

Homes & Property

THE LEADING PROPERTY MAGAZINE
EVERY WEDNESDAY
WITH THE Evening Standard

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Get cracking

Join the great Easter house hunt, page 5

Canary Wharf

Buy a bargain banker's
bunker, page 4

WIN £2,000
of garden
furniture

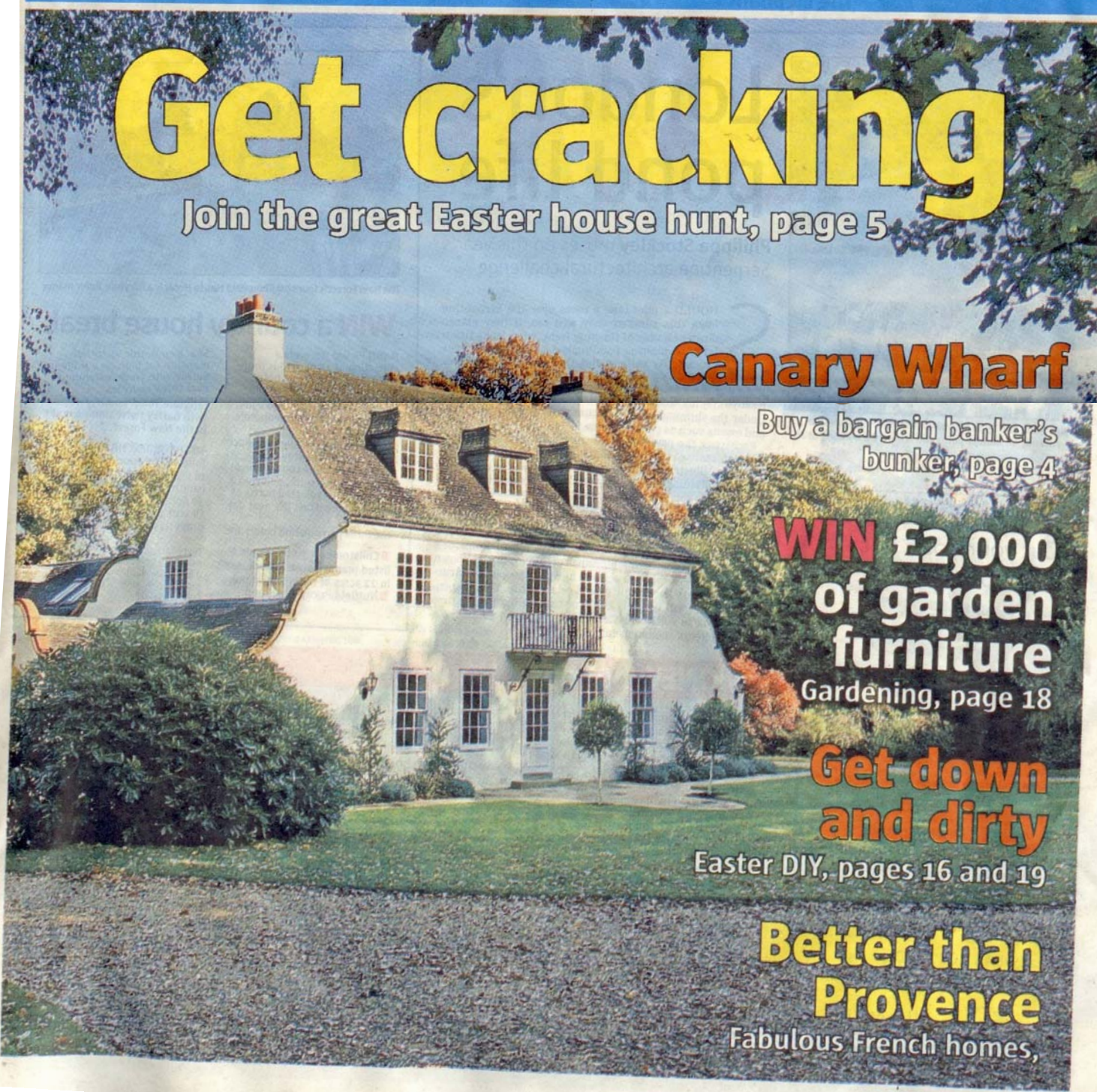
Gardening, page 18

**Get down
and dirty**

Easter DIY, pages 16 and 19

**Better than
Provence**

Fabulous French homes,



Take it easy

Clever high-tech fabrics mean luxurious furniture can now stay outside all summer

PATTIE BARRON



The Lidó range from Garpa has individual seating blocks to make your outdoor sofa as large as you like

SEE IT, BUY IT

BUY IT: HESTIA RUNNER BEAN OFFER
Grow the variety of runner bean that is ideal for containers: bushy, dwarf plant produces masses of beautiful red crop of slim and stringless runner beans.



You provide the large pot and multi-purpose compost. The collection of five large plants costs £9.94, including p.p., but Homes & Property readers can buy them for only £4.99.

To order, call 0844 884 6555 and quote GSP APR09, or visit www.gardeningdirect.co.uk/APRXQ. The offer closes 3 May and plants will be dispatched by mid-May.

