

## Our experts



### KITCHENS

**Jon Rosby,**  
managing director  
of **John Lewis of  
Hungerford**  
([john-lewis.co.uk](http://john-lewis.co.uk)) one  
of the UK's leading  
kitchen retailers



### PROPERTY

**Julian Brooks,**  
managing director  
of **Green Moves**  
([greenmoves.com](http://greenmoves.com))  
the UK's only  
dedicated 'eco  
property for  
sale' website



### BUILDING WORK

**Susan Venner,**  
environmental  
architecture expert.  
From the Architect  
Your Home network  
([vennerlucas.co.uk](http://vennerlucas.co.uk),  
[architect-yourhome.com](http://architect-yourhome.com))



### BATHROOMS

**Tony Rheinberg,**  
marketing manager  
of **Armitage Shanks**  
([armitage-shanks.co.uk](http://armitage-shanks.co.uk)) one of the  
largest manufacturers  
of bathroom fixtures  
and fittings in the UK



### INTERIOR DESIGN

**Adam Robertson,**  
managing director of  
**Urbane Living**  
([urbaneliving.co.uk](http://urbaneliving.co.uk))  
eco-friendly interiors  
and products website



### LIGHTING

**Rebecca Weir,**  
design director of  
**Light IQ** ([lightiq.com](http://lightiq.com))  
an independent  
lighting consultancy

## SOUND INVESTMENT

### Decoration

Get creative with colour and lighting for the simplest, most cost-effective way to profit from your property

Accounting for 66 per cent of all home improvements carried out, redecoration will reap some of the best returns for your investment and is the simplest way to entice buyers and add value to your home. And remember that a new coat of paint will not only freshen your scheme, but is a smart way to highlight any architectural features in the property, which are also high on estate agents' lists when it comes to making a sale – think cornices, fireplaces, architraves. Clever use of paint can also balance the proportions of an oddly shaped room, so a long narrow room can feel squarer by painting the far wall in a darker shade. Bear in mind that badly executed decoration can be a real turn off, so if you're not a dab hand with a brush, call in an expert. When it comes to choosing paint, consider those with no or low VOCs (volatile organic compounds), that way not only will you profit from the improvement, but you'll be doing your bit for the environment and protecting your family from harmful chemicals too. (Be warned though, that doesn't mean these paints are completely non-toxic). Another bonus of low VOC paints is that they give off less odour, meaning you can move back into the room much sooner. >

#### ▲ Hidden art

In this bathroom, necessary task lighting is turned into a beautiful feature in itself. The Art Deco-style fittings look great but also provide excellent light for pulling on make-up. Dispersing the light evenly, they give a diffused glow and are really energy efficient, so will count towards the now mandatory requirement for 25 per cent eco friendly light-fittings within the home. Fittings plus lamps from Light IQ, £920.

#### ▶ Door policy

It can take as little as eight seconds for a potential buyer to decide if they are interested in your house, so create a good first impression with a smart front door and inviting hallway. Whether you opt for a Victorian, Edwardian or Georgian style, or something a little more contemporary, The London Door Company makes bespoke doors from sustainable wood from £1,000



#### ▲ Details, details

With period features often ripped out and replaced by zealous builders, authentic examples are like gold dust. If yours are still intact, it's worth restoring them to their former glory. Gaps around a typical sash window can let in noise and dirt and let out heat, so get originals sealed and double glazed. Contact The Sash

