



COLOUR BLOCK

A clever layout and striking palette combine to create a dramatic yet welcoming scheme



DESIGNER

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Can you describe the project?

This large dining-living room is part of a larger open-plan space on the first floor of a 1930s three-storey detached house in London, which was being completely renovated. My clients wanted to create a beautiful family home to share with their three young children, with this a relaxed area for entertaining. However, they had opposing ideas of how to achieve this. One wanted a bright, white, open-plan design, while the other preferred a more intimate, cosy feel.

How did you deal with the challenge?

The architect reconfigured the room so that it now features huge doors, which slide into side pockets. When the doors are open, the space is entirely open plan with an easy flow between the dining-living area and kitchen, library and media room. When the doors are closed, each room is transformed into a much more



Soft furnishings in rich shades of burgundy and mustard sing against neutral walls and floor, while the organic curves of the armchairs and tables hark back to mid-century style.



The fireplace acts as a focal point from all angles and creates a distinction between the different zones

private space. Within the dining-living area itself, the dramatic fireplace design not only creates a focal point and offers the warmth of a fire on cold days, but also defines the dining and relaxing zones. By creating rooms within rooms, the open feel is retained, but the space no longer feels cavernous.

How did you devise the colour scheme?

Picking up on the request for a light space, the walls are white, as are the tall streamlined cabinets, designed especially to house a bespoke bar for the owners' whisky collection. We used a combed, textured plaster to soften the effect of the fireplace, introducing subtle interest to its curved shape. When the sun streams in through the bay windows, the effect is beautifully calm. But, of course, our winters can be long and grey, so we wanted to add some warmth to create an inviting mood all year round. For this we chose a rich red wine shade for the rugs and dining upholstery, with

shots of mustard and bronze to lift the mood and link in with the colours of the owners' art collection.

Can you tell us about the furniture?

I love the mustard Metropolitan armchairs, designed by Jeffrey Bennett for B&B Italia only a couple of years ago, for the way they add a relaxed 1960s vibe. They can be swivelled to face the sofa or the fire, so that their occupants can chat to those still at the dining table after dinner. The dining table is surrounded by a mix of comfortable carver chairs and banquette seating, which instantly creates a more casual mood.

What is the key reason for the success of the design?

We kept the palette simple, using just three colours: the pale shade, the rich wine and the mustard gold. Together they create a beautiful sense of cohesion.

WHERE TO BUY

FURNITURE Similar walnut dining table, Cattelan Italia Premium Wood Drive table, £3,707, Harrogate Interiors, harrogateinteriors.co.uk. Similar dining chairs, Elliot Carver chairs, £1,215, The Sofa & Chair Company, thesofoandchair.co.uk. Plain back banquette seating, from £425, Angel & Boho, angelandboho.com. Metropolitan armchairs in Sidro 450,

£2,422 each; Ray sofa, from £5,349; all B&B Italia, bebitalia.com. Zeus Slim Irony oval coffee tables, from £245, Made In Design, madeindesign.co.uk. FABRICS Curtains in Great Plains Two Sides Silver, £140.40m, Holly Hunt, hollyhunt.com. Dining chairs and seating in Milani Prune, £62.50m, Romo, romo.com. WALLS All White, Estate Emulsion, £43.50

for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, farrow-ball.com. FIREPLACE Design, Studio MR Architects, studiomr.co.uk; finished (by Leivar, leivar.com) in bespoke colour textured plaster, Polidori Barbera, polidori-barbera.com. ACCESSORIES Grace pendants in Amber, £159 each, Heal's, heals.com. Bespoke rugs, from £3,000 each, Nina Burgess, alternativeflooring.com.