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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

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November 2023



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Welcome



This month, we're delighted to feature a truly wide selection of AMAZING homes – everything from a seaside townhouse and a flamboyant Cornish manor to an apartment in Amsterdam

and a pied-à-terre in central London. We love the STYLE and VIBRANCY of Michael and Olivia Costello's Georgian abode in Kent (p8). And take a look at how Amica Studio have brought instant character to a city new build with a balance of understated elegance and splashes of pattern (p37). We're also keen to bring you rooms in more detail, so take a look at our two fabulous kitchen CASE STUDIES (p80 and p104) for lots of inspiration to help you with your own transformation.

FIONA MACE, HOMES EDITOR

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| HOUSE OF THE MONTH |

Turn on the CHARM

Michael and Olivia Costello's 18th-century Georgian townhouse by the sea has been renovated with a nod to nostalgia and some charismatic contemporary twists

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES
PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH

UPSTAIRS SITTING ROOM
Curved shapes in the pendant light and seating bring movement and energy to this space. Sofa in Chelsea Rouge; red pouffe in Smooth Cayenne, both Kirkby Design at TM Interiors. Lorenzo chandelier, Soho Home. Orb mirror, Reid & Wright. Cushion in Lost and Found performance fabric in Indigo, Christopher Farr Cloth. Walls in Blue Gray; bookcases and woodwork in Pigeon, both Farrow & Ball



W

Whether it's admiring the sunrise through the Georgian windows, drinking their morning tea on the beach or enjoying fish and chips by the woodburner in winter, Michael and Olivia Costello are embracing life just a stone's throw from the seafront. A lengthy search eventually led to the purchase of a four-storey, listed townhouse in a sought-after location with exceptional sea views.

'My childhood memories are here as my grandmother lived here and it's where my parents met,' says Michael, owner of an advertising agency, whose wife Olivia is a travel writer. 'I've always loved the houses on the seafront and even though the town has been through a regeneration, it's managed to keep the atmosphere of an old seaside town.'

The house was in good repair when the couple bought it, but their plan was to create a more colourful, vibrant home filled with treasures from their travels and art. Under the guidance of interior designer Susan Venn of Susan Venn Design, the work took a year to complete and has resulted in a refined decor with modern twists, always maximising the views.

'Our brief was no seagulls or seashells, but we did want the house to feel aligned with the setting,' says Michael. 'As the Kent coastline is a muted greeny/blue hue, Susan suggested working with that colour combination as our backdrop. The main bedroom has uninterrupted views of the sea, so we used a tactile, natural grass wallpaper as it blends with the outdoors.'

Downstairs in the sitting room, art of the local coastline was the starting point for the scheme. Fabrics take their lead from the bold canvas, and modern lighting and accessories add a contemporary edge. 'The colours work well together and we love the slightly old-school style but with the occasional modern disruption,' says Michael. 'The hallway has a similar feel with an unusual, wallpapered ceiling in a botanical print to catch the eye through the glass pane above the door. It's a unique entrance and looks intriguing as you walk past.'

The dining area, with a blue banquet, has an old English air, leading to the modern kitchen painted in a warm mustard. A mix of old and new pieces anchors the schemes throughout. 'Susan was so helpful in finding the right pieces and bringing them together,' says Michael. 'We enjoyed agreeing colours, tables and lamps, and some things, such as the distressed mirror in the upstairs sitting room, were obvious.'

Colourful guest bedrooms for visiting family members are full of interesting textiles and handmade tiles add colour to the all-white bathrooms. Although the house has been stylishly updated, there's most definitely an air of nostalgia. 'We still see some of my grandmother's friends who live here and the pub up the road is where my grandfather used to drink,' says Michael. 'It's lovely to be living here with my family and is so evocative of my happy childhood by the sea.' 25

susanvenn.com





HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY A four-storey 18th-century Georgian townhouse on the seafront

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, upstairs sitting room, main bedroom, two guest bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION
Kent coast



UPSTAIRS SITTING ROOM

'We painted walls in a similar colour to the sea outside so nothing distracts the eye and at night, when lamps are lit, there's a lovely moody atmosphere,' says Michael. Walls in Blue Gray, Farrow & Ball. Sofa in Kotor Beryl fabric, Villa Nova. Nayland reading lamp, Jim Lawrence. Art by Andrew Bird. Find a similar footstool at Loaf



**'WE WERE KEEN TO USE MAINLY
UK SUPPLIERS WITH AN ONUS ON
TRADITIONAL CRAFTSMANSHIP'**



SITTING ROOM

The use of bright colours brings a contemporary edge to this classic scheme.

Artwork by Christine Hodson. Sofa in Savernake, Fermoie at Jane Clayton. Ottoman in Lani in Teal, Jane Churchill at Colefax and Fowler. Pembridge pendant, Original BTC. Imperfect side table, Galvin Brothers. Walls in Skimming Stone, Farrow & Ball





'WE'VE LIVED IN A LOT OF PLAIN WHITE RENTALS SO IT'S EXCITING TO HAVE THE FREEDOM TO MAKE BOLD COLOUR CHOICES'

DINING AREA

Giving the banquette a high back made it even more of a beautiful focal point.

Banquette seat in Tulips in Sea Blue, Ottoline. Christie rise and fall pendant light, Original BTC. For similar dining chairs, try Ercol's Heritage design at Heal's

KITCHEN

Michael and Olivia enjoy the juxtaposition of the modern kitchen with the old-world charm of the rest of the property.

Try True Handleless Kitchens for units like these. Floor tiles, Walls and Floors. Enamel light, Labour and Wait





BEDROOM

A wall hanging can take the place of a statement headboard.

Try Slowdown Studio for a similar wall hanging. Mildred lamp base in Hot Chilli, Pooky. Curtains in Eden in Lemon, Christopher Farr Cloth at Jane Clayton. Handmade Lokta paper lampshade, Etsy

MAIN BEDROOM

Taking the wallpaper above the picture rail creates a sense of height.

Headboard in Pebble, Fermoie. Ellie lamp base in Emerald, Pooky. For a similar art deco-style bedside table, look at Vinterior. Try Jennifer Manners for a silk ikat cushion



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HALLWAY

The bold colour palette works beautifully with the original mosaic tiles.

For a similar curved front console, try 1stDibs. Custom brass mirror, Kingston Lafferty Design. Walls in Eating Room Red, Farrow & Ball. Vintage Murano glass chandelier, Acquired. Red artwork by Carlos Sangro

Character study

How do you get a home full of personality? Luxe materials, rich colours and a mix of vintage and modern pieces worked here

FEATURE SARA DAL ZOTTO | PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA CORSICO/LIVING INSIDE

SITTING ROOM

Painting the walls, ceiling and woodwork in the same colour feels modern but also very cocooning.

De Nimes **paint**, Farrow & Ball. Vintage Italian chandelier, Acquired. Travertine coffee table by Up&Up, 1stDibs. Cube side table, Kingston Lafferty Design. Knoll Avio sofa in cognac leather, Minima. Valerie Objects standing lamp no.1 in Blue, LampTwist. Portrait photography by Doreen Kilfeather. Rug, Soho Home. Le Club chair, Poliform





READING ROOM
 Two mirrors on the mantelpiece is a playful decorating decision. Gubi Stay sofa in Dedar upholstery, Nest. Vintage Italian Sputnik chandelier, Acquired. Coffee table, Soho Home. Large mirror, Kingston Lafferty Design. Gropius CS1 chair, Noom

A feast for the eyes – this Galway city residence, an amazing project suspended between history and modernity and conceived and brought together by Kingston Lafferty Design – is a never-ending surprise. ‘Today it’s a family home for husband, wife and five children, the very epicentre of a hectic and bustling family life,’ says Róisín Lafferty, founder and creative director.

Built in the 1860s, this post-Georgian era three-storey house is part of a terrace of similar homes. It’s been a

five-year project. ‘We were first approached to look at the house back in December 2018, with Helena McElmeel Architects having started to investigate the best planning application approach the year previous,’ says Róisín. ‘Due to the historical and conservation relevance of the building, the conservation and planning department were very strict with granting permission for the design works, both architecturally and for the interior. ‘We looked at the way the family wanted to live, the spaces that they naturally

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Three-storey terraced house built in 1860

ROOMS Sitting room, living room, reading room, kitchen, dining room, utility, study, six bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION

Galway, Ireland

LIVING ROOM

This space is in an extension. The sunken seating area was formed using poured concrete with integrated timber and concrete steps.

Mah Jong sofa, Roche Bobois. Davide Groppi Moon light; Flos wall light, both Minima. Custom accordion oak doors designed by Kingston Lafferty Design; made by O'Gorman Joinery



DINING ROOM
'This is a bridge between the old part of the house and the new – it has an almost orangery style,' says Róisín.

Terracotta floor tiles, Baked Earth. Dining table in blackened oak designed by Kingston Lafferty Design. Monochrome print by Dominic Turner, SO Fine Art Editions. Painting by Jan Cools



gravitated towards and how best to design the configuration and link between these,' says Róisín. 'Most importantly, we looked at how best to integrate natural light to key areas – the fabric of the original house had hugely thick walls, massively reducing the amount of natural light that could filter through to the dining and kitchen.'

Róisín found inspiration for the house from the abundant character that exudes from the building as soon as you enter it. 'This house had a wonderful soul and spirit

from the onset of the project, and we sought to embrace and harness that,' says Róisín. 'Our key self-appointed task was to create an interior that sensitively encompassed the essence of the property and for it to feel like it had always been like that.' The designer also admits to another source of inspiration – *The Handmaid's Tale*. 'The series captivated me in terms of set design and overall atmosphere.'

The interior has been cleverly designed as a mixture of styles. 'We wanted to merge the old and new and ensure

**'TILES FRAMING THE PASSAGEWAY
BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND
DINING AREA ADD A SURPRISE
AND STYLISH DECORATING FEATURE'**



KITCHEN

The different textures and materials here create an individual look. Walls in Charleston Gray, Farrow & Ball. Marble floor tiles, TileStyle. Kitchen designed by Kingston Lafferty Design; made by O'Gorman Joinery. Aged brass pot hanging feature, O'Gorman Joinery. Clement double wall sconce in black and brass, Hicken Lighting



MAIN BEDROOM

A velvet headboard, panelling and a bold pendant light deliver a luxe mood.

Panelling with integrated headboard by O’Gorman Joinery. Wall lights, The Socialite Family. Italian brass and glass chandelier, Vinterior



MAIN EN SUITE

Using different tiles under the bath makes it stand out.

Fan floor mosaics, Mosaic Assemblers. Chase chandelier, Eichholtz



STUDY

The custom design joinery includes storage, display and an integrated ‘floating’ desk.

Pendant, Bert Frank. Tiles, Popham Design

each space hosted a collection of interesting pieces from different eras. Our exploration of colour took its cue from the fraying original stair runner and the original inlaid patterned mosaics in the entrance hallway,’ says Róisín.

Aside from the fixed finishes, the house also came with an abundance of original pieces including a series of display cabinets, an original Thonet rocker, gorgeous glass and brass pendants, as well as other curiosities. ‘We did have to persuade the client to keep one of the delicate

original net curtains,’ says Róisín. ‘The main thing was to keep these pieces, give them all homes, and bring in elements that added interesting structures and shapes throughout, injecting colour and material contrasts for depth and richness.’

Thanks to the studio’s work, this is a home that now feels spirited, soulful, alive and homely. ‘Our focus is to always create unique and individual spaces for our clients,’ says Róisín. kingstonlaffertydesign.com

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A LIGHT TOUCH

The pared-back palette of Emily and Alfred Johnson's home is made gloriously dynamic with standout pieces

FEATURE MARY WEAVER | PHOTOGRAPHY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG | STYLING KRISTI HUNTER



SITTING ROOM

'The addition of metal doors allows spaces to be closed off if required and helps stop noise travelling - important with two young boys in the house!' says interior designer Martha Vicas. 'Through in the dining room, we used an abundance of textures - in the rug, woven

chairs and curtains - and standout lighting to bring the pared-back architecture alive.' Wall plaster, Artstar Custom Paintworks. Doors, AK Metal Fabricators. Armchairs, Dmitry & Co. Sofa, Design Within Reach. Cushions, Virginia White Collection. Side table, Lumifer. Dining room pendant light, Apparatus

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A detached home built in 1917

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen-diner, family room, playroom/den, boot room, gym, two cloakrooms, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION Washington DC



The story of this rather magnificent turn of the century property is quite unusual,' says designer Martha Vicas of the historic detached house she helped turn into a home. 'The owners, Emily and Alfred Johnson, actually purchased it during lockdown without viewing it in real life – they just saw images of its shell, newly renovated by a developer and fell in love with its floor plan and large garden.'

The couple, who have two young boys, aged five and three, had been travelling around due to Emily's training in psychiatry but wanted to settle down in Alfred's home town of Washington DC. 'We were on board as the design team for the developer,' explains Martha, 'and Emily and

Alfred liked what we had done and engaged us to help them furnish it and change some of the finishes.' Emily also brought along her architect brother, Evan Watts of D&A Companies, to help customise it further.

Martha had planned a home to cater for the needs of a modern household – a kitchen-diner, a family room leading off the kitchen, a boot room next to the garage and a generous main bedroom with ample wardrobes and a big bathroom, which perfectly suited the couple. 'When it came to the decorating, they had a very distinct style in mind – a calm, light home with minimal colour, but lots of texture and interesting lighting to add character,' says Martha. 'And





KITCHEN

A decorative cooker hood brings a wonderful period look to the cook space.

Kitchen, Heartwood. Cabinetry painted in Cloud Cover, Benjamin Moore. Bar stools, Design Within Reach. Pendant lights, Apparatus

BREAKFAST AREA

Everyday dining takes place in this space, which is defined by a statement pendant.

Table, Wüd. Chairs, Design Within Reach. Suspended light, Garnier et Linker. Curtain fabric, Rogers & Goffigon. St Kitts rug, Stanton

FAMILY ROOM

This living area leads off the kitchen and is designed for relaxing together after meals.

Sofa, Thayer Coggin. Floor lamp, BDDW. Side table, Caleb Woodard Furniture. Curtain fabric, Sahco. Bespoke rug, Julie Dasher Rugs





MAIN BATHROOM

A huge freestanding tub and separate walk-in shower create a luxurious feel.

Similar wall tiles, Mandarin Stone. Floor tiles, Ann Sacks. Similar freestanding bath, Lusso. Shower fittings and taps, Waterworks

OUTDOOR TERRACE

Ideal for morning coffee or early evening drinks, the patio leads off the playroom so the couple can relax while keeping an eye on the children.

Outdoor table and chairs, Sutherland Furniture

MAIN BEDROOM

A hanging pendant light frees up space on the bedside table.

Wallpaper, Phillip Jeffries. Blinds, Arabel. Chandelier, Démiurge New York. Pendant, Brand van Egmond. Armchair, Design Within Reach. Bench, Stamford Modern



they wanted to fill it with furniture from high-quality boutique craftspeople. It was a dream brief!

Although the exterior of the house has retained its handsome facade, sadly there were no original features remaining inside, so the decision was made to play to the fact it was a blank canvas and avoid anything ornate or traditional. 'We added bespoke steel doors on both floors as a stylish way to create more intimate spaces and reduce the noise carrying from one area to the next,' says Martha. 'Nearly all of the lighting was replaced with custom-made pieces and we added soft, matt, off-white plaster to much of the ground floor to give warmth and character to the

otherwise bright white walls,' she adds. The sweeping garden, part of the initial appeal for the couple, was redesigned and replanted by landscape architect Joseph Richardson and his team, and includes outdoor terraces on both the ground and first floors. Although large, it's relatively low-maintenance and enjoyed by the family on a daily basis.

