

MAKE YOUR HOME A PLEASURE ZONE

NOVEMBER 1998 £2.80

75TH  
BIRTHDAY  
ISSUE

# ELLE DECORATION

**REAL HOMES**

**COMPACT CLEVER COLOURFUL QUIRKY**

**75** **STYLE FOR LESS**  
**GREAT BUYS**  
**UNDER £75**

**SPECIAL**

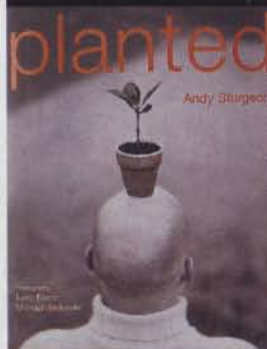
**SNUGGLE UP** WITH  
**SMART MODERN HEATING**

**TRENDS**  
**WHAT'S NOW WHAT'S NEXT**

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LORRY EASON, MICHAEL WILDSMITH

Above: stylish gardening from Andy Sturgeon's book *Planted*. Below: clip bushes into shape with these multishears, £26, The English Garden (01235 537558)

# CAN YOU DIG IT?

Forget the cashmere mitts, green fingers are the new cool

TEXT: JENNY TUCKER PHOTOGRAPHER: PAUL BELLAART

So, it happens that I am extraordinarily hip. I have a garden, you see. It's got a lawn, some pebbles, a few delphiniums and a healthy display of Scottish thistle. I am even considering adding a black bamboo or perhaps an organic vegetable patch. Imagine the spine-tingling pride at my next dinner party: 'not Waitrose, sweetie, all my own backyard', as I produce a green salad that's dodged pesticides and genetic engineering.

That's one of the best things about having a garden, you get the chance to really show-off. For relatively little expense and know-how, it's possible to experiment with colour and ideas, literally planting a piece of your personality

and – fingers crossed – subjecting the neighbours to voyeuristic envy.

The fact is, being out is now in. Forget Percy Thrower with his gumboots and one-third method of pruning, modern gardening boasts burly front men in designer parkas, Chanel-inspired flower show displays and sybaritic manuals to ignite the imagination. Emulating our interiors, trends emerge that see the garden as an extension of our aspirational lifestyles. Poppies are desirable, particularly if they're blue. A piece of garden sculpture might mean missing a couple of long-haul holidays but hey, it's worth it. Green fingers are preferable to a pair of cashmere mittens. A person with a garden is a person with potential to ▷

