



Main picture The fireplace cuts across the corner of the room and helps to warm up the white walls. For similar hearths, try www.chesneys.co.uk

This picture The dining table and lamp base are marble; almost everything else is wood. 'I avoid mixing too many materials so it doesn't become too hectic,' Bloch says. For mid-century furniture, try aram.co.uk

Below The 1930s house in Copenhagen

hanne-bloch.com



WORDS: PIP MCCORMACK; PHOTOGRAPHS: BRIGITTA WOLFGANG DREJER/SISTERS AGENCY

This is often the weekend when we start planning the tree. The tinsel comes out of storage and, predictably, the fairy lights fail to work. But there is another way to do Christmas, one that is pared down, peaceful, a festive-yet-not-frantic backdrop to the madness that ensues once the relatives arrive. And it is pretty easy to pull together.

"I like to keep Christmas simple," says the Danish bikini designer Hanne Bloch. "I want it to feel cosy, but not to overwhelm with colour and shine." In her 1930s house in Copenhagen, she mixes knick-knacks she has picked up on her travels with twigs and pine cones, to create a look that is both natural and understated. "It's my way of being ecological. Instead of buying cheap decorations that you replace each year, you only have things that come from nature, or that you keep for ever."

Does Bloch miss the bling factor that many of us tend to go for when picking our baubles? "Not at all — this way, everything is very clean, very fresh, and it makes me feel serene. Visitors have often gone home and copied my look."

When it is this calm and ordered, it is easy to see why. ●



CLEAN AND SERENE

PACK AWAY THOUGHTS OF FLASHING LIGHTS AND GAUDY TINSEL. TAKE A LEAF OUT OF THE SCANDINAVIAN BOOK AND LET NATURE BE YOUR GUIDE

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Main picture 'Because my house is a live/work space, it is doubly important that it has the right look,' Bloch says. Try theoldcinema.co.uk for similar desks, and bisque.co.uk for traditional radiators
Left At Christmas, Bloch only decorates with natural things or items picked up on her travels
This picture 'A bit of metal adds sparkle to the house,' she says. Try Nicky Cornell for furniture and accessories with a bit of a lustre

GET THE LOOK



Isobella chest of drawers, £575; alexanderandpearl.co.uk

Rustic candlesticks, £40; velvetbrown.co.uk



Wooden lanterns, £30; www.tellingtales.co.uk



Cranberry heart, £5; giftsfromhandpicked.com

Dolphin grey log basket, £40; tch.net