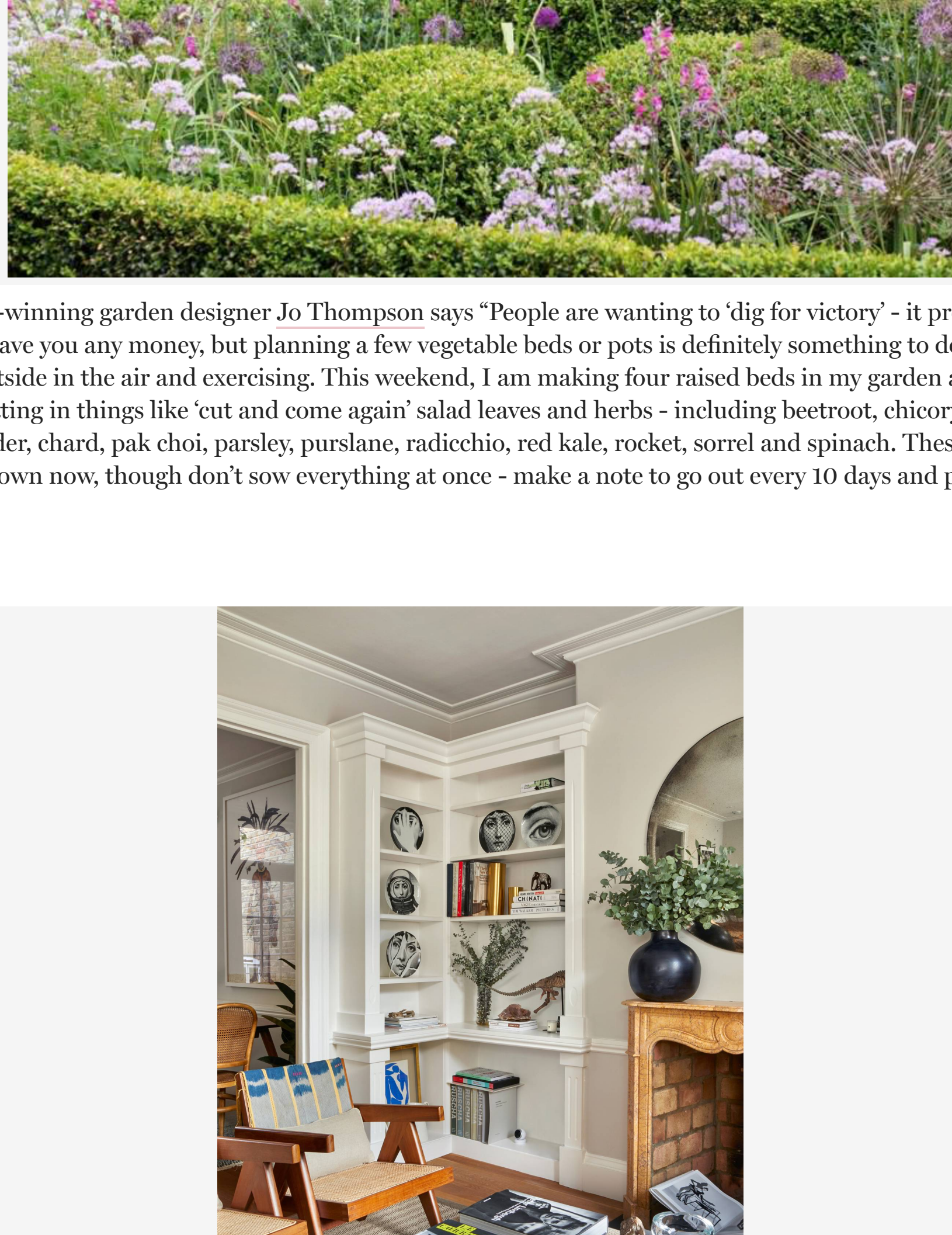


# At Home with The List

We talk all things design with members of The List, and how they're spending their weekends at home



Thinking about updating a corner of your home or garden over the weekend? We've asked members of The List about how they spend their weekends, and for tips and innovative ideas on how to improve your living space...



