

H A M M O N D S

In order, to live better.

moments

A MOMENT WITH...

Take a peek inside actress Jennifer Metcalfe's calm, organised home

A FINE LINE

Get to know our new Linje range - the perfect sleek addition to a stylish Japandi scheme

LOOK GOOD, FEEL GOOD

Curating your wardrobe and finding your own style, with TV stylist Gemma Sheppard



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The live better edition



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FOREWORD

Welcome to Moments



I think that Autumn is potentially my favourite of the seasons. There is something

about getting your jumpers back out, wrapping up warm and retreating back to the home of an evening that is marvellously comforting.

This edition of Moments magazine is packed with Autumnal goodies for you to browse as the weather turns a bit crisper and the leaves turn golden. Not only do we have seasonally inspired recipes, but also festive activities for the whole family to do across the UK.

We also have an interview with award-winning actress Jennifer Metcalfe about how Hammonds storage solutions have transformed her home and given her a way of keeping organised.

We hope you enjoy!

Josh

Josh Hammonds, Editor

A well ordered home

Our homes have to work harder than ever, as living spaces, offices and more.

Here's how to make multifunctional living stylish, sorted and stress free.

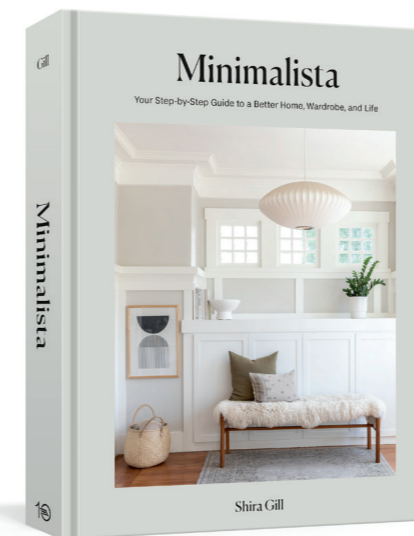
The past 18 months have seen a huge shift in the way we use our homes. Not just places to relax, eat and sleep, they've become gyms and workspaces, school rooms and nurseries, cinemas and virtual cocktail bars. While many of us have embraced the opportunity to spend more time at home, there's no denying the pressure this has put on our living spaces. But it's also given us an opportunity to consider what we truly want from our home going forward.

'The pandemic has reshaped the way we use our homes,' says Marc von Grundherr, Director of London estate agent Benham and Reeves. 'Flexible working has seen spare bedrooms, lounges and garden sheds transformed into home office spaces. While working from the sofa was a novel experience during the early days of lockdown, we've realised that blurring the lines between our professional and personal lives can be detrimental. It's incredibly important to differentiate between the two and switch on and off at the appropriate times.'

Multifunctional houses

When rooms have more than one purpose, it's important to keep their roles as distinct as possible. And good organisation – and fantastic storage – is key.

'You need to set up your home to support the exact life you want,' says Shira Gill, home organiser and author of *Minimalista: Your Step-by-Step Guide to a Better Home, Wardrobe, and Life* (Octopus). 'Once you have clarity about what you need, you can assess every space in your home against those goals.'



Having rooms that are muddled, more than multifunctional, is a common problem. 'I encounter living rooms that feel unliveable and dining rooms that aren't used for dining,' agrees Shira. 'The goal is to develop a clear vision for

the spaces you want to create and the activities you want the rooms to support.'

Design for living

The recent surge in DIY, decorating, renovations and extensions is proof that when we spend more time at home we see its flaws – and its potential.

'Lockdown has opened our eyes to the quality of our furniture and how it can affect our wellbeing,' says Farhan Malik of Manor Interiors. 'In the same way that an uncomfortable bed can reduce our ability to sleep, a poor-quality desk can impact our ability to work. Our research shows that a tidy workspace can boost both productivity and personal wellbeing, and we've found that good storage is integral for maintaining order and reducing stress in our homes.'

