

LIVING ROOM
STOVES & FIREPLACES

CLUB 2.0 Comfort
Air, EPOA, MCZ



MIDPOINT

"A stove sited in the middle of the room will give off eight to ten times more heat, as well as take up less space. A number of stoves are now available with glass on two sides so the flame pattern can be viewed from most parts of the room. Bear in mind that with this type of fire installation, a central flute is also required." John Slater, Loch Ness Fireplaces



Glance, £2890, Eurostove



Scan 66, from £1899.98, Jotul

HOT TIPS

- ◆ "A floating fireplace gives a spacious, airy feel and looks great when back-lit."
- ◆ "Consider a different shape. An extra-wide fireplace can take advantage of a long wall and create something that is not only eye-catching but which spreads the warmth."
- ◆ "Group a selection of interesting accessories on the mantelpiece."
- ◆ "Forget feature wallpaper and consider a concrete finish behind your fire."

Nicola Allan, Interior Solutions

your only options. A woodburner can still be installed, if paired with a stainless-steel chimney system.

A period fireplace has its own assets and challenges. Let that Victorian masterpiece take the design lead, rather than altering it completely, urges Owen Pacey of Renaissance London. "It is very important to keep the integrity of the original feature. Never rip out an old fireplace to make way for a replacement without getting expert guidance; you are just destroying the value of your house." Instead, make smaller changes to suit the space and protect the fireplace. If ugly tiles are ruining a minimal scheme, swap for a cast-iron arch, and update with metallic paint, as Occa-Home has done on the previous page. A different mantelpiece might also be the answer, such

as Chesney's new Clandon Bolection, which adds additional height and a pale, polished finish.

Still undecided? Consider the environmental impact. John Slater of Loch Ness Fireplaces puts the stove forward as the safest and most efficient option for classical and modern living rooms alike. "An open fire can only be a maximum of 30 per cent efficient, while a stove can reach between 70 and 80 per cent efficiency. For a contemporary home, invest in a tall modern stove with maybe a curved glass door. For more traditional homes with a chimney, there is nothing better than a stove sitting inside the chimney inglenook on a slate hearth, finished off with a rustic beam or a wooden surround." ■