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Award-winning garden designer Jo Thompson says "People are wanting to 'dig for victory' - it probably won't save you any money, but planning a few vegetable beds or pots is definitely something to do to get you outside in the air and exercising. This weekend, I am making four raised beds in my garden and I am putting in things like 'cut and come again' salad leaves and herbs - including beetroot, chicory, coriander, chard, pak choi, parsley, purslane, radicchio, red kale, rocket, sorrel and spinach. These can all be sown now, though don't sow everything at once - make a note to go out every 10 days and plant more."



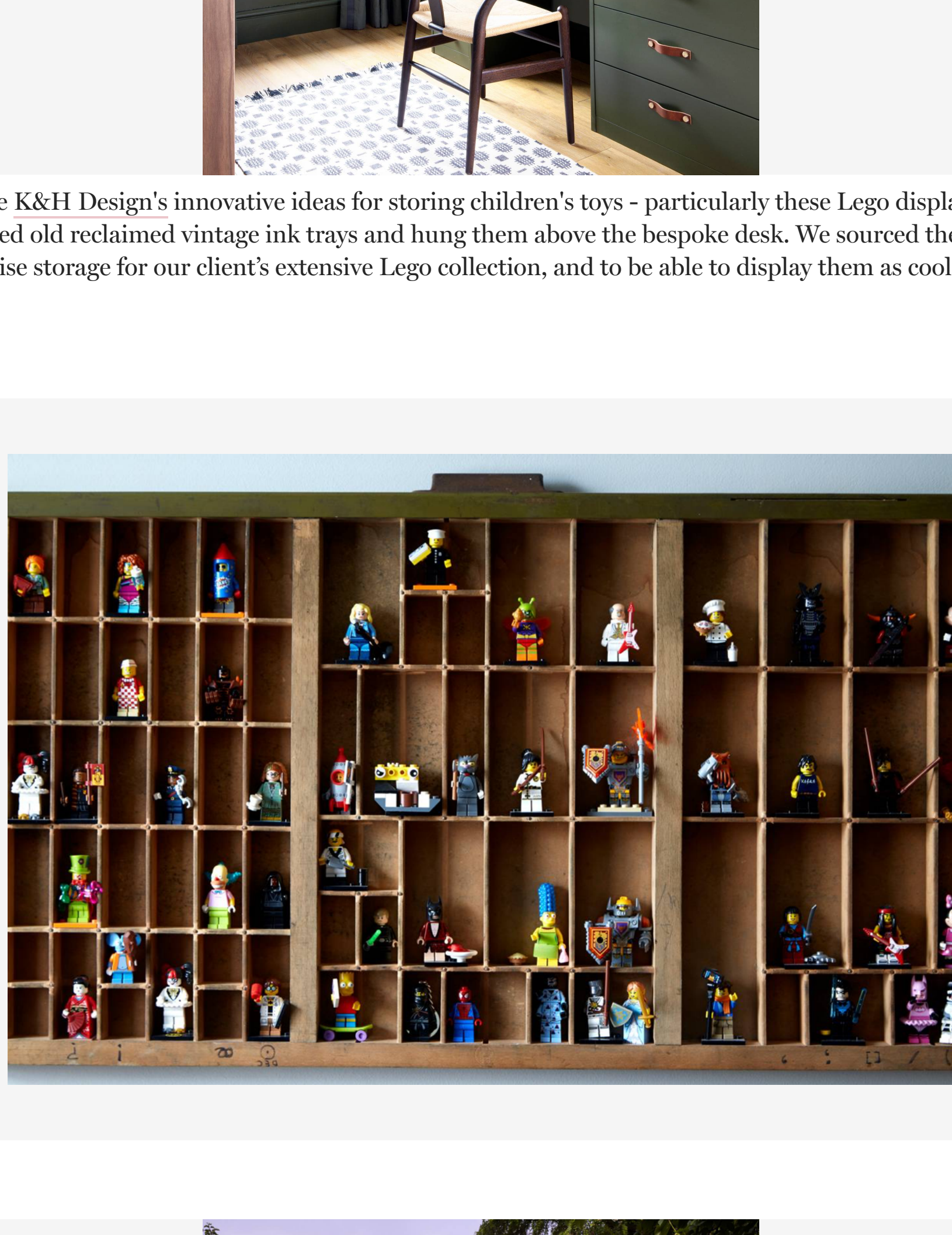
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"With all this newfound time at home we really are going to go all out on our Easter table decorations," says Rosanna Bossom. "Beginning by throwing a block-printed tablecloth over the table and tying colourful ribbons in bows around some napkins, then 'foraging for flowers' and filling small vases and jars with arrangements for the table. To finish off we're filling little bowls full of mini eggs to make it as colourful as possible!

