

Homes & Property



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STRIKING LIGHTING

Combine plain ceiling lights with a more dramatic feature. B&Q's pendants start at £14.98 for the Berlin Opal Eff light (right). Or an edgier option is the Reflex ball pendant (far right, £64.98, diy.com).

Tesco's Arabella satin shade (above left, £30, tesco.com), with its metallic liner and delicate bead drops, has the extravagant allure of tibits's version, while, if you're not one for too much dangly décor, try Littlewoods's elegant Serena pendant (in plum, above right, £30, littlewoods.com), also available in black or teal.



COOL CUBES

Cube stools make a great practical and stylish addition to any room. And they can be teamed with traditional or highly contemporary furniture.

Multiyork's comfy cubes are available in a wide selection of fabrics. For the tibits look, go for a cube in Designers Guild's Asolo Berry fabric (left, £179, multiyork.co.uk). Next has a similar option, in zingy Sumatra red-striped fabric, for £60 (next.co.uk).



NEAT SEATS

Classic dining chairs can be given a modern lift by adding colourful pads. John Lewis's handsomely plain Carrie dining chairs are £59 each (right, johnlewis.com) and are made in rubber wood, with a smooth, natural finish. The tibits look is all about mix and match, so these timeless, elegant chairs can be paired with more flamboyant pads. The reversible Spots and Stripes range from Bedding Direct (above left and centre, two-pack, £9.99, beddingdirectuk.com) will complement your cube stools and cushions, or see the huge range of pads at abentleycushions.co.uk (above right), where packs of four start at just £15.



TABLE MANNERS

For the table, go for substance as well as style – the more robust the better – and keep it plain and simple, with neutral colours working best.

The Calligaris from La Locanda (£457, wayfair.co.uk) is sturdy, durable and available in bleached beech, wenge or walnut. The 70cm x 70cm table top rests on a wooden pedestal base and

square metal base plate. Ikea's budget-friendly oak-veneered Bjursta (above left, £139, ikea.com/gb) has two pull-out leaves, making it possible to adjust the size (from 90cm square to 168cm by 90cm). And for a cheaper option still, the white and silver 70cm by 60cm Billsta table (above right) from Ikea is a snip at £60. Its heat- and scratch-resistant finish makes it easy to clean.



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