

REAL HOMES

RENOVATIONS ■ EXTENSIONS ■ CONVERSIONS ■ EXPERT ADVICE

Cover story

'Clever design and planning were key to our new look'

COLOUR SENSATIONS

New decorating ideas with peacock tones and berry shades

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STYLISH LAMPS

NEW FOCUS ON
WINDOW TREATMENTS:
Curtains

In part one of this new decorating series, interiors journalist **Rachel Ogden** looks at different style options, fabrics, and shares expert design advice



TRY ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Some tassels can look fussy and dated, but don't write off trimmings altogether – even plain materials will add definition and extra colour to your curtains. The most important thing to remember is to make sure the scale, weight and proportion is in keeping with the fabric and curtain style. Simple stripes call for a trim that's equally pared-back, so try flat strips of fabric to frame the window and knotted lengths at the top to draw the eye upwards.

Linen curtains in Grain Stripe Indigo, H250x W190cm, with linen/cotton mix trim in Campbell Union Navy, both £39.50 per m or £190 for complete curtains; sofa in Oxford Stripe Navy cotton fabric, £29.50 per m; armchair in Ticking 01 Navy cotton fabric, £24.50 per m; stools in Ticking 02 Navy cotton fabric, £24.50 per m; and Odeon 8 Indigo cotton fabric, £29.50 per m, all Ian Mankin

SPLIT A SPACE

Not only for adding colour and style to a window, curtains can also be used to inject personality into other places. They're ideal for splitting adjacent rooms, separating the areas for a cosy feel, then drawing back when you want the space to work as one. Curtains are also more fluid than a static room divider, so perfect for narrow living spaces, and for absorbing noise. Choose a fabric with plenty of character, whether it's drawn across or hung in waves. ▶



KEEP OUT DRAUGHTS

Heat often escapes through the gaps around doors, letterboxes and keyholes when it's chilly outside, so a set of curtains in front will help trim heating bills as well as look stylish. You may not want curtains all year round, so choose a solution that's easy to replace. Pleating rivets push through the fabric and link to either a hook or ring that connects to the pole, making them simple to make, hang and remove.

Brushed-steel hook and recessed rivet set, £13.10 each; curtain pole set including W170xDia.5cm pole in Suede Vole, brackets, Bobbin finials, pleating hooks and rivets, from £890, Walcot House. Lined and interlined linen curtains in Beauvallon in Pomegranate, H210x W180cm each, with Domette cotton interlining and Sateen cotton lining, £1,088 for pair, Rapture & Wright

UNDERSTATED ELEGANCE

Frills and flounce aren't the only options for curtains in a period home. Instead, choose a treatment that's still rich and decorative but also with a deliberate simplicity. Inspired by Biedermeier style, a more modern interpretation of French Empire, these curtains are made from sophisticated plain silk, accentuated with statement tiebacks and a delicate trim along a straight pelmet. ▶

Bespoke lined and interlined, double-width untrimmed curtains and straight pelmet with Greek key braid pelmet in Henry Bertrand Buckingham Shantung Coffee pure silk fabric; three knife pleated panels in Lelievre Virtuose pure silk fabric in Blonde, with jacquard braid and tassel fringe, £12,500 for H350xW290cm window, including electrically operated curtain track and installation, Residence Interior Design