During the design, Martha and her team embraced the buzzwords 'comfort' and 'beauty' as their mantra. 'At the same time, we focused on creating a home that's family friendly,' she says. 'All these things should go together, in our book.' ²⁵
Designer, msvicasinteriors.com; architect, dacompanies.com; landscape architect, jrichardsonla.com

'A textured wallpaper can add another layer of interest to a calm, neutral scheme'



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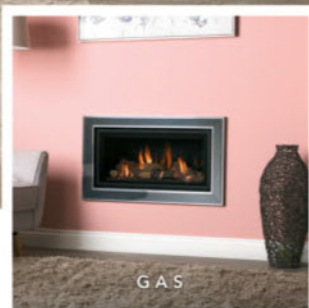
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SITTING ROOM
A coffered ceiling elevates the architectural interest here. Sofa, West Elm. Cushions, Pierre Frey. Rug and coffee table, Soho Home. Pendant lights, Gong. Stools designed by Amica Studio; upholstered in Dedar fabric

HEIGHT *of success*

A narrow house built atop a hill was given a very chic interior by design duo Estelle Tomlin and Andrea Somal

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS | PHOTOGRAPHY ASTRID TEMPLIER



SITTING ROOM

The space features a bar with a marble worktop, bronze sink and antique mirror. It means the owners don't have to go down to the kitchen to make cocktails. Joinery and bar designed by Amica Studio; built by Wellington Joinery



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached new build

ROOMS Sitting room, family room/gym, kitchen, pantry, study, two cloakrooms, utility room, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION Southwest London

DINING AREA

A set of mirrors was incorporated here to make the space appear larger.

Extendable dining table, Andrew Martin. Pendant light, Holloways of Ludlow. Dining chairs, Heal's. Blind in fabric by de Le Cuona



KITCHEN

As the space is in the basement, it doesn't receive much light so the scheme was kept light and fresh.

Pendant lights, J Adams & Co. Bar stools, Oka. Cushion in fabric by Gainsborough



HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT?

We met the clients, a South African couple, through recommendation.

WHAT WAS THE BRIEF? The clients had bought a plot at the top of the hill and divided it into two, building an identical house in parallel. The difficulty was working with the landscaping and levels to achieve a comfortable property – at its widest point, the house is 4.2 metres and 20 metres long, tiering over four floors and cutting into the landscape, so it was difficult to fit everything in. The brief was to fully design the property, utilising the levels through clever spatial planning, and fully design and furnish the property for a fabulous fun couple, maximising the views over southwest London.

DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNERS' STYLE Their style is very modern eclectic, and they love abstract, funky patterns. They wanted a neutral backdrop and then to introduce

pops of colour with the furniture in case they decided to sell the house in a few years.

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMEOWNERS? Having

entertaining space for friends and family. In the sitting room, there's a bar we designed to fit their wine collection and pouffes to create a more informal party space to unwind.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME? When meeting the clients, she had a jazzy textured handbag and chic embroidered jacket, which was gorgeous, so we knew they had style. We ordered all the most interesting fabrics we could find and incorporated them into little pockets in each room where we could. Our particular favourite is the Holistic Proud fabric by Lizzo on the main bedroom bolster cushion.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO THE HOMEOWNERS? The main en suite was important to our client as she really

wanted a calm, serene bathroom that felt like a spa. It was vital to create different textures and tones in the space.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? Definitely the spatial planning of the main suite. Trying to get a bath, a double basin, a steam shower and a loo to fit comfortably was really difficult. But we managed to pull it off by building a bespoke vanity with a ribbed detail design for storage and hid the loo in the recess, utilising the dressing room space by creating a faux smoked glass wall.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Always listen to your clients and what they want, learn about how they want to use a space and guide them to understand each room's function. We also ask them about hotels and restaurants that they've felt comfortable in, then incorporate elements of those schemes to ensure we are creating spaces they can relax in. 25

amicastudio.co.uk

‘As the rooms are quite narrow, big furnishings were kept neutral to blend in and create a sense of space’



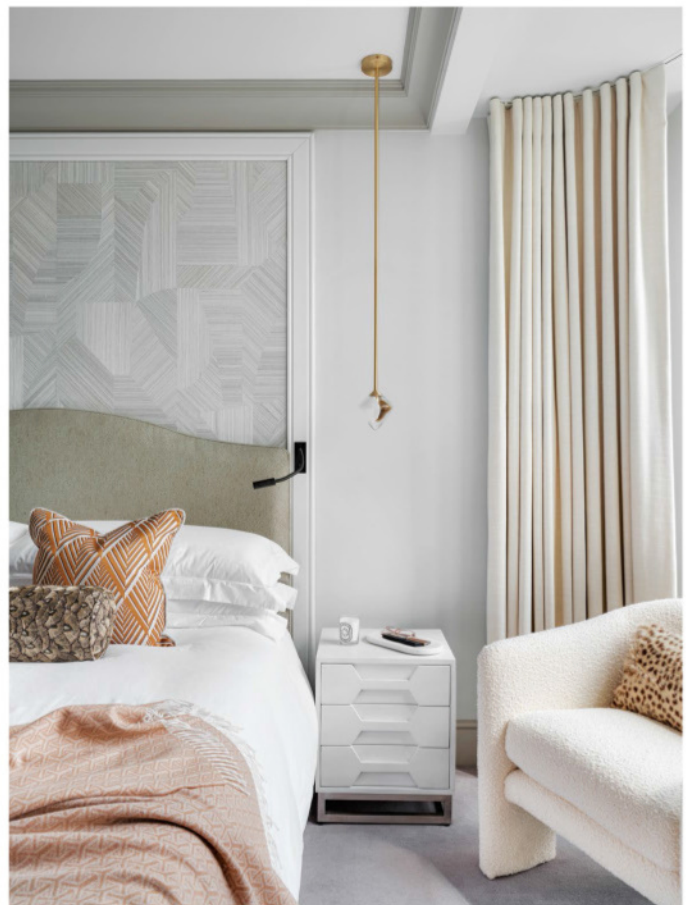
BEDROOM
The rounded headboard and table add beautiful curves.
 Bed, Loaf. Wall light, Pooky.
 Bedside table, Oliver Bonas.
 Cushion, John Lewis & Partners



BEDROOM
An upholstered stool introduces subtle pattern.
 Built-in bespoke cabinetry designed by Amica Studio; built by Wellington Joinery.
 Stool, Ceraudo



DRESSING AREA
Smoked mirror reflects light through this space and avoids it feeling like a corridor.
 Joinery designed by Amica Studio; built by Wellington Joinery. Eichholtz bouclé stool, Sweetpea & Willow





MAIN BEDROOM

The curtain sits on a recessed track behind a cornice for a neat and sophisticated finish.

Pendant light, Heathfield & Co. Bedside table, Atkin and Thyme. Curtains in Luzon fabric by Lizzo

BATHROOM

Earthy tones evoke a calming, spa-like feel.

Vanity unit designed by Amica Studio, built by Wellington Joinery. Calacatta splashback tiles, Claybrook. Chevron wall tiles, Grestec. Wall light, Andrew Martin

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WHAT'S YOUR THING?

SHOW stopper

'Elegance and drama' became the mantra for Lisa and Giles Thomas' reinvention of their Victorian semi

FEATURE CHARLOTTE LUXFORD | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK



SITTING ROOM

A bold, contrasting colour palette of oranges and blues sits against softer neutrals.

Alcoves in Inchyra Blue, Farrow & Ball.

Reupholstery by Katherine Brown Curtains & Blind. Stool, La Redoute. Mirror, Andrew Martin



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached Victorian house

ROOMS Kitchen-diner, library/
parlour/sitting room, basement bar/
media/entertainment room, six
bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION Southwest London



‘The banquette seating in the corner of the kitchen freed up space for people to gather at the back to chat during get-togethers’



DINING AREA

Formerly a run of tall cupboards, the space has been transformed with bespoke banquette seating, high-level storage, a bookshelf and wine rack. Walls painted in Strong White, Farrow & Ball. Pendant light, Amos Lighting. Wall light, Pooky. Dining chairs, Kartell. Cushions, Oka. Flooring, Cheville Parquet

KITCHEN

A hob with built-in extraction sits in the island, meaning Lisa and Giles can socialise with family and guests while they cook. Ceiling-mounted shelving creates extra storage and adds visual interest to the functional space. Bespoke kitchen, Roundhouse. Bar stools, Normann Copenhagen

DINING AREA
Interior designer Alex swapped out spotlights for a statement chandelier and brass picture lights. A gallery of abstract prints adds a splash of colour. Artwork, Oka. Chandelier, Graham and Green. Picture light, Olivia's



We previously lived in a small three-bed terrace in the shadow of Stamford Bridge stadium in Fulham,' says Lisa. 'We had two children, Zac and Darcey, who came into my life when I married Giles, and we were keen to find a larger house. We realised that any plans to extend our family would require more space and we were taken with this area of London's abundance of greenery and good pubs at the end of the road. We found a Victorian property with bags of potential and haven't looked back.'

Fast forward 19 years and Giles and Lisa, who both work in marketing, now have two teenage sons to add to the mix – Milo, 18, and Morgan, 16. Despite having extended their semi in 2004 into the attic and side return, the family still found they were getting on top of each other and the interiors were now feeling worn and outdated. They called upon interior designer Alex Meachen to rejuvenate their period home, as well as embark on an ambitious basement project to provide them with the large entertainment space they were all craving. 'We wanted to keep the inherent grace of the house while making sure that it's a place to have fun,' says Lisa.

'When I first showed Lisa and Giles the mood board for what we now jokingly refer to as the Mariah Carey bathroom, I talked a lot about injecting elegance and drama,' adds Alex. 'They really liked that terminology and it became the overarching brief for the project.'


Work began on the basement excavation in April 2018 to create a generous entertaining space, complete with bar, aquarium, gym area, supersized TV and sofa, plus a guest room and en suite. Alex's main challenge was to help bring in natural light, so he flipped the architect's original plans to move the social space towards the back of the basement

where there was more light, as well as adding open risers to the staircase and glazed floors to the entrance hall to allow light to flood into the lower level.

This was followed by redecorating each of the four floors, as well as installing a new kitchen and bathrooms. One of the most transformative elements was the complete overhaul of the main en suite. 'Previously there was a poky shower with dark tiles and the whole space lacked impact, so we installed taller double doors with fluted glass to create a grand entry point. I repositioned the bath under the window and added a dual-entry walk-in shower for a spa-like feel. The powder pink walls, large-format marble-effect tiles and brushed gold finishes add glamour and elevate the scheme.'

Not everything was shiny and new, however. Alex worked collaboratively with curtain-maker Katherine Brown to give key existing pieces a new lease of life and bring in pops of colour. Armchairs have been given a two-tone treatment, while the reupholstered statement turquoise sofa references a striking seascape in the sitting room, with rusty orange accents adding contrast.

Throughout the home, a palette of blues and greens are offset by terracotta tones and pinks to create exciting juxtapositions. 'I really wanted to lift the spaces and inject colour through the use of art, furnishings and paint to make them feel of the moment, without being too trend-led. Overall, the interiors deliver on the dramatic but aren't overly showy,' says Alex.

'With two large teenagers at home, we've now got space to live very comfortably without bumping into each other and room for us all to have friends and family over,' adds Lisa. 'The interiors reflect who we are and how we like living – we love it.'  alexinteriors.co.uk



MAIN BEDROOM
An art-deco inspired headboard was chosen to bring a touch of drama to the soft grey-pink walls. Manette bed and table lamp, Soho Home



‘The shower enclosure is almost invisible,
which makes the large bathroom space
feel even bigger than it already is’



MAIN EN SUITE

Double doors lead to this bathroom (also shown on the previous page) where brass accents, statement marble-look tiles and pink walls add to the glamorous feel.

Wall and floor tiles, Mandarin Stone. Walls painted in Peignoir, Farrow & Ball. Sanitaryware, Lusso Stone and Duravit. Chair, Kartell

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OLD MEETS NEW

Drawing on classic influences, this 21st-century living space exudes a sophisticated feel that will stand the test of time

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS | PHOTOGRAPHY KEYANNA BOWEN



PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER

Jess Weeth of
Weeth Home

PROPERTY

New-build
detached house

WORK

Renovation of
a sitting room

LOCATION

Delaware,
USA

Having renovated the kitchen in their new build, the owners wanted to transform the dark living space next to it into a breezy family space with a classic East Coast aesthetic, so they enlisted the help of interior designer Jess Weeth.

1 GO WITH THE FLOW

The original brief was to rethink a cramped, somewhat dated kitchen. As the living area flows off the kitchen, Jess knew it needed to feel cohesive with the space so decided to continue the same colour palette, keeping it pale with rich accents. 'Like much of the house, we wanted it to look sophisticated without feeling overly formal,' explains Jess. 'We used levels of warm neutrals such as cream, terracotta, cognac leather and mid-tone woods to keep the design grounded.'

2 FOCAL POINT FIREPLACE

A white cast-stone fireplace surround brings a more modern feel than a traditional wooden design, keeping the look light and injecting character, with its simple bevelled details. The Frame TV above the fireplace looks like a painting when out of use, and Jess chose to flank it with candle sconces, for a cosy feel.

3 SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

To elevate the scheme, Jess introduced elegant shapes and opulent fabrics with a modern feel. The sociable seating centres around two generous angular sofas in a pale colourway that are juxtaposed with richly coloured curvaceous leather chairs. 'We kept the upholstery refined with graceful silhouettes. I love the lines on the custom-made leather chairs and the elegant tight-back sofa in a custom velvet fabric.'

4 LIGHT FANTASTIC

Jess wanted the space to feel calm and comfortable, with sophisticated simplicity. 'We needed to highlight the gorgeous French doors so we balanced the space with central ceiling beams and dressed the doors with simple linen drapes on French-style iron curtain poles.' This allows the maximum amount of light to bathe the room. 25

weethhome.com

FLOOR SHOW

The wooden floor is softened with a large rug. Jess chose a neutral colourway with a subtle pattern that pulls together tones in the scheme for a harmonious feel. Velvet sofa, Serena & Lily. Cushions, Katie Leede & Company. Custom-designed coffee table, Old Wood Delaware. Chairs, Oly Studio. Samsung Frame TV with custom frame, Frame My TV. Candle sconces, June Home Supply. Drink table, Arteriors. Vase and stems, Weeth Home. Leather stool, 1stDibs

no. 7



Restoration story



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Country manor house that forms part of the Boconnoc House and estate

ROOMS Sitting room, morning room, ante room, kitchen, breakfast room, two cloakrooms, seven bedrooms, seven bathrooms

LOCATION
Cornwall

SITTING ROOM

The vibrant wallpaper is inspired by the Cornish gardens in spring time. Chinoiserie Grandiflora wallpaper, Sarah Fortescue. Art deco chairs in Astara in Vert by Pierre Frey. Ikat scatter cushions, My Little Wish. Scalloped green and sisal rug, Tate & Darby. Antique fireside table, 88 Antiques

This 18th-century manor house belonging to Elizabeth Fortescue has been redesigned by her daughter Sarah, in homage to its rich history

FEATURE NATALIE MILLAR-PARTRIDGE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** TIM CHARLES PHOTOGRAPHY



THE ANTE ROOM
 Hand polished original floors, an ornate gilt mirror and a Bolection fireplace are set against striking coral pink walls with a scumble glaze effect. Gilt mirror, Woolley & Wallis. Bolection fire surround and slate inset with hearth, Sarah Fortescue



Hidden at the end of a two-mile private drive, The Stewardry is an ivy-clad property with a Georgian-front and centuries-old history. Set in a peaceful valley, it forms part of the Boconnoc Estate, surrounded by acres of parkland and ancient woodland.

