

# YOUR BEAUTIFUL HOME



## SUSSEX LIFE



CREATE THE PERFECT LIVING SPACE

• Volume 1 •

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

# YOUR BEAUTIFUL HOME



'Home' is such an evocative word. It can signify a building, a part of the world, the people you love most, and the things you've collected over many years. It is calm, it is conviviality.

Making a home, in the largest meaning of the word, is the work of a lifetime. But ensuring your living space is beautiful and individual is rather easier. My colleagues have assembled this beautiful guide, replete with expert testimony and hand-picked product pages, to intrigue and inspire.

Whether you're contemplating buying your first hot tub, planning an extension, or just re-invigorating your soft furnishings, you'll find lots of handy hints.

*Enjoy Your Beautiful Home.*

Vanessa Brady, International Interior Designer and President of (SBID) shares that from her years of experience as an interior designer, a prominent trend is the greater consciousness of design in homeowners and the fact that far less people are prepared to settle not only their grandmothers old coffee table but rather the very structure of their homes, demanding to live in an environment more suited with their personalities and lifestyles'.

Following this, 4 interior design experts and accredited members of the SBID have taken the guess work out of designing your living space providing specialist advice on the dos and don'ts when it comes to designing four very important areas of your home. See their contributions for Living Rooms, Kitchens, Bedrooms and Bathrooms.

A special thanks to British Society of International Design (SBID), the UK's leading accrediting body for the interior design profession who have contributed to this edition of Your Beautiful Home.

For more information on The Society of British and International Design; please visit [www.sbid.org](http://www.sbid.org)

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## KITCHEN

Joanne Jones, Interior Designer at **CD Jones Interior Design**,  
part of the Society of British and International Design (SBID)

### Do's:

- **Think about** whether you want a contemporary or traditional kitchen as sometimes the space and light will dictate your decision.
- **Think about textures**, even a kitchen needs the whole ensemble to match the outfit.
- **If you have a galley kitchen**, think about using darker tones on the lower sections, even if working with pale shades as this will fan out the walls giving the illusion of being wider. Using reflection such as splash back and even reflective units can achieve this too.
- **When working on a period property** that has beams, echo this onto a free standing unit, table, island or worktop. Contrary to popular belief, wood can be used quite effectively and by using something as simple as yacht varnish, will protect the wood.
- **If working on a delicate design**, use bolder patterns and softer textured fabric for balance. Consider repeating an accent colour inside glass units or colourful splash backs.
- **In any kitchen**, lighting is essential and lots of it! Spotlights, pendants, unit lights; these should all be independent of one another. For a relaxing or more formal ambience, lower lighting can be used and for practical use the ceiling lighting.
- **When choosing flooring** always use larger samples that can be placed in situ as in most kitchens; stone, slate or wood will work depending on whether it is contemporary or traditional.

### Don'ts:

- **Don't rush your decision** because not only is it one of the most expensive additions to the home but as with a bathroom it is a fixed structure and once it is fitted, it is staying.
- **Don't assume** that you're the only person to be pulling their hair out because of mess and upheaval, it's normal and not a room that can be done within a few days.

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## BATHROOM

Amanda Kianfar, Interior Designer at **KR Interior Design**,  
part of the Society of British and International Design (SBID)


### Do's:


- **Consider lighting:** Think about all the things you will need to do in your bathroom, lighting that can go up bright and then down to a soft glow is ideal. Think about wall mounted lights as well as ceiling spotlights to achieve multi lighting options.
- **Conduct a floor plan before you buy any products or fittings:** This is critical to ensure that you have achieved the best possible layout for the space. If the shower or bathtub is too big, you will notice this on paper before it appears in the room.
- **Remember Storage:** You will need storage for lotions and potions as well as towels and even cleaning products. Think about this at the beginning and your bathroom will be functional and a pleasure to use. An example of great hidden wall storage is in the image below from a KR Interiors project. The streamlined look of the wall, fit perfectly with the contemporary and minimal look we wanted to achieve with this bathroom.

