

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

HOME AT LAST

MANOR HOUSE IN LANCASHIRE
COUNTRY-STYLE OAST HOUSE
EDINBURGH APARTMENT

20%
OFF

AT LOMBOK

SIMPLE
IDEAS
FROM COOL
LIGHTING
TO THE
PERFECT BED

STYLISH
WATERFRONT
HOME

*'Beach shack
meets classic
style was
our brief'*

RELAXED LIVING

Family homes with style

September 2014

INSPIRING HOMES

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COVER STORY



Rich colours and eye-catching pieces give this converted stable block a cool, eclectic vibe (see page 43).



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REPLANNED

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WELCOME

I'VE NEVER LIVED IN A HOME THAT'S ANY MORE RECENT THAN THE 1920S, but that didn't stop me from extolling the virtues of '70s houses to a friend recently as we strolled past a row of properties from this era. This was mainly because it seems to be the last period when houses were built on decent-sized plots. My friend, who owns a Victorian home, looked at me a bit askance but I argued that a change in windows and a bit of a facelift could give the houses a new lease of life, while giving a generous space for garden lovers. My parents lived in a '70s house after I had moved out and that made a great family home to return to, with a layout that flowed, so I felt I was talking from experience. However, I did have to agree that some of the ones we could see looked out of place, having been constructed cheek by jowl with older properties and with no apparent consideration for how they would look together. Obviously, towns and villages are made up of buildings from all eras but usually they are all constructed from similar materials, bringing a cohesion to the whole. But here, it didn't feel as if a lot of thought had gone into trying to make these new houses work in the 1970s and they still didn't feel right now. This was where my argument about a facelift fitted in – the newer builds felt as if they had a place even when they were quite adventurous in style. I like to see variety because it makes a place seem real but I also like to feel that a house has been considered in relation to its surroundings, therefore not only creating a great house but adding to the community, too.

Deborah

DEBORAH BARKER, EDITOR IN CHIEF

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COMING NEXT MONTH - ON SALE 28 AUG



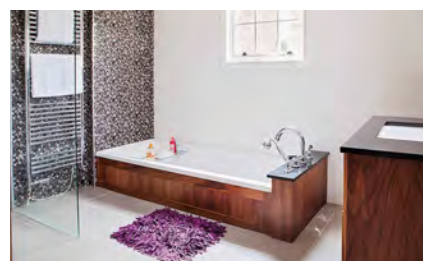
FRENCH FANCY

This run-down Parisian property was turned into a family home, Gustavian style



ART INSPIRATION

The decor of this London maisonette was based on the owner's favourite artwork



A CLEAN SCHEME

With its sleek and modern styling, this home in Rutland belies its traditional exterior

SEPTEMBER

TRENDS | WHAT'S NEW | MUST-HAVE BUYS



1



2



3

4



5



10



6

9



8



7

GRAND DESIGNS

Echo the sumptuous style of an opulent palace with ornate, light-catching accessories

1 CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Aubrey silver candlestick, £22, Laura Ashley

2 SOVEREIGN STYLE

Iron Crown hook, £14.50, Rose & Grey

3 VERY VERSAILLES

Kitley shield mirror, £125,

The Chandelier & Mirror Co

4 SCENTS OF STYLE

Wood Sage & Sea Salt home candle, £40, Jo Malone

5 DISTINGUISHED DESIGN

Victoria Grey glassware, £40 for a set of four, House of Fraser

6 EXQUISITE DETAIL

Blue insect bin, from £195, Joanna Wood

7 GEORGIAN STYLE

Harewood End lantern handmade in solid brass, £1,650, Fritz Fryer

8 REFLECTED GLORY

Campbell sideboard, £1,750, India Jane

9 STYLISH STACK

Bloomsbury hat boxes, £35 for a set of three, Debenhams

10 ENDURING ELEGANCE

Double-folded distressed picture frame, £25, Marks & Spencer



SET IN STONE

For a modern and directional look turn to marble, concrete and glass in cool greys

1 CAST A SHADOW

Urban Luxe table lamp, £120, The French Bedroom Company

2 INSTANT IMPACT

Tom Dixon stone candle holder, from £50, available at Heal's

3 A GRAND DOME

Marble cheese dome and knife, £25, John Lewis

4 CONCRETE CHIC

Concrete lamp, from £99, Toast

5 FADE TO GREY

Eva Solo tumblers in smoky grey,

£20 for a set of four, Occa-Home

6 SOPHISTICATED TOUCH

Marble cushion, £7.99, H&M

7 MINIMALIST STYLE

Marble-top coffee table, £449, Dwell

8 SIMPLE FORM

Marble pestle and mortar,

£12.99, Homesense

9 SLEEK BEAUTY

Marble chopping boards, £20 and

£25, Linea Home at House of Fraser

housetohome.co.uk/25beautifulhomes

Find plenty of inspiring ideas by visiting our creative online hub

FINE DINING

Thinking about giving an under-used dining room a fresh new look? Whether you love to entertain or want a practical space for family mealtimes, you'll find everything you need from furniture to table-setting ideas at housetohome.co.uk/dining-room.



COOK IN STYLE

Planning a new kitchen is a big project, but we're here to help. Visit housetohome.co.uk/kitchen for advice and buyer's guides.



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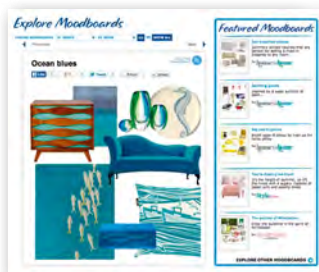


DREAM SCHEMES

With Housetohome's extensive photo galleries, decorating inspiration is just a click away. Visit housetohome.co.uk/25beautifulhomes and you'll find hundreds of images for each room, guaranteed to help you create a look you love.

MY MOODBOARDS

Are you a budding interior designer? Test your skills and create your perfect scheme by using our moodboard tool at housetohome.co.uk/moodboards. Whichever room you're tackling, you can pull together your favourite products, fabrics and images to kick-start your decorating project.



EASY UPDATE

The bathroom can be a tricky area to get right, as there's a lot to squeeze into a small space. If you're planning a revamp but don't know where to start, visit housetohome.co.uk/bathrooms for expert advice, design ideas and product picks to suit every style and budget.



Q&A

Our resident interiors expert Rachel Leedham is on hand to answer all your decorating queries

TRELLIS WALLPAPER

I would like to find a wallpaper featuring a relatively small-scale trellis design in duck-egg blue for our bedroom. Do you have any suggestions?
HEATHER FRENCH, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Trellis patterns never seem to go out of fashion, so there are quite a few for you to choose from. Cole & Son (020 8442 8844, cole-and-son.com) offers several options including Clandon 88/3013, right, from the Archive Traditional range, £70 per roll, and Maltese Cross 91/10045, swatch shown top right, from the Banbury collection, £72 per roll. Zoffany (0844 543 4600, zoffany.com) is also a good source: have a look at Trellis ZPAW05006, from the Papered Walls collection, £63 per roll, and Rosette Trellis 310184, from the Poesy collection, £57 per roll. Laura Ashley (0871 983 5999, lauraashley.com) has a pretty design called Mr Jones in Duck Egg, swatch shown top left, which is part of its Heritage collection, £32 per roll.



GOLD MIRROR

During a recent stay in a hotel, I spotted a beautiful mirror made up of lots of gold rectangles. Do you have any idea who makes this lovely piece?
CAMILLA TREVORS, LONDON

The mirror you spotted sounds like the striking Braque design, below, which is inspired by the avant-garde cubism

movement. It's finished in French matt gold and measures H66 x W105cm (it can also be hung vertically), £235 from Graham and Green (020 8987 3700, grahamandgreen.co.uk). Also try the eye-catching Brindisi mirror, which features Deco 'pebbles' with gold frames, H140 x W78cm, £395, The Chandelier & Mirror Company (01322 437112, chandeliersandmirrors.co.uk).



STANDARD LAMP

Could you tell me where Simon Buxton and Simon Nesbitt sourced the standard lamp in their dining room (p87, June 2014)?
LUCY WADDINGTON, BY EMAIL

An arched floor lamp is an ideal solution for a dining room in which you don't have a pendant light directly above the table. Simon's light was bought a number of years ago and is no longer available, but I would suggest you take a look at the Dimensions black floor lamp by Thibault Desombre for Ligne Roset (01494 545910, ligne-roset.co.uk). Finished in black lacquer, with brilliant chrome for the extendable pull-out section, it measures H228 x W240cm (base Dia48cm), £1,121. Another possibility is the Arche floor lamp in black, H206 x W160cm (base Dia36cm), £99, shown here, from Made.com (0345 450 6118), which has a steel structure and a marble weighted base to provide support.



CONSOLE TABLE

Where did Annie Donovan find the lovely console table in her hall (p43, November 2013)? I'm looking for a similar one, although I'd prefer it to be smaller if possible.

LINDA JONES, BY EMAIL

Annie's table is the Brunello console by Theodore Alexander, which is available from Brights of Nettlebed (020 7610 9597, brightsofnettlebed.co.uk). It features a rectangular parquet top, measures H86 x W147 x D30cm, and costs £1,610. Handily, this design does also come in a smaller, two-drawer version that may fit your space; H87 x W76 x D32, £1,015. Another handsome table with a traditional feel is the Sylvain console, shown right, by Barker & Stonehouse (0333 355 9186, barkerandstonehouse.co.uk). It's crafted from mahogany with a black distressed painted finish and metal cup handles, H75 x W120 x D40cm, £499.



MEDIA UNIT

I've spotted the perfect low-level TV unit for my house in the home of Karen Lievre and Mark Thompson (p128, February 2014). Can you let me know where they bought it from?

LOUISE BASKEYFIELD, BY EMAIL

This sleek design mixes open shelves with closed cupboards that cleverly hide away audiovisual equipment and clutter. Karen designed the piece herself, and it can be ordered through her company Ivory White (07775 945875, ivory-white.co.uk). The unit has a hi-gloss lacquer finish and

can be made in a choice of colours and sizes – Karen's version measures H57 x W230 x D40cm and would cost around £2,500. Alternatively, Ikea (020 3645 0000, ikea.com) has recently launched the streamlined Ramsatra TV bench in a matt white finish; it comes in two sizes, the largest measuring H62 x W174 x D42cm, £160. And for another option featuring closed storage only, try the Fermo media unit, below, by BoConcept (020 7388 2447, boconcept.com), which has a drop-down door and drawers; it comes in white or black lacquer, measuring H45.5 x W227 x D50cm, £1,195.



GLASS DISPLAY CASE

I'd like to display my daughter's first ballet shoes in a glass case. I have found lots of different dome designs but wondered whether anyone sells a square version?

EMMA BALL, BERKSHIRE

You are right: glass domes and cloches are very easy to come by, but a square version is much harder to track down. This elegant display case from Cox & Cox (0844 858 0744, coxandcox.co.uk) should show off a tiny pair of ballet shoes – or any other treasured object – to beautiful effect. It features metal-edged glass and a wooden base, H29 x W18 x D18cm, £50.



GET IN TOUCH

EMAIL RACHEL LEEDHAM at 25_beautiful_homes@ipcmedia.com or write to her at 25 Beautiful Homes, IPC Media, Blue Fin Building, 110 Southwark Street, London SE1 0SU

HOME AT LAST

After years of doing up derelict houses, Suzanne and Jonathan Clayton have finally found a place to put down roots

FEATURE ELLIE HARGREAVES | PHOTOGRAPHY RACHAEL SMITH

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Country manor house, built in 1854

LOCATION Lancashire

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, reception, dining room/orangery, kitchen, study, utility room, snug, five bedrooms (two en suite), three bathrooms

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a 1950s house on the Fylde coast,' says Suzanne.

RECEPTION

High ceilings and dark wood banisters add grandeur. Walls painted in Elephant's Breath estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke rug, price on application, Crucial Trading



SITTING ROOM

Soft neutrals create a soothing backdrop for Suzanne's treasures.

For a similar wallpaper try Illusions by Omexco for Brian Yates, £35.46 per roll, 118wallpaper.co.uk.

Abbey fabric corner sofa, from £1,600, The English Sofa Company, would suit this space



KITCHEN

One wall is painted with blackboard paint so family and friends can leave messages for each other.

Arturo oak glass-top dining table and six Roma dining chairs, £1,243, Furniture Gossip, would work here



SITTING ROOM

A variety of antiques sit comfortably together.

Cox & Cox sells reindeer-skin rugs like this one, £185



ORANGERY
A striking lamp brings a modern touch to this traditional scheme.
Flos Superarchimoon lamp, £5,488, Light My Home. Dining chair covers, price on application, Gail Hunt at Room



Having bought and renovated several dilapidated properties over the past 30 years, Suzanne and Jonathan Clayton were pleasantly surprised to stumble upon a manor house that needed nothing doing. The mid-19th-century property had already been reconfigured by the previous owners, meaning the couple could concentrate on just filling the inside with their ever-growing collection of furniture and lighting.

‘When we saw the house, in Lancashire’s Ribble Valley, it seemed too good to be true. Everything was finished to such a high standard, and the place just had a wonderful feel about it,’ recalls Suzanne. ‘Jonathan and I had done up many properties over the years, and we’d

lived with builders and dust for as long as we could remember, so it was a joy to find ourselves with a big blank canvas to play with.’

The couple and their daughters, Harriet, 24, and 17-year-old Grace, love to socialise, but moving from a seaside town to the countryside didn’t faze them – especially not when they saw the two acres of manicured gardens they would have at their disposal. With the extra space offered by a large terrace, walled garden, summerhouse and vast expanses of lawn, the couple created the ultimate venue for entertaining and they regularly host charity functions there. ‘One of the things we love most about this house is the space, and we wanted to make full use of the outside as well as the inside,’ says Suzanne. ‘We

KITCHEN

Simple units and a pale palette emphasise the sense of space and light.

Kitchen and pendant lights, both price on application, bulthaup. Antlers, from a selection, Miles Griffiths Antiques. Bombo bar stools, £355 each, Atlantic Shopping. Walls painted in Skimming Stone estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

DECORATING TIP ‘We use Farrow & Ball paint because of the matt finish. I’ve tried other brands but they never have the same depth’

GUEST BEDROOM

Suzanne bought the silk cushion covers in Bali and had curtains made to match. Try Amaris in Wasabi fabric, £92m, Romo



BATHROOM

The classic suite was inherited from the previous owners. Achieve the same look with the Paris bath with feet, from £6,580, The Water Monopoly



MASTER BEDROOM

An oversized silk headboard makes the bed the focal point of this room.

Bespoke headboard, price on application, Gail Hunt at Room. Canto Stripe wallpaper, £52 per roll, Paradiso collection, Nina Campbell at Wallpapers of Distinction, is a close match for this one



LAST WORD

'The house is my greatest extravagance, but I'm very laid-back about it. We love entertaining too much to worry about things getting broken'

GARDEN

When the weather allows, the outdoor area becomes an extension of the house, thanks to a lighting and sound system and comfortable seating. Maze Rattan London corner sofa set, £899, Whitestores, is comparable

brought in a specialist firm to rig up lights in some of the bigger trees, and the sound system we installed inside extends into the grounds.'

When it came to the decor, Suzanne opted for a neutral palette throughout, adding colour and interest with their elegant selection of furniture. 'I wanted to have the odd feature wall, but otherwise we've used our belongings to bring each room to life,' she says. 'In our old home we were stuffed to the gills, but here we have large rooms in which to appreciate everything we own.'

The family have also added a personal touch with dozens of photos from their parties, as well as a colourful collection of artwork. 'We go abroad regularly and I'll often see a painting on our travels and take a photo so that my brother Chris, who's an artist, can re-create it

for me,' says Suzanne. The couple's trips have provided inspiration for much of the interior, including the shutters in the master bedroom, influenced by a holiday to Ile de Ré. 'I get so many ideas when I'm away, and we often commission local craftsmen to recreate something,' says Suzanne. 'When you live in a rural community, supporting local businesses is important. I remind Jonathan of that when he points out I'm on first-name terms with every interiors expert in the area.'

Creating such a special family home means the Claytons have stayed longer here than in any of the past nine properties they've owned. 'We've spent so much time travelling or with a project on the go that to have a place we can relax in is very special to me,' says Suzanne. 'I'd like to think we'll be here for a few more years to come.' 25

BRIGHT & BREEZY

SITTING AREA

Crisp white walls and pale timber flooring imbue this light-filled space with a sense of calm.

Kährs' Engineered Oak Nouveau White flooring, £64.99sq m, Ken's Yard, is similar. The Jute Herringbone rug, 100 x 100cm, £105, Natural Rug Store, is a good match

The living is easy in Courtney Delancey Syrett's Californian family home, which blends coastal chic with a laid-back vibe

FEATURE AILSA HICHENS
PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN ELLIS/LIVING INSIDE

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Two-storey house rebuilt in 2007

LOCATION

Venice Beach, California

ROOMS Hall, open-plan sitting/dining room/kitchen, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

INHERITED 1997

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I used to live in a house nearby,' says Courtney.



HALL
Sprigs of greenery in vintage glass bottles complement the pale timber beautifully. Get the look with Vintage industrial console table, £485, Shropshire Design; Vintage wine bottle glass lamp, from £220, Lapaloosa



NOOK
Brightly coloured furnishings and pretty glass bottles give this practical corner a stylish twist. Try Marks & Spencer's Pinstripe chenille cushion, £15, and Reclaimed Orleans terracotta tiles, £318sq m, from Lapidia, for a similar style





DINING AREA

Made from an old basket, this striking ceiling light makes an impact.

Turner oak dining chairs, £125 each, Atlantic Shopping, are similar. Try Peppermill Antiques for oak dining tables



KITCHEN

A seamless blend of engineered oak and tumbled limestone flooring withstands wear and tear.

Echo this look with the Toledo white stool with round seat, £129 each, Cultfurniture.com, and Abbey tumbled limestone floor tiles, from £56sq m, Indigenous

When interior designer Courtney Delancey Syrett and her husband Philip Syrett tied the knot, deciding whose house to live in was a no-brainer. Philip's house, in California's Venice Beach, was on a quiet street and close to the coastline. And although it only had two bedrooms, the couple could see there was potential to knock it down and rebuild a larger home for themselves and their four children, Sam, Jack, Gracey and Sophie, plus Golden Retriever, Freedom and Labrador mix, Coco.

Having agreed on the perfect location, the couple's next step was to create their ideal family home. 'We decided to demolish the whole house except for the garage,' explains Courtney. 'It made sense to leave that because if a certain percentage of the original building remains, planning authorities tend to consider the project as remodelling rather than rebuilding, and that makes getting the permissions you need to make changes a lot easier.' And Courtney certainly had a fair few tweaks in mind.

The original house was quite dark and the master bedroom upstairs was the only room that fully enjoyed the light, as well as the sea breeze. Plans for the property centred on the couple's desire to create a light-filled, airy home. They were also bold enough to literally turn the traditional idea of a house upside down. Hence, most of the bedrooms are now downstairs, while the master bedroom and en suite – plus a capacious open-plan living-cum-dining-cum-kitchen space – are on the first floor. Above that is a roof terrace and barbecue area, which is a must-have considering the stunning

KITCHEN AREA

This simple, country-style kitchen is both welcoming and stylish, and the generous island serves as an ideal spot for the kids to gather.

Vintage wall tiles, £99sq m, Marlborough Tiles, are a good match. Try Hardwick White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, for a similar wall colour



LESSONS LEARNT *'We decided against using an architect and chose an architectural engineer instead. Being a designer, I felt confident we could plan the layout of the house ourselves'*



MASTER EN SUITE
The couple splashed out on their luxury bathroom, going for a deep bathtub, bespoke cabinetry and plenty of Carrara marble. Try Shagreen range of bespoke furniture from Smallbone of Devizes

seaside location. Courtney and Philip also invested in custom-made windows to allow the light to flood in – and it does, upstairs at least, all day long.

The design influence can be traced back to the couple's East Coast roots; Philip is from Connecticut, while Courtney is from Long Island. 'We both like simple American-style houses,' says Courtney. 'So we went for Cape Cod-inspired clapboard architecture, with classic trims and mouldings.'

Upstairs the layout is simple and open, rather like an urban loft. Inside the property was where Courtney had the most fun. 'Being an interior designer used to reinvigorating other people's homes, I knew the value of this opportunity,' she says. 'I could incorporate all my ideas in a home that would flow and function specifically for my family and our needs.'

The result is certainly striking. Casual and tasteful, Courtney's style blends old and new with an expert's touch. Old Santa Monica flea market finds sit harmoniously with carefully distressed new purchases that feel as though they've been there forever. 'Having four children, it's a real challenge trying to create something that won't be totally destroyed in five years' time,' says Courtney. 'The floors, in particular, have been chosen for their practicality. Philip is a great cook but he's messy, and the kids walk sand into the house all the time, so a mix of stone and engineered wood suits us well.'

As a trader of vintage items, Courtney loves to rotate interesting furniture, artwork and accessories on a regular basis. 'I like to think our home exudes relaxed coastal chic,' she concludes. 'It can be dressed up or down, which is exactly what we intended. It's perfect for the way we live.' 25



GRACEY'S BEDROOM
Weathered doors, antique-style furniture and soothing shades set the tone in the fresh, pretty room. Botanical Extract matt emulsion, £19 for 2.5 litres, Crown Paints. Pink Stripe rug, £70, The White Company, is similar. Try Herbert Parkinson for a range of beanbags, including bespoke designs

MASTER BEDROOM

Soft shades of cream and white create a tranquil feel, while a contemporary armchair adds a modern touch. Bella Notte bedding, £276 for a king-size duvet cover, Jane McKintyre Design. The Amelie bureau, £999, John Lewis, is a good match. House White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball, is a similar wall colour



FOR STOCKIST DETAILS GO TO PAGE 139

BOXING CLEVER

A SMART CONTEMPORARY EXTENSION HELPED
VANESSA AND EMMET KILDUFF TO TAILOR
THEIR NEW HOME TO THEIR FAMILY'S NEEDS

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Three-storey house built in the 1990s

LOCATION Dublin

ROOMS Hall, kitchen-diner/sitting area, study, playroom, utility, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

MOVED IN 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in London for 14 years before returning to Ireland, where we rented a period house while house-hunting,' says Vanessa.



