

# DESIGNER SECRETS

A vibrant painting inspired this subtle yet uplifting penthouse living room by Caroline Paterson



## DESIGNER PROFILE

**CAROLINE PATERSON** is based in Chelsea. She and her team work on projects all over the UK

and abroad, ranging from the decoration of single rooms to new builds and complete restorations.

**THE BRIEF** To create a calm, relaxing living room that will enhance the owner's art collection.

The first item Caroline Paterson's client bought during the major refurbishment of her London penthouse apartment, created from two flats knocked into one, was a beguiling abstract oil painting in vivid hues. "It was an absolute gift for me, as it helped inspire the scheme for the room," says Caroline. "When working with a painting like this you need to adopt quite a subtle approach with the decoration." Her sensitive treatment allows the painting to take centre stage in the new light-filled double reception room.

Caroline chose calm, muted colours for the larger pieces of furniture, covering the sofa in pale oatmeal linen and a pair of wing chairs in velvets of imperceptibly different shades of eau de nil. The other substantial piece in the scheme, a glass and metal coffee table, was chosen for its serene lines that do not detract from the glass and ceramic pieces it is used to display.

To this pale backdrop Caroline has introduced accents of intense colour that cleverly pick up on the hues in the central painting: a swirl of orange in the rug, chartreuse yellow cushions, glazed green drum stools and a blue ceramic lamp base. "By using these strong colours sparingly," explains Caroline, "the overall effect is still incredibly calming."

WORDS RACHEL LEEDHAM

## 1 ARTWORK

A pair of Roger Hilton sketches in simple white frames balances the bold abstract. "We couldn't have had another dominant piece of art on the same wall," explains Caroline. "As one of the sketches picks up on the colours of the main painting, it provides the perfect counterpoint."



## 2 FURNITURE

The furniture is arranged to create a pleasing sense of symmetry, with different side tables and lamps ensuring the effect is not rigid. "That's what I love about interior design. The rules are there to be broken," says Caroline.

## 3 DARK ACCENT COLOURS

To complement the heavy frame of the oil painting, Caroline has introduced dark accents, including brown velvet cushions and a side table and metal lamp both in black.

## FACT FILE

### FURNITURE

**Mattieu sofa**, H80xW221xD94cm, £4,435 plus 16.5m of fabric, Rabih Hage, 020 7823 8288, rabih-hage.com.

**Till wing chairs** Y192, £2,040 plus 7.5m of fabric, William Yeoward, 020 7349 7828, williamyeoward.com.

**Similar coffee table**, to order, Francis Russell Designs, 01725 516315, francisrussell.co.uk. **Antique Chinese glazed ceramic drum seats**, Ted Few, 020 8767 2314.

### FABRICS

**Seats and inside of wing chairs** in Haze, mohair velvet, 140cm wide, £134m, George Spencer Designs, 020 7584 3003, georgespencer.com.

**Sides, base and back of chairs** in Belle de Jour 70037-003, cotton/viscose mix chenille, 140cm wide, £78.60m; **cushions on wing chairs** in Verel de Belval in Ondes 42012-006, cotton/silk mix velvet, £300.40m; all Abbott & Boyd, 020 7351 9985, abbottandboyd.co.uk.

**Yellow cushions on sofa** in Spirit 3154-04, polyester/cotton mix, 142cm wide, £91m, Jim Thompson at Fox Linton, 020 7368 7700, foxlinton.com. **Rectangular cushion on sofa** in Smoky Gold 110, acetate/rayon mix velvet, 150cm wide, £46m, Victoria Bain, 020 7263 7518, victoriabain.co.uk.

### ACCESSORIES

**Oil painting** by Marcelle Cahn at Hanina Fine Arts, 020 7243 8877, haninafinearts.com.

**Sketches** by Roger Hilton at Jonathan Clark & Co, 020 7351 3555, jonathanclarkfineart.com.

**Black bronze Braca lamp** X0112, £725, William Yeoward, 020 7349 7828, williamyeoward.com.

**Ceramic lamp**, made from an antique vase, **Bespoke Spheres rug**, Christopher Farr, 020 7349 0888, christopherfarr.com.

**Ceramic bowl** by Rupert Spira; **glass artwork** on bottom shelf of table by Sally Fawkes; both at Adrian Sassoon, 020 7581 9888, adriansassoon.com.

### CONTACT

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