to co-ordinate furniture”

‘I intended the dresser to go in my en suite but I got carried away and bought it on a whim without measuring up properly. Although the piece didn’t fit, it turned out to be a happy accident. I took the glass doors off to make the shelves more accessible and open, painted it the same grey as the kitchen island and fitted the same cup handles – the dresser looks part of the kitchen now. Fragrant greenery, such as eucalyptus, rosemary and cinnamon are a nice touch at Christmas.’

BUY KEY PIECES

Dresser, £250, Mark Maynard. Painted in Charcoal eggshell, £54 for 2.5ltr, Neptune. Gold wire star wreath is similar, £5, Hobbycraft. Faux Staghorn coral is similar, £20, Hudson Home

“Foraging for decorations feels special”

‘At Christmas I decorate the whole house with bunches of greenery and weave in fairy lights. It infuses the rooms with warmth and creates the sense of magic that we all love. On the table, decorations are kept simple with pine cones and bundles of cinnamon sticks nestled between white candles and mini white Christmas trees. They make a lovely festive table decoration.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Small white Christmas trees, £25 each, Homesense



7 “An oversized wreath adds drama”

‘I use ferns, eucalyptus, rosemary, cinnamon, pine cones and berries to decorate my home at Christmas, but I’ve also collected faux branches and flowers over the years. I like big, bold statement accessories and wanted something dramatic over the dining table. I made this huge wreath with a hula hoop wrapped in faux greenery and woven with fairy lights, adding a few tree decorations. It looks amazing lit up at night and adds a fantastic festive impact over the table. I also put trees in the snug, sitting room and hallway, theming them with different decorations.’

BUY KEY PIECES

Small white Christmas trees, £25 each, Homesense. Ridgedale Fir 100% Feel-Real Christmas tree, £875, Hayes Garden World



DARK ACCENTS

The dark-grey painted furniture ties in with the door frames in the kitchen-diner

“For a sense of CONTINUITY, I’ve repeated the same CHARCOAL SHADE throughout the house”



“From three rooms to one suite”

‘The house had seven bedrooms in a muddled layout so we decided to knock through three rooms to create a hotel-like master suite, with en suite and dressing room.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Walls painted in Valspar’s Anchor’s Aweigh, £38 for 5ltr, B&Q. Curtains in Ashley Wilde Axel in Pearl, £26m, Evans and Knight Interior Design. Provençal Bombe chest of drawers, £595, The French Bedroom Company, is similar.

RELAXED DESIGN

Placing the bed between two windows creates a focal point, while curtains in geometric fabrics have a luxurious feel



“Luxurious touches elevate the space”

‘I asked the builders to make this feature wider to appear centred and symmetrical to divide the bedroom and dressing area. This is the perfect place for a luxurious double basin vanity and means I’m not cramming everything into the en suite. I made the vanity from an old work bench I bought in an antiques shop, painted the same dark grey as the kitchen island and fitted a Carrara marble top. The basins were a basic buy and I splashed out on Art Deco-style mirrors and wall lights.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Work bench, £120, Michael Keehan Furniture. Painted in Charcoal eggshell, £54 for 2.5ltr, Neptune. Liang Eimil Rochester Art Deco mirror, £586, Furnish. Eichholtz Pillar bathroom wall lights, £500 each, Evans and Knight Interior Design

“Fabric links the bedroom and en suite”

‘Upstairs, I’ve decorated in soft, warm, relaxing taupe, creams and whites. Sometimes my clients feel they should save their biggest bedroom for guests but I’m a great believer in designing a house for yourself and of course, I had to have a luxurious freestanding bath and a large walk-in shower in the bathroom. I’ve mixed the large-format square marble tiles on the floor and walls with marble herringbone wall tiles inside the shower. To create a sense of cohesion, I’ve used the same blind fabric and Art Deco-style wall lights as in the bedroom.’

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Marlborough bath, £2,100, Victoria and Albert. Eichholtz Marino wall lamp in clear glass, £650, Evans and Knight Interior Design

“You can’t beat Art Deco-style lighting in the bathroom to create a GLITZY and GLAMOROUS feel”





BLEND ROOMS

The silver-greys downstairs transition to warm taupes upstairs, with furniture in charcoal grey establishing key focal points.

ALL OUT GLAM

Artemis chandelier, £350, Pooky



ANTIQUED FINISH

Carlisle mirror, £675, Sweetpea & Willow



RUSTIC BEAUTY

Aria White vase, £54.95, Charlested

STYLE MUST HAVES

GET INSPIRATION FROM LYNSEY'S GLAM COUNTRY STYLE

STATEMENT STORAGE

Highgate rustic solid oak and painted dresser, £1,099, Oak Furnitureland



BUTTONED UP

Torino rustic scoop chair, £139.99, My Furniture



"Display curated collections"

'I'm a big fan of upcycling and that's what I did with this glass cabinet. Everything displayed here was found on a holiday, and with the glass down the sides you can see the objects from different sides of the room.'

BUY THE KEY PIECES

Display cabinet, £100, Michael Keehan Furniture. Painted in Charcoal eggshell, £54 for 2.5ltr, Neptune. Calacatta tumbled marble tiles, £47.70sq m; floor tiles, £51.53sq m, both Mandarin Stone.