Vanessa and Emmet Kilduff spent a lot of time looking for the right house when they returned to their native Dublin after

living in London. Little did they know that a property they already owned would prove to be the ideal home for themselves and children Leyla, now 7, Dillon, 5, and Leo, five months.

'Emmet had bought this house years before as an investment to rent out,' explains Vanessa. 'It didn't really occur to us to live here, as we were initially looking for a period home.' But following a year of fruitless searching, they finally looked a little closer to home. 'We realised that moving to this house, which was built in the 1990s, would give us free rein to develop it in any way we wanted to,' says Vanessa. 'And as we already owned the property, we had the budget to design our dream home.'

The large house the Kilduffs rented while house-hunting taught Vanessa a lot about her family's way of life. 'There was so much space in

PATIO BAR

This cool spot leads straight into the kitchen. Outdoor entertainment area by Optimise Design, price on application. Bespoke bar and banquette seating, Robert Mooney Furniture. Vintage timber wall panelling, price on application, Ebony and Co. Cushions, £13.50 each, Avoca

SITTING AREA

'We wanted this to be part of the open-plan kitchen scheme, but Catherine suggested dividing the space up for a cosier feel,' says Vanessa.

Silas green bulb lamp, £135; round Art Deco side table, £225, both Graham and Greene. Metro storage ottoman, £875, Mufti. Sleeping Beauty matt emulsion, £34 for 3 litres, Colortrend, is a similar wall colour



FAVOURITE FEATURE 'The double-sided fireplace in the sitting area not only looks great, but it also divides the space really well and creates a cosy atmosphere'



the house that we didn't use because it simply didn't work for us,' she explains. 'For example, the open-plan kitchen on the ground floor was the place where everyone wanted to be, leaving the formal reception rooms on the first floor unused. Also, the children didn't like being stuck up in the second-floor playroom and constantly brought their toys downstairs to the kitchen instead.'

With this in mind, the couple drew up plans for their new three-storey home. 'We wanted all the living space to be on the ground floor, with the bedrooms above,' says Vanessa. 'To do that, we needed to build a large extension to accommodate a kitchen-diner and sitting area, plus a home office. A room at the front of the house would become a playroom – it's separate enough to keep the toys out of the way, but still a cohesive part of the ground-floor level.'

With help from Catherine Crowe of Optimise Design, the couple began to see their plans take shape. Initially, Vanessa had wanted to add a glass box extension to the back of the house to capitalise on its sunny orientation, but Catherine highlighted the impracticalities. 'She explained that walls were necessary for furniture, hanging our artworks, and for zoning,' says

1 HALL

Simple contemporary pieces keep the entrance clean and uncluttered.

Chest of drawers, price on request, Rowell Design. Fiesole glass table lamp (excluding shade), £189, Oka, has this look. Skurar off-white plant pots, £2 each, Ikea

2 STUDY

This smart space is part of the open-plan family area, and can be closed off with sliding doors when necessary.

Bespoke fitted furniture by Robert Mooney Furniture. Strandmon wing chair in Svanby grey, £195; footstool, £65; Jules swivel chairs, £25 each, all Ikea. Screen-printed artwork, from around £50 (unframed) each, me&him&you

3 CLOAKROOM

'I wanted something dramatic and tactile,' says Vanessa, 'and the image quality of this wallpaper is so good it really does look like old tin tiles.'

Brooklyn Tins wallpaper, around £200 per roll, Bodie and Fou. Jam basin, £210; Hotels basin mixer tap, £102; NK Logic wall-hung WC, £565, all Noken at Porcelanosa



DINING AREA

A mixture of natural materials and subdued shades create a relaxed vibe.

Eames DSW fibreglass chairs, £139 each, Swivel UK. PS Maskros pendant, £90, Ikea



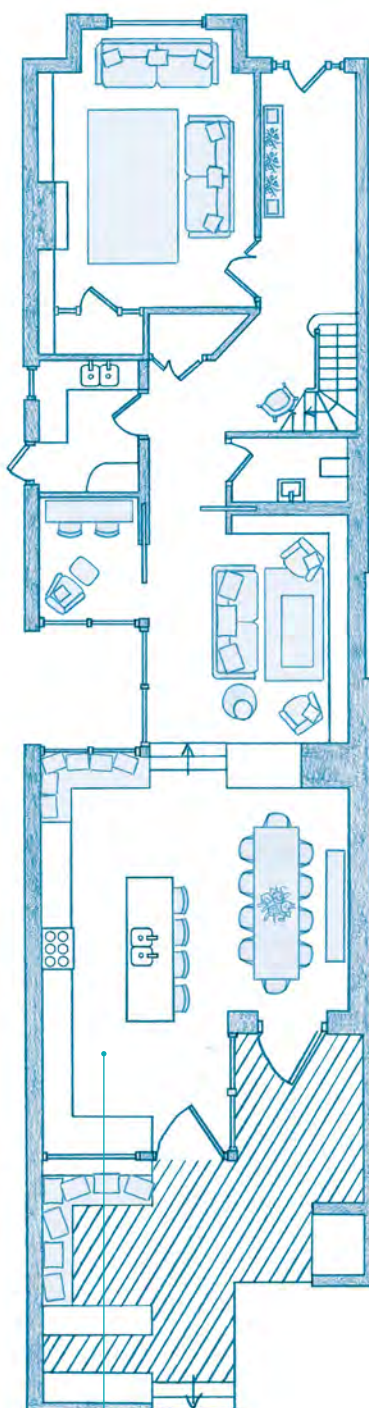
KITCHEN

The wooden feature wall adds texture to the sleek, modern scheme.

Bespoke units by Robert Mooney Furniture. Cult Furniture sells Toledo vintage stools, £139 each

AFTER

GROUND FLOOR



NEW LAYOUT

The Kilduffs increased the floor space by 1.5m when the extension was being built below. This made space for two double bedrooms – one was previously a single room. The third bedroom, with walk-in wardrobe and en suite, has been turned into two children's rooms.

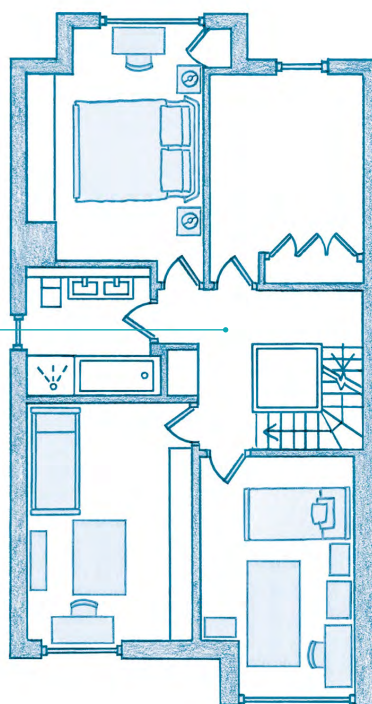
MASTER EN SUITE

A staircase leading to the couple's bedroom was cleverly reconfigured in order for their existing small en-suite shower room to be transformed into a bright and spacious bathroom.

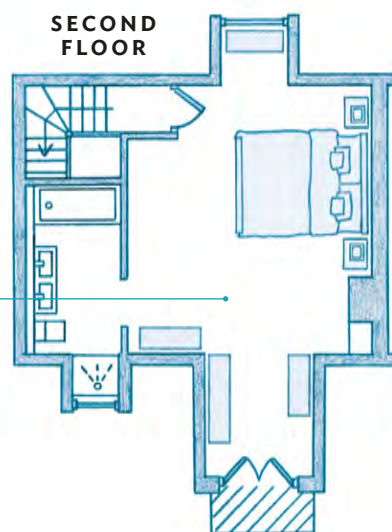
FAMILY LIVING SPACE

The whole rear of the property has been rearranged to create more living space for the family. Their kitchen was substantially enlarged, the utility and cloakroom relocated to more spacious rooms, and a chic patio bar has been incorporated into the exterior design.

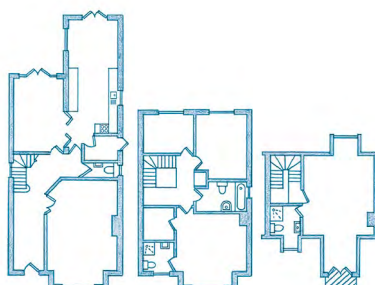
FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



BEFORE



Vanessa. 'So instead she designed a partially glazed structure with subtle changes of level, partition walls and sliding screens. It was a revelation.'

The stand-out addition is a stylish terrace bar. 'This was Emmet's idea, because he loves to have friends over to watch the rugby,' says Vanessa. 'It started off as a modest proposition, and the budget grew as the idea developed. But it's an amazing place to hang out and great for parties.'

Vanessa and Emmet knew exactly the style of decor they wanted, and opted for a relaxed feel, inspired by the urban-cool interiors of London's private member clubs Shoreditch House and Soho House. 'I like a mix of stripped-down industrial furniture and distressed pieces, and we've adopted that look here,' says Vanessa. 'I spent a lot of time looking for the right finish to complement the simple, white kitchen units. In the end, an aged, textured timber wall provided the perfect contrast and it's one of my favourite elements of the design.'

As predicted, the Kilduffs mostly hang out in the ground-floor living areas. 'Only this time the space is tailored to our needs,' says Vanessa. 'Areas can be zoned off or opened, and the children's toys can go back to the playroom easily. It's perfect!' 

1 LEYLA'S BEDROOM

'During the renovation we added a big picture window, which has made this room so much brighter,' says Vanessa.

Oundle single bed, £250; Ladderback chair, £115; writing table, £250, all Aspace. Pink butterfly rug, £85, butterfly duvet cover set, £49, both Great Little Trading Co. Amy Fairy White canopy, £22, Next Home

2 BATHROOM

The couple's children, as well as guests, share this simply chic space.

City double basin, £482; NK Logic basin mixers, £271 each; ladder towel rail, £572, all Porcelanosa. Digit Calacatta Lappato wall and floor tiles, £99sq m, Tilestyle

3 DILLON'S ROOM

'Although this has only been extended by one and a half metres, it now has more storage and enough room for a desk,' says Vanessa.

Hearts and Stars bunk beds, £350, Next Home. Study desk/bureau, £220; desk chair, £75, both Great Little Trading Co. Funkybuys Converse shoe bean bag, £90, Amazon, is comparable



MASTER BEDROOM

Bespoke storage has been cleverly built into the framework of this attic room for a spacious and airy finish.

Faux-fur throw, £100, The White Company. Blake superking bed, £1,345, The English Bed Company, is a great alternative

INSPIRATION 'I like cool, quirky pieces and enjoy browsing reclamation yards and websites for furniture and accessories with a vintage or industrial feel'





SITTING ROOM

A framed Stars and Stripes quilt adds a touch of Americana here.

Inherited chesterfield sofa upholstered in Linton Plain fabric, £110m, GP & J Baker. Alexandra footstool, £1,575, upholstered in Como silk velvet in Biscuit, Beaumont & Fletcher

DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Grade II listed oast house

LOCATION East Sussex

ROOMS Sitting room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen-diner, garden room, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2001

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a typical clapboard house in Connecticut,' says Kate.

BACK *for* GOOD

After moving back from America, Kate and Edward Bearcroft chose a delightfully unique country home for their growing brood

FEATURE MANDY NOLAN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



KITCHEN

The curves of the walls are echoed in the shape of the timber cabinetry and granite worktops.

Bespoke kitchen cabinetry, Millside Joinery, from £15,000. Everhot 100 range cooker, price on application. Cabinets painted in Stony Ground estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



Kate and Edward Bearcroft wasted no time in searching for a perfect country home when they returned to the UK from America. 'We lived in London before moving to the US,' says Kate, 'but we had two children in tow when we came back, so we decided to move out to the country.'

Having enjoyed regular weekend visits to a picturesque village in Sussex, the couple chose it as their ideal location, and luckily there were several attractive properties available in the area. 'We wanted an old, characterful building, lots of light, a sizable sitting room and a large garden for the children,' says Kate.

When the couple spotted a two-round oast house, they were instantly smitten. 'It had such personality and sense of history,' recalls Kate. 'We loved all the reminders of the property's past life – it was a working farm building. There are dates and records carved into the walls, and the exposed beams in the vaulted master bedroom are etched with the details of the hop harvests – it's fascinating.'

Having decided that the roundhouse was a suitable home, the couple, who now have three children, Bella, 17, Will, 13, and Oliver, 6, snapped it up. And not only were they thrilled to seal the deal, they were also relieved to learn that despite the house dating back to the 1850s, it was in good structural condition. 'It needed a lot of work but the basics were there,' says Kate, who was excited at the prospect of modernising, redecorating and furnishing the house. Finding it had a separate cottage in the garden was an added bonus. 'It's ideal for guests and we let it out as a holiday home during the summer, too,' says Kate.

Meticulous attention to detail was key for the pair when it came to renovating their new home. 'We tried to keep as many of the

original features as possible, and we only used materials that were truly in keeping with the building's heritage,' says Kate. As well as retaining the property's historic integrity, the couple put their own unique mark on the place. 'When replacing the dilapidated white cowls on top of the roundels, we couldn't resist adding bears on the weather vane as a fun nod to our surname,' explains Kate.

Major changes included incorporating two new bathrooms, a garden room and kitchen. 'Adding the new garden room had the biggest impact,' recalls Kate. 'It took two years to get planning permission, but it was well worth the wait, mostly because it allows so much extra light into the drawing room.'

While restoring the quirky property, the pair paid special attention to emphasising the rooms in the roundels. 'The original kitchen was a series of angles,' says Kate, 'which we felt was out of keeping with a round room, and spoiled the flow, so we chose to accentuate the kitchen's curve with rounded granite worktops. It's surprising how much a circular scheme lends itself to having plenty of sweeping work space. Both the kitchen and the dining room produce an echo, so that's fun, too,' she adds. 'And when my daughter Bella was younger and the children in her class were asked to describe their bedrooms, she said: "Mine's like a roundabout!"'

For the finishing touches, Kate called on her friend, interior designer Alexis Wylie, for advice. 'Alexis revolutionised the layout of the living areas and helped me choose the perfect colour palettes to create a chic, comfortable family home,' says Kate.

Having lived in several properties, Kate and Edward say this is the house that suits them best. 'We love it here and are happy to have put our own mark on it without compromising its identity,' says Kate. 25

BATHROOM
Panelling painted in a soft tone is reminiscent of the couple's old New England-style home.

La Chapelle console basin, £675; console legs, £275 a pair, all Lefroy Brooks. Blind made from hand-embroidered Butterflies/Dragonflies/Moths fabric, £160m, Barbara Coupe



MASTER BEDROOM
The beams add a decorative feature as well as illustrating the property's rich, interesting heritage.

Chateau sleigh bed, from £3,550, And So To Bed, is similar. Bella quilt, £125, Up The Garden Path

FAVOURITE ITEM *'I love my Everhot range cooker. Thanks to its precision controls, it's perfect for baking as well as slow cooking – it keeps the kitchen warm in winter, too'*



BEDROOM

Splashes of red and pink add a warm feel and enhance the look of the original beams. Cotswold Panel bed, £650, Maison, is a close match to this one. Try notonthehighstreet.com for patchwork quilts, from £50

Artistic IMPRESSION

Robert Olliver-Jones unleashed his passion for colour and creativity when it came to designing the stylish home he shares with his husband Andrew

FEATURE JANET McMEEKIN | PHOTOGRAPHY RICHARD GADSBY



DRAWING ROOM

'I helped design the bookcase, and used the same paint colour as an accent for the whole house,' says Robert. Bespoke bookcase by Simon Rimmer, painted in Downpipe estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



KITCHEN
 'Instead of replacing the units, we had them spray-painted, which was much more cost-effective,' says Robert. Cabinetry spray-painted by Spraycraft, price on application. Tractor seat bar stools, £129 each, Sparks Yard

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Stables dating back to the late 1800s
LOCATION West Sussex
ROOMS Morning room, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, studio, plus an annexe with sitting room, kitchen-diner, bedroom
PURCHASED 2011
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We used to live in a converted schoolhouse nearby,' says Robert.



During his search for a new home in West Sussex, Robert Olliver-Jones strolled into a local village church and was transfixed by an intricate stained-glass window glinting in the sunlight.

'I was astounded when I realised that the image was based on *The Light of the World* – a painting by my ancestor William Holman Hunt,' says Robert. 'I reckoned it was a good sign and confirmation that the lovely old stables my husband Andrew and I had just viewed were perfect.'

When the couple first began house-hunting, back in 2011, their aim was to find a property with a bright studio space – Robert is an artist – that would ideally be separate but very close to their living accommodation. 'From that point of view, this place seemed ideal as I could then "commute" to work by simply walking across the garden,' explains Robert. 'We quickly concluded that the double garage could easily be converted into a studio that would be big

enough for my large canvases and, when required, a smart gallery space.'

Although the building was rather tired, the pair relished the fact that it had so much potential. 'I loved the sense of space, the high ceilings, the amount of glass and its location in a pretty little village,' says Robert.

INNER VISION

Right from the outset, the couple's plan was to modernise and enhance the character of this quirky property. However, once they had moved in, they decided to bide their time and think carefully about how to transform the historic building sensitively. As this was a single-level property, Robert felt a holistic approach was required to create a cohesive feel and ensure one room would blend seamlessly with another.

'I wanted all the rooms to relate to each other as you journey through the house, but also for them to simultaneously tell their own story,' he explains. 'It was going to be a large

DINING ROOM
A curious pendant light and interesting artwork inject quirky character to this formal setting. Chichester round pedestal table (unpainted), from £650, Neptune, is comparable. Cromwell aged-leather dining chairs, £655 each, Oka

DESIGN TIP 'To emphasise high ceilings, place objects such as oversized clocks and large paintings high up on the walls to draw the eye upwards'



BATHROOM

An unexpected addition adds a bold splash of colour to this striking monochrome scheme.

Bluebellgray sells similar floral fabrics, from £80m. Chinese black slate tiles, £40sq m, City Ceramics



MASTER BEDROOM
'We simply buy the things that we love and somehow they all fit together and tell their own story,' says Robert.
Rockett St George stocks similar adjustable steel floor lamps, £450 each. Elizabeth Hurley Gold Zelda cushion, £26, Terry's Fabrics

FAVOURITE SHOP

'I like Rockett St George's eclectic, and often humorous, range of homewares and gifts. Its edgy yet very familiar and easy to live with'

commitment in terms of both money and time so it was important to get it right.'

Robert and Andrew lived in the house for a year devising their plans before builders were hired and, in early 2012, work began. 'Our vision was to create an eclectic home that would have the feel of a relaxed gentlemen's club with a fresh and contemporary edge,' says Robert.

To achieve a sense of continuity, the couple opted for a palette of greys, blues and taupes for the paint colours, soft furnishings and furniture, as well as flashes of black and white for extra impact. 'I knew these shades would contrast well with our existing dark-wood antiques and new pieces, such as the tan leather sofas in our drawing room,' explains Robert.

INDIVIDUAL STYLE

For 12 months, the house resembled a building site while teams of tradesmen refurbished the kitchen, fitted new bathrooms, laid floors, replaced skirting boards, installed new lights and bespoke fireplaces, before tiling and finally

decorating. 'Living here during that period was awful,' recalls Robert. 'We felt like we were camping in our own home. Entertaining came to an abrupt halt and it was difficult to find the space and time to concentrate on my artwork.'

But suffering all the disturbance and upheaval was worth it in the end, as the couple are now the proud owners of a highly individual and sophisticated home that's bursting with innovative ideas and charming personal touches. 'Throughout the house, I've created vignettes of prized possessions, featuring artwork and items from both our childhoods,' says Robert. 'Cherished objects spark memories and say something about our lives and relationship.'

Robert's artistic flair and attention to detail has certainly paid huge dividends, and the couple are so glad they followed their hunch and made the stables their home. 'Andrew and I believe that we were destined to find this house,' says Robert. 'It's such a wonderful place to both live and work, and we've made a very happy life for ourselves here.' 25

SITTING ROOM

A stylish, geometric monochrome rug adds a modern touch to this elegant space.

To echo this look try Lappljung Ruta rug, from £55, Ikea and Ortensia chandelier, £1,270, The Chandelier & Mirror Company



DISTINCTIVE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

1930s terrace-house

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS Sitting room, open-plan kitchen-diner/living area, four bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2010

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I used to live in a bigger house nearby,' says Kate.

OUTDOOR AREA

'I had the garden tiled as Jimi, my dachshund, loves to dig!' says Kate. Magis Proust armchair, £696, Magis



STARTING AFRESH

KATE SISSONS SAW BEYOND THE WRECKAGE OF THIS LONDON TERRACE,
BRINGING IT BACK TO LIFE AND DOUBLING ITS SIZE

FEATURE ROS CONNELLY | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



KITCHEN

'I found the butcher's block on eBay and had it driven all the way up from Cornwall,' says Kate. Union Jack sofa, £2,995, Andrew Martin. Pendants, £175 each, Insider Chic. For similar kitchen tiles try Silver metro tiles, £9.95 per tile, Walls and Floors



DINING AREA

Chunky wooden dining furniture and a vintage shop sign create a lived-in, laid-back feel.

For a similar look try Oxford solid oak dining table and benches, £739, The Great Furniture Trading Company

Kate Sissons is always on the lookout for a renovation project. To date, she has restored several properties in London and a couple France. 'I really enjoy the challenge,' says Kate, a self-confessed lover of all things interior. A former journalist turned homes specialist, Kate decided to fully embrace a new career path by setting up her own online company, Insiderchic.net, which specialises in selling homeware.

The property development side of her career also blossomed, with yet another suitable project soon catching her eye. 'I was thrilled to discover an unmodernised two-bedroom cottage for sale in southwest

London, as they're increasingly difficult to find,' explains Kate. 'I also loved the location. It's on a really pretty, quiet street with an entire row of original and completely intact 1880s terraced houses.'

