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25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

CONFIDENT DESIGN

BOLD DECORATING INSPIRATION
From a daring, colourful terrace to a dark and dramatic cottage

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Original projects full of ideas to steal

STYLE SECRETS

Interior designers and homeowners share how they achieved their dreams

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OCTOBER 2021

25 BEAUTIFUL HOMES

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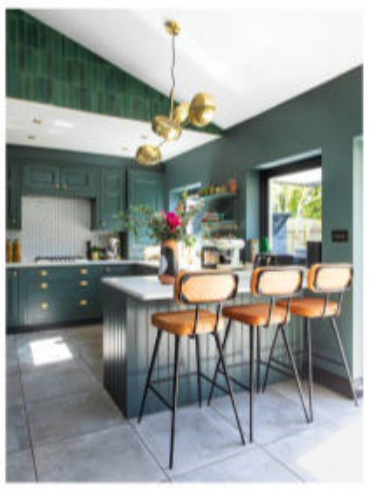
A stunning extension has transformed this Georgian home into a welcoming space (p10)

no. 2

Stripping back the dated decor in this cottage has revealed its original beauty (p16)



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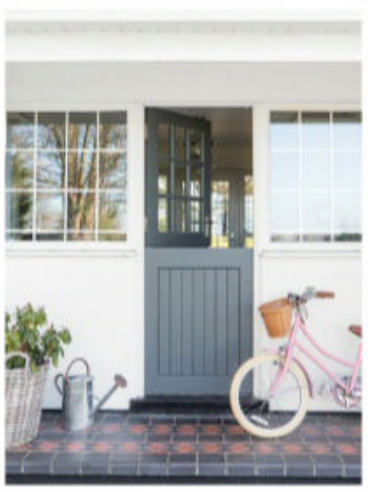

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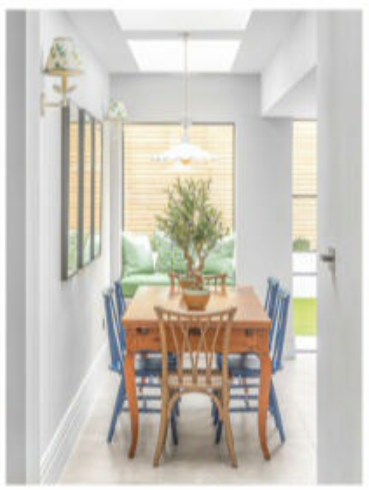

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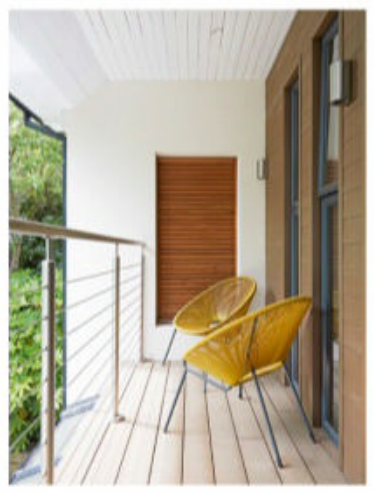

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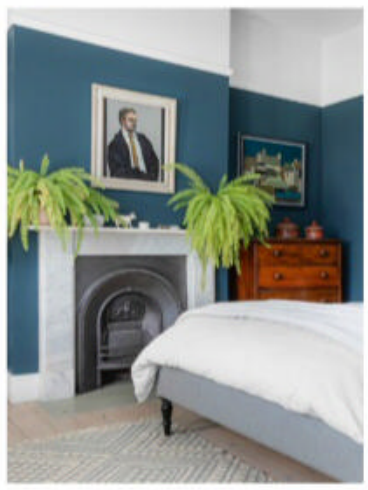

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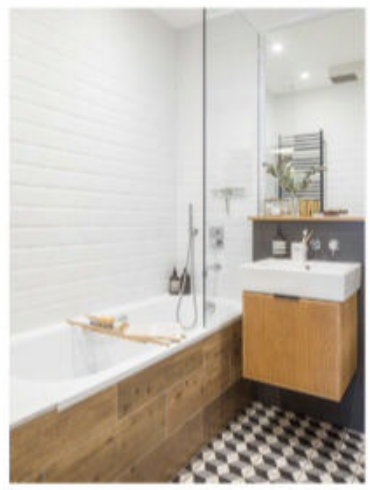

