

GALLERY

Be inspired by these six interior-designed rooms and create perfect schemes of your own



COLOUR AND COMFORT

Nina Campbell makes large rooms feel cosy by adding a single focal point, a co-ordinated colour scheme and generous but carefully selected accessories. Make sure there are enough sofas and chairs to seat family and guests comfortably but take time over the layout and provide plenty of surfaces for drinks.



SYMMETRICAL ORDER

The perfect room is not always in proportion. Here, Kamini Ezaralov has cleverly forced the eye to think this room is symmetrical by choosing an imposing fire surround that is flanked by pairs of furniture and lighting. The pictures, framed to appear identical, are the only clue to the off-centre fireplace.



ELEGANT PATTERN

A centrally placed freestanding bath is the height of luxury but the room does need to be large to maximise the impact. Make sure the floor can bear the weight, and keep the other bathroom essentials discreetly hidden. Boxing the sink and shower in, as Carrie Barlow has done here, is an ideal solution.



CLASSIC SIMPLICITY

A white colour scheme helps to create a restful bedroom and shutters give you freedom to have natural light and privacy at the same time. The bed is inevitably the focal point, so dress it as smartly as your budget allows. Ann Boyd has used sleekly styled reading lights to give this classic room scheme a twist.



DRAMA AND HIGH STYLE

The dining room is the ideal place for theatrical ideas. Here, Kate Bingham has used a rich blue to create an instantly luxurious mood that is also a talking point for guests, while fabulous overhead and side lighting can be adjusted to suit the occasion. Large mirrors bring an illusion of depth to the room.



LUXURIOUS CHARACTER

The bedroom is the most personal room in the house, and for Andrea Maffin, prints, pattern and colour are key; she likes to layer them all to create a sense of luxury. Think about texture, decorative items you want to display, storage requirements, and lighting needs for both dressing and night-time reading.

PHOTOGRAPHS MARK LUSCOMBE-WHITE/JPC+ SYNDICATION, ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL

ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE PERFECTLY DESIGNED HOME

Katrina Burroughs talks to the experts

With a seriously good budget, interior designers can give your home a spectacular makeover, but what if you ask them to work with restricted funds? Can they still help you to create exciting effects in your home? Here, four British designer-decorators reveal their tips for conjuring up beautiful and comfortable living for less.

HOW CAN I UPDATE MY LIVING ROOM?

Sandra Drechsler of Taylor Howes Designs, 020 7349 9017, thdesigns.co.uk, specialises in creating dramatic contemporary interiors, often using statement lighting. "Chandeliers were very big last year, but they are expensive. This year, we've been making up overscale shades for clients. We recently made a one-metre-diameter shade in white silk, with black and gold inside; you look up and see a flash of the gold lining."

MY BEDROOM NEEDS A WAKE-UP CALL

Emma Sims-Hilditch, Emma Sims-Hilditch Interior Design, 01249 783087, theinterior.co.uk, dresses her serene, classic interiors with muted natural textiles and says that fabrics are the key. "The bed is the main focus of your bedroom so a cost-effective way of refreshing the scheme is to update your bedlinen - go for crisp white, with plenty of pillows and throws to add luxury."

SUGGESTIONS FOR A BORING BATHROOM?

Sandra Drechsler says that using unexpected hues in high places helps to break the monotony. "Paint the ceiling in an unusual colour. If it is high, paint it black. In a little cloakroom, the ceiling looks amazing in pink or red." **Antonia Stewart**, 020 7386 0110, antoniastewart.com, whose interiors range from restrained luxury to vividly colourful ensembles, says coloured accessories immediately help make a cold white bathroom feel modern and new. "Freshen up your bathroom on a budget with new towels and mats. Habitat's range is fantastic; I love the Missoni-type stripes (Shadi, from £19, habitat.co.uk)."

SHOULD I CHANGE MY LIGHTING?

"Lighting is always the key to a good atmosphere," says **Amanda Meade, English Country Living**, 01400 273498, englishcountryliving.org, who creates eclectic, informal rooms that are bright and inviting. "If you lack natural daylight in a room, try a Surf uplighter (£115, London Lighting, londonlighting.co.uk). These can be painted to tie in with the walls and give a boost of up to 500 watts of halogen light when needed, or they can be dimmed down. You won't notice they are there, but they have a great effect on the mood of the room."

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