Once Kate had bought the charming period property, work was soon underway. 'The house hadn't been touched for nearly 100 years,' she says. 'So all of the yellow brickwork was crumbling, there were huge holes in the party walls, bad damp and even asbestos. The whole place had to be pretty much rebuilt.' Kate decided to make the most of the opportunity to start from scratch, putting a new room in the loft, digging down into the basement and extending the kitchen using



MASTER BEDROOM
Classic florals and a vibrant vintage carousel horse give a stately touch. Wallpaper, Crowe Hall Lane, £64.50 per roll, Little Greene. Bird & branch table lamp by Matthew Williamson, £80, Debenhams. Carousel horse, £1,250, Insider Chic



GUEST BEDROOM
Girlie-style pieces rule here. Jubilee wallhanging, £700; Jubilee cushion, £315, The Rug Company



BATHROOM
A fish mural by artist Lizzi Porter adds a fun twist. Clearwater Boat freestanding roll-top bath, £1,699, Bathroom Discount Centre, is similar. Try Hampshire Flooring for parquet flooring

FAVOURITE ROOM *'My favourite part of the house is the master bedroom, which is big but cosy and very peaceful. Tumbling out of bed and into a massive bath is such a luxury'*

the side return. 'I also had the ground floor internal wall completely removed, which has doubled the length of the sitting room,' she adds.

Amazingly, the work only took eight months, during which time Kate lived in rented accommodation nearby. 'I project managed the whole thing as taking on a rebuild can be a full-time job,' says Kate, who still found time to work on three clients' kitchens. Her secret? 'I plan everything in minute detail beforehand,' she explains, 'and I spend a lot of time perfecting the design before I start.'

Kate also swears by sourcing and buying all your own materials. 'That way you're in full control,' she explains. 'Travis Perkins, London Plasterworks and Bathroom Discount Centre are all great suppliers.' Another of Kate's favourites is Leyland, where she went looking for a specific shade of paint. 'I really wanted the perfect grey for the walls,' she recalls. 'Ideally, it needed to reflect a lot of light. I finally found the right colour and had a real 'Hallelujah' moment!'

Once the building and main decorative work was complete, including all the old 1930s/40s-style wallpaper being replaced with

a new sophisticated palette, and lino curling up at the edges with quality flooring and eye-catching rugs, Kate was able to concentrate on filling her new home with furnishings and accessories she has collected over the years. 'I'm inspired wherever I go,' she says, 'and I always carry a notebook, take lots of photographs and tear pages out of magazines.' Kate also travels frequently for work, sourcing items from all over the world. 'If I fall in love with something, I ship it back home and have it kept in storage – it's wonderful coming back to beautiful pieces that I've temporarily forgotten about!' she says.

Indeed, gorgeous, unique objects with bags of personality sum up Kate's elegant, eclectic style. 'Mixing old and new is a real joy for me,' she says, 'and I much prefer a fun, quirky mix over a matchy-matchy, over-stylised approach, which I feel looks dated.'

So, how does Kate feel about her latest home now that it's been rebuilt and revived? 'Another project could well be just around the corner,' she admits, 'but for now, I absolutely love it here – it has such a happy, calm feel and I'm very much at home in this house.' 25

**SNUG**

A backdrop of dark grey gives a cosy, cocooning atmosphere. Walls painted in Down Pipe modern emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Try The Old Cinema for a range of reupholstered vintage armchairs

A VINTAGE VIBE

FUSING BOLD COLOURS AND RETRO CLASSICS, JEANETTE SEABROOK'S FAMILY HOME PERFECTLY CAPTURES THE SPIRIT OF THE SIXTIES

FEATURE GEORGIE LANE-GODFREY | PHOTOGRAPHY JONATHAN GOOCH

DINING/LIVING AREA

Vibrant, contemporary furniture enlivens this bright space, while floor-to-ceiling glass doors capitalise on the wonderful view.

Jasper dining chairs, £39 each, John Lewis. Bespoke dining table, Quirky Interiors, for similar try Ambrogio dining table, £3,564, Living Space UK. Stonehaven Angelpoise floor lamp, £235, Viva Lagoon



PLAYROOM

A bright beanbag and colourful rug create a fun vibe.

Expedit shelving unit, £130, Ikea. The Original Fatboy beanbag in Lime Green, £148, Store

I HALL
Pops of pink, purple and lime inject a playful feel.
Chloe Croft Magenta Flamingo print, £170, Rockett St George

2 SITTING ROOM
Jeanette took her cue from luxury boutique hotels for this snug area.
Walls painted in Mahogany estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

Few of us would manage to find interiors ideas in a shopping mall in Australia or the cloakroom of an Istanbul restaurant, but for designer Jeanette Seabrook, inspiration comes from the most unlikely places.

'I took pictures of things that piqued my interest and used them as a useful decorating resource,' she says of the eye-catching, eclectic style in her 1960s home. But finding the perfect house proved trickier. After weekends spent

driving through villages near the South Downs, Jeanette finally narrowed down her search to an idyllic spot in West Sussex. 'I fell for the second property I saw,' recalls Jeanette, who lives with her two children, Oliver, 9, and Lexie, 7. 'It was the stunning view that sold the house.'

Far from needing just a few soft furnishings to spruce it up, the property required some major structural modifications. 'There had been a few extensions to the building and the layout just



DECORATING TIP *'Dark walls and sumptuous fabrics give a basic room grown-up glamour'*

KITCHEN

Jeanette went for wooden units so that she can paint them a different colour when she feels like a change.

Units painted in Down Pipe modern emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Metropolitan tiles in Camden, £84.48sq m, Fired Earth. Kitchen design, price on application, Sea Change Interiors

didn't work for us – it didn't flow,' explains Jeanette. 'So, the old conservatory was removed, the kitchen was opened up, and a huge expanse of glass was installed at the back of the house to capitalise on the stunning outlook.'

Meanwhile downstairs, the hallway was extended, a playroom was added and the sitting room was made smaller to create a cosier feel. Upstairs, two smaller bedrooms and a bathroom were joined to create Jeanette's bedroom, while

the former master bedroom was reconfigured to create Oliver's room, an en suite guest room and a family bathroom. The old kitchen and dining room are now an open-plan kitchen-diner with its own separate snug, all looking out over the garden and some breathtaking scenery. 'The kids absolutely adore this space,' says Jeanette. 'They also love rollerblading around the dining table!'

When it came to the interior design, Jeanette decided to look to the original architecture for

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached 1960s property

LOCATION West Sussex

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, playroom, utility room, five bedrooms (two en suite), family bathroom

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here we lived in a Victorian terrace in London,' says Jeanette.



MASTER BEDROOM
‘I wanted this room to be a sanctuary,’ says Jeanette. Bespoke Lower Mull headboard in crushed velvet, from £399, The Headboard Workshop. Designer ‘Frida’ pink embroidered throw with pom poms trim, £90, Debenhams



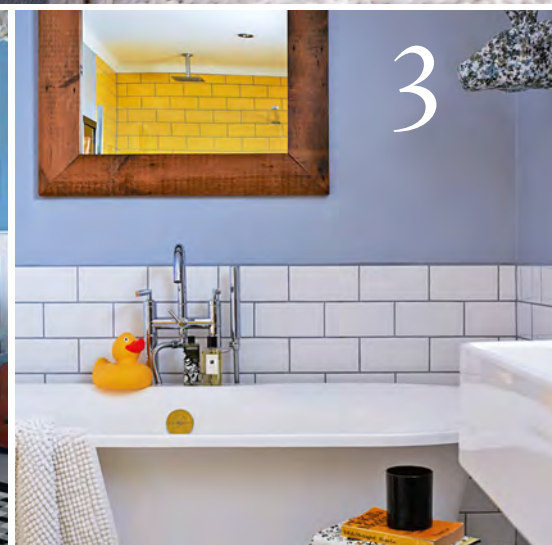
GUEST BEDROOM
A sunny pop of yellow contrasts beautifully with the dark blue walls in this inviting space. Walls painted in Hague Blue estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. For a similar lamp try Crystal Ball table lamp, £90, Land of Nod



1 LEXIE'S BEDROOM
This wall sticker makes an impact. Try Ikea for wall stickers, from £5



2 OLIVER'S BEDROOM
Blue abounds in this soothing spot. Walls painted in Celestial Cloud 2, £24.49 for 2.5 litres, Dulux.



3 FAMILY BATHROOM
Yellow tiles add a splash of colour. Metro Yellow Metallic Glass tiles, 20 x 10cm, £5.99 each, Topps Tiles

ideas. ‘The overall design was led by the bare bones of a typical 1960s home – simple clean lines and an open layout,’ says Jeanette. Fittingly, much of the decoration channels the sixties, from modern-retro furniture in the living area to bright yellow metro tiles in the bathroom.

Vibrant bursts of colour throughout the house continue this vintage vibe, tempered by darker, calmer tones. For instance, an eye-catching yellow lamp sits against an intense blue backdrop, while a mustard-yellow armchair

is offset by a wall painted in a deep, moody grey. ‘I think all this colour mainly came from being bored with beige!’ says Jeanette. ‘If you have a large space, sometimes you need to use a darker tone to make it feel welcoming and cosy. Be bold, after all, it’s only a lick of paint, and you can always change it if you decide you don’t like it.’

Marrying far-flung influences with a love of colour and appreciation for the property’s original architecture, Jeanette has created a unique family home with plenty of soul. 25

INSIGHT

Using glass in a new-build

Keen on using glass in your build to make a style statement as Jeanette Seabrook has done? Bear these points in mind first



Whether you're building from scratch or extending, the possibilities provided by glass are vast. Tough and durable, but visually lightweight, this versatile material can add wow factor when used creatively.

INSIDE, OUTSIDE

The use of glass is one of the most important factors of new-builds and extensions. A window layout puts the face on a house, and your choices here can express different moods whether formal, serene or statement making. Glass provides the visual interface between the indoor and outdoor world so imagine looking in as well as looking out. Your windows can effectively punctuate the overall mass of the building and its internal space. So try to think in terms of the spatial effect rather than just the surface effect. Consider, too, that structural glass can be not only be incorporated vertically into a build, but it can also be used horizontally in a walkable rooflight or a balcony deck, for example. Contemporary structural glazing often works well in the context of historic buildings, to create contrast.

ECO CONSIDERATIONS

Consider your use of glass from an environmental point of view, too. Think about the principles of passive cooling, which focuses on natural heat-gain control and heat dissipation, rather than electrical cooling. Consider using sustainable materials. Even the smallest house has around eight windows, so bear in mind the raw materials used in manufacturing. They each have an embodied energy factor – the lower this is, the better. However, wood frames are more or less carbon neutral, and good-quality

timber options are usually a far better investment in every respect than uPVC. Think about insulation too. From a thermal standpoint, glass is usually the weakest link in an otherwise well-insulated home. The insulation performance for a window, as with any other building component, is measured by the U value, which should be as low as possible. It will vary depending on the glass type, the number of glass layers, the width of the gap between glass layers, and the gas used to fill the gap.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



● 'The rhythm and distribution of exterior windows is hugely significant, and getting it wrong can be visually uncomfortable for you as the occupant, but also for future purchasers. Contemporary-style houses tend to follow a different set of visual rules to traditional buildings, but there are successful rules of thumb for both categories. Buy some good architectural books and begin to learn the language of architecture.'

● **Think about orientation. We all become acclimatised to the quality of light, good or bad, in any house we own. However, a new building usually provides a unique opportunity to radically improve the daylight quality of your environment. Huge amounts of light from the south may overheat a room or cause uncomfortable glare – unless you factor in a brise soleil (a sun-shading structure) or an eaves overhang. Always consider the direction of sunlight to make the most of it as a source of natural lighting and warmth, but take care to avoid overheating and glare. A good architect can advise on this.**

● Composite windows are a very effective solution for new houses. They have excellent thermal performance, with a timber frame visible on the inside but maintenance-free aluminium on the outside.

● **Think carefully about the size of your window reveals and how far you're going to set the window back from the external wall face. Deeper reveals give the elevations of your house a more sculpted texture, and shallow reveals tend to look cheaper. Getting this right is closely linked to your general strategy for closing the cavity wall at openings. It's also a compromise with respect to the depth of your internal reveals too.'**

PHILIP DURBAN, HUDSON ARCHITECTS

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GREY MATTERS

WITH A DASH OF FRENCH FLAIR HERE AND A SPRINKLE OF ENGLISH ELEGANCE THERE, FRANÇOISE HEGARTY HAS TURNED AN ORDINARY SEMI INTO A CHARACTERFUL, STYLISH HOME

FEATURE & PHOTOGRAPHY BARBARA EGAN/REPORTAGE



DINING AREA
For continuity throughout the house, Françoise painted the dresser and tabletop to match the ivory colour of the kitchen units. Dresser and table, prices on request, both Marie's Antiques, are painted in Ivory Antique eggshell, £47 for 2.5 litres, Colortrend

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

New-build semi detached

LOCATION

Co Kildare, Ireland

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2014

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

‘We used to live in a four-bedroom house nearby,’ says Françoise.



Françoise Hegarty is definitely not someone who lets the grass grow under her feet. ‘This is our 19th home,’ she confesses. ‘I love doing houses up but as soon as I’m finished, I quickly

have an urge to go on to the next one. David, my husband, would happily commit to a forever home but I find it hard to stay put!’

For Françoise, the main appeal of never settling in one place is taking on the challenge of restoring a run-down property to its former glory. So when the couple decided that their large four-bedroom house was too big for them, Françoise was soon on the hunt for her next project. The pair wanted to stay in the same area but were keen to find somewhere more tranquil. ‘We ended up finding a house we

really liked in a peaceful estate nearby,’ says Françoise. ‘I didn’t focus too heavily on the house itself, as I knew I was going to start from scratch.’ True to form, Françoise tackled the floors first, getting rid of all of them apart from the slate tiles in the kitchen, which once steam-cleaned turned out to be a lovely mix of warm ochre, burnt amber and grey. ‘Not black as we originally thought,’ says Françoise. ‘In fact, I loved the shades so much I based the kitchen’s colour palette on them.’

As well as enjoying giving her new home a complete makeover, Françoise is pleased with how her ideas successfully translated into reality. ‘I wanted to keep each room feeling light and spacious, as well as create a natural flow throughout the property,’ she says.

‘Cohesive interior design can make a small

KITCHEN

This scheme is simple yet inviting, with various decorative items and kitchenware giving it a homely, lived-in feel. Kitchen units and glass splashback, price on application, CG Kitchens. Granite worktop, price on request, Egan Stone





SITTING ROOM
Deep aubergine and touches of burnt orange lift the grey.
 Feature wall painted in Brinjal modern emulsion, £39.50 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Wing armchairs, £450 each; ottoman, £199, all from Re-loved

INSPIRATION *‘Walking past an interiors shop is impossible for me, I always have to pop in and take a quick look at the fabrics – all the different colours and textures are so inspiring’*



STUDY
A bookcase given a lick of vibrant pink paint adds a fun, feminine twist.
 Antique bookcase painted in Raddichio estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Merchant Chandler’s Gingham cushion in red and white, from £4.99, is similar





MASTER BEDROOM

'I adore the combination of deep orange, greys and pale blue,' says Françoise.

Try Reilly's Antiques for French antique bedside lockers. Chandelier, £100, Marie's Antiques. Ottoman, £560, Good Room. Walls painted in Manor House Grey estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



GUEST BEDROOM

The pale purple thistle-print cushions inspired the colour scheme for this serene space.

Thistle print cushions, £58 each, The Good Room. Curtains, £750 for a pair, Amanda Harvey Interiors



house feel so much bigger. I applied this theory by coordinating each room's colour scheme with a basic palette of neutral beiges and greys with rich accent tones for added warmth and interest.'

In addition to being influenced by colour, a trip to nearby Trim inspired Françoise to adopt a new approach to her refurbishment plan. 'I spotted a pair of beautiful Gustavian style-chairs in a lovely shop, Re-loved, and instantly fell for them,' she recalls. 'I went straight in to enquire about them and found myself totally enthralled by all the reconditioned and bespoke furniture in there.' Another thing that caught Françoise's eye was the interesting range of courses and workshops in furniture restoration and upholstery on offer. 'I signed up on the spot!' she says. From that point onwards Françoise

started painting furniture, light fittings; anything she felt would benefit from having a fresh look. 'It was something of a breakthrough for me, as I realised I could confidently correlate everything in the shades I wanted without having to go out and buy new pieces,' she explains.

This new appreciation for the transformative effects of a lick of paint helped Françoise pull together an overall look for the house that's both cohesive and chic. 'And by using the property's existing fittings and our old furniture it was extremely cost-effective, too,' she adds.

So is Françoise finally ready to lay down roots? 'Eventually we may move on,' she says. 'I never want to say "I'm done", as I love to have a project. But right now I'm thinking of adding a garden room, so we're not going anywhere soon.' 25



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TOUR DE FORCE

Fiona and Rob Parker-Cole turned two flats into a spacious family home filled with quirky artwork and original style

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, playroom, four bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We moved here from a terraced house nearby,' says Fiona.





Having renovated four homes in seven years, Fiona and Rob Parker-Cole were prepared for the task ahead when they bought their latest property – a Victorian terraced house in southwest London. ‘It wasn’t too far from the leafy suburb

where we were already living, and I instantly fell for its proportions and lovely garden,’ says Fiona.

The property was split into upstairs and downstairs flats, so the couple started by removing the two separate entrances and reinstating the original layout. ‘We knocked the building around a lot, adding a kitchen extension, a cloakroom and fitting a new bathroom upstairs,’ explains Fiona. ‘We stayed in the house during the renovation and kept moving from floor to floor and room to room while work was being carried out.’

With most of their budget eaten up by building costs, Fiona – who has had a passion for interiors since childhood – put her creative eye to good use for the decor. ‘I love unearthing treasures, and the other day I sealed the deal on a white leather Mies van der Rohe Barcelona chair, paying just £180 for the design classic,’ she says. ‘I can’t pass a skip without taking a look inside, and often find pieces that way.’ Fiona also enjoys buying old dark-wood furniture on eBay and painting it, or visiting her

antique-dealer friend’s shop, which has a high turnover of unusual and characterful items.

Her recent acquisitions include a chandelier, stone lamps and giant vintage metal lettering. ‘I love things with personality and have a fondness for butterflies, angels and bird wings,’ explains Fiona. These ethereal additions are perfectly counterbalanced by Rob’s passion for motor sports, which is evident in the large *Le Mans* painting hanging over the dining table, commissioned by Fiona for his birthday. This bright and welcoming space provides the perfect setting for hosting vintage tea parties, which is another of Fiona’s personal interests. In fact, since the renovation, and following an enthusiastic response from her friends, she now stages tea parties professionally.

Decorated in light greys and off-whites with the odd splash of bold colour, the couple’s home is functional, comfortable, and perfectly suited to the needs of their family, which includes Matilda, 7, and Oscar, 5. ‘If you like pale colours, it’s important to add texture, otherwise a scheme can look too flat,’ advises Fiona. This comes courtesy of cowhide rugs, feature wallpaper and patterned fabrics.

‘This was once a tired and disjointed house, in need of love,’ says Fiona. ‘We filled it with the objects and people we adore, and it’s really satisfying to see how the place has come alive.’

1 & 2 SITTING ROOM

Large metal letters illustrate Fiona and Rob’s playful side.

Metal letters, £80 each, Field Antiques. Orson graphite grey armchair, £349, Made

3 KITCHEN

Fiona wanted this area to have a distinctly feminine feel.

Papillon artwork (unframed), £70, Rockett St George. Josette damask grey/white wallpaper, £32 per roll, Laura Ashley

4 DINING ROOM

Rob’s *Le Mans* painting helps brighten up this simple setting.

Studio88 sells vintage motorcar artwork, from around £50. Dining chairs, £200 each, Aflair

5 STUDY

This vibrant space also doubles up as a playroom.

Barcelona chair, £180, Field Antiques. Red metal filing cabinet, £395, Oliver Bonas

6 MASTER BEDROOM

A trompe l’œil style wallpaper adds an element of drama.

Headboard, £250, Winchester Upholstery. Silver chenille throw, £70, India Jane



3



VICTORIAN TERRACE | 25BH

4



5



‘Get the bones of a house right,
then it’s all about the accessories
— a bit like choosing jewellery’

6

PALE PERFECTION

*Tranquillity reigns
in Amy Bruce's
elegant home,
giving no hint of the
fast and thorough
transformation that
has taken place*

FEATURE ANNABELLE GRUNDY
PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached Victorian house

LOCATION Cheshire

ROOMS Hall, sitting-cum-dining room, kitchen-diner, study, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I rented a modern apartment nearby,' says Amy.

DINING AREA

A pale palette unites this space.

Jan Cavelle Buckden dining table, £950; bespoke dining chairs, £350 each, all Grey Rose Interiors

SITTING ROOM

Long curtains, a cushion-laden sofa and an oversized photo canvas all contribute to the opulent feel.

Walls painted in Cornforth White estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke footstool, £650, Grey Rose Interiors. Find similar canvases from around £150 at Art.co.uk. Ava 7 Light French Gold crystal ceiling pendant, £605, Lights4Living.com, is a good match for this one

KITCHEN

Natural light pours into the once-gloomy room, thanks to the new bifold doors.

1909 kitchen, £550 for a 60cm base unit, Lloyds Kitchens and Bedrooms. Walls painted in Perfectly Taupe matt emulsion, £18.98 for 2.5 litres, Dulux. Stools, £265 each, Grey Rose Interiors



With its pale colour schemes and tactile furnishings, Amy Bruce's Cheshire home exudes comfort and serenity. The

rooms are decorated in airy, restful shades from fawn to silver, and there are clusters of cushions, oversized headboards and sumptuous curtains pooling on soft carpets. 'I'm not keen on strong colour, but I like textures,' says Amy. 'I've stuck to a simple palette so the spaces flow, but I've used different finishes, such as wool, leather and velvet, to add depth.'

