

This is a man's world...

... but it don't mean nothing without a woman or a girl, finds Home Plus Scotland's new authority on all things male, **Jon Dean**

Hello. Welcome to the men's section of the magazine. If you are the bearer of a Y chromosome and reading this, the chances are you are relaxing on a porcelain throne, or waiting to be brutalised by some kind of Oral Health Technician. Well, that is all about to change - my name is Jon and I'm the new man about town, hoping to bring a bit of manly charm to the glorious, yet undeniably feminine, pages of Home Plus Scotland.

Anyone who knows me will tell you that while I may not know much about interior design, I know what I like. What I like are plasma TVs, achingly expensive recliner seats with built-in fridges and remote controls that control your other controllers when they are out of reach. What I don't like, it turns out, is cushions.

Let me explain - my girlfriend and I recently moved in together. 'Great' I thought - my dinner cooked, my socks paired and washed, possibly even a downstairs toilet someone in their right mind would want to enter. Then, almost overnight, things started appearing. Cushiony things, candlely things - even incensey things. Food crept in quietly and lurked in the fridge and cupboards. Simultaneously, items started to disappear; all my adult comics from the toilet, my congregation of empty beer cans from around the world, even my framed picture of Frank, Dean and the lads. Explaining this phenomenon to my beloved merely elicited a wry smile. Changes had to be made.

Changes which, it turned out, involved throwing out even more of my stuff. Mainly to make room for more clothes. Reams and reams of tops, dresses, skirts, winter jackets, summer jackets, autumn jackets... When I first

started going out with someone who worked in fashion, the idea of an immaculately groomed, ahead-of-the-curve stylist on my arm seemed hugely appealing. Now, as the metric ton of fabric to square feet of floor space ratio in our home rockets ever upwards, the sheen has been taken off somewhat. I find myself wistfully dreaming of bookish, quiet girls who wear shapeless grey potato sacks.

Not content with this textile led assault on my living space, suddenly all furnishings seem to be part of some as yet undisclosed master plan of colour coordination. Down goes my functional brown lampshade, up goes what can only be described as a chandelier, complete with black and cream trim that perfectly matches the new rug, the bed sheets, the enormous canvas of Audrey Hepburn, even the dinner service. Whether these are all merely a manifestation of this season's 'in' colours and will have to be changed next season remains to be seen.

At the risk of becoming completely emasculated I had to draw the line somewhere. My record collection is not to be messed with - neither is my accumulation of supposedly "dodgy" retro suits from the charity shop (especially as some of them go with the new black and cream colour scheme), and surely every happy home must have some entertaining but wholly impractical gadgets in the front room? Of course it must. If standing firm on these key issues means me relenting when it comes to rose petal shaped soap floating in the bath tub, so be it.

In addition, the money I now save from not eating takeaways every night means I can afford night vision glasses for chasing those damn squirrels in the garden. Those bushy tailed vermin are on thin ice with me....



"Designed by Porsche, this is the most aerodynamic coffee set on the market. Goes from 0-60 in 3.5 seconds (depending how hard you throw it)"

The Porsche breakfast trio Prices: Kettle: £79-99; Toaster £99-99; Coffee maker £129-99 from Siemens. Tel: 0844 892 9044 www.siemens-home.co.uk



Amica Scandium Self-cleaning Oven, priced around £399 from Amica
Tel: 01425 461 600 www.amica-international.co.uk



“Just the job this one - if it goes with the black and cream colour scheme, its in”

Black Croc Soap Dispenser, £69.00 from Nina Campbell
Tel: 020 7225 1011
www.ninacampbell.com



“Although I appreciate the aesthetic quality of these bar code wall stickers, I am not sure turning my home into a tribute to consumerism is quite what I fancy when I come home from work”

Barcode wallsticker, £34.95 per pack from 95%.
Tel: 01933 867078 www.95percent.co.uk



Recycled tyre picture frame, £18 from ECOOutlet.
Tel: 020 7272 7233
www.ecoutlet.co.uk

This is a man's world...



“Say what you will about the Motor mouse, what it may lack in functionality, it more than makes up for in looking like a car”

Motormouse, £29.99 from Motormouse Tel: 01789 400 676 www.motor-mouse.net



“Not only am I partial to a cappuccino, I relish the opportunity to relive the continental coffee shop vibe without the waiter trying to pull my missus”

Espresso coffee machine, £168.50 from Dualit.
Tel: 01293 652 500 www.dualit.com