

A GREY AREA

Colour consultant Samantha Bacon thinks shades of grey are the neutrals of the moment and are very trendy. Often overlooked as being dull and boring, she believes that greys can actually provide a very sleek and stylish background colour.



We tend to associate grey with sharp, contemporary decorating schemes but they can be just as effective in a country-style scheme as in a high-rise city apartment. Research by colour psychologists indicates that people with a preference for grey seek security, are agreeable and restrained. However, it's rarely a colour that people choose as a favourite one – it's just simply a sophisticated backdrop for other colours to shine.

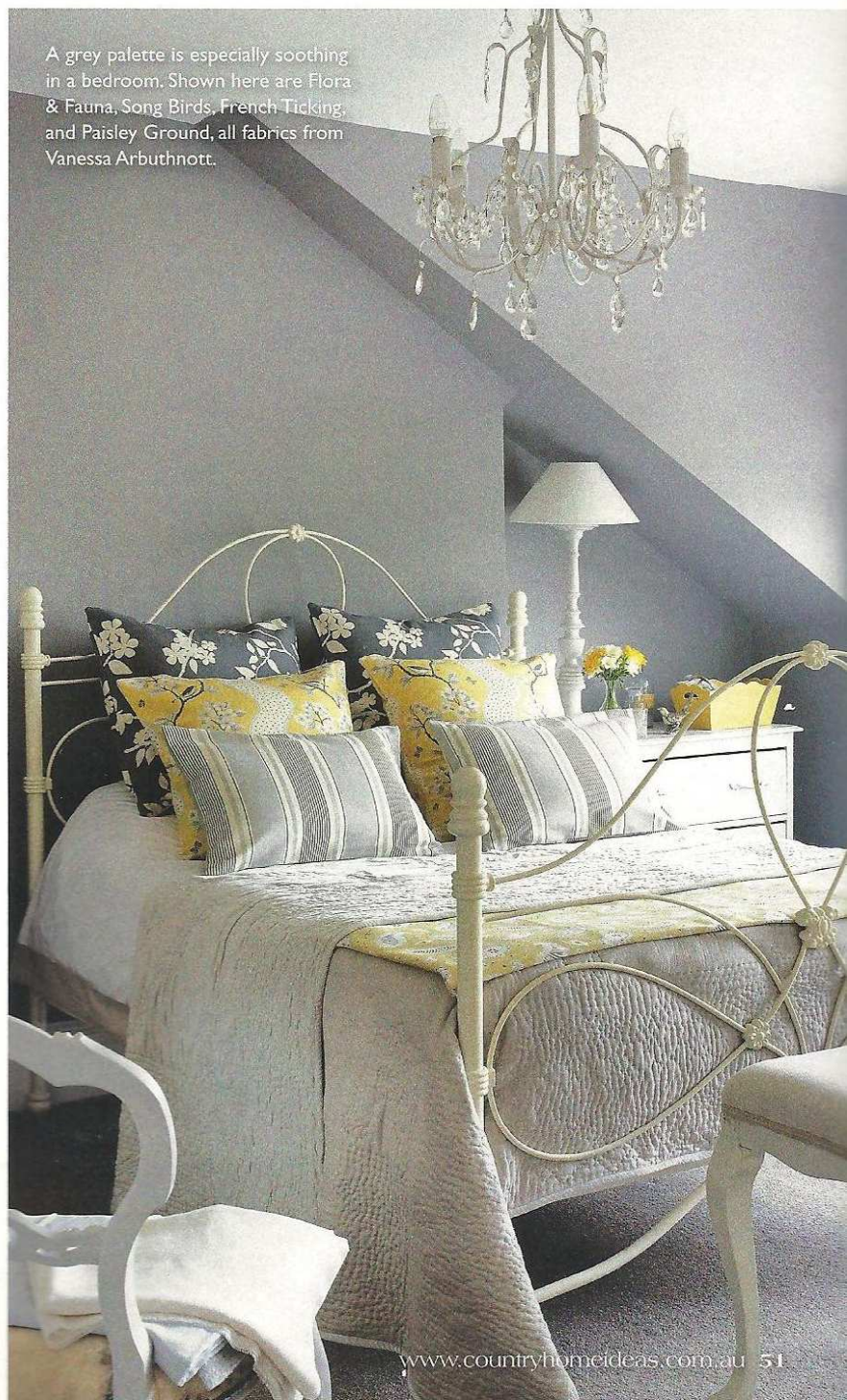
Warm greys are generally better for decorating when you want to achieve a soft look, so opt for those shades with a yellow or orange base rather than harsher green and blue-based greys. When you choose warmer greys, then yellow and orange will naturally work well, particularly as accent colours.

It's so important to consider the mood you want to achieve when decorating and this is where grey can really help you out. White always looks good with grey as it provides tonal variation and, in turn, creates an interesting look. However, if your walls are white with other white elements in the room, the mood will be quite different. The mood with white on white is light and airy, but grey brings a bit of drama to the look and changes the atmosphere.

Fabrics from Vanessa Arbuthnott work beautifully if you're after a country-style look, as shown in this beautiful bedroom – it's proof that grey can create a stunning look. Dulux Champignon and Doe are lovely warm greys that work well with yellow accents as their base is yellow. Rather than using a harsh white on the trim and ceiling, consider pairing these colours with quarter-strength Dulux Vanilla Quake.



▲ From left to right: Champignon, Doe and Vanilla Quake, all from Dulux.



A grey palette is especially soothing in a bedroom. Shown here are Flora & Fauna, Song Birds, French Ticking, and Paisley Ground, all fabrics from Vanessa Arbuthnott.