

The 30 best property apps

Buying and setting up a home has never been easier, thanks to the power of phones and tablets to save time and stress. Just tap here for everything down to the kitchen sync



Feeling appy: there's countless apps to make every stage of buying, decorating and selling a house easier Photo: Alamy

By Genevieve Fox

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1. Kirstie and Phil's House Hunter

iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, £2.99

Having Kirstie and Phil on side could never be a bad thing. This app is useful for planning your finances, alerting you to hidden costs, helping you to manage your budget and keeping your wishlist up to date.

2. Mortgage Assistant

iPhone, free

This app is by London and Country, a leading independent mortgage broker. It makes it easy to compare loan rates and to calculate costs, saving you time. Using this app does not rule out having to contact a human being, but it is a good place to start.

3. Celebrity Planet – London Star Map

iPad, iPhone, 69p

Discover celebrity landmarks close by – wherever you are. This app will find your location, then tell you about stars' homes, film locations and music venues to check out. Celebrity homes include those of Jude Law, Sienna Miller (right), Kate Moss, Helen Mirren, Paul McCartney and JK Rowling. There are nightclub listings, too.

4. Mouseprice

iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, free

Mouseprice can make you squeal with frustration and even fury. It offers a full sales history on any property. Finding out that someone in your street has just bought a house for several thousand less than you paid for yours taxes the nerves. And just try totting up how much profit you would have made had you stayed put in your former home. But when it comes to staying informed, Mouseprice app is essential.

5. gvSIG Mini Maps

iPhone, iPad, free

This app is a mapping tool with bells on. It combines online maps such as Google, Bing and Open Street Map with Ordnance Survey data.

6. Legal 4

Landlords, iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad, free

Planning to let out your new home? This searchable database lets you do a background check on potential tenants, to see whether they have previously been evicted or blacklisted.

7. Cole & Son Pattern Book

iPad, free

More wallpaper manufacturers should get their designs on to apps. This Cole & Son digital pattern book is useful and a pleasure to browse. You can request samples, too. The block print designs and screen prints are classics.

8. Crime Map England and Wales

iPad, iPhone, free

This app lets you check out offences in your neighbourhood or any area you are keen on. Crime UK will bring up everything you would have preferred not to see: anti-social behaviour, criminal damage, violent crime and vehicle crime, two months after the offences were committed.

9. Knight Frank Search

iPad, iPhone, free

For those in the Multi-Millionaire+ Club, or who would like to be, armchair house-hunting with the Knight Frank app will provide hours of drooling. Forget just looking for three-bedrooms, one bathroom, you can search by category – from golf to equestrian. It is a good way of getting design ideas, too.

10. inSured

iPhone, iPad, 69p

Organise your insurance with this helpful app. It lets you store warranty information, pictures of your possessions and more.

11. Starmaps app

iPad, 69p

Another good option for fans of celebrities. This app allows you to go to Hollywood and see the stars on their home turf. The tracker points out the homes of the great and the good.

12. Dulux Trade Colour Concept

iPad, iPhone, iPod Touch, free

Dulux's colour app is fantastic when you are coordinating the overall look and tone of a project. You can break the scheme down into rooms and communal areas. And you can order samples, too.

13. MagicPlan

iPad, iPhone, free

MagicPlan is for anyone who wants to take control of a renovation project without losing their sanity. The app uses the iPad or iPhone's built-in camera, GPS and compass to let you map out a floor plan. But it does need patience to get used to.

14. Zoopla, Rightmove and FindaProperty

iPad, iPhone, free

For snaring the right property before anyone else gets their hands on it, you need to be alerted before the competition. Zoopla, Rightmove and FindaProperty are must-have apps that offer comprehensive listings, as well as local information and property history.

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15. DIY Flooring Designer

iPad, £2.99

Costs can rapidly accrue if you guesstimate the amount of wood you need for a new floor. So the DIY Flooring Designer is worth investing in. It allows you to choose from all manner of strangely shaped room templates or spaces (rooms are rarely just rectangles) and then customise it before making any calculations.

