



Totally RAD!

Shopping for new radiators? Then you're in for some fun. We explore some of the stylish, and sometimes unusual, designs in the world of central heating.





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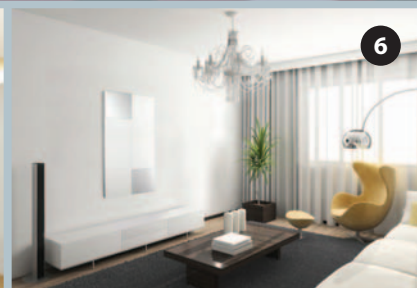
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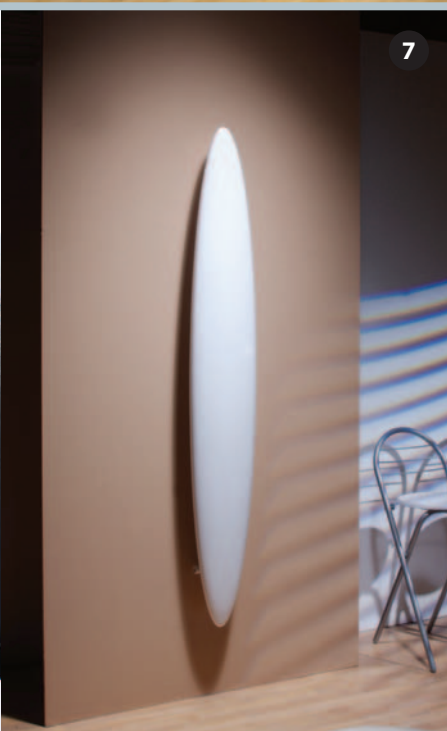
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1. The Ecstasy electric radiator comes in two versions, the smaller one achieving a whopping 13260 BTUs. Designed by Accuro-Korle, its striking design injects texture and scale into a room. From £4,899 at B&Q. (www.diy.com)
2. Designed by Italian architect Luca Scacchetti, Stradivari is made up of a series of rectangular panels with strategically placed cut-outs resulting in a sculptural piece reminiscent of piano keys. (www.aestus-radiators.com)
3. For a beautiful tube style radiator check out the Gaja range with a chrome finish. It delivers 1923 BTUs from its eight-tube design and as much as 3120 BTUs from the 13 tube version. The starting price is £349.99 for a 1.8m high radiator. (www.agadon.co.uk)
4. A fairly new concept is the electric water filled radiator, like this one from Easy Heat. It has an internal boiler and pump, and acts like a self-contained central heating system when plugged into a socket. (www.easy-heat.co.uk)
5. This dual purpose radiator provides warmth and somewhere to sit, great for poolhouses and cloakrooms. The smallest version produces 2853 BTUs and costs £687.09. (www.theradiatorcompany.co.uk)
6. Four different models of this radiator are available. It has a lacquer and matt design, shown here is white and silver. Price from £880. (www.bristan.com)
7. With echoes of a surf board, the Blade design has a heat output of 1372 BTUs and costs from £1,570.80. (www.theradiatorcompany.co.uk)
8. Reminiscent of a series of coat-hangers, the Archibald towel radiator is a striking option for the bathroom, for £549 in chrome. (www.bisque.co.uk)
9. The ornate Daisy radiator costs from £300. (www.theoldradiatorcompany.co.uk)



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Radiators, in conjunction with a central heating system, still comprise the most popular form of home heating. Our love affair with the big white panel radiator though appears to be drawing to a close. If rads are still the way you want to go for heating your home, you can make a serious style statement and provide an excellent level of cosy warmth at the same time.

The improvement in a modern home's energy efficiency means that heating systems are also more efficient, the generated heat remaining in the house instead of seeping out through draughts.

The output of the radiator you need depends on the size of the room. The heat output is measured in BTUs – British Thermal Units – and this can be worked out by calculating the volume of each room. Each cubic metre or air space will take around 40-50 watts of power to heat, depending on how warm you like your home to be, and what the room is to be used for. You should arrive at a figure in the several thousands, and you will then need to add a further 10 per cent for rooms with exposed external walls.

For a more definite figure there are several BTU calculators on the web. They request more information such as floor type, orientation of house and type of windows. Remember that the power output of radiators can vary quite dramatically, so doing a little calculation first to ensure that yours is powerful enough can pay dividends when the cold weather comes.

Now you need to decide where to put it. Under a window is a good idea, as it warms the cold air that naturally falls from glazing, making cold draughts less of a problem. The area directly in front of a window is usually devoid of furniture, meaning that any generated warmth will not be absorbed by the fabric of the three-piece suite.

Not all modern radiators are suitable for positioning beneath the window, with their shapes and styles varying quite widely. Rather than being seen as a discreet functional heater, they lend themselves to providing a focal point in the room, thanks to some zany styles that reflect a new era in contemporary interior design. So, now is the time to choose. And having looked at a few of the options ourselves, we know that it won't be an easy decision!

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1. The Badge radiator from the Human Living collection, designed by Aestus, has a hole designed for towel storage. (www.cphart.co.uk)
2. This wall-mounted towel radiator is perfect for traditional interiors, available from architectural salvage specialists Drummonds. (www.drummonds-arch.co.uk)
3. Struggling to spot the radiator in this picture? That's because it has a mirrored front, ideal for bathrooms with limited space. It costs from £300. (www.ecolec.co.uk)
4. The newly launched Twister radiator has nine flat fronted twisted stainless steel tubes. (www.pitacs.com)
5. The Reflex radiator is made from Silestone, a manufactured product made up of 93% quartz. Silestone is available in over 100 colours. (www.aestus.co.uk)
6. The System 2 Tao from B&Q has hinges on the side panels, so the spokes can be rotated to fit in the frame. It costs £2,398 and has an output of 3276 BTU. (www.diy.com)
7. The Signal towel rail is plated in high gloss chrome. (www.hudsonreed.com)
8. From the ArtGlass range, the Moon Over New York can be used with a central heating system or converted to electric. (www.glassradiators.co.uk)
9. Warm your towel in the curve of the Hot Hoop. (www.bisque.co.uk)
10. The slimline Needo radiator heats up almost instantly. (www.intelligentheat.co.uk)
11. The Orbit towel radiator is made of high-grade stainless steel, suitable for use with central heating systems and as an electric-only version. (www.bisque.co.uk)
12. A taller, wall-mounted reclaimed towel rail. (www.drummonds-arch.co.uk)
13. The texture of scales is celebrated with the Skin. (www.radiatorcompany.co.uk)
14. The Original rad looks great in a traditional or modern interior. (www.vogueuk.co.uk)