SEE IT: EASTER TRIALS

Join the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday at Kew Gardens. In between admiring the huge willow sculptures of seed heads at the Main Gate, handling the Miller's Ark Animals of goats, pigs, geese and chickens and, of course, taking in the broad flowering bulb landscapes of daffodils, tulips and bright blue Siberian squill. For more details, visit www.kew.org.
More than 6,000 tulip bulbs have been planted in the sundial garden at Hole Park, Rolvenden, Kent; its woodlands are thick with bluebells and the camellias are blooming. On Easter Sunday and Monday, enjoy the spectacular spring colour as well as homemade cakes, then take home honey produced from bees on the Hole Park estate. For more details, visit www.holepark.com.

THIS summer, the circular chaise longue, outsized ottoman and long-line sofa capable of seating several will take outdoor lounging to new, luxury levels.

Canopied, circular daybeds are designed for sprawling and sunbathing: the Neptune double daybed at Go Modern, in a shell of synthetic rattan, covered with a cerise cushion mattress, is in the organic, pleasing shape of a peanut.

If you prefer something more solitary, consider cocooning yourself in a cosy chair swing, suspended from a tubular steel frame, although the Nest chair can snugly seat two, £665 from John Lewis.

All of these stylish pieces are in weatherproof wicker, the material that has changed the face — and durability — of garden furniture, enabling us to look out on our outdoor living rooms while the rain pours down without having to dash out and fling hideous plastic covers over everything.

Oprah, Tina, Sting and Bette

Though artificial rattan started with state-of-the-art companies, such as Indian Ocean, Gloster and Garpa, it has filtered down, in varying qualities, to mainstream; check out the bargain basement set of circular bistro table and four armchairs in tobacco-brown basketweave for £299.99, now starring at your nearest Focus store.

Even the lounge has more urban sprawl than last year, thanks to Gloster's revolutionary curved teak furniture. New technology has enabled teak veneer to be glued and moulded into undulating shapes that make some of the summer's sleekest silhouettes in a range fittingly called Elan. Gloster's client list includes Oprah, Tina T. Sting and Bette Midler, so expect plywood, from £350 a dining chair, to be adorning the world's smartest porches, patios and rolling acres this summer.

However, if your garden is more Capability Brown than contemporary take a look at society garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd's furniture, hand-crafted in the UK, either in last-a-lifetime hardwood or softwood painted with your choice of dusty green and blue shades from Farrow & Ball. "I launched my garden furniture because so many friends like my furniture better than anything they could find elsewhere," says Lennox-Boyd.



The new take on the classic Adirondack chair is from landscape designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd



Left: The Nest chair from John Lewis is made from weather-resistant wicker hangs from a tubular steel frame



Sprawl in the sun on Go Modern's Neptune double day bed — even the cushions are weatherproof

If they were cut from a stencil, John Lewis offers a more conventional two-seater steel bench, powder-coated in white, with a prettily curved back. A steal at £176, it would look at home in any setting.

Where to shop

- Go Modern: 0845 520332; www.gomodern.co.uk
- John Lewis: 845 6049 049; www.johnlewis.com
- Indian Ocean: 020 8675 4808; www.indian-ocean.co.uk
- Gloster: 01454 631950; www.gloster.com
- Garpa: 020 7720 8029; www.garpa.co.uk
- Focus: 0800 436 436; www.focusdiy.co.uk
- Arabella Lennox-Boyd: 020 7931 9995; www.arabellalennoxboyd.com

reasonably. All have a strong heritage flavour, especially the high-backed Arts and Crafts settle, though the regal Lancaster Adirondack chair, with throne-like back and arms wide enough to stand a laptop as well as a Flimms, is a stunning Anglo-American hybrid; bag two for £80.

Wirework furniture, not the frenzied, overwrought variety, but with a simpler, more linear twist, is the hot news from Indian Ocean, though cushions are called for to avoid a criss-cross bottom. The attractive Venus range — see it at Selfridges now — includes circular coffee and dining tables, all in white, lightweight frames of tubular steel with galvanised steel mesh; prices from £194. If you prefer your metal a little more solid in style, take a chilly seat on the lime green aluminium Forest garden chair, £400, from Go Modern, along with its sister, the Roses armchair, with its large cutwork blooms; their dolly-like designs, filched from nature, look as



Modern's garden chair of aluminium makes cutting-edge seats for the urban terrace

WIN £2,000 of the latest outdoor furniture

The newest material to hit patio and terrace is curved teak outdoor plywood, which offers exceptional comfort, the smoothest touch and sleek shapes. Gloster's exclusive Elan collection, designed by Axel Enthoven, features dining table and chairs, coffee table and ottoman, loungers and armchairs, and one lucky Homes & Property reader can

choose a selection from the Elan range to the value of £2,000.

To enter, simply send an email with your name, address and daytime phone number, marked "H&P/Gloster camp" in the subject field, to admin@jaspepr.co.uk, by 22 April.

A winner will be chosen at random.

Gloster's sleek plywood loungers



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