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Every issue we show you how to make the most of your decorating schemes. This month, put together a well-balanced space



Symmetrical rugs add balance to this Stiff & Trevillion space (020 8960 5550; stiffandtrevillion.com)

Broadly defined as the spatial relationship of one thing to another, proportion in interior design is the way that your furniture, fittings and accessories work together. It can be elusive – more often than not it comes down to what feels right – but when it's done correctly, a well-designed room should have a balanced collection of items that seem comfortable together and

draw the eye through the space, filling it without looking crowded or sparse. A room with good proportions will feel satisfying and calm, while an uneven scheme will seem jarring, cluttered or disorganised.

There are plenty of ways to improve the sense of balance in a space. Choose furniture and accessories that align with each other and with the room they are in – a sofa that is the same width as an opposite window frame or

hearth, for example, will feel well balanced. If you are renovating an open-plan area, consider separating it into evenly sized zones, which reflect each other and give symmetry and focus. In the living space above, two clearly defined areas are separated by glazed partitions, but kept in proportion by symmetrical rugs. Changes in scale can also have a bold effect – large geometric prints add interest to an otherwise neutral scheme. →