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## Sustainable home style with antiques

By **The English Home**



Brownrigg Antique's showroom shows how to juxtapose a beautiful blend of antique pieces for modern tastes

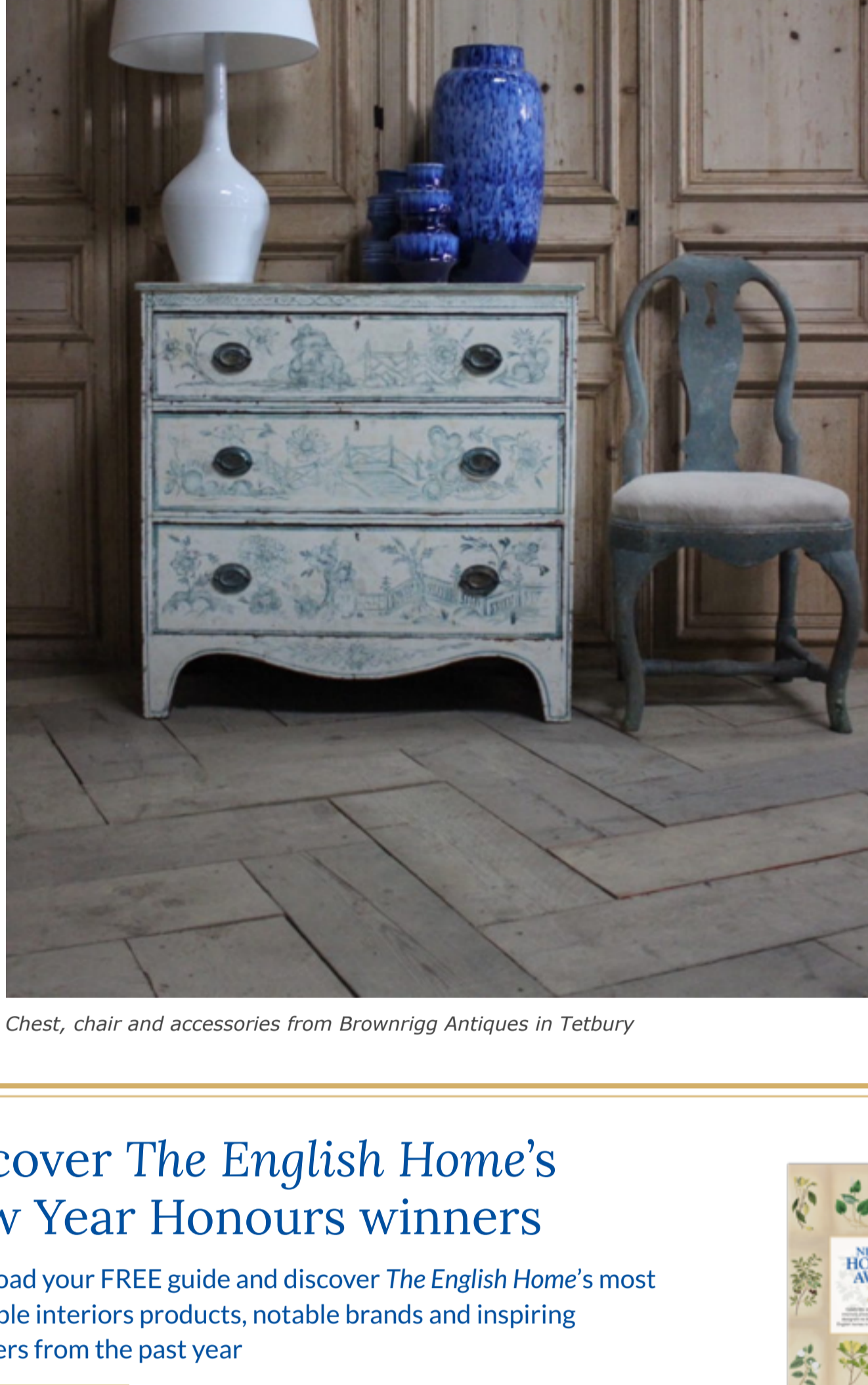
The ultimate in recycling and a chic way to achieve sustainable home style, antiques are an eco-conscious choice that is often overlooked.