A more flexible way of living and working looks like it is here to stay, so it makes sense to invest in creating a stylish, healthy, multifunctional home. And you can rest assured that the investment will pay off in other ways, too.

'Maximising space within your house will help boost appeal for buyers. The easiest way to do this is with in-built storage as it maximises space and removes the need to buy additional furniture,' confirms James Forrester of Birmingham estate agent, Barrows & Forrester. 'We regularly see buyers

pay that little bit extra for built-in storage options such as wardrobes. The pandemic has emphasised the need for more space and these additional features are now likely to add even more value to your home." ■

Three habit shifts to keep your rooms looking dreamy, from home organiser Shira Gill.

TIP 1:

Don't put it down; put it away. Treating your belongings and your space with respect feels good, and waking up to a space that feels curated and cared for is dreamy.

TIP 2:

Put your clothes away.

Putting your clothes away at the end of the day takes two minutes or less, and you'll wake up to a clean and comforting space.

TIP 3:

Relocate and reset.

Take a few minutes during your day to relocate random items. Return bills and mail to your home office, and dishes to the kitchen.

Products that bring joy

Our pick of everyday products that bring a little joy, from sustainable eating to cosy home décor.

FIVE STYLISH, BLISSFUL BUYS TO ADD TO YOUR HOME...

1 Bee's Wrap Lunch Pack Reusable Bag Set £26

Are you fully invested in your reusable water bottle? Next on your list should be those pesky sandwich bags. Eddington has created this fantastic Bee's Wrap set, which includes one larger sandwich and a pair of medium-sized wraps. You use the warmth of your hands to mould the wraps around your chosen snack – the wax will form a solid bond, hardening when your hands are taken away. The ultimate reusable, recyclable way to enjoy lunch. www.selfridges.com



2 Second-hand Book Subscriptions

Hand me Down book club – offering a choice of 2 to 20 pre-loved books as part of a subscription.
Second-hand bookshelf – does both book subscriptions and book blind dates. The subscription boxes include 3-4 gifts which help you to further live a life of sustainability and mindfulness.
Second chance stories – offers subscriptions for both adults and children.



3 Muggins in Burnt Custard £12

Perfectly imperfect ceramics, with a pop of bold colour to brighten up your morning coffee. Loaf's wonky mugs have a charming hand-dipped crackle glaze and, whilst we're in love with Burnt Custard, there are 9 wonderfully playful colours to choose from. www.loaf.com

4 Subluceo Sea Salt & Driftwood Soy Wax Candle £19.99

This is not your ordinary candle. It's reminiscent of a day by the shore. Refreshing notes of seaweed lie in cool blue rock pools livened by a fresh coastal breeze and enhanced by a touch of cyclamen and water lily. Hand poured in small batches and made with sustainably sourced soy wax. www.lifebeforeplastik.com



5 Tori Murphy Cadogan Check Throw in Mushroom £245

This pattern is inspired by many evenings spent on the West Cork beach. The Mushroom throw is Merino Lambswool woven in Lancashire and made in Nottingham. A timeless product, beautifully soft with a reversible design and hand finished with a traditional blanket stitch. www.torimurphy.com

...and Hammonds handcrafted furniture

We like to leave a gentle footprint on the planet, so all our materials are obtained from sustainable sources. We ensure all the materials we use are the very best, and personally craft every curve and angle. The result is beautiful fitted furniture that's unique to you and your home, for long-lasting style and satisfaction.



Linje in Matt White & Driftwood

A fine line

The new Linje furniture range combines clean lines with perfectly tailored storage

Linje (pronounced lin-ya) is the Swedish word for line – the perfect name for our latest fitted furniture collection. Inspired by the warmth and simplicity of Scandinavian design, combined with the harmony and well-ordered aesthetic of Japanese interiors, Linje builds on the recent ‘Japandi’ trend to bring a considered and contemporary look to living spaces.



