

# HOMES & GARDENS®

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## Chic & simple

**FABULOUS BATHROOMS**  
**KITCHENS ON A BUDGET**  
**CREATIVE WINDOW TREATMENTS**

**DECORATING  
WITH PATTERN,  
COLOUR AND  
ORIENTAL FLAIR**

### INSIDER GUIDES

- Buying a bed
- Rugs under £500
- Curtain poles and tie-backs



## BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL HOMES

FROM A DELIGHTFUL BARN CONVERSION TO  
HOUSES WITH CLEVER STORAGE IDEAS



# Relax & revive

*To create a refuge from his hectic professional life, Daniel Gil chose colour and pattern to invigorate the simple interior of his home*

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PHOTOGRAPHS MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE







**T**wo years ago, Daniel Gil asked interior designer Hubert Zandberg to create a home for him – from scratch. Daniel had bought a house in north London and it was “a blank canvas, very white and very new-looking,” he remembers. “I wanted Hubert to bring the house to life and help me find pieces that would last for years. I had been renting for a long time, and had very few belongings with which to furnish the place.”

Daniel, who works in finance, and South African-born Hubert met through Nick Hackworth of Paradise Row Gallery, and work by several Paradise Row artists takes pride of place on the walls and, more startlingly, in the garden, where a palm tree made of rubber tyres by Douglas White provides an unusual focal point. Given this

## LIVING ROOM

*Daniel (above right) has chosen to use a series of horizontal and vertical stripes here to make the narrow room look wider.*

**Rug.** £244m, Kasthall at Sinclair Till, 020 7720 0031, [sinclairtill.co.uk](http://sinclairtill.co.uk). **Rive Droite chairs.** £2,930 each, Cappellini at Chaplins, 020 8421 1779, [chaplins.co.uk](http://chaplins.co.uk). **Telling Lies artwork** by Barry Reigate, Paradise Row Gallery, 020 7613 3311, [paradiserow.com](http://paradiserow.com). **Bench.** from £1,000, Jonathan Baring, 01793 765452, [jonathanbaring.co.uk](http://jonathanbaring.co.uk). **Upholstered in Eclipse in Oro.** £98m, Dedar at Fox Linton, 020 7368 7700, [foxlinton.com](http://foxlinton.com). **Cushions in Stripes.** £146m, Paul Smith, 020 7493 44565, [paulsmith.co.uk](http://paulsmith.co.uk). **Fireplaces.** from £1,468 each, Jamb, 020 7730 2122, [jamblimited.com](http://jamblimited.com).





artistic beginning, Hubert wanted to put together "a pleasant interior that wouldn't look like a gallery, but which would accommodate contemporary art". His main aims were to make the most of the natural light, and to provide Daniel with a relaxing home that would offer a welcoming escape at the end of the day. "Daniel wanted an environment that would give his friends an experience when they came to stay," says Hubert.

The work began with minor adjustments to improve the structure, so doors were widened and stone fireplaces installed, then specialist paint effects were applied to the walls and floors. When it came to buying furniture and accessories to add character, Daniel explains that he didn't want his friends to have to tiptoe around. "I like things to be tidy, so I didn't need too many little embellishments."

Accordingly, Hubert found or designed simple but comfortable furniture in masculine hues, enlivened by flashes of vivid colour, such as the Paul Smith striped cushions in the living room and the bedspread lined with

## HALL

*The hall leads directly into the living room but can be cleverly sectioned off by drawing the curtains, creating a "soft" wall.*

**Eyelet curtains in Lila**, £102m, Christopher Farr, 020 7349 0888, christopherfarrcloth.com. **Cushion (on right) in Kikko**, Asuka Weaves collection, £70.50m, Osborne & Little, 020 7352 1456, osborneandlittle.com.







# KITCHEN-DINING ROOM

*Contemporary chandeliers create a powerful but unusual design statement above a dark wood table and chairs that lend masculine character to the dining space.*

**Chandeliers**, £944 each, Gino Sarfatti at London Lighting, 020 7589 3612, londonlighting.co.uk. **Athos table**, from £2,105, B&B Italia, 020 7591 8111, london.bebitalia.com.



"Daniel wanted an environment suitable for relaxation," says Hubert. "It needed to be holiday-like, a bit like walking into the Delano in Miami, where boutique hotel meets home"

#### MAIN BEDROOM

*A long, padded headboard stretches the width of the wall, while cushions covered with antique scarves add colour.*  
**Headboard** in 2150-2, £221-40m, Decortex at Turnell & Slean, 020 7259 7280, [tandegroup.com](http://tandegroup.com). **Checked bedspread with satin reverse**, from £587.50, Pat Giddens, 020 8969 8291, [patgiddens.co.uk](http://patgiddens.co.uk)

#### GUEST BEDROOM

*Vintage pieces, such as the flag cases used as bedside tables, help to give this room (above right) a unique feel.*  
**Bed canopy**, Chinese Barcelona, £99m, Hubert Zandberg, 020 8962 2776. **Similar bed**, Heal's, 08700 240780, [heals.co.uk](http://heals.co.uk). **Star**, £48, Beyond France, 01285 641867, [beyondfrance.co.uk](http://beyondfrance.co.uk)





#### MAIN BATHROOM

*A low wall screens the bathroom from the main bedroom, yet still allows the light through.*

**Mirror panels**, £180sq m, Graham Harrison Framing, 020 8969 4599, [ghframing.com](http://ghframing.com).  
**Ashanti stool**, from £140, Owen Hargreaves, 020 7253 2669, [owenhargreaves.com](http://owenhargreaves.com).

sunshine-yellow satin in the main bedroom. Hubert then used curtains as room dividers and draught excluders, as well as to dress the windows. "They provide softness and sound absorption," he says.

As for giving Daniel's friends an experience when they come to stay, the guest bedroom "is amazing," says Daniel. "It is slick and theatrical, with its four-poster, matching geometric patterns and luxurious fabrics. It is like a boutique hotel bedroom you would love to walk into. My friends have all put their names on that room."

He is equally enthusiastic about the study, describing it as pretty special. "When you spend so much time working, it is important to feel really comfortable, and the leather wing chairs and large fireplace make it feel more like a gentlemen's club than an office."

As Daniel has no design background and this was the first time he had created a home for himself, he admits that he was happy to rely on Hubert's expertise and the advice of friends and family. The end result is a home that reflects him and his lifestyle. "Hubert listened to me and was so quick to understand my tastes and personality," he says. Clearly, a case of satisfaction all round. ■

#### GARDEN

*The terrace leads directly out from the dining room, and includes a covered area with an awning and an outdoor table and bench, giving even more space for entertaining.*



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