

Couture interiors

FASHION does more than inspire revolutions on the catwalk – it plays a huge role in influencing the way we decorate our homes. Nobody believes this to be truer than Melbourne-based stylist Bernadette Ferrari – who takes note of what designers unveil from one season to the next, drawing from their sassy, playful and inspirational collections each and every time.

A long-time favourite of French magazine editors, Isabel Marant delivered a stunning collection for spring/summer 2010. It was an edgy mix of sterling silvers, rustic browns, splashes of orange and faded denim. She threw in fur sleeveless jackets for a bohemian touch, while the rest of the range was all about fine details including feather earrings, striped shorts, suede fringe boots and all things 1970s.

Ferrari has used Marant's collection to create a lounge room inspired by the French rising star, and we love the shabby-chic end result.

"These outfits call for an interior with texture and juxtaposition," says Ferrari. "Pairing a cumbersome fur jacket over a little shift with a splash of intense orange can be translated into an interior with a textured shaggy rug, a clean line chair and an orange silk cushion for that splash of colour. The mix/match of lights is a fun play on the unexpected."



INSPIRED BY BURBERRY:
A style with beautiful drapery of fabric in pastel hues makes the contemporary take on a classic look.



INSPIRED BY ISABEL MARANT:
A shabby-chic finish with an edgy mix of sterling silvers, rustic browns and splashes of orange.



INSPIRED BY CHLOÉ:
Neutral tones create a syrupy warmth that matches the earthy beige hues evident on the catwalk.

If we can borrow from Coco Chanel, the French designer who once said: "Fashion is not something that exists in dresses only, fashion is in the sky, in the street, fashion has to do with ideas, the way we live," then we can take this quite literally to include our homes, too.

The soft pastel colourings of Burberry Prorsum's spring/summer range also provided inspiration for Ferrari, who weaved the neutral tones into her colour scheme when it came to styling a lounge room.

"Burberry oozes classical style," says Ferrari. "This range showcases beautiful drapery of the fabric in soft pastel hues, giving the classic Burberry aesthetic a more contemporary twist. The interior incorporates classical furniture, such as the sofa, with touches of soft pastel green and polished floorboards for a contemporary take on a classic look."

The neutral tones were also prominent in the Chloé range – from oatmeal to milky caramel fabrics that, when combined in a home setting, add a syrupy warmth. Ferrari has created a home interior that matches the earthy beige hues evident on the catwalk. "I believe a home that reflects your personal style will reward you with both physical comfort and visual pleasure," she says.

The recent teaming of textile expert Lee Jofa with luxury brand Oscar de la Renta is a sure sign that home interiors are about to take a walk down sophisticated lane. Who said couture was only destined for the catwalk? It can now find its way into your home, too. Oscar de la Renta is known for his love of fabrics such as silk, linen and ethnic-inspired prints and weaves on silk and cotton blends and, when teamed with Jofa's vision, they will no doubt make luxurious home-furnishing options.

Oscar de la Renta is not the first to enter the home-interior market – there is Dame Vivienne Westwood, who created wallpaper with a difference a few years ago; Ralph Lauren, who had a shot at homewares; Paul Smith, who even opened a furniture shop in Mayfair; and let's not forget Rosita Missoni's beautiful mosaics, home sheets and bedding, rugs and table liners. \

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