As a child growing up here, interior designer Sarah Fortescue watched her father begin the restoration of the house and surrounding estate with the help of local master craftsmen. And now Sarah has brought her own eclectic

fusion of texture and colour to the house with her bold redesign. 'I didn't want The Stewardry to feel like the house it once was; gloomy and dark with small doorways between expansive rooms,' she says. 'Through opening areas up, I've managed to breathe life into the space.'

Throughout the property, vibrant and evocative prints inspired from Sarah's childhood in Cornwall and Africa bring life to the rooms – neon colour pops, tropical palms and lively shades of green reminiscent of the surrounding

'YOUR HOME ENVIRONMENT IS YOUR ROOT, YOUR STARTING POINT,



KITCHEN

Colourful wallpaper and fabric provide a playful backdrop to the ceramic limestone-effect tiles and Shaker-style units.

Little Wild Tulips wallpaper, Ottoline. Roman blind in Cocorico by Pierre Frey. Cabinetry in Teal, Dulux. Bayswater brassware, Corston Architectural Detail

HALLWAY

Soft pink walls, bold ikat and traditional chintz add warmth and texture to this space.

Walls in Pink Ground, Farrow &

Ball. Artwork by Sam Travers. Walking stick basket by Hadedra. Chintz upholstered seat cushion, Sarah Fortescue

BREAKFAST ROOM
A pair of mirrors either side of the chimney breast creates pleasing symmetry and boosts the sense of light.

French XVII chandelier, Lorfords Antiques. Leather dining chairs, Anthony Fortescue. Napkins, Sarah.K. Original art created by Molly Mahon and Emma Black. *Poolside Gossip* print by Slim Aarons, Art Republic

MORNING ROOM

A striking mirror complements the beautiful fireplace. Vinterior sells antique pier mirrors and similar gilded wall lights



countryside. The house showcases Sarah's love of pattern, colour and fabric, creating a fluidity from room to room. Her own eye-catching botanical wallpaper design features in the sitting room, inspired by the garden's flourishing magnolias and camellias.

The generously proportioned Georgian rooms are flooded with natural light, and although the footprint of the house is large, it feels far from imposing. Most of the downstairs rooms have open fireplaces, and within the

bright breakfast room, a large, modern woodburning stove sits centrally between two vast gilt, antique mirrors.

Sarah's late father, Anthony, had his own furniture business, creating handmade British furniture in Chippendale style. The 'ante room' pays homage to him with brown leather Anthony Fortescue chairs, offsetting coral-pink walls. In fact, the house is a legacy to both Anthony and Elizabeth Fortescue. 'To showcase the ante room, large oak-panelled doors were custom-made, opening



BEDROOM
This cosy hideaway has been designed with a rich, warming palette to ensconce you in its pattern and colour.
 Curtains in fabric by Penny Morrison with large pompom braid from Samuel & Sons. Hand-painted wooden lamp base, Woolley & Wallis. Sari lampshade, Sarah Fortescue

PAINTS. Gold Cow light with Emerald Green silk shade, Porta Romana. Vanity unit and marble top, Sarah Fortescue

MAIN BEDROOM
South-facing and flooded with natural light, this elegant space draws on its calming, rural surrounds, with white walls and bedding and simple, timeless furnishings.
 Curtains in Coromandel Flower in Brilliant Pink, Parker & Jules. Chaise longue, upholstered by Sarah Fortescue, in Kenya fabric by Le Manach

MAIN EN SUITE
A gilt mirror and marble tiles add a touch of luxury and glamour to this scheme.
 Walls in Park Walk, Papers and



BEDROOM
Contrasting colour pops enhance this pretty, light-filled space.
 Walls in Cameo White, Sanderson. Wicker table, Hadedá. Ceramic lamp base, Vinterior. Scalloped headboard with velvet piping, Sarah Fortescue

out into the sitting room – creating two glorious spaces that flow as one,’ says Sarah. ‘Hand-polished wooden floors were brought back to life, alongside an existing Wedgwood fire-surround and a beautiful ornate glass door leading onto the lawn, overlooking the stream and across the valley.’

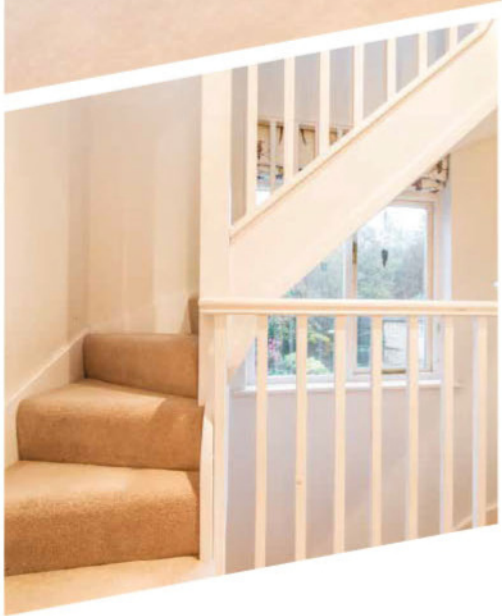
The redesign is empathetic to the house and its setting, taking a thread of its history and nature’s palette through the interiors. Today Elizabeth can walk through the garden and enjoy listening to the birdsong and the flowing river.

When Anthony first brought Sarah to Boconnoc, they sat looking at the most exquisite but derelict house. ‘He promised me that one day the lights would be back on,’ says Elizabeth. Twenty five years later, after a 12-year restoration, the house is complete. Now that Sarah has fulfilled the renovation of The Stewardry, visitors are struck by its magnificence and energy. It’s now the ultimate retreat from the outside world. 25

sarahfortescue.com

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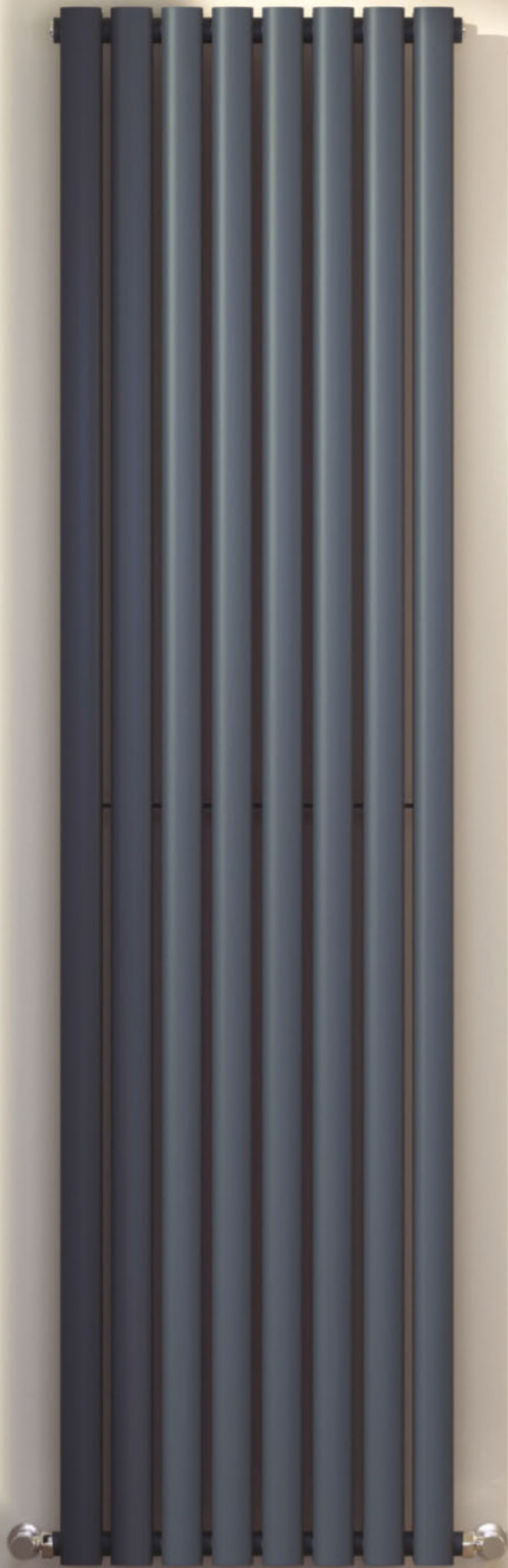
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Adventures in COLOUR

Kate Clare has brought a playful touch to this formerly traditional Edwardian terrace, filling it with vibrancy and joy

FEATURE JULIET BENNING
PHOTOGRAPHY ANNA STATHAKI

LIVING AREA
Cushions and pictures on rails can easily be changed to switch the look up.
Sofa, West Elm. Walls in Sand VI, Paint & Paper Library



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Edwardian terraced house

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, cloakroom, two bedrooms, three bathrooms, library room, two studies, gym room

LOCATION
East London



KITCHEN

The gold metallic finish on the units adds a touch of glamour. Cabinets, Handmade Kitchens of Christchurch; in metallic ship paint by Bluecrow Joinery. Curtains in Beau Monde, Pierre Frey. Find Carl Hansen Wishbone chairs at Heal's

The emotive pull of Kate Clare and Gavin Sumner's new home kicked in before the pair had even got inside. 'I loved the Edwardian arch over the front door,' explains Kate, the founder of Loud Architecture & Interior Design, a creative studio based in east London. 'We'd seen a few other potential projects, but that's what really sold it for me.' Such was the beauty of this elegant curve of brickwork that she decided to use it as a motif throughout the property as she and Gavin made plans to renovate.

Having shared Gavin's flat in east London, the couple had started the hunt for a shared home from where they would start a family. 'I always knew I wanted to buy somewhere we could renovate from top to bottom and, as a creative designer and architect, it was important that I'd be able to put my own stamp on it,' Kate says.

While the architectural pull was strong, Kate had identified further merits that would contribute scope to her plans. 'It wasn't in a conservation area which was important to me so that I could add cladding, but the plastic lean-to conservatory extension was also a big

BAR AREA

Sliding doors hide into recesses ensuring they don't hinder the visual impact of this fun feature. Back wall in Passion Pink, Johnstone's. Gibson bar stools (opposite), Where Saints Go

KITCHEN

By leaving structural components of the ceiling exposed (above and left), Kate has achieved more height. Simple mid-century furnishings set off the pink and gold tones. Dining table, Made.com


KITCHEN

The 4.2 metre island has a curvature at its edges which resonates with the arch at the front of the house.

Cabinets by Handmade Kitchens of Christchurch; in Sage Green by Little Greene.

Columbus pendant light, Graham and Green





‘Painting the ceiling pink in the office draws the eye upward to create a sense of height’

LIBRARY ROOM
Using a dramatic burnt caramel paint shade meant no other decoration was needed.

Walls in Rufus, Paint & Paper Library. Sofa, Love Your Home. Carpet, Stark. Serge Mouille two-arm wall light, Mobelaris



factor in our decision because, having been built more than five years ago, it meant we would have a strong case for permission to build in its footprint. There was so much scope at the back,' she explains.

By lowering the floor to gain more head height, removing structural walls and building out to the extent of the footprint, Kate and Gavin created a vast kitchen-living space. A huge pivot door provides an uninterrupted view of the garden while another door is topped by a pink barrel-vaulted ceiling that corresponds to the brick arch at the front. Always eager to put her individual spin on an interior, Kate used her silhouette curtains by Pierre Frey as the starting point for the scheme. 'Extensions often have a lot of glass at the end but they can be dressed and made more interesting,' she says. 'Here the use of linen and embroidery makes the space more homely and the fabric was one of the first things I bought.'

The couple created a nook for their laundry, later realising that a more fun option would be to use the space for a hidden bar. With a pink interior and seams of warm light under the shelves the feature sets a jaunty tone for entertaining. The gold metallic paint applied to

KATE'S STUDY

A glass balustrade allows the entire window to be opened safely without obstructing the view.

Ardmore Zulu wallpaper border, Cole & Son. Jensen desk, Made.com. Soren office chair, John Lewis & Partners

CLOAKROOM

The curve of the basin is followed in the marble shelf to ensure no hips are bumped coming in.

Marble shelf, AMG Marble & Granite. Yasmin basin, London Basin Company. Mars Meadow 01 wallpaper, Lick



KITCHEN

Kate's swing is a classic example of her playful take on interior design.

Pendant light, John Lewis & Partners



the drawers has been adopted from shipbuilding and it brings a warm, glamorous and unusual finish. ‘This probably won’t be our house forever so I wanted to be careful with colour choices. The pink can all be painted over so for example if you opted for black you would really change the look of the room,’ Kate explains. The curved edges of the island and its crisp linear concrete columns also trace back to the arch of the front door.

On the first floor an en suite has been created for the guest bedroom while another bedroom has been sacrificed to become a stunning bathroom for Kate and Gavin. ‘You step down into the shower which means there’s never any water on the floor so I could use wood to make the space cosier,’ Kate says. The floor had to be rebuilt as the huge inviting bronze tub was so heavy – a worthy investment for this luxe setting. Upstairs, the layout of the loft conversion makes brilliant use of space including two studies, a gym and bathroom. Kate and Gavin’s home is unrecognisable from when it was sold to them, as they have triumphed in creating a multi-faceted, fabulous base for work and play. 25

loudarchitects.com

EN SUITE

Brass seams in the marble give a luxurious finish to this self-contained shower which is a step lower than the rest of the bathroom. Verde marble, Solus Ceramics. Ceiling in Sage Green, Little Greene

MAIN BEDROOM

Kate designed the headboard with lighting to save space on the table. Bed by Sueno Beds with panels in House of Hackney fabric made by Sit Collective. Horse artwork, Tiffany Landale. Throw, Soho Home

‘Curtains in a bathroom soften
the more practical elements – just
choose washable ones’

BATHROOM

The floor was reinforced to make way for this deep and indulgent tub which has views over the garden.
Bath, London Encaustic.
Walls in Whitehall, Mylands.
Stool, Soho Home. Hanging light, Made.com. Curtains in linen fabric, West Elm





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SITTING ROOM
This is where the grown ups can relax with a cocktail.
Walls in Setting Plaster, Farrow & Ball. Vintage Italian ceiling light and travertine table, Vinterior. Bespoke rug, Michelle Kelly Interior Design

One of a kind

Being brave with colour paid off in this makeover by designer Michelle Kelly – it's resulted in a historic home that feels modern, unique and bright

FEATURE MARY WEAVER | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID CLEVELAND

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A double-fronted detached house, built in 1860

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, snug, boot room/cloakroom, four bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION Southeast London

KITCHEN

'The beautiful natural slate stone floor was existing – we kept it as it couldn't be more perfect for the house,' says Michelle.

Cabinetry in Terracotta Pot, Claybrook. Tap, deVOL. Tiles, Milagros. Find a selection of vintage-style jugs and vases at Anthropologie



‘Always think about lead times in a renovation – it’s best to have things ordered and delivered way in advance of the builders arriving’

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? I met the owners four years ago when I worked on their holiday home in Suffolk and we had a great rapport. I was honoured when they asked me to design their new, historic London home. We all thought it was a dream of a house so we nicknamed the project ‘The Dream House’ and that’s how we still refer to it!

WHAT WERE THE PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMEOWNERS? A beautiful forever home with different spaces to suit family members. The couple, who both work in the media, have daughters aged 11 and 13 and they wanted a hang-out den for them and a more grown-up sitting room for themselves.

