

PERIOD LIVING

CELEBRATING CLASSIC HOMES AND TIMELESS STYLE

MAY 2026

Colour theory

WHY YOU SHOULD DECORATE WITH THE PERFECT PAIRING OF BUTTERY YELLOWS AND SKY BLUES

UNDER THE HAMMER

How to grab the best bargains at auction

TOP OF THE GLASS

Energy-efficient window designs with heritage style

Plus

- GUIDE TO CHOOSING THE BEST UPHOLSTERY FOR YOU
- EXPERT ADVICE ON LAYING PATIO SLABS
- IDEAS TO MAXIMISE KITCHEN STORAGE SPACE

20%
OFF AT SOPHIE
ALLPORT*

*TERMS AND
CONDITIONS APPLY

'I COULD PICTURE OUR
BEAUTIFUL LIFE HERE'

REAL HOMES WHERE DREAMS COME TRUE

Make a splash

SECRETS TO DESIGNING AN
INDULGENT SHOWER OR WET ROOM

0navFQuKMGR2Wqqkw==

Bluebell & buttercup

Soothing yet joyful, warm yet cool, the complementary combination of yellow and blue is having a moment and is sure to put a spring in your step



Beautifully balanced

LEFT Sitting on opposite sides of the colour wheel, blue and yellow work harmoniously together and are ideal for creating uplifting yet calming everyday spaces. For a kitchen full of colour that is also easy to live with, muted brights work well, as seen here in this Cotswold cottage with timeless Stone Blue paired with mellow Hay by Farrow & Ball. A mix of floral and striped fabrics brings extra warmth and softness to the two-tone scheme. 'This palette was inspired by Molly Mahon's blue and yellow Poppy fabric, which has such a joyful quality,' says interior designer Sean Symington. 'My key tip when working with contrasting shades is to let one colour lead and use the other as a highlight. When the balance is right, the combination feels intentional and timeless.'

Cabinetry in Stone Blue; panelling in Hay, both flat eggshell, £85 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Window curtain in Poppy block-printed linen in Mustard/Sky, £228m, Molly Mahon

Pattern mix

RIGHT A blue and yellow palette is a favourite of fabric designers and, for restful spaces, lean into warmer tones, says fabric designer Vanessa Arbuthnott. 'I love our Ochre yellow; it's a quiet colour which is perfect teamed with a warm green-blue, such as our Smoke shade. Both these colours are subtle and easy to live with, and neither dominates the other.' To ensure balance and interest in a two-tone scheme, choose one colour as the base and the other as an accent, layering in plenty of pattern. Adding a contrasting trim to a curtain or a pelmet makes a fun finishing touch.

Curtains in Berries and Leaves in Ochre/Smoke; Cirencester sofa in Stripe and Dash in Duck Egg/Cornflower; Amberley footstool in Dotty Check in Soft Ochre/Ochre/Smoke; Tub chairs in Wild Fern in Duck Egg/Smoke; bolster cushions in Little Fern in Ochre, all 60 per cent linen/40 per cent organic cotton, £72m, Vanessa Arbuthnott

FABRIC SWATCHES



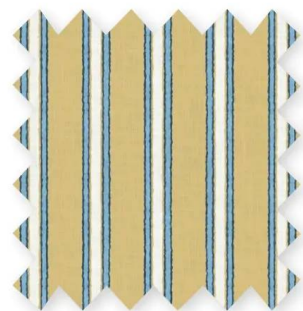
ABOVE Bandhani cotton in Aquifer, £38.59m, Iliv



ABOVE Oscar linen in Sky, £158m, Jessica Osborne



ABOVE Margo linen in Lemon, £195m, Fanny Shorter



ABOVE Akola cotton in Ochre, £29m, The Pure Edit