We've really been enjoying pressing our flowers once they start to turn and then framing them. Zara Home have some great ready frames to be hung on the wall.

Re-organise your shelves, turn books on their side, position a bowl on top and fill with some lemons, take out those pretty glasses from your cupboard where they aren't seen and arrange - we love a shelfie!

Using glue or double sided tape stick some ribbon to the base of a plain Roman blind or the bottom of a Lampshade. I did it around the architraves and ceilings in my hallway."



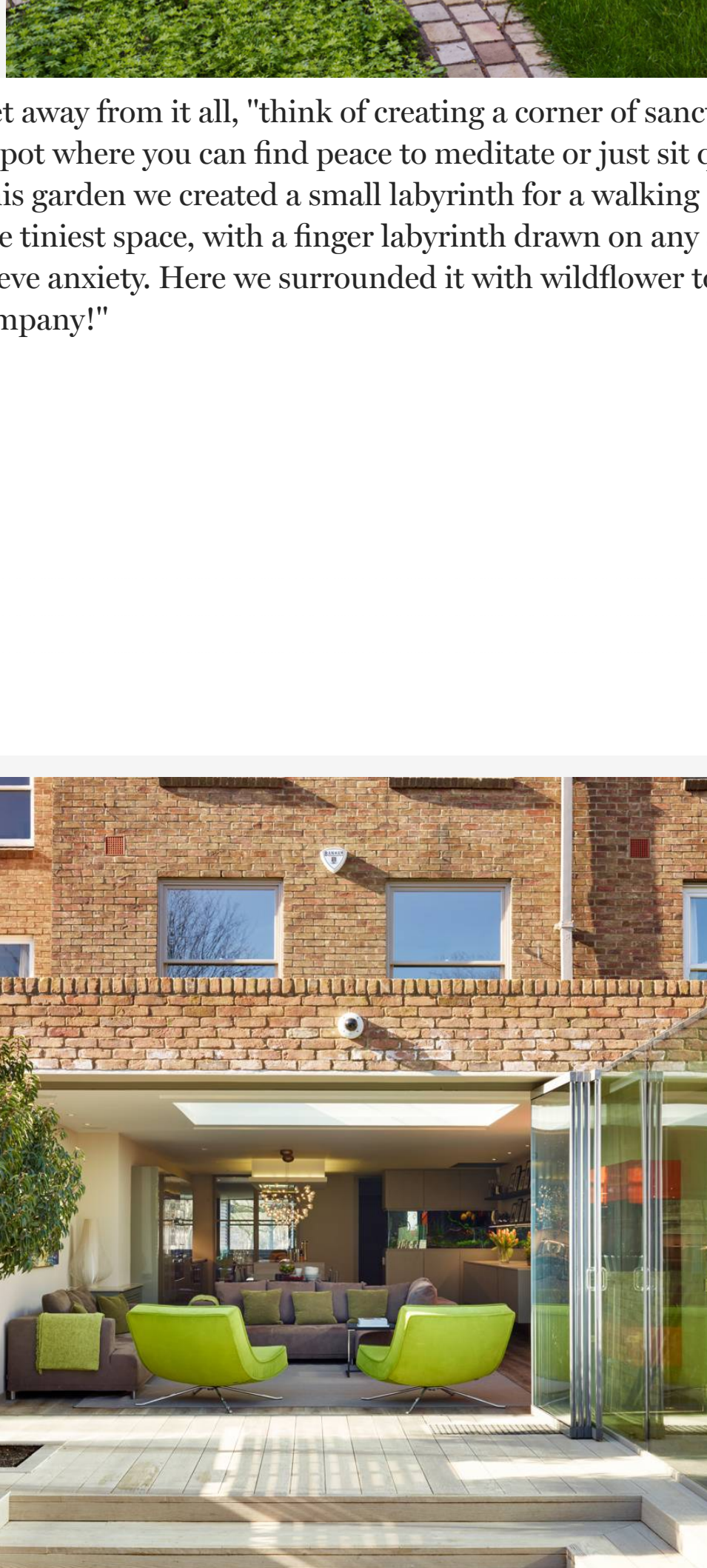
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"Turn your attention to clearing out and cleaning up" suggests Kelly Hoppen. "Kitchens and worktops are great places to store spices and herbs in jars, stack the plates and bowls you use every day and create areas that are styled but practical.

