

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

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144 inspiring rooms

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LIVING ROOMS,
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Time for a change

PUTTING YOUR OWN STAMP AND
STYLE ON AN OLD HOUSE



Georgian | Rustic barn | Contemporary | Victorian | City

SITTING ROOM FOCUS

A SHADE CREATIVE

Alice Leigh's carefully curated colour scheme transformed a dark room into a chic and welcoming space

FEATURE SEÁN O'CONNELL | PHOTOGRAPHY ALEX JAMES



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER Alice Leigh
of Alice Leigh Design
(aliceleigh.co.uk)

HOUSE Victorian terrace
in west London

WORK To brighten up
and modernise a sitting room
using colour and texture



When the owners of this London terrace decided to start a family, they added more space to their house with a glass extension at the rear, which then prompted them to refurbish the adjacent sitting room. Having worked with Alice Leigh on previous projects, they asked her to create a scheme here that reflected the light, open feel of the new extension.

THE BRIEF

The existing room had previously been closed off so removing the back wall itself created much more light. Decor-wise, it had much more of a bachelor feel to it as the husband had been living here initially. 'We wanted to create something chic and calm, mainly a space that adults would use to relax in and yet robust enough to take the passing traffic and children,' says Alice.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

The owners were keen to introduce some subtle tonal patterns and colours in the room, which is reflected in the rug and chairs, but they also wanted to establish a feel of calm to complement the modern elements of the house. 'The need to create a cosy intimate space that could be enjoyed by adults, yet not overly cluttered led us to rework the layout, resulting in the owners buying new furniture that fitted in with the scheme,' says Alice.

FINISHING TOUCHES

'Many of the fabrics are very neutral, but we were careful to layer plenty of contrasting and natural materials – wools, linens, etc,' says Alice. 'My clients had fallen in love with the bold chair fabric and we wanted this to be the standout feature of the room with the other fabrics complementing it.' Mirrors were fitted in the alcoves to make the space feel bigger and they are slightly antiqued as a foil to some of the more modern elements throughout the house.

LESSONS LEARNED

'I think you learn something new on every project while taking on a client's perspective and their own ideas,' says Alice. 'In turn, my clients learned the value of using a lighting designer here and throughout the property. We were all really pleased with how well we utilised every inch of space in this area and the feel of roominess that we've created here.' 25

A GROWN-UP LOOK

'The walls are in a linen-look vinyl wallpaper, which adds elegance, while the pops of rich green were a nod to the vibrant living wall in the rear courtyard,' says Alice.

Elitis Soie vinyl wallpaper, £180.40 a roll, TM Interiors. Woodwork in Ammonite estate emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Esmerelda armchairs and sofa, prices on request, Robert Langford; armchairs upholstered in Lotus Emerald fabric, price on request, Galbraith & Paul. Napoli rug, price on request, Vanderhurd. Tini II Table, £599, Nina Campbell. Wisteria lamps, £185 each, Pooky. Lampshades, £110 each, Fermoie