



SAMUEL & SONS | TAILOR MADE
Innovative Lighting Applications









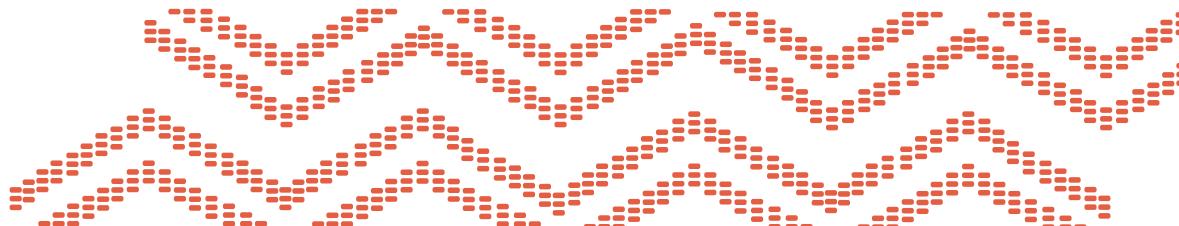
TRIM IN A NEW LIGHT

Lighting sets the ambience of a space, shaping how we experience form, color, and atmosphere. While light itself is essential, the details that frame it, whether a floor lamp, table lamp, or pendant, create an opportunity for thoughtful design.

Passementerie brings a distinctive layer of refinement to lighting, from subtle edge finishes that feel timeless and tailored, to fringe and tassel applications that add texture, movement, and personality. When layered creatively, trim can transform lighting from a functional object into a design statement.

This guide explores inspiring ways to incorporate passementerie into lighting, while also providing an overview of standard lampshade styles, applications, and essential trim terminology to support the creative process.

Samuel & Sons has long been the leader in the finest quality passementerie, offering an extensive selection of over 10,000 trims, opening endless possibilities for lighting design.



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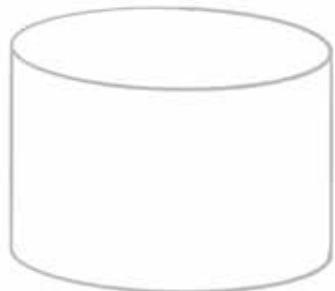
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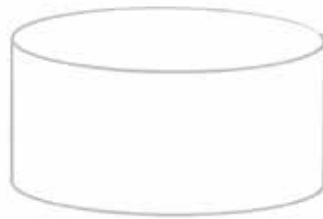


STANDARD LAMP SHADE STYLES

Lampshades are available in a wide range of shapes and sizes, from classic silhouettes to more tailored forms. Below are some of the most common styles found in the market. Each can be tightly covered in fabric or finished with pleating or ruching. Regardless of the shape, the addition of trim will enhance the design and bring the shade to life.



