



SOCIAL & PERSONAL
HOMES

Hand embroidered linen ostrich cushions
£28 each from Hedgera



WINTER'S *Simple* PLEASURES

Winter is all about layering up. The need to create a cosy, warm and restful retreat becomes strongest at this time of year. Best of all, it's as easy as it is natural to do

By **Rhona Roe**



Plantation table, €1,335, sits up to 18 guests

As autumn's evening light fades, I have once again found myself retreating to the sanctuary of the sitting room. Perhaps a natural nesting instinct, common to us all, has me bringing the big basket in from the shed to fill with logs and longing for the smell of wood smoke on dusky evenings. The need to create a cosy, warm and restful retreat becomes strongest at this time of year and "re-feathering our nest", so to speak, is as easy as it is natural to do. Even choosing the name 'Hedgeroe' for my shop was inspired by observing nature evoking change in our own moods. One of the first things I love to get started on is changing the cushion covers. It only takes ten minutes yet it transforms the mood of the room dramatically. Off with the cotton stripes and on with the wool and chenille. Strong rich colours are perfect and embroidery adds depth and texture. I also swap the artwork around; a favourite seaside

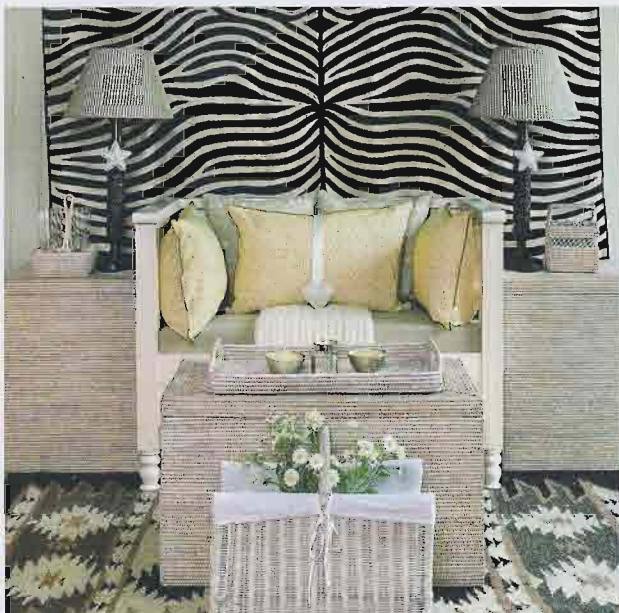
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Folding Chantarelle butler's table, €125



Rattan coffee table, €235



Above: Wilkam drop leaf table, €1,035, with Ciara cotton strip chairs, €238
 Left: Rattan log basket, €38, Iwan chest, €165



Bilberry hall bench, €550, and Rattan baskets, €40 each

watercolour gets replaced with a vivid oil painting of a plump aubergine. I have definitely found that bringing out a new Hedgeroe catalogue in spring and again in autumn helps to show how our furniture adapts to the changing seasons. Our website also has a section called "Create the Look" to help give even more ideas and we also host design workshop evenings at Christmas and Easter.

What could be more appealing than a crackling fire after returning from a country walk? I try to recreate the russet and cinnamon carpet of autumn leaves by placing a cheerful kelim in the centre of the room, on top of the existing large jute rug. Winter is all about layering up. Hedgeroe designs its own unique chain-stitched rugs, entirely hand embroidered with wool on a cotton backing, delicate yet sumptuous. A great way to cosy up any room is by using throws. I drape them over the back of sofas and chairs, making sure there are a couple left folded on the footstool, just in case anyone needs to wrap up while the fire flickers and spits into life.

Another must is a big coffee table; there should be enough room for candles, a jug of winter foliage, teapot, cups and plates for sandwiches. I know this may be rather indulgent, but I use a large rattan chest as my summer occasional table which gets stored away and replaced by the Hedgeroe 'William' coffee table once autumn arrives. This table can even take on a bunch of teenage boys using it as a resting place for tired feet in hiking socks as they curl into the sofa for a Saturday movie. Mostly, it is tweaks and little changes which reinvent my sitting room; a couple of extra table lamps and the log basket really do pull it all together. Candles which send their aroma of cinnamon and ginger around the rooms really give a feeling of wellbeing. ■



Riviera armchair, €575, Becca lamp, €70, and Becca side table, €220

All furnishings featured from Hedgeroe, Enniskerry Road, Kiltarnan, Dublin 18
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