

ELLE DECORATION

THE
STYLE
MAGAZINE
FOR YOUR
HOME

SEPTEMBER 2016
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**KITCHEN
INSPIRATION**
Decorating tips, tricks
and ideas to try

**ARCHITECTS' GUIDE
GLASS-BACKED
EXTENSIONS**
What to do and
how much it costs

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PLEASE!**
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*The world's best designs
from beds to bathrooms*



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HIDDEN OASIS

In a bucolic region overlooked by craggy mountains 40 minutes from Cape Town, South Africa, lies Babylonstoren, a 17th-century farm, guesthouse and gardens. This summer, the owners restored another farmhouse in the grounds of the Cape Dutch manor house, meaning nine further suites and a new spa, swimming pool and library. Each suite contains a wood-burning stove, four-poster bed and a mix of locally made furniture. Be sure to wander around the eight-acre gardens, which were designed by French architect Patrice Taravella. Formally structured with box hedges, they contain more than 300 kinds of flora and fauna – from berries and blooms to a prickly-pear maze and a pond planted with edible lotus flowers. From £203 per night (babylonstoren.com).



ELEVATE THE EVERYDAY

A wave of new businesses in London are making taking care of life's necessities much more stylish



TAKE A GYM CLASS

Housed in a converted tram depot fitted with lush plants, modern art and a concrete ceiling, is new exercise destination **Blok**. Designed by studio Daytrip, the spaces where classes are held (no membership required) have raw brickwork and wooden floorboards, a welcome contrast to the sterile suites in regular gyms. There's even a smoothie bar (above). 38–40 Upper Clapton Road, London E5 (bloklondon.com).



FIX A PUNCTURE

Look Mum, No Hands! in Clerkenwell is a favourite on London's cycle scene for its efficient repair service and myriad add-ons – a coffee bar, talks, speed-dating nights and even knitting classes. It has now joined forces with **Brixton Cycles**, opening a community bike workshop and café – think vintage prints of the Giro D'Italia on the walls. 296–298 Brixton Road, London SW9 (lookmumnohands.com).



HAVE AN EYE TEST

Cubitts is an exceptional alternative to the eyecare giants. Book an eye test here and have your prescription transformed into beautiful spectacles at its workshop; each of the frames are named after a street in the area, and the pins are inspired by the wrought-iron 'butterfly' rivets found outside Victorian engineer Lewis Cubitt's Granary building (now Central Saint Martin's art school). 9 Park Street, London SE1 (cubitts.co.uk).



GET A HAIRCUT

While a hairdresser's appointment ought always to be more of a pleasure than a chore, **Myla and Davis** endeavours to make its three branches in south London – East Dulwich, Herne Hill and Brixton – less highly perfumed 'beauty salons' and more independent design stores. Big bunches of eucalyptus and gold jugs holding succulents decorate the space (mylaanddavis.co.uk).