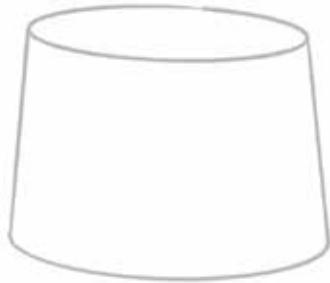
DRUM



SHALLOW DRUM



OVAL



TAPERED DRUM



EMPIRE



HORN



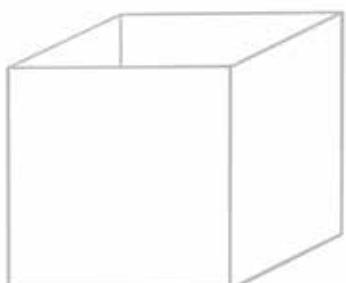
BELL



GALLERY



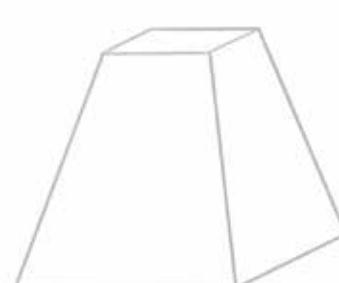
SQUARE INVERTED
CUT CORNER



SQUARE



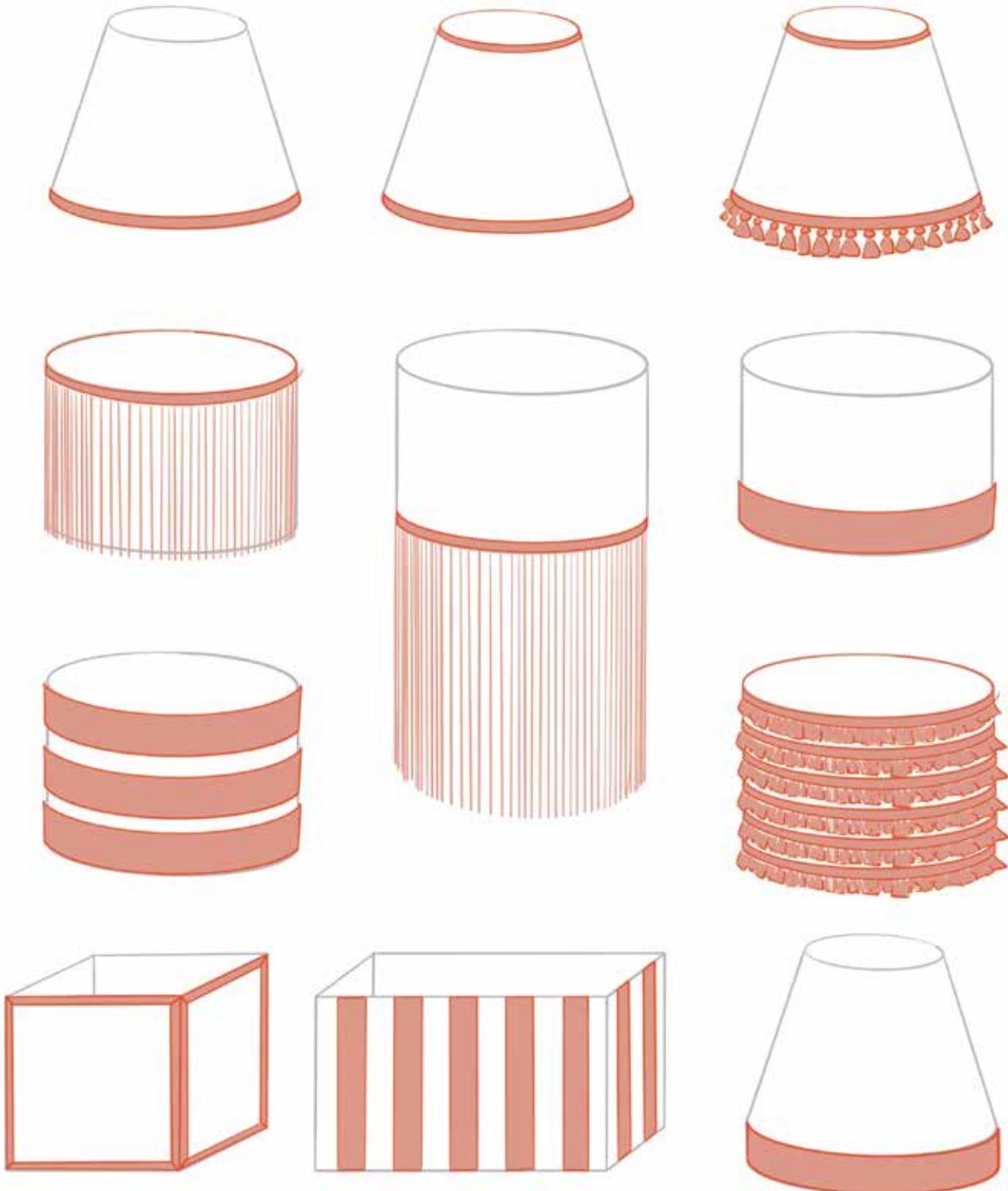
RECTANGLE



SQUARE TAPERED

STANDARD LAMPSHADE APPLICATIONS

While this book serves as a guide to a wide range of creative and decorative trim applications, below are the most common and foundational applications. Whether trim is applied at the top or bottom rim, or both, layered with shorter brush fringe, or used more dramatically with a longer fringe to cover the shade entirely, these standard applications form the basis for countless design possibilities. Even the simplest placement can transform a lamp from a functional object into a focal point in the room.