DESCRIBE YOUR STYLE. You could call it a mixology – of colours, styles, prints and eras. I contrast vintage with contemporary, plain with print, chintz with stripes and mid-century with modern for a look that combines glamour with a romantic, individual touch.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION FOR THE SCHEME? The house itself! With its period bones, tall windows and original fireplaces, it’s pretty magnificent and I went back many times to get to know it and develop a feel for the rooms. I wanted to honour what was there while gently evolving it for modern life.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? I am naturally drawn to greens, pinks and soft blues but from the outset it felt that this house needed to be grounded with earthy shades. Hence the rich terracotta in the kitchen and the green garden room which is also the snug for the children.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? Unfortunately, as often happens, it was lead times! There was quite a short time frame to complete the house so I was fairly restricted in that I had to source pieces that I knew I could get my hands on quickly.

WHAT WAS THE MOST SATISFYING ASPECT OF THIS PROJECT? It’s always the moment the owners walk through the door and see the result for the first time. I like a home to be properly dressed and give each one its own scent – in this case Jardin de la Lune (by Earl of East), a heady mix of tuberose and bergamot.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE FOR CREATING A SUCCESSFUL SCHEME? Start with what you love, what you know instinctively you will still enjoy for a long time. Trust your gut instinct rather than try to push yourself into something that is a trend today or is simply just not ‘you’. But do push yourself to be braver than you think with colour – it’s a simple way to bring joy to a home. 25

michellekellystyle.com



DINING SPACE

The neutral walls provide the perfect backdrop for colourful artwork and accessories.

Walls in Pointing, Farrow & Ball. Find similar vintage art, Curatorio. Wall light, Lyngard

SNUG

Also known as ‘the garden room’, this basement space is where the family watches TV.

Shelving in Green Ground, Farrow & Ball. Modular seating and similar vases, Anthropologie



BEDROOM

'A guest room is a place to have fun so we went all out with a mix of colours and prints,' says Michelle.

Wallpaper, Liberty. Bed, Feather & Black. Table, John Lewis & Partners. Similar rattan mirror, La Redoute. Pendant light, Ferm Living



MAIN EN SUITE
This room was created by taking some space from one of the girls' bedrooms next door. Wall tiles, Claybrook. Mirror, Sophie Conran. Similar vintage wall lights, Vinterior. Basin and taps, Lefroy Brooks

BEDROOM

This was designed so it can easily evolve as the clients' daughter grows. Walls in Green Blue, Farrow & Ball. Similar bed and quilt, John Lewis & Partners. Rug, Donna Wilson. Blind in fabric from The Cloth Shop



MAIN BEDROOM

Walls and woodwork are painted in the same saturated pink for a calming, cocooning effect. Walls in Nashville House, Lick. Wall light, Pooky. Table lamp, Verpan. Bed linen, Sophie Conran





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A modern living room with a curved yellow sofa, a colorful floral rug, and a wood-paneled wall. The room features a large window with patterned curtains, a green pendant lamp, and a patterned armchair. The overall aesthetic is bold and contemporary.

To the MAX

This new-build apartment was just an empty shell until designer Roelfien Vos worked her magic and gave it a bold new layout and look – both of which are amazing

FEATURE ROOS SCHOEMAKER AND JULIET BENNING
PHOTOGRAPHY THIJS DE LEEUW/SPACE CONTENT STUDIO/LIVING INSIDE
PRODUCTION WILLEMIJN DE LEEUW

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A three-storey apartment in a new development

ROOMS Sitting room, den, dining area, kitchen, cloakroom, four bedrooms, four bathrooms

LOCATION
Amsterdam



SITTING ROOM

The wood-effect vinyl wallcovering gives a very mid-century modern feel. And the curves of the mid-century furniture are a playful contrast against the straight edges of the walnut cabinetry with its brass-inlaid seams.

Élitis. Try Oliver Bonas' Luna Mustard Yellow sofa. Rug, Ebru. Lamp with fringes, Fambuena. Coffee table, Duran Interiors. Curtains in fabric by Manuel Canovas. Lady chair by Cassina; upholstered in Janano fabric by Gastón y Daniela at Jane Clayton

**'WE REMOVED THE WALL BETWEEN THE KITCHEN AND HALLWAY
AND REPLACED IT WITH BRASS-INLAID GLASS'**



Clashing styles, colours and patterns is not something that deters intrepid interior designer Roelfien Vos. 'There shouldn't be any rules,' she says happily. 'Mixing colours and prints comes naturally to me. I don't think you can teach that, but the trick is to ensure that overall an interior remains in tune, despite any bold tones and elements.'

Roelfien's client bought the Amsterdam apartment as a newly built shell and asked her to design an interior that would reflect their cosmopolitan outlook. 'The layout was up to us to design,' explains Roelfien. 'The first thing we did was to remove the solid wall between the kitchen and hallway and replace it

with brass-inlaid glass. Looking through, the staircase now appears to float, which creates a tremendous feeling of space.'

The attention to detail has produced a scheme that works on every level. 'The architectural detailing deceives people into thinking it's a historic building,' says Roelfien. 'For example, I replicated the steel and brass from the staircase in the railing upstairs to create a connection between the floors. I then repeated shapes: the marble inserts in the railing are mirrored in the hallway mouldings. While I play with materials, shapes and colour, I'm always keen to create a cohesive, connected feeling.' Throughout the property ceilings were lowered as a way to hide



KITCHEN

A glazed wall offers a view of the staircase. It is inlaid with brass – a theme repeated throughout, providing a sense of continuity.

Try walnut Highgate units, Naked Kitchens. Worksurface, Marazzi. Axle lights (over island), Hollands Licht

DINING AREA

Geometric motifs add standout style and act as a foil to the green walls.

For a similar wall colour, try Yeabridge Green, Farrow & Ball. Wallcovering, Élitis. Verpan pendant light, Chaplins. Opus table, Potocco. Dining chairs, Satelliet UK

**'THE BLACK-PANELLED BAMBOO CABINERY IN THE BATHROOM
FRAMES THE BATH AND PROVIDES PLENTY OF STORAGE'**



all the tech. Subsequently enhanced with decorative mouldings, a shadow gap is then used to cleverly introduce a seam of illumination that creates the impression of greater height, as well as the key feeling of luxe that Roelfien was after.

In the main bedroom suite, the spaces flow in a way that's evocative of a high-end hotel. Black-panelled bamboo cabinetry provides a sophisticated framework around a deep tub, while the same panelling is replicated by the bed. In the lower ground floor bedrooms, further walls of similar custom cabinetry offer useful storage and wardrobe space. Another repeated theme is the vibrant shade of green. 'I've always loved green and all its

tones,' says Roelfien. 'Green brings tranquillity and can be combined with almost anything. Here, it looks bold teamed with the dark grey, wood and white in the hallway. But with the pink wallpaper in the sitting room, it's a more unusual pairing and exactly the kind of experiment I love.'

After putting so much thought and energy into a job as here, Roelfien admits it's sometimes hard to let go. 'When you are so involved in a project, it ends up feeling a bit like your own home,' she says. 'When I hand back the keys, it always takes some time to get used to the fact that I am now the guest in the house!' [roelfienvos.com](https://www.roelfienvos.com)



CHILD'S BEDROOM

A floating vanity can be seen in the en suite. Decorative details and colours reference other parts of the apartment.

Armchair, Thonet. Cushion and curtains, made from fabric by Gastón y Daniela

MAIN BEDROOM

'For their own bedroom, the client requested the atmosphere of a luxury hotel suite,' explains Roelfien.

Messalina wall lights, Contardi. Bolle LED pendant light by Massimo Castagna, Chaplins. Key Shadow rug, The Rug Company

MAIN EN SUITE

A luxuriantly deep bathtub is enclosed in black bamboo panelling that both recalls Japanese interiors and creates cohesion with the rest of the wall panelling in the main bedroom suite.

Curtain in fabric by Karin Sajo

ISLAND LIFE

A spectacular centrepiece is the multifunctional hub of Sarah and Steve Prior's revamped kitchen

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG



PROJECT
DETAILS**DESIGNER**

Design Interiors
(design-interiors.
com)

PROPERTY

Edwardian house

WORK

Extension/internal
reconfiguration to
create a kitchen-
dining-living room

LOCATION

East Sussex

When Sarah and Steve Prior bought their house eight years ago, they knew they had a substantial renovation project ahead. When at last it was time to tackle the kitchen, the couple visited three different companies and eventually settled on Design Interiors after meeting with senior designer Tim Brown.

1 SORT THE SPACE

'The existing kitchen was poorly located and too small to be a sociable space,' says Sarah. 'By knocking three ground floor rooms together and extending across the rear with maximum wall and roof glazing, we were able to create a much larger, light-filled room for cooking, dining, relaxing and entertaining.' Sarah says the couple gelled immediately with Tim Brown from Design Interiors. 'Tim really took the time to really listen to my vision,' she notes. 'I wanted a multifunctional island as the focus of the room and traditional handmade cabinetry that would stand the test of time, yet sit comfortably in a contemporary space.'

2 ZONE THE LOOK

'The room is carefully zoned into distinct areas, making sense of the large space and creating a cohesive feel,' explains Tim. In the centre, the generously proportioned island includes prep surface, sink, hob and storage, as well as a sweeping breakfast bar and curved banquette seating to accentuate its statement design. Behind, tall Davonport cabinetry houses a bank of ovens, as well as an integrated fridge freezer, breakfast station and tall cupboards. 'The tall furniture is recessed into a specially constructed wall to reduce visual bulk, while its curved pilasters soften the look,' explains Tim.

3 CREATE A PALETTE

Sarah chose an off-white shade for the painted tall cabinetry to accentuate the light feel of the room, while walnut on the island adds contrast and richness. The worktop is made from a durable marble-effect quartz surface, finished with a lamb's tongue edge profile. 'It's a small detail, but one that elevates the design and introduces a sense of luxury,' says Tim.

4 ADD WARMTH

While the soft neutral tones provide the calm backdrop, burnished brass handles, smoked glass pendant lights and mustard chairs ramp up the interest and warmth in the room. 'It comes together as a very inviting family space,' says Sarah. ²⁵

SHAPE SHIFTER

The dramatic shape and large size of the island accentuate its role as the standout feature of the room. Curved pilasters in the tall run of furniture contrast with the square ones of the island, providing another note of contrast and character



ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The small circular dining table with custom banquette seating is designed for casual meals and morning coffee. The scalloped supports to the banquette seating add an elegant detail.

Davenport Tillingham **cabinetry** in Farrow & Ball Wimborne White with walnut island; Armac Martin Mix **handles** in burnished brass; banquette **seating** upholstered in Villa Nova Cambay Taupe weave; Caesarstone Moorland Fog 6046 quartz **worktop**, all Design Interiors. H7262BP **oven**; DG2740 steam **oven**; M7240TC **microwave**; CVA7445 **coffee machine**; ESW7010 warming **drawer**; G7160SCVi **dishwasher**, all Miele. Pura induction **hob** with extractor, Bora. RS90A2 **fridge freezer**, Fisher & Paykel. Wi6143 **wine cooler**, Caple. Classic Fusion hot, cold and boiling water **tap**, Quooker. Subline 500-U Silgranit **sink**, Blanco. Minoli Marvel Crema Delicato porcelain **floor tiles**, Master Tiles. Jule pendant **lights**, Atkin and Thyme. Similar round **table**, Apollo; similar **chairs**, Beckton, both Barker and Stonehouse. Tribeca **bar stools**, Cult Furniture. Glazing and bespoke **table top**, Shaws of Brighton



**'THE ISLAND DOES IT ALL WITH ITS
STORAGE, BAR SEATING AND THE
MORE FORMAL DINING AREA'**



TOP TIP
Opt for a round table and bespoke curved banquette to create a stylish yet sociable seating area

COMPARE & CONTRAST

Nicole Hirsch revived a dated house with luxurious textures and an interplay between curves and straight lines

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | **PHOTOGRAPHY** SARAH WINCHESTER STUDIOS | **STYLING** SEAN DONOVAN

SITTING ROOM

The pill-shaped rug was custom designed by Nicole and the rug maker. Its edges follow the curve of the sofas.

Sofas, Kravet. Wallcovering, Phillip Jeffries. Custom rug, Art and Loom. Pendant light, Bone Simple Design. Coffee table, Amorph Inc



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A detached home built in the 1990s

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, family room, cloakroom, home office, two bedrooms, bathroom

LOCATION Massachusetts



BREAKFAST AREA
Three pendant lights lend colour to the neutral scheme. Table, RH. Chairs, Danish Design Store. Flowerpot light by Verner Panton, source at &Tradition



KITCHEN
The grey hues of the worktop tie in with the warm tones of the cabinetry. Black accents anchor the look. Kitchen, Newton Kitchens & Design. Worktop, Neolith. Fat stool, Tom Dixon



STUDY
The acrylic seats were chosen so that the sculptural timber desk is unobscured. Ridge desk, CB2. Vintage chairs, source on 1stDibs. Table lamp sourced through Neena's Lighting

‘By going bespoke with things like sofas and dining tables you’ll be able to get every inch of what you want from a space’

HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT? I was approached by this client to improve her existing home, which was quite dated and in need of revival. It had been built in 1998 and she wanted a substantial makeover. We worked in two phases extensively improving the ground floor and then in a second phase with a total gut renovation of the kitchen and main bedroom.

WHAT WERE THE BIGGEST PRIORITIES FOR THE HOMEOWNER? It is a traditional house but had some very ‘builder-grade’ finishes – but the rooms flowed together well and the bones of the house were beautiful. The owner wanted to make the dining room more functional for a large family gathering. She also wanted a formal sitting room that would seat lots of people, a big, practical cook’s kitchen and a well-organised home office. Through the process we became very close friends. She was a dream to work for. This project was a collaborative, wonderful experience.

DESCRIBE THE HOMEOWNER’S STYLE. Her taste has evolved during the time I’ve worked with her from traditional to more contemporary – that’s often the reason why people reach out to us in the first place. This client saw our previous work and felt it aligned with what she hoped to achieve in her home. She wanted a colour palette that would have longevity, that was clean, fresh and not too jarring. Art was of significant importance throughout the home so we brought colour in sparingly through the art itself.

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? Every room represented a different challenge, but putting in the huge slab of marble on the fireplace in the sitting room was definitely one of the most complicated. The stone was so heavy we had to create supports in the basement beneath. In the kitchen we went down to the stud walls and worked with Newton Kitchens & Design and their construction team to navigate the very tricky process of renovating a kitchen in an older home.

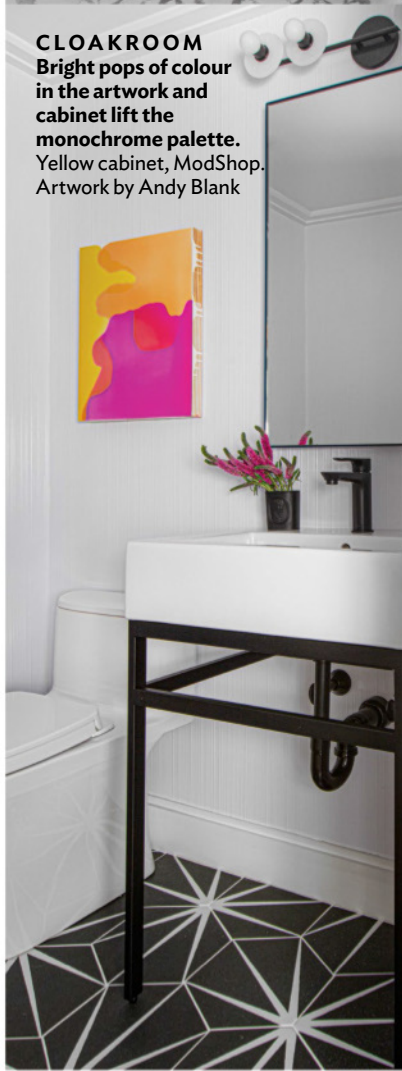
WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH TO THE FURNITURE? There was virtually nothing to start with. There was one former piece – a gorgeous tall cabinet in the dining room – and we took this to our furniture maker to have it lacquered and new hardware put on it. Much of the furniture we custom designed. We floor-plan everything out in specific detail prior to selecting it because we feel scale is of paramount importance. When we’re designing sofas and dining tables we try to get every inch of what we want from the space. 25

nicolehirschinteriors.com



MAIN BEDROOM
A contemporary take on a four-poster bed takes centre stage here.