Moving cushions and furniture to different rooms can be fun and it's amazing how you can reinvent a space simply by doing this. If you'd like to get a little more crafty, order some lovely Liberty prints and make new cushion covers or runners to spruce up a space.

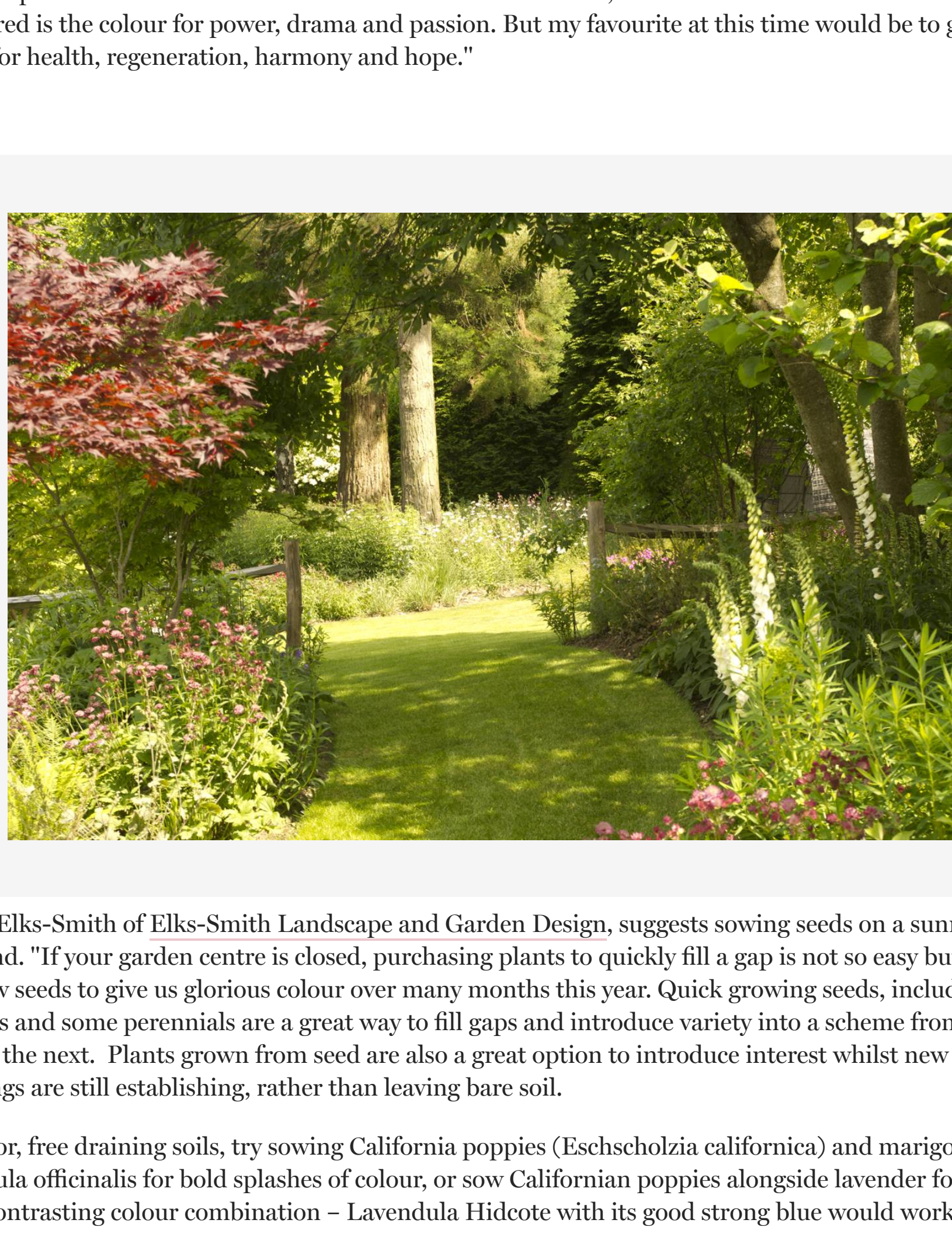
Play with your different artworks and if you don't want to hang them up, lean them up against walls or on shelves. Move books and ornaments around to create new feature areas in the living room and throughout your home.