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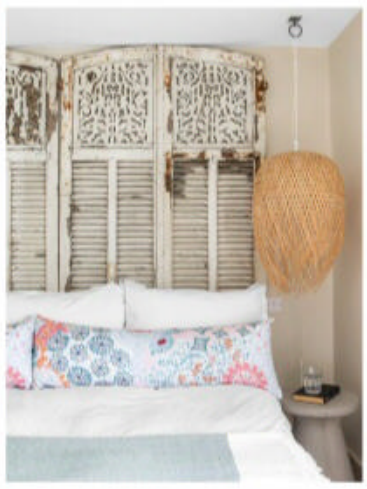

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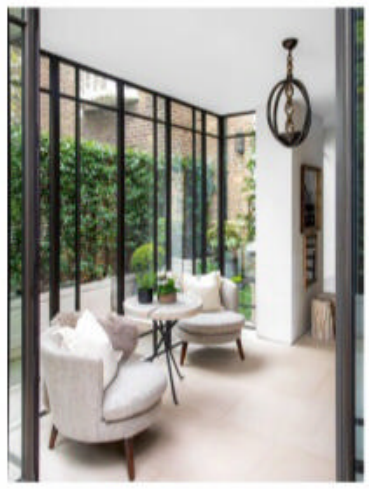

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The indoor-outdoor space in this townhouse transports the owner away from city life (p106)

no. 20

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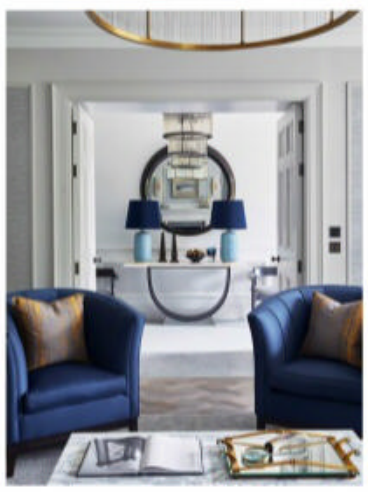

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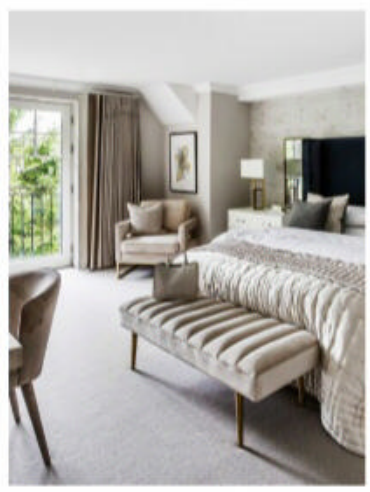
An interior designer was brought in to add some elegance to this new build (p127)



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The owners were keen to achieve the look and feel of a high-end boutique hotel (p130)

no. 25

Monochrome style looks clean and contemporary in this refurbishment (p132)

Room Envy

An eco pub with beautiful vintage-style interiors is inspiring us this month (p138)

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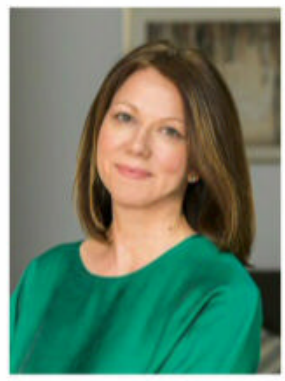

WELCOME

One of the many advantages of being able to feature so many home projects each month is the fact that we can present every type of house, from country barns to bijou apartments. Despite the great variation, the one thing they all have in common is the care each owner has poured into their home. We love how Emily Hutchings went to great lengths to make the conversion of her barn in Devon sympathetic to its surroundings (p34). Having moved from Hong Kong to London, Pauline Gidoin was familiar with enhancing small spaces and drew on her architecture skills when it came to maximising every inch of her new apartment (p95). We were also impressed with how Laura and Kevin Purdy planned the redo of their period property and then worked around the clock to make it happen. See it on page 84.

