

# ASK THE EXPERT FOR TOP HOME TRUTHS

## Interiors

From an ideal wedding gift to creating the perfect bedroom for your pre-teen, interior designer **Jamie Hemsall** has the answers.

**Q:** Our friends are getting married after two decades together and have specified no presents, but we would like to mark the day with something special for their home. **ME**

**A:** Wall art makes the perfect gift – it is a personal bond between you and your friends and can give both of you great pleasure each time you see it.

Why not give them a personalised illustration of their wedding reception venue or church? Letterfest creates beautiful hand-drawn sketches from a photo you provide. You can even add a personalised message in the bottom corner.

A framed 28cm square framed sketch is available for £48 ([www.letterfest.com](http://www.letterfest.com)).

**Q:** I hate the look of our radiators, but want something a little more interesting than a standard radiator cover. What are my options? **JW**

**A:** You could always start by having a chat with your local handyman. If you have a pattern or design in mind, they should be able to craft a simple radiator cover in MDF.

Painted up, these always look terrific. One tip I would give is to paint the radiator and the wall behind it within the cabinet black. This gives a nice contrast finish and hides the radiator even more.

You may also like to consider the range of covers from Couture Cases that includes the lovely Deco model pictured. They are available in a wide range of colours, sizes and finishes (including a digital leather effect which will be launched in January 2015). Prices depend upon size. Go to [www.couturecases.co.uk](http://www.couturecases.co.uk) for more information.

**Q:** I am redecorating the dining area in our kitchen and want a scheme to wake our young family up in the morning. **HC**

**A:** You have advised your eating area is at one end of the kitchen, so why not delineate this with a feature wall? You could choose a splash of bright-coloured paint, such as Alsop Scarf from the Will Alsop Collection for the Royal Academy of the Arts ([www.colourandpaint.com](http://www.colourandpaint.com)).

Alternatively, opt for a



**POW!** The Comic Pop Pinks Wallpaper Mural will brighten up a feature wall and are ideal for those with young families. Pre-cut panels are £79 available from [www.digetexhome.co.uk](http://www.digetexhome.co.uk).

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**Q:** We want to create an exciting bedroom for our nine-year-old son. Can you suggest an innovative bunk-

bed solution so that he can have friends over? **TT**

**A:** Bunk beds are every child's (and the occasional adult's) dream and the inclusion of even a basic one in a scheme should provide hours of entertainment.

The ultimate choice has to be the Adventure Kids

Bunk Bed Hang-Out for boys from Cuckooland. It creates the perfect bedroom den and is made from best solid knot pine (from sustainable Scandinavian sources). It is finished in non-toxic whitewash to ensure safety and is treated with a combination of lacquer, wax



## INSIDE TRACK FOR FESTIVAL-GOERS

If you want to get ahead of the game regarding new trends for luxury interiors, Decorex is the London Design Festival show that professionals flock to.

This year it will feature exciting new and innovative products from over 350 UK and international exhibitors.

The show has moved to the new location of Syon Park and will be open to the public on Tuesday, September 23 from 1 to 7pm.

For a mouth-watering treat, book a table at the onsite restaurant provided by award-winning Bocca Di Lupo. Tickets are £30. [www.decorex.com](http://www.decorex.com)

and pigments for longevity. It has a top cabin with window, inner two-step ladder, bottom bunk and pull-out drawer.

The pull-out drawer is great for storage or can be converted into a guest bed to accommodate even more friends – if you can cope with that!

The beds are made to order with a lead-time of about six weeks: £1,975 from [www.cuckooland.com](http://www.cuckooland.com).

■ If you have a question for Jamie why not visit him at [www.jamiehemsall.com](http://www.jamiehemsall.com)?



**HOT PROPERTY:** Couture Cases can transform an unsightly radiator. Add a personal touch with Letterfest's hand drawn wall art. Right, Cuckooland's Adventure Kids Bunk Bed Hang-Out is the ultimate in bunk beds.