

Fabulous rooms

Exquisite interiors are those that balance practicality and personality – we've amassed a collection of spaces that do just that



FEATURE: ARBELLA YOUNG PHOTOGRAPH: TESS NEWALL

WORK OF ART

The hand-painted decorative detailing around the fireplace in this reception room helps to soften the edges of grandeur that might otherwise overwhelm the space. Decorative artist Tess Newall collaborated with interior designers Kit and Minnie Kemp to create an engaging space which would inspire authors at the home of Bloomsbury Publishing. 'We wanted to reference the artist and writers of the Bloomsbury Group,' explains Tess. 'My design is inspired by the bold geometric shapes used by Duncan Grant with a hand-painted fire screen also inspired by his textile designs.' →



“PICKING OUT WALL PANELS (ABOVE) IN BEAUTIFUL WALLPAPER CREATES STRIKING MOMENTS OF COLOUR AND PATTERN WITHIN THE ROOM, BREAKING UP THE SPACE IN A PLAYFUL AND FUN WAY”

LOUISE WICKSTEED,
design director, Sims Hilditch

MAKE THE CUT

Spend time choosing the right colour for a room with limited light – it will pay dividends. In this snug, Fiona Duke carved out a separate space by installing a fluted glass and wood screen. Continuing the warm hue across walls and ceiling results in a cosy, enveloping feel.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Proving that making a big impact in a space doesn't always require embracing all-over pattern, the team at Sims Hilditch chose to cover selected panels of this drawing room of a historic house with a decorative floral wallpaper by de Gournay.

STRIKE A BALANCE

In this sitting room, Christian Bense manages to perfectly walk the line between fresh and cosy, formal yet comfortable. He achieves this through embracing symmetry with the twin chairs and then throwing it out with the mismatched sofas.

PHOTOGRAPHS (MAKE THE CUT) ANNA STATHAKI; (STRIKE A BALANCE) ALEXANDER JAMES



PLAY WITH SCALE

Rooms with high ceilings invite being bold with colour scales. Here, interior designer Laura Stephens has added colour through fabrics and furnishings with a thread of red running through them, and gone for a neutral tone on the walls. She used a darker shade (Canvas V from Paint & Paper Library) above the picture rail to draw attention to the architectural detailing and a pale shade (Canvas II from Paint & Paper Library) below the picture rail. 'I also love playing with the scale of pieces in a room like this and chose an oversized lamp for the corner to really make a statement,' adds Laura. →



STORE IN STYLE

This room is unusual in that it has entrances on three sides connecting the living room, kitchen and the hallway, resulting in a lot of movement. Essential to its success is the amount of clever storage. 'It acts as a playroom for our two children,' explains Angus Buchanan, creative director of Buchanan Studio. 'A huge focus was therefore the need for storage so that toys and games can come out and be stashed away easily to keep the space clear.' In the centre of the room is an ottoman designed by the studio under a linen cover in its Ticking Rose fabric. →