Linje in Matt Graphite & Tuscan Oak

for a chic addition to your home.

‘Japandi, as the name suggests, is a mix of Japanese and Scandinavian styles,’ explains interiors expert Lou Graham of Graham & Green. ‘It is influenced by the ancient Japanese philosophy of wabi-sabi, a way of life which values slow-living, contentment and simplicity, as well as the Scandinavian practice of hygge, which embraces comfort, cosiness and wellbeing. Japandi blends the smooth, modern lines of Scandinavian design with the sleek, functional, elegance of the Japanese aesthetic. It is minimalist yet welcoming, and is all about using neutral tones, lots of textures and natural materials.’

So this style is all about creating a sense of calm and balance – for you and for your home. Think serene spaces to relax in, sleek cabinets designed to fit each room perfectly, and beautifully functional storage within. Linje has been designed as the perfect addition for contemporary living spaces, combining sophisticated minimalism with endless variety.



Linje in Matt Graphite & Tuscan Oak

NEW FROM HAMMONDS



Linje in Driftwood

“We knew our customers wanted a bedroom collection with a contemporary look and feel. We were inspired by a clean Scandi aesthetic to create a true handleless look which gives Linje its unique style”

KIRSTY OAKES,
Hammonds Head of Displays & Marketing

A simple statement

With Linje, every line tells a story. It starts with the integrated handles, which create a chic grid of vertical and horizontal rules across the storage pieces. You can enhance the look by choosing contrasting colours or use a subtle blend of hues for a seamless look.

Open units provide another way to make a statement. Introduce cubes and boxes into your design scheme to showcase your treasures in a stunning display. We’ve poured over every detail of the design, so whatever mix of

cabinets you choose – from wardrobes to dressing tables, living room storage to understairs cupboards – the lines of each piece and the integrated handles will flow flawlessly across the design.

Considered colours

The Linje palette of colours and finishes has been carefully curated to give a pared-back yet versatile range of finishes. Choose from soft Nordic-inspired wood textures in pale, dark or warm tones. Pair with contemporary matt surfaces in nature-inspired graphite, greys, white and Fjord,

a steely blue-green hue. Or opt for shining high-gloss surfaces for the ultimate in contemporary style. There’s a Linje look for every style and space.

A fit for every space

Linje’s clean lines, combined with Hammonds reputation for fitted furniture solutions, means the collection translates to any space. Whether you’re looking for storage for a tricky spot under a sloping ceiling, or you want bespoke built-in cabinets for a media room, Linje delivers effortlessly. ■



Linje in Silver Grey Gloss



WITH GEMMA SHEPPARD, TV STYLIST & FASHION EXPERT

Look good, feel good

The star of Channel 5's *10 Years Younger in 10 Days* is giving her own wardrobe an upgrade - with Hammonds!

Gemma tells us why organising your clothes and finding your style is the secret to great self-esteem.





LOOK good, feel good

WELLBEING

My relationship with Hammonds goes back a very long time; I'm such a fan! I've always been obsessed with fitted furniture – as a child, I loved looking around showrooms and seeing how all the cabinets and accessories fitted together.

I first went to see Hammonds several years ago and now I've got the plans for my new wardrobes. It's brilliant that the designs can be personalised to what's important to each customer. I love shoes, so I've specified a 'shoe-drobe' in one section. I also wear fewer evening dresses than I used to, preferring to wear a tuxedo to events. So I've a smaller full-length hanging area for coats and a few frocks, but more half-hanging space for trousers and tops.

Having a beautiful wardrobe gives you more respect for the clothes you own. Instead of throwing them over the back of a chair, you'll hang them up and keep everything better organised. That's more important than ever, post-pandemic, as we really need to feel in control of our lives.

