

## How to design a living room – expert advice on planning and decorating

Find out how to design a living room perfect for everyday life and entertaining



(Image credit: Creative Tonic Design)

Knowing how to design a living room *is* important. After all, living rooms are spaces at the center of our homes – metaphorically if not literally. They're rooms used daily by every member of the household but they're also the spaces into which we welcome friends as well as the extended family.

While living rooms may not be as exacting as kitchens when it comes to their design, their twin uses as both family and entertaining area, plus the hours we spend in them, mean they demand thoughtful and informed design. Layout, furniture, flooring, and decoration must all be carefully considered to create comfort, intimacy, welcome, practicality and durability.

To find out how to design a living room read on, and find more to inspire your scheme in our [living room ideas](#) feature.

## HOW DO I START DESIGNING MY LIVING ROOM?



(Image credit: Etch Design Group)

‘Start with inspiration,’ says Stephanie Lindsey of Austin-based [Etch Design Group](#). ‘With any project, do your research on the best functional solutions and the aesthetic options that are the perfect fit for you. Whether it’s a functional requirement or a favorite picture you see in a magazine, we always start the design with initial inspiration images. Discuss budget and get technical with numbers, and have a lot of fun viewing and analyzing inspiration images to really hone in on what your goals are.’