MOOD BOARD MASTERCLASS

CREATING A MOOD BOARD IS THE FIRST STEP IN DECORATING YOUR HOME – BUT HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT IT? USING THE LIVING ROOM OF AN OLD HOUSE AND THIS SEASON'S COLOURS AND TRENDS, INTERIOR **DESIGNER GRETA APAP BOLOGNA** GIVES US A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE...

STEP #1

YOUR STARTING POINT

A mood board begins with an idea about something specific – it can be something as simple as a colour, the texture of a cushion or even a decorative item such as a chandelier (with this scheme, I started off with the stunning Orbit chandelier in antique brass by Porta Romana.) Keep your image handy – mount it on to a cork board so that it is visible at all times as it is the inspirational starting point that will guide you through the task of designing your space. Everything that is added to the room needs to be bounced off your original design idea or colour etc. so as you go pin your ideas to your board so you can start to see how all the elements work together…

STEP #2

FLOORING

The impact of the colour / material that the flooring has in a room is massive so you can use it to set the tone accordingly. If there is lots of natural light you might opt for darker flooring as the space can afford it. Here I chose parquet as it is in keeping with an old house and antiques look lovely combined with a dark tone. Herringbone is extremely elegant and combined with contemporary sofas and other items of furniture looks great in an old house.

STEP #3

WALLS

What effect do you want to achieve in this space? Is it a room with multiple purposes – i.e. watching tv, chatting with friends over a glass or two of wine, playing a game around a coffee table… all these factors are crucial to achieving the right design and ambiance.
Have fun with the walls. Wallpaper is a great way of doing this and you can easily keep it to one wall only if you have opted for a bold oversized pattern such the one I have chosen here. Co-ordinate the remaining walls with paint that picks up the background of the wallpaper chosen. Alternatively, if the pattern is very small or simply just a texture, then go for it and wallpaper the entire space - the effect is stunning!

STEP #4

SOFA

There are so many brands / designs to choose from so first ask yourself a couple questions. Do you want something that you can just sink into after a long day at the office, or do you want something that holds its shape and bounces back once you get up out of the sofa?
In my scheme, I opted for a lush and soft medium grey fabric for my sofa. The grey tones work extremely well with the burnished brass and copper accessories. Also, different grey tones complement the herringbone parquet and immediately gives a traditional pattern a modern update.

STEP #5

COFFEE TABLE AND RUG

These needs to be worked hand-in-hand and suit the type of sofa chosen. If, for instance, you opt for a dark coffee table, then choose a light-coloured rug so that the table stands out.

STEP #6

LIGHTING

The lighting of your space is very important and you need to add in lighting options for atmosphere. Add a floor lamp and / or table lamp that co-ordinates well with the central chandelier. Play around with different levels of lighting to create varying atmospheres. Have fun and be creative. Keep referring back to your original source of inspiration and if something doesn't quite work, change it for something else that does.

STEP #7

DECORATION

Finish the walls with artworks that have a special meaning to you. You can opt for a series of smaller black and white photos or a few larger coloured paintings. See what works best in the overall scheme. Also, hang a large oversized gilt mirror on a wall – this will especially help in smaller spaces. Play around with textures as they are what make the space interesting. You can work with similar tones, however, try applying different textures in the same space.
Combine polished materials with soft and lush fabrics, mix distressed wood with sharp contrasting metals. Incorporate the antique with the new and don't be afraid to mix the two together – you will be surprised to see just how well they complement each other.
If you have opted for a neutral overall palette, then throw in some colour in smaller details such as scatter cushions, a one-off ottoman, wallpaper or even a few simple decorative items. Don't be afraid to use colour. The overall look does not have to be matchy matchy but needs to work well when seen as a whole.

COLOUR PALETTE

The top colours for spring / summer 2017 are reminiscent of the hues that surround us in nature - subdued, muted, earthy tones teamed with pops of primary colours such as Lapis Blue, Pale Dogwood and Primrose Yellow..

- Kale is not just a food trend, this new green is an 'oxygenating' colour and can be subtly introduced to your interiors with an ottoman, cushion or artwork.
- Hazelnut is a quintessential neutral with a warm undertone that's unpretentious and with an inherent warmth. Opt for a touch of this colour by just adding two simple, elegant chairs as seen in this mood board.
- Pale Dogwood is a quiet and peaceful pink shade that engenders an aura of innocence and purity. It's a subtle pink whose soft touch infuses a healthy glow.
- By contrast, Primrose Yellow is a joyful yellow shade that's marked by enthusiasm, good cheer and sunny days. Don't overuse this colour, though, as it is best in small doses.