I play 'dress up' in my wardrobe every Sunday and choose all my outfits for the week ahead. Take seven hangers and create a complete look for each day, down to the shoes and jewellery. It might be athleisure, but elevate it

so you're wearing more than just a tracksuit. Feeling good isn't about being a certain size or following the latest trend. It's the confidence that comes with presenting the best version of yourself. When you put together outfits you feel good wearing, it impacts how you show up in the world.

Editing your wardrobe so it only contains pieces that fit you and are flattering will save you time and stress when you're getting dressed.

Pinterest is a great tool for figuring out what fashion feels right for you. Look for celebrities with a similar body shape and style to you, then create mood boards of their best looks to inspire you when you go clothes shopping. I also recommend doing your hair and makeup and wearing a great pair of shoes when trying on clothes - even when it's a home delivery!

Be your own best friend. So many of us talk to ourselves in a way we'd never speak to a friend, and we need to re-programme that negative commentary. Jot down mantras and kind messages to yourself on sticky notes and pop them inside your wardrobe or on the dressing table mirror. One message will override negative thoughts and create a more positive mindset. ■

“Be your own best friend. So many of us talk to ourselves in a way we'd never speak to a friend.”

GEMMA SHEPPARD
TV Stylist & Fashion Expert

Real Homes

We love to see your beautiful Hammonds homes! Here are some of our favourites from customers who have tagged us on social media recently.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR MORE INSPIRATION

The projects featured range from bedroom storage solutions fit for a model, as our former cover star Amy Neville's wardrobe shows, with a place for every shoe, bag and baby! To smart home office solutions that make working from home an absolute breeze.

@amynevhousediaris



@home_sweet_home_46



Real Homes

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM FOR MORE INSPIRATION @HAMMONDS.UK

A popular trend recently has been to design schemes with tonal walls and fitted furniture doors. Bold colour pops are also enduringly popular as @midwood_home's Marden bedroom storage in cobalt blue shows.

@midwood_home



@homewithrima_



@taylorwimpeymilldale

Neutral schemes are a popular and timeless choice. @homewithrima_ chose Rialto Square in white for her modern Japandi scheme, while @sgr.home opted for Marden in mushroom and @taylorwimpeymilldale chose Harpsden in Mussel to create soft, elegant interiors.



@sgr.home



Getting out of the house this Autumn!

We can hardly believe that it's autumn already... does anyone else feel like the year has flown by?



Though we love all things home, we know that energetic kids sometimes need a little more entertainment than their bedroom can offer. Why not let them run off some of that steam and let their imaginations go wild with these fantastic autumnal days out for all the family...

Fantastic Beasts – The Wonder of Nature at The Natural History Museum, London.

If you're a Londoner, then the magic of this fantastical exhibition is right around the corner. If you don't live in London, then why not hop on a train to visit the place where the real world and the Wizarding World collide! Perfect for any young wizards or animal-lovers, this event explores the extraordinary animals that have inspired the creatures of stories, myths, and legends. The props from the movie *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* are also on display; it's not an event to miss for any 'Potterheads' out there.

DATE: 17th May 2021 – 3rd January 2022, Closed 24-26th December

PRICES: Adult £22, Child (4-16 years) £13.25, Concession £17.50, Family £38.50-£66.95

Free for Members and Patrons, children under four and disability personal assistants.

Light up Winter at Edinburgh Zoo.

Make your evenings merry and bright this festive season with a magical journey through Edinburgh Zoo! A spectacular light trail will take you on a journey to discover the magic of Christmas spirit and Santa's time at the zoo.

From Friday 19 November until Sunday 2 January, you can glow around the route with projections, twinkling fairy lights and much more.

Designed for limited visitor numbers with a wide range of safety measures in place, Edinburgh Zoo's Christmas Nights are sure to light up your winter.

Entry slots are available from 4.45pm to 7.30pm. For more information and ticket prices please visit www.edinburghzoo.org.uk/christmasnights/



Light up Winter at Edinburgh Zoo

Nightflix Drive-in Cinema

in Borden, Colchester, Longmoor, Milton Keynes or Newark.

