

The ENGLISH HOME

Celebrating the essence of English style

February 2017 | Issue 144 | £4.20 | UK Edition

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Insights from the experts

COLOUR CONFIDENCE

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This classic golden wallpaper is given a contemporary mood with soft grey fabric and playful cushions. Shalimar wallpaper, £66 a roll; headboard and curtains, Baroque Trellis, £52 a metre; cushions: Pineapple Royale, £56 a metre; Palm Grove, £92 a metre; Shalimar, £66 a metre, all Sanderson



"Golden yellow is uplifting yet sophisticated"

Golden Yellow

Gold is a material associated with grand luxury, wealth and royalty, yet golden yellow tones are not always seen in the same positive light. In the 1970s, golden yellow was commonly used in many interiors, and in the 1980s yellow with blue was so hugely popular at a mainstream level that the colour fell out of favour for quite some time. However, golden yellow and mustard are undoubtedly enjoying a much-deserved renaissance for both elegantly classic and contemporary schemes.

In its purest form, yellow is bold, but golden yellow is more subdued than its brighter sister hues and it blends well with a wide range of other colours. David Mottershead, managing director of Little Greene, explains that it is more adaptable than people think. "Depending on the yellow, it's a flexible colour that can work well in every room of the house. For sun-drenched rooms, look for earthy, rich, golden hues – like Little Greene's Mister David or Yellow Pink – that will hold their own in the glare of the sunshine." For cooler and darker north-facing rooms, Mottershead suggests that brighter, zesty toned yellows would work well to help lift the room from darkness.

To achieve a contemporary colour scheme, take inspiration from the colourful harmonies found in nature. For instance, the petals of certain varieties of roses and tulips graduate from golden yellows to soft flushes of pink in an enchanting spectacle. Mottershead comments, "Look for delicate pinks inspired by shells and unpainted plaster, and paint adjacent walls to emphasise the contrast."

Former design director at Wedgwood and creative director of her own eponymous textiles company, Niki Jones, has been incorporating golden yellows into her designs for years. "A particular favourite of mine



Design a memorable entertaining space with golden yellow tones on the walls and ceiling, and a verre églomisé table. Rachel Bates and Stuart Fox dining table, £16,000, Rachel Bates Interiors

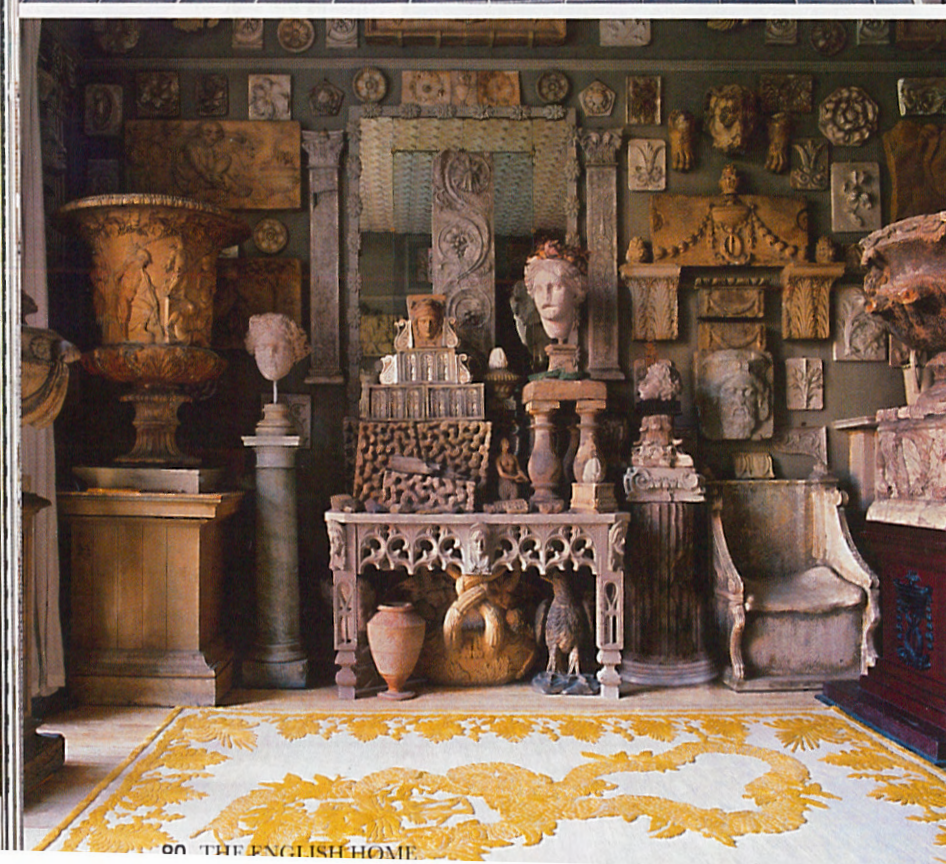


ABOVE LEFT The tactile surface of this throw is a modern take on ancient Moroccan motifs. Medina throw in Chartreuse, £600, Niki Jones

LEFT Reupholstering a vintage armchair with a golden print makes the seat an inviting spectacle. Uhura fabric, £59.90 a metre, Linwood

BELOW Golden walls create a rich backdrop for multicoloured details. Interior design by Todhunter Earle





designs for years. "A particular favourite of mine is when gold is combined with grey. It brings a softness to the gold, reminiscent of burnished brass highlights. Even more unexpected is how well golden yellow works alongside teal, a combination that can really make an impact," notes Jones.

When selecting yellow accessories, balance the brighter colour with soft tints. "Golden yellow feels fresh and classical combined with ecru. This can be particularly good for a rug, giving a room a lift and vibrancy but grounding the colour in a more traditional and neutral palette," advises Jones.

It is vital, too, to choose textures carefully, as they help to marry the mood and style together. Mottershead suggests, "Go for a high-end glamorous look with velvet, copper, gold and dark lacquer finishes. Alternatively, look to the origins of yellow and opt for finishes found in nature, with matt woods, knitted throws, hemp and flax cushions in natural hues, and flat woven rugs."

It is also worth considering materials to enhance golden tones. Jones reveals, "We have a golden velvet quilt that looks absolutely stunning in this colour. The cotton velvet is a great colour vehicle. It works equally well in a contemporary or traditional scheme. For a different feel, a mercerised cotton can bring a subtle sheen to this colour giving it a precious metal quality." ▶

COLOURS TO TEAM WITH GOLDEN YELLOW

- Shell pink and golden yellow are a natural match and can create a vibrant yet balanced colour scheme.
- Team golden yellow with grey tones to soften the overall effect.
- Teal and golden yellow make an arresting combination for an uplifting interior.
- Intersperse golden yellow with neutral tones such as ecru to design a classic scheme.
- Copper and dark shimmering surfaces emphasise glamour when matched with golden yellows.
- Black and golden yellow is a daring combination for a modern appeal.
- Strong colours, such as purples, reds and greens, sit handsomely with the rich depth of golden yellow.

ABOVE LEFT The bathroom is an ideal space to be brave and mix classic golden prints with black modern lines. Wallpaper, Cranford, Wheat, £61 a roll, Little Greene

LEFT Make a statement and invest in a glorious golden yellow and ivory rug. Military Brocade Ivory rug, £4,633, by Alexander McQueen at The Rug Company