Bed with custom upholstery and foot stools, Bernhardt.
Carpet, Stark



CLOAKROOM
Bright pops of colour in the artwork and cabinet lift the monochrome palette.
Yellow cabinet, ModShop.
Artwork by Andy Blank



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached 1940s house

ROOMS Kitchen/dining/living area, snug, hideaway desk area, home office, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION

Southwest London

KITCHEN/ DINING AREA

Statement lighting designed by Tristian pops against the exposed oak frame and plywood walls and ceiling in this space.

Synergy pendant light; Allium mini pendant lights, both Tristian Thornhill. Ypperlig dining table; kitchen cabinetry, both Ikea.

Mikky bar stool in green eco-leather, Furnwise. Metal wall art, Dunelm

Personal statement

Liz and Tristian Thornhill hired an architect to help them ace a unique look for their 1940s semi

FEATURE SOPHIE VENING | PHOTOGRAPHY ADAM SCOTT



'IT WAS ABOUT MAKING THE BEST OF AN ORDINARY HOUSE AND DOING SOMETHING SPECIAL WITH IT, AND OUR ARCHITECT COMPLETELY GOT THAT'

LIVING AREA
The combination of timber and white-washed walls creates a wonderfully calming interior.

Gas stove, Flames of Richmond. Porcelain floor tiles, London Stone. Green sofa, DFS. Green rug, The Rug Seller. Grey armchair, Made



Whether its eating breakfast at the new kitchen island, pottering about in the garden or chilling out as a family around the living area, Liz and Tristian Thornhill are definitely making the most of their recently refurbished home. Having been living in a small ex-council house in North Sheen for eight years, the couple needed more interior space and a bigger garden for themselves and their son Phineas, now 10, and were keen for their next home to be in Richmond. 'It's a ludicrously expensive area, but we love the place,' explains Tristian. 'The park is beautiful, it's close to Kew Gardens and the area has amazing transport links.'

In September 2019, the couple had an offer accepted on a probate 1940s semi-detached house close to Richmond town centre. Although the property was a complete wreck, with no working kitchen and a hose pipe used as a kitchen tap, Liz and Tristian saw potential.

CREATIVE VISION

The couple employed George Woodrow of Woodrow Vizor Architects to redesign the house, after searching online for an architecture firm to collaborate with. 'We fell in love with George's own home renovation and felt his vision matched exactly what we wanted,' says Liz.

Among the couple's list of requirements was a rear ground-floor extension to accommodate an open-plan living area, dining area and kitchen. They were also keen to create a separate snug room at the front of the house. 'Open-plan living is great, but sometimes one of us wants to do our own thing,' says Liz.

Another design must-have was a dedicated study area within the open-plan space where Tristian could concentrate on his day job as head of design for Roberts Radios, as well as his side venture tristianthornhill.com designing and producing lamps made out of stainless steel and recycled materials.

EXTRA SPACE

In order to gain more bedroom space, walls were moved slightly on the first floor to create two large double bedrooms and a small office for Liz. A pocket sliding door from here leads straight up to a new bedroom and bathroom in the loft extension.

Building work began in January 2021 and the family moved into a nearby rental, followed by a stay at both sets of in-laws during the school summer holidays. 'It was supposed to be ready for us to move into in September, but there were material delays and a few measurement slip-ups by the contractors,' says Tristian. The project was eventually completed by November 2021.

One of the most striking aspects is the ground-floor extension with its stunning exposed timber A-frame with plywood walls and ceiling. The new space incorporates glass roof lights and is home to the dining and living areas. Shelving has been built between the wall timbers to display photographs, plants and artwork. 'As soon as I finish work on a Friday, I close off the workspace and we chill out together, cooking, eating or playing games,' says Tristian. 'Our home is a really cosy space to hang out together in.' 🍷

woodrowvizor.co.uk



STUDY AREA

This can be concealed behind large birch plywood doors. 'At the end of the working week I simply close off the space so we can't see it,' says Tristian. Ikhana desk chair, Etsy. Hideaway office door mechanism, Häfele



LOFT BEDROOM
Mustard yellow accents
complement the wood
tones here.

Wall light, Litfad. For a
similar look, try the mustard
yellow waffle cotton throw
and cushion cover, Secret
Linen Store



BATHROOM
Porcelain tiles with a
marble effect mimic the
more expensive stone.
Basin, bath, shower,
tap and porcelain tiles, all
Bathrooms by Design

A perfect FIT

Designer Henry Prideaux provided inventive storage and space solutions to make every inch of this period terrace count

FEATURE AND STYLING MARY WEAVER | PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES MERRELL



SITTING ROOM

It was important to have a library element to the room, so bookcases were added either side of the fireplace. Grasscloth wallpaper in Vanilla Bean, Altfield. Cabinetry in Steel V, Paint & Paper Library, by Handmade Kitchens of Christchurch, customised by WMPM

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Edwardian terrace

ROOMS Kitchen, sitting room, utility, three bedrooms, bathroom, study/guestroom/nursery, cloakroom

LOCATION

Southwest London

SITTING ROOM

Storage is hidden in the built-in sofa. Custom sofa by WMPM, with cushions in Abbey Stripe by Fermoie, made by KLS Interiors. Lola armchair, Robert Langford; in Checkerboard in Taupe, Susie Atkinson

F

illed with colour, texture, pattern and quality craftsmanship, this Edwardian house in southwest London revels in its reinvention from a small terrace that struggled to accommodate a family of six (and a dog) to a cleverly designed home where everyone is comfortable and enjoys their own, and communal, spaces. The house is bigger, thanks to a kitchen and first-floor extension but it is still fair to class it as modest, although now it is fit for purpose.

It works, says interior designer Henry Prideaux, 'because every room has a specific purpose with storage utilised in each possible nook and cranny, be it shelves in a doorway, underneath the built-in sofa, behind jib doors on landings, behind the headboard in the main bedroom or up high, with ladder access, in the utility room.' Certain rooms are multifunctional, like the nursery, which is also an office and guest bedroom, and the sitting room, which incorporates a grown-up living area, a library and a TV zone.

Henry was commissioned by George and Simi Campbell-Collins, (who have three boys and a baby girl aged between 12 and six months) when work had started but internal layouts had not been finalised. 'That meant I was able to work with the contractor, Will Wright-Morris from WMPM, on those crucial decisions,' he says, 'and make every inch count.' A key factor involved the repurposing of the often tricky and dark 'middle room', into three areas – a ground floor loo, a utility room off the kitchen and as an extension of the sitting room to create said TV zone.

The house oozes practicality but not at the sacrifice of style. Rooms are swathed in sumptuous materials. Abstract prints sit with graphic patterns in the sitting room and soft stripes punctuate William Morris fabrics in the study. Bedrooms have a softer



palette with the middle boys (aged seven and three) sharing a room that will grow with them, although they will probably never want to relinquish their divine dinosaur-papered wardrobes. The converted loft main bedroom combines patterns, both abstract and faded florals, in soothing shades.

Small space tricks enhance rooms – a foxed mirror splashback in the kitchen, a glass wall in the downstairs loo and generous pendant lights (in the sitting room and kitchen) that play to a sense of opulence. Tall, double, pocket doors off the hallway instil grandeur while still being compact.

Henry, who cut his teeth working for Nicky Haslam, is known for creating homes that combine a blend of design styles for a modern take on classic interiors. 'I like to give every room its own story so each space is designed for a particular reason with a furniture layout and colours to match,' he says. 'It means that no room is the same, yet there is usually a thread of, say, a bold colour pairing with wallpapers in bedrooms and the sitting room so it is still cohesive.'

The owners were kept in the loop with every decision from architectural revisions to wall and floor finishes to furniture and joinery but, as Henry says: 'Part of the role of interior designer is to take the stress off the client throughout the process so they are involved but only in the fun parts.' Sounds ideal. 25

henryprideaux.com



KITCHEN

The ladder in the utility room is to give access to storage built in up high.

Island in India Yellow, Farrow & Ball; units in Travertine Mid, Little Greene, by Handmade Kitchens of Christchurch. Darlana lantern pendant light, Visual Comfort & Co



DINING AREA

The light tonal colours of the table and chairs echo the floor and wall shades creating a quiet feeling in what can be a lively area.

Walls in Stock, Little Greene. Pebble extending dining table, West Elm. Uish chairs, Sklum. Art Photographs, Alison Jackson

‘Storage has been utilised in every nook and cranny, including behind the headboard in the main bedroom’





MAIN BEDROOM

Rich fabrics add a luxurious feel. Wallpaper, blind and valance in Little Leaf in Blush, Clovelly Cloth. Byrne headboard by Robert Langford, in Apsley in Soft Pink by Jane Churchill. Cushions in Apulia in Almond, Andrew Martin and silk ikat, Jennifer Manners

FAMILY BATHROOM

Given this is also a guest bathroom, it was designed with universal appeal in a neutral palette.

London vanity unit in Stoneywell Slate, C.P. Hart. Medina Hexagon porcelain wall tiles; Lily Pad porcelain Cloud floor tiles, Ca'Pietra at European Heritage

BOYS' BEDROOM

The aim was to make a room filled with colour and interest, with lots of storage and space to play.

Honeycombe wallpaper in Cream/Wood, Morris & Co at Sanderson Design Group. Pendant light, Loving String. Table lamps, Pooky. Club wall light, Jim Lawrence





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FEELING GENEROUS

When they combined two homes into one, Cathy and Mike Norton designed a kitchen to suit their new and bigger abode

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG



CENTRE OF ATTENTION
Without a sink or hob, the island is designed as a prepping and serving area, linking dining and soft seating areas of the room. The purpose-built overmantel adds character to the room, and also conceals a built-in extractor

PROJECT
DETAILS**OWNERS**Cathy and Mike
Norton**PROPERTY**

Victorian house

WORK

A kitchen extension

LOCATION

Southwest London



It was about 20 years ago that Cathy Norton and husband Mike bought a second-floor apartment in an elegant Victorian house. Years later, when the ground-floor flat came up for sale, the couple jumped at the chance to buy it and convert the two flats into one beautiful home.

1 FIRST STEPS

'It was immediately apparent that the small and dated kitchen in the ground-floor flat was a priority,' explains Cathy. 'We love entertaining and cooking so wanted a larger room for socialising and spending time with our son.' The couple decided to demolish the old conservatory and use the footprint to extend the kitchen space, adding super-size skylights and rear floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors to introduce as much natural light into the room as possible.


2 MAKING IT WORK

The couple entrusted Pam Baker, senior designer at Martin Moore, to bring their vision to life. As well as the extension, a wall between the old kitchen and dining room was removed to create an open-plan layout. 'We wanted a warm, welcoming room and a classic design that didn't look out of place in a Victorian house, but with a modern twist,' says Cathy. A large island forms the focal point, with space for prepping and socialising. A sweep of wall furniture includes integrated appliances and an elegant overmantel, which conceals the extractor hood.

3 ADDING IMPACT

While the cabinetry is traditionally made, its linear brass handles and the striking damson island colour add contemporary touches. 'In a room with so much natural light, the warm colour of the island adds impact,' says Cathy. The soft grey wall cabinetry and natural timber floor create a gentle backdrop, accentuating the drama of the island, while a mirrored splashback reflects more natural light back into the room to boost its spacious feel.

4 COMPLETING THE ROOM

The cabinetry next to the sofa conceals a bar complete with shelves for glasses, a worktop for making drinks and wine storage below. 'Mike and I have always wanted a home bar, as a feature when we are entertaining or when it's just the two of us and we want to relax with a glass of wine,' says Cathy. 'It adds a glamorous finishing touch to the room.' 

martinmoore.com



GLAMOROUS ACCENTS

Brass details accentuate the warmth and impact of the damson-painted island. The natural brown, pink and grey flecks in the Bianco Antique granite island top blend beautifully with the plum colour. New Deco bespoke **cabinetry** in Martin Moore Moth Grey and island in Damson with New Deco handles in satin brass lacquered finish, all by Martin Moore. Siemens HB578AoS6B **oven**; HM676GoS6B **oven** with microwave function; BI63oDNS1B **warming drawers**; EH8o1FVB1E induction **hob**; SN87YXo3CE fully integrated **dishwasher**; Westin Prime 9oo built-in **extractor**; Liebherr ICNe 5133 integrated **fridge freezer**; ICNf 51o3 integrated **fridge freezer**; Waterline ESSWC6ooSS.1 **wine cooler**, all supplied by Martin Moore. Quooker Flex polished chrome **boiling water** and **mixer tap**; Nordic round **mixer tap** in polished chrome; Franke BK 11o 33 ceramic **sink**; VBK 71o-57 Belfast ceramic **sink**, all supplied by Martin Moore. 3o3mm thick polished Bianco Assoluto quartz surface **worktops**; island **worktop** in 3o3mm thick Bianco Antique polished granite; **splashback** in tinted mirror, all supplied by Martin Moore. Wood parquet **flooring**, Domus. Chicago **bar stools**, Cult Furniture. Shaftesbury **pendant lights**, Neptune. **Walls** in Charleston Gray, Farrow & Ball



**'IN A ROOM WITH SO MUCH NATURAL LIGHT,
THE WARM COLOUR OF THE ISLAND ADDS IMPACT'**



TOP TIP

A mirrored splashback allows the cook to see guests in the room – and join in the conversation

In the SAME VEIN



Interior designer Mimi Meacham was inspired by a stunning slab of marble and her favourite shades of blush and green when decorating her new build

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | PHOTOGRAPHY KERRY KIRK



SITTING ROOM

The proportions of the coffee table have been carefully considered to perfectly complement the corner sofa. Striped voiles add interest to the calm, neutral scheme, while still allowing in plenty of natural light. Coffee table, RH. Curtains, Schumacher. Cushions, Serena Dugan Studio. Base rug, Stark. Striped rug, LillieKat Rugs

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A detached new build

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, living room, study, boot room, six bedrooms, six bathrooms, cloakroom, playroom with en suite

LOCATION Houston, Texas



WHY DID YOU MOVE HERE? We love this neighbourhood, particularly the street. Our children are nine, seven and four, and they have friends all around. As my husband, Chad, has a commercial construction business, and I have my own interior design business, Marian Louise Design, we loved the process of seeing our home come to life!

WHAT WERE YOUR MAIN PRIORITIES FOR THE DESIGN? I wanted the sunlight through the large windows to be the main character in this home, so I went with

playful and unique finish selections, yet kept an open, airy and charming feel. The result is a fresh, traditional style with pops of colour and a family feel.

HOW DID YOUR APPROACH DIFFER COMPARED TO DESIGNING CLIENTS' HOMES?

Designing for my family meant I could make quicker, more spontaneous decisions without having to consult a client. I could be more quirky and unexpected with my choices because I didn't have to worry about what the client's tastes were. For instance, I was able

'AN ARCH CREATES AN ATTRACTIVE FRAME FOR THE COOKER, PLUS IT KEEPS THE EXTRACTOR FAN NEATLY CONCEALED SO THERE'S SPACE FOR A SMALL SHELF'



to go wild with the primary bedroom and bathrooms because my husband loves the use of colour as much, if not more, than I do.

WHAT WAS YOUR INSPIRATION? The blush marble in the kitchen was my jumping off point. Authentic, living materials were used so the home ages gracefully and grows along with us.

