



Ask an expert

SEE THE LIGHT

Create lovely, light-filled interiors to warm your days, writes *Kate Nixon*.

With winter's arrival and all of us spending more time in our homes than ever before, the concept of cosying up and bringing the light in calls for creative interior solutions. We want the comfort of well-insulated windows and energy-efficient heating solutions without the gloom of heavy window treatments and hefty electricity bills. It's winter done the Australian way – maximum natural light and minimum fuss for easy everyday seasonal living. ▶

Send decor questions (with name and address) to H&G Advice, PO Box 4088, Sydney, NSW 1028 or email H&G@bauer-media.com.au.

Additional text by Elizabeth Wilson.

Fresh ideas & easy updates

- ✦ A white palette might be cool in summer but it can also elevate a cosy winter scheme. Use cushions, throws and floor rugs in luxurious textures to layer and soften.
- ✦ A sheer window treatment such as the clever Luxaflex LumiShades (pictured) offers a layer of warmth in an open-plan living area, keeping the view to the outside and bringing the natural light in.
- ✦ Occasional lighting adds an inviting ambience in the cooler months – consider pendants, floor and table lamps, wall sconces and candles.
- ✦ Gather furniture close to windows where you will spend time sitting and socialising. We are naturally drawn to the light and gravitate towards areas bathed in sunshine or with a view to the outdoors.

"We wanted this sitting room to feel tranquil and inviting," says Lana Taylor of Three Birds Renovations (threebirdsrenovations.com), the team responsible for transforming this Sydney home with a dreamy white-on-white scheme. For the window treatment they selected vertical LumiShade blinds by Luxaflex. "It was important the window coverings created a soft glow while still offering privacy," Lana says. Bermuda chairs, Alfresco Emporium. For similar coffee table, try Globe West. Palm Springs chandelier, Gypset Cargo.

"WE'VE ALWAYS HAD A MAJOR CRUSH ON THE LUXAFLEX LUMISHADES BECAUSE THEY'RE FUNCTIONAL AND FABULOUS. YOU CAN TWIST THE PANELS OPEN OR CLOSED, AND YOU CAN EVEN WALK STRAIGHT THROUGH THEM - WHICH IS PERFECT WHEN YOU HAVE THEM HUNG ACROSS DOORS AS WE DO HERE."

LANA TAYLOR, THREE BIRDS RENOVATIONS

The trio from Three Birds Renovations devised this dining space for homeowners who love to entertain, so the focus was on creating a roomy, light-filled space. Luxaflex LumiShades amplify the natural light falling on the table, offering the versatility of a vertical blind with the elegance of a soft window furnishing. Meanwhile, the large linen pendant lights over the dining table add intimacy and a point of focus to everyday dining. Cupid dining table, Loop bench seat and Le Corbusier chair, all from The Wood Room. Pendant lights, Côte Salt. ▶

Fresh ideas & easy updates

- ✦ Mix and match dining furniture for a layered, eclectic feel. Timber adds warmth to any palette and softens an all-white scheme.
- ✦ Bring the outdoors in with fresh foliage and flowers. Embrace the cooler seasons with earthy natural objects and sculptural branches.
- ✦ A painted Gyprock pelmet around the perimeter of a room does double duty as a contemporary cornice and neat disguise for the window treatment tracks and fixings.
- ✦ With technology in the home more integrated and discreet than ever, motorised blinds can be installed (in new builds or retrofitted) for a convenient, cordless solution. You can pre-program and pair them with additional smart technology such as apps or voice assistants. With Luxaflex PowerView Motorisation, for example, you can program your blinds to operate on their own throughout the day, and it's compatible with Apple HomeKit, Google Assistant and Amazon Alexa.

Fresh ideas & easy updates

- ✦ Smart Pirouette shades from Luxaflex (pictured left) allow the flexibility of filtered daylight or room darkening with a crisp, contemporary aesthetic.
- ✦ Nothing says cosy like a layered bed. Think double quilts, chunky throws and a medley of oversized cushions, pulled together by a tonal palette.
- ✦ Quilts are available in down, feather, silk, wool and synthetic. With our temperate Australian climate, opt for a summer weight you can use all year around and layer with an extra blanket through the winter months.
- ✦ Let the first and last thing your feet touch at the beginning and end of a winter's day be a fluffy rug. It is the ultimate winter luxury. A small sheepskin beside the bed will do the trick; a colourful Beni Ourain (opposite) is even better.
- ✦ Luxaflex Duette shades (opposite) in blackout opacity are the perfect nursery companion offering complete blackout for baby's naps, insulation from heat and noise and a neat, pleated fabric design which tucks away to maximise natural light.

"This main bedroom had to feel like a retreat – the ultimate parents' escape," says Lana Taylor of this project in the Byron Bay hinterland. "The room is surrounded by huge glass windows that showcase the landscape, so we wanted blinds that would allow us to see through the panels to the trees outside and then also switch to a room-darkening effect for that important Sunday sleep-in. Pirouette shades from Luxaflex do this brilliantly." Blush quilt cover and pillowcases, I Love Linen. Shabby velvet throw, House of Orange.

**GET THE LOOK**

FROM TOP The Daisy Flower/Petal chair, \$259.60, La Casa Vita. Vintage linen fringed cushion in Tobacco, \$59.95, Aura Home. Vickers polyresin and rattan side table, \$2175, Boyd Blue. Signe Kiko Azilal handwoven wool rug, \$2600, Tigmi Trading. ▶

"ANYONE WITH A BABY KNOWS HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO HAVE CONTROL OF LIGHT IN A NURSERY. THESE LUXAFLEX DUETTE SHADES DARKEN THE ROOM BEAUTIFULLY." LANA TAYLOR



GET THE LOOK
FROM TOP Bjork wool blanket in Natural, \$169.95, Nordic Fusion. Pikralida Blue Hexagonal encaustic tile, POA, Teranova. Brass tray, \$69.95, Alfresco Emporium. Blue Hamptons cushion cover, \$37.50, Thread Candy. *For Where to Buy, see page 176.*

“WE WANTED TO GIVE THIS HOME A HAMPTONS-INSPIRED LOOK, AND NOTHING QUITE SAYS HAMPTONS LIKE WHITE SHUTTERS.” LANA TAYLOR

“Luxaflex PolySatin shutters were important in achieving a Hamptons look for this master suite,” says Lana of this Sydney renovation undertaken by Three Birds Renovations. A colour palette of white and blue adds to the theme. Patterned cushions, Florence Broadhurst Fabrics. Quilt cover and sheets, Freedom. Lulu linen throw, Sea Tribe. **OPPOSITE** “The shutters are moisture-resistant, so we were able to put them in the ensuite bathroom too,” she says. Garden Island mosaic floor tiles and Marley Beach wall tiles, Tile Cloud.

Fresh ideas & easy updates

- ✦ Luxaflex PolySatin shutters, pictured this page and opposite, are constructed from a UV-resistant polyresin compound, so they're virtually maintenance-free. Made in Australia, the shutters are backed by a 20-year warranty and guaranteed to never blister, flake or fade.
 - ✦ Bifold shutters are a clever privacy solution for an ensuite bathroom, providing flexible privacy, light and ventilation.
 - ✦ The white shutter is an enduring classic but consider a colour tonal with a feature wallpaper, bedhead or bedlinen to cosy up your room.
 - ✦ For a more layered look, hang curtains in front of your shutters allowing ample space either side (ideally 30-35cm) for stacking, so as not to block the light.
- For more advice on window treatments, go to luxaflex.com.au. H&G*