By investing in antiques and reusing items that already exist, we help to reduce 'waste' going to landfills and save on energy spent on new production. As well as creating eco-style with antiques, the items move from owner to owner, generation to generation, continue to add warmth and texture to the home and help create a unique character to a home. If we buy and use these older items instead of always buying new, we not only protect precious resources but also preserve the history bound up in them – the stories, the manufacturing histories and their craftsmanship.



19th century huffer and stoneware bottles from Matthew Cox

A study conducted by [carbon-clear.com](#) and commissioned by [antiquesaregreen.org](#) calculated that a new piece of furniture would last 15 years and an antique piece would be resold every 30 years. Based on this pattern of consumption, the study concluded that the environmental impact of antique furniture is nearly six times less than that of new furniture, demonstrating its value for sustainable home style. To source effectively, hunt out shops with high-quality merchandise that is in good condition and well presented. To source reputable antique dealers or search for antiques, visit [LAPADA](#) – the Association of Art and Antiques Dealers.

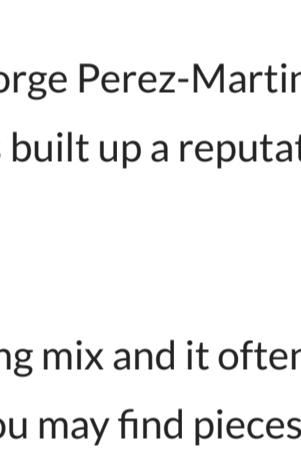


Chest, chair and accessories from Brownrigg Antiques in Tetbury

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#### Names to know for sustainable home style with antiques

[Brownrigg Interiors and Decorative Antiques](#) in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, run by Jorge Perez-Martin and David Gibson, offers an eclectic mix of antiques and decorative pieces. The duo has built up a reputation over many years.

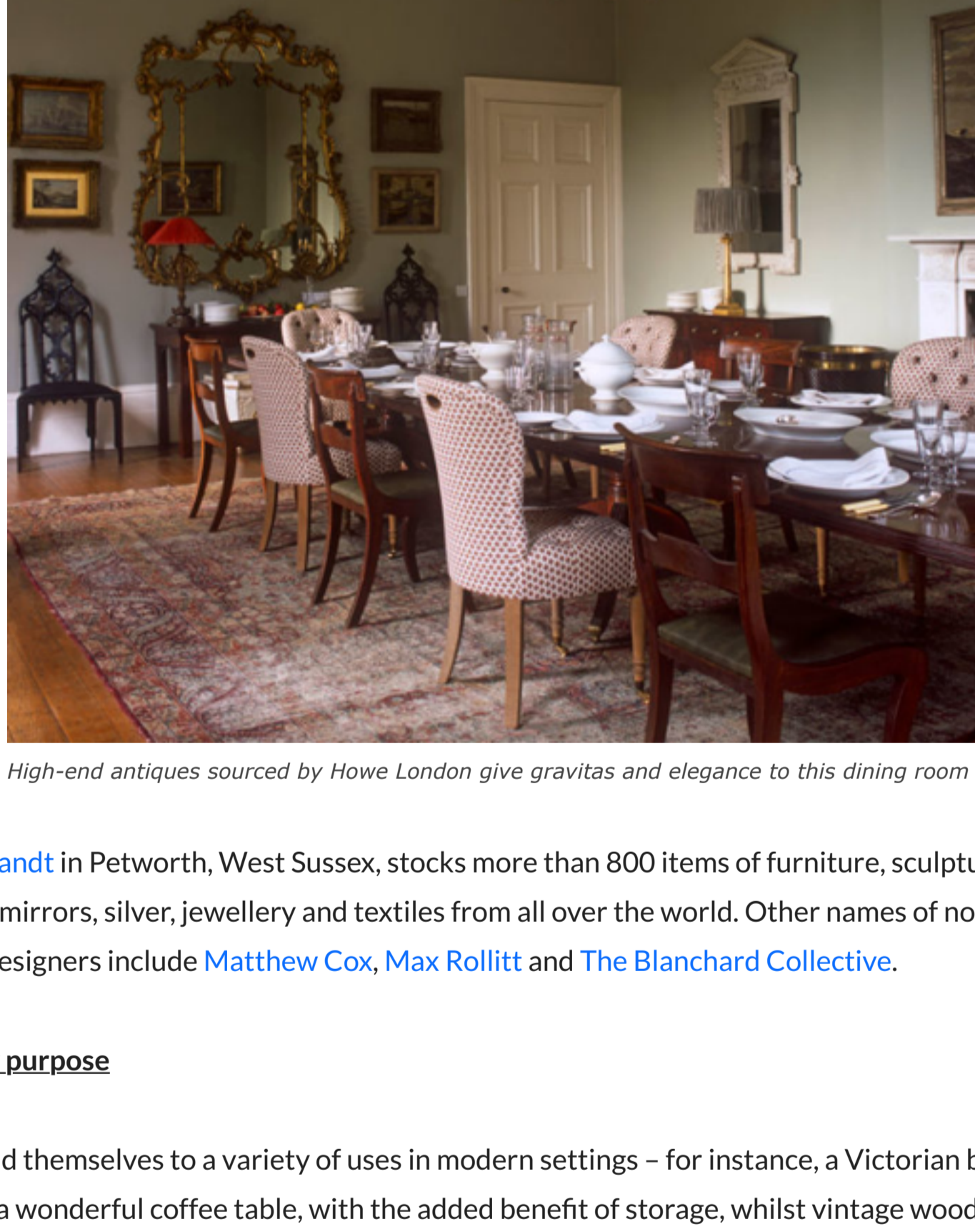
"We have learnt that our clients come to us because we have such an interesting mix and it often encourages and tempts them to try something different. Nothing is 'off limits' so you may find pieces that are a youthful 30 years old and pieces that are several centuries old but as desirable as they were at the time of their creation," they say.



