



HAZEL BALL CHRISTMAS (Feature: 1600)

Hazel Ball is a florist and joint-owner with her sister of interiors website Velvet Brown

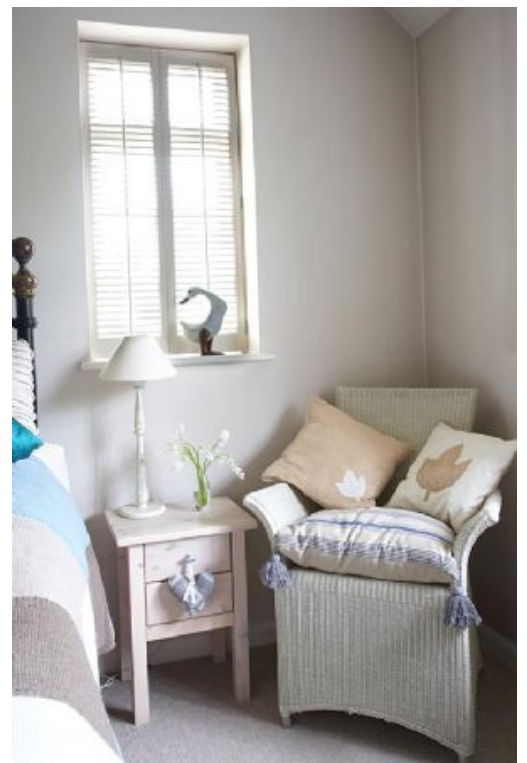
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SYNOPSIS

HAZEL Ball always swore she'd never live in a bungalow. "I thought they were for old people and I never liked the layout you get in some of them but four years ago that all changed when she and husband David arrived at Gardener's Cottage. "We'd been looking to move to somewhere more rural and this wasn't the first house we saw, but once we'd got through the gate, we knew we wanted it." The bungalow was set in the grounds of an old manor house in a secluded part of the former walled garden. "We think it used to belong to the head gardener," says Hazel. "I didn't like it being a bungalow but I thought; "I want to be where that bungalow is." The house was being sold by an American lady who had decided to up-sticks for the coast. "Maybe because of her background, the house was very neutral when we arrived, very New England inside. One thing I really liked was the way she had installed shutters at all the windows. I always think choosing curtains is a bit of a nightmare and so as long as we stay here I won't have to do that again!" Hazel also admired the bungalow's layout. "It was built during the 1920s and had been extended in 1981, to double its size. Because of that you come in the front door and you go left to all the bedrooms and right to the living areas."