The calm atmosphere contrasts sharply with the hectic bustle of Amy's first few months in her new property. 'The place was well maintained, but there was a huge amount that I wanted to do to it,' she recalls. 'I planned my changes before I moved in, and the builders started the day after I got the keys.'

The house was structurally sound, but the interior was stark and featureless, with some eccentric quirks. 'It was almost clinical,' recalls Amy. 'There were no fireplaces and there was no storage. The oddest thing was a vertical radiator standing on the kitchen worktop.'

Amy stayed with relatives while the work, tanking the basement and turning it into an office, cloakroom and utility room, was underway. The bathroom was refitted, and an en suite added to the master bedroom. Following this, her joiner installed wardrobes in the bedrooms and



2

I GUEST BEDROOM

An oversized headboard in gold faux leather makes a striking focal point. The metallic finish is echoed in the side tables and silk bed throw.

Headboard in Sellier fabric, £37m; curtains in Sabi Tsavo fabric, £93.50m, both Osborne & Little. Lotty side tables, £348 each, Sweetpea & Willow. Albany quilt, from £275, The White Company, would work well in this scheme

2 BATHROOM

Marble tiles complement the elegant, freestanding vanity unit.

Stratford single vanity unit, £2,195, Porter Handmade Vanities. East Hampton marble tiles, £115sq m, Fired Earth

storage in the sitting room, bringing definition to the empty spaces.

Six weeks later, once new carpets were laid and the walls had been painted, Amy moved in, calling a brief halt to all the activity. 'I lived in the house for a while and got to know it,' she says. 'My interior design business, Grey Rose Interiors, was keeping me busy and I needed to save up for the next stage.'

Things did not stand still for long, however. Four months later, Amy was preparing to tackle the gloomy kitchen, with its dark surfaces and worn wooden units. Maximising natural light was key, so the small French windows at one end were replaced with bifold glass doors spanning the entire back wall. For the kitchen itself, Amy visualised simple, off-white furniture. She investigated a couple of kitchen installers before choosing local company Lloyds Kitchens and Bedrooms. 'I loved the Shaker-style cabinets, and the big solid handles really make it – it's like having the right accessories to finish an outfit.'

The light-filled kitchen-diner sets the tone for the whole house, and Amy's chic, multi-layered neutral scheme flows all the way through, seamlessly linking the bedrooms and bathrooms to the living areas. 'I'm really proud of the difference that's been made in such a short time,' she says. 'It's been a challenge, but now, people walk in and comment on how peaceful and relaxing my home feels.' 25

3 MASTER BEDROOM

The original fireplace was missing, but Amy sourced this authentic cast-iron Victorian one to replace it. Bespoke doors, around £1,600 a pair, Grey Rose Interiors. Restored Victorian fireplace, £900, Nostalgia

4 GUEST ROOM

Warm taupes and bronzes create a welcoming atmosphere, while the Art Deco furniture adds glamour.

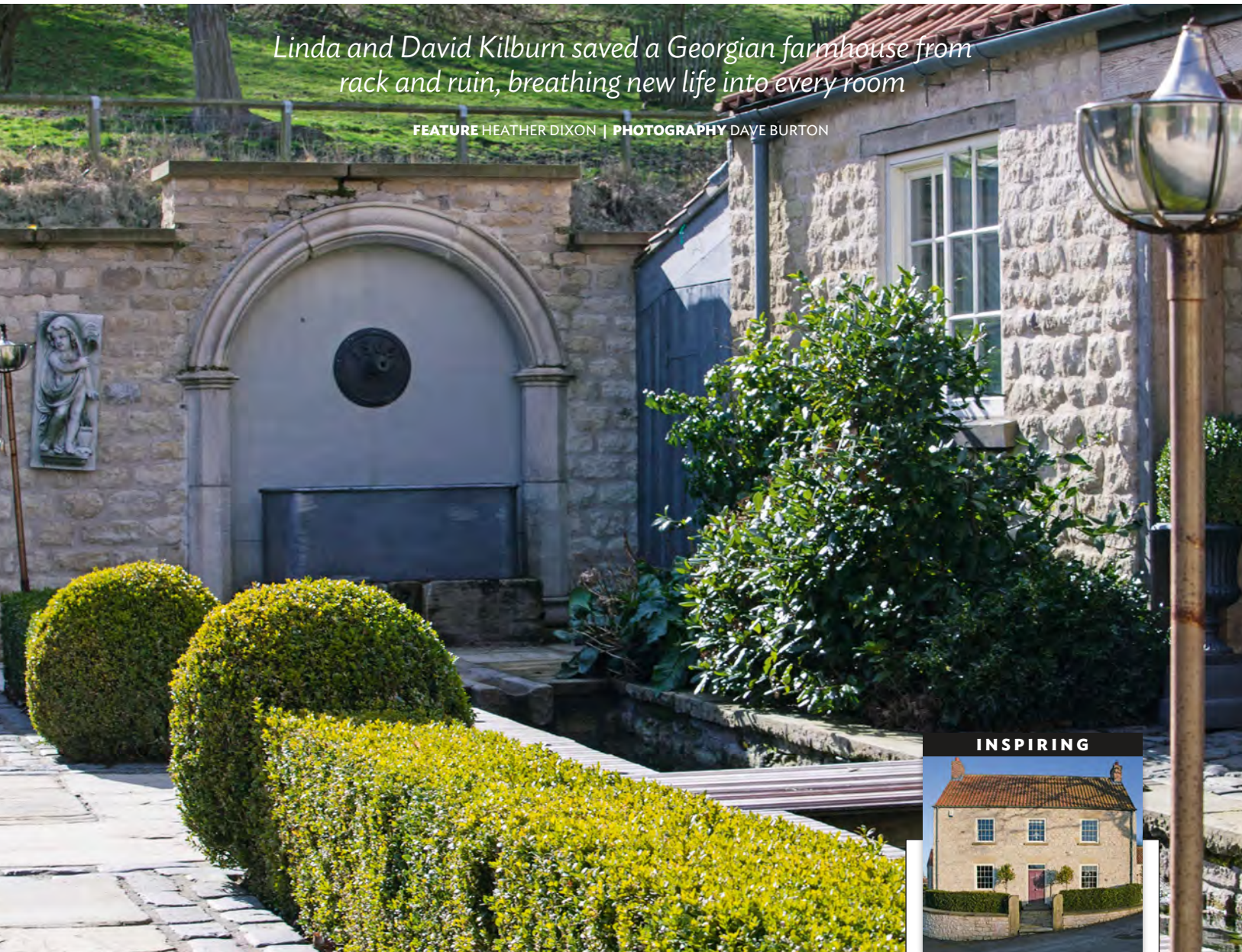
Walls painted in Elephant's Breath estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke headboard, £700, Grey Rose Interiors. Deco Fan console table, £895; Deco Fan segmented wall mirror, £265, both Sweetpea & Willow



RESCUE MISSION

Linda and David Kilburn saved a Georgian farmhouse from rack and ruin, breathing new life into every room

FEATURE HEATHER DIXON | PHOTOGRAPHY DAVE BURTON



It was a 'moment of madness' that prompted Linda and David Kilburn to buy a rundown old farmhouse by sealed bid. 'We were swept along by the romance of the place,' says Linda. 'Its location is idyllic and the house is beautifully proportioned.' But after 10 years of neglect, the property was dilapidated, with crumbling stone walls, mould

and even trees growing inside. When the couple saw what they had let themselves in for, Linda briefly wondered whether they had made a huge mistake. But then the thought of restoring the tired old building filled her with enthusiasm.

The house is Grade II listed and sits in a conservation area, which is also an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Before they could start renovating, the couple had to arrange bat

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Georgian farmhouse

LOCATION North Yorkshire

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, drawing room, kitchen-diner, snug, study, five bedrooms (all en suite)

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We used to live in a stone-built period house in a Yorkshire conservation village,' says Linda.



DRAWING ROOM
An antique sofa has been reupholstered in fabric that matches the panelling.
Woodwork painted in French Gray estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball.
Sofa upholstered in Mineral fabric, £97m, Zoffany



KITCHEN-DINER
Linda designed the farmhouse-style units and larder cupboard herself and had them made by a local craftsman.
Kitchen, from £248 for a 600mm base unit, Albert Thundercliffe.
Units painted in Farrow & Ball Parma Gray estate eggshell; dresser in Stone Blue estate eggshell, both £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

FAVOURITE ROOM *'The kitchen is a really relaxing space to spend time in. I like the fact it looks across the courtyard and is the perfect place to entertain and work as the need arises'*



and archaeological surveys, then draw up detailed plans outlining everything they wanted to achieve in order to get it approved. The property's listing and location meant the façade couldn't be altered and interior changes were restricted. 'We had to preserve the layout and maintain the integrity of the building,' says Linda. 'This meant replacing rotten windows with handmade single-glazed casement ones, using special heritage glass. Materials had to be as authentic as possible and everything we did needed approval.'

But Linda and David were keen to let the elegant old house 'speak for itself' and, with

the help of Tony Harrison from Design 4 Architecture, they were able to give it a modern twist without compromising its character. The renovation took two years from start to finish, including a severe winter when the building was completely covered in a huge protective 'tent' so work could continue in all weathers.

'We effectively rebuilt some parts of the property and repaired others, but kept to the same layout,' says Linda. 'Inside, we wanted the schemes to also reflect the property's age, with lots of natural stone and wood, and to be very comfortable and relaxed, too, so the interior

SITTING ROOM

The house features deep-set doors, thick walls, original beams and striking fireplaces, which have all been restored as part of the overall renovation.

Derwent sofas in Linwood Iona Sisal fabric, around £2,400; blue cushions in Zoffany Himalaya Slate, £70m; curtains in Zoffany Vivaldi Blue Linen fabric, £88m, all Nine to Eleven



MASTER BEDROOM
A silver four-poster shines against the muted backdrop. Kendal four poster bed, £1,795, Lombok, would work here



MASTER EN SUITE
The rich dark tones of the tiles create an opulent look and contrast with the pale fixtures and fittings. Venezia metallic effect ceramic tiles, £63.30sq m, Porcelanosa. Stone fire surround, from £1,800, MJ Fenby



evolved with these things in mind. We're on the edge of lovely parkland, which is ideal for walking and outdoor pursuits, so the decor had to be easy to maintain and pretty resilient to wear and tear.'

Linda and David run a chain of builder's merchants, so they had plenty of good contacts, including builder Dave Lumley, who was the main contractor on the project. The couple also sought the help of craftsman Albert Thundercliffe, a specialist in joinery and furniture-making using reclaimed materials. He created the kitchen units, rebuilt the stone fireplaces and crafted bespoke furniture. Linda chose hardwood and Yorkshire

stone floors typical of the region's farmhouses, and open beams in the double-height kitchen area when the roof was renewed. A lot of her furniture is antique, bought from trade fairs or passed down through the family, though she says she will shop anywhere to find things she likes – from bargain stores to high-end shops.

'I was aiming for classic style with a modern twist, and I chose natural materials, timeless colours and beautiful textiles to make it really comfortable,' says Linda. 'I wanted this to be the kind of place where people could walk in, flop on a sofa and feel immediately at home.'

GUEST BEDROOM
The restful palette is similar to that in the master bedroom, but a Rococo-inspired bed gives this space a very different look. Juliet caned bed, £2,575; Eclectic bedside water table, £695, both And So To Bed. Cushions in Jane Churchill Ellipse Aqua fabric, £71m; Parkertex Lorian Pall Mauve Old Gold, £129m, both Nine to Eleven

KITCHEN

The heart-shaped chalkboard adds a fun twist.

Try Dulux Made By Me Magnetic Blackboard paint, £18.98 for 750ml, B&Q. Essential Kitchen Amersham Oak Shaker, from £50 for a 300mm wall unit, Homebase, is similar



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Ground-floor, semi-detached flat, built in 1890

LOCATION Bristol

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen, studio, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2010

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I own another flat in a converted factory in Bristol, which I now rent out,' says Sabina.

SPACE INVADERS

Upsizing meant Sabina and Matt Ford had to be resourceful when it came to decorating their home

FEATURE KATIE TREGGIDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE



SITTING ROOM

Sabina painted the second-hand dresser and varnished the flea-market trunk to fit in with this room's smart cream and green colour scheme. Moo Moo Cowhide trunk/coffee table, £785, Sweetpea & Willow, is a good match. Jack sofa, from £2,399, Sofa Workshop, is comparable. Throw, £45, Jacaranda

After looking at more than 30 properties, putting in several offers and getting gazumped, Sabina Ford and her husband Matt knew this flat would be their home from the moment they saw it. 'It was really strange because we walked past it one day, and Matt suddenly stopped and said, "I want to live there." He hadn't even seen the inside,' recalls Sabina. 'I arranged a viewing without him, got as far as the living room and said, "Yep, we'll take it, it's beautiful." Then I had to phone Matt and tell him we'd just bought a flat! Luckily, he was really happy and he loved it as much I did when he saw the interior.'

The couple had their hearts set on this part of Bristol because of its leafiness and boutiques. 'It's just outside the city centre, close to all the independent shops, we've got a Michelin-starred restaurant at the end

of the road and a nice local pub,' says Sabina. Fortunately, the property was every bit as perfect as the location. 'When I came for the viewing, I immediately noticed the flat's high ceilings and beautiful windows – it's so light,' recalls Sabina. 'The previous owners had decorated it tastefully and it's got a great layout. I just knew it was perfect instantly.'

Once the couple moved in, they were confronted with the sheer size of the space they had to fill. 'When we had looked around, there wasn't really much furniture – you came into this enormous room and there was a sofa and a huge gold mirror and that was about it, so it was about getting the right type of furniture for us,' says Sabina.

Because the Fords were moving from somewhere very modern, a lot of their existing furniture wasn't right for the Victorian apartment. However, Sabina had thought ahead and as soon as she'd put the offer

MASTER BEDROOM

'This room has beautiful light, overlooks the garden and is so peaceful,' says Sabina.

Henley bed, from £1,049; Salisbury bedside tables, £199 each, both Feather & Black; Shimmer bedspread in Cassis, from £60, John Lewis; Harlequin Delphine Ophelia cushion, £30, Bryella, is similar



BATHROOM

Twin basins make getting ready for work in the morning a breeze.

Pozzi Ginori Series 500 wall basins, from £299 each, Bathroom Express



NURSERY

Pale furniture and flooring keep the room looking bright.

Anna drop-side cot, £120, John Lewis. Throw, £45, Jacaranda



FAVOURITE SHOP *'Made Just So in Clifton Village is dangerous because you pop in for a coffee and come out with armfuls of cushions, prints and vases'*

in, she began poring over magazines, collecting images on Pinterest, and browsing flea markets to find the right pieces. 'There were a lot of trips to Shepton Mallet flea market, and I had lots of boards on Pinterest with all the things I liked. I got a bit obsessed,' she laughs.

The couple also acquired a lot of their furniture and accessories from neighbours, even finding light fittings that had been left unwanted in a driveway. 'In Bristol it's so popular to swap things that if I put a piece out on the drive with a note saying "Please give me a home", it's gone in an hour,' says Sabina. 'The fact that people are just willing to swap or give furniture away and not ask for any money is

great.' The couple are expecting a baby in September, and one of Sabina's best finds was a stool for the nursery, which was given to them by a neighbour. 'We got rid of the woodworm, painted it and recovered the seat,' she says. 'I use it all the time as a reading perch.' The dresser in the sitting room was another unwanted piece that was repainted for a fresh look, while an old trunk found at a flea market was varnished and polished, and is now a smart coffee table.

It's these personalised touches that give the flat its distinctive style. 'This place has got us written all over it,' says Sabina. 'There's nothing in here that doesn't have some sort of meaning or a story behind it.' 25



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CHARACTER BUILDING

Overcoming the challenges of restoring a run-down Georgian townhouse gave Gaby and Theo Karpathios a sense of achievement

FEATURE STEPHANIE SMITH | PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE

DINING ROOM

'We found the metal table legs in Belgium, and the wooden tabletop was sourced from a local sawmill,' says Gaby.

Bespoke dining chairs, £350 each; bespoke carver chairs, £1,100 each, all Curtain & Sofa Shed. Walls painted in Pigeon estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Grade II listed Georgian townhouse

LOCATION Gloucestershire

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, six bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom. Plus a self-contained two-bedroom basement flat

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a four-bedroom Edwardian terrace in southwest London,' says Gaby.



2

1 KITCHEN

'Simple wooden units painted a pale green, and an island were always top of my list,' says Gaby. Long House units by Plain English painted in Farrow & Ball's Pigeon estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres. Manor Stone Indian flagstones, £50m, Beswick Stone

2 SITTING ROOM

A striking rug from Tonga works well as an unusual wallhanging. Bespoke sofa, £2,000, Curtain & Sofa Shed. The made-to-order Anatolian Kilim armchair, price on request, London House, is similar to the one shown on the left





Moving to Gloucestershire from southwest London, Gaby and Theo Karpathios were keen to take on a large project, namely, restoring a Georgian townhouse to its former glory.

‘We had come from a typical Edwardian terrace, so we were thrilled to see how much more space we could get for our money here,’ says Gaby. ‘Luckily, Theo and I were the first people to view this house – suffice to say we fell in love with it.’ But as they were soon to discover, the grand proportions, high ceilings, huge windows and acres of space hid the sheer amount of work the property required.

Firstly, the couple, who have three children, Michael, 19, Alexander, 15, and Jesse, 11, noticed some serious leaks in the roof. ‘We hired a specialist company to sort it out,’ says Gaby. ‘Then we had the house completely rewired and replumbed, and all the original covings and shutters carefully restored.’

Then the next phase of renovations began in earnest. ‘We had a new kitchen fitted, plus two en suites and a large family bathroom installed. But then disaster struck and the roof started leaking again, threatening to destroy all the restoration

DESIGN TIPS ‘Quality flooring, lighting and fittings will always be a good investment’

work,’ recalls Gaby. ‘We had a bit of a dispute with builders, and eventually settled out of court. The whole process took about a year to resolve and we finally had a new roof fitted in 2009.’

Once the bare bones of the house were in order, the couple relished the opportunity to turn their attention to decoration and furniture. ‘Moving from a four-bedroom house with standard-sized rooms to an eight-bedroom property with enormous dimensions meant we found ourselves short of furniture,’ explains Gaby. ‘We had nowhere near enough stuff to fill the place, so initially we bought a few items from salvage yards to get by. Over time, we collected bespoke pieces and picked up quirky finds during our travels.’

In terms of decorating, Gaby and Theo emphasised the period style of the property, while also putting their own unique stamp on it. ‘We love the history of this house and felt it was important to do it justice,’ says Gaby. ‘I really enjoyed researching Georgian paint colours and styles, and happily, the era’s low-key aesthetic suits our predilection for subtle palettes.’

So have the Karpathios family found their forever home? ‘We’ve put so much into this house that we’re going to stay put and enjoy it,’ concludes Gaby. 25



DINING ROOM
An old mirror, which used to be a factory window, is a stunning piece and reflects light around the room. Reclaimed mirror, £800, K.Loan



HALL
The bespoke log store was built by a local carpenter. Find similar vintage metal drawers, from £18 each, at Etsy



**GUEST
BEDROOM**
'I picked up the
Union Jack print
in New York,'
says Gaby.

Union Jack print
(unframed), £18,
Urban Outfitters,
is similar. Radiator
painted in
Georgian Grey
vinyl matt, £29 for
2.5 litres, Dulux



**MASTER
BEDROOM**

This bright, calming
space is perfect for
weekend lie-ins.

Plank bed, £949, Indigo
Furniture. Ornate black
bordered mirror, £312,
House of Ducentis, is
a match for these ones



BATHROOM

Grey marble floor and wall
tiles add an air of luxury to this
boutique hotel-style scheme.

Blue Magic marble tiles, £61.10sq m,
Mandarin Stone. Cleo cast-iron
bath, £1,465, Kohler



GUEST BEDROOM

This elegant space is a real treat for visitors.

Black velvet bed, £800, Coach House.
Walls painted in Georgian Grey vinyl matt,
£29.03 for 2.5 litres, Dulux



Easy ELEGANCE

EMILY WOLFE AND IAN MCBRIDE WORKED WONDERS WITH STORAGE AND DECOR
TO TURN THEIR COMPACT COTTAGE INTO A CHARMING FAMILY HOME

FEATURE SAM EICHBLATT | PHOTOGRAPHY EMILY ANDREWS

SITTING ROOM

'The sun comes in from both sides, so the light here has a beautiful quality to it,' says Emily.
Ektorp sofa, £225, Ikea. Townsend mirror, £315,
The Chandelier & Mirror Company, is comparable



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Terraced house, built in 1860

LOCATION East London

ROOMS Sitting room/dining room, kitchen, study, two bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2006

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We used to live in a Georgian house nearby,' says Emily.



1 SITTING ROOM

Antique china makes a colourful display.

Dresser, £150, Criterion Auctions

2 & 4 KITCHEN

Blue and white is simple yet chic.

Try Leckford toile, £20m, John Lewis

3 DINING ROOM

The fireplace houses neat storage.

Ikea PS cabinet, £70, Ikea

Emily Wolfe and her husband Ian McBride had been house-hunting for a year and a half when they found this Victorian property. They quickly fell in love with its doll's-house-like proportions and unique location on a cul-de-sac in the middle of the UK's oldest Ashkenazi Jewish cemetery.

'It was like a scene out of *Alice In Wonderland*,' recalls Emily of her first viewing. 'There were cottages and hollyhocks growing over fences

— it wasn't like being in London at all.' The house had been in the same family for four generations and, except for a few stained-glass windows added in the 1960s, it was almost untouched.

Emily and Ian moved in with very little furniture, just before their daughter, Iris, now seven, was born. Their renovations were limited to plastering a wall and painting everything white. However, the antique shops of Columbia Road are 'dangerously close', says Emily, which



MASTER BEDROOM

'I painted the door in a lovely faded pink to add some colour to the cool scheme,' says Emily. Hemnes chest of drawers, £200, Ikea, painted in Cornforth White; door painted in Setting Plaster; both estate eggshell, £51 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball



ensured her home was quickly stocked with bargains. A self-confessed collector, she admits her main concern was finding space for Ian's books and her flea-market finds, 'without it all becoming one big, cluttered, dusty mess'.

