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HOME**

2023
DECORATING GUIDE

INTERIOR DESIGN

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Bernie de Le Cuona shares her insights in using luxury textures (below).

INDULGENT TEXTURES

The way a room feels is important for creating comfort and luxury. Layer plenty of tactile textures – from opulent wools, silks and linens through to hard surfaces such as carved stone, polished wood, and smooth and patinated metals. We have showcased how neutrals can be full of interest and enriched through deeper touches of colour.

Bernie de Le Cuona, founder of de Le Cuona, knows the importance of combining exquisite textures throughout the home

“Interiors should feel as beautiful as they appear. Visually layering harmoniously coloured textures creates a sense of comfort, and selecting natural, organic materials can bring a sense of well-being and happiness at home.

Linen is my favourite fabric and one of the most versatile as it lends itself to elegant layering. It can be used to make the sheerest, finest curtains as well as the heaviest, textured upholstery and everything in between. Consider combining a stonewashed slubby linen with a lustrous cashmere velvet – our most popular linen, Vintage Canvas, is a painted raw linen, and in the shade of Cement is the ultimate matt contrast to our more lustrous cloths, such as Old Hollywood. Both are from The Golden Age collection.

The softer textures of linen, wool, silk and cashmere contrast with the harder surfaces of wood, stone and handcrafted ceramics, but all have the common thread of beautiful natural materials. The hand of an artisan

also imbues pieces with a sense of luxury. Having beautiful pieces of craftsmanship in a room brings a little bit of joy into it.

Colours are also important, whether bringing in richer tones or keeping things pared back. You can create restful moods by limiting colour to naturals and emphasising and elevating textures. If you use several shades of the same hue, the pattern is created in the textures.

Designing a sophisticated neutral scheme takes an expert eye and a layered composition of textures and tones. For excitement, add a touch of contrasting colour. I love terracotta, old gold or black; just a little makes a beautiful neutral scheme exciting.

Really indulging in textures that add comfort and calm can remove the need for further ornamentation. Fabrics should always be a joy to touch and bring a sense of well-being. Touch connects us to life and our homes should be living spaces.” ■

ABOVE Balboa tall pendant light, £3,695, Andrew Martin

LEFT Splendid Mohair in various colours, £259 a metre, Zimmer + Rohde

FAR RIGHT Selection of fabrics from The Golden Age collection, from £174 a metre, de Le Cuona. Thibier Chair by Cox London

RIGHT Birkdale small stone bust, £25, One World

LEFT Leandro lounge chair in Paprika velvet, £3,933, Arteriors

ABOVE RIGHT Curtain, Tango, Ivory, £150 a metre, Larsen

ABOVE LEFT Paint swatches in (from left): Royal Sapphire, Urban Fox and Tumbledown, all £41.95 for 2.5l Matt Emulsion, Victory Colours

FEATURE KATY MCLEAN PHOTOGRAPHS P&G (CROWN) © JON DAY P97 (THE LACQUER COMPANY) © WING CHAN P98 (PORTRAIT) © ANDY GORE P99 (NEWALL & WICKLEWOOD) © JONATHAN BOND; (ZANDRA RHODES) © PAUL BURT.

FEATURE CHARLOTTE DUNFORD

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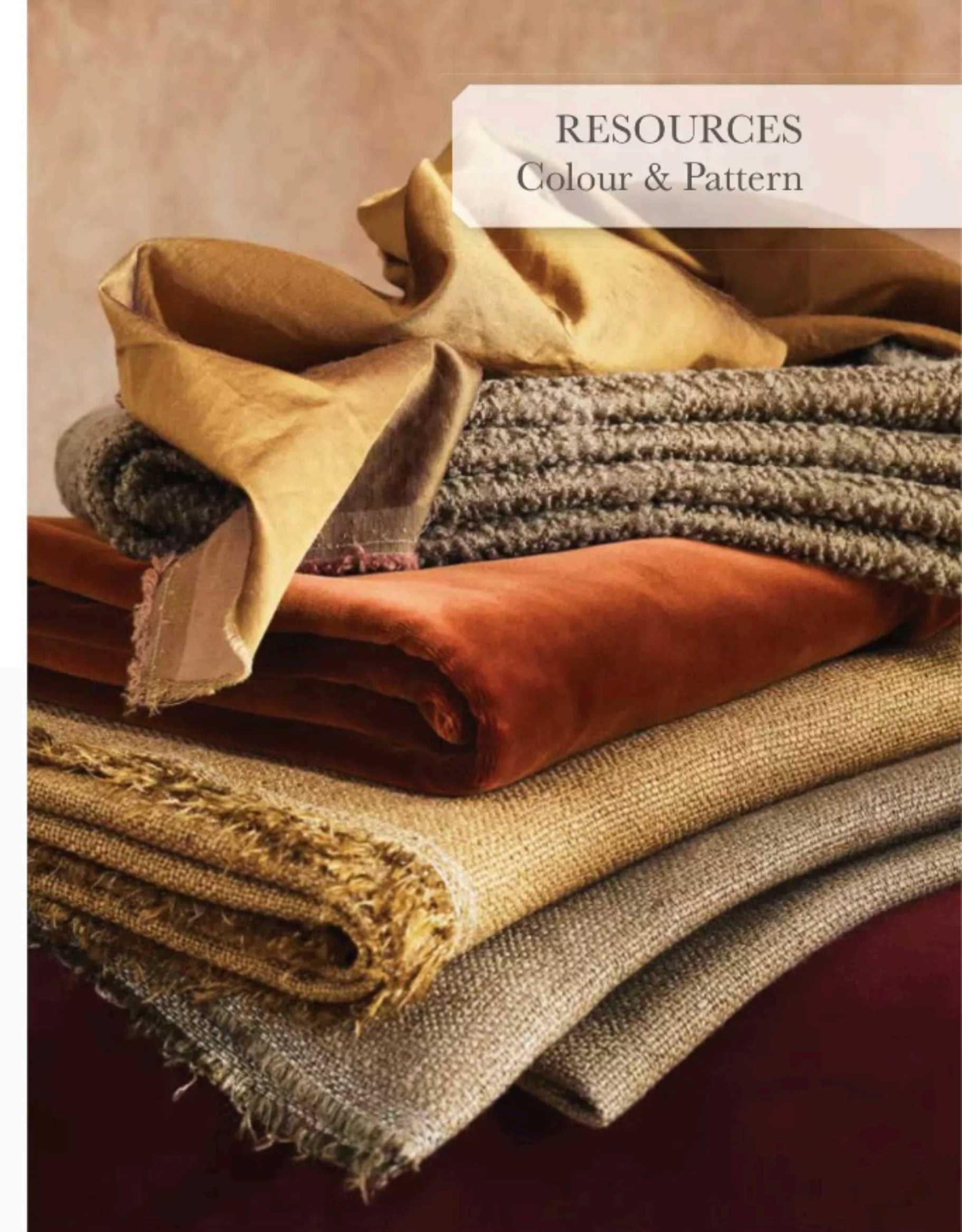
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ABOVE Fabrics from The Golden Age collection, including linens, silks, superfine merino and wool bouclés, from £174 a metre, de Le Cuona

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