

YOUR ULTIMATE  
GUIDE TO THEENGLISH  
AUTUMN**LEFT** Enriching details

Just as a wardrobe can never have too many shoes, so, most would agree, a home can never have too many cushions. Swapping light and airy fabrics for more textural and densely patterned alternatives is one of the simplest way to inject a more intimate ambience into a formerly summer fresh scheme. These rather exotic paisley weaves bring a classic and even slightly colonial vibe to a drawing room. And because the patterns offer a multitude of colours, they will sit comfortably against vastly differing tastes in background colours from soft cream or duck egg to richer golds, russets of period reds, as well as magnifying the drama of tan leather and wood-paneled walls.

Cushions in Duke Paisley in Cardamom, Duke Paisley in Pecan, Sun Bleached Paisley in Dew, all £113 a metre, de Le Cuona.

**ABOVE** Artful backdrop

In modern times, dazzling white has become de rigueur for showing off artwork to best effect. Yet ironically that dazzling crispness often overwhelms the sensitive subjects on display. Visit any gallery of classical works and you will notice the walls are painted infinitely more subdued hues of rich reds and subtle blues. Likewise, a smokey tobacco, donkey brown or olive, like this paint inspired by the dawn light in Sissinghurst Castle's Orchard Meadow, allows artwork (and your accessories) to take centre stage. It also offers the added bonus of creating a cocoon-like mood, perfect for a library or family snug.

Walls painted in Castle Meadow Hardwearing emulsion, £31.50 for 2.5 litres; woodwork in acrylic eggshell, £15.50 for 1750ml, both the National Trust collection from Fired Earth.