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BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL



DESIGNER Kristina Lindhe, founder of Lexington, lexingtoncompany.com.

Ample natural light, neutral furnishings and blue and white accessories give the Lexington founder's Stockholm villa a laid-back, New England feel

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE SPACE? This living room is on the raised ground floor of my home in Bromma, just outside Stockholm. The house, which was built in 1929, is an Ornäs villa, a classic style of architecture originating from the Dalarna region. The room has two distinct zones – a living space with a dining area opposite – and opens directly on to a large terrace. The windows are wonderful, so I've left them unadorned: the trees filter the light so nicely that I decided they didn't need anything else.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION? Like all my schemes, this room is influenced by New England East Coast style. It's a part of the world that feels very familiar to me, probably because it was home to many Swedish settlers, so the look incorporates strong elements of Scandinavian design. I created a fresh, natural feel using primarily white pieces that maximise the available light. I can then change the accessories according to the seasons.

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CHOICE OF ACCESSORIES? My arrangement of cushions and throws is very important, and underpins my style. In summer, I use crisp blue and white pieces, which are swapped for darker, cosier designs in winter. I don't like to have many ornaments – just candleholders and hurricane lamps – as I prefer a clean, pared-back space.

HOW DID YOU PLAN THE SEATING? I didn't want to obstruct the windows, so the sofas are positioned to take full advantage of the garden view. They are also large, as we like to socialise. The armchair helps to demarcate the seating area, creating a natural passageway out to the terrace.

WHAT ARE YOUR TIPS FOR USING A PALE PALETTE? The sofas and armchair have washable slipcovers made from a very soft cotton and linen mix. I like to team white with wood: the parquet floor, piano, and coffee tables and side tables – made by my grandfather, who specialised in marquetry – all add warmth and texture to the room. In the evening, a mix of candles and floor and table lamps casts a lovely, ambient light.

WHAT ABOUT THE USE OF PLANTS IN THE ROOM? I think this is probably a typically Swedish approach. We have such an impossible climate that it is important for us to bring a sense of the outdoors right into the home, whatever the weather. □



FEATURE RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPH DARREN CHUNG

“
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SOURCES

Cushions and throws.

Lexington, lexingtoncompany.com. **Similar sofa.** Overbury Grand: **similar footstool.** Weybourne: both Sofas & Stuff, 0808 178 3211, sofasandstuff.com.

Similar armchair. Miss Daisy, Sofa Workshop, 0844 249 9161, sofaworkshop.com.

Similar glass hurricane lamps. Nordic House, 01872 223220,

nordichouse.co.uk.

Similar rug. Wool Bouclé in Ecrú with linen ivory border, Alternative Flooring, 01264 335111, alternativeflooring.com.

Similar floor lamp (left), Newton, Flamant at Design and Home, 020 7221 5567, flamant.com. **Similar parquet.** oak herringbone, Solid Floor, 020 7486 4838, solidfloor.co.uk.



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