



photography Shannon McGrath

A WARM EMBRACE

FOSTERING A SENSE OF WARMTH IN RESIDENTIAL INTERIORS CAN BE ACHIEVED IN MANY WAYS, FROM COSY FIREPLACES AND OUTDOOR BRAZIER TO NATURAL TIMBERS AND SNUG SOFT FURNISHINGS. ANNIE REID SPEAKS TO A HANDFUL OF ARCHITECTS AND DESIGNERS ABOUT THE WAYS IN WHICH THEY ESTABLISH WARMTH IN THEIR RESIDENTIAL PROJECTS.

Like moths to a flame, we are inextricably drawn to the light of an open fire. The fundamental need for warmth is indelibly ingrained in our psyches and the primitive ceremony of gathering around a fire remains with us today.

Thankfully, we've evolved since smoky fire pits in huts, and architects and designers now employ a range of tricks and techniques to spread warmth in our homes. Hecker Guthrie director, Paul Hecker, says warmth is an integral aspect of creating comfortable and liveable spaces. "And that can be achieved by anyone. Rugs are a very easy

device to create warmth and right now we are loving the idea of layering rugs over rugs." He adds that while fireplaces obviously work as a focal point, they can also provide a previously unused room with a reason for being.

This was the impetus for the studio's Park Street Residence, where a brick and natural stone surround was incorporated around an existing fireplace. "The visual appeal of this fireplace shifted immediately and, with some amazing furniture pieces also worked into the scheme, it is now a space the clients enjoy using," says Hecker.

Opposite—In their Park Street residence, Hecker Guthrie introduced new materials to an existing fireplace to achieve a relaxed domestic setting

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