Dining room vignette furnished with furniture and ceramics from a selection at Lorforde Antiques

Toby Lorford and Lesley Ferguson of [Lorforde Antiques](#) in the Cotswolds had the vision 20 years ago to modernise the way antiques in the UK were sold, leading to the creation of one of Europe's largest and most inspiring collections of decorative and traditional pieces.

Christopher Howe of [Howe London](#) also saw the future in the past and began restoring furniture. This led to him collecting objects of desire, from gilded mirrors to Eero Saarinen tulip chairs, all displayed in a haphazard fashion in his Pimlico, London showroom.



High-end antiques sourced by Howe London give gravitas and elegance to this dining room

[Augustus Brandt](#) in Petworth, West Sussex, stocks more than 800 items of furniture, sculpture, works of art, lighting, mirrors, silver, jewellery and textiles from all over the world. Other names of note admired by interior designers include [Matthew Cox](#), [Max Rollitt](#) and [The Blanchard Collective](#).

#### Finding new purpose

Antiques lend themselves to a variety of uses in modern settings – for instance, a Victorian blanket box might make a wonderful coffee table, with the added benefit of storage, whilst vintage wooden office filing cabinets can create a striking impact.

Vintage and antique pieces – whether glassware and dining items, furnishings and decor, art and tools, linens and textiles, jewellery and clothing – reflect an era in manufacturing when people expected to get a lifetime's use out of them, unlike many of today's products with built-in obsolescence.

Thinking green, there are 'furniture miles' to take into account. If a chair has been sourced in France, Italy or further afield, it will have a carbon footprint greater than buying a British one that has lived in this country all its life. If a piece is bought abroad with the intention of bringing it home oneself, there may well be rules and regulations regarding taking it out of the country, and even more rules about bringing it in.

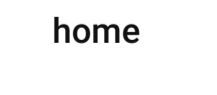
For advice, visit [gov.uk](#) and also check the government websites of other countries.

Consider how reclaiming and reusing pieces can also help achieve a sustainable style at home.

Adapted from a feature by [Kitty Corrigan](#), 2019

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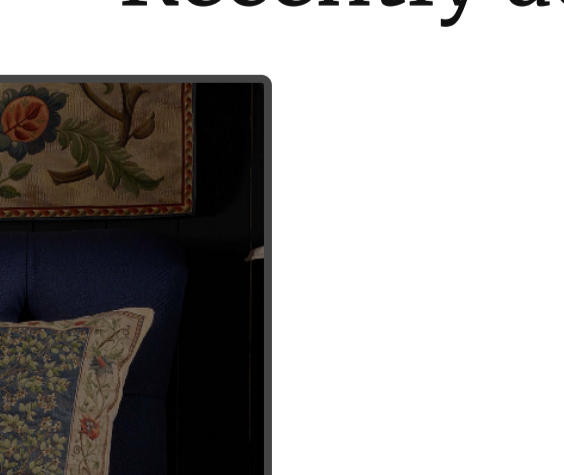