As is common with many small, older homes, the property presented a challenge when it came to storage. Emily's father built cupboards and shelving, while she shopped carefully for the right pieces. 'I'd often buy

furniture that doubled as storage – old wooden trunks or metal chests, for example,' she says.

This attention to detail, combined with a muted palette, has created a sense of order and calm in the petite rooms, while retaining the unique character that the couple fell in love with. 'There was something about this place that had the feel of my childhood – hippyish 1970s gypsy caravan meets English cottage,' says Emily. 'It's charming in an unusual way.' 25

5 BATHROOM

Stained glass casts a warm glow. Try Next's oval laundry bin, £45

6 IRIS'S BEDROOM

This space is girly but not twee. Little Fairy Flowers curtains, from £60, John Lewis, would work here

7 STUDY

Soft greens link to the outdoors. Signe rug, £1.75, Ikea, is similar



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Sebastian Conran put his own stamp on his period house to create a laid-back, supremely stylish family home

FEATURE NEIL McLENNAN | PHOTOGRAPHY MEL YATES

INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terraced house

LOCATION West London

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, utility room, three bedrooms (one en suite), steam room, bathroom

PURCHASED 2004



SITTING ROOM

Mid-Century Modern furniture classics and a trio of antique rugs have plenty of room to shine in this large, bright space.

'Take a line for a walk' chair (far right) by Alfredo Häberli, £2,858, Aram. Arco floor light, £1,390, Heal's. Loop coffee table by BarberOsgerby, £1,515, Skandium

Having created a home that is both relaxed and wonderfully elegant, it's fair to say designer Sebastian Conran has mastered the art of modern living. His spacious and airy Victorian terraced house, with its series of rooms that flow seamlessly from one to the other, is one of those stucco-fronted, picture-perfect places many of us dream of being able to look round. Sebastian himself had long

harboured similar dreams, having first laid eyes on the property as a child. 'My stepmother's sister used to live next door and I vividly remember going round to visit and playing in the adjoining garden when I was little,' he recalls.

When, six years ago, Sebastian was searching for a new home, he naturally looked around the area that held special memories for him. And as luck would have it, his favourite house was up for sale – the only downside being that an offer



DINING ROOM

'The standard lamp (closest to the door) was the first thing my son ever made while studying sculpture – it looks like an early Achille Castiglioni,' says Sebastian. Antofoni floor/reading lamp with a nickel-plated finish, £40, Ikea, is a good match for the pair of lamps shown here

DESIGN TIP *'Minimalism or maximalism? I always try and apply common sense first and foremost, aiming for a look that's well thought-out but never over-designed'*

had already been accepted. 'I left my card anyway, and asked to be contacted if anything changed,' says Sebastian. 'Lo and behold, six weeks later, I received a call to say the sale had fallen through – I couldn't believe my luck!'

Sebastian's good fortune didn't cease once he and his actress wife, Gertrude Thoma, and their son, Sam, 21, moved in either. 'We'd taken on a Victorian property with sturdy proportions, so there wasn't that much structurally for us to do,' he says. But unsurprisingly, given their creative professions, the couple were keen to instil the house with a strong sense of their individual style. This 'tweaking'

involved widening hallways, raising door frames and adjusting sightlines with utmost precision. Such meticulous attention to detail has resulted in an urban version of a grand Palladian house, with a string of eye-catching vistas that lead you effortlessly from room to room.

The house is full of striking pieces of Mid-Century Modern furniture, unusual artworks, toys, prototypes and design memorabilia. It's what Sebastian calls 'the stuff of life' – creative flotsam and jetsam that inspires his day job as director of his own design studio dedicated to creating products that are 'contemporary, innovative and designed



STUDY

Here, a Georgian drafting table is used as a desk. 'It was given to me by my father,' says Sebastian. Black leather chaise longue, £799, Barker & Stonehouse, is a close match for Sebastian's original Le Corbusier chaise longue. Gaia dining chair in Vintage finish by Aria, £384 each, fci, is similar in style

KITCHEN

'We wanted to paint the cabinetry with a shade that had the same tonal value as the stainless steel,' says Sebastian. For similar cabinetry try the Kuta range, from £5,937, Magnet



to please'. Kitchenware falls under the designer's remit, so it's only right that the kitchen is at the heart of Sebastian's home. 'I don't like schemes that look too fitted,' he says, 'so I've gone for open shelving and simple cabinetry.' The designer adores cooking and loves the new horizontal hatch that visually connects the kitchen and dining room. 'Being tucked away from my guests drove me mad – I felt so disconnected,' he explains. 'Now I'm part of the fun.'

While countless everyday kitchen utensils have been designed by Sebastian himself, he's not a fancy cook. 'Plain, good ingredients, that's all you need,' he points out. Which sounds like a good recipe for a stunning home, too. 25



BATHROOM

Bright prints, an antique rug and a sleek stool add character.

Vitra Butterfly Stool in Palisander Plywood by Sori Yanagi, £596, Heal's. Try Etsy for a range of colourful prints

MASTER BEDROOM

'The print is one of my "faux Matisse". It was a gift from my mother. They're from Matisse's studio but are unsigned, so are totally valueless,' says Sebastian.

Try Imogen Heath for a range of colourful cushions, from £53. Serenity bedding set in duck egg by RJR. John Rocha, from £80, Debenhams, is similar

LAST WORD

'I don't believe in ripping a perfectly good building apart, nor do I advocate throwing perfectly good stuff away'

TOP TO BOTTOM

Iona and Colin Duckworth used their joint design skills to revamp a collection of bedsits into a home that evolves as their children grow

FEATURE PENNY BOTTING | PHOTOGRAPHY ROBERT SANDERSON



DINING ROOM

A neutral scheme is pepped up with splashes of soft aqua blue.

Expression dining table, from £2,220, Roche Bobois, is a good alternative to this one. Antique Swedish chairs from Maison Artefact have been re-covered in Yachting Cotton in Caribbean Green, £45.25m, Olicana Textiles

SITTING ROOM

The old fireplace was off centre, so the couple installed a new one between the bookcases, using a full-height antique mirror to draw the eye towards it.

Clandon Bolection fireplace, from £1,554, Chesney's. Sofas covered in Yachting Cotton in Jodhpur Grey, £45.25m, Olicana Textiles. Bespoke ottoman, price on application, Indigo Design

**INSPIRING****HOME TRUTHS**

THE PROPERTY Terraced house, built around 1880

LOCATION London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen, dining room, five bedrooms, three bathrooms

PURCHASED 2000

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We bought and sold two houses in Fulham in quick succession before moving here,' says Iona.

Colin and Iona Duckworth's home couldn't look more different from when they first saw it. 'The place was in a terrible state,' recalls Iona. 'It was split into six bedsits and everything needed to be replaced – new wiring, plumbing, windows and of course, the bathrooms and kitchen.' As owners of a design company, Colin, an architect, and Iona, an interior designer, were unfazed by the work, which was undertaken in two stages. 'It has changed as our children, Milly, now 13, Georgia, 11, and Harry, 8, have arrived,' explains Iona.

'When we embarked on the renovations, it was just us and we entertained a lot. The kitchen-diner was at the rear with a small sitting room in the middle and a dining room at the front. We also had a first floor drawing room. But when the children were born, the layout didn't work. The drawing room was too far away, and I felt like I was missing out when friends were over and I was stuck in the kitchen!'

To combat this, the couple changed the layout dramatically. 'People thought we were mad putting the kitchen in the smaller central room, but it works,' says Iona. 'We created a great dining space at the front that bridged the gap between formal meals and eating

FAVOURITE ITEMS 'Books are not only beautiful things but are also great decoration. They make a house feel like a home'

in a kitchen – it lends itself to informal entertaining and family life,' says Iona. 'We also raised the party wall at the rear to get a good ceiling height for the sitting room.' Upstairs, two bedrooms and a bathroom were added on the top floor for Milly and Georgia.

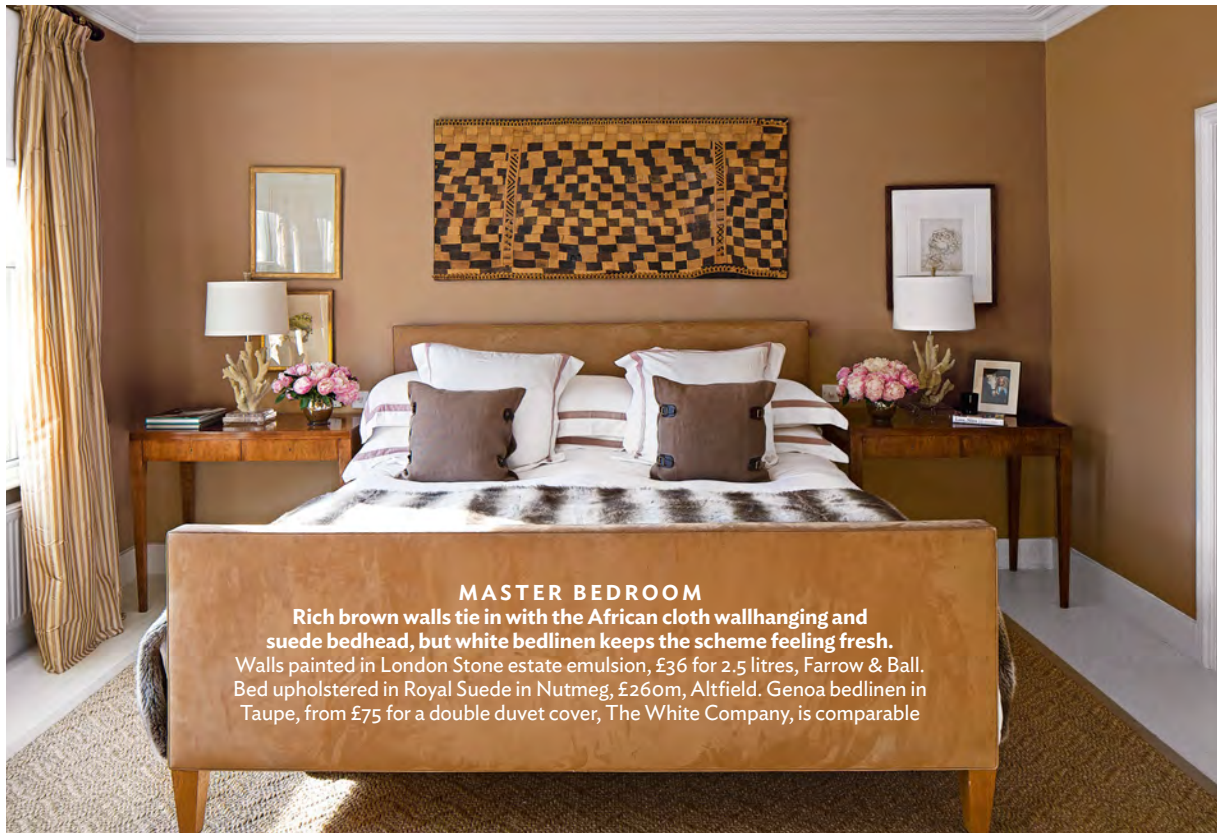
Iona and Colin approached the decoration of their own home as they would a client's. 'We look at what's to be reused, such as furniture and artwork, then think about the overall feel,' says Iona. 'The walls of our office are covered in pinboards so everything goes up while we're working on a job. Any pieces that jar are replaced with something more sympathetic.' For their own house, they've kept things simple. 'The ground floor is the same colour throughout and we laid stone flooring to maintain the continuity, even in the sitting room,' says Iona. It's an unusual choice, but a large seagrass rug softens the effect.

The couple's next projects include digging out a basement, adding an extension on top of the flat roof at the back of the house and reconfiguring the girls' rooms now they're older. 'As was the case when we bought the property, it's a work in progress,' says Iona. ²⁵



KITCHEN
With clean lines and pale colours, the look is simple and uncluttered. Units, from a selection, Kitchen Evolution. Cava limestone flooring, from £132sq m, Stone Age. Q-line Britannia range cooker, from £2,229, John Lewis





MASTER BEDROOM

Rich brown walls tie in with the African cloth wall hanging and suede bedhead, but white bedlinen keeps the scheme feeling fresh. Walls painted in London Stone estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bed upholstered in Royal Suede in Nutmeg, £260m, Altfield. Genoa bedlinen in Taupe, from £75 for a double duvet cover, The White Company, is comparable



HARRY'S ROOM
'Our son loves the map wallpaper and plans his future travels while lying on his bed,' says Iona. Expedition Novelty wallpaper, £167 per roll, Ralph Lauren. Ludd rug, £30, Ikea, is a good match for this one



BATHROOM
A window seat dressed with bright cushions adds colour and character to the white scheme. Cushions made in Polperro rose fabric, £110m, William Yeoward. ACMN614AR glass mosaic tiles, £166sq m, European Heritage, are similar



FAMILY AREA

Located next to the kitchen, this is a great spot for cosy evenings in front of the TV.

Sideboard, £280, Oscar & Oscar. Antiques Atlas has French tambour-fronted oak Art Deco filing cabinets like this one in stock, price on application

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached house, built in the 1930s

LOCATION Belfast

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner/family area, study, utility room, cloakroom, three bedrooms, bathroom

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in Philip's 1930s house, which we renovated,' says Ciara.

OLD *meets* NEW

SITTING ROOM

'We've found some amazing Modernist pieces from our local salvage store Oscar & Oscar,' says Ciara.

Wing chair, £80; bookcase, £90, both Oscar & Oscar. Walls painted in Oak

Apple elements emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth





DINING AREA
Glass doors ensure this recessed space enjoys plenty of natural light.

Bespoke Iroko Puzzle dining table, £1,490, Terry Design. Try Interior Addict for Hans Wegner Wishbone chairs, £365 each. Pendants, £250 each, Established & Sons

Ciara and Philip McMichael's remodelled home is a stylish blend of the past and the present

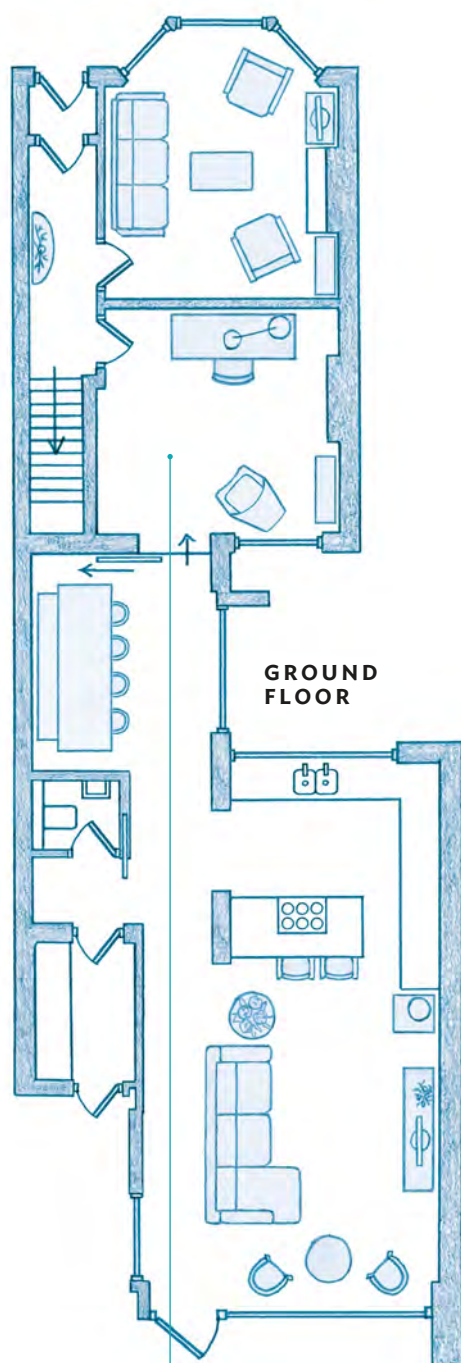
FEATURE JUDE ROBINSON-LYTTLE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RORY CORRIGAN



KITCHEN

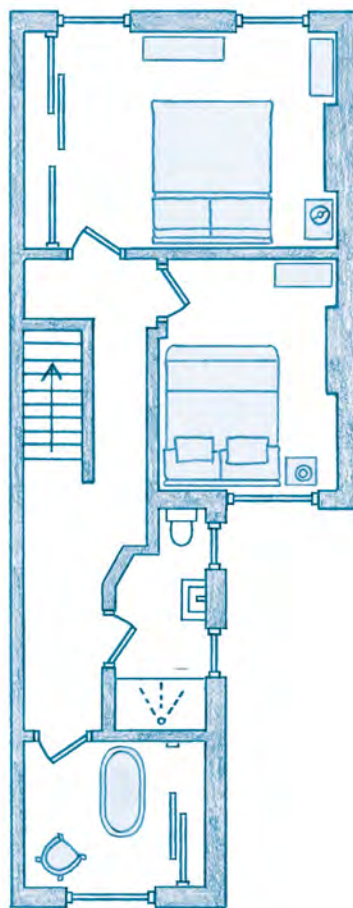
'Our builder sourced the reclaimed planks, which lend texture to this area,' says Ciara. Pronorm cabinetry, £13,000, Ballycastle Homecare. Polished concrete flooring (kitchen, dining, sitting areas, patio), £3,000, Fegan Terrazzo & Polished Concrete Flooring

AFTER

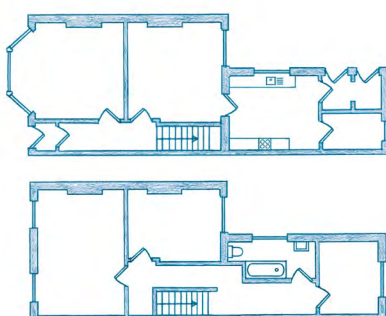


GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

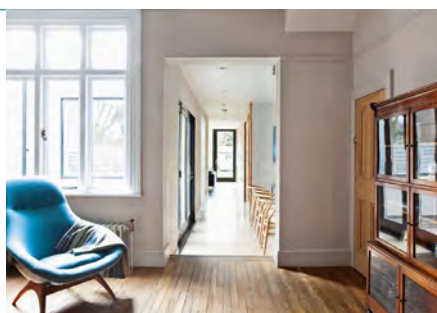


BEFORE



STUDY

This quiet space links the main building to the extension, with the adjoining dining area replacing the existing galley kitchen. Most of the original single-pane sash windows were retained, with some at the back of the house needing replacing. 'They're not the best for insulation, but we love the old windows,' says Ciara. 'In fact, this is the only house in the street that still has them.'



Ciara and Philip McMichael's patience and determination helped them clinch the sale of a derelict house with plenty of potential in their ideal location. 'We'd been

stalking the area for months, and loved this street in particular,' says Ciara. 'We'd regularly check on any houses going up for sale.' The couple still almost missed out on this three-bedroom 1930s semi in Belfast when they were outbid by a developer. But, as fate would have it, the sale fell through and the house went back on the market. 'We were so thrilled when we finally got the keys.'

BIG IMPROVEMENT

Getting married the same year, the couple, who have an eight-month-old son, Paddy, had a busy time making the property habitable. 'Philip's previous house had been a small project for us, so I guess that's where we got the renovating bug,' says Ciara. Both knew straight away that they had to add an extension to create an open-plan scheme, but decided to tackle the essentials first.

'The place didn't even have any central heating so, as you can imagine, it pretty much needed everything!' recalls Ciara. 'We spent around £50,000 getting it up to scratch.' As well as installing a new heating system, they replaced the bathroom and dated kitchen with basic modern units, and decorated the house in neutral shades.

Phase two of the renovations – building the extension – commenced four years later. 'We extended the kitchen at the back of the house but didn't want a conservatory-style construction or a clinical white box,' says Ciara. 'We preferred a raw and contemporary look, with the warmth and texture of wood and concrete.' The couple hired Paul Moore of McCann Moore Architects, who came up with a clever design that seamlessly links the original and new buildings.

SALVAGED STYLE

Retaining the integrity of the house was also an important factor, and to keep the interior true to its origins, a range of Mid-Century Modern furniture and salvaged pieces feature throughout. 'The wood flooring is from an old basketball court,' says Ciara, 'and it still had the lines painted on when we bought it.'

Being patient has definitely paid off for the McMichaels, who finally have the home they had always envisaged. 'We love the social aspect of the open-plan kitchen, in particular,' says Ciara. 'It really comes into its own when we have friends over.' 25



HALL
Elegant timber accents add richness of colour. Take a look at Seville console table, £235, Wayfair. Try textured vase, price on request, Primrose Ceramics



MASTER BEDROOM
'I love the finish and density of the Fired Earth paints,' says Ciara. 'Walls look great when they're drenched in colour.' Walls painted in Granite elements emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5 litres, Fired Earth. Bedlinen, from a selection, Toast

INSPIRATION 'I really like the famous William Morris quote, "Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful" – I always try to adhere to it'



BATHROOM
Exposed brick adds a raw, industrial edge. For floor tiles like these try Geometric in green, £80sq m, Fired Earth. Byholma chest, £65, Ikea, is an alternative laundry basket



PADDY'S BEDROOM
The cool, retro look continues into the nursery. Wardrobe, £1,000, Ikea. Heath Berry Roman blind, £270, The Natural Curtain Company. Try Heal's for a Vitra Eames DSW chair, £275

INSIGHT

Create a modern-retro scheme

Ciara and Philip's home is a mix of retro-inspired pieces and contemporary styling. Recreate it with these points in mind



Interiors schemes that give a nod to the past by referencing design classics, such as Mid-Century furniture, combined with modern aesthetics, including simple lighting and block colour, offer an appealing sense of texture and interest.