WHICH ROOM WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU? The kitchen because we are in it so much with the kids running in and out. What makes that space alluring and memorable is the marble countertops, along with the large sink window.

DINING ROOM

A bleached-oak dining table teamed with painted chairs gives the dining area an informal feel.

Dresser, Kathy Kuo Home. Chairs, 1stDibs. Loaf's Bread table is similar. Curtain fabric, Schumacher

KITCHEN

Two islands, one for prep and one for sociable seating, really make the most of the space.

Similar Latte wall tiles, Claybrook. Bar stools, Made Goods. Hardware, Acero Bella

'THE PLAYROOM INCORPORATES STREAMLINED BUNK BEDS FOR SLEEPOVERS'



MAIN BEDROOM
An array of different textures are combined, from tactile velvet and bouclé to linen and paper. Curtains, Kravet. Headboard in Schumacher fabric. Bedside tables, Made Goods. Lampshades, Oka. Try Astrid paper pendant, Vaunt Design

EN SUITE
The luxurious space features a freestanding bath with sumptuous curves, plus it's large enough for a dressing table. Classic Paris double-ended bath, Hicks & Hicks, is an alternative. Curtains, Kravet. Nain Trading has similar rugs. Vanity stool, Creative Style Furniture. Blakely dressing table, Le Di Vita, has a similar style

PLAYROOM
Cleverly thought-out storage keeps the playroom clutter free. Wallpaper, Rebecca Atwood. Ikea's Labbsal baskets would work here



HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE COLOUR PALETTE? I found the kitchen marble early on in the build process and absolutely fell head over heels! The design concept of the whole house was inspired by this small, sample-size block of stone. However, the stone is mined in a small, family-owned quarry in deep Alabama and they were in no hurry to make my kitchen countertop dreams come true. Along with the team at Wimmel DC, who built our home, I worked hard on getting those slabs and never gave up, which in my opinion was well worth it!

WHAT WAS THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE? We started building at the height of Covid and ran into unexpected price increases on many items, as well as shortages that added stress to the process. We were also living across town, so getting over for a site visit in between kids' activities and my other projects was tricky.
WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE DESIGN IDEAS? The study has a striking scenic Iksel wallpaper and built-in bookshelves, and it gets a lot of comments from guests! 
marianlouisedesign.com

DINING AREA
Box pelmets covered in the same fabric as the curtains elegantly frame the tall windows. Pelmet and curtains in Loredana, Colefax and Fowler. Dining table and alcove cabinets by David Haddock, made for Lindi Reynolds & Co. Dining chairs, Marie's Corner; in Corolla, James Hare

Come together

The colours and patterns in Sian Parker's pied-à-terre are perfect partners and deliver a sense of joy

FEATURE KERRY HARPER-CUSS | PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY LINDI REYNOLDS © JONATHAN BOND

**'REMOVING THE FALSE
CEILINGS REVEALED
BEAUTIFUL FEATURES -
IT WAS WORTH IT'**

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Pied-à-terre apartment in a Victorian mansion block

ROOMS Open-plan sitting and dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom and shower room

LOCATION Central London





SITTING ROOM

'Blue is my favourite colour but it can be cold,' says Sian. 'The linen wall cloth adds textural warmth.'

Canterbury linen wallcovering, Stereo. Sofa, Spink & Edgar; in Birodo in Indigo, Zoffany at Sanderson Design Group, Artwork, Ben Fenske



KITCHEN
 Sian fell in love with this bold wallpaper, enjoying the uplifting mood it creates. Windsor wallpaper in Cream/Red; blind in Hamilton Embroidery, both Thibaut. Cabinetry in Sea Nor Sky, Paint & Paper Library



Music and art play a pivotal role in Sian and Michael Parker's lives. Their teenage children, Mia and William, study music at a conservatoire so although the main family home is in Surrey, the couple spend a great deal of time in London, attending concerts and productions. In 2021, they bought a pied-à-terre as a convenient weekend haven. After months of searching they found this well-located three-bed apartment which has lovely proportions, tall windows and looks onto a calm street.

Freshly redecorated in neutrals, it appeared to be somewhere that could be swiftly turned into their home. 'It felt like a blank canvas, that we could adapt quickly with paint, fabric and wallcoverings,' says Sian, 'Colour is very important to me – I find it brings joy and happiness into a house.' As it transpired, the transformation was not to be straightforward.

Sian had previously commissioned architectural interior designer Lindi Reynolds, and calling again upon her expertise proved wise. Lindi spotted false ceilings in the hallway, bathroom and kitchen as well as a lot of unnecessary boxing. She asked the couple to let her investigate, and found a beautiful architrave but – more crucially – discovered some walls were crumbling and the property needed a rewire. 'If you are to create a home with integrity and that honours its birthright you do have to do a bit of scratching around,' says Lindi. 'We discovered there was not enough amperage for the flat and because this is a Victorian property there were cables traversing in odd directions. We had to do a lot of remedial work, but it's vital to ensure the structure of a building is sound as well as to find its inherent character, so that any updates can sit most comfortably, allowing us to create homes for our clients to be their best selves in.'

Once structural and electrical integrity was restored, Lindi created calm with linen-wrapped walls and soundproofing under the wood floors. She asked the couple to select 'hero pieces' that she could design schemes around. Sian relished picking patterns – such as the kitchen wallpaper – and her favourite colour blue is used not only in the sitting/dining room but in echoes throughout. The couple enjoyed choosing art and even commissioned a piece by Cat Croxford – an artist introduced to them by Lindi – as a 20th anniversary memento to hang in the dining area.

The interiors simultaneously inject energy and calm and are just as life-enhancing as the Parkers hoped for. 'We bought what we thought was a blank canvas, but I'm so glad we had Lindi's support. There's no way we could have achieved this level of detail without her,' says Sian. 'Removing the false ceilings was key to giving the flat its sense of elegance and grandeur, the finish is immaculate and her storage solutions were so creative. It is just the joyful refuge we wanted, and will hopefully be a place to gather as a family to make memories for years to come.' 25

lindireynolds.co.uk



DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM
A day bed that pulls into a double makes the most of this narrow space. Bed, Lindi Reynolds & Co; in Selsley Stripe, Lewis & Wood



MAIN BEDROOM
Michael was keen to have a calming, green colour theme in the couple's sleep space. Bespoke headboard, Lindi Reynolds & Co; in Cosima velvet, Colefax and Fowler. Rushmere wallpaper in Leaf, Colefax and Fowler. Swing-arm wall light, Vaughan



SON'S BEDROOM
Built-in drawers, a wardrobe and bookshelves provide plenty of storage space. Bespoke bed and cabinetry by Lindi Reynolds & Co; in Blue Pearl, Paint & Paper Library



BATHROOM
The marble tiles were mitred to make seamless 90-degree joins. Viano marble tiles, Original Style. Stourton 4-rail electric towel rail, The Sterlingham Co. Ltd

FULL OF GRANDEUR

Carefully considered design details bring a contemporary twist to the traditional styling of this en suite

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY RYANN FORD



PROJECT
DETAILS**DESIGNER**

Sara Malek Barney at
BANDD/DESIGN
(bandddesign.com)

PROPERTY

A five-bedroom
new build

WORK

Part of the interior
design for the
whole house

LOCATION

Austin, Texas



While building their own home, an American-English couple discovered they loved different aesthetics. One leans towards a traditional style, while the other prefers a modern look. Sara Malek Barney of BANDD/DESIGN created an en suite that pleased them both.

1 PLAN THE DESIGN

Sara became involved in the project early on. 'A traditional aesthetic runs through the architecture of the contemporary new build – and it is particularly noted in the magnificent high ceilings and tall windows,' she says. 'I was on board early enough to advise on the main en suite's layout and flooring, as well as drive the interiors to bring the concept full circle.'

2 ENSURE A SEAMLESS LOOK

In their previous home, owners Kim, who grew-up in Georgia, and British-born Tom had found lack of storage and an awkward bathroom layout difficult to live with. 'With an beautiful bedroom that wasn't too fussy and formal, the transition through to their en suite needed to feel seamless,' Sara explains. 'Kim took inspiration from the Austin Proper Hotel where the interiors are deeply influenced by local craft and artisans. She also owned a glamorous chandelier – a piece that was very special to her – and we were delighted to incorporate it into the design.'

3 ADD WARMTH

Bespoke wood cabinetry runs down both sides of the room to focus the eye on the grandeur of the lighting and large windows. Polished nickel taps elevate the look with a warm finish without skewing too modern. 'We kept the palette light, neutral and clean with a soft detail Shaker door design and marble flooring in a herringbone pattern,' says Sara. 'The classic look nods to the traditional but still complements the contemporary bath – Kim and Tom are really pleased with it.' 25

BALANCED STYLE

'My clients wanted a light-filled, elegant space that leaned to the traditional yet wasn't too overdone,' says Sara.

Monaco freestanding **bath** is similar, Lusso. Try the Royalton **pendant**, Lighting Design. Wall **sconces**, Visual Comfort & Co. Roman **blind** in Pebble Embroidery Sky by Schumacher. Bevelled **mirrors**, Renwil. Carrara honed marble herringbone mosaic **flooring**, Mandarin Stone, would suit this scheme

A fine BALANCE

A curated collection of family antiques, interesting artwork and more recent design classics sit side by side in designer Catrin Fenton's beautifully renovated home

FEATURE KAREN DARLOW
STYLING PIPPA BLENKINSOP
PHOTOGRAPHY DARREN CHUNG

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A five-storey semi-detached townhouse, built in the early 1870s

ROOMS Sitting room/dining room/kitchen, music room, five bedrooms, six bathrooms, home cinema, laundry, gym and sauna

LOCATION

Northwest London



HALLWAY

The original stained-glass panelled door creates a striking entrance hall.

Lantern ceiling light, Vaughan. Door in Bancho, Farrow & Ball

SITTING ROOM

Classic pieces enhance the elegant period features.

Painting by Zdzislaw Ruszkowski. Chest of drawers, Graham and Green







There were times during the renovation of her Victorian house when Catrin Fenton wondered whether she had been over-ambitious. It took months to gain planning permission and then, once the build started, the house was stripped to its brickwork and exposed from the basement up to the first floor. However, these are distant memories now the work is complete.

‘With our second child on the way, it made sense to have more space,’ says Catrin. ‘And I knew I could turn it into something special. There were original features which we liked and it was well proportioned with high ceilings.’ At the bottom of the garden was a coach house, ripe for renovation, and interior designer Catrin had some interesting plans.

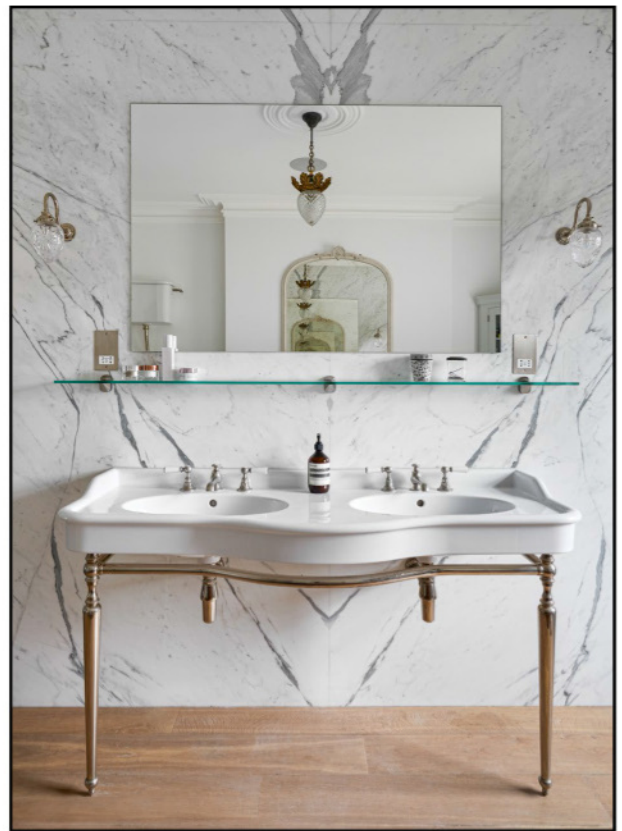
Catrin, husband Sam and their three children lived in the home as it was for a few years, giving themselves time to apply for the necessary permissions and save money. ‘One of the biggest changes we made was to dig out an underground link to the coach house,’ says Catrin, ‘but problems and delays with the planning meant the house deteriorated still further. In the end it was falling apart.’

Sensibly, the Fentons moved out once the builders moved in. Rotten floors and crumbling plaster were removed, and the basement was dug out to underpin the house and support the remaining shell of the

DINING ROOM
Positioned between the original part of the house and the new extension, this room’s mix of old and new furniture is the perfect solution.
 Reclaimed oak table, DT-69.
 Drop chairs, Fritz Hansen. The Buckingham fireplace, Chesneys

KITCHEN
Exposed brickwork adds rustic character.
 Cabinetry and sink, Smallbone; units in Hardwick White, Farrow & Ball. Ionian nickel tap, Perrin & Rowe. Old School Electric glass pendant lights, Holloways of Ludlow





building. A kitchen extension was added at the rear, with a striking metal-framed end gable and a glass roof, both designed to brighten the space.

While work was taking place, Catrin was planning the interiors. 'I'd been creating mood boards and saving photos for a long time,' she says. 'We wanted to retain the features and use characterful old furniture to create an authentic home, true to the period of the property, but not a museum.'

In the dining room, modern Fritz Hansen chairs and a reclaimed wood table are at ease with an antique dresser and period-style fireplace. 'I have no problem bringing modern pieces into a room like this, with its chandeliers and moulded ceilings,' says Catrin. Born in Germany, Catrin has brought something of the European aesthetic to this London home. 'I grew up in an old farmhouse and always liked antiques,' she says. 'But here, I keep changing things. Nothing is static.' She draws inspiration from designers who combine old and new, like Rose Uniacke, Heidi Caillier and Billy Cotton.

Catrin had planned almost every inch of the renovation before the architects, Stac Architecture, even drew up their first elevation. So how does the finished home measure up to her high expectations? 'It's fantastic,' she says. 'It was a big project, and stressful at times, but this is a great location and I'm really pleased with how it all turned out.'

catrinfenton.co.uk

MAIN BEDROOM

Furnishings are kept to a restful grey-blue palette. Nassau quilt, Oka. For a similar velvet bedspread, try Christy. Bed, The Conran Shop. Wall-mounted reading light, Holloways of Ludlow

EN SUITE

A marble panel frames the double basin, while a copper tub adds to the luxurious feel. Old School Electric wall sconces in nickel, Holloways of Ludlow. Bath, Fired Earth. Engineered wood flooring, Havwoods

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Culture club

Anna Anderson looked to her Scandi heritage and love of British decor to create a home that offers the best of both worlds

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE | PHOTOGRAPHY ALEXANDER JAMES



HOME TRUTHS
THE PROPERTY
Victorian end-of-terrace house
ROOMS Double sitting room,
kitchen-diner, laundry room,
study, cloakroom, three bedrooms,
three bathrooms
LOCATION Southwest London

SITTING ROOM
Beautiful joinery helps the TV 'disappear'
and the wallpaper backing lightens the
effect of the dark wood.

Joinery, TECO Bespoke. African Raffia wallcovering, Phillip Jeffries. Sofa in Cotton Ice, Love Your Home. Coffee table by Dalrymple Studio; in Chubby Check by Christopher Farr Cloth



Comfortable, quirky and charming,' is how Anna Anderson describes the Victorian end-of-terrace that she shares with husband Alex and daughter, Pebbles, five. Unlike many homeowners faced with an overhaul of a tired property, she knew exactly how to approach its renovation. 'I am not a procrastinator,' says Swedish-born Anna. 'I knew I wanted a home that could embrace colour and pattern but in an unfussy, streamlined way.'

