

# HOMES & GARDENS®

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## EFFORTLESS INTERIORS

HOW TO CREATE THE PERFECT NEUTRAL SCHEME



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#### WHERE TO BUY

**FURNITURE** Bespoke sofas and ottomans, Hubert Zandberg Interiors, [hzinteriors.com](http://hzinteriors.com). Gio Ponti inspired console tables, Jonathan Baring, [jonathanbaring.co.uk](http://jonathanbaring.co.uk).  
**FABRICS** Sofas in Silk Mohair in Sterling, £338.40m, J Robert Scott, [jrobertscott.com](http://jrobertscott.com).  
**ACCESSORIES** Bespoke mirrors and glass fire screen,

both Hubert Zandberg Interiors, [hzinteriors.com](http://hzinteriors.com). Artworks by Victor Vasarely, Artnet, [artnet.com](http://artnet.com).  
**LIGHTING** Plaster chandelier, Galerie Robert Lemarley, 006 08 83 49 66.  
**FLOORING** Rug, Greek Square in hand knotted wool and viscose, £783.76sq m, Sinclair Till, [sinclairtill.co.uk](http://sinclairtill.co.uk).



## TAILOR MADE

Understated elegance is the key to this impeccably sophisticated scheme



#### DESIGNER

Hubert Zandberg,  
 Hubert Zandberg Interiors,  
[hzinteriors.com](http://hzinteriors.com).

#### Can you describe the project?

This room is in a grand stucco-fronted property in London that had been used as offices for a number of years before being converted, rather unsuccessfully, back into a house. My clients lived in the house for a while before taking on the refurbishment, to see how they wanted to use the spaces. This room, for example, was formerly the dining room but it made much more sense to make it a sitting room in which they could meet business clients, as well as entertain family and friends.

#### Did you make any architectural changes?

The detailing, such as the corning and skirting boards, felt rather insubstantial, so we scaled it up a little, while adding a slightly more contemporary edge. For the sake of balance, we swapped the small fireplace for this rather monolithic, Art Deco-inspired design.

#### What inspired the colour palette and materials?

My clients both dress beautifully, and their sense of style inspired a late-Forties approach. The palette is understated, using a mix of parchment, taupe, blacks and browns with luxurious fabrics – mohair velvets, silks and wools. The key to understated dressing is good jewellery and I have approached the scheme in the same way, introducing a bit of ping with metallics including the wall lights and brass accessories.

#### Can you offer tips when it comes to planning seating?

Once we have done the basic seating plan, which in this case was a very obvious choice of a pair of sofas and a pair of armchairs, we look at opportunities to add pieces that will provide extra seats when the room is full of guests. People would never perch on a coffee table but they are happy to sit on a soft ottoman, hence the pair of upholstered ottomans as well as a pair of benches, which are tucked beneath the Gio Ponti-style console tables. These pieces fill the room beautifully and offer the chance to bring more fabrics into the scheme.

#### Tell us about the oversized mirrors

This comes back to balance. We needed strong architecture on this elevation, and these bespoke mirrors almost appear like openings in the wall. My mentor, the late David Champion, always taught me not to be afraid of scale and I have taught my team the same. I always say that if you think something is a bit too big, make it bigger.

WORDS RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPHY SIMON UPTON