

Animal crackers

Go back to nature with these wild furnishings

1 | Lolita leopard wine glasses
John Lewis, £16 each. Spotty goblets to make your guests roar with approval. 0845 6049 049, johnlewis.com

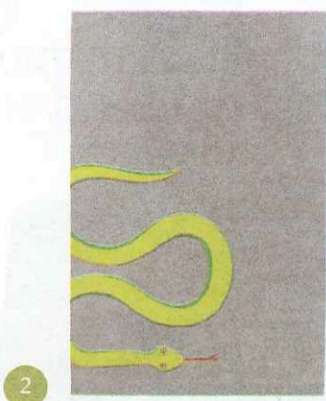
2 | Snake rug by Edward Barber and Jay Osgerby
The Rug Company, £2,090. Made from Tibetan wool, you can bet this serpent will look good on any kid's bedroom floor. 020 7229 5148, therugcompany.info

3 | Dachshund door-stop
Katie Mosa, £29.99. This cute, landlord-friendly canine boasts a tweed body, suede ears and tail, and hand-sewn eyes. 020 7731 7865, katiemosa.com

4 | Faux cow-skin bin
Coco Malé Interiors, £17. Throw aching refinement to the wind and accent your décor with a touch of caveman kitsch. 020 3086 8460, cocomale.com

5 | Zebra stool 60 by Aalto
Artek, £452. The iconic 1930s design is given a safari makeover with wool-weave fabric. 020 7584 2066, skandium.com

6 | Moooi rabbit lamp
Chaplins, £357 each. Go down the rabbit hole with this preposterous piece from the cutting-edge Dutch design house. 020 8421 1779, chaplins.co.uk
HUGH MONTGOMERY



The insider

#3 How to fill a big, blank wall



Alun is a man. And his flat is "too manly", says his new female flatmate, who harbours makeover urges in a *Calamity Jane* style (where Doris Day's cowgirl shack gets a girlie gingham spruce-up). The main concern? Bare walls. Big bare walls. Small budget. Tips?

SHELVE IT
To fill a bare corner, I had wonky box shelves built - different sizes and depths. Painted to match the wall, the effect is sculptural and, MDF-made by a builder, cheap too. Or try cubit-shop.com

OFF-PISTE TILING
Away from the kitchen/bathroom, tiled walls are striking. Mismatched means more affordable, so pick odd tiles (one colour but different thicknesses) or mix patterns in the same palette. Try eBay.

FEATURE WALLS CAN LOOK PASSE
The "books" wallpaper from deborahbowness.com, however... wow (£173 per generous drop). Or make a patchwork of favourite samples, but limit the palette.

USE WHAT YOU HAVE
Odd plates (above, portmeirion.co.uk, from £9.75), record sleeves or cherished postcards and photos: for the latter, place in frames of the same type/colour for cohesion and build a grown-up collage.

PAINT YOUR OWN DECORATION
Pippajamesoninteriors.co.uk suggests painting a loose, random pattern in favourite colours on a giant canvas.

PURSE-FRIENDLY PORTRAITS
Think you can't afford a large likeness? Try paperface.co.uk - from £299 for a quirky, collaged commission or surfaceview.co.uk for Old Masters.

FLOWER POWER
Vandaprints.com sells gorgeous repro antique botanical prints from £15-£100. Create your own wallpaper by pasting up a selection. KATE BURT

Find Kate's blog on affordable interiors at yourhomeislovely.blogspot.com