RETRO STYLE

With history and provenance both current bywords, it's no surprise that a popular interiors choice is modern-retro schemes that pay homage to recent design classics. Vintage furniture and pieces that have been passed down or sourced each tell a story of their era, and pairing them with contemporary detailing offers a fresh take. This look suits lots of architectural styles too. The classic architecture of a period home can be accentuated beautifully with the addition of an upcycled dining table and a 1960s sideboard. Likewise, an open-plan industrial warehouse can be softened when styled with retro furniture and accessories. Light bulbs with wire cages displayed over a long wooden distressed dining table topped with modern and colourful glassware bowls is another good way of referencing several design periods within one scheme. The key is to create a sense of harmony by not overcrowding a space, using contrasting lines and shapes, and sticking to organic forms and fluid colours to achieve continuity.

MIX AND MATCH

Mixing a few styles will ensure your scheme harnesses interest and texture rather than looking too museum-like. To keep the look contemporary, Ciara and Philip have used variety, mixing original Hans Wegner Wishbone chairs in the dining area with modern pendants from Established & Sons hanging over a steel and wood table. Elsewhere, affordable pieces, such as bar stools from Ikea, strike a more modern note. If you're drawn to this style, visit favourite galleries and modern stores for design inspiration and create moodboards from magazines and via Pinterest. Get to know the design classics that appeal to you by visiting auction houses and specialists, both on and offline, including The Old Cinema (theoldcinema.co.uk), which stocks plenty of vintage, mid-century and industrial treasures, or Brighton's Vintage City (vintagecitybrighton.com), which offers a good selection of 1960s Scandinavian furniture.

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE...



● 'Decorating your home with one specific look can be difficult. We've grown up in different eras, which means we have sentimental connections to various design periods. I enjoy the modern-retro look because it allows for these eras to co-exist in harmony in the same home and even the same room.'

- To get this look right, try using one or two pieces from a bygone era as anchors. These pieces should be defined by their simple curves and lines, and should feel very natural in form. Let furniture breathe by de-cluttering the space around it, and use simple wooden shelving units to keep colourful accessories organised.
- If you prefer bold pattern and colour, try using it on the walls. But keep the colour palette of your walls and soft furnishings in a similar range so that the scheme feels consistent and inviting.
- Don't go overboard with bold colours and prints. If you're unsure how much is too much, keep it simple and choose smaller prints with geometric patterns teamed with pastels or neutral colours. And remember that your home is not a museum, so go easy on vintage purchases – they should act as a focal addition to a room rather than a full refurbishment.
- Most of us have an affinity for products with a story behind them. For instance, buying a vintage sofa allows access to its original story, but when you reupholster it, you begin a new one. And this is the perfect marriage between modern and retro styles.

SHERRY ROBERTS, THE LONGEST STAY

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THE SOURCE

Erica Miller shows how you can achieve the style secrets seen in this issue's homes

DESIGN IDEAS

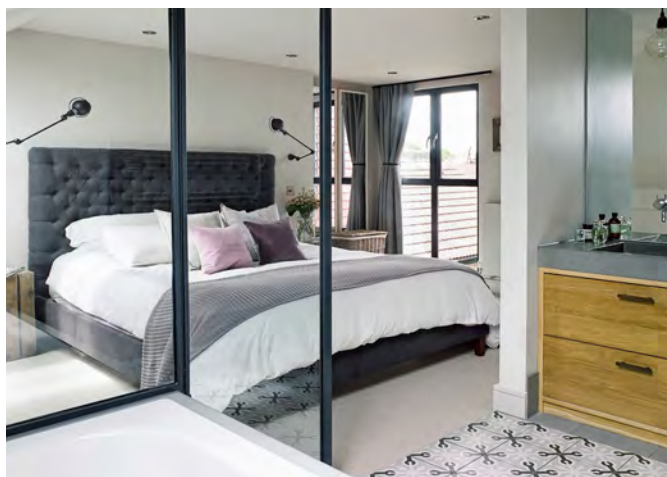


ROOM DIVIDER

PAGES 119 – 123

A sleek metal-framed glass partition wall, separating a bedroom and en suite, enhances the bright, spacious feel in the Parsons' converted loft. Dividing a room in this way helps retain a sense of

openness, unlike solid walls, which wouldn't allow light to flow through the entire space. The couple have also cleverly used a mixture of carpet and ceramic floor tiles to create two distinct zones. If you want a little more privacy in the bathroom, then consider sandblasted or patterned glass. Alternatively, you could hang a pair of elegant curtains to pull across the partition wall. Plain English has recently introduced a range of stylish bespoke glazed screens in wood and steel that are designed to separate parts of a room; prices are available on request.



WINDOW SEAT

PAGES 32 – 37

With its vast window, the Kilduffs' contemporary kitchen lends itself beautifully to a large custom-made window seat, which provides plenty

of space to relax. Grey upholstery works well alongside the neutral tones of this room. Simple piped box seat cushions complement the clean lines of the kitchen, while softer back ones make this a cosy spot to sit. When planning a window seat, ensure it's deep enough to be comfortable, and choose an upholstery fabric that's resistant to fading and slipping. If space is at a premium, consider having yours constructed with built-in storage beneath in the form of drawers or cabinets. A good carpenter should be able to draw up a design.



GROUPING FAVOURITE ITEMS

PAGES 96 – 99

There's no better way to add personality to a home than with an imaginative collection

of art and ornaments, like that in the Duckworths' house. Making a group of different items work together involves skill, but it's not as complicated as it may seem. It simply takes a good eye and a few basic rules. Here, a stylish occasional table is the perfect size for displaying some favourite pieces, and a striking painting has been hung just above to complement the display. Make sure at

least one of the items on the table is tall enough to overlap the art that hangs on the wall – this will bring the pieces together. Here, shades of pink and coral help to unify the look further, while the spiky shape of the ornament echoes both the lines of the painting and the legs of the table. Be sure to group favourite objects in odd numbers – it's naturally more appealing to the eye than even-numbered arrangements. Another foolproof idea is to create a display of items of a similar size and hue or, to create a neat and orderly display on a coffee table, use trays to hold similar objects.



HALL AND STAIRS

As the entrance to your home, your hall needs to be more than just a passageway – it should make a stylish and welcoming first impression. These three design ideas are sure to give this space a distinct character of its own.

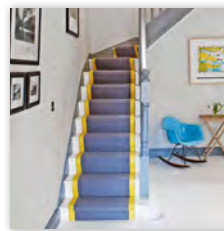


STAIR LIGHTING

PAGES 131 – 133

By setting a recessed light into the wall at handrail level, Kirsty Downie and Stuart Lee have transformed their simple oak staircase into a spectacular design feature that sets the tone for the rest of the house. Lighting staircases is a big trend at the moment, as the

latest technology means it's now possible to put small LED lights into the sides of the steps or the top of the risers. These low-energy lights are straightforward to install and the effect can be stunning, with discreet low-level lighting gently illuminating the stairs at night. In the hall below, floating timber steps have been enhanced with soft pools of light. Washed walnut solid wood flooring, £129.85sq m, Ecora.



COLOURFUL RUNNER

PAGES 32 – 37

A stylish stair runner with a vibrant yellow edge injects colour and personality into the Kilduffs' neutral hall. This type of floorcovering is available in a wide variety of styles from formal stripes to eye-catching patterns such as tartan or polka dot. It's a good idea to choose your design first and use it as a starting point for building a scheme – just make sure it's hard-wearing, as this is a high-traffic area. Above, a tangerine runner brings character to an all-white space. This Colour Unlimited Twist 50 carpet, £65sq m, John Lewis, is part of a range offering a bespoke colour-dye service on seven different types of carpet, allowing you to create a tailor-made feature.

It's a good idea to choose your design first and use it as a starting point for building a scheme – just make sure it's hard-wearing, as this is a high-traffic area. Above, a tangerine runner brings character to an all-white space. This Colour Unlimited Twist 50 carpet, £65sq m, John Lewis, is part of a range offering a bespoke colour-dye service on seven different types of carpet, allowing you to create a tailor-made feature.



CENTRAL TABLE

PAGES 20 – 25

The Claytons have created an eye-catching focal point in their entrance hall with a pendant light positioned above a pedestal table adorned with an elaborate flower arrangement. A textured rug and parquet flooring add extra polish to this sophisticated look. In larger halls, a central table

works beautifully to provide a natural focus and define the space. Take care to light it well, so the flowers or an ornament have real impact. In this scheme (right), low-glare directional LED downlighters have been used to highlight the orchids on the table, creating an area with real wow factor. Elsewhere, discreet uplighters have been recessed into the floor around the edge of the room to create further visual interest. Polespring LED lights, £154 each; Luccini uplights, £75 each, all John Cullen Lighting. For a similar table, try the Seven glass and metal round design, £1,043, Calligaris.



INSPIRED SHOPPING



FLY BY PAGES 48 – 50

Kate Sissons has opted for a charming bird wallpaper in her bedroom. For something similar, look at Cole & Son Fontainebleau Folie in rose pink and duck egg, £375 per roll, Wallpaperdirect.com.



LIGHT UP PAGES 26 – 30

A dramatic cage light hangs above Courtney Delancey Syrett's dining table. Emulate the look with this Work lamp pendant in gold, £145, Holloways of Ludlow.



FLOOR SHOW PAGES 65 – 67

A cowhide rug is the star of the Parker-Coles' sitting room. Try this tan and white cowhide rug, £285, Darlings of Chelsea.



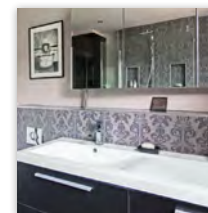
STORE AND ORDER

Courtney Delancey Syrett uses a pretty painted bureau as bedroom storage. This Amelie design in grey/black, £999, John Lewis, is comparable.



TAKE A SEAT PAGES 68 – 71

If you admire the stylish bar stools in Amy Bruce's kitchen, then you'll love this elegant Keith low-back bar stool in Pellini leather, around £475, Riviera Maison.



TILE IN STYLE PAGES 110 – 113

Graceful patterned wall tiles give the Carsons' bathroom an air of opulence. Re-create this striking look with Sophia Dove Damask tiles in coffee, £17.99 each, Topps Tiles.



BUTTONED BEAUTY

PAGES 43 – 47

Traditional buttoned upholstery fits perfectly into the Olliver-Joneses' sitting room. For a similar piece, try the Durham three-seater sofa in Vintage Chestnut leather, £1,195, Couch.



DARLING BUDS

PAGES 39 – 41

The Bearcrofts have chosen a pretty floral throw for their bedroom. Steal their style with the white floral cotton voile quilt, £89, Cologne & Cotton.



SLEEP ON IT

PAGES 20 – 25

A large buttoned headboard makes a statement in the Claytons' bedroom. For something equally imposing, try the Correspondances bed in solid beech and veneer on slatted wood with large panels in cherry wood veneer, from £2,780, Roche Bobois.

5 OF THE BEST DAB RADIOS

Invest in a digital radio to access many more channels. The latest models offer superior audio and great design, plus they're easy to use and portable, too. Here are our best performers.



Evoke D2 Rob Ryan DAB+/FM radio with Bluetooth, £120, Pure



DBT-003 stereo DAB/FM radio with Bluetooth, £99, Roth



Albergo+ DAB/FM clock radio with Bluetooth, £199, Tivoli Audio



SuperConnect DAB/DAB+/FM, £250, Revo



Kitty Revival DAB/FM radio, £200, Roberts Radio

ON *the* TILES

Jane and Roy Carson's collection of decorative wall plaques provided inspiration for the interior of their period home

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS | PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM GODDARD



REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Grade II listed detached Georgian house

LOCATION Bath

ROOMS Hall, drawing room, sitting room, dining area, kitchen-diner, two studies, five bedrooms, bathroom, shower room, plus a two-bedroom basement flat

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We sold our Victorian terraced house in Cornwall and a holiday apartment in Bath in order to buy this house,' says Jane.

HALL

The entrance is filled with characterful touches.

Hanjel numbered-drawer console, £650, Brocante.

Walls painted in Rum Caramel 4 matt emulsion, £32.50 for 2.5 litres, Dulux



DINING AREA

Opening the room up has created areas for both casual and formal meals.

Handcrafted wall plaques, from around £50 each, Sid Dickens. Rattan Havana rollback chairs, £70 each, Rattan Chairs, would suit this space

Despite its dilapidated state, the prospect of overhauling this large Georgian house in Bath held no trepidation for Jane and Roy Carson when they bought it in 2011. 'We'd renovated our last home – a hotel in Cornwall – and three other properties before that so we weren't too daunted,' says Jane. 'It was obvious that the previous owners had done very little to this place in around 50 years, and somehow they also managed to survive with just five radiators over four floors.'

Once the roof was repaired and the walls stripped back for rewiring, replastering and replumbing, old pipework in the basement for the water, gas and electricity was renewed and rerouted. 'We also had a state-of-the-art heating system installed, which allows us to control the

temperature on each floor via portable thermostats,' says Jane.

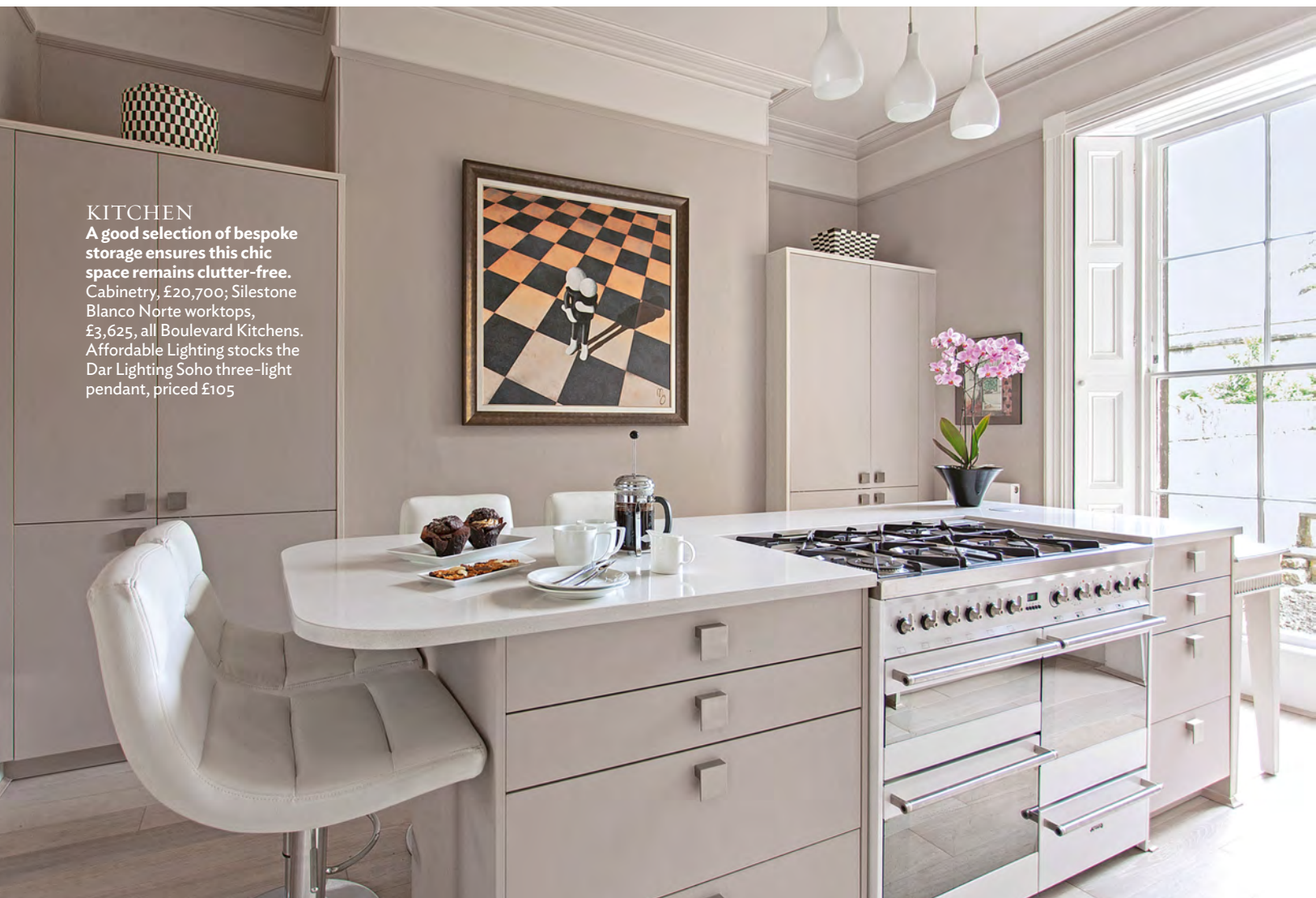
Roy opted to project-manage the building work himself, which included relocating the basement kitchen to what was previously the ground-floor sitting room and removing a dividing wall to create a spacious, more convivial open-plan scheme. And while converting the lower-ground floor into a separate self-contained flat, the Carsons made an unexpected discovery. 'When we bought the house, nearly all of the original shutters were missing,' explains Jane. 'But incredibly, we found them in the basement, where they had been roughly joined together to form a partition wall. We were so thrilled that we were able to rescue and reinstate them.'

During the renovation, the couple wisely elected to move out of the house. 'There was so much



KITCHEN

A good selection of bespoke storage ensures this chic space remains clutter-free. Cabinetry, £20,700; Silestone Blanco Norte worktops, £3,625, all Boulevard Kitchens. Affordable Lighting stocks the Dar Lighting Soho three-light pendant, priced £105



DRAWING ROOM

The bright, airy palette enhances the room's generous proportions. Orbit four-seater sofas, £1,198 each, DFS. Take a look at Eichholtz Beverly Hills coffee table, £945, Sweetpea & Willow



work going on, it was impossible to stay there,' recalls Jane. Fortunately, they were able to rent the holiday flat nearby, which they had just sold.

From there, Jane concentrated on meticulously planning an interior scheme – even going so far as making paper templates of every room to scale, and measuring each piece of furniture to ensure a perfect fit. 'I had help from interior designer Hazel Mayes, who worked with us on our hotel project,' says Jane. 'We spent a lot of time on the kitchen, in particular, because it had to be just right.' An important element was the cook's cupboard, which conceals countertop clutter such as the microwave, toaster and kettle. 'Hardly anything is out on display, which makes for a sleek, streamlined finish,' adds Jane.

The adjoining area, reserved for formal dining, is filled with an

DECORATING TIP

'To improve is to change, to perfect is to change often. We've been here almost three years and I still move things around on a regular basis'

MASTER BEDROOM

Beautiful features, such as the window and covings, are the main focuses here.

Venetian Romano mirrored wardrobe, £800, Homes Direct 365. Ceramic heart wall hanging, £140, Cleo Mussi



eye-catching selection of wall plaques by Canadian ceramicist Sid Dickens. 'Roy and I both fell in love with them when we visited Canada in 1991, and we're still adding to our collection today,' says Jane. These quirky touches helped dictate the choice of paint colours used in some of the rooms. Throughout the property, greys, lilacs and neutral shades are combined with sumptuous furnishings and elegant fittings, creating a luxury hotel feel.

It took almost two years to complete the transformation, and the couple are now happily settled in their stylish abode. 'It's a little bit extravagant for just the two of us, but we reserve the top floor for visiting friends and family,' says Jane. 'It's so wonderful to be able to finally share the fruits of our labour with everyone.' 25

SHOWER ROOM

This elegant scheme has a more masculine feel.

Baroque Charcoal wall tiles, £29.90sq m, Topps Tiles. Hudson Reed mirrored cabinet, £332, Yellow Duck Interiors



INSPIRING



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian former worker's cottage

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen, playroom, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms (two en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a Victorian terrace in Fulham,' says Kristina.

GARDEN

Kristina created an Italian-style terrace using sandstone tiles and box plants. 'I've ordered a jasmine climber and plan to add some quirky pots and colourful plants, too,' she says.

Maze Rattan Winchester Square armchair set, from £1,599, Select Furnishings. Sophia farmhouse kitchen table, £1,425, Oka



PRIME LOCATION

Kristina Kennedy found a rundown Victorian house in the perfect street and turned it into a stylish family home

KITCHEN

This is a sophisticated space for entertaining, and can be closed off from the adjoining sitting room with sliding doors if required. Spitalfield kitchen with satin chrome hinges and honed Carrara marble worktops, from £40,000, Plain English. Menton hanging lights, from £1,262 each, Vaughan



SITTING ROOM

A red sofa and touches of yellow and gold add warmth to the cool grey scheme.

Bespoke sofa in Colefax and Fowler Layton Red, £2,843, I & JL Brown. Studio wingchair in charcoal, from £495, An Angel At My Table, would suit this space



Relocation agent Kristina Kennedy helps clients all over the world to buy and rent properties in London. So it's no surprise that when it came to searching for her own home a couple of years ago, she had her finger firmly

on the pulse. As soon as she heard about a Victorian cottage on the exact street she had her eye on, Kristina made an offer before it even came onto the market.

'The house was dark, dated, damp and needed some work,' she reflects. 'But this is a fun, buzzy neighbourhood, close to cafés, shops and green spaces.' Kristina hired a project manager and an architect/interior designer to rework the layout and create a loft bedroom and new basement. Being Scandinavian-born, she is used to light and airy living. 'English properties tend to lack utility space and storage, which I'm obsessed with,' she says. 'I had the basement dug out so it could incorporate a wine cooler, a cupboard for airing clothes, coat and boot storage, plus a playroom for my son, Archie, 10.'

Extending into the loft required some creative thinking. Strict planning constraints meant no

DESIGN TIP *'I get bored by pieces that look too well matched, so I enjoy mixing antique with modern. It takes bravery to combine them, but it's worth it'*

street-facing dormers were permitted, so to add head height, the property's first floor had to be lowered. 'During the build I was petrified by the number of mice running around and the whole house looked like a muddy garden,' recalls Kristina, who rented a flat nearby and checked on progress daily. On one such visit she made a remarkable discovery in the bathroom. 'When the builders were chipping out the walls, they found a beautiful hand-carved gun, complete with a jammed bullet,' she says. 'The police believe it dates back to World War II. There's nothing like unearthing a secret in the walls of your home!'

When it came to the interiors, Kristina created a warm but restful atmosphere, decorating the sitting room, her bedroom and Archie's room in subtle greys enlivened with occasional splashes of bold colour. These soft grey tones continue in the kitchen, which has been extended with both entertaining and practicality in mind.