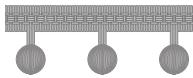


GLOSSARY OF PASSEMENTERIE



APPLIQUÉ

Refers to a form of embellishing in which individual pieces of fabric are layered on a ground cloth and then stitched in place using embroidery techniques. In French, appliquéd refers to “put on.”. Within the world of passementerie, appliqués can be individual decorative embroidered pieces, which can have a raised or flat profile and can be incorporated into drapery or upholstery applications similar to frogs and rosettes. Also, the technique of appliquéd is often used to create patterning on trimmings borders by adhering layers of fabric with embroidery on top of a contrasting ground.



BEADED FRINGE

A trim characterized by small, spherical fabric or thread beads evenly spaced along a header.



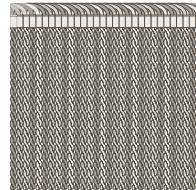
BORDER / TAPE / BRAID

A flat trim. It can come anywhere from 3/8" up to 3" or wider in width. Often used as a decorative element of draperies, upholstered furniture, pillows, etc. This includes ribbons and other, heavier weight flat decorative trims.



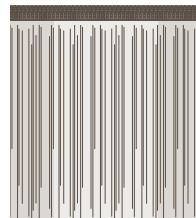
BRUSH FRINGE

A fringe made of cut yarns with a flat header that is typically inserted into the seam of fabric. It is called a brush fringe because it looks like a brush after it is applied. Traditionally used on the edge of pillows and sometimes as a detail in place of cord on upholstery. (Sometimes also referred to as moss fringe or marabout).



BULLION FRINGE

A long fringe made up of hanging strands of twisted rope. A 3" fringe might be used to follow the lines of a sumptuous drapery swag, whereas a longer fringe would be used at the base of upholstered sofa, chair, ottoman or table skirts etc. Standard lengths are 4 1/2" (12 cm) and 8 1/4" (21 cm)



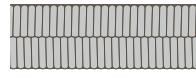
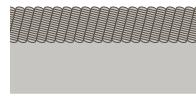
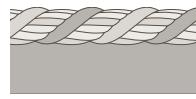
CHAINETTE

A fringe or trim that consists of a series of small, linked loops or chains made from materials like thread, cord, or beads.



CHAIR TIE

A decorative element composed of a rope with tassels on each end. Usually attached to a loose seat cushion and then tied around the back legs of the chair to keep the cushion in place on the chair.



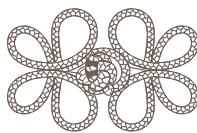
CORD / PIPING / WELT

A cord consists of a mixture of yarns which have been twisted to form a rope. This decorative rope is then used as piping around edges of upholstered furniture, or as an accent to other soft furnishings. Cords come in a number of different widths from 1/8" - 1/2" or larger, depending on the application and desired style. It can come with or without a “lip” or tape (which allows the upholsterer to sew the cord into the furniture’s seam easily). A cord that is not twisted and is simpler in structure is typically called a piping or welt.



FAN EDGE

A decorative trim characterized by a repeating fan-shaped pattern, which often gives a scalloped effect to the edge of its application.



FROG

A two-piece closure used for decoration made of cord that is wound in a decorative manner. One half of the frog housed the loop; the other houses the knot.



GIMP

A narrow decorative braid used to cover seams, raw edges and/or furniture staples. It is most commonly used on upholstered furniture with a wood frame where the fabric is nailed or stapled to the frame. The gimp is then glued over the nails/staples to hide where the fabric was attached. Gimps are generally about 1/2" wide or smaller. The difference between a braid and gimp is that a gimp is narrow.



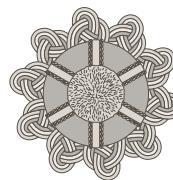
HOLDBACK

A large cord or braid used to hold back draperies to one side.



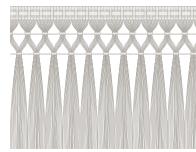
KEY TASSEL

A small decorative tassel used for accentuation. Often used as a decorative element attached to a key that is in a cabinet front or drawer front. Sometimes also attached to pillows.



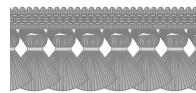
ROSETTE

A small circular decorative medallion that is used to provide decorative interest. It is typically used on pillows or as a detail on the valence (top portion) of a window treatment.



SKIRT FRINGE

A fringe, typically at the bottom edge of upholstered furniture, attached by its header with a skirt hanging below. The skirt is typically comprised of decorative elements, such as tassels or beads, that add a finishing touch and visual interest to the lower part of the item.



TASSEL FRINGE

An ornamental border consisting of tassels hanging from a header.



