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The French issue

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A SEASONAL SUPPER IN BURGUNDY
TOP 20 GARDENS TO VISIT

ISSUE 2018/18



PLUS THE ART OF DISPLAYING COLLECTED TREASURES ■ DECORATING WITH NATURAL WEAVES ■ DREAM SCHEMES FOR STYLISH LIVING

WILL A MOBILE ISLAND SOLVE OUR SPACE PROBLEM? A friend has suggested including a mobile island in our kitchen plan as space is tight and we often have to extend the dining table. Who supplies these? RG, Tiptree, Essex.

A mobile island will give extra worktop and storage, and can be pushed back when you extend your table. All mobile islands on castors are smaller than freestanding units, although some larger islands could have swivel castors with brakes fitted. At Ikea, 020 3645 0000, ikea.com/gb, islands with castors, described as trolleys, include the Förhoja with drawers, slatted shelves and solid birch worktop, H90xW100xD43cm, £80. At Maisons du Monde, 0808 234 2172, maisonsdumonde.com, the Sorgues kitchen stand on castors in white wood has a zinc top and slatted shelf above rattan baskets, H85xW82xD34cm, £229. There's a good range of islands at the Cotswold Company, 0333 200 1725, cotswoldco.com, all in wood but none on castors. You could, however, add them to the Westcote Blue (right), in painted oak with an inset granite worktop, £499, and the Oval Granite Top island, in oak with two pull-out sections for chopping, £999.



HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION

The House Clinic service is free to all *Homes & Gardens* subscribers. There is a £12 fee per query for non-subscribers, who must send their query and payment by post.

EMAIL Subscribers, send your query, subscriber number and address to houseclinic@ti-media.com.

POST Send your query, subscriber number or payment, and an SAE to *Homes & Gardens*, 161 Marsh Way, London E14 9AP. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to TI Media Limited.

We are unable to answer more than one question per reader each month.

Celia Rufey can also help you create an individual design for any room in your home, with ideas for colours, fabrics, paint, wallcoverings and flooring. For full details, visit our Facebook page at bit.ly/2e5fqsu.



WHERE CAN I FIND A PLANTER IN THE STYLE OF A BIRDCAGE? I'd like to use a decorative birdcage for plants. Can you tell me who sells them? EP, Godalming, Surrey.

The Grand Illusions Zinc birdcage (top), H45xW35xD25cm, £56, AG Lifestyle, 01787 312126, aglifestyle.co.uk, has a simple vintage look. More decorative is the domed Pavilion birdcage (above) in two sizes, H30xDia22cm, £29.95; H40xDia28cm, £44.95, Packhouse, 01252 781010, packhouse.com. A trio of round metal Birdcage planters at The New Eden, 01268 698459, theneweden.com, come in a grey or rust finish, from £15 for the small design, H43xDia20cm. Also domed with a lift-up lid, the Decorative wirework birdcage, H45xW38xD25cm, £58.95. The Worm That Turned, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk, is engagingly simple.

HOW CAN WE INCORPORATE STORAGE IN A LOFT? The walls in the loft bedroom that we're converting will slope from head height. Are there clever ways to fit maximum storage without taking up too much of the floor space? HA, Bedford.

The mantra from storage virtuoso Barbara Genda, 020 7978 2349, barbara-genda.com, instructs anyone embarking on a loft conversion to think about storage at the design stage or early on in the construction. Specify socket and light positions, too, as changing them later is expensive. The point that people forget, Barbara says, is that there's a lot of eaves space in most lofts that isn't useable for anything but storage because of the lack of head height (as shown below). Making small alterations to the positions of the joists and setting Velux windows higher up the roof can deliver space for drawers, shelves and hanging shorter items. Always work out how much full-length garment hanging space you'll need. To get around this in one loft bedroom, Barbara installed wardrobes as a room divider, with clothes accessed on one side and the bed against the back of the wardrobes.

