



SEVEN *beautiful* ROOMS

If you've ever wondered how interior designers create such effortlessly stylish schemes, here's your chance to discover more. Our special guide invites seven well-known experts to give a guided tour of a room they've designed – and pass on their valuable tips and inspiration

Fabric is an oft-neglected treatment for walls but is a wonderful way of imparting depth and softness to a room. Here, Acapulco, a linen mix by Pierre Frey has been banded onto the walls to create a subtle but effective backdrop of comfort and luxury.

If you're sticking to a restrained colour palette, your textures need to work extra hard to keep the look from seeming bland. In this room, Emily has used a soft, wavy carpet, Stone in Pewter from the Emily Toddhunter Collection at FWC International, and a tactile linen for the curtains.

Don't rely on overhead lights. Layering your lighting with an array of lamps will create pockets of light to give a softer and more romantic look. Every light should have a job, such as a reading lamp, or be directed at something in particular, whether it be a picture, a special object or simply a bunch of flowers.

With the addition of a large overmantel mirror a fireplace will bring both warmth and light into the room. The gilt mirror picks up on the gold surround of the antique fireplace from Cheaney's, ensuring that the two pieces work together as an integrated whole.

Provide a good range of seating, from deep sofas to more upright occasional chairs. Here, a couple of antique French chairs have been combined with a classical sofa from Lawson Wood.

"The look is pulled together with a palette of warm off-whites, which adds a contemporary freshness"



THE SITTING ROOM

Emily Todhunter uses rich textures and warm off-whites in a sophisticated scheme that doesn't compromise on comfort



A successful sitting room treads the fine line between being a formal entertaining space and a relaxed family living room. In Georgian and Victorian homes, this 'public' room consumed all decorative efforts while 'private' upstairs rooms were often neglected. The sitting room still gives

you the chance to show off, but it's also important to keep comfort as your mantra. This beautiful room uses traditional-style furniture but incorporates soft, tactile fabrics and flooring to create a welcoming, cosy feel. "The look," explains Emily, "is pulled together with a palette of warm off-whites, which adds a contemporary freshness."



NICELY NEUTRAL

For added interest source a coffee table with a difference. Here a generous-sized antique trunk of the same colour palette suits this purpose and lends character to the room.

EMILY'S TIPS

- Capture the glow and charm of a traditional house without resorting to an old-fashioned look, by combining classically-shaped pieces of furniture with a pale colour palette.
- To create a feeling of warmth, simply combine off-whites that have undertones of yellow and pink. This will build up a rich, layered look of subtly varying shades.
- There's nothing worse than a soulless room, so be sure to add some personal touches by accessorising with paintings and possessions.
- Impart character to a sitting room by complementing new items of furniture with carefully chosen antique pieces.