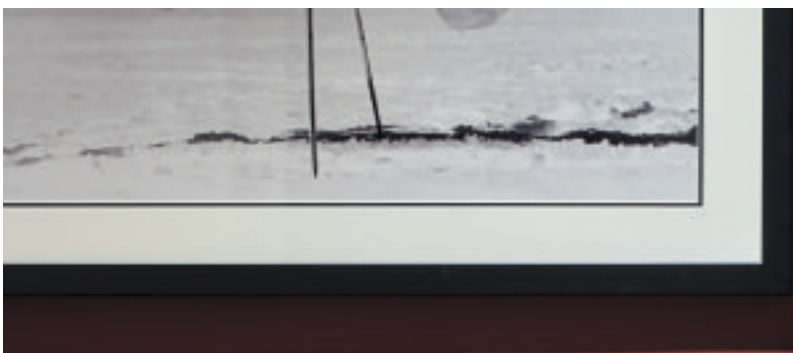




# CREATE YOUR SAFE HAVEN

Chester Interior designer Jojo Bradley shares her practical advice on how to revitalise our living spaces





**T**his past year, our home has been our workplace, our educating place and our refuge from the pandemic storm. As we embrace a new season, your home deserves a bit of love. It's time to hit the refresh button with some helpful tips from interior designer, Jojo Bradley.

Studies show that spending time revisiting and revitalising your home, even just moving the furniture around, all contributes to your physical and mental well-being.

Creating a contented home is as much about you as it is about your interiors. We all deserve a little love and attention, so now is the perfect time to set the tone for your home and your life, from wall colours to accessorising, it is time for some spring style.

Jojo said: "As an interior designer, I follow the trends and work closely with manufacturers looking to the next big thing but really, designing your home is all about you."

## 'This is the year of statement headboards, transforming your bedroom, adding grandeur and creating a focal point in the space'

"It's about making your home, just that, your home. So, whilst we all love a good mood board of Pantone's Colours of the Year, Illuminating Yellow and Ultimate Grey, it's not for everyone, nor should it be. Put your own spin on things, be bold, be conservative but hopefully, be inspired."

### Colour

"You can't go wrong with a base colour of natural neutrals upon which to build your scheme. Warm neutrals create welcoming spaces. They are not known for their wow-factor, but are perfect for creating a cosy canvas that will partner beautifully with so many colour schemes. Neutrals are grounding colours linking us to nature and providing a constant in the ever-changing

world outside the window. Delicate neutrals connect perfectly with modern furnishings and metallic fixtures to achieve sophisticated elegance.

"Another calming colour to consider is classic blue. It can be used to create soft and harmonious spaces, with darker and inkier blues used to create impact and bring a touch of luxury to your rooms and furnishings. Blues are versatile and can be used in both classic and contemporary schemes but remember to balance it with other shades so as not to overpower your space."

### Add a splash

"Whether it's a feature wall or some fabulous cushions, livening up your home with an accent colour can really enhance your current décor. Combine your classic blue for example, with some statement furniture or luxurious deep pile rugs, combined with whites and neutrals for a glamorous look. Or throw in a ripple of raspberry, a vibrant, optimistic colour to enliven your home."

### Make a statement

"This is the year of statement headboards, transforming your bedroom, adding grandeur and creating a focal point in the space. It doesn't have to be a traditional affair either, commission an upholsterer to create a one-off masterpiece, re-upholster a simple headboard in an antique suzani, upcycle a rug or even paint a mural."

### Inspired by ikat

"The latest fabric collections are full of ikat inspiration so add a little touch of Indonesia to your home through, upholstery, lamp →





shades or wall hangings and create an impressive modern interior. Indeed, given the current travel restrictions, it's important to grab hold of those global influences and keep our nomadic dreams alive. Think animal prints, tribal fabrics and rich earthy colourways."

## Sustainable style

"We are all looking to do our bit in protecting our planet and this has definitely made its mark on the world of interiors. Whilst products have been sustainable for a while now, it is easier than ever to spot them and add them to your home. This also means more recycling, upcycling, reclaiming and refurbishing, repurposing vintage items and sourcing antiques for a characterful and well-balanced interior scheme. Don't forget eco-friendly can also mean incredible design."

## Mix it up

"For the braver amongst you, get creative with your patterns, mix them up and create your own style. It's not one for the faint-hearted, but get it right and you can create an elegant and comfortable space. You can do this with cushions and other smaller accessories, giving your home an inexpensive facelift and a lot of luxury."



## Zoning

"With working from home looking like it will be more on than off this year, think about making your spaces work harder for you."

"Create a separate space for work and play to help you differentiate between the two, or make sure you can close them away to separate living and working. Zoning can be easily achieved with rugs and lighting."

## Elegant cool

"As we spend more time than ever at home, we are looking to create our very own sanctuary, keeping the world at bay so that we can reset and refocus."

"Whilst cosy and comfortable are big trends, they are also combined with an element of the traditional, period features, colours and textures."

"Combine them to create your perfect period paradise. They say an Englishman's home is his castle. I say make it your refuge, your safe haven and most importantly, make it a reflection of who you are."

"Enjoy the results!"

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[jojobradleyinteriors.co.uk](http://jojobradleyinteriors.co.uk)

