

A warm glow

Dietske van Kessel's elegant Hawke's Bay living room was described as "beautifully executed with a wonderful storytelling quality" by NZ House & Garden Interior of the Year judges. Dietske designed it as a room in which to "relax and while away time staring at the flames of the gas fire, looking at the views or just admiring the colours, antiques, paintings and silverware".



**Finalist
LIVING
ROOM**



Formally done

Yellow takes on an elegant vibe in this formal-but-not-stuffy sitting room. The buttery walls add character and warmth. Earthy reds, greens and browns anchor the room's welcoming colour scheme.

Clever furniture placement makes all the difference in a social room such as a lounge. Here, chairs are grouped around a fabric-covered ottoman and focused on the fireplace.

Patterns, colours and accessories are all sources of texture. Although there are many colours in this very successful room, they all have a muted quality that helps to give the space a relaxed feel. The Farrow & Ball wallpaper and curtains were brought out to New Zealand by the homeowners when they left Holland.

Artworks hung no higher than eye level help emphasise the ceiling height and scale of this comfortable space. Owner Dietske van Kessel says the room provided an excellent structure to work with: high ceilings, generous skirting boards, sash windows and panelling.

JANE USSHER