'Electronic windows and special glass panels keep the room from getting too hot in summer,' says Kristina. 'I enjoy hosting weekend lunches and we often have people to stay. I love it when friends pick up their glasses and hang out in the kitchen while I'm cooking. To me, that's a sign of a happy home.' 25

MASTER BEDROOM

Kristina chose a subtle blue-grey for the walls, adding deeper colours with her furniture and accessories. Walls painted in Mizzle estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Large Gustavian bench stool in Gustavian Grey, from £1,555, Nordic Style



BATHROOM

The large mirror adds the illusion of space here. Valencia Moonstone tiles, £164.47sq m, Fired Earth. WL 1212 taps, price on application, Lefroy Brooks



GUEST EN SUITE

This pale space exudes calm.

The renovation was managed by contractor Oliver Steele-Perkins (07976 339339, steele-perkins.com) and architect and interior designer Sue Cambie (07815 913058, scd-design.com)



ARCHIE'S BEDROOM

Bespoke cabinetry makes good use of the awkward area under the mansard roof.

Roman blinds in Matchbox fabric, £43m, Andrew Martin



FORM & FUNCTION

Maree and Gareth Parsons updated their traditional terrace, designing an interior that's as practical as it is stylish

FEATURE KAREN JENSEN-JONES
PHOTOGRAPHY NICK SMITH



INSPIRING

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terraced house

LOCATION

Southwest London

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, playroom, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom

PURCHASED 2011

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a two-bedroom flat in Wandsworth,' says Maree.

KITCHEN

Crittall-style doors are a feature in their own right while lending a utilitarian feel. Smart System Crittall-style doors, price on application, Jennyfields. Bespoke table, price on application, Unto This Last. Hay J110 chairs, £140 each, Made in Design





KITCHEN

The room is separated into areas for cooking, dining and relaxing.
Beeck units, price on request, CPL Kitchens. Normann Copenhagen
Bell lamps, £400 each, Bodie & Fou. John Lewis sells Tolix stools, £199 each.
Douglas Fir waxed flooring, from £116sq m, Waxed Floors



PLAYROOM

Alphabet prints and children's paintings
bring vibrant colour to the white walls.

Paul Thurlby's Alphabet poster book,
£12.99, Amazon. Aspace offers comparable
beanbags, £65 each, and striped canvas
tote bags, from £25 each



MASTER EN SUITE
This glass partition is a clever way of dividing the space without blocking the flow of light. Loft conversion and bespoke partition, price on application, Conley & Co. Bette bath, from a selection, UK Bathrooms



DRESSING ROOM
Clever storage solutions have been included in the compact space. Cupboards painted in Mole's Breath estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Leather handles, £12.90 each, Holloways of Ludlow

BEST BUY 'Our bed is so comfortable and the whole family can easily spread out in it, which is ideal for lazy Sunday mornings'



It doesn't matter where you look in Maree and Gareth Parsons' stylish London home, every corner has been thoughtfully designed. From the industrial-inspired kitchen

to the luxurious master bedroom and en suite, each room has an original touch.

Moving from a two-bedroom flat into a large house has enabled Maree to indulge her passion for design while creating a seamless living space for her family, including Maisie, 4, and Flynn, 2. 'I'm a magazine junkie and I get lots of ideas from Pinterest,' she says. 'My book of tear sheets that I've gathered over the years has been really useful in helping me establish the look of our home.'

Maree was keen to extend the kitchen, incorporating the side return to make an airy, open-plan living area where she, Gareth and the children could spend time together. Her other aim was to make maximum use of the redundant loft space. With little experience in home renovation, the couple sought the help of a specialist company. 'When I met

Anna and Chris Richmond from Conley & Co, I could see they understood what I was trying to achieve,' recalls Maree.

The couple lived in their home for two years before making alterations at all, and Maree valued the insights gained from biding their time. 'I realised I didn't want a typical kitchen extension with sliding doors onto the garden,' she says. Instead, she opted for an industrial-inspired look, characterised by oversized pendants, unpolished metal and Crittall-style doors. 'I was also keen to incorporate concrete, as I like its edgy feel,' says Maree. 'We chose white, handleless units, topped with concrete surfaces. It's a smart but functional scheme, so it works on several levels.' The large light fittings above the island were particularly hard to source. 'Eventually I stumbled upon some grey ones in an airport café and I knew they'd be right, so I scoured the internet and found some in a striking shape and dense colour.'

Inspiration came from many sources, and it was London's Saatchi Gallery that provided another light-bulb moment. 'I'd long admired

their Douglas Fir wooden floor,' says Maree. 'It was definitely an investment, but the light wood that we chose for the ground floor, with a purple hue running through it, will hopefully stand the test of time.'

Next, the loft was opened up to create the couple's master suite, incorporating a sunken bath, walk-in shower and a dressing room, as well as ingenious shoe storage, cleverly incorporated into a Crittall window frame. 'Typical loft conversions can feel cramped,' says Maree, 'but Anna and Chris designed a light-filled scheme that referenced some of the elements we'd used in the kitchen. Instead of a wall dividing bedroom and bathroom, a Crittall-style glass partition opens up the whole room. That kind of creativity has helped make our home feel unique.'

Though the refurbishment is complete, it's unlikely that Maree will be giving up her interiors addiction any time soon. 'I'm quite attached to my daily checks on Pinterest,' she admits. 'But I'm not ready for another project yet. It's great to be able to simply enjoy the lovely home that we've created instead.' 25



BATHROOM
White tiles and dark grouting have a retro appeal.
Metro white tiles, £23sq m, Topps Tiles

VICTORIAN CONVERSION | 25BH



GUEST BEDROOM
An understated colour scheme makes this a soothing space.
Juniper bed, from £1,275, And So To Bed



MAISIE'S ROOM
Pink and green lend a fresh, summery feel.
Rug, £45; Little Owl Emerald rug, £195, both Designers Guild. Walls painted in Elephant's Breath estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Try the Fairy Cottage small playhouse, £200, Sheds World. Meadow Leaf duvet cover, £40, Bedeck, would suit this scheme





CHANGE OF SCENERY

Andy Moore turned a neglected garage at the bottom of his garden into a stunning three-storey home

FEATURE KATIE TREGGIDEN | PHOTOGRAPHY BRUCE HEMMING



KITCHEN
A triangular layout makes best use of space in the irregularly shaped room. Burford White kitchen, £9,000, Howdens. White gloss oblong wall tiles, £16.95sq m, Walls and Floors

NEW-BUILD



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Three-storey house

LOCATION Hastings

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, three bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

BUILT 2012

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'I lived in a house on the same plot,' says Andy.

Andy Moore may have been looking for a project when he bought his house in Hastings Old Town five years ago, but he never thought he'd end up building his next home at the bottom of the garden. Born and bred in Hastings, Andy was keen to move back to the area and spent considerable time house-hunting with his dad, a retired builder. While viewing a 16th-century Grade II listed property, they spotted a nondescript 1970s double garage with a room above it in the grounds, and were immediately

intrigued. 'I was like an excitable child,' recalls Andy. 'I remember looking at Dad and neither of us saying a word, but as soon as we finished the viewing, we were talking about the potential for redevelopment. I was besotted – and Dad came out of retirement for one last project.'

Andy spent two years working on the main house before turning his attention to the garage. 'I loved the house,' he says. 'I'd renovated it and it was absolutely beautiful, so the plan was to stay there and rebuild on the plot of the garage with the aim of selling it, renting it out or

SITTING ROOM

Although this room is open plan, the staircase creates a visual divide between the work and relaxation areas. Armchair, £1,200 for two, Eras of Style. Knitted cushion, £39.99, Courtyard, is similar to these. Osaka rise and fall ceiling lights, £160 each, John Lewis, would work here



KITCHEN-DINER

'The table base is made from a sewing machine, and I commissioned the top from an enterprise that works with the long-term unemployed,' says Andy. 'It brings the whole room together.' Bespoke tabletop, price on application, Hastings & Bexhill Wood Recycling Project



STUDY

With no blinds or curtains, light floods into this all-white space. Floating shelves, £23.49 each, Wickes. Micke desk, £65, Ikea. Chair, £30, Butler's Emporium



SITTING ROOM

Cable-knit accessories and tonal shades of navy, sand and grey are a subtle nod to the house's coastal location. Ercol Kimble nest tables, £499; Modern Tripod floor lamp, £199, both Marks & Spencer. Bluebell sofa in Midnight Blue, £1,240, Sofa.com. Cream Mongolian cushion, £50, RJR. John Rocha at Debenhams. Vase, £25, Bobo Flower & Garden Shop



GUEST BEDROOM

'Each of the bedrooms has its own distinct atmosphere,' says Andy. Here, floral bedlinen and rustic furniture create a country feel.

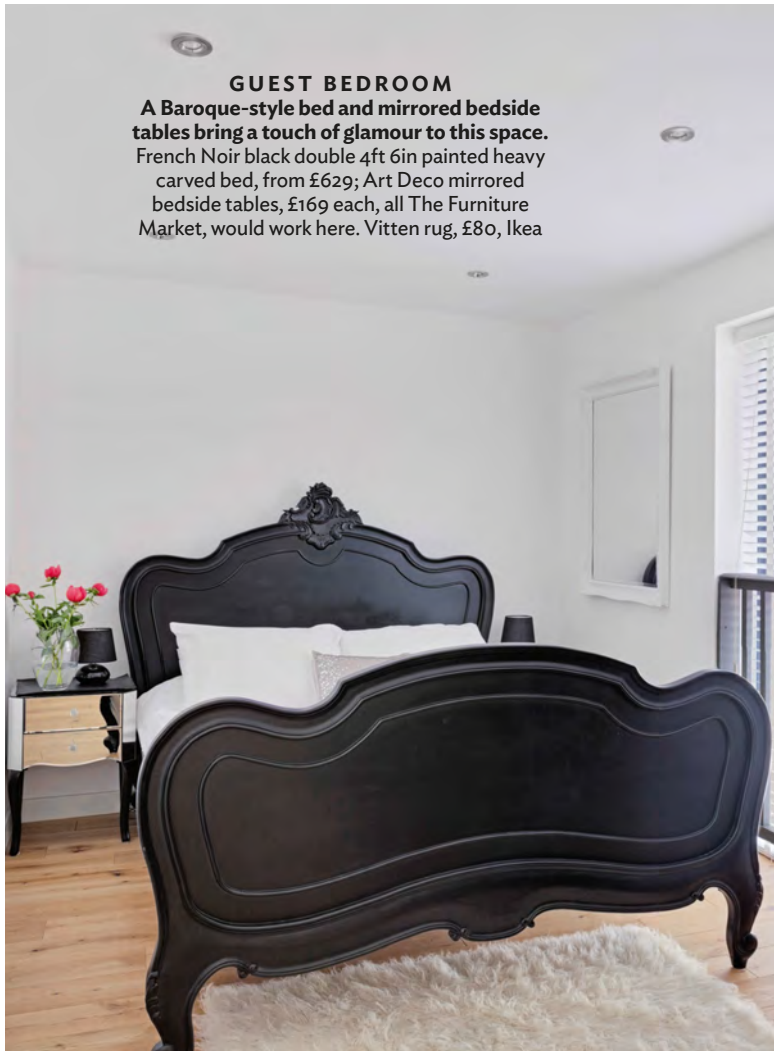
Lincoln double bed frame, £89, Tesco, would suit this scheme. Pink Blossom bedlinen, from £22, R.J.R. John Rocha at Debenhams, is comparable. Chest of drawers, £100, Old Hastings Antiques Warehouse



GUEST BEDROOM

A Baroque-style bed and mirrored bedside tables bring a touch of glamour to this space.

French Noir black double 4ft 6in painted heavy carved bed, from £629; Art Deco mirrored bedside tables, £169 each, all The Furniture Market, would work here. Vitten rug, £80, Ikea



BATHROOM

'I bought all the vintage cabinets from junk shops and sprayed them white,' says Andy.

White gloss oblong wall tiles, £16.95sq m, Walls and Floors. Lifestone Gris floor tiles, £63.65sq m, Topps Tiles



LESSONS LEARNT *'Don't try to do it all yourself. People have ideas they want to share, so listen to them. Make your own decisions, but be open to advice'*

MASTER BEDROOM

Carefully chosen accessories in floral prints and subtle shades of blue help to soften the monochrome palette.

Try Tosca, £1,095, Feather & Black, for a similar bed. Aqua chunky chenille throw, £60, Debenhams. Blue Amelia Boudoir cushion, £12.99, Dunelm. Vase, £25, Bobo Flower & Garden Shop. Mirror, £95, Old Hastings Antiques Warehouse



offering it as a holiday let.' Andy worked with an architect on the new-build, and the timber frame went up within a week. 'I walked in one night and suddenly changed my mind,' recalls Andy. 'I had a cup of tea perched on a piece of wood where the balcony is now and it was incredible. I just thought, "How can I not live here?" I made the decision right then.'

The house is in a conservation area, so it had to be in keeping with the local vernacular. 'It's essentially a cube, but we softened it with weatherboarding and reclaimed bricks,' says Andy. 'Inside, I wanted it to be bright and

airy. You can see some incredible sunrises over the Old Town, so it was essential to make the most of that. With the light and the views, the sitting room at the top of the house is amazing in the mornings.'

Andy kept all the walls white and laid wood flooring throughout. He used the same tiles in the kitchen and all three bathrooms – even the bathroom fittings are identical. 'I wanted a blank canvas, with accessories providing the colour,' he explains. He also looked at the furniture he already had, moving pieces around to see what worked

in each room. 'My neighbours were intrigued by how long I spent moving furniture from one house to the other,' he laughs. The finished decor is a mix of old and new, with mid-century furniture alongside vintage leather and second-hand finds. 'I feel it's important to keep my money in this area, so I sourced a lot from local junk shops,' explains Andy. 'I didn't want it to feel like a showhome.'

With the build complete, Andy is thrilled with his new space. 'I'm very happy here,' he says. 'You'd never believe you could turn a double garage into a home like this.' 25

INSIGHT

Maximising compact garden spaces

Even small or awkwardly shaped outdoor spaces like Andy Moore's can be transformed with a considered layout and creative planting



Small gardens, city terraces, balconies and even unloved corners can all make enticing outdoor spaces with a little care and attention. Visual tricks, good lighting, interesting planting and comfortable seating will play to the strengths of the most awkward or compact of gardens.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

With smaller or enclosed spaces, draw the eye through simple, enticing design. If a courtyard or urban garden is overlooked, try obscuring any unwelcome views with considered planting that adds height but not too much depth so as to avoid eating into a compact square footage. Long-lasting plants such as *Verbena bonariensis* add height and can be contained in small areas with flowers lasting from May through to the winter. Often a combination of hard landscaping, such as stone and brick, with bold, architectural planting, works best. A terrace planted with a pair of large olive trees and a vibrant herb bed, for example, will make more impact than a mass of overplanting.



TAKING ROOT

In smaller spaces, a sculpted, streamlined look can work best, such as stone paved terraces, or other materials, whether brick or paint, that that reference the property, combining inside with outside. Using a mixture of clipped and more whimsical planting will soften these hard features and add texture. Make sure you know where the sun rises and sets in your garden so that you can plant accordingly. Balconies and

roof terraces can benefit from simple planting, too. Prioritise space for sitting or dining and avoid overcrowding with too many pot shapes and sizes – aim instead for one or two statement pieces, such as a pair of bay trees or a window box of favourite blooms, be they geraniums, hydrangeas, or overflowing campanulas. Finally, invest in some simple but effective lighting for small spaces to enhance appeal and increase the sense of space.

EXPERT EYE

‘Small gardens look great with just a few key elements that link the whole space together. This may be through the use of repeating an accent colour or a plant’

SEAN BUTLER, CUBE 1994 LTD

PROFESSIONAL ADVICE ...



● ‘Keep it simple – don’t get too carried away when planning a small space. A carefully chosen palette of materials and plants is often the most satisfying but you can still be adventurous and experimental. Just be mindful that trying to squeeze everything into a compact space will make it cluttered and decrease usability.’

● Thoughtful planting is essential in smaller gardens. Use plants that won’t overcrowd the space, though you do need to ensure you’re not always looking at fencing or boundary walls. A really useful plant is the evergreen climber *Trachelospermum jasminoides*, commonly known as star jasmine. It will offer year-round interest with an abundance of white flower sfrom mid to late summer.

● Continuity of approach from the inside out will help make the garden feel part of your home. This can range from paint colours and materials to simply using plants whose flower colour complements the interior. Be mindful that although some paving materials can be used both internally and externally, the stone outside will tend to weather over time.’

DAN BOWYER, FISHER TOMLIN & BOWYER

ADDRESS BOOK

● **ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY (RHS)**
0845 260 5000, rhs.org.uk.
Become a member or find information on courses, plants and events at Britain’s

leading gardening charity.
● **SOCIETY OF GARDEN DESIGNERS**
01989 566695, sgd.org.uk.
The professional association for garden designers in the UK.

MODERN outlook

FEATURE EMMA LEASK
PHOTOGRAPHY DAVID BARBOUR



UNIQUE

Kirsty Downie and Stuart Lee's loft extension pushed the boundaries with its eye-catching dormer window

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian apartment

LOCATION Edinburgh

ROOMS Sitting room-cum kitchen-diner, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2007

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before moving here, we rented a Georgian flat nearby,' says Kirsty.

Having a love for contemporary design, it seemed perfectly natural to Kirsty Downie and Stuart Lee to dream up an unconventional loft extension that breaks all the rules. After years of renting, the couple got a foot on the property ladder in 2007 when they bought a one-bedroom flat in need of work and moved, with daughter Ruby, now 13, to an Edinburgh suburb.

Their new home was in a conservation area just one street from the beach, but the interior presented a big challenge. 'It was stuck in the 1970s with swirly carpets and an avocado bathroom suite,' recalls Kirsty. Putting Stuart's skills as a former builder to good use, the couple stripped back the flat, putting in a new boiler, bathroom and electrics, as well as knocking down walls and swapping the kitchen and bedroom – all on a tight budget of £12,000. 'It took three months to make it habitable,' says Kirsty. 'Even then we lived with curtains instead of doors for years afterwards.'

When the time came for a bit more space, the couple didn't want to leave their beachside location. The answer was to convert the loft. 'Two architects said we couldn't develop the space because it wasn't big enough,' says Stuart. 'But Kieran Gaffney of Konishi Gaffney architects has a good understanding of space and thought we could.' The couple's dream was to create an avant-garde glass box that extended two



STAIRCASE

'We chose solid oak to create a seamless flow with the downstairs space,' says Kirsty. Stairs, from £3,000, Gloss



SITTING ROOM

Colourful accessories stand out against the neutral backdrop. Rug, £250, John Lewis. Checked blanket (left), £30, Zara Home. The couple bought their Luceplan Costanzina lamps at auction, but they are available from The Conran Shop, £170 each



KITCHEN

Kirsty and Stuart kept the room feeling open and airy by choosing a slimline display shelf for their glassware instead of bulky wall units. Stenstorp kitchen island, £200, Ikea, is a good alternative. Touch Bin in Lipstick Red, £185, Brabantia, is similar



MASTER BEDROOM

'This is a very calming room to sit or sleep in,' says Kirsty. 'It's west-facing so we get a different sunset every evening.'

Bespoke storage, £3,000,
Gloss. Hamilton white
leather office chair, £160,
Habitat. Moroccan
leather pouffe, £130,
Graham and Green



EN SUITE

It was the architect's idea to fit a Japanese bath under the eaves. 'I like it hidden behind the bedroom door – it's very private and fits perfectly,' says Kirsty.

Duo bath, £875, Omni Tub

FAVOURITE SHOP 'Life Story in Edinburgh is a contemporary interiors shop that sells everything from bedspreads to prints'

metres at the back, to gain the extra head height needed for large, airy bedroom. 'We didn't want standard dormer windows,' says Kirsty. 'We were after a view and lots of light.' At first, the council rejected their plans, but after a redesign, in which the glass box was changed to a large window, permission was granted. The build took 12 weeks and the result – which has been shortlisted for an architectural award – is a spacious master bedroom filled with light.

Built-in storage in the eaves uses every inch of space, and the couple even found a way to squeeze in the bath Kirsty longed for. 'We lived without one for five years. I wanted a freestanding bath but the plumbing was too difficult,' she says. Instead, Kieran suggested a Japanese square bath, which fitted in dead space under the eaves.

It's no exaggeration to say the loft conversion has transformed the way the family live. Now, when Ruby has friends round, the couple can escape from the open-plan kitchen and living area to a quiet, uncluttered space upstairs. 'We've turned a flat into a house,' says Stuart. 'It's amazing what one room can do.' 25



RURAL BLISS

After years of working abroad, Ginnie and Andrew Norman have embraced country life in a quintessentially English cottage

FEATURE VICTORIA JENKINS | PHOTOGRAPHY WILLIAM GODDARD



ROOF TERRACE

A skylight brightens the kitchen below.
Kettler Banaba dining chair, £199, John Lewis, would work well in this space

REPLANNED



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

19th-century cottage

LOCATION Oxfordshire

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, two shower rooms

PURCHASED 2003

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'Before living here, we rented a house in the US,' says Ginnie.



GUEST SITTING ROOM

The coal hole was excavated and strengthened to become inviting guest accommodation. Nusa sofabed, £2,295, Lombok, is similar. Willow log basket, £25, John Lewis, is a good alternative to this one



DINING ROOM

A reclaimed-wood table suits the rustic setting. Carisbrooke table, from £439, Barker & Stonehouse



KITCHEN
Pale Shaker-style units are a timeless choice. Bespoke kitchen, £21,000, Baker & Baker



SITTING ROOM

New wooden beams hide steel girders and add warmth. Wall painted in Charleston Gray estate emulsion, £36 for 2.5 litres, Farrow & Ball. Bluebell sofas, from £930 each, Sofa.com

INSPIRATION

'My happy Cotswolds childhood. Honey-coloured stone makes me feel relaxed and secure'



GUEST BEDROOM

A vintage throw enlivens the neutral scheme. Charlton pillowcase, from £22, The White Company is comparable



Turning a poky cottage into a picturesque retreat was a painstaking task for Ginnie and Andrew Norman. The couple were living abroad when they bought the property back in 2003 to use as a UK base, and Ginnie thought it was adorable, if small and dark. 'The 19th-century core consisted of two tiny bedrooms and a coal hole in the cellar, while an ugly 1980s extension had a kitchen and bathroom,' she says. 'But the Cotswolds location was ideal, and it was next door to my sister, Lucinda, who's an interior designer, so she could manage the project in our absence.'