A drive-in cinema experience is the perfect chilled evening activity with a retro twist. Nightflix is screening all the latest movies, which you can enjoy from the comfort of your own car in one of four locations across the UK. An exciting experience for all the family where you can pack all your favourite movie treats, or visit the Colchester location for a wide range of snacks and drinks delivered directly to your car!

For a more adult evening, check out the Gin Cinema by Nightflix, an immersive outdoor gin festival and cinema experience.

DATE: Check out the website for all the viewing times and prices: www.nightflix.co.uk

Freddo's Ghoulish Gameshow

at Cadbury's World, Birmingham

Trick or Treat?! Freddo's Ghoulish Gameshow is definitely a treat for all the family, with plenty of audience participation, quizzes and prizes up for grabs. Show off your best fancy dress at this spook-tacular event and stuff your faces full of delicious chocolate whilst you're at it! Your kids are sure to be asleep in the car home after this fun, sugar-filled adventure.

DATE: 16th – 31st October 2021

PRICES ONLINE: Adult £18.05, Child (4-15 years) £13.30, Family £54.15 - £65.08. See more prices on the website: www.cadburyworld.co.uk

Festive illuminated walk

Chatsworth House, Chatsworth, Bakewell, Derbyshire

Enjoy an illuminated walk around the beautiful gardens at Chatsworth with atmospheric lighting bringing a festive sparkle to your visit to Chatsworth. Let the lights guide your way past the Emperor Fountain, around the Ring Pond and into the Rock Garden, before enjoying the Cascade lit by hundreds of glowing lights. This spectacle is best viewed at dusk to get you in the autumnal mood.

DATE: November 2021–9 January 2022

The Haunting of Aira Force

at Aira Force Waterfall, Matterdale, Penrith CA11 0JY

Aira Force is known for its mysterious goings-on, so embark on this paranormal evening at your own peril in the final days of October...

Around the roaring campfire, discover the unusual happenings of the area under the cover of darkness. Tiny Wild Fox invite you to join them for this family friendly experience with the expectation of some spooky encounters this Halloween.

DATE/ TIME: 29th October – 31st October 2021 at various times. Prices starting at £8.68.

Adviser age 7+. You will be expected to complete a small trail, in low lighting – accessibility arrangements can be made. Warm refreshments will be available onsite.

WHAT'S ON

The Midnight Apothecary

Rotherhithe London

Cosy autumnal cocktails and hot toddies in the enchanted candle-lit roof garden at the Brunel Museum are back with optional underground tours of Brunel's Grand Entrance Hall to the Thames Tunnel. Have relaxed cocktails on the Ground Floor Terrace, there are also individual firepits for hire, and hot toddies.

Voted one of London's best outdoor pop-up cocktail bars since 2012, the midnight apothecary specialises in seasonal botanical cocktails round a campfire made by Midnight Apothecary founder Lottie Muir AKA The Cocktail Gardener. The terrace is covered in edible herb planters. Ingredients grown in the garden or foraged close by are used to infuse and garnish the drinks. The menu changes frequently based on what is in season.

www.themidnightapothecary.co.uk

With all the time we've spent at home this year, take the family on a new adventure...

A moment with Jennifer Metcalfe

JENNIFER'S TIPS FOR A WELL ORGANISED HOME



As a busy working mum, Jennifer Metcalfe's family life needs to run as smoothly as possible to ensure that the time she spends at home with her four-year old son Daye is quality time.

As Jennifer explains: "working on a TV drama series is amazing because every week is different. You get a rough schedule a few weeks before you shoot your scenes, but working weeks can vary and when I have long days on set, it is always lovely to come home to a well organised home."

When she first started house-hunting she had the ideal property in mind, a Victorian house with high ceilings and lots of original features.

