



EMBRACE THE SEASON

Interior designer Clair Strong shows us how to take inspiration from autumn

Autumn is the most beautiful season. Crisp mornings, perfect light, a riot of colour amongst the trees, a feeling of renewal and change in the air – it's a season of inspiration for us all.

JEWEL TONES

Colour is a huge part of the appeal of autumn. The trees turn from verdant green to a

rainbow of red, orange, purple and even dark blue. These rich and uplifting colours inspire a jewel-toned scheme for the home.

Colours like emerald green, ruby

red, inky blue and royal purple are perfect for creating a cosy yet striking space. These hues work really well together in abundance, or can be used sparingly in a neutral space for a more subtle look.

OPULENT HUES: main picture, deep turquoise sofa by Sofa.com and, inset, emerald cushion by Nanette Lepore (£100 – £120) at culow.co.uk



TEXTURE AND TEXTILES

Textiles are an interior design staple, and one you'll definitely want to stock up on for the colder months. Rugs, blankets, throws, pillows and curtains all add texture and warmth. Without them a room can feel bare, so they're a vital finishing touch, and they have practical uses too of course. This year, it's all about texture and pattern – gloriously chunky knits, soft mohair and



faux sheepskins. As for pattern, tartan is always in vogue but I also love contemporary herringbone in pastel hues and global ikat prints. And you need look no further than Walcot Street where Katherine Fraser produces hand woven tactile textiles for the home.

Orchard Stripe merino lambswool throw £185, and ember stripe and gunmetal merino lambswool throw, £185 and gunmetal twill cushions £80



GLOOMY GLAMOUR

Another trend taken straight from the interiors catwalk is dark, gloomy, almost Gothic interiors. This look is perfect for autumn and winter because it reflects the environment outdoors. It's dramatic and striking but it's also snug and comforting – the perfect hideaway for the cold months. This trend goes all out with dark walls, dark floors and dark furniture. It uses deeply saturated hues, like charcoal grey and aubergine, which helps it avoid veering into teenage bedroom territory. It also takes in a lot of the luxe trend, with metallic accents and ornate patterns to create a sophisticated, almost regal, ambience. It's perfect for big open rooms that need to be made cosier.

LUXE COMFORT

The A/W 2015 interior design trends are all about luxury and indulgence. Super soft textiles in the finest materials (like velvet and sheepskin), leather accessories and gold or copper elements add a touch of luxe to any space. If your budget for luxuries is limited, remember opulence doesn't have to come with an eye-watering price tag. You can find splashes of lavishness and extravagance on the high street at John Lewis, Marks and Spencer and even IKEA. ■

Clair Strong Interior Design is a small, friendly, creative business based in Bath and London, providing services for residential and commercial clients. Visit: clairstrong.co.uk or contact: clair@clairstrong.co.uk.



SHADES OF GREY

Go the whole nine yards with the neutral colour of the moment: grey. This colour scheme evokes the wintry, almost fairy tale-esque side of autumn but it transitions perfectly from season to season. Layer pale shades of grey and off-white for a soft yet atmospheric look. Paint the walls antique white, and the woodwork (skirting boards, window sills and doors) in a smoky grey. Accessorise with more grey but anchor the pale colours with one splash of dark grey to add a bit of drama and depth.

SHOPPING LIST: clockwise from left. Furnishings from John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, John Lewis and, below right, Dunelm Mill



NATURAL INFLUENCES

Effortlessly accessorise with the world's greatest designer; mother nature. Hunt, gather, collect and curate. Bring elements from the great outdoors into your home for autumn.

Scour the countryside and the coast for beautiful things you can display in your home, things like pine cones gathered in a bowl, dried flowers displayed in a frame, interesting branches strung with lights and shells arranged artfully.

If you prefer to leave nature in her place, you can of course fake it. Faux antlers, artificial plants and botanical wall charts are beautiful reminders of the bounty of nature.



Right, Autumn Horse Chestnut Tree Wall Chart by Wallography