16. Home 3D

iPad, £3.99

This allows the most technophobic of property enthusiasts to make their dreams come true. Just draw your room with a finger, arrange the furniture, test colour schemes, and Home 3D will turn it into a 3D version.

17. Remodelista and Remodelista Lite

iPhone, iPad, £1.99 and free

Sourcing ideas for a redesign and tracking down furniture sounds glamorous, but it can be time-consuming. Cue Remodelista, beloved of Gwyneth Paltrow, right, Julianne Moore, far right, and Diane Keaton. This interior design app offers unusual products and endless inspirational interiors.

18. Sunseeker

iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, Sun Seeker Augmented 3D version, £4.99, Sunseeker Lite, free

Are you house-hunting and want to bag a garden bathed in morning sun? Sun Seeker is your tool. This easy-to-use app will show you which way the property faces and where the sun will hit at any time of the day. It features maps and, if you pay for the augmented version, 3D visuals.

19. Cell Phone Coverage Mapp

iPad, iPhone, free

Are you being driven mad by how bad your mobile phone reception is indoors? I have even been seen in the street in my pyjamas waving my phone around to get a signal. Check out your potential new home's reception before you sign any deal.

20. Property Network

Facebook, free

Not every app offers a hi-tech solution. This free app helps you to share your findings with others, and see what they have found. There are details of more than 600,000 properties. However smart your phone is, house-hunting is ultimately about people.

21. Wallcoverings

iPhone, iPad, £1.49

Equally useful is this “simplified wallpaper estimator” by decorator Barry Bernau. It lets you calculate the wall space to be covered, then tells you how many rolls you need.

22. ihandy level

iPhone, iPad, Android, free

This is the solution for those liable to get into rows when hanging pictures. Grab your iPad. Don't hit your dearest over the head with it. Use this spirit level app instead: just place it on the top of the picture and it shows you how far out you are.

23. How Your House Works

iPad, iPhone, £1.99

This app is subtitled A Homeowner's Visual Guide to Home Repair and Maintenance. It provides an anatomy of the building many of us pay others to fix without really understanding what they are doing. Plumbing, electrics, heating and maintenance tips are all here.

24. Paper

iPad, iPhone, free

If you are the notebook sort, you'll enjoy Paper by FiftyThree Inc. It gives you five tools to work with, a blank canvas, and the ability to create endless sketchbooks to store and file diagrams, doodles and ideas.

25. houzz

iPhone, iPad, Android, free

If mood boards are your thing, then Houzz Interior Designs is your one-stop app. It has thousands of irresistible photographs of designer properties. Favourite images, categorised by room, can be collated into your own ideas books.

26. Photomeasures

iPhone, iPad, £3.99

This is a saviour for those of us who go to buy curtains, only to discover that they have left the measurements at home. With Photomeasures, you take a picture of your window, say, or your drawing room, then add on the measurements. You just have to remember to take your iPhone or iPad with you.

27. CrumbTracks

iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad, free from iTunes

Don't leave it to memory or home-staged photographs often seen in glossy brochures. This app enables homebuyers to record pictures and videos of each property during a viewing, then share them online.

28. Pinterest

iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, free

Those who are old-school and still collect scrapbooks will easily be converted to Pinterest. This social-media app lets you browse for images to pin on to mood boards that you create. You can add videos too. Pinterest is a lifestyle app, rather than a dedicated homes and property tool. It includes categories such as architecture, home décor, DIY and crafts.

29. Home Design DIY by Mark on Call Interior Design

iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, £2.99

Any Luddites still working out floor layouts using pieces of paper should move on. The Mark on Call app lets you create and customise floor plans. You can judge the space before you talk to an architect or just use it to see how your furniture will fit.

30. Around Me

iPad, iPhone, free

Once you have established your new area is crime-free, you need to know where your nearest hospital is

and where to get petrol. Around Me gives an area overview. It also has listings and reviews of restaurants and hotels.

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How we moderate

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