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FORMAL INVITATION

45 With extremely high ceilings, a strong sense of symmetry and gorgeous walnut parquetry, this living room in a 1940s Sydney home had great bones but needed to relax a little. Stewart Horton selected a palette of blues for the soft furnishings and installed a Carrara marble fireplace. New brass chandeliers complement the original gilt mirror and a pretty rug anchors the space.

SMITTEN "The room is perfect for curling up on the sofa in front of the fire yet formal enough for entertaining," say the owners. "We love that it's not too stiff and formal but still feels very sophisticated."

TRY THIS AT HOME The pairing of sofas and accessories has a formality that's right at home in older house styles.

READ ALL ABOUT IT

46 This grown-up retreat in a home on Sydney's North Shore was designed purely as a room for relaxation. A library-style bookcase with ladder is in keeping with the home's period details. Furniture is decidedly sophisticated and the patterned rug with silk detailing is a subtle touch of luxury.

SMITTEN "This parents' oasis is one of my favourite rooms for its warmth and sophistication," says one of the owners. "The soft colour palette, comfortable seating and beautiful lighting entice us to linger."

TRY THIS AT HOME Create a zone away from the hustle and bustle with comfortable seating and books at your fingertips. Pick out mouldings in a contrasting colour to play up a room's structure and character. ➤

