

The

ENGLISH HOME



Celebrating the essence of English style

July 2019 | Issue 173 | £4.50 | UK Edition

COLOURFUL OR CALM?

Serene and uplifting homes to inspire your own decor

NATURAL BEAUTY

Tactile wood, stone, linen & more

JODIE KIDD

Personal insights on her home & garden

BOLD TOUCH

Chic ways with red, from berry to brick

Kitchen updates

Refresh with new colour, furniture, tiles, flooring, worktops & more

07





EMILY TODHUNTER

on red

The renowned interior designer on the comforting, warming impact of red and secrets to choosing the right shade



“I’m not a bit worried about using red. It is one of my favourite colours and I always try and have a red room in a house if I can. It’s a warm, cosy colour and it works really well for dining rooms and bathrooms. I’ve also done some amazing small dressing rooms which I think are some of the all time great successes.

A CASE IN POINT

To set a more relaxed and calm mood in the guest bedroom (right) we have used red in a soft way. By using it in such a pretty pattern on the walls it has a gentle effect (for similar, try Bird And Thistle, Bruntschwig & Fils). We kept everything else – the fabrics and furniture

– very simple. With such a complicated pattern, especially in red, you wouldn’t want to hurl too much else at it. Though there is a trend for layering different fabrics, colours and patterns that don’t necessarily ‘go’ together (and that can be a good thing), for a calmer mood you want things less complicated. The headboard and curtains are in a plain creamy white, trimmed with a dash of red to pick up the deepest red tones of the paper. This adds a lovely clean, smart balance to the romantic pattern. This was already a lovely room but we felt it needed something special to give it some character and set the right atmosphere and I think red is the perfect choice.”



USING RED SUCCESSFULLY

THE RIGHT TONE

- Choosing the right red is crucial. I think you need a deep, dark red. Not a pillar-box red. Don’t think that by choosing something bright you will make the room lighter – it will be more scary and bitter. So be brave and find a red with a lot of blue or brown in it to give depth. It should be a bit like dried blood, which doesn’t sound very lovely, but it has the right depth and character.
- Edward Bulmer’s Sang de Boeuf and Red Ochre are good examples, and Farrow & Ball’s Reading Room Red

VERSATILE COMPANION

- It’s not for nothing that antique rugs are generally red based; it’s a colour that seems to go with everything. You could start

with a rug and pull out the red in it to build your room. It’s just so successful with everything, whether as the dominant or accent colour. You might think it’s going to be hard to live with, but it’s very easy on the eye.

BEST USES

- Red works especially well in a north-facing room as it’s so cosy. It’s also great for rooms that need a little help, for example with awkward angles or proportions, as it’s so full of character. There’s just something about it.
- Red ceramics are fantastic and it’s very easy to find good red lamps, which are very useful – especially if you just want to introduce a small amount of red to a room. ■