

Grow your own home Global

Preface

'Playing house' is one of the more fun adult games. But furnishing a home from scratch is a gradual process and after you've bought a property your budget may not stretch to your dream collection. But it is important to dream. Here's our inventory of things we'd pick to transform a house into a proper home.

Kitchen

When it comes to entertaining we prefer cosy kitchen suppers over stuffy, stiff white-tablecloth dining. That said, our kitchen is a bit of a performance space and it's access all areas. Everything is on show – handy when it comes to reaching for a utensil or when guests help empty the dishwasher. In summer, patio doors open to the terrace, doubling the size of the room. It's not a precious space; it's somewhere that instantly conveys the love of good food, hospitality and taste to anyone who drops by.

- 01 **Mesa kitchen by Alfredo Häberli for Schifini.** Combining wood, ceramic tiles and metal, this 21st-century take on the rustic farm kitchen is giant, tactile and built to last a lifetime or two. schifini.com
- 02 **A round-edged dining table by Ercol.** Round edges are more friendly for dining and this Ercol table has a handy butterfly extension leaf for when 15 friends drop by instead of five. ercol.com
- 03 **Garten chairs by Thonet.** We've opted for these indoor/outdoor chairs by Thonet, which avoid the formal chintz of an upholstered dining chair but are far more comfortable than a backless stool. thonet.com
- 04 **Inga Sempé's w103 lighting for Wästberg.** A perfect option for over-the-kitchen-table lighting which should (always) be dimmable. It provides a neat talking point for tricky dinner guests. waestberg.com
- 05 **Hakusan and Hasami crockery with Plus Minus Zero appliances.** If tableware and appliances are going to be on show, they have to be beautiful. Our crop is from Japan; sensibly sized appliances by Plus Minus Zero sit with delicate porcelain from Kyushu. hasamiyaki.jp; plusminuszero.jp; hakusan-shop.com



Living

Our living room is long and open but divided into zones with different functions. An oak floor, preferably by Danish firm Dinesen, is easy to keep clean and gets better with age. A mix of natural materials – leather, cane, wool, wood, brass and the odd bit of greenery – makes the space feel human. A range of heights prevents it feeling sterile. A wood-burning stove at the heart provides warmth and scent to fill the house. There's ample room to entertain 30 for festive drinks, but you never feel lonely if it's just you and the cat.

- 01 **A handmade, leather-upholstered sofa by Osaka-based furniture firm Truck.** Though we'd normally opt for wool or cotton upholstery, getting comfortable on this sofa is more like sitting on a cloud than a cheap rented car seat. truck-furniture.co.jp
- 02 **838 Veliero bookcase by Franco Albini for Cassina.** This is an heirloom piece, a feat of engineering in glass and brass that acts as showstopper and room-divider in one. cassina.com
- 03 **Pelican chair by Finn Juhl in grey wool.** As much a sculpture as a piece of furniture, this chair is perfect for curling up with a good book beneath the adjustable floor light by Santa Cole. finnjuhl.com; santacole.com
- 04 **Wooden lamps by Bunaco and a smattering of cushions by Svenskt Tenn.** Large spaces are easily divided into more manageable nooks with soft table lights. We favour Bunaco for its natural, woody glow. Similarly, bursts of colour from Svenskt Tenn's ageless fabric prints will do the trick nicely. svenskttenn.se
- 05 **A handmade woollen rug by Kasthall.** Though underfloor-heated wood will never leave your toes chilly, a beautiful big rug is good for breaking up the expanse. kasthall.com

