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& BLINDS

10  
WAYS  
*to SAVE*  
and MAKE  
YOUR HOME  
ENERGY  
EFFICIENT

*The BEAUTY*  
of NEUTRALS  
ADD PERSONALITY  
WITH TEXTURE  
AND TONE

# WINTER WARMERS

180+ PAGES OF COSY HOMES *and* GORGEOUS DECOR



*New neutrals*

# TONE & TEXTURE

Neutrals never go out of style, but a move to deeper, warmer shades paired with luxurious materials is emerging. Here's how to make it work in your home

WORDS VICTORIA KINGSBURY | PHOTOGRAPHY ELISE SCOTT

**Neutral colour schemes** are popular for a reason; they're calming, soothing and can freshen up a tired interior in no time. However, the sophisticated neutral palettes that we are seeing emerge in 2025 are anything but vanilla. They're more complex, with deeper, resonant bases. "There are many varieties of neutrals from the rich, warm hues through to stone and earth shades. There are lighter or darker tones as well as warm, rich hues," says Andrea Lucena-Orr, Dulux colour planning and communications manager. A shining example is this elegant project by Silvia Roldan of Studio Esar. "The home's original interior was really dark and cold, so we wanted to create a space of calm sophistication," says Silvia. "We selected a palette of warm neutrals, with a focus on browns. Every colour you see, from green to deep eggplant tones, is grounded in brown, which gives the interiors a rich, warm and luxurious feel."

## STAYING GROUNDED

In the dining room, the wall panelling was painted in Dulux Subdue Quarter to complement the rich ceiling in Dulux Palo Verde. "The dark green ceiling immediately sets a grounded tone - it's bold but not overpowering," says Silvia. "This colour is further echoed in the wallpaper foliage, which creates a romantic, almost painterly atmosphere. It feels warm, nostalgic and connected." The wall covering, Les Forêts 'Dioré' by Arte, was one of the first finishes Silvia chose for the home and a key starting point. The refined palette is carried through in the custom walnut dining table by Christopher Blank and the natural stone, Appenino River, with its soft red and pink veining.



“WHEN WORKING WITH  
A NEUTRAL PALETTE,  
TEXTURES TAKE ON EVEN  
GREATER SIGNIFICANCE”

SILVIA ROLDAN, INTERIOR DESIGNER

## BEIGE BEAUTIES

“Some of the trends we’ve seen emerge with neutrals include seeing a browner base, which tends to be a warmer undertone. Browns are more popular once again, so the rise of beige and warmer whites has been apparent. With natural palettes also trending, we are seeing many layering neutrals in differing shades,” says Andrea. >



ARTWORK: DAVID BROOKS  
CARPET: IN MALLARD  
‘BEETLE’ DINING CHAIRS: IN GOOD COMPANY  
‘BEE’ PENDANT LIGHT: GIFFIN DESIGN  
‘HONEY’ HONEYCOMB TABLE: HONEYCOMB  
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“THERE ARE MANY VARIETIES OF NEUTRALS FROM THE RICH, WARM HUES THROUGH TO STONE AND EARTH SHADES” ANDREA LUCENA-ORR, DULUX



Rich pickings

Moving into the living room (this page), again Silvia used muted greens, olives and warm taupes in the armchairs, rug and curtains, creating a soft and inviting feel. Adding texture in the space is tactile, quilted upholstery on the Moroso sofa. The plush materials add richness, while the tonal greens and pops of mauve elevate the design. “There’s a palette hierarchy in the room,” explains Silvia. “We started with neutrals; carpet, wall paint and curtain selections, and then began layering in different textiles and finishes. By adding in additional soft textiles, glass, timber, stone and ceramics, we created a tactile, rich room.”

Light and shade

A restful palette unfolds in the bedroom (opposite), with walls in Dulux Soft Dove and Dulux Subdue Quarter on the trims – a gentle backdrop for the richer hues in this space. Silvia referenced tones in the *Chasing Dreams* artwork by Gabrielle Jones (via Studio Gallery) above the bed. “We often draw inspiration from art, and in this case, the selected piece was introduced midway through the design journey, bringing a unifying layer of colour and expression to the room,” she says. “Finding the right balance between a masculine and feminine space meant exploring sharper tones of inky blues, contrasted with nude pinks.”

ARTWORKS (THIS PAGE) STONEWARE & CLAY HANGING OBJECTS BY CLAUDIA LAU, CRITERIA COLLECTION; TOTEM 20 SHUTTLECOCKS BY ELVIS SABI



CREATE CONTRAST

“Neutrals are very adaptable, therefore you can scheme them with many colours including bolder and deeper hues as well as lighter and mid-tone colours,” explains Andrea. “We love to create schemes using neutrals with deep colours as well as warm, rich tones.” **HB**

