



LIGHT FANTASTIC: Cole & Son Mariinsky Antique Mirror. From top, Vignola from the Coromandel Collection by Nina Campbell for Osborne & Little; Cilium wallpaper from Anthology; Gioconda from Osborne & Little.



A TIME FOR REFLECTION

As we head into autumn **Richard Bond** looks at how we can get more light into our homes.

Reflection is the key way to amplify both your natural and electric light over the coming months – not to mention your good mood.

We often talk about the importance of using mirrors to help bounce light into areas that might otherwise be dark. This can be achieved not only from a simple wall-hung mirror, but also by the inclusion of reflective materials in the surfaces of ornaments and furniture throughout the area.

If this sounds like a dusting and fingerprint nightmare, or you have concerns it might feel brash, you can tone down the overall effect by

opting for *églomisé* finishes, rather than clear mirror. *Verre églomisé* is a production technique where glass is gilded on the back with gold or metal leaf to provide subtle, muted reflection. The technique has been around for centuries and was particularly popular in the 18th century, but is experiencing a renaissance. The term now given to this technique appeared in the early 20th century and is derived from the name of Jean-Baptiste Glomy, a French picture framer who used the process in glass mounts.

Perhaps a more cost-effective way to introduce delicate reflection is

to use one of the metallic or beaded papers from the latest wallpaper collections. Nina Campbell has included a number of light-reflective designs in her Coromandel Collection for Osborne & Little. Vignola features an ornamental ogee trellis composed entirely of tiny beads, which provide delicate shimmer (£95 for a 10m roll, www.osborneandlittle.com). Her Gioconda design has flock on a reflective background, generating subtle light seduction (price as above).

If you fancy something more glass-orientated, Cole & Son has launched Antique Mirror in three shades (gold, “gilver” and silver). The design shows foxed metallic panels on a foil base paper: a wonderful way to create a cost-effective alternative to antique mirror tiles which would be

CHELSEA AT HOME

On September 22 and 23 at Chelsea Harbour Design Centre the general public can visit Focus/16: part of London Design Week. This is a chance to see 600 of the biggest names in international interior design all under one roof in 120 showrooms.

Visitors can engage with the industry's top creatives, access specialist expertise, view skilled craftsmanship at demonstrations and see first hand the new collections and product launches. Admission is free.

particularly effective in hallways and bathrooms (£85 for a 10m roll, www.cole-and-son.com).

My final wallpaper recommendation, Cilium, comes from the Anthology 04 collection and is based on an original artwork using folded and creased tissue paper.

This is reproduced in small blocks, with the texture and reflectivity of the mica and metallic background vinyl providing a modern, warming surface that you want to stroke (£114 for a 10m roll, www.anthology.uk.com). Experimentation and imagination are the key to incorporating light reflection, but the end results should reap rewards over the coming months.

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