COBHAM LIFE

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Table setting – Layering table-top elements with white roses, coral ceramics and festive gold birds

Honey-toned polished plaster wall finish creates a warm backdrop to the statement sofa, oversized ceramic pineapple lamps by Tyson London

DESIGNED FOR ENTERTAINING

A classic leather Ralph Lauren armchair with statement art sourced from the Affordable Art Fair, London

As the Christmas entertaining season heralds large gatherings of family and friends at home, we've called upon luxury interior designers Stephenson Wright to reveal their expert advice on creating a stylish and welcoming living room for family entertaining.

'When first approaching the design of a classic living room space, the four key elements we consider at the outset include: lighting, texture, colour and art.

Lighting can really make or break a space – it's vital to get the balance right and especially in more relaxed entertaining areas to thoughtfully layer the lighting design. A combination of wall lights with table lamps can be used to great effect to create a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Well positioned lights also contribute to the balance and symmetry of the room and using dimmable options makes a huge impact on setting the overall scene.

Adding texture to the scheme can dramatically change the feeling of a living room. We love to use textured, warm, tonal wallpaper, such as grasscloth and paper-backed silk (also available in vinyl versions for practicality). Our go-to suppliers are Phillip Jeffries and Fromental and we have used their stand-out designs in our luxury lifestyle showroom, 'The Post House'. Phillip Jeffries' rattan weaved wallcovering and Fromental's unique hand painted and embroidered wallpaper are both much admired by our clients who like to invest in show-stopping designs.

The colour palette we are often drawn to for a family living room includes tones of green, blue and pink – pulling from nature as our primary inspiration, together with warm neutrals. We would suggest a shot of brave colour to add interest and originality – perhaps on cushion or upholstery piping or a curtain trim. Mixing up styles of furniture and soft furnishings will create a truly bespoke look, but overall, the colours and fabric patterns should tone together.

The use of art injects personality into the room, whether bold, fun or monochrome – it doesn't need to match perfectly, but if there is a colour thread, then it looks well considered. We often use a client's own art as a starting point for a scheme, but also enjoy working with local artisans and artists to create bespoke pieces too.

Finally, consider the all-important comfort factor of your seating and ensure it is well positioned for easy conversation. Side tables for drinks and nibbles should be within easy reach for all. Our own furniture, 'The Parcel collection', features super comfortable 'Duvet' armchairs – chairs you would happily spend all evening in. It's often said that a comfortable chair is the difference between a good host and an excellent one!' ■

To discuss a design project please get in touch with Natalie and Juliette, +44 (0)1932 508440 or jw@stephensonwright.com, www.stephensonwright.com

Co-founders of Stephenson Wright, Natalie Stephenson and Juliette Wright

Embroidered panels are a key feature to the back of the armchairs, alongside metallic tear drop side tables from Jonathan Adler

"The use of art injects personality into the room"

The Duvet armchair with striped veneer base, from £2,990 plus fabric

'The Parcel collection' - Stephenson Wright's inaugural collection of luxury eco-conscious furniture

Featuring beautiful lighting design and bespoke furniture and joinery by River Woodworks, the unique studio also showcases contemporary art and innovative home technology solutions by Cornflake.

INTERIOR DESIGNERS STEPHENSON WRIGHT CO-LAUNCH NEW LUXURY LIFESTYLE SHOWROOM AND INAUGURAL FURNITURE COLLECTION

Co-founders of Stephenson Wright, Natalie and Juliette

2019 has been quite a year for interior designers, Stephenson Wright. They have not only launched their first furniture collection, complementing their high-end residential and commercial interior design services, but have also opened their first luxury lifestyle showroom, 'The Post House', in collaboration with Future Light Design. The showroom is an inspirational space for clients to meet and plan their design projects and for the designers to showcase their creative vision and luxury finish.

With their infectious passion and natural ability to truly understand and capture their clients' design needs, Stephenson Wright's expertise is much sought-after to create luxurious interiors for homes throughout London, the home-counties and abroad.

With a combined 40 years' experience, the seasoned designers' talents complement each other perfectly. Juliette has an eye for detail coupled with an intuitive vision for the overall design direction. She is well versed in global sourcing and can turn her hand to any brief. Natalie has a natural flair for colour and materials, adding a diverse aesthetic to their portfolio. Their can-do attitude coupled with their strong business acumen and calm managerial command, bring the assurance their clients rely on.

Stephenson Wrights' projects strike a balance between thoughtfulness with the unexpected. No two homes are the same - each design emerges from a place of vivid creativity, tailored to suit their clients' personalities.

"The key is to create a delicate balance by adding detail and originality, always with an underlying focus on comfort. We find that clients are always happiest if they can enjoy their homes without feeling like there is too much pressure to keep them perfect." *Natalie Stephenson.*

Stephenson Wright approach the design process by weaving unique layers of texture, colour, materials and impactful lighting design together. They are great supporters of artisans and authentically made pieces, which create an entirely tailor-made home for their clients and families to enjoy for years to come.

"The true beauty of design is that inspiration can come from anywhere and is everywhere. This is our passion. Often a design can be born from a piece of collected art, a client's treasured possession, or pulling from nature and the architecture of the building itself. This fusion of design ideas results in creative homes that are full of interest, integrity and personality." *Juliette Wright.*

Plink and Plonk occasional tables with hand painted tops, in collaboration with artist Jan Erika. From £1,770 (small) and £1,950 (tall)

The Post House showroom, East Horsley, Surrey KT24 6RX. In collaboration with Future Light Design and by appointment only.

Stephenson Wright

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