Creating dedicated areas for kids' belongings and toys helps to keep things organised and will make them seem good as new."

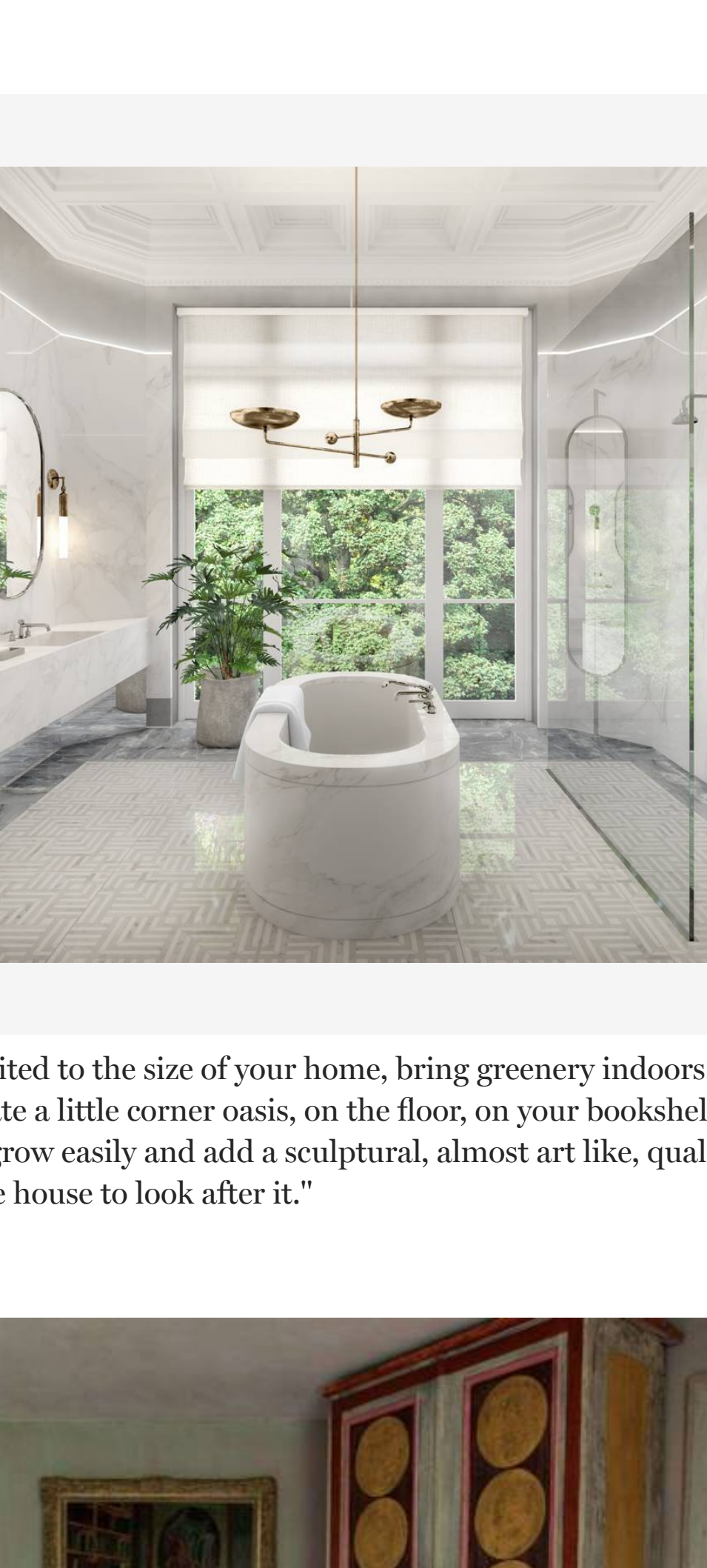


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We love K&H Design's innovative ideas for storing children's toys - particularly these Lego displays: "We used old reclaimed vintage ink trays and hung them above the bespoke desk. We sourced these to maximise storage for our client's extensive Lego collection, and to be able to display them as cool wall art."



