

The English Home
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Perfect Ingredients FOR AN ENGLISH STUDY

Far from being purely a functional work space, the classic English study should be an enticing room for reading and relaxation where traditional furnishings sit alongside technological aids.

The Library Armchair

With its straight back and deep seat, the library armchair emerged in the eighteenth century says architect and designer Ben Pentreath. "A good library chair, even today, should allow you to sit and read in comfort, but not be so squishy that you fall asleep" he adds. Traditionally, such masculine chairs featured leather upholstery, and it is still possible, says Jorge Perez-Martin, of Brownrigg @ Home, specialist in antique leather chairs, to buy early nineteenth-century examples, with their original green or red leather upholstery intact. Look out for interesting variations in chair style, such as nineteenth century reclining armchairs.

For a good leather antique chair, it is possible to spend up to £2,000, but twentieth century club-style versions, often hailing from France, can be cheaper. Modern day library chairs with colourful fabric rather than leather add charm to a study.