The couple turned to Amy and Hewie Dalrymple, whose eponymous design studio is known for its colourful yet tailored approach. The aim was to add storage, overhaul the kitchen and bathrooms and inject interest without overwhelming the space. 'I wanted to reflect my Scandinavian heritage while adding a vibrant twist, inspired by British decorating,' says Anna. 'The rooms contained a lot of neutrals and we wanted to banish that in favour of something more dynamic.'

With a mantra of 'form and function', Anna was keen to make sure both sitting rooms, connected by double doors, were fully used. So, a defunct Victorian fireplace was concealed with a clever timber storage system, backed by a raffia wallpaper for textural appeal. 'It lends both structure and cosiness to the space and balances both open and concealed storage,' says designer Amy, who also advised sealing off one of the room's entryways to gain added wall space. 'The family love to have friends over, so we wanted this to be a fully utilised scheme, rather than a "formal" front room.'

A keen cook, who loves making everything from cinnamon buns to Pan-Asian dishes, Anna wanted to



INFORMAL SITTING ROOM
An internal window channels light from the hallway into this space, which the family use for reading and relaxing.

Florence Sofa in Linen Sky, Love Your Home. Bow Tie floor lamp, Pooky. Coffee table designed by Dalrymple Studio; made by Alexander & Ellis. Boucle footstool; brass bar cart, both Soho Home

KITCHEN
A banquette upholstered in striped fabric, spray-painted red chairs and an antique rug bring this scheme to life.

Vintage Bruno Rey chairs in Incarnadine; walls in Lichen, Farrow & Ball. Fia table, Nkuku. Bench seat in Frude, Howe. Bouquet medium chandelier with three shades, Le Klint. Antique Caucasian runner, Vinterior



add zest to the kitchen. ‘Much of our budget was eaten up, so we couldn’t start from scratch; instead we worked with what we had,’ she says. Amy added a bench seat upholstered in a smart stripe from Howe, picking up its red tones by spray-painting the couple’s dining chairs in a bold pillar box shade. Walls were painted in a mid-green tone ‘to make the cabinetry pop’, while a vintage rug adds an informal note. ‘Now, Pebbles can stand on the bench, whose fabric was treated to resist stains, and be fully involved with the cooking,’ says Amy.

Though the couple knew that they wanted to introduce a mid-century-modern look to their home, it was Amy who suggested they balance the schemes with some vintage additions. ‘I probably wouldn’t have been bold enough to introduce some of the pieces that she sourced,’ says Anna. The main bathroom was softened with an antique armoire and tribal rug from Vinterior, while the study’s 1950s French metal desk delivers an unexpected pop of orange against walls in sky blue.

Pattern makes a confident appearance, too. In Pebbles’ bathroom, a contemporary floral paper has been creatively framed by rose-coloured panelling, while in the sitting room a coffee table is upholstered in a bold check. ‘We paired punches of colour with neutral tones, or chose a softer palette for florals,’ says Amy. ‘That way, schemes have energy, but also feel relaxed and playful.’

The couple’s newly redecorated home has already seen its fair share of visitors from far and wide. ‘We have an open house policy,’ explains Anna. ‘We’re never happier than when the house is full and busy.’ ²⁵
 dalrymplestudio.co.uk

‘The banquette bench seating incorporated into the kitchen island is a great space saver’



‘Adding one or two antiques to modern schemes brings so much character and it can soften a contemporary look’



MAIN BEDROOM
A woven wallcovering and scalloped headboard lend texture and interest. Sevilla Weave in La Cesta wallcovering, Phillip Jeffries. Headboard in Mendip fabric, Fermoie; trimmed in Harbour Cord with Tape by Samuel & Sons



BATHROOM
The couple wanted a playful feel for this space, so Amy added a pretty wallpaper and panelling detail above the bath for a delicate, whimsical effect. Chintz Caroline Green wallpaper, Ottoline. Panelling in Blush, Little Greene



PEBBLES' BEDROOM
A softly contemporary floral wallpaper brings warmth and fun to this room. Marigold wallpaper in Pink/Blue, Molly Mahon. Vintage Kars rug, Vinterior. Small Asker table lamp with Pink and Yellow Star Anise shade, Rosi de Ruig

COASTAL *haven*

Once run-down, unloved and a warren of tiny rooms, the beachside Victorian terrace Ally Power calls home is now the epitome of seaside chic

FEATURE AND STYLING MARY WEAVER | PHOTOGRAPHY ANNA STATHAKI

SITTING ROOM

Ally kept the decor purposefully understated to showcase the spectacular sea view.

Mags Soft sofas, Hay, Sheepskin cushions, John Lewis & Partners.
Plant box table, Ferm Living. Square rug, Nordic Knots

Ally Power and her husband Lawrence found their holiday home on the south coast at the beginning of lockdown and sealed the deal straight away. 'On reflection, our run-down, sea-view Victorian terrace was a bargain, despite the fact it needed so much work,' says Ally. 'A year or so later, coastal homes became super-desirable and prices had soared.'

The couple both consider this their 'forever home'. 'We have extended family who live nearby and we wanted a house our children – Myla, seven, Harper, four and Huxley, one – could grow up in,' says Ally. 'Our base is in south London, so the south coast is an easy getaway.'

As a professional interior designer, Ally was undaunted by the prospect of managing the renovation

project and she and Lawrence both agreed that the top priority was taking maximum advantage of the property's stunning sea views. 'Lawrence's main wish was to be able to have a bath while looking at the sea,' explains Ally. When the couple bought the house, it was divided up into tiny rooms and they were also keen to open up the space. 'We wanted to create a contemporary feel, while also retaining the original period features of the house, such as the lovely cornicing and beautiful fireplaces,' says Ally.

To action their plans and vision, the couple enlisted the help of architect Helen Leask of Leask Architecture and their contractor, G&W Gardner Building Contractors. 'Helen came up with a brilliant design which meant we were able to open up all the downstairs

SITTING ROOM

Low-slung furniture emphasises the soaring ceiling, so the eye travels up to the fully restored cornicing. A vibrant artwork and lush plants enliven the monochrome scheme.

Eames lounge chair and matching ottoman, Vitra. Painting by Nina Brooke

KITCHEN

Sleek black cabinetry gives this open-plan room a contemporary feel, while green-hued marble adds eye-catching pattern.

Custom black-stained units, @furnitureoflove. Green terrazzo marble worktops and splashbacks, Diespeker & Co. Douglas fir flooring, Dinesen



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Four-storey Victorian terraced house

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, home office, four bedrooms, dressing room, three bathrooms, basement flat

LOCATION
Kent coast

DINING AREA

The bench is a social way to connect the dining and playroom areas of the ground floor and is one of Ally's favourite spots. Custom Douglas fir bench, G&W Gardner Building Contractors. Hiba black metal table, La Redoute, is similar. Journey SHY2 wall light, &Tradition, has this look

rooms,' explains Ally. 'The living areas at the front now flow straight into the extended kitchen/dining space at the back of the house. The rooms were specially designed to frame the view. You can actually stand in the garden and see the horizon.'

When it came to redesigning the decor, Ally chose a serene colour palette so as not to distract the eye from the wonderful sea views. The neutral backdrop was offset with black, which is used as an accent colour throughout the house, as well as for the metal doors and bespoke kitchen cabinetry. 'Black as a highlight is a theme, which sounds harsh when you say it,' says Ally. 'In reality, when contrasted with the period features, wooden floors and neutral walls, the black appears softer and helps unite all the various spaces.' The pale palette

has been enlivened with splashes of colour by using artwork, leafy foliage and the show-stopping green terrazzo worktops that are a statement feature of the open-plan kitchen. 'I like creating understated spaces that have surprising elements,' explains Ally. 'I especially love our elongated Douglas fir bench in the dining area that can sit three generations of family at once.'

The newly refurbished house is a great hit with Ally and Lawrence's children already. 'They love it, because they have plenty of space to run around and most importantly to them, the beach is outside,' says Ally. 'We definitely see this as our forever home,' she adds. 'I would love to enjoy it one day with our own grandchildren.

Who knows, maybe we'll even retire here?' 25
allyinteriors.com

MAIN BEDROOM

'I wanted to keep the monochrome feel here while adding a feeling of luxury in the form of black velvet and the freestanding bath with its gorgeous sea view (right),' says Ally.

Bed, BoConcept. Similar hand-quilted velvet throw, Toast

FAMILY BATHROOM

'I can't get enough of these finger tiles; they have a way of completely transforming small spaces like a shower,' says Ally.

Zeze mosaic wall tiles, Claybrook Studio. Try Pebble terrazzo-effect floor tiles, Mandarin Stone. The large Real Deal mirror, Loaf, is similar



MAIN BEDROOM

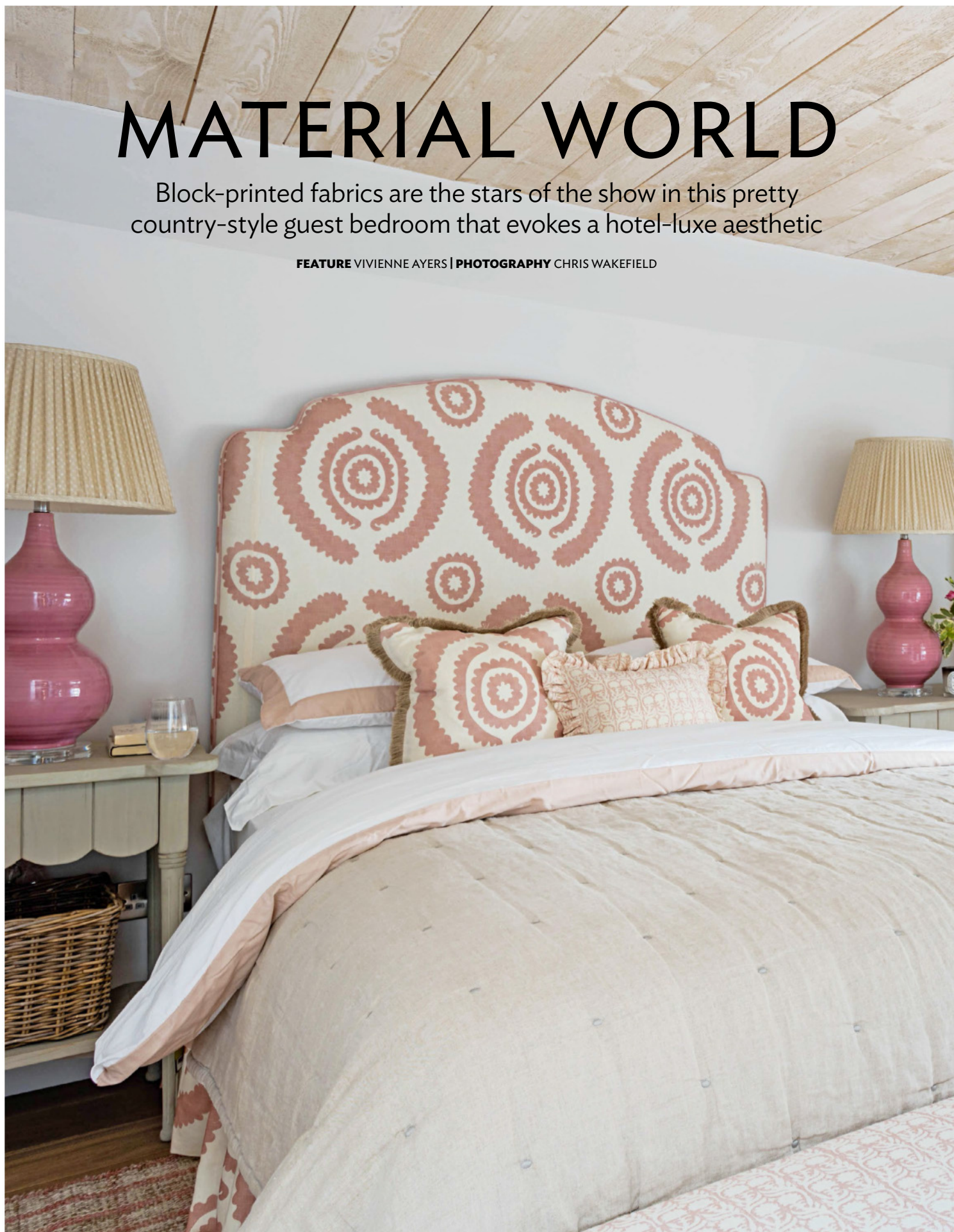
Keeping the windows unadorned and free of curtains highlights their architectural beauty. Lusso's Monaco Charcoal freestanding bath is a good alternative. Walls in Strong White, Farrow & Ball

**'THE WHOLE HOUSE HAS
BEEN SPECIALLY DESIGNED
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF
THE STUNNING LOCATION,
SHOWCASING THE VIEWS
WHEREVER POSSIBLE'**

MATERIAL WORLD

Block-printed fabrics are the stars of the show in this pretty country-style guest bedroom that evokes a hotel-luxe aesthetic

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYERS | PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WAKEFIELD



PROJECT
DETAILS**DESIGNER**

Sean Symington
at Sean Symington
Design (sean
symington.com)

PROPERTY

Two-bedroom
listed Georgian
coach house

WORK

Complete
bedroom
refurbishment

LOCATION

Somerset

After buying a home with a Grade II-listed coach house, a couple enlisted interior designer Sean Symington to transform it into a self-contained guest retreat. At the heart is a beautiful main bedroom that showcases pretty pastel fabrics.

1 SOFT AND SERENE

The couple's brief was to create a fresh and feminine room. A soft pastel colour palette was top of the wish list for the calming scheme, with pink accents contrasting with the blues in the nearby twin bedroom. The design was softened with an upholstered headboard in a block printed fabric, which also features on the cushions and Roman blind. Layers were built up with a combination of large and small scale patterns in toning hues. An upholstered bed box at the end of the bed provides storage for bedding, and a frilly stool, scalloped bedside tables and curved, fabric chair add extra softness.

2 COUNTRY CHARACTER

Wooden boarding injects a rustic feel and brings character to the ceiling. The walls have traditional plaster walls. 'When the room was being plastered we thought it was going to look like a white box,' says Sean. 'As the ceiling is low, we decided to clad it with shiplap boarding. We painted the boarding with watered-down paint to tone down the pine. The room needed soul and character and this was an easy way to do it.'

3 COMFORT UNDERFOOT

Extra texture, colour and pattern were injected with a large flatweave rug, which covers most of the limed oak floor. 'Guests come in from the swimming pool so we needed a very hardwearing, practical rug. The Kareli Check rug by Birdie Fortescue is the perfect size and has a design that resembles tartan. The fabrics in the scheme are quite busy so I wanted the bed and bench to sit on a rug that didn't feel too overwhelming.'

4 CLASSIC TOUCHES

Introduce period-style radiators for classic chic. 'You don't need to spend a fortune,' says Sean. 'You can use heritage-look column radiators, spray them the colour of the walls and they're instantly elevated.' 🏡

CHIC SEATING

The room is small, but Sean cleverly squeezed in some seating areas, such as the bench at the end of the bed, which also provides a handy space for storing extra bedding. Headboard and cushions in Haveli fabric; bench in Ashok fabric, all Penny Morrison. Lampshades, Fermoie. Lamp bases; bedside tables, both Oka. Gingham cushion in Elmer fabric, Romo. Velvet throw, Graham and Green. Bedding, The White Company. Cranbrook boarding on ceiling, Neptune

Game changing

Buying a Victorian doer-upper just a stone's throw from her own front door was the start of a very adventurous renovation for Sophie Wells and her family

FEATURE CHARLOTTE LUXFORD
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS SNOOK



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian semi-detached house

ROOMS Sitting room, study, kitchen-diner/living area, utility, WC, four bedrooms, three bathrooms

LOCATION

Southwest London

KITCHEN

Money was saved by using reclaimed bricks for the stunning feature wall.

