September

Winning design

13 **LIVINGETC STYLE AWARDS 2025** The very best pieces for your home today – from furniture and accessories to tech and outdoor living, hand-picked by our judges. Plus Simone Haag offers her definition of what style is, while Olga Ashby shares her advice on creating a stylish and functional lighting scheme

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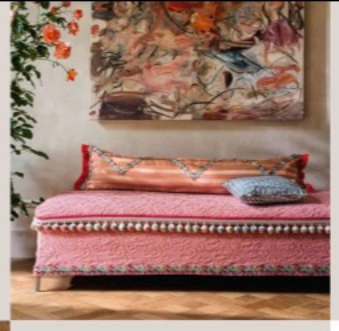
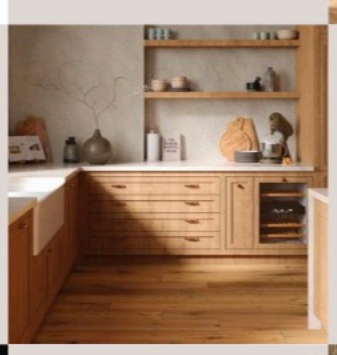
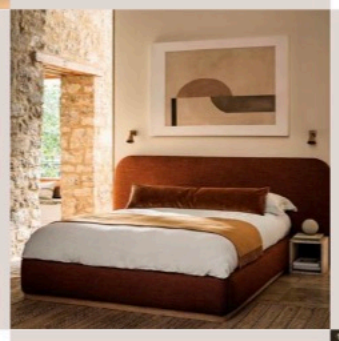
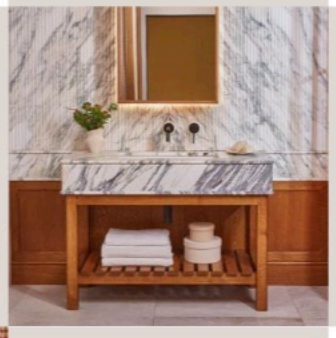
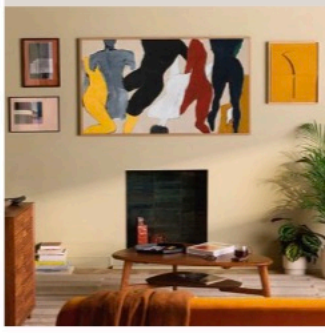
COVER PHOTOGRAPHY NICK GLIMENAKIS **STYLING** BRITTANY ALBERT







It's awards season

Welcome to the *Livingetc Style* Awards 2025, our edit of the very best in modern home design to buy right now. These are the pieces that have inspired our senior editorial team – group editor in chief Sarah Spiteri, executive editor Pip Rich, deputy editor Ellen Finch and Livingetc.com's editor Hugh Metcalf – the most. Of all the many hundreds of entries we received, over the next few pages you'll find a definitive guide to everything you need to bring style to every part of your home – you shouldn't start a decor refresh without consulting this list.

Simone in the foyer she designed as part of Artemest's L'Appartamento in Milan earlier this year

The meaning of style

As a former *Livingetc* cover star, interior decorator Simone Haag knows design – so we asked her to sum up what our Style Awards are here to do

I've been thinking a lot about what the word 'style' means to us now, in the second half of 2025, midway through a decade that has seen zeitgeists shift so quickly from wanting homes to comfort us to spaces that make us feel more elegant, but like we're also ready to have a good time. And style, to me, is all about confidence.

Let's use the analogy of how you might put together an outfit. Give two people the same shirt, the same jewellery, the same shoe options and perhaps only one will have the confidence to roll the cuff so they look like a boss lady, pair a sock with the high heel and fix a single earring to just one of their lobes. Those nuances make all the difference, that confidence to alter and adapt and personalise, and my approach to interiors is very similar: the framework for a room is just about the same. The way you might layer two rugs so they overlap, add a little unexpected fringing to a curtain, frame art with wallpaper instead of a white mount, or paint up to a datum line in one colour and then use a contrasting hue above it. Those style choices all come down to having confidence in your ability to add a little flair. And it's also about knowing when to pull back. A home is like an onion, in that it needs to have many layers. It should be a slow reveal, taking your guests on a journey of discovery where they're continuously unearthing treasures along the way – an intriguing vignette here, an extra element there, a contrast of materials is sure to delight.

I'd encourage you not to shy away from unique combinations of shapes and textures. The winners of the *Livingetc* Style Awards comprise a vast and varied selection, and you should take confidence from the fact that all are editor-approved, and so you should be able to pair many of them well.

The trick is to not try to do much. Architects love very sculptural forms, but rooms need balance, a mix of curves and corners to even them out. When you're creating a vignette – perhaps on an ottoman in an entryway or a shelf in a living room – try not to pair too many hard materials like metallics, stone and glass without anything softer, such as plaster, ceramic and wood. Things need to work together and, counter-intuitively, they tend not to when they're all too close to each other in some way.

I suppose the key to style is showing that there is some level of curation, that there has been consideration poured into every item on display. Stylish rooms feel organised and orderly, but like a life can be lived in and around them. Books are waiting for you on the coffee table, a beautifully made linen throw is ready at hand for when you want to hunker down. You'll find style radiating from all the winners over the pages in this issue, but it's the way you choose to pair them, to prop them and to add your personality to them, that is really where Style – with a capital S – begins to happen.

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PHOTOGRAPH TOMASO LISCA AND LUCA ARGENTON