

HOME DECOR



LEFT: This London city street wall decal is by American Chateau. RIGHT: MetroSofa shows off their British Flag White Throne Chair. Add style and graphic elements to your home by using images from across the pond.

The British are coming, the British are coming

Latest trendy home decor has a London vibe



Bliss Living Home shows novelty candles that capture iconic items and landmarks of London.

By KIM COOK
The Associated Press

Goodbye, Paris. Hello, London! While the French capital's been dear to home decorators for several years, we're seeing the look of London more and more in the newest furnishings and accessories.

As designer Mei Xu notes, "London blends charm and cheekiness, traditions and trends."

And it doesn't hurt to have a royal wedding just around the corner.

Xu's Bliss Living Home has introduced an extensive collection inspired by things British. "To me, London's simply irresistible," she said. "It's such a vibrant city, where the past and present merge."

She remembers a visit by Margaret Thatcher to her childhood school in China. The prime minister gave the students a large book about the wedding of Charles and Diana. For Xu, it revealed an exciting and glamorous world, and it inspired her creative career.

Her collection's color palette uses white and charcoal, hues associated with London's often damp weather, and a soft mint green that seems to blend the sea and the forest.

There are candles shaped like Big Ben; pillows showing double-decker buses and classic phone booths; printed bedding with the London Bridge; and blankets, rugs and shower curtains with an oversize hounds-tooth pattern and riding-set vibe. Metallic inks etch crowns on pillows, table linens and tea sets.

Union Jack is popular

Jonathan Adler is a fan of the Union Jack flag, and emblazons it on hand-loomed llama-wool dog beds, rugs, pillows, coasters, even paperweights.

Stickerbrand has a 6-foot tall wall decal of Big Ben, London's famous clock, and American Chateau has a large decal of a city intersection in the heart of London.

The bright red London phone booth, one of the city's historic trademarks, was retired many years ago. Replicas are available in the \$1,000 range. But for a few dollars, you can create the illusion of one with a door-size poster from Poster Revolution.

"Doctor Who" fans might like Artfire's wall decal of the Tardis police phone booth.

Metrosofa has a white, throne-style chair featuring the flag upholstered on the back.

And finally, Naked Decor uses vibrant colors like navy, sky blue, scarlet and inky black to transform several icons — the Union Jack, Tower of London,



Photos by The Associated Press

Bliss Living Home shows their London Bridge printed bedding and British-inspired throw pillows. The look of London is showing up more and more in home furnishings and accessories.



Poster Revolution offers their British phone booth door-sized poster to add to any room.

even the Queen's silhouette into clocks, pillows and other accessories. The collection is called British Invasion.



Victoria table linens and a British-inspired tea set from Bliss Living Home will add panache to your dining room table.

Where to get it

- www.artfire.com — Stickerbrand Big Ben wall decal, \$29.95; Tardis phone booth, \$44.99
- www.blisslivinghome.com — London Calling collection, candles \$13 and up
- www.jonathanadler.com — British flag dog bed, \$195 to \$245; flag rug, \$160
- www.metrosofa.com — British flag throne chair, \$899 and up
- www.theinteriorgallery.com — London phone booth replica, \$959.99
- www.csnstores.com — British Invasion Queen silhouette clock, \$49.95; Queen/Flag pillows, \$49.95; Buckingham Palace keychain, \$7.95
- www.posterrevolution.com — red phone booth door poster, \$6.80.

Growing your own food is fun and rewarding

This year marks the 27th anniversary of the Salina Community Gardens. Saline County Extension Master Gardeners Leon Lippert and Max Morgan started the gardens, and the benefits the gardens bring to our community are enjoyed by many people each gardening season. Every year, 115 local families benefit from better tasting, more nutritious food, as well as good exercise, the fellowship of community gardening, and they save grocery money, too.

A well-maintained vegetable garden can yield an estimated half pound of fresh produce per square foot of garden area. At in-season market prices that produce is worth \$2 per pound. According to current research, a 600-square-foot food garden can produce an average of \$600 worth of vegetables with an original investment of \$70 (2009 Impact of Gardening in America White Paper — www.garden-research.com). In 2010, 115 families had the opportunity to grow food gardens of this size in the three Salina Community Gardens sites. With a return on investment of \$530 per family, the community gardens represent a total dollar benefit of \$60,950 to our participants if they take full advantage of the gardens.

The largest of the Salina Community Garden sites is at the former Stimmel Elementary School at Fifth Street and Stimmel Road. There are 72 garden plots at the Stimmel school site — each about 600 square



Stock photo

feet in size — and a few are still available. If you would like to use one, come into the K-State Research & Extension office starting Monday. The Saline County office is at 300 W. Ash, Room 111, Salina. The share of maintenance costs for each garden is \$15.

The site is fenced for security, and each gardener has a key for the lock on the gate. Mulch is usually available at the gardens, as is water and hoses. The soil improves over time, as each year community gardeners add organic matter to the soil.

Master Gardener



JASON GRAVES

KSU District Extension Agent for Horticulture

Now's your chance

Gardening is the most popular outdoor leisure activity. The main reason that most people give for not gardening is a lack of space. That can be the case even in the wide open spaces of Kansas. This limitation can be overcome by utilizing a garden plot in the community gardens for your vegetable planting.

The gardens also are a great place for children and teens, so I'll leave you with a few tips for working with kids in any garden:

- A picture is worth a thousand words. Never tell kids something you could show them.

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Scripps Howard News Service

Clocks are easy, fun and inexpensive to make.

Hickory dickory dock, it's time to make a clock

By DENA FISHBEIN
Scripps Howard News Service

Making a clock seems complicated, right? Well, this is seriously one of the easiest, quickest projects I've ever done. And the clock looks so professional when it's finished. I highly recommend this project for a craft night with the girls. You'll all be so impressed with yourselves.

Choose papers that express your aesthetic and a simple frame that you might find at a garage sale or flea market. The clock-movement kit costs about \$6 — so, no excuses. This is a fabulous project you'll be proud of.

Gather materials

- Scissors
- Spray adhesive
- Picture frame (you will not need glass, but a round, square or rectangular frame

with a minimum 8-by-8-inch opening)

- Clock-movement kit (purchased from a craft store)
- Decorative paper for the clock face (vintage paper scraps, photos, scrapbook paper, etc.)
- Buttons, numbers or other small charms (to be used in place of clock numbers)
- Hot glue
- Compass
- Lightweight cardboard

Create the clock

1. Take out the backing of the picture frame and cut the cardboard to that size.
2. Using spray adhesive, collage paper scraps on top of the cardboard in a pleasing layout.
3. Make a hole in the dead center in the cardboard with small scissors.

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