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PAINT IT BLACK

Don't be afraid of the dark! Here, we explain how to create a black feature wall and accessorise with the best monochrome fabrics and furnishings

Used to coat an entire wall black, the 'queen of all colours' as artist Pierre-Auguste Renoir described it, can have quite an impact. The trick to applying this light-absorbing shade in a way that doesn't overpower a room is to use a limewash that is loaded with pigment, producing a soft, velvety texture. Francesca Wezel, founder of Francesca's Paints, explains that paint dries 70 per cent lighter than it looks when wet and, if applied using criss-cross brush strokes, the finish will have natural light and shade. Try 'Coopers Creek', £87.88 for five litres, Francesca's Paints (francescaspaint.com).

Fabrics, from left 'Harbour Stripe' fabric, £100 per metre, Tori Murphy (torimurphy.com). 'K5137/02 Mallowland' cotton by Jon Burgerman, £55 per metre, Kirkby Design (kirkbydesign.com). 'Tagomago' silk, £118 per metre, Dedar (dedar.com)
Products, clockwise from top left '7380' large pendant light, £449, Davey Lighting (davey-lighting.co.uk). 'King' lamp, £1,490, De La Espada (delaespada.com). 'Acapulco' chair, £279, Voga (voga.com). 'Borghese' sofa, £1,740, Natuzzi (natuzzi.co.uk). 'Vanitas Matelasse' cushion for Versace, £235, Lux Deco (luxdeco.com). 'Black Tall Timber' bowl, £135, St Barts (st-barts.com.au). Rattan stool, £175, Alexander & Pearl (alexanderandpearl.co.uk)