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## H&amp;G DESIGN DREAM LIVING ROOM

## WHERE TO BUY

**FURNITURE** Bespoke sofas, chairs, ottoman and console table. Sims Hilditch, simshilditch.com.  
**FABRICS** Armchairs in Danoeval in Polka 12, £342m, Brentano at Altfield, altfield.com. Ottoman in Fife in Dove, £63m. Coates and Fowler, coatesf.com. Armchairs piped in Sonoran in Oyster, £69m; dining room curtains in Cavalor in Mineral, £349m, both GFL Baker, gfbaker.com. Sofa cushions in (from left) Plain Linen in Silver, Wicker NO19, both £120m, Fermois, fermois.com. Piazza Cardo in Bianco Naturale, £195m, C&C Milano, cec-milano.com. Marden, £120m, Fermois, fermois.com. Sun Bleached Paisley in Cloud, £240m, de Le Cuona, delecuciona.com. Armchair

cushions in Clara in Warm White, £37m, Neptune, neptune.com.  
**WALLS** French Grey Mid absolute matt emulsion, £42 for 2.5L, Little Greene, litlregreene.com.  
**WOODWORK** in Silver Birch eggshell, £54 for 2.5L, Neptune, neptune.com.  
**FLOORING** Bristol Tectonic oak, from £49.90sq m, Chaunceys Timber Flooring, chaunceys.co.uk.  
**Camborne Ash rug**, £859q m, Capitol Carpets, thecarpet.co.uk.  
**ACCESSORIES** Somerton baskets, from £44 each, Neptune, neptune.com. Imperial Flowers artworks, from £418.80 each, Trowbridge Gallery, trowbridgegallery.com.  
**Lanigue chandelier**, £4656, Porta Romana, portaromana.com.



Softly layered textures of linen, wool, velvet and a variety of weaves create a relaxing feel.

## CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Smart details and soft hues underpin this inviting scheme at the heart of a cleverly devised living space



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## Can you describe the project?

The house is a new build on the Suffolk/Essex border, which was designed as a dream home for our clients. This room opens up onto both the dining room and the conservatory to form one large living and entertaining space. Although this is the most formal of the schemes, the clients wanted it to have a lovely easy-going feel.

## How did the open-plan layout influence your approach?

It was really important to create a sense of flow, which we've done by using different tones of grey: the palest in the conservatory, followed by a mid-French grey on the walls of the living room and building to a darker shade in the dining area. Increasing the strength of colour in this way creates momentum within the spaces. We also linked the rooms with a palette of blues, from the blue grey of the botanical artworks and the velvet of the armchairs to the aqua hue on the joinery in the conservatory.

## What about the views from one room to the next?

I love to have strong vistas, hence the eye-catching open shelves in the conservatory and the stunning crystal chandelier in the dining room – I like the idea that the clients can have this dimmed while sitting in the living room. Behind the sofa is a table with a little vignette of plants, candles and books, which gives guests in the dining room something interesting to look at, rather than the back of the sofa.

## Why did you design the seating and coffee table yourself?

As a multidisciplinary design practice, we're able to create individual pieces that are tailored to clients' needs: here, the sofas and armchairs have high backs because the client's father-in-law suffers from back problems. We also focused on details to elevate the scheme. Nickel studs and contrast piping add definition to the armchairs, while studs also embellish the sofas. Here, the oak frames have been left on show to make the pieces a little more elegant. To soften the scheme, we designed an upholstered coffee table, complete with bespoke oak trays for serving tea or wine.

## Can you tell us about the textures in the scheme?

We love linen and chose a robust, dense option for the sofas, which is crisper and more formal than washed linen. The coffee table fabric is a wool and linen mix and the armchairs are covered in cotton velvet. We layered the textures using cushions in various weaves – I always advise that adding cushions is the most economical way to incorporate exquisite textiles in a scheme. The herringbone rug brings further texture to the floor, while accessories such as natural willow baskets keep the room relaxed. To counter some of the cooler greys and blues, the palette includes stone hues that enhance the warm, inviting feel.