

# NJ Home

SPRING 2022

**BROWNSTONE  
LIVING IN  
WOODCLIFF LAKE**

**GETTING COZY  
IN A ROOMY  
HOLMDEL HOUSE**

**ASK THE  
EXPERTS**  
3 DESIGN PROS  
SOLVE YOUR  
DILEMMAS



**A SPARTA  
HOME OFFICE  
THAT WORKS**

# THE GUIDE

*What's up, what's new and what to do.*



## SERENITY WITH SWAN LAKE

Sian Zeng, a London-based wallcovering studio, has debuted a whimsical line of wallpaper murals named Swan Lake after—and inspired by—the beloved ballet by Tchaikovsky. But you need not be a dancer to appreciate its beauty: The fitting motif features tranquil imagery of swans and lily pads in a soft color palette of beige and green, or the more muted “terracotta.” You can “add to cart” at [sianzeng.com](http://sianzeng.com).

## IDEAS THAT MAKE SCENTS

Pleasing colors and textures have their merits, but making a good first impression isn't just about what you see and feel. A wonderful fragrance has the power to lift the mood of any room. “A certain smell alone can evoke a memory from our past or create a new unforgettable memory,” says Marina V. Umali, interior designer and certified feng shui practitioner at Marina V Design Studio in Ridgewood. “The mood of our home can instantly change based on the essence of a smell.” To use aroma to create an extra sensory experience in your home, here are a few tips:

- **Open doors and windows:** Circulating air is not only good for one's health, it also welcomes the outdoors in—spring rain, garden flowers, fresh grass.
- **Introduce a signature scent:** Consider doing what many hotels and retailers do—using a signature fragrance with candles, soaps and more. Umali recommends essential oil diffusers. “Diffusers are a great way to bring aromatherapy into a home and can be beneficial whether it's to cheer us up or bring tranquility into the home,” she says. If you'd rather spray the scent, simply fill a spray bottle with water and a few drops of your favorite oil, Umali says.
- **Create different moods:** If you can't pick just one scent for your home, a variety of smells can work just as well. Lavender, for instance, promotes relaxation while orange blossom instills calmness—but Umali suggests using what works for you. “I think scents are very individual, and we all react differently to various scents,” she says, “so it's important to see which ones give you the feeling you are looking for.”
- **Plant an herb garden:** Cooking is easier when you have basil, mint, rosemary and more growing on your windowsill, and the aroma from the fresh herbs will let your guests know they're in for a treat when they enter your kitchen.

## STACKABLE OAK FROM THE LEGO FOLK

Finally, a doable decorative compromise that you can make with your Lego-loving big kid (aka your spouse). In collaboration with Danish design brand Room Copenhagen, the Lego Group has launched its first-ever line of home accessories. But unlike the primary-colored plastic for which the company is famous, these minimalistic pieces are made of certified red oak so they'll fit right in aesthetically in more than just a playroom. The collection consists of desk drawers, picture frames, book racks and a wall hanger set—all of which, in true Lego style, are stackable and buildable. Start your collection at [lego.com](http://lego.com).

