INSPIRING SPACES
EXQUISITE HOMES FILLED WITH LIGHT AND LIFE

SMART TOWN GARDENS
THREE SCHEMES FOR URBAN LIVING

STYLISH STORAGE
Clever ideas for clutter-free rooms

PASSION for PATTERN
DECORATING WITH BOLD COLOURS & MOTIFS
DESIGNER RUGS & LAMPSHADES
A gentle palette and metal detailing combine to create this classic scheme with a contemporary edge.

Soft shades lend this previously dark room a light, fresh feel. The design of the mirror, which was inspired by the look of Crittall windows, is echoed in the bookcase for a sense of continuity.
WHERE TO BUY


FABRICS Footstool and cushions in Mazarin in Indigo/Linen, £63m, Zoffany, stylelibrary.com; and Maine, £83m, Hodsoll McKenzie, zimmer-rohde.com.

ACCESSORIES Similar bespoke rug, Heritage Light Blue, Knots Rugs, knotsrugs.co.uk. Telescoping floor lamp, £229, West Elm, westelm.co.uk. Similar wall lights, Dale picture light in Antiqua Brass, £209.95, Mullan Lighting, mullanlighting.com. Alana table lamp, from £111.39, Pottery Barn, potterybarn.com. Large window frame mirror, £238, Net Deco, netdeco.co.uk.

Can you describe the project?
This large living room is on the ground floor of a Victorian mansion block in Earl’s Court, southwest London. Although it has a high ceiling and large bay window, it had been furnished with a charcoal-coloured sofa and a heavy walnut bookcase, which filled an entire wall and made the room feel dark and uninviting. My clients have two young children and wanted a space with a lighter, fresher look suitable for family living, watching TV and socialising with friends.

Where did you start?
The first step was to replace the bookcase with a smaller design, which would hold the TV. Open shelves and slender posts, inspired by the design of Crittall windows, give the bookcase a lighter feel, while flat-fronted base cupboards are clean and modern.

How did you plan the furniture layout?
We kept the sofa, recently purchased by my clients, in the same position, and added a large coffee table. This forms the central focus of the room, with two armchairs brought in to create a conversation circle.

What about the colours and materials?
The walls had recently been painted a soft grey, so I complemented this with shades of blue and taupe. Layers of different textures in these tones add interest, as well as comfort. I had the seat and back cushions of the sofa re-covered in a paler shade to lighten the feel of the dark sofa, and chose a weathered grey finish to add a modern touch to the oak coffee table and console. The bookcase, in an inky blue-grey, grounds the design and acts as a balance to the stronger colours of the artwork. The mirror over the fireplace is also inspired by Crittall windows, while the burnished bronze wall lights introduce another contemporary, slightly industrial note.

Can you tell us about the rug?
The rug was custom made in Nepal from pure wool and is soft underfoot, but robust enough to endure the rigours of family life. It was inspired by a traditional Oushak design, but has a subtly faded appearance and character all of its own. The size suits the room’s proportions and its beautiful tones unite all the different elements of the scheme.