Jennifer chose a leafy suburb on the outskirts of Manchester, that was perfect for families and was also within easy commuting distance to the Hollyoaks set in nearby Liverpool. She fell in love with the perfect property, one that was beautifully finished and had a large rear extension providing a wonderful light filled kitchen/diner.

Before Jennifer had even moved in, she had already begun making plans as to how she would personalise the space and make it fit to her and Daye's needs. A key consideration was storage space as Jennifer explained: "Because Daye is an energetic four-year old, he loves playing with his toys and he has lots of them!"

"When I had my offer accepted on the house I started to think about where it might be good to add in storage, so for instance the alcoves in Victorian houses are the perfect places to introduce storage solutions that are in keeping with the room aesthetic.

"Some of my friends have Victorian houses so I used their homes as inspiration, and I always knew that I would want to add storage to the rooms in order to keep them looking neat, well organised and free from clutter." ▶



"Having a well organised home is just one less thing to worry about."

JENNIFER METCALFE
Actress





Initially she had heard about Hammonds through word of mouth but thought that it would be too expensive as she needed a lot of fitted furniture, in her lounge, kitchen, master bedroom and Daye's room. However, once she had seen that many different looks were available in the Hammonds range, and got an idea of the price points, she was really surprised by how economical they turned out to be.

The whole process with Hammonds, from the design appointment, to ordering and fitting, was really thorough and Jennifer was really

impressed by the immaculate finish. Not only does the new fitted furniture look great but it also ticked Jennifer's organisation boxes, as she commented: "Everything now has its place. At the end of the day, I can clear up and tidy everything away. Daye sometimes helps, and he even knows which drawer is which - this one for superheroes, that one for dinosaurs."

"In my own room I have had two wardrobe clear-outs already, I can easily see my clothes and choose outfits for the day ahead, it has made me discover items of clothing I had forgotten I had, and it is like having



a brand-new wardrobe of clothes as I have rediscovered so many pieces."

Jennifer absolutely believes in the connection between mental health and organisation. "Having a well organised home is just one less thing to worry about. Knowing where everything is and being able to tidy up quickly and efficiently is so liberating."

"When you add young kids into the mix, I would say that having storage solutions can only enhance your home life. Tidy house, tidy mind!" ■



REAL HOMES

"Knowing where everything is and being able to tidy up quickly is so liberating"

JENNIFER METCALFE
Actress

Eight reasons to love Hatton

Our new Hatton furniture combines great style with affordability. No wonder we love it so much...



AVAILABLE IN OUR NEW FJORD SHADE



1. Huge range of cabinets

Hatton comes with all the choice you'd expect from Hammonds' furniture, dependant on your storage needs choose either a fully lined or front frame wardrobes system. Co-ordinating low-level furniture such as chest of drawers, bedside drawers and dressing table, as well as tailored made elements such as angled doors. Our home design service will help you create your perfect bedroom scheme.

2. Choice of door designs

Simple framed style or on-trend four panelled – the choice is yours. 'The panelled look is really popular with customers right now, bringing characterful, contemporary style to a bedroom,' says Sam Roberts, Hammonds National Training Manager. 'For a more streamlined look, the classic single panel will never go out of style.'

3. Stunning colours

Hatton built-in furniture is available in 12 stylish colours, including our new Fjord shade – a lovely soft blue-green. Whether you want dark and dramatic or fresh and bright, you'll find a look you'll love in our contemporary palette.

4. Sleek, modern finish

We use a special process to manufacture our heat-finished vinyl doors – tailor-made for your space. The result is a timeless, soft sheen finish that suits both period and modern interiors.

5. Hardwearing & easy to clean

We pride ourselves on the quality of our materials and superb craftsmanship, and the Hatton range is no exception. The robust vinyl surface can just be wiped down when needed, no hassle.

6. Wardrobe magic

That's what we call our clever flexible storage. Hanging rails and shoe racks, jewellery trays and tilting linen baskets, we have all the solutions you need for a well-organised home.

