

# Livingetc

BRITAIN'S  
BEST-SELLING  
MODERN  
HOMES  
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## CITY SPACES THE NY-LON ISSUE

*Beautiful homes in New York and London*

### INVESTMENT CHAIRS

The must-have  
buys for every  
living room

### Decorative storage

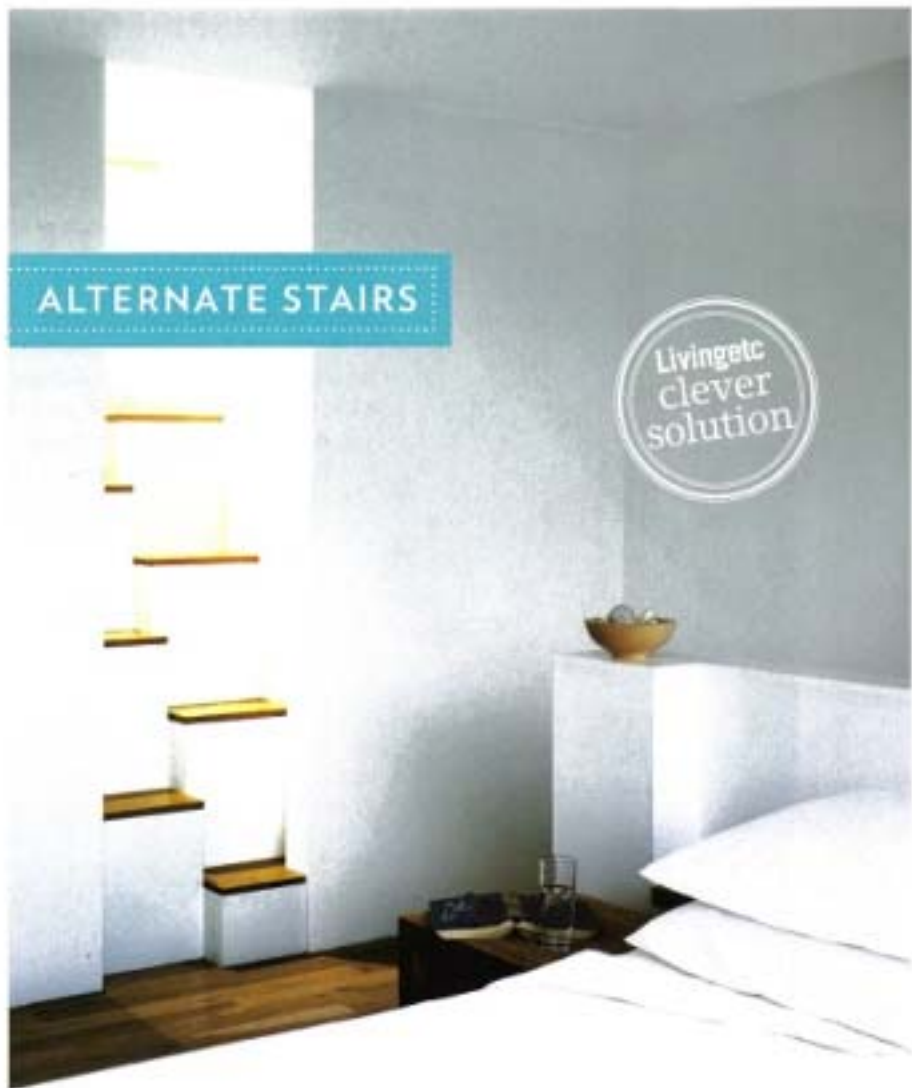
SPACE-SAVING  
SOLUTIONS  
YOU'LL WANT  
TO SHOW OFF



**ADDING THE  
WOW FACTOR**  
Transform your  
home with a  
show-stopping  
staircase

**Raw luxe** DECORATING'S NEW MOOD:  
MIXING THE ROUGH WITH THE SMOOTH





'Ninety per cent of new staircases are constructed to create access to a loft conversion,' says Mark Dyson. 'The pitch of the roof can make constructing a flight difficult and, if this is the case, alternate-tread stairs can be the answer. These have one tread for the left foot and another for the right, and mean the angle of the stairs can be tighter, increased from 42 to 65 degrees.' Consider who will need to use them, as they are trickier to negotiate than standard stairs. It can also be hard to move furniture up and down them.

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11 These **alternate stairs**, constructed mainly from MDF, are designed by Terry Pawson Architects.

12 With this **bespoke staircase**, furniture-quality wood is juxtaposed with rough brickwork. By Curtis Wood Architects, £3,500.

13 This ingenious space-saving **library staircase** is made of English oak by Levitate Architecture and Design Studio, from £10,000.

14 An inspirational **blonde-wood staircase** by Swedish architects TAF Arkitektkontor.



Spiral staircases wind around a central pole and have a handrail on the outer side only. Helical stairs do not have a central pole and there is a handrail on both sides. If a spiral staircase is being used to access a single room, it must be at least 1500mm in diameter. But if the spiral goes up to more than one room, it is classed as a main staircase and needs to be at least 1900mm. 'Bear in mind that the opening in which your spiral fits needs to be 100mm wider than the spiral itself,' says Sally Nosedo, director of Oakleaf Industries. Many spiral staircases are available in kit form from about £800, but only go up to 1600mm wide. A bespoke spiral would start at £3,000. It can be difficult to get furniture up and down, so move large items in before you install the stairs.

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