



Q: I'm looking into wood floors for my house renovation but want an alternative to oak. I find walnut too dark but want something different. Can you help?

A: Flooring is a great opportunity to make a real statement. It's one of those large areas that tend to be expensive and doesn't get changed very often, so always spend as much as you can as it has to stand up to the test of time.

Copenhagen-based flooring wizards have come up with an amazing marbled wood design called Marbelous Wood that is both beautiful and unique. See it at sneklerstudio.dk. It's priced at £2,400 for a minimum order of 10 sqm. For a more traditional look with a twist, try an oversized chevron or parquet design flooring and perhaps try Douglas Fir. If you are looking for something with an eco-credential, cherry or sycamore are both in abundance and totally overlooked in the UK. Don't think of them as the reddish woods of the 80s and 90s, treat with a white oil to really bring out the wood's natural beauty.

Q: Where can I find cool light switches and plug sockets? I want something fun and stylish.

A: The devil is in the detail and it's great to hear from someone who likes to think about those finishing touches!



PHOTOS: SIMON WILBY

Jordan Cluroe and Russell Whitehead, aka 2 Lovely Gays, show us where to find cool light switches and funky wood floors



Don't be floored by your flooring

There is a great place we use online called The Decorative Switch & Lighting Company (dcswitch.com), which has an alluring range of switches and sockets. Buster+Punch also brings a little rock-star edge to lighting solutions. Its brass dimmer switch (left) is

to die for, from £44 at busterandpunch.com

Q: I want to find some new upcoming designers whose work I could buy. Nothing too pricey.

A: September is London Design Festival month and there is a huge amount of amazing things to do and see (londondesignfestival.com). We always find inspiration at

East London's TENT and Design Junction (part of the London Design Fair event) and that's where we discovered the fantastic Sarah Colson, who is having a real moment with her delicate lighting. Furniture-wise, we are loving the playful, colourful work of Zac Matheou of hycanddesign.com.

■ livebyyoux.com
LARA SARGENT

How to make your prints charming

Q: I'm looking for some African/tribal prints for my bedroom. I want something that feels authentic, but without looking like I went completely mad in the gift shop on holiday!

A: Tribal prints are having a real moment and as the weather heats up, it's great to bring some of the sunshine indoors with vibrant colour and pattern. We have three great options for you. Amelia Graham has some incredible textiles (amelia-graham.com), also House of Arike for a similar vibe whose 'Alopear' fabric we just love. For an amazingly curated selection, try kashahome.com where you'll discover beautifully handcrafted artefacts that say 'I'm well travelled' without looking like souvenirs. Try mixing patterns and textures to get a more authentic feel, not too matchy matchy!



Out of Africa: A tribal print on an Amelia Graham cushion