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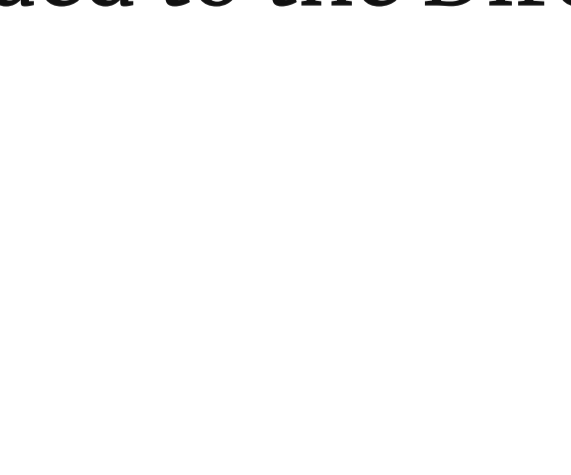
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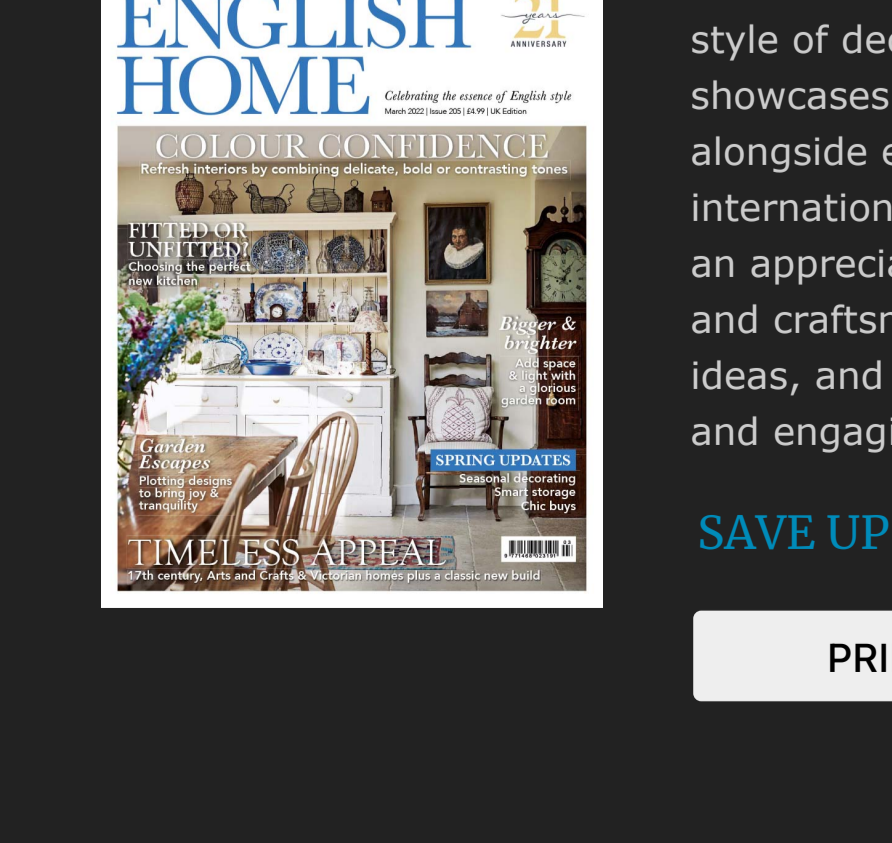


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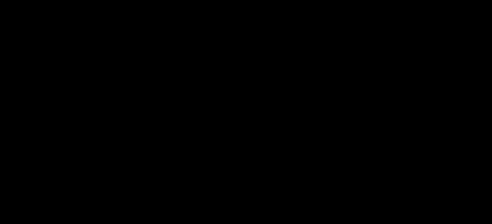
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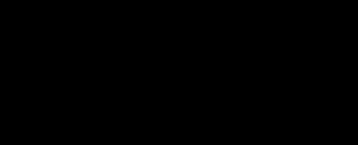
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