



Sitting Pretty

A great sofa is not only a stunning focal point in a sitting room, it's essential for cosying up in the winter!

“If there was such a thing as an investment piece in the living room, then the sofa would definitely tick the box,” stated Neil Partridge, Co-Director at NGI Design. “The seating in a living room is absolutely vital for the enjoyment of the space and it’s essential that it’s not only stylish, but inviting and comfortable.

“It warrants a good investment as it needs to be well made to ensure it can offer the longevity that is expected. It’s also worth picking a neutral colour such as a trendy grey shade so that it can coexist with the current and future design schemes. The Italians are masters at creating luxurious sofas that stand the test of time as the shapes are clean and uncomplicated and the materials are beautiful and durable.”

You have to consider how you will get any seating into the intended room!

“Modular sofas are ideal as they are comprised of individual pieces which can be easily manoeuvred and then fit together,” added Neil. “This also lets you have much more freedom in the design process as you can create an arrangement that works for that specific space and client.”

Though personal tastes vary, all clients want their lounge to serve as a hub for relaxing, entertaining and even working.

“Three fashion driven trends currently stand out,” said Stephen Gee, Creative Director at Poliform North. “The luxurious Armani or London look featuring naturals such as wood, linen, silk and marble or stone, with a conservative colour palette. Sofas are feather filled for that opulent plump look. For a family living room, colour is more playful ▼



Parker & Farr's Boutique Collection



Modular sofa by Zanotta (NGI Design)

▲ with contrasting walls and more daring choices for rug patterns or fabric coverings for practical sofas.

“For the minimalist ‘less is more’, featuring plain white walls and emphasis on beautiful form rather than function with low sofas, lounge chairs, accent tables, and sleek cabinets in ebony or high gloss.”

Across the three trends the focal style of the room is set by the design of the sofas and lounge chairs. “Where space permits,” added Stephen, “blockbuster sofas are created using two straight sofas to form an L shape for maximum comfort and function.”

The Sofa and Chair Company supply their iconic furniture creations to both residential and commercial properties alike. In both arenas, they have observed a growing trend of clients wishing to express a certain stylistic identity through the furnishings they choose.

“Clients after a luxury piece of furniture are no longer looking at a sofa from one company and a dining table from another one,” claimed Julien Sannier, Commercial Director for The Sofa and Chair Company. “They are looking for inspiration; a lifestyle rather than just a piece or two. They want to belong to a look, whether it is minimalist, shabby chic or timeless. Clients in love with our look and feel now wish to follow our recommendations as well. They see the way we present our furniture in our show rooms; with our lamps, rugs, accessories and ornaments, and they want to reproduce a similar look in their homes.”

Having studied the History of Art along with the history of furniture, Virginia White has always been passionate about ▼



Vetro from The Sofa and Chair Company

▲ Georgian pieces of furniture. The delicate proportions and simplicity of lines of her furniture are reminiscent of Georgian Country House furniture, but also have a very modern, chic and pared down feel to them.

Designed to fit with other groups of furniture the Irish Sofa sits on tiny bronze C18th style castors, so there is a feeling of mobility. The frames look delicate and spidery, whilst being extremely strong – built to 18th century methods of traditional upholstery, you will not find a screw or nail in these pieces!



Virginia White's Irish Sofa

▲ The frames are made of Grade 1 Beech Wood, hand jointed using dowels and dove tail joints, jute webbing and curled horsehair filling the seats, these pieces are made as if they were 200 years old. Built to last and to appeal to those who hark back to the quality of yesterday whilst loving the modern simplicity of their style, they are perfect in an eclectic setting.

Max Clements, expert designer at luxury furniture manufacturer Parker & Farr, shares his predictions with us for what to look out for this Autumn and Winter.

“A lot of this season’s colour trends for sitting rooms have taken inspiration from the glamour of the Parisian catwalks,” he said. “Expect to see glowing bronzes, coppers and lively corals, all of this season’s fiery autumnal shades bleeding into the metallic shine of winter, giving a cooler, more contemporary edge to interiors.”

Fifty shades of grey isn’t just a novel! People are really beginning to have fun with all its respective tones, gun metal, silver and charcoal, combined with strong accent colours like orange and deep fuschia, work surprisingly well.

“Expect the return of older print techniques,” Max continued. “The improvement in digital technology used for reproducing archive designs is undeniable. Developments allow access to inspirational vintage prints going back to the mid-twentieth century. As a result, we anticipate pieces inspired by such patterns as Willow pattern and Delft china.”

Although the sitting room is comfort-central throughout the year, it’s always as the nights draw in that the cosiness you can create with a great sofa comes in to its own – add a log fire (if at all possible) and a faux-fur throw, and we’re happy to stay in until spring!

