

H&G JANUARY 2020

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Nº 7 VOL 101

# HOMES & GARDENS®

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DREAM ESCAPES  
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RECIPES &  
STUNNING  
TABLES

## CELEBRATE



JANUARY 2020 £4.75

## DREAM SITTING ROOM

New York-based British interior designer Alexander Doherty describes how to achieve a calm scheme even with hits of colour

1. THIS TWENTIES APARTMENT had undergone an insensitive renovation in the Eighties and required a complete reconfiguration. We knocked two rooms into one to create a large living space that includes a library-cum-dining area, which is reflected in the mirror. I added a faux fireplace to create a focal point.
2. I find that symmetry helps give a sense of balance and order to a room. I hung a mirror and a pair of wall lights above the fireplace and added cabinets and artwork on either side to achieve this.
3. ONCE I HAD THIS ARRANGEMENT, the seating layout fell into place: I positioned a sofa opposite the fireplace, flanking it with a second sofa and a pair of armchairs. I also added an upholstered bench in front of the fireplace as I find that it is rather nice to close the circle when entertaining – it makes it feel more convivial.
4. When devising a scheme, I like to keep the walls pale and the large pieces pared back. There is a pattern on the armchairs but it is subtle, and the rug, an Anatolian Oushak that I had made for the room, features a palette that is equally subdued.
5. I PICKED up some of the bright cushions and the vintage glass and brass coffee table in Paris. The artwork, including abstract expressionist pieces by American artists from the Fifties and a maquette for a sculpture, provides interesting talking points. These additions bring life and character to the room and the neutral backdrop helps the strong colours sing.

■ Alexander Doherty Design, 001 212 390 1572, alexanderdohertydesign.com

FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPH MARILIS CHIRIA



Bespoke oak cabinets, sofas, armchairs and rug, all Alexander Doherty Design. (On cupboards) horn handles, from £230.40 each, Ochre. (On sofas) cushions, India Mahdavi. (On armchairs) cushions in Ravioli EMB2997, £1,175 each, Holland & Sherry. Zipper brass wall sconces, £1,105 each, The Urban Electric Company. Walls in Slipper Satin estate emulsion, £46.50 for 2.5L, Farrow & Ball