7. Bevelled mirrors

Mirrors reflect light to make a bedroom feel bigger and brighter. Available as an optional extra, Hatton's have bevelled edges for an elegant finish. And because they're full length, you'll always leave the house knowing you look your best, top to toe.

8. Smart & affordable

Similar in style to our existing Marden collection, the all-new Hatton comes at a lower price point, making it ideal for a guest room or loft space. Or simply to give you greater options when choosing your built-in design. ■



BOOK A DESIGN VISIT

A simple, stress free service done the Hammonds way... we'll bring years of experience, and no hassle to create a design that suits your needs, taste and budget.

[HAMMONDS-UK.COM](https://www.hammonds-uk.com)

Camberley Crush

New Camberley Showroom Now Open

509 LONDON ROAD | CAMBERLEY | SURREY



STORE NEWS

its store portfolio and ensure that its latest ranges are fully showcased.

The new store is situated on London Road between Travelodge and Scuderia Prestige Automobile.

Hammonds' beautiful range of fitted bedrooms is showcased in the Camberley store. A fitted bedroom can work in several ways, whether you're looking to clear clutter from your bedroom or you want the luxury of a walk-in wardrobe. Hammonds offers a range of styles and finishes to suit many different interior styles. From the sleek lines of Linje, to the enduringly classic shaker style of Harpsden. The ranges are also available in a contemporary palette of colours from the fresh greens of sea salt to the striking grey blue of cobalt.

You will also find an elegant range of home office furniture. Beautifully crafted fitted desks, office drawers and storage cupboards in a range of finishes and colour combinations. Hammonds will help you make the best use of space to transform your office into a functional, productive work space.

Casey Crouch, is Store Manager of the new Camberley store, she said: "Here at Hammonds we love helping our customers create their perfect home. Our friendly team offers an outstanding one-to-one service, and we'll even pop the kettle on so you feel right at home. Feel free to drop in even if it's to just browse our furniture, we love showing off our store." ■

"Our friendly team offers an outstanding one-to-one service, and we'll even pop the kettle on so you feel right at home."

CASEY CROUCH
Store Manager




Earlier this autumn Hammonds unveiled a brand new showroom in the thriving community of Camberley in Surrey.

The new retail space showcases Hammonds' bedroom and home office ranges as well as a selection of fitted and sliding wardrobe styles.

In contrast to many other high street retailers who have shut stores over the last 18 months, as the high street has been hit hard by the pandemic, Hammonds has bucked the trend with its new store opening. Hammonds is also rolling out a programme of store transformations to introduce a new look and feel to

RECIPE
More Taste & Less Waste

Sticky Apple Fritters

Serves 2 Preparation 10 minutes
Cooking 10 minutes 

Ingredients

Dessert apple 1, eg Pink Lady
Plain flour 75g (3oz)
Ground cloves ½ tsp
Salt pinch
Milk 100ml (3½ fl oz)
Egg 1, separated
Rapeseed oil for deep frying
Icing sugar, golden syrup and vanilla ice cream to serve

Method

Cut the apple into quarters, peel and core, then cut in half to give eight wedges.

Tip the flour into a bowl and stir in the cloves and salt. Beat in the milk and egg yolk. Whisk the egg white until stiff and then fold it into the batter.


In a deep frying pan, heat the oil to 180–190°C (350–375°F).

Carefully dip a wedge of apple into the batter and then lower it into the hot oil. Repeat with another three wedges. Cook the apple fritters for 3–4 minutes, turning them over halfway through, until they are golden. Using a slotted spoon, lift them onto kitchen paper to drain while you cook the remaining fritters. Dust with icing sugar and serve immediately, with golden syrup and ice cream.



