

# GALLERY VIEWS



**DESIGNER** Nicky Dobree, 020 7627 0469, [nickydobree.com](http://nickydobree.com).

Founder of The White Company Chrissie Rucker chose natural textures and neutral tones to create a warm, inviting feel in her Klosters penthouse

**WHAT ARE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A CHALET SCHEME?** The décor needs to reflect the Alpine surroundings and have a warm, authentic ambience – timber, different textures and roaring fires contribute to this. The challenge with this room was that it was vast and felt anything but chalet-like: there were terrazzo tiles on the floor and the galleryed area felt like a cold void, with no link to the living space below.

**CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE CHANGES YOU MADE TO THE ROOM?** The doorway opposite the chimney breast was moved and it is now centred on the fireplace for impact. Cookie-cutter embellishments around the doors were replaced with simple oak frames, pine panelling was stripped from the walls and the wood of the galleryed area was cleaned. To bring some much-needed warmth to the large space, the tiled flooring was replaced with pale oak boards.

**TELL US ABOUT THE COLOUR PALETTE.** Unsurprisingly, as this is the home of Chrissie Rucker, the brief was to work within her signature palette of whites and greys. Alpine light is bright, so it was important to get the right shade of white for the walls; we chose Farrow & Ball's All White. We then introduced touches of grey, charcoal and black with accessories. The chaise is in a black wool and the cushions on the sofa are a mix of black velvet and linen. These darker accents complement the artworks by Alex Calinescu in the hallway and the gallery above.

**PALE SCHEMES CAN LOOK COLD – HOW DID YOU AVOID THIS?** It all comes down to texture: every piece was chosen for its tactile quality. As well as using a lot of upholstery to add intimacy, we focused on finishes such as faux crocodile leather for the side tables, woven suede for the ottoman and sisal for the rug. The accessories, such as rough timber lamps and wicker baskets filled with sheepskins, add to the inviting feel.

**WHAT INFLUENCED YOUR CHOICE OF FURNITURE?** As skiing is a sociable activity, we chose a huge U-shaped modular sofa facing the fireplace and added an oversized ottoman overlapped with a simple glass table that provides a practical surface on which to place drinks.

**HOW DID YOU APPROACH THE GALLERY?** We furnished it as a library and study area, commissioning bespoke joinery to enhance its proportions. The pair of large bookcases draw the eye upwards and connect the two areas, so the gallery now feels like an integral part of the space. □

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## SOURCES

The Penthouse, Haus Alpina Switzerland is available to rent, call 01844 290438 or visit [haus-alpina-klosters.com](http://haus-alpina-klosters.com); Groundplace sofa in Extra Elios fabric, from £3,360; Antonio Gitterio for Flexform at Interdesign UK, 020 7376 5272; [interdesignuk.biz](http://interdesignuk.biz); Bespoke suede ottoman with glass table; faux crocodile side tables; bookcases; mirror; and rug, all Nicky Dobree Interior Design, 020 7627 0469; [nickydobree.com](http://nickydobree.com); Egg and Dart table lamp, £965; tall drum shade, from £187; Sybil table lamp, £515; Bajan Fez shade, from £250; large Pioche wall light, £622; Fez shades from £74 each; all Porta Romana, 020 7352 0440; [portaromana.co.uk](http://portaromana.co.uk); Similar throw, Carlyle throw, £100; sheepskin beanbag (gallery), £950; both The White Company, 020 3758 9222; [thewhitecompany.com](http://thewhitecompany.com); Walls in All White, Estate Emulsion; £38 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, 01202 876141; [farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com).

FEATURE: RACHEL LEEDHAM PHOTOGRAPH: PHILIP VILE