TASSEL TIEBACK

Single or double tassels attached to a looped cord, used to dress and hold back curtains from the window.



TUFT

A bunch of threads tied together at the center. Used as a decorative element in place of buttons on tufted furniture.



HOW TO APPLY TRIM TO A LAMP SHADE

When applying passementerie to lampshades: gimp, cords, fringes, and borders, the most refined finishes come from careful preparation and thoughtful application. The following professional guide, used by custom lampshade makers and workrooms, can be utilized for most common trim applications.

Q1

SURFACE PREPARATION

Before applying any trim, it is essential to start with a clean, dry surface. If the shade is fabric-covered, make sure the fabric is fully secured and smooth, or that pleating is complete, before adding trim. When precise placement is required, tailor's chalk may be used to mark measurements, or painter's tape can be applied to indicate consistent spacing and alignment without damaging the surface.

Q2

CHOOSING THE RIGHT ADHESIVE

Selecting the proper adhesive is important, as lampshades are exposed to both heat and gravity.

High-temperature hot glue is an industry standard and works particularly well for gimp and cords. Because hot glue sets almost immediately, it is best applied in small, controlled sections to ensure the trim makes full contact before the adhesive cools.

An alternative option is solvent-based fabric glue (such as Beacon Fabri-Tac or Magna-Tac). These adhesives are suitable for most trims, especially heavier ones. Their slower set time allows for adjustment, while still providing a strong, durable bond once dry.

White craft glues and silicone-based adhesives should be avoided, as they tend to bleed, discolor, or fail over time.

Q3

APPLICATION TIPS

- While trims can be applied in many creative ways, top and bottom edges are the most common placements. When working with multiple trims, starting from the bottom and working upward helps maintain visual balance and proportion.
- Heat considerations should always be considered: allow sufficient space between trims and the lightbulb and using LED bulbs is recommended to help preserve both the adhesive and trim over time.
- When layering trims, planning the order of application is just as important as the materials themselves. Deciding in advance which trims will be applied first ensures a seamless, professional finish.
- Fringes should always be dry-fitted before gluing, and adhesive should be applied only to the header, never to the fringe itself. Once dry, light steaming can be used to give the fringe a tailored, finished appearance.
- Maintain gentle tension while applying trim, but never pull or overstretch, as this can cause distortion later. To finish ends cleanly, fold them carefully; for flatter trims, cutting or folding at an angle creates a more refined, tailored look.
- Whenever possible, test the adhesive with the selected fabric and trim before full application to confirm proper adhesion and material compatibility. Excess glue, rushing the process, and overstretching can compromise even the most beautiful trim. With planning, patience, and the right tools, passementerie enhances a lampshade's form and craftsmanship, resulting in a finish that feels intentional, elegant, and custom made.



EDGE ACCENTS

Small details, lasting impact. From subtle cords and gimps to tailored borders, edge accents enhance the outline of a lampshade, keeping the design clean, classic, and full of character.



Studded borders and leather gimps bring a subtle sense of hardware to lampshades, adding structure and definition. These metallic details work especially well on simple silhouettes, where contrast becomes the focal point.

Design Tip







Design Tip



A scalloped edge may follow the contour of a scalloped shade using a soft, flexible gimp or fan edge, while applying scalloped trim to a straight drum adds movement and contrast.



