

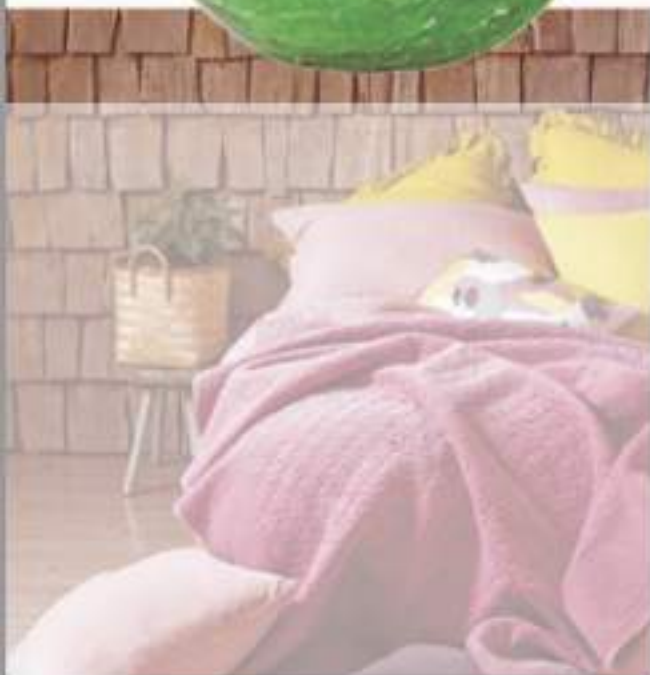
Clear glass can be a trifle dull. And glass which is useful but isn't also beautiful, doubling up as an ornament, can be a nuisance when you are running out of cupboard space. Fortunately, this emerald green glass carafe is as gorgeous to put on display as it is to use. It's £66 from www.comptoirparis.fr



▲ Beside table lamps needn't be conservative. Canary table lamp in brilliant yellow, with an oval print shade. www.geeky.com. Lights your way at night, cheers you up in the morning.



▲ Don't be boring about antique furniture. It can be used creatively even in formal environments. Instead of going down the conventional route and pairing an antique chest with a dark oil-painting, contrast it with something fresh and new – a good piece, but from this century. And fresh flowers, always fresh flowers – nothing stiff-staked, but loose blooms that look as though you've just picked them from a garden, in perfect little vases. Just take care they don't look or sleep. Picture credit: ModernHomes



There are times when you're done with white bed-linen and need something more cheerful in a cold winter bedroom. But everything you can find in colour tends to be synthetic. Not these lovely Continental-style textured pillow covers, though: they're in pure linen, garment-washed for a softer feel, in a gorgeous saffron yellow, with a ruffled edge. They're shown here with bed-sheets in grey linen (Lisbon silver-grey and Lisbon charcoal grey), all from The French Bedroom Company (www.frenchbedroomcompany.co.uk) which ships to Malta.

Pops of colour

Bring colour to an otherwise quiet scheme with small items that you can change or move about according to how the mood takes you.



▲ Irish designer Orla Kelly is known for her 1970s-style pattern-based designs which are instantly recognisable. Ideal for retro kitchens, this ceramic cerealist-egg gives a bright spot of pattern and colour just where you need it. This is Kelly's iconic stem design in a cool green and navy on a crisp white background. It doubles up as a vase. £25 from www.oralakellydesign.com which ships to Malta.