



Above Gold Clock, £40 from Debenhams.
Tel: 08445 616161 or visit www.debenhams.co.uk

Regency revival

Think *Pride and Prejudice* and all things gloriously Jane Austen and you are sure to conjure up ideas of elegance, poise and plenty of English tradition.



Above Georgian four poster bed in mahogany, 5' x 6'6" size £2,995, also available as 5'6", 6', 6'6" and 7' from And So To Bed. Tel: 0808 144 4343 or visit www.andsoebed.co.uk

Right The Sultana Room at Attingham Park. The room takes its name from the sofa or 'sultane' in the alcove. This is one of the few rooms where the Regency silk survives.

The Regency look is beautiful, classic, inspiring and can look fabulous in any property. Whether you want small touches or full-on Regency style, you will not have a problem with incorporating this perfectly into your home.

The style

Regency is full of intriguing and alluring influences that look nothing short of spectacular. As the style developed, the decorating themes in terms of colour became lighter and eventually developed into a more recognisable Regency style.

Lizz Cann, Design Director at Zoffany says: "Simplicity and elegance... In textiles, it's the classic equal stripe of satin and tabby and medallions with lots of ground around the motif. Furniture is elegant and shows the look of the Etruscan, Graeco- Egyptian look i.e. the Pompeii and Herculaneum discoveries."

The walls

This is where you can really make a statement. Consider prints from early Georgian decorating and simple, but adventurous, geometric patterns for the later Regency style. Stripes and squares look fabulous in Regency colours, such as pale greens, blues and reds.

One colour that is not typical of this period is white. It was very rare to see walls painted in this shade, so if you don't want bold colours, just opt for lighter shades to still create an element of the look, but without feeling OTT.

If you want to add a touch of colour using paint then opt for light shades of blue, green, creams and pinks.

Think floral for wallpapers; Damask prints look gorgeous and if you feel that this bold pattern is too strong for the whole room then add a contemporary twist and create a statement wall. Consider making one wall stand out with a brown and cream Damask print, then paint the other walls with a plain cream paint, creating a modern touch of Regency.

All in the details

Firstly think fabrics, geometric and coloured. Lizz Cann states: "Plain or striped fabric for curtains with trims, which are simply swagged, loop the top and a fall for side swags."

Continue this style by covering simple, but elegant, furniture with a striped pattern. Cover the seat of a white chair with some coloured and white fabric. Red looks fabulous and fits nicely with the elaborate, royalty feel, and divine with lavish, sweeping curtains.

Extravagant and ancient influences are key. Big gold frames are a must-have; the bigger and the more elaborate, the better. If you have some favourite paintings then make them a talking point of the room by framing them in this bold way. >>



WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF REGENCY?

Strictly speaking this style follows the Regency Act of 1811 when George III's eldest son became George, the Prince Regent. However, style-wise Regency is used for a much wider period. It really flourished in the late 18th Century and the early 19th Century. This style gracefully comprises simplicity, such as clean colours, but with an extravagant mix of ancient classics, such as Greek, Roman and Egyptian. And not forgetting the Regency stripe and Damask prints.

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