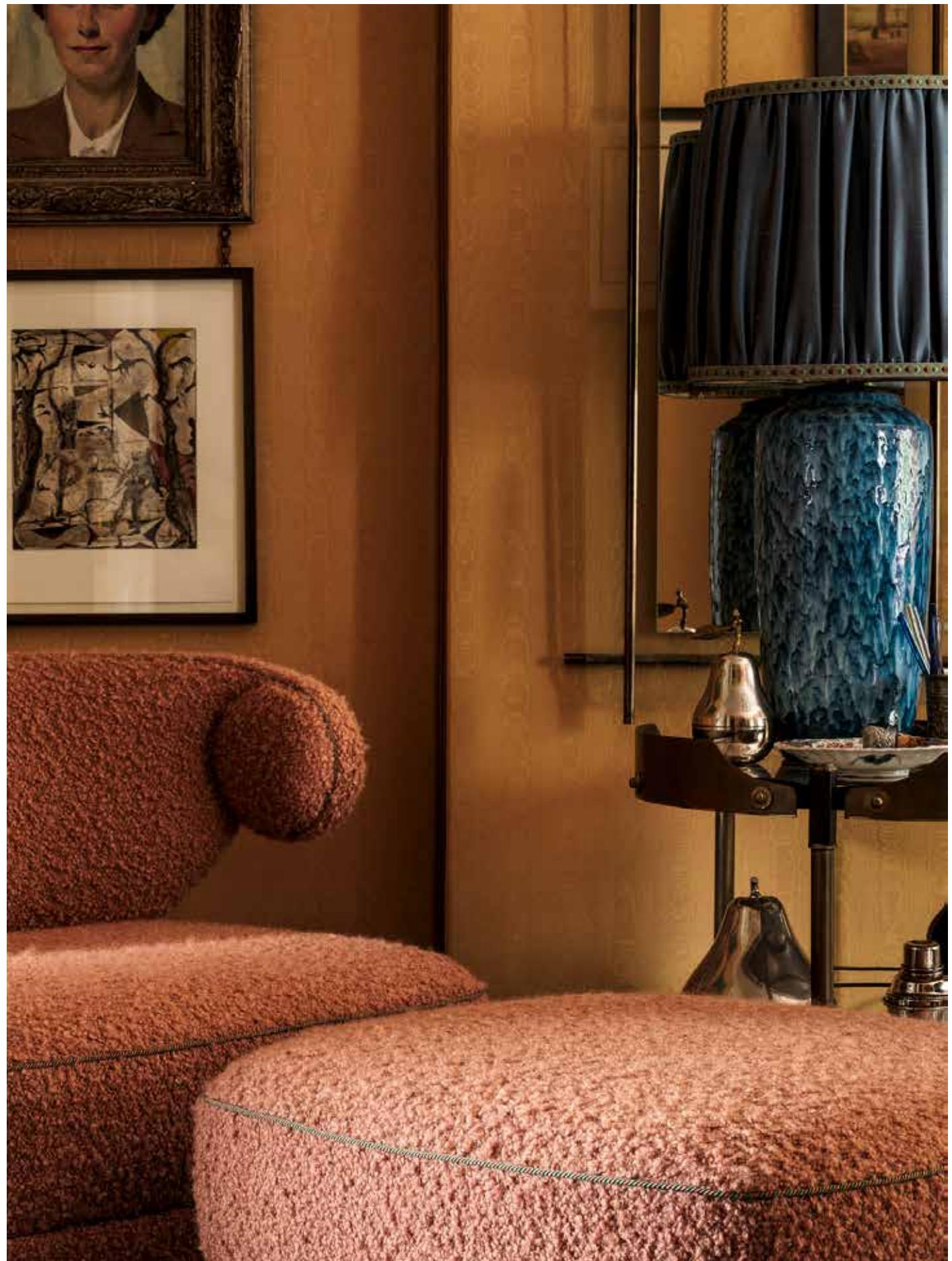


Design Tip

Small gimps and braids offer an easy way to finish almost any lampshade. Used in a matching color for a subtle edge or in contrast to add visual interest, these simple trims open the door to endless possibilities.















Pulling colors from the surrounding room: wallpaper, fabrics, rugs, or artwork, into the trim of a lampshade helps create a cohesive, layered look. Even subtle repetition can quietly unify the space.







Design Tip



Wider borders and Cretes are best suited to lampshade styles with a flat base, such as gallery shades or straight drums. The level edge allows the trim to sit cleanly and evenly, unlike angled shapes where wider trims can be more difficult to apply.











Design Tip



Trim is not limited to indoor use. Performance/Outdoor trim can elevate exterior lighting, bringing the same level of detail and refinement to spaces beyond the interior.



FRINGE & TASSEL DETAILS

Designed to move. Fringe and tassel details bring personality and rhythm to a lampshade, from playful pom poms to refined glass beads that add softness, drama, or just the right amount of whimsy.

Design Tip



Pairing gimps or braids at the top with tassel or beaded fringe at the bottom creates a sense of balance and richness. This classic pairing consistently delivers elegant, well-proportioned results.