RECIPE
More Taste & Less Waste

Plum & Almond Brown Betty

Serves 2 Preparation 10 minutes
Cooking 40 minutes 

Ingredients

Fresh white or wholemeal breadcrumbs 100g (3½oz)
Butter 50g (2oz), melted
Soft light brown sugar 2 tbsp
Flaked almonds 2 tbsp, lightly crushed
Plums 200g (7oz), halved, stoned and thickly sliced
Almond extract ½ tsp
Plum jam 2 tbsp
Custard or ice cream to serve

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160° fan/Gas 4. Put the breadcrumbs in a bowl and mix in the butter and sugar. Scatter half the mixture over the bottom of a small ovenproof dish. Mix the almonds into the remaining crumbs.

Arrange the plums in the dish. Mix the almond extract into the jam and spoon over the plums, then top with the almondy crumbs.

Put the dish on a baking tray and bake for about 40 minutes until the topping is crisp and golden and the plums are tender – test with a skewer. Serve hot with custard or ice cream.



Autumnal recipes

Recipes taken from **More Taste & Less Waste**. This brand new cookbook is all about creating fabulous food whilst minimising food waste. Discover this collection of 80 clever recipes that can make food waste a thing of the past.

www.dairydiary.co.uk



Ask the designer

Stylist and interior design expert
Melissa Denham clues us in on the
latest looks for homes today



MELISSA DENHAM
Hammonds Stylist

You create the inspirational room sets and styling for Hammonds. What are customers looking for now? ‘The last year has seen us working from home, teaching from home and, for long periods, not even leaving our home. With our living spaces being so chaotic and busy, we also need them to be a place of calm and tranquillity. This comes from how we organise them, and having somewhere – even if it is just one room, or even a small area of a room, to truly relax in.

How is Hammonds helping homes to

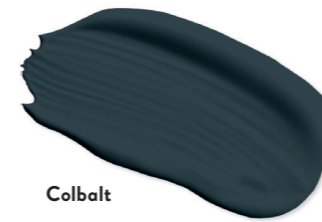
become more multi-functional?

‘A dedicated space to work from home has gone from being a “nice-to-have” to a must-have. We have brought in new elements such as new desk areas that can fit neatly into an alcove, as well as plenty of storage to be able to put away the “office” at the end of the day.

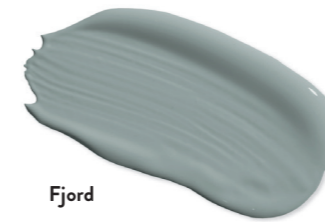
We also have introduced even more storage features into our Fitted Living category, from Boot Rooms and Media Rooms to Understairs storage. These help to create a well-ordered

living environment, which reduces clutter and makes everything easier to find. That’s a massive stress-buster in a busy home when more members of the family are sharing the same space at the same time.

Colour seems to be making a comeback; what’s the story? ‘Neutrals will never go out of style, and can easily be accessorised with colour for a fresh look. However, stronger colours are having a style renaissance. Our dramatic Cobalt is a rich blue and is one of our most popular colours.



Cobalt



Fjord



Marden range in dramatic Cobalt blue



Multi-functional spaces have become a must-have

It’s such a versatile shade, as it can have a real heritage feel, or look completely contemporary, depending on how you style it. Another great colour is Fjord, one of the colours from our brand new Linje range. This shade is very similar to the Dulux Colour of the Year 2022, which they call Bright Skies – a “light, airy and optimistic blue that’s good for the soul. It promises to open up and revitalise your home”. That’s why Fjord tone is such a great soothing colour for a bedroom.

Can good design make our homes more sustainable? We know there’s a real drive to make more sustainable choices and to invest in quality products, which is something we champion at Hammonds, where we source all our materials from sustainable sources. Timeless design can help fight the urge for regular revamps and the waste that comes with them, which is why fitted furniture is more popular than ever.

It works with whatever type of home you have, whether that’s a new build that lacks storage space, or a period home that has lots of original features, wonky walls, nooks and crannies. Fitted furniture makes the most of the space you do have. We also have a range of styles, so whatever your taste and whatever your home may be like, there’s a solution to fit. ■

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