

02

Planting

As you move through life, your relationship with plants often progresses from sheer indifference to mild interest at the weekend to fully fledged enjoyment. Some never quite discover their green fingers but having a bit of foliage around you – from a pot of basil to an entire lawn – brings colour into any home.



Twenties

Preserving plant life isn't the highest priority for your average twenty-something. Greenery is more about practicality at this stage: a supermarket pot of basil comes in handy for throwing into pasta dinners and takes very little attention.



Thirties

The joy of nurturing something living gradually creeps in: a collection of potted plants has slowly thrived in a south-facing window box. Rosemary, mint and thyme all grow well and are regularly used in dishes.



Forties

A balcony turns into an extra room that comes alive in the summer. Herbs now flourish on a makeshift shelf while containers are home to a host of tomato plants, vegetables and hardy perennials.



Fifties

A move to the country has brought with it a huge lawn to keep in shape over the summer, plus a façade decorated with rich red Virginia creeper (that turns the house technicolour) and plenty of beds to tend to.

Sixties

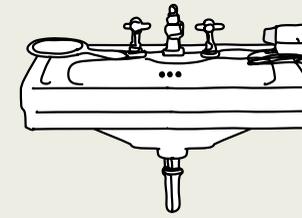
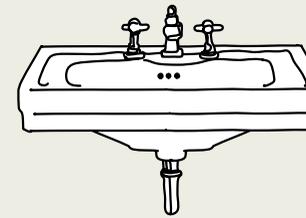
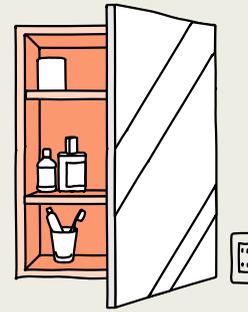
Retirement brings a smaller, slower, more human scale of enjoyment to gardening. Bonsai plants provide the perfect hobby and are picked at, pruned and sculpted with tender loving care.



03

Bathroom cabinets

From those peacocking younger years to the time you reach an age that, we hope, brings a certain amount of self-assurance, what you keep in your bathroom cabinet offers some clues to your stage of life.

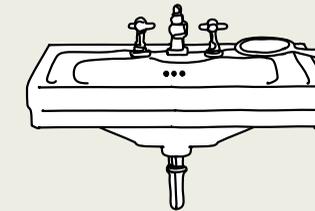


Twenties

A toothbrush, tube of toothpaste, mouthwash and after-shave: the grooming rituals of this gent are basic and bare but who needs products when you have youth on your side.

Thirties

Being low on the ground with grooming products has done this chap no harm. His bits and pieces have now been joined by a pot of Coco Chanel, a swarm of make-up products and an extra toothbrush. They're not his: it's young love.



Forties

Coco Chanel upgraded to Chanel No 5, Alka Seltzer replaced by a dummy and two dinky brushes for milk teeth added to the pot. The bathroom now teems with life just before bedtime and the shelves are full to the brim.



Fifties

How better to treat yourself after years of hard work than a bespoke bathroom with the finest fixtures and fittings? The kids have moved out and the parents have the place to themselves; it's time to celebrate with his-and-hers sinks.

Sixties

Having downscaled to a new place and with no one to impress but each other, two electric toothbrushes suffice for the simple life, plus a cupboard full of tonics and tinctures.