Kitchen extension, built by Evolution Creations. Units, Handmade Kitchens of Christchurch; in Ludgate Circus, Mylands. Brick wall, London Reclaimed Brick Merchants. Stools, Cox & Cox. Worktops, Surrey Marble and Granite. Pendant lights, Spark & Bell



DINING AREA

Sophie chose comfortable banquette seating for informal family mealtimes and to maximise the space available.

Banquette seating, Atlas Contract Furniture. Wall lights, Studio Arcform. Dining table, Ennis & Brown. Leather dining chairs, Nkuku





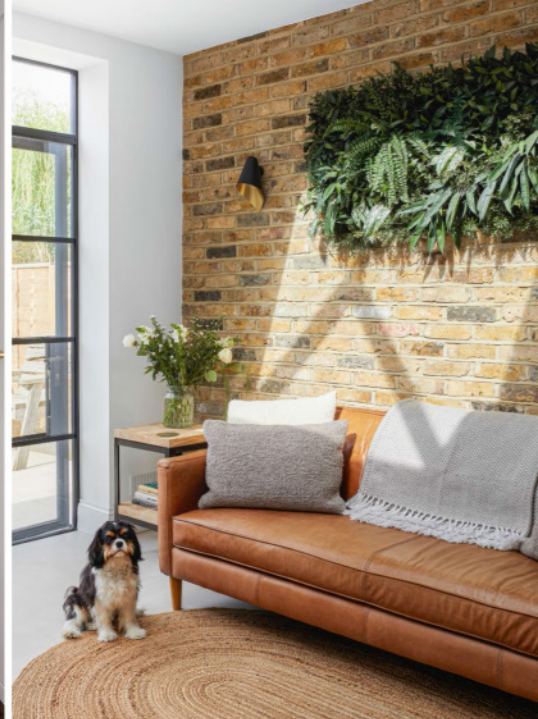
UTILITY ROOM

This area, which doubles as a boot room, has been designed as a practical, hardworking space and features the same cabinetry as the kitchen, with plenty of integrated storage. Flooring, Amtico. For a similar water hyacinth storage basket, try John Lewis & Partners



LIVING AREA

The 'living wall' panel makes a wonderful eye-catching feature on the brick wall and brings colour and texture to the room. Sofa, Gallery Direct. Similar jute rug, Sklum. Wall light, Studio Arcform. Cox & Cox sells a side table similar to this one



SITTING ROOM

The decor was inspired by a visit to 18 Stafford Terrace – the former home of illustrator and photographer Edward Linley Sambourne. Walls in Three Farm Green, Little Greene. Fireplace, Grate Expectations. Pendant light and table lamp, both Pooky. Coffee table, West Elm



‘I love the deep dark colour palette in our bedroom and the cocooning effect at night – it’s a dream to sleep in’

It's not very often that your dream house comes up for sale on the street where you live, but for interior designer Sophie Wells and her partner Steve, an opportunity came knocking that was too good to miss. Spotting a house going through probate just 250 metres from her own home, Sophie jumped at the chance to take the project on. Untouched by the previous owner, the Victorian semi was run-down and required a complete overhaul, but Sophie saw that it could meet the needs of her growing family.

‘I loved the generous footprint, the different floor levels and the potential to create our perfect home from scratch,’ says Sophie, a designer at Decorbuddi. ‘Knowing that the children could really grow here and have their own space was really important to us.’

Growing up in a family where home renovations were part of daily life, Sophie wasn't bewildered by the momentous task ahead, plus she had her own expertise as an interior designer. Purchasing the property in 2018, the couple got stuck in with the work, prioritising the loft conversion and reconfiguration of the existing property before embarking on the kitchen extension two years later.

‘We needed to work quickly as we had rental costs,’ says Sophie. ‘Steve and I decided to bite the bullet and knocked down a lot of walls to reconfigure the space. We also rewired, replumbed, put in a new boiler and fitted new windows and doors – we had to gut it.’

At ground level, the couple created one big living space. On the first floor, the two smaller bedrooms at the front were transformed into a large main suite with the same cocooning colour palette as the

sitting room, while the spacious bedroom at the rear was turned into a guest suite, with the small family bathroom becoming a study. Extending into the loft, two further bedrooms and a bathroom were created for the couple's children – India, nine, and Wilfred, eight.

The family moved back into the house in May 2019, but there was still work to be done. ‘The kitchen was cold, mouldy, poorly insulated, with no dishwasher and an awful gas oven, but I knew the sacrifice would be worth it,’ says Sophie. The couple added an extension to create a large family kitchen-diner, with a cloakroom and utility room utilising the room where the old kitchen was.

‘The inspiration for the kitchen was all about texture and family living,’ says Sophie. ‘I'd seen images of Shaker kitchens with brick walls and I was sold! The brick wall became the foundation for the whole design. We used cut reclaimed bricks rather than slip bricks for an authentic look; they match the exterior of the house exactly.’

The kitchen is light and airy, thanks to the skylight and large roof lantern, with careful consideration to the layout to ensure there was an unobstructed view of the garden from the front to the back of the property. Sophie sacrificed the size of the island to ensure there was good flow and no pinch points, while banquette seating provides a cosy spot for family mealtimes while saving on space. ‘I love spending time with all the family in the kitchen and movie nights in the sitting room. The whole house is now warm and welcoming, with a subtle wow factor.’ 🍷

decorbuddi.com

MAIN BEDROOM

An oversized headboard feels luxe and a compact reading light is a clever addition.

Walls in Dock Blue, Little Greene. Headboard in Royal Garden velvet from GP&J Baker, Headboard Workshop. Bedside table in Pelt, Farrow & Ball

DRESSING AREA

A table has been fitted neatly between the wardrobes in the main bedroom, creating a vanity area complete with mirror and stool.

Wall lights, Pooky. Try Atkin and Thyme for a similar velvet upholstered stool

CLOAKROOM

Bold, tropical-print wallpaper, petrol-blue metro tiles and brass accents add drama to this space.

Wallpaper, Feathr. Basin, Lusso, Wall light, Spark & Bell. Tap, Crosswater



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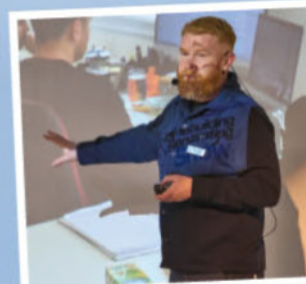
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OPPOSITES attract

Architect Francesca Venturoni's apartment is a masterclass in striking, contradictory forms

FEATURE LAURA MAUCERI/JULIET BENNING
PHOTOGRAPHY HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE
STYLING LAURA MAUCERI



SITTING ROOM
‘The monochromatic tiles were inspired by the 1970s and I love the way they have been reflected in our choice of rug,’ says Francesca. Mattonelle Margherita wall tiles by Nathalie Du Pasquier, Mutina. Amalia daybed, Natuzzi. Segni Minimi 3 rug, cc-tapis

Francesca Venturoni and her husband, Dino Cicchetti, felt it was time for a new chapter in their life. 'When our sons Alessandro and Ludovico arrived, everything changed,' Francesca says. 'Our family had grown and we needed more space and to be closer to Dino's and my studio, which are both located in the neighbourhood near the Porta Romana railway station and the Prada Foundation.'

This is an area where prices were rising, so the couple anticipated the move would be a sound investment. In the midst of several schools, playgrounds and parks, Francesca and Dino found their apartment. 'It's part of a complex built in the 1970s to accommodate teachers,' Francesca says. 'We chose this property because we wanted our children to be able to grow up freely in a protected space, as we did many years ago. Another detail that won us over is that each building corresponds to a small animal sculpture, visible from the outside to help children's orientation. Our animal is a white bear,' she adds.

Both being architects, and Francesca having cut her teeth at Foster + Partners and Zaha Hadid Architects in London, the couple worked together to completely overhaul the floor plan. 'We built new walls and cleaned the whole thing up, rethinking every single room,' she explains. 'I'd learnt a great deal about the technicality of architecture while in London, but returning to Milan I found my taste becoming more radical.'

Perhaps the most striking example of this is the monochromatic black and white grids of the Mutina wall tiles, designed by Nathalie Du Pasquier, one of the co-founders of the Memphis Group. 'I wanted to create a domestic environment played in contrasts, where the softness of the shapes of the furniture combined with the geometric patterns of the decorations, following the architectural tradition of the 1970s,' Francesca elaborates.

The couple decided to celebrate the concrete plinths of the building, juxtaposing them with sleek additions such as the sharp lines of Enzo Mari's Frate dining table, as well as the more playful, irreverent forms of Francesca's glass collection. Elsewhere, in their en suite, they chose ceramic tiles that have a perforated brick appearance to pay homage to that idea of a construction site.

'One thing we didn't know about until we moved in was the way that the apartment comes alive due to the movement of shadows among the trees. The rays of light are reflected by the steel panelling of the living area,' says Francesca. That steel is a bold choice to divide the living and sleeping sectors, providing a moment of surprise when it is revealed to guests. In fact, the whole apartment, like this unexpected detail, refuses to be categorised, reflecting its owner, who clearly has a great appetite for irreverent and serious design. 25

venturoni.it

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A ground-floor apartment in a 1970s purpose-built block

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen/dining area, two bedrooms, two bathrooms

LOCATION Milan



'THE STEEL RETRACTABLE PANELS THAT DIVIDE THE LIVING AND SLEEPING SPACES BOUNCE LIGHT AROUND'



KITCHEN/DINING AREA
‘We accentuated the division between living and sleeping areas with the steel panels. When opened, they reveal a whole other world, which is completely unexpected for guests,’ says Francesca.
Frate dining table by Enzo Mari, MOHD.
Similar vintage 1960s chairs by Gianfranco Frattini, 1stDibs



STUDY AREA

The concrete pillar defines this space. Vintage chair by Marzio Cecchi, LTWID; find similar on 1stDibs. Bespoke storage unit, Francesca Venturoni; finished in ALPI veneer by Ettore Sottsass

BOYS' BEDROOM

The fun bunk bed doubles as a playhouse for Alessandro and Ludovico. Baleri Italia Tattoo Cactus footrest by Maurizio Galante & Tal Lancman, Design Italy

HALLWAY

Pink walls and doors make for a very streamlined scheme and also increase the sense of space. Walls and woodwork in MATmotion paint, Novacolor

MAIN EN SUITE

'The bathroom combines elegant colours with ceramics that mimic a perforated brick to create a "building site" aesthetic,' says Francesca. Modulo tiles, Quintessenza Ceramiche. T-Edge basin, Ceramica Globo

**'I CONSIDER PINK TO BE A NEUTRAL COLOUR AND
IT IS SOMETHING OF A SIGNATURE IN MY WORK'**



MAIN BEDROOM

'The lime plaster finish on the walls allows them to "live" and "move" according to the changing light,' says Francesca. Teodorico lime plaster, Novacolor. Shuffle side table, &Tradition. Artwork (on wall) by Clara Brasca, Galleria l'Affiche

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Staying power

This quaint cottage has endured fire, flood and lightning damage, but it's been beautifully restored to become a home full of grace and style

FEATURE SARA EMSLIE | PHOTOGRAPHY BRENT DARBY



SNUG

Tongue-and-groove panelling adds a dash of country charm to the space.

Wall and ceiling panels in All White, Farrow & Ball. Sofa, Love Your Home. Cushions, Adamsbro. Artwork, Tilehouse Studio

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

A brick-built cottage

ROOMS Hallway, sitting room, snug, dining room, kitchen, conservatory, two bedrooms, one bathroom

LOCATION

Surrey Hills



KITCHEN

Jo loves to cook and entertain so a custom-designed space was created, providing plenty of storage and work surfaces, plus some lovely period detailing such as a butler's sink and wooden beams.

Kitchen, Charles Yorke. Units in Skimming Stone, Farrow & Ball. Handles, Armac Martin. Pendant lights, Tilehouse Studio

E

very house has a story to tell.

The cottage belonging to interior designer Jo Brown of Tilehouse Studio has, over the years, clocked up quite a few. Situated at the foot of the Surrey Hills, the house is in an area of outstanding natural beauty, with views that stretch for miles. 'From the top of Leith Hill you can see into London and down to the coast; it's the main reason I wanted to live here,' Jo says, of the impetus behind her move from city to countryside 22 years ago. 'I've had horses all my life, so I needed a safe and beautiful area to ride and also walk my dog. As soon as I walked into this house all those years ago, I had a very good feeling about it.'

Dating back to the 16th century and built as a humble two-up two-down, the cottage had maintained its original brick facade and cosiness inside. It also boasted an intriguing history. 'It was used as a smoker's house, where all the local meat was cured and smoked,' Jo explains. 'When I moved in, the giant pulleys for the meat in the fireplaces were still in place!' The grime of the smoking days has long gone and, instead, a sophisticated interior scheme consisting of neutral tones and natural textures dominates throughout.

The house today is clearly a witness to Jo's design skills. It's also a testament to her strength of character. 'Since I first moved in, the cottage has endured a few tragedies,' Jo says, detailing the horror stories of a fire, a flood and even a lightning strike! 'The lightning strike eight years ago took off the ridge tiles, then a fire six years ago devastated the top floor, so I lived in a rental property for a year while the work was being done, including new ceilings and windows. Most recently, a flood meant I had to move out for 12 months to have the house

DINING ROOM

A scrubbed-top, country-style antique dining table is teamed with high-backed, buttoned and upholstered chairs to create a relaxed take on formal style.

Table, Sunbury Antiques Market at Kempton Park.
Chair and display cabinets, Tilehouse Studio



totally gutted.' It's hard to believe now, given the sense of calm that prevails throughout.

It wasn't easy. After the flood, the property underwent extensive renovations. 'I had diggers in the house excavating down to the foundation and rebuilding all the layers in the ground (seven to be exact) to make the place strong again,' Jo says. 'The whole of the downstairs is tanked and watertight now!'

Jo had already made improvements to the original layout when she first moved in. The kitchen was in the smallest room in the house and there were two good-sized living spaces. 'It didn't make sense to me. It was a big deal to move the drainage, gas and utilities into a larger room, but it was worth every penny,' Jo affirms. Now, a stunning Charles Yorke kitchen takes centre stage, leading onto a light-filled conservatory. It's a sociable area of the house that works perfectly for entertaining.

Jo's advice to anyone facing similar challenges is to look for a really good builder and also to respect a property's heritage to give something back in the process. 'I always encourage people to invest in pieces that don't age. Houses were built so well back then and the fact we're in a position to restore them and bring love back into them is a very rewarding thing.' Every house deserves a story with a happy ending. ²⁵
tilehousedesignstudio.co.uk

‘Tackle floor plans first – the small kitchen here was moved to

SITTING ROOM

The symmetrical placing of furniture and artwork, combined with the large comfortable seating, creates an air of relaxed formality.

Sofas, David Seyfried.
Cushions, Andrew Martin.
Framed prints, One World.
Mirrors, lamps, chests of drawers and footstools, all Tilehouse Studio



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BEDROOM

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Bed, Feather & Black. Bedspread, cushions and baskets, Also Home. Artwork, Asher & Awe

BATHROOM

A textural wallpaper was used in the 'dry' area.

Marble mosaic shower tiles, Starel Stones. Bone drawer handles, Mufti Design. Wall light, Pooky





BEDROOM
A decorative mirror on a chest of drawers increases the sense of space.
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Shearer Squishbag occasional chair, £1,225, Loaf

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Thimma wine glasses in Teal, £50 for two, Nkuku



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