

Really useful bargains

Alison Cork goes global with Oriental antiques, British-made homewares and South African imports

New beginnings

Packed full of classy bargains, Inside Four Walls' new showroom has more than 2,000sq ft of solid teak and mahogany furniture (from £95), and a new range of accessories, including cushions and throws.

Mohair, faux fur and poly-silk quilted throws are on offer at more than 50 per cent off high-street prices (starting from £55), and there are some impressive accessories, such as duck egg blue vases and coco shell coasters.

Homes & Property readers will get a further 10 per cent off any purchase made before the end of this month.

Inside Four Walls Limited, Stonehill Business Park, Harbet Road, N18 (020 8887 9191; www.insidefourwalls.co.uk).



Chinese lacquered furniture from Qing Dao in Kent

Eastern promise

Formed 12 years ago by Frances Dow, Qing Dao is a unique collection of Oriental antique furnishings, paintings and decorative collectable pieces from the Qing Dynasty of 1644-1912.

Described as "old with character", most of the furniture has been sympathetically restored using traditional Chinese methods, lacquers and finishes. Prices start at £350 for a leather trunk with stand, and less than £1,000 for a cabinet.

DISCOUNT OF THE WEEK

The Pioneer PDP435FDE is £1,999.95 at Richer Sounds

Picture this

With a TV media box as standard, the Pioneer PDP435FDE is one of the most luxuriously equipped plasma TVs on the market, with a stunningly vivid picture quality and an elegant slim-build that looks great either freestanding or wallmounted. *Sound & Vision* magazine called it "one of the best-value options on the market". Normally selling at £3,299.95, Richer Sounds is offering the Pioneer PDP435FDE just £1,999.95.

Richer Sounds is also giving away to Homes & Property readers a free three-metre HDMI cable from Cambridge Audio worth £49.95 (which is necessary to take advantage of Sky's planned Hi-Def launch next year) and free home delivery within the London area. The offer is available until 26 October, subject to availability. Call Richer Sounds on 0845 900 1230 or visit www.richersounds.com.

Nifty and thrifty

An offshoot of Thrift Urban Housing, a London charity which builds housing and community-based projects, Thrift Handy is a handyman and building service.

The charity provides a list of tradesmen who offer competitive prices. All the workmen have been used and vetted by the charity, making the service particularly reassuring for the elderly and single women who may feel uncomfortable having tradesmen in their home.

Fees are moderate (£30 for the first half hour and then £20 per half hour thereafter), and any profit generated by the business is passed on to the charity.

Contact Thrift Handy on 020 8772 1553 or visit www.thrifthandy.org.uk.

South African bargains

South Africa seems to be a great source of bargain homeware. Based in Cape Town for most of the year, interior designer Karen Lewis sources top-quality furniture and accessories, all about 30 per cent cheaper than their UK equivalents, and then comes here to take orders from potential purchasers.

The stock includes good-looking contemporary sofas, chairs, lighting and occasional tables, along with a huge range of coloured and textured suedes and leathers from £20 a metre. Prices for a sofa start at £300 (£700 for leather). Delivery takes about four to eight weeks, and most orders arrive in the UK as part of a larger container load.

Karen Lewis is in London until 25 November to

take new orders. Call 07950 464419 or visit www.karenlewisdesigns.co.za.

Full of beans

Looking for informal, comfortable seating? Take a look at Beanbags and Beds. With prices starting at £59 for a cotton-covered beanbag, you can have just about any size and fabric covering you want, including leather. It also stocks an impressive choice of beds and is offering a 10 per cent discount on all items in store to Homes & Property readers.

Beanbags and Beds, Unit 83, Stables Market, Chalk Farm Road, Camden, NW1 (020 7485 8006; www.beanbagsandbeds.co.uk).

Buy British



Readers can get a 10 per cent discount