



PERIOD CHARM

Rich tones and furniture full of personality brings warmth to the heart of the home

"If you have a period home, you should keep as many architectural features as possible – from beams to cornices and stonework – as this is where the personality of the house lies," says Joanna Wood, founder of the eponymous design house. You also need to work with what you've got. "If it's a grand stately property, use furniture that is in proportion to the space and be bold with colour and pattern as this will ensure the home feels cosy and comfortable regardless of its scale," advises Mike Fisher, creative director of Studio Indigo. "If the home is smaller, adopt a paired-back approach to make it feel bigger."

Fisher is a great advocate of colour and avoids painting rooms white as they can look cold in our dark winters. Instead, he uses darker tones on the dark side of the house to create intimacy and richness and chooses light tones for the south to bounce light around.

A country living room should have plenty of seating in the form of accent chairs, a club fender round the fireplace and, of course, sofas. "Chesterfields or heavily tufted designs suit grand country homes, while neutral tones and softer shapes create more of a cottage-like, cosy aesthetic," says Patricia Gibbons, of the sofa.com design team. Cushions, throws, rugs and accent lighting – such as the Black Monday floor lamp from Pooky – all lend pattern and interest, while contemporary

country homes are enhanced by natural, rugged materials such as the concrete console tables and rattan chairs in the Beth Webb collection from Arteriors. **■**



PATTERN AND INTEREST

Top to bottom: Accent chairs and rich wall coverings bring a warm country feel in this room designed by VSP Interiors; layers of pattern in soft shades enhance this living room, by Studio Indigo; Neptune's Wentworth throw in Rose Hip, £170, neptune.com; a Joanna Wood black desk lamp, £136, joannawood.com; Coleridge footstool in pure navy linen, £600, oka.com

