



GOING GREY

Is grey the perfect neutral? According to *Shades of Grey* (no, not that book; another one) by Kate Watson-Smyth, it's so chic it's set to be the base colour of the decade. It's also one of the most difficult to get right, because the eye can detect 500 varieties. This excellent book – written for the UK market, so replace mentions of “north-facing” with “south” – gives you context, elucidation and illumination with sound advice and stunning pictures. ●

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» *Shades of Grey: Decorating with the most elegant of neutrals*, by Kate Watson-Smyth, \$49.99 (Ryland Peters & Small)

GREAT TIPS FROM THE BOOK

- 1 To find the best shade, consider room direction, the time of day you will be there and the prevailing weather.
- 2 Choosing a pale grey for a south-facing room (in Melbourne) is tricky, because many shades will look cool. Embrace its cosiness by picking a strong shade of grey and put it on every wall.
- 3 The southern hemisphere can handle bright, hard colour ... closer to the equator, where the light is intense and clean, cooler greys with blue, green and violet undertones work better.
- 4 What goes with grey? Everything. As long as your base notes don't jar, you can pair grey with almost anything, from neons to pastels.
- 5 The most important question is: do you use your space mainly during natural daylight hours or artificially illuminated evening hours?

Certain shade: The home of Karina, Victor and George Bjerregaard Chen in Denmark. This room is painted in Manor House Grey by (paint specialist) Farrow & Ball and is a “definite” grey – it looks grey in all lights. The strong colour works well with clean lines and strong architectural features. (JAN BALDWIN)



LOOK BOOK

LAMP

Zelig Terra floor lamp, \$1379, from ECC Lighting + Furniture



ARTWORK

Dangled, \$11,000, by Marise Maas. Upcoming exhibition from April 19 at Flinders Lane Gallery

CHAIR

Kenneth Cobonpue Croissant lounge chair, handwoven, from \$2546, from KE-ZU



VASE

Light & Flowers clear Tulip vase, 227mm, \$72.95, from Villeroy & Boch

CUSHIONS

Epoque Sequin large cushion in stone, \$249, and Geo Deco large cushion, \$169, both 50cm x 50cm, by Megan Park



TABLE

Bowry reclaimed wood console table, finished by hand, \$1469, from Pottery Barn

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