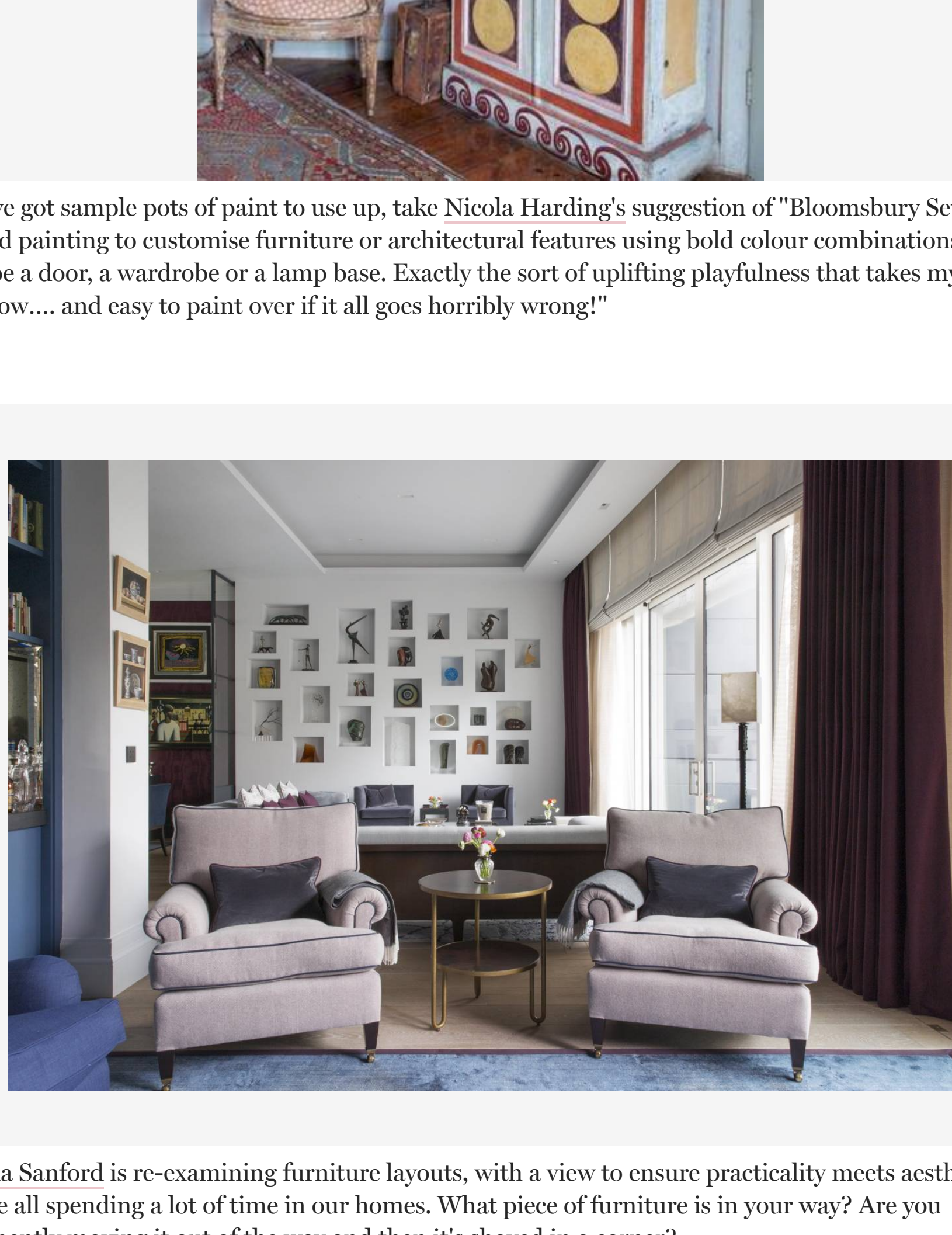
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And if you're itching to get away from it all, "think of creating a corner of sanctuary in your garden," says Marian Boswall. "A spot where you can find peace to meditate or just sit quietly, tune in to nature and forget the news. In this garden we created a small labyrinth for a walking meditation, an idea which can be adapted even to the tiniest space, with a finger labyrinth drawn on any solid surface. A great way to calm the mind and relieve anxiety. Here we surrounded it with wildflower to draw in bees and butterflies to keep you company!"

