

Designer Diva



Interior Hints And Tips From The Top
XS Interior's Loraine Chassels Points The Way

Sitting Pretty

FEATURE CHAIRS are a great addition to any home and as far as lounges go have virtually done away with the traditional 'three piece suite'. Not only practical for somewhere to park your booty, but also aesthetically appealing, a feature chair can really make a fantastic statement!

A quirky style adds punch to a room while a splash of colour and pattern can transform drab to dreamy. An iconic classic chair like a Le Courbousier, Eames or Barcelona give a room a well considered look and are design statements in themselves. These particular chairs are timeless and tend to look fabulous in most room sets. Anyone I know including myself, who has ever been fortunate enough to own one, has always found a suitable place for it even when changing decor or relocating. These 'keepers' are a bit like a treasured pet, they become part of the family and always fit in. We just love to love them.

Style And Comfort

When looking for a feature chair it is important to be clear as to the main use for it. A 'look at me' chair for the half landing is probably all about style and not so much about function, while a chair in the snug will need to be one that you can relax and rest on so comfort is especially key. Be cautious too when selecting a feature chair because bulky arms can often throw out your acceptable scale. Getting an idea of the size

of the chair you want is therefore important before committing to one. Because a feature chair is more often than not a reasonable size getting it wrong is an issue - it's not a vase of flowers that can be popped in another room because it doesn't work. When selecting a feature chair it can be very handy for you to have a note of your ideal dimensions and try to take swatches of the room fabrics and colourways that it needs to fit in with you, too.

Select vs Bespoke

At XS Interiors we almost always use feature chairs somewhere in every property we design and furnish. Whether for a showhouse or private residence the choice we have available is great. From zany colours, fabulous textures and comfort to die for, there is usually something that appeals to everyone. Sometimes; however, the perfect chair is simply not to be seen and we take the bespoke route. Having a chair, or any upholstery item for that matter, made in your own style and using your selected fabrics make it unique. It also means that you can have, for example, your bedroom chair matching your headboard and pelmet or your lounge chair made with matching cushions to throw on your sofas. This creates a very bespoke and coordinated look that is original to you and that no one else will have. There is every reason to be sitting pretty these days, so no excuses.



ABOVE: Plum delight. This alcantara (man made suede) quirky chair comes in various colourways and fabrics including black, red, burnt orange and lime. From £299 to £350.



ABOVE: The Barcelona chair, featured here in red leather, is a treasured classic and adds a contemporary twist to any room.



ABOVE: This Eames chair and footstool, in ebony leather and walnut, is a celebrity of a chair and can be seen in homes from pop stars to captains of industry. Costing as much as £12000 for an original this one at £935 is an absolute bargain!



Turn to page 112 for XS Interiors 'Bootylicious Readers Quiz'.

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