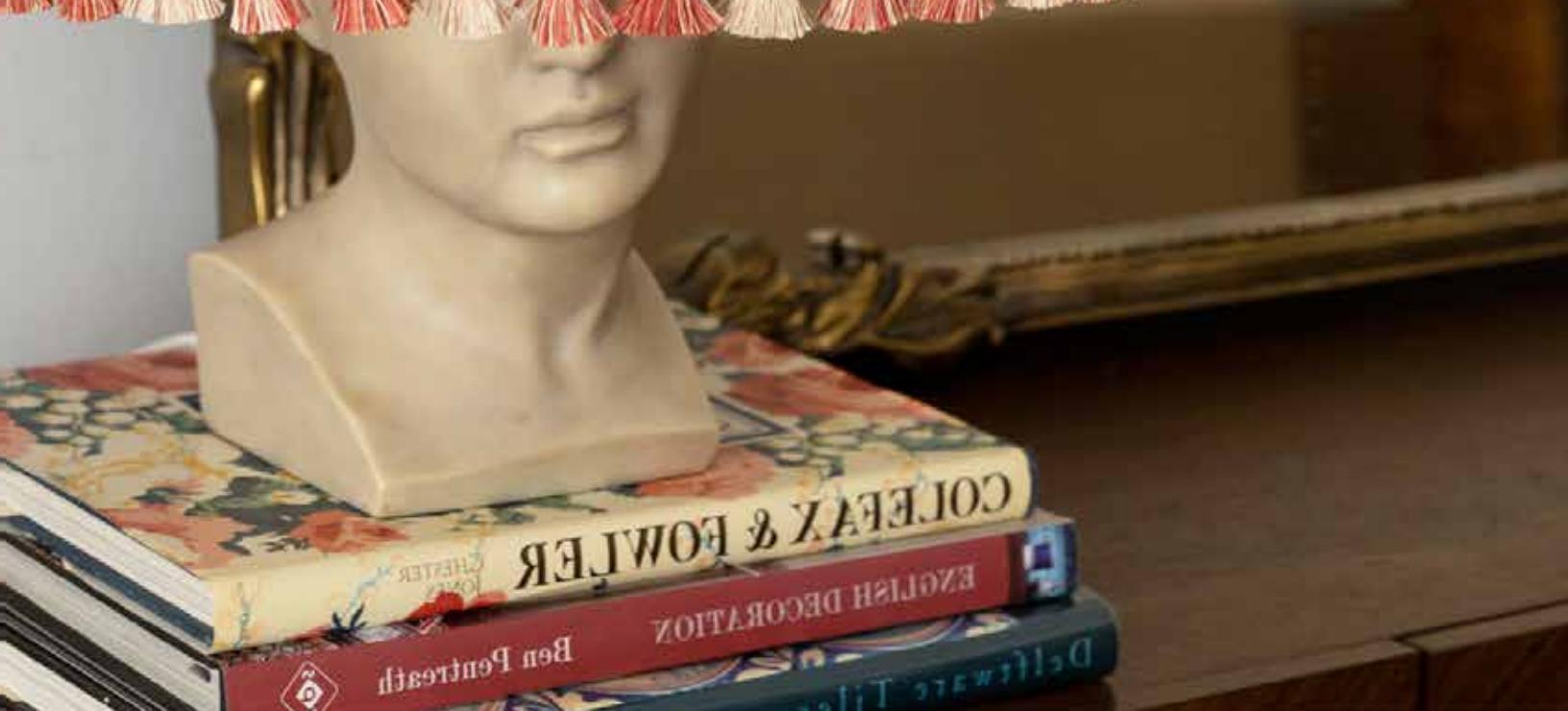














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Design Tip



Long fringe creates instant drama. Whether applied from the top to cover the entire lampshade or placed along the bottom rim, it commands attention and becomes a defining feature in the room.