Architect Peter King designed an ultramodern two-storey extension to replace the old one, but although the planners liked it,

the neighbours didn't, so the couple decided to go back to the drawing board. It took two years to create a compromise, which doubled the size of the cottage. 'We gutted the building, turned the coal hole into guest quarters and redesigned the layout,' says Ginnie. 'Mechanical diggers couldn't get up the steep path, so we had two men with shovels, and a conveyor belt running through the middle of the house, shifting several tons of earth from the back garden to make way for the new extension. All the debris went out through the sitting room window.'

With Lucinda overseeing the work, the property was then rewired, replastered and reroofed using the existing stone tiles, supplemented with reclaimed ones. 'With a large chunk of the extension dug out of



MASTER BEDROOM
Ginnie kept the decor simple to avoid a cluttered feel. Chantilly bedspread, £80, Cologne & Cotton. White Squat lamp bases, £42.95 each, Decorus. Striped cushions made to order, from £49, Lucinda of The Fountayne

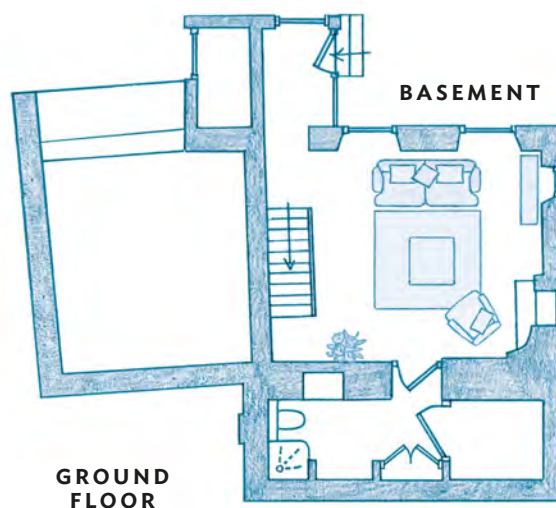


BATHROOM
Natural materials are in keeping with the countryside location. Silver honed filled travertine tiles, £34.99sq m, Mandarin Stone

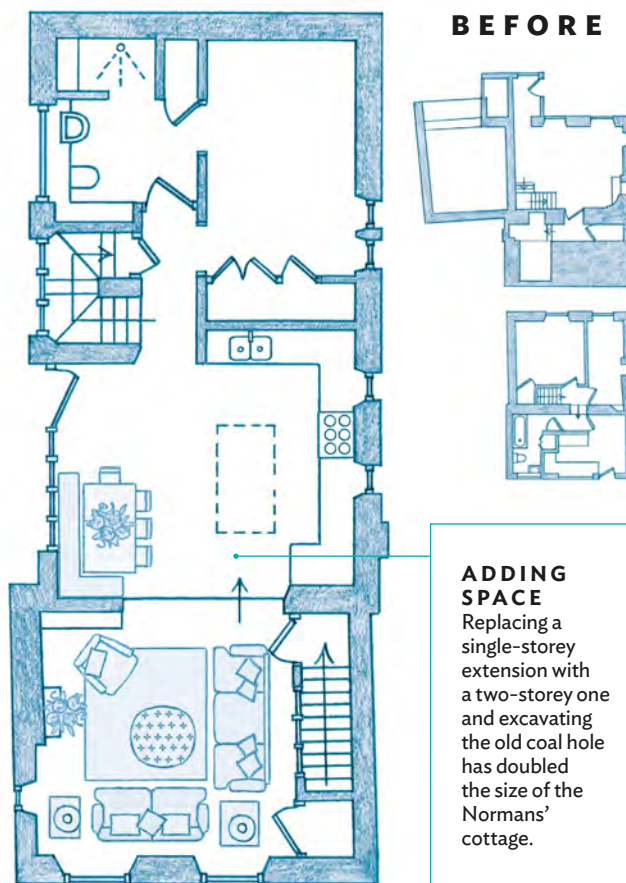
the hill, getting lighting right was a big hurdle. The skylight in the kitchen obsessed us for a while,' says Ginnie. The couple were keen that the house should be somewhere to relax, and this drove their decorating decisions. 'It's designed to feel easy, rather than pristine – our dining table has a reclaimed surface that's impervious to food and drink, and the floorboards are tough and washable. There's no tyranny about dirty shoes and using coasters.'

The Normans are thrilled with the transformation of the once-cramped cottage. 'I do get a bit emotional thinking of the work that went into this little house,' says Ginnie. 'The fact that it was a team effort is corny yet true, and it was all worth it in the end.' 25

AFTER



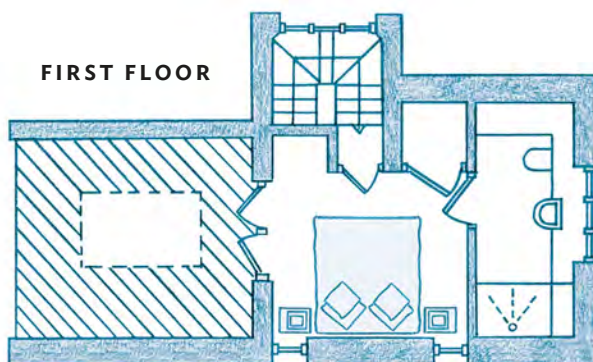
GROUND FLOOR



BEFORE

ADDING SPACE
Replacing a single-storey extension with a two-storey one and excavating the old coal hole has doubled the size of the Normans' cottage.

FIRST FLOOR



Brigitte and Geo
Flamant turned back
the clock and used
reclaimed materials and
antiques to give their
mid-century house a
totally traditional look

UNIQUE



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Detached house built in 1946

LOCATION

Near Bruges, Belgium

ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, plus a self-contained flat and guest house

PURCHASED 2003

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a much smaller house before,' says Brigitte.

TIME TEAM

FEATURE ALICE WESTGATE | PHOTOGRAPHY MARK LUSCOMBE-WHYTE

The old-fashioned charm of this Flemish house is, in fact, a piece of artifice. A terracotta roof and ancient beams suggest it was built hundreds of years ago, but the structure actually dates from 1946 and these elements were fixed in place during a recent renovation. 'My parents built the house after the war, and it was modern for its day,' says Brigitte Flamant, who lives here with husband Geo and their daughters, Aline, 16, and 11-year-old twins, Julie and Axelle. After taking possession of the property in 2003, the couple set about transforming it into something more

traditional. 'The new design is reminiscent of a historic house in Normandy,' says Geo. 'We love the gentle look of old things.'

The Flamants stripped out the interior, knocking down walls and adding extra windows. 'We removed a good deal of stone and replaced it with reclaimed oak,' says Geo. 'This was used to create beams, a new staircase and wall panelling. I found every piece of wood myself, which was a painstaking task.' At the same time, a barn in the garden was converted into guest accommodation.

Much of the furniture in the house was developed for Flamant, an interiors company which Geo runs with his



GUEST HOUSE

A former barn was converted into a vast space that can handle oversized pieces. Edinburgh vintage leather four-seater sofa, around £4,850, Flamant

brothers. The company's designs take inspiration from all over the world, and the eclectic look is put to stunning use in Geo and Brigitte's house, with reproductions sitting alongside antique pieces. 'There's a real mix of cultures and eras in our house, from Oriental and traditional English furniture to French pieces in the style of Louis XV,' says Geo. He and Brigitte have brought these diverse elements together by using an exceptionally subtle

colour scheme. The sitting room, for example, is a study in tone-on-tone shades of grey: the colour appears on walls, limed-wood furniture, floors and soft furnishings, with occasional splashes of aquamarine, and the effect is wonderfully restful.

For Brigitte, the project is a success. 'It was hard to modify a house I was so familiar with,' she admits, 'but I'm glad we did. I believe we've improved an already lovely building.' 25

KITCHEN

'I wanted to let nature into the house with every window framing a view,' says Geo.

Original BTC Hector ceiling light, £145, John Lewis, would work here. Bespoke casement windows like these are available from Scotts of Thrapston



DINING ROOM
Vintage furnishings create a nostalgic feel. Victoria Antique Rust chandelier, around £1,075, Flamant, is comparable



SITTING ROOM
Aquamarine accents bring the calm grey scheme to life. Maxima armchairs, around £1,090 each; Chatillon sideboard, around £1,555; both Flamant



KITCHEN
Three small rooms were knocked together to make this space. Nero riven slate flooring, £18sq m, Mandarin Stone, is a match



TWINS' BEDROOM
Traditional Alpine-style wooden beds look cute and cosy. Beds, from a selection, Flamant



BATHROOM
A mix of travertine and tadelakt, a Moroccan plaster technique, adds warmth and texture. For similar floor tiles, try Walnut vein-cut polished filled travertine, £44.99sq m, Mandarin Stone



GUEST BEDROOM
Crisp white linen against an ochre backdrop creates a restful ambience. Furnishings, from a selection, Flamant



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Three-storey terrace, built in the 1890s

LOCATION County Antrim

ROOMS Hall, sitting room, kitchen-diner, study, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom

PURCHASED 2013

PREVIOUS PROPERTY

'We lived in a contemporary one-and-a-half-storey house in the same town,' says Julie.

SEA CHANGE

Julie and Bruce Strang gave their neglected harbour-side home a subtle coastal look with an elegant edge

FEATURE JUDE ROBINSON-LYTTLE | PHOTOGRAPHY RORY CORRIGAN



DINING AREA

'We wanted to mirror the colours of the coastline in here,' says Julie. Grasslands Shore wallpaper, £59.95 per roll, MissPrint. Bespoke dining table and seating, from £700, Fine Metalwork. Vintage chair and pendant lights, price on application, Jude Burrows Interior Design



SITTING ROOM

This is mostly used in the evening and in winter, hence its warm colour scheme. Morning Glory wallpaper in Berry, £55 per roll, Clarissa Hulse. Chesterfield armchair, £1,100, Debenhams, would suit this scheme



A gem of a terrace popped up at just the right time for Julie and Bruce Strang, who were looking for a seaside house they could renovate. 'Our friend told us it was going up for sale so we contacted the owner and made an offer before it even went on the market,' says Julie. 'Having been rented out for years, the house had seen better days. It looked uncared for, had been the victim of some dodgy patch-up jobs, and generally wasn't in great condition. Luckily, though, many of the original period features remained, and we were won over by the character and harbour-side location,' she adds. 'I love to paddleboard and Bruce and our 10-year-old son Johnny are keen surfers, so this place suited our lifestyle.'

Having lived in a contemporary house in the same town for about 10 years, the family had dreamt of finding a 19th-century terrace

exactly like this one. 'I've always loved old houses and location was so important to us,' says Julie. 'This is the one street we hoped to live on – it's right by the sea yet is close to the town. It was perfect.'

With two separate budgets, one for building and one for interiors, the couple got the ball rolling as soon as they picked up the keys. 'We weren't deterred by the amount of work that needed to be done. Bruce had contacts from previous house extensions, so we had a great team, which made the job run smoothly,' says Julie. 'Much of the old plaster was stripped back to the stone and walls were built back up and skimmed ready for paint and wallpaper. In some areas, we used tongue-and-groove to create the casual beach feel we like.'

Once the repairs were under way, the Strangs turned their thoughts to the decor. They wanted a mix of beach-hut style and



KITCHEN

The old unit doors were repainted. Doors in Tideway Diamond Trade Satinwood, from £15 for 2.5 litres, Dulux Trade. Hammarp worktop, from £80, Ikea





HALL
Chequerboard floor tiles are timelessly elegant. Victorian unglazed black and white tiles, £69.95sq m, Walls and Floors, are a match for these



STUDY
Vintage and Mid-Century-style pieces work well together. Bourbon Vintage desk in Distressed Grey, £299; Ritchie sofa in Ochre Yellow, £499, both Made.com

period character, in keeping with the era of the house. 'We found interior designer Jude Burrows on Facebook and asked her to design the rooms,' says Julie. 'We're thrilled with her mix of casual furnishings and classic finishes. It really suits the house and how we live.'

Of all the rooms, Julie and Bruce's favourite is the open-plan kitchen-diner. The couple wanted to create a cosy and laid-back area for easy conversation and relaxed meals, so rather than a formal dining table and chairs, they opted for built-in booth seating and a bench, inspired by a nearby pub. Jude took their concept and added her own quirky touch by designing it in an unusual distressed dark

wood and incorporating a grey and ochre feature wallpaper above to tie in with the natural colours of the property's surroundings.

While tongue-and-groove panelling painted in muted, chalky tones and distressed furniture create an informal coastal look in some rooms, Julie and Bruce kept the existing black and white floor tiles in the hall and added traditional, period-style pieces elsewhere to emphasise the house's Victorian roots. 'Beach shack meets classic style was our brief and I'm very happy with the balance we've got,' says Julie. 'Our upstairs sitting room and guest bedroom are more elegant, but our everyday spaces are definitely beach chic all the way.' 25



JOHNNY'S BEDROOM
A mix of blue, white and red gives this space its cool, nautical feel. Cameo Sleepstation bed, £495, KidzDens. Lycksele Murbo chair-bed in Henån Blue, £180, Ikea, is similar to this one



GUEST BEDROOM

With a kilim rug from India and traditional metal bedstead, this is an eclectically elegant space.

Bed, £1,300, Rankins House Furnishings. Kilim Patchwork rug, from £159, Jeff Banks Ports of Call at The Rug Seller, is comparable



MASTER BEDROOM

Interior designer Jude gave the wardrobe a distressed finish with lavender emulsion and wax, so it picks up on the tone of the wallpaper. Briar wallpaper in Lilac, £55 per roll, Clarissa Hulse. Jonah two-seater sofa in Warm Grey, £499, Made.com



DESIGN ADVICE *'No matter how much you plan, everything takes longer and invariably costs more than you expect, so my tip is to build a contingency into your budget'*



MASTER EN SUITE

The under-basin cabinet was made from panel offcuts.

Treviso basin, £100, Victoria Plumb, is similar



BATHROOM
Tongue-and-groove panels add casual charm and cover up patches of uneven plaster on the walls.

Paneling painted in special mix S2002-R eggshell, price on application, Johnstone's

WHERE TO BUY

September's list of contact numbers and web addresses

A Affordable Lighting 01789 766833, affordablelighting.co.uk
Affair 020 8789 7377, affair.co.uk
Albert Thundercliffe 07803 189405
Altfield 020 7351 5893, altfield.com
Amanda Harvey Interiors
 00 353 1 627 9465
Amazon amazon.co.uk
An Angel At My Table 0845 200 0723, anangelatmytable.com
Andrew Martin 020 7225 5100, andrewmartin.co.uk
And So To Bed 0808 144 4343, andsotobed.co.uk
Antiques Atlas 0161 631 5714, antiques-atlas.com
Aram 020 7557 7557, aram.co.uk
Art.co.uk 020 8435 6556
Aspace 0845 872 2400, aspace.co.uk
Atlantic Shopping 0121 230 1644, atlanticshopping.co.uk
Avoca 00 353 1 274 6900, avoca.ie

B Baker & Baker 01787 279119, bakerandbaker.co.uk
B&Q 0333 014 3098, diy.com
Ballycastle Homecare 00 28 2076 2311, ballycastlehomecare.co.uk
Barbara Coupe 020 7720 1415, barbaracoupe.co.uk
Barker & Stonehouse 0333 355 9024, barkerandstonehouse.co.uk
Bathroomexpress.co.uk
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Beaumont & Fletcher 020 7498 2642, beaumontandfletcher.com
Bedeck 0845 603 0861, bedeckhome.com
Beswick Stone 01285 885795, beswickstone.co.uk
Bluebellgray 0141 221 0724, bluebellgray.com
Bobo Flower & Garden Shop
 01424 721120
Bodie and Fou 020 8450 5600, bodieandfou.com
Boulevard Kitchens 0117 962 9669, boulevardkitchens.co.uk
Brabantia 01275 819119, brabantia.com
Brissi 020 7229 2323, brissi.com
Brocante 01726 833390
Bryella 01226 767124, bryella.co.uk
Bulthaup 0844 846 7810, en.bulthaup.com
Butler's Emporium 01424 430678, butlersemporium.com

C Calligaris 020 8994 8110, calligaris.com
CG Kitchens cgkitchens.ie
Chesney's 020 7627 1410, chesneys.com
City Ceramics 01243 775613, cityceramics.uk.com
Clarissa Hulse 020 7226 7055, clarissahulse.com
Cleo Mussi mussimosais.co.uk
Coach House 01282 682666, coachhouse.com
Cologne & Cotton 0845 262 2212, cologneandcotton.com
Colortrend 00 353 1 628 8224, colortrend.ie

Conley & Co 020 8425 9690, conleyandco.com
Couch 01495 717170, couch.co.uk
Courtyard 01872 888672, thecourtyardboutique.co.uk
Cox & Cox 0844 858 0734, coxandcox.co.uk
CPL Kitchens 01483 453636, cplkitchens.co.uk
Criterion Auctions 020 7359 5707, criterionauctioneers.com
Crown Paints 0870 240 1127, crownpaint.co.uk
Crucial Trading 01562 743747, crucial-trading.com
Cult Furniture 020 8185 6960, cultfurniture.com
Curtain & Sofa Shed 01242 226882, curtainandsofashed.com

D Darlings of Chelsea
 020 3740 6011, darlingsofchelsea.co.uk
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Deco Glaze 020 8569 8585, decoglaze.co.uk
Decorus 01993 773734, decor-us.co.uk
Designers Guild 020 7893 7400, designersguild.com
DFS 0808 149 1954, dfs.co.uk
Digital High Street 0844 225 1321, digitalhighstreet.com
Dulux 0844 481 7817, dulux.co.uk
Dulux Trade duluxtradepaintexpert.co.uk
Dunelm 0344 346 0021, dunelm-mill.com

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Ecora 020 7148 5265, ecora.co.uk
Egan Stone eganstone.ie
Eras of Style 01424 217640, erasofstyle.com
Established & Sons 020 7608 0990, establishedandsons.com
Etsy etsy.com
European Heritage 020 7381 6063, europeanheritage.co.uk
Everhot 01453 890018, everhot.co.uk

F Farrow & Ball 01202 876141, farrow-ball.com
Fegan Terrazzo & Polished Concrete Flooring 00 28 3 085 1612, terrazzoireland.co.uk
Fci 0808 252 3997, fcidining.co.uk
Feather & Black 01243 380600, featherandblack.com
Field Antiques 07775 785379, fieldantiques.co.uk
Fine Metalwork 07531 079693
Fired Earth 0845 293 8798, firedearth.com
Flamant 00 32 5441 5475, flamant.com
Fritz Fryer Antique Lighting
 01989 567416, fritzfryer.co.uk
Furniture Gossip 01204 795737, furnituregossip.co.uk

G Gloss 07887 950188, glossprojects.co.uk

Good Room thegood-room.ie
GP & J Baker 01202 266700, gpandjbaker.com
Graham and Green
 020 8987 3700, grahamandgreen.co.uk
Great Little Trading Co
 0344 848 6000, gltc.co.uk
Grey Rose Interiors
greyroseinteriors.com

H Habitat 0344 499 1111, habitat.co.uk
Hampshire flooring 07831 838233, hampshireflooring.co.uk
Hastings & Bexhill Wood Recycling Project 01424 715566, recyclingwood.org.uk
Heal's 0870 024 0780, heals.co.uk
Herbert Parkinson 01254 771614, herbertparkinson.co.uk
Holloways of Ludlow 020 7602 5757, hollowaysofludlow.com
Homebase 0345 077 8888, homebase.co.uk
Homes Direct 0365 01642 455589, homedirect365.co.uk
House of Ducentis 01603 485065, houseofducentis.com
House of Fraser 0845 602 1073, houseoffraser.co.uk
Howdens howdens.com

I & JL Brown 020 7736 4141, brownantiques.com
Ikea 0845 358 3363, ikea.com
Imogen Heath imogenheath.com
India Jane 020 8799 7166, indiajane.com
Indigenous 01993 824200, indigenousltd.com
Indigo Design Associates
 020 7610 6122, indigo.gb.net
Industry 00 353 1 613 9111, industrydesign.ie
Interior Addict 020 7377 1855, interioraddict.com/en/
Interior Chic 020 7385 4384, insiderchic.net

J Jacaranda 07979 720933, facebook.com/jacarandauk
Jane McKintyre Design 01962 853882, janemckintyredesign.com
Jennyfields 01483 299866, jennyfields.co.uk
John Cullen Lighting 020 7371 9000, johncullenlighting.co.uk
John Lewis 0345 604 9049, johnlewis.com
Johnstone's 01924 354100, johnstonestrade.com
Jolomo 01546 870303, jolomo.com
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ROOM ENVY

Each month we bring you a scheme that intrigues, delights or dazzles us

Integrating a small kitchen into an open-plan room isn't easy, but this zesty scheme has all the answers. Fuss-free white units are unobtrusive, while their hi-gloss finish boosts light levels – a must in a compact space. A peninsula unit neatly divides the cooking zone from the rest of the living area, and also provides extra prep space and a spot to perch for snacks. Integrated appliances and a

flush-fitted hob are smart choices that help to create an uncluttered feel. But what we love most about this scheme is its clever use of accent colours. A trio of glossy grey wall units echoes the feature wall in the adjacent room, while the hues of the chartreuse stools, teal bookcase and sky-blue shelves are all picked up in the tiled splashback. There's no doubt that what this kitchen lacks in size, it more than makes up for in style. 25

For fresh interiors ideas, head to our Room Envy blog. Visit roomenvy.co.uk.

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