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For Viki Lander, creative director of Ensoul, it's all about colour: "Change sombre grey and neutral tones to more energetic colours with a lick of paint for the brave or some pumpley accessories for a less permanent change. Let science guide you with your colour choices. Yellow is seen as the colour of happiness, creativity and optimism - no wonder we're happier with sunshine. Orange can trigger energy, openness and ideas - a dominant colour for celebrations, Buddhism and Hinduism. For the brave, red is the colour for power, drama and passion. But my favourite at this time would be to go green for health, regeneration, harmony and hope."

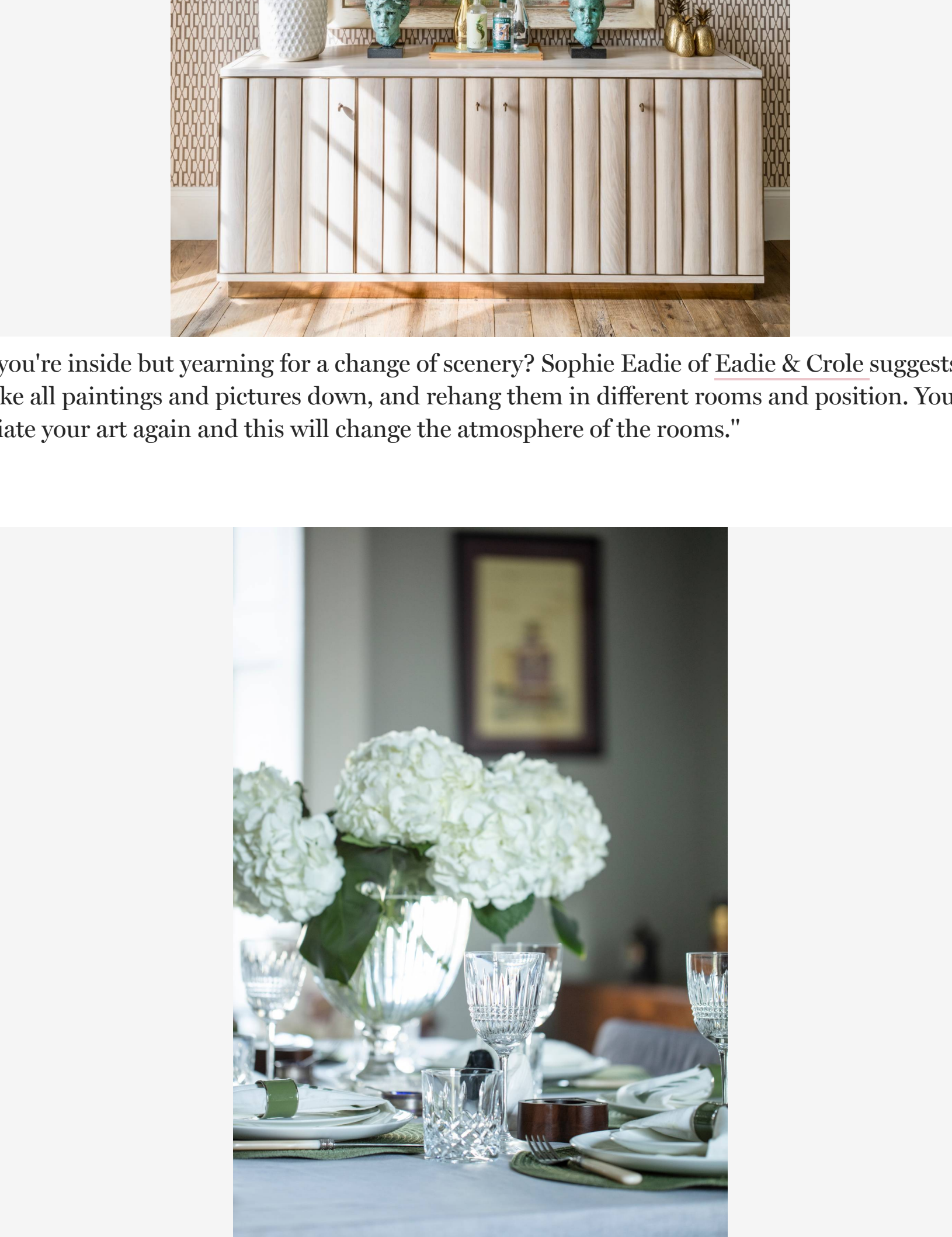


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Helen Elks-Smith of Elks-Smith Landscape and Garden Design, suggests sowing seeds on a sunny weekend. "If your garden centre is closed, purchasing plants to quickly fill a gap is not so easy but we can sow seeds to give us glorious colour over many months this year. Quick growing seeds, including annuals and some perennials are a great way to fill gaps and introduce variety into a scheme from one year to the next. Plants grown from seed are also a great option to introduce interest whilst new plantings are still establishing, rather than leaving bare soil.

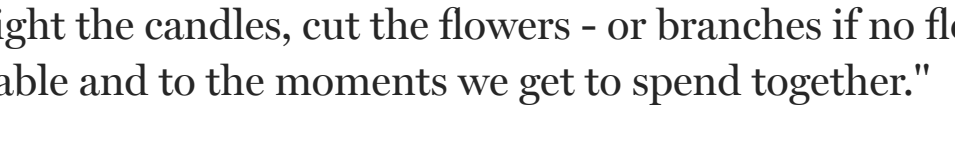
For poor, free draining soils, try sowing Californian poppies (Eschscholzia californica) and marigolds calendula officinalis for bold splashes of colour, or sow Californian poppies alongside lavender for a good contrasting colour combination - Lavandula Hidcote with its good strong blue would work well.

If you have heavy clay try a meadow seed mix selected for these conditions - try seed mixes that include or simply try some of the following - ox-eye daisies (leucanthemum vulgare), field scabious (knautia arvensis) and black knapweed (centaurea nigra). And if you have acid soil, sow ox-eye daisies and black knapweed but this time alongside succisa pratensis."



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"Don't let planting be limited to the size of your home, bring greenery indoors," says Arabella Bassadone of Maison Arabella. "Create a little corner oasis, on the floor, on your bookshelves or windowsill. 'Alocasia' types of plants grow easily and add a sculptural, almost art like, quality to your space. Our tip? Allocate one person in the house to look after it."



