



LIVING ROOM LIVING IT UP

With unkind weather dominating the skies for a little longer, the living room really comes into its own in the wintertime. Whether it's drinks with friends or downtime with a book, versatility is key for this room.

"The living room means different things to different people depending on who lives in the house and how many alternative rooms there are for specific activities," says Ann-Marie James, creative director at Rossiters of Bath on Broad Street.

"The choice of sitting furniture and its positioning in the room are key, so a scaled plan of the room is drawn up with furniture placed in such a way that it accommodates the way the room will be used, perhaps with a main focus on socialising or movie-watching with a quiet corner for reading or close work. After that, further layers are added, side tables, coffee tables, perhaps a desk to complement and enhance.

"Once the purpose and activities of the room are understood, it's time to set the scene with the selection of a colour scheme, accessories and curtain styles that reflect the taste and personality of the client and bring the room alive."

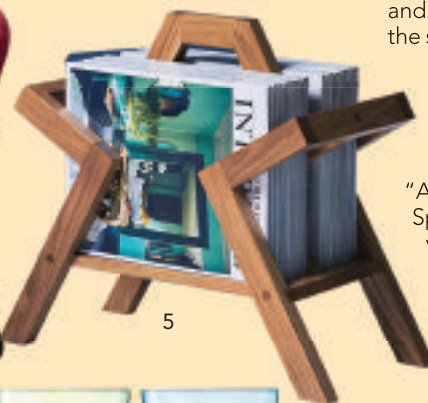
TRENDS FOR 2019

"There is definitely a growing interest in buying from local craftsman and in the natural beauty of wooden furniture; alongside this I am expecting elements of hard materials, such as concrete and even marble appearing alongside the softer natural finishes, as well as the reintroduction of pastel colours on walls."

Charlie Caffyn, director at Charlie Caffyn Furniture, Bradford on Avon

"As always, velvet will be a key look for Spring 2019, especially textured crushed velvet in rich colours. The scallop and chevron trend will continue too, with lots of luxe scalloped shell chairs and patterns on textiles."

Kate Vincent, marketing manager at Graham & Green, Walcot Street



TOP TIP SITTING COMFORTABLY?

"One product that people should invest in is a very good-quality, well-made, super-comfortable sofa. It's easy to be seduced by looks alone, and perhaps a bargain price tag, but the pleasure will be short-lived. You may pay a little more, but the value will become clear when your sofa keeps its shape and is just as comfortable 10 years later, despite considerable daily use."

Ann-Marie James, creative director at Rossiters of Bath, Bath



SHOPPING LIST

1. Harper sofa in vintage mustard, from £1,985, Rossiters of Bath; Broad Street, Bath; www.rossitersofbath.com
2. Trees sideboard, £1,750, Scout & Boo, Bradford on Avon; www.scoutandboo.co.uk
3. Square diamond design coasters, Vinegar Hill, Milsom Street, Bath; www.vinegarhill.co.uk
4. Ariel coral red velvet chair, £795, Graham & Green, Walcot Street, Bath; www.grahamandgreen.co.uk
5. Magazine holder, from £149, Charlie Caffyn Furniture, Bradford on Avon; www.charliecaffynfurniture.co.uk
6. Pastel champagne saucers, £34, Vinegar Hill, Milsom Street, Bath; www.vinegarhill.co.uk