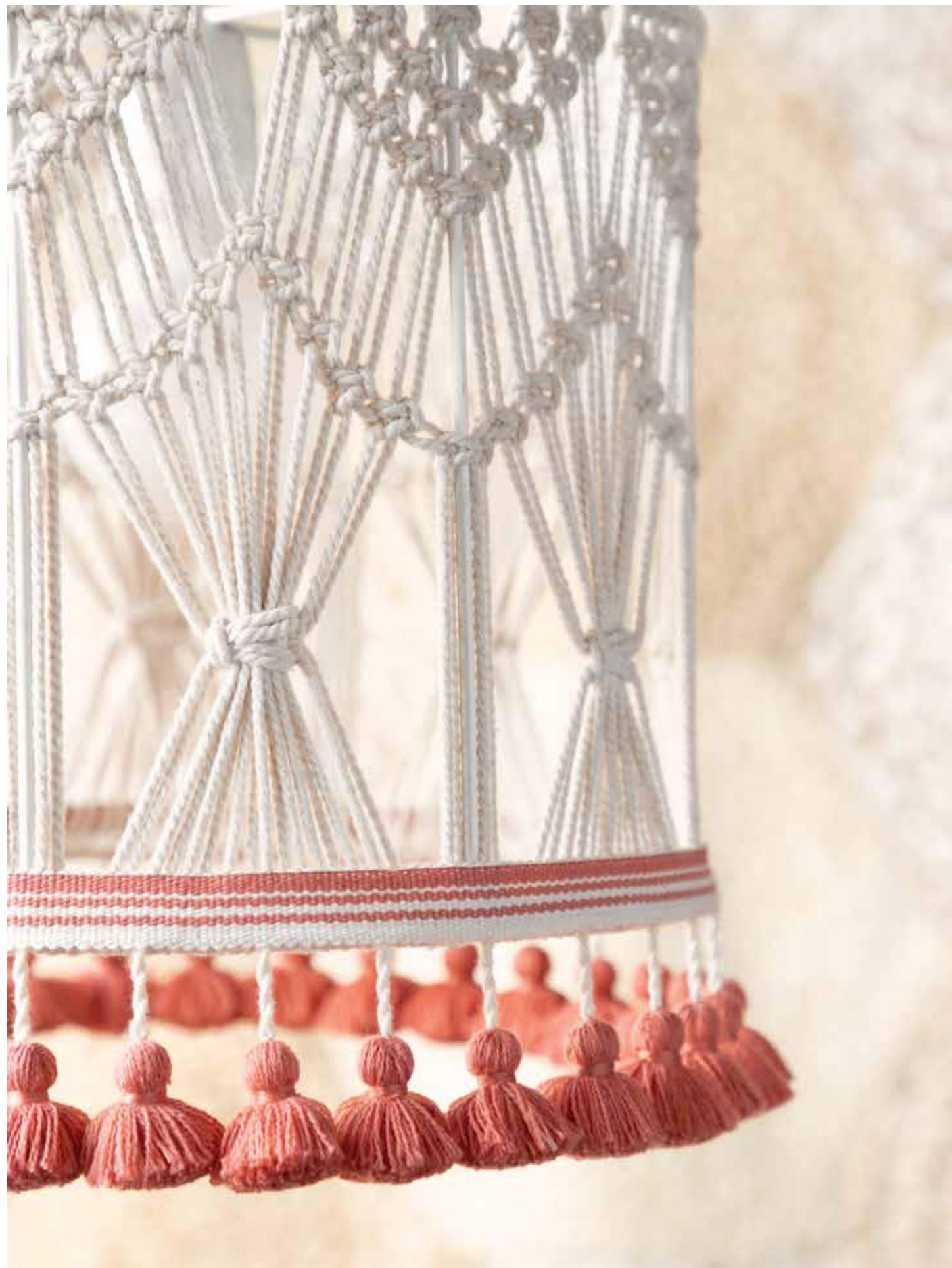


Design Tip



Take advantage of the natural materials of the lampshade or base by pairing them with trims such as jute, linen or cotton. Repeating organic textures creates a sense of intention and consistency in the overall design





Design Tip



Think beyond umbrellas and pillows. Performance/Outdoor bullion adds unexpected personality to lighting in your tablescapes, creating moments guests won't forget.





Design Tip



Glass beads add elegance and sophistication, making them an ideal choice for sconces and smaller lamps. Their delicate scale introduces a luxurious finish without overwhelming the design.







LAYERING

More is more. By combining multiple trims, layering creates depth, dimension, and a truly custom look. From subtle pairings to bold compositions, layered passementerie can elevate the finish or transform a lampshade into the star of the room.



Design Tip



Layering gimp with brush fringe allows the trim to become the shade itself. When applied from top to bottom, this technique transforms a purely functional lampshade into a true focal point in the room.















Design Tip



Mirroring the texture of the lamp base through trim and beaded fringe creates a cohesive, uniform look, where the transition between base and shade nearly disappears.





Design Tip

When a statement border and an equally striking fringe are layered together, a simple base provides the perfect backdrop, letting the trim define the entire look.

