A darker paint colour turns your wall into a new canvas

ASK A DESIGNER | ADRIAN BATTISBY

Q "How can I update my sitting room without losing all my old furniture?" **Olivia,** Jebel Ali

A Keeping your current pieces whilst updating your look requires a little forward planning, but is totally workable," says Adrian, Senior Interior Designer for LWD Interiors. "Look to existing palettes in your sofa upholstery and drapery—these are going to give you the key colours to work from." He notes: "The most impactful and cost-effective change to a room is the colour of the walls, and decorating them can bring a whole new atmosphere to a room. The paint department at ACE have plenty of samples of selected colours to try at home. When purchasing paint, remember to take a loose sofa cushion with you or swatches of your existing upholstery colours to coordinate with." And stray from the norm! "Don't be shy with some of the darker paint colours—it's very on-trend to have a more moody neutral colour on your walls—with abundant natural light in the UAE, especially at this time of year, you don't need to worry about the room appearing gloomy. I've just decorated my living room a beautiful dark grey which works so well with my light cream tiled flooring and cream sofa." If a re-paint is too costly, look to the tiles. "Floor rugs are a good way to add more depth and richness to your space. Look out for well-priced rugs at Dubai Outlet Mall, Ikea and Merinos." *See more of Adrian's work at www.lwdesigngroup.com*

Try This Trend
VICTORIANA

We love these feminine, soft furnishings that will transform your bedroom into an ornate boudoir.

• Bring a regal feel to your home with this **Fleur-de-Lis cushion, Dhs119, Lifestyle.**

• This end-table brings elegance and style to any room. **Note To Self table, Dhs5,900, Bloomingdale's Home.**

• A picture can say a thousand words, and we love the embellishments on this pretty **picture frame, Dhs81, 2XL Furniture.**

• You're bound to come up smelling sweet with this Cocoa and Vanilla reed diffuser kit from **The Aromatherapy Co, Dhs55, @Home.**

• Put the 'spring' into spring cleaning your closet with this fab **Grange Peony chest, Dhs22,204, Carpe Diem.**

• These espresso and coffee cups are perfect for a mid-morning pick-me-up. **Dhs90 for similar, 2XL Furniture.**

• This dainty, wallpaper imitation carpeting pattern screams Victoriana style. **Dhs5,763 per metre, The Rug Company.**