

Interiors: the living room

Detox the heart of your home

In winter the living room asserts its rightful place at the heart of the home. On dark evenings the only place to be is by the fire, ploughing through Christmas-present books or DVD box sets. Yet you can have too much cosy tradition. If you spent last night clearing away your Christmas tree and cards, a bracing detox is called for that does not involve tinsel or cold-Victorian ice-skating scenes. Acid-bright colours, sharp lines and modern shapes will make you feel suitably cutting edge for the start of a new year. Most of us will be planning to stay put rather than move home this year, so forget Foxtons white and paint your living room a cheery colour. If you enjoy deciphering

riddles, Dulux has decreed that the fashionable palette of 2012 will take inspiration from "the quirky aesthetics of blogs and social media", which will consist of "happy, yet mature pastels", which are "ever so slightly degraded and non-mainstream". Brilliant. In the real world, bright cushions and rugs are cheap and cheerful ways of bringing some early springtime into your living room. If your budget is more expensive, steer clear of the three-piece suite or articulated corner sofa and go for something more off-beat, such as an ottoman or chaise longue. Or even this year's most pleasing trend — a proper drinks cabinet. Lucy Alexander



LAVISH

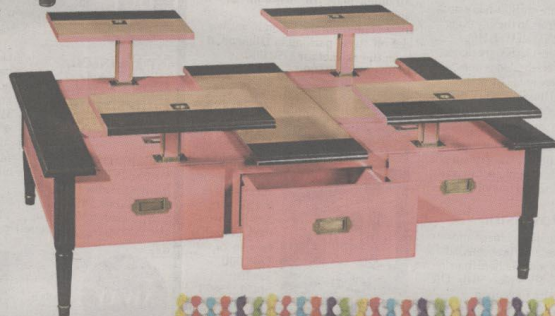
Make 2012 the year that you banish dull pine or rickety furniture and invest in a drinks cabinet — this sensationally colourful one, left, from the French furniture makers Grange, opens to reveal shelving designed for cocktails. We all need something to see us through the long January afternoons. Also from Grange, the weird and wonderful 'Tray Chic' table, below, has four trays that can be raised to perch your dinner plate on, for stylish TV dinners. Jacob drinks cabinet from £1,265. Grange table from £2,655. grange-london.com



For fans of Scandinavian style who are not scared by self assembly, Skandivis, an online vendor of quirky Nordic items, is a worthy alternative to Ikea. The Lean Man console (ash and lacquered MDF), above, is handmade to order. £225. skandivis.co.uk

LUXURY

Can an occasional table be explosive? The Vulcano, right, by Poliform, certainly tries to be. It comes in 28 lacquer colours, but we think only red will do. £754. Poliform: 020-7368 7600



LOW COST

Readers of Henry James (and Ecclesiastes) will enjoy the symbolism of this Golden Bowl, above, by Katharine Pooley. £60. Katharine Pooley: 020-7584 3223

An instant room brightener, B&Q's multicoloured 'Funky Pom Pom' rug, right, is eminently affordable. £39.98. diy.com