FIONA MACE, HOMES EDITOR

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Fresh THINKING

Rachael and Tom Somerville have reconfigured a period house and added a contemporary extension to create a welcoming family home

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL CRAIG

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Georgian three-storey house
LOCATION Shropshire
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner/family room, playroom, cloakroom, utility room, gym, five bedrooms (three en suite), one bathroom
PURCHASED 2017
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We moved from a rural barn conversion,' says Rachael.

KITCHEN-DINER
A faux chimney breast with overmantel adds character, while the antiqued glass splashback reflects light and boosts the sense of space.
Units in Purbeck Stone with island in Railings, both modern eggshell, £73 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Ottawa table, from £1,989, BoConcept. Wire frame upholstered chairs, £220 each, West Elm

Hidden behind a tall brick wall and large timber gates, Rachael and Tom Somerville were not sure what to expect when they first saw this house. But as they made their way through the gates, they spied rolling lawns and leafy green trees, dropping down to woodland beyond. 'The house is in the centre of town but with a huge garden backing onto a beautiful conservation area, so it feels as if it is in the countryside,' explains Rachael, 'yet we are only a five-minute walk from the local supermarket and butcher.'

While they admired the original features of the house, including tall ceilings, sash windows and shutters, Rachael and Tom knew they had some work to do on the interior. 'The layout of small rooms didn't work for us because we wanted more of an open-plan feel and a better sense of flow between spaces,' explains Rachael. 'We also felt that there was potential to convert the cellar, which had a very low ceiling, into a more usable space, and to improve the connection with the wonderful garden.'

The couple moved into a rented property while they consulted an architect, sought planning permission and hired a building firm. As the house is built into a slope, the cellar is below ground at the front of the property and at ground level at the rear. 'We were able to dig down to increase the height of the cellar and extend it at the back of the house with a flat-roofed single-storey structure, clad in beautiful copper-effect aluminium,' says Rachael. This new

DECORATING ADVICE *'Choose an accent colour or material to enhance the connection between rooms – we used brass touches throughout to add warmth'*

FAMILY ROOM
The new gas fireplace can also be enjoyed in the sitting room on the other side of the wall.
Horizon Bell Tunnel gas fireplace, price on request, Barbas Bellfires. Iggy sofas in Thatch Smart Velvet, from £1,060 each, Sofa.com. Strata rug, £375, Cox & Cox. For a similar coffee table, try the Simmonds, £349, Swoon. Blind in Takara in Indigo/Denim fabric, £46m, Harlequin

SITTING ROOM
Jewel-like colours and gleaming accents contrast against the soft grey backdrop.
Seattle armchair, from £1,159, Raft; in Butterfly Palm Maize velvet, £73.90m, Linwood. Marble-topped pedestal coffee table, £749, West Elm. Diamond sunburst mirror, £98, Audenza. James floor lamp in antique bronze, £145, CharlesTed

UTILITY ROOM
A traditional brass tap, cup handles and knobs add a timeless quality to the bespoke units.
Athenian sink mixer with lever handles in aged brass, £599, Perrin & Rowe. Kyla Gold blind fabric, £30m, John Lewis & Partners

HALLWAY
Rachael chose a dark colour scheme with burnished brass to create a glamorous feel.
Wall panelling in Battlefield emulsion, £24 for 2.5ltr, Valspar. Profile console, £299, West Elm

MAIN BEDROOM
Wall panelling adds subtle character and breaks up the expanse of grey.
Tall Piper headboard with Store storage base in Rose Quartz Clever Deep velvet, from £2,120, Loaf. Chevron bedside chest of drawers, £249, Atkin and Thyme. Brass wall lights, £150 each, Cox & Cox

NANCY'S BEDROOM
Subtle pink shades and soft textures combine for a cosy, cocooning feel.
Try the Pottery Barn Kids Charleston slim reclining chair, £999, John Lewis & Partners. Hudson floor lamp, £150, Cox & Cox. Melissa side table, £89.97, Furniture 123

EN SUITE
Striking black stone-effect tiles provide moody interest, offset by a crisp white basin.
Fusion Black matt porcelain tiles in chevron and rectangular formats, from £34.80sq m, Mandