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May 2016

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External Orangerie Shot:
Picture: Haddonstone



Enjoy the outdoors indoors

Clare Hudson of Clare Hudson Design in Steyning looks at how to give your orangerie a makeover.

With spring well underway but the summer heat not quite upon us, many of us are itching to get outdoors and enjoy the longer days.

Orangeries are the perfect way to enjoy our English weather without having to endure

that horrid English adage of 'put another jumper on'.

In the 17th century an orangerie was designed to protect young citrus trees and a century later it became a symbol of prestige and wealth, often a focus of a house tour to show off not just its exotic plants but the architecture too.

Today many homes have added these rooms as an easy solution to extending their houses and their functions vary from kitchens and dining areas to living and reading rooms.

Here are our tips to remember when it comes to designing the interiors of these sun-kissed rooms.

Windows

Dress your windows. Due to the abundance of windows it can be tricky to strike the right balance of openness with coziness.

While the sun is blazing, one can feel quite perfectly toasty inside, sometimes even a little too parched, but when that sun dips down and disappears, the walls of glazing can turn into a chilly space and one that all the family quickly retreats from.

Colour palette

The first trick is to find a colour palette that reflects your outdoor space.

Use off white walls with pretty pastels and muted tones such as soft greys, sage greens and sandy beiges, in your cushions, rugs and throws.

As the sun's rays will inevitably fade both hard and soft furnishings try to source fabrics that are fade resistant.

However, by keeping it neutral from the start will mean you have a longer lasting look.



Tali Block Printed Rug, £120, Nkuku, www.nkuku.com



Picture: www.idylhome.co.uk



Oriental Bamboo Birdcage, \$92, iDecorate, www.idecorateshop.com



Hurricane Lantern Sabba, £52, L'Atelier Natalia Willmott, nataliawillmott.co.uk



Geo Stripe Throw, £65, Oliver Bonas, www.oliverbonas.com



Robin Cushion, £29, The Skinny Card Company, www.theskinnycardcompany.com



Hugo the Hare Cushion, £26.99, The Skinny Card Company, www.theskinnycardcompany.com



Armelle Armchair Duckegg Blue, £429, Swoon Editions, www.swooneditions.com



Three Woodies Pendants, \$590, Sala Verde, salaverde.com.au

Flooring

Flooring is a key area in the design. Wood or stone works best and where possible I would strongly advise including under-floor heating into your design. If you are renovating an existing room, use layers of rugs.

By using a natural flooring material will further strengthen the link to the outdoors.

Lighting

Go bold. From traditional glass lanterns and crystal chandeliers to hand carved geometric pendants, choose one that will be a statement piece. Wall lights will give a stunning glow up an exposed brick wall and table lamps will automatically create warmth and homeliness in the space.

Furniture

The overriding belief is that wicker furniture is the single choice for these sun traps and while I love a bit of rattan, I believe that a nice balance between South-East Asian feature pieces, vintage English country fabrics and beautifully shaped French inspired furniture creates the perfect pairing.

Let Clare transform your favourite space

Clare Hudson Design is an interior design and architecture practice in Steyning that offers a complete service from concept to completion.

The company believes that good design does not have to cost the earth and for each project it creates a unique design concept that suits the clients' taste and lifestyle.

For large or complex renovation projects the interior architecture service is the ticket.

Producing all the CAD drawings and 3D visuals in house, it delivers interiors through the spatial adaptation of an existing footprint.

If you are not planning any major building works to your home but want to give it an update, then the interior design service is the answer.

The team will work closely with you to understand your requirements before producing comprehensive mood boards that compile colour and soft furnishing schemes.

From updating one room to an entire property refurbishment let Clare Hudson Design transform your home.

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