

Design DOGTOR

Carter, the Fired Earth Design DOGTor, answers readers' interior design questions, Ewa Shepard at Fired Earth Darts Farm helped a bit too.



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INTERIORS



We have an Edwardian house with dark wood furniture. What sort of window dressing would you recommend for our sitting room?

Mrs H, Exmouth

ANSWER: The traditional style for an Edwardian syle of property would be generally full length drapes either in a deep pencil pleat, giving an slightly informal look, or triple/goblet pleat headings, giving a more formal feel to the room - both usually in a heavyish fabric: velvet or tapestry. This style may also feature ruched or draped sheers at the window, possibly not necessary for either privacy or style! However, all depends upon the overall feel of the room, which may not be slavishly following the Edwardian theme. The furniture used in the room may be of a Colonial style, where I would look at either elegant cream drapes or simple wooden Venetian Blinds to keep the feel airy yet mysterious. Possibly use a combination of more than one style: a wooden venetian blind may look a little stark in a large room, so soften it with a sheer or lightly self-textured drape which has no other use than as a dress curtain. Or indeed you may be heading down the modern route, where simple tab top or eyelet drapes may be in keeping. Finally, silk is always a classic option whether traditional or contemporary. Fired Earth have a professional curtain making up service, using their fabrics (of which at present there are 300 different styles/colourways) and also provide a made-to-measure blind service, which includes wooden venetian blinds in a variety of colours, widths and styles.



The previous owners of our new flat did a great job on the decoration - but it's just a bit too whacky for our taste! Can you suggest a way of creating a serene and calm environment? **Mr J, Exeter**

ANSWER: Mmm, always a difficult one to overcome as a wild and adventurous colour scheme drains you of any ideas and inhibits the selection of a different look. My best advice would be to neutralise the entire house as quickly and cheaply as possible. Use a palette of creams, taupes and mocha colours to obliterate the bright colours currently overpowering you, and live with this for a good while

before re-introducing any colour into your home. You may find the new serene look is greatly to your liking and you'll develop the colour palette to include slightly more daring tones of chocolate or ochre. As the previous owner has done a good job with the decoration, it is very likely that the foundations are well prepared for you to simply paint the walls and woodwork giving you a quick change to sooth your soul! Suggestions for colours within this calming palette - which work equally well in a contemporary or traditional environment - are: Ecru (40), Vellum (45), Oyster (31) and once you feel brave enough: Palm Honey (48), Basswood (36) or Raw Earth (17) - all from Fired Earth's Elements of Colour range of 120 shades and tones (available in 5 finishes including emulsion (from £22.50 for 2.5 litres), Eggshell, Gloss, Exterior Masonry and Floor Paint).

