

HOME STYLE

THE CUSHION

Words: **CLARE GOGERTY**

There are some among us who don't see the point of cushions. These are the sort of people who sweep them off the sofa or a bed with a lofty paw, tut-tutting all the while about what a nuisance they are and how they have no purpose in the modern world. These are the sort of people who are misguided...

Wiser folk appreciate that cushions add a rich layer of decoration to the home and, contrary to the naysayers' opinions, are actually useful. Add a few to a sofa and you will have a comfortable place on which to rest your neck during a Netflix binge, and something to support your back or lay a tray upon when you want to sit up to enjoy a lazy pizza.

Cushions have been with us ever since we have felt the irresistible pull of having a nice sit down. These sacks filled with something soft – wool, hair, horsehair, feathers – appeared in palaces and great houses in medieval times, often boasting enormous dimensions and made of leather. The ideal perch for a potentate to lounge and issue orders, or to relax



“Introducing cushions into the home is a simple, joyful thing”

after a gut-busting banquet. Smaller versions – hassocks, bolsters, kneelers – were mostly used by the holy for praying but served the same purpose: to soften the business of getting down on the ground.

Introducing cushions into the modern home is, unlike other interior design choices, a simple and joyful thing. There has never been a greater choice of fabrics, colours, patterns and textures. Choose the right one and it will instantly perk up a room. And if you get it wrong, it can always be reassigned. When adding to a sofa, keep to odd numbers – three or five is best, any more will be annoying. Find a colour or pattern that complements rather than copies the colour of the room – this is your opportunity to be playful – and heap them up.

Beds benefit from ‘pillowscaping’ – the layering of cushions of various sizes in the manner of a hotel bedroom. This takes a little management but is totally worth it. As is plumping. Every cushion deserves to be plumped. Then it will look its best, whatever the cushion cynics may think to the contrary. **S**

THE UPDATE



Renaissance quilted grey cushion | £14

The quilting detail lifts this cushion from the ordinary to the really quite swanky. sainsburyshome.co.uk

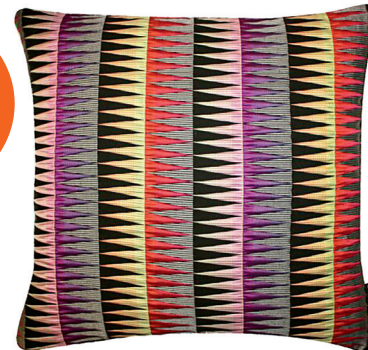
THE
CLASSIC



Irina embroidered cushion | £55

Has little orange tufts to add texture and colour. Will cheer up any sofa, no matter how tired. habitat.co.uk

TWO
GREAT
TWISTS



Suki cushion | £84

A beautiful, vibrant weave on both sides of the cushion. Comes with a duck feather insert. Luxe. margosellby.com