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DREAM SITTING ROOM

INTERIOR DESIGNER VEERE GRENNY REVEALS HOW HE COMBINED COMFORT AND MODERN ELEGANCE IN A HISTORIC LUTYENS HOME



Sofa in Veere Grenney Associates Soundess, £227.40m; **armchair** (in foreground) in Veere Grenney Associates Temple, £220.40m, both F. Schumacher at Turnell & Gigon. **Rush matting**, find similar at Waveney Rush.

A master of country house style, Grenney believes beauty and harmony trump all trends...

- 1. THIS IS THE DRAWING ROOM** of a Grade-I listed house in Oxfordshire designed by Edwin Lutyens in 1899. The original oak floor and leaded-light windows have been restored and a replica chimney piece created. My client has a keen interest in contemporary art, so rather than use the typical Tudor-style oak furniture of a Lutyens house of this period, we chose some French mid-century pieces, such as the black metal armchair by Colette Guéden.
- 2. The furniture is grouped in the centre of the room so that six to eight people can gather and converse in comfort. I like to create a separate area where people can have a more private conversation; I've done that here with the pretty writing table and two chairs in the window.**
- 3. THE UPHOLSTERY IS** our own softly patterned linens in faded pink: Temple has a geometric pattern, while Soundess is slightly Moghul. The ottoman is covered in a grey-brown silk velvet, which works as a good neutral. The curtains are made of grey linen and they hang to the side, so as not to block the light.
- 4. The metal furniture and window mullions introduce accents of black. Nancy Lancaster [the 20th-century interior decorator] said that every room needs a little black because it acts as a neutral and anchors the design. Here, the smooth black metal contrasts with the textured rush matting on the floor.**
- 5. THERE ARE NO CEILING LIGHTS** or downlights because the house is listed, so the room is entirely lit with table and standard lamps. The ceramic lamp bases reflect some of the earthy colours of the room, and the shades are plain parchment – my preference is for plain shades even in the grandest room.

■ veeregrenney.com

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE PHOTOGRAPH DAVID OLIVER
A POINT OF VIEW: ON-DECORATING BY VEERE GRENNY (£50, RIZZOLI)