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If you've got sample pots of paint to use up, take Nicola Harding's suggestion of "Bloomsbury Set inspired painting to customise furniture or architectural features using bold colour combinations. It could be a door, a wardrobe or a lamp base. Exactly the sort of uplifting playfulness that takes my fancy right now.... and easy to paint over if it all goes horribly wrong!"



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Lucinda Sanford is re-examining furniture layouts, with a view to ensure practicality meets aesthetics: "We are all spending a lot of time in our homes. What piece of furniture is in your way? Are you permanently moving it out of the way and then it's shoved in a corner? Where are you always putting things but wish you had a piece of furniture or a hook for it? Now is the time to take a closer look."



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Back in the garden, Chris James of Graduate Landscapes says that "the most important job you'll be doing this month is planting - whether you're updating the flower borders, starting from scratch with a new garden or working in the vegetable plot. This is also the month to plant out your colourful annuals which will bring additional vibrancy and colour to the garden through the coming months."



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And if you're inside but yearning for a change of scenery? Sophie Eadie of Eadie & Crole suggests that you "take all paintings and pictures down, and rehang them in different rooms and position. You will appreciate your art again and this will change the atmosphere of the rooms."



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And finally, for weekend celebrations Sara Cosgrove takes joy in table decoration. "Ironing the napkins, getting the tablecloth out and the fancy salt cellars, suddenly turns an every day dinner or lunch into something memorable. Light the candles, cut the flowers - or branches if no flowers are available - and bring life to your dining table and to the moments we get to spend together."