### Don'ts:

- **Don't forget to stick to a one style** of bathroom fixtures - Modern, Classic Contemporary or traditional: choose one and stick to it for one bathroom.
- **Ignore size;** think about the size of your bathroom when you are choosing paint colour; don't paint a tiny bathroom a dark colour- it will close in on you.
- **Don't use too many materials** in one bathroom, 2 or 3 are ideal and make sure that the colours and textures complement each other.
- **Be realistic** about the usage as well, if you have children- wooden floors in a bathroom will be a mistake. They will get wet and start to deteriorate over time.

[www.kr-interiordesign.com](http://www.kr-interiordesign.com)

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## LIVING ROOM

Gülçin White, Creative Director at **Studio G Interior Design**,  
part of the Society of British and International Design (SBID)

### Do's:

- **Set a realistic goal:** What do you want to achieve? Formal or informal space, functional or cosy.
- **Set a realistic budget:** If you have no idea where to start, pick the most possible expensive item in the room to invest in; then create a list by itemizing. This will give you realistic idea on what you can achieve.
- **Determine your focal point and work around it:** Where or what item you want to put emphasis on? This can be more than one item, such as fireplace and a beautiful sofa; then create symmetry amongst the items.
- **Individuality:** Make sure that you include the unique pieces that you love such as an artwork, unusual sculpture or antique object that you inherited. Complement neutrals with colourful artwork that reflects you.
- **Reflect yourself:** Mirrors are great way to fill the walls, especially above the console or fireplace.
- **Grouping together:** To create an interesting display, group similar items together such as ceramic vase, plate and bowl.
- **Mood lighting:** Mood lighting is very crucial. Main lights, table lights, floor lights and indirect lights such as bookcase LED lighting that washes down the books.

**And always finish with fresh flowers!**

### Don'ts:

- **Do not overdo:** Do not use more than two walls for an artwork, or one wall for the mirror.
- **Do not use** dark wall colours if the room gets minimal natural light.
- **Do not use over or under scaled furniture:** Make sure furniture sizes and proportions are scaled to the room size.
- **Do not** order furniture without checking the size to make sure it will pass the staircases and doorways.
- **Do not** use too many accent colours: Choose 2-3 colours maximum and repeat this.

[www.studioginteriordesign.com](http://www.studioginteriordesign.com)



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## BEDROOM

Penelope Allen, Interior Designer at **Penelope Allen Design**,  
part of the Society of British and International Design (SBID)

### Do's:

- **Think Texture**, as it can play a significant role in adding warmth, style and glamour; it can be introduced by incorporating luxurious and reflective fabrics such as satins and silks or by adding warmer elements such as wool and velvet. These textures can be used in soft furnishings such as curtains and bed cushions or indeed in deep pile carpets or soft woollen rugs.
- **When choosing fabrics**, ensure that you have a light weight reflective fabric such as a silk or satin, a medium weight such as linen or cotton and a heavy weight such as wool or velvet, by carefully combining these three you will achieve perfect harmony in both warmth and weight.
- **The choice of colour is important**; when opting for darker or richer tones ensure there is good natural light available, lighter and more neutral tones will allow scope when choosing fabrics and bold designs for the rest of the room.

Adding a touch of glamour is easily achieved by adding elements that will give a feeling of being a little spoilt. Decorative glass bottles chrome or mirrored picture frames or the use of faceted crystal in lighting will all give a feeling of luxury and indulgence.

### Keep your lighting sexy by night and practical by day!

### Don'ts:

- **Don't rely on overhead lighting only**; lower ambient lighting is much more conducive to relaxation.
- **Don't use too many different bold colours**; go for one bold tone with a softer accent colour to harmonize.
- **Don't overfill** a bedroom with large items of unnecessary furniture, allow ample space to move around, de-clutter!
- **Don't skimp on textiles**, these are the key ingredients that create a feeling of warmth and luxury.

[www.penelopealldesign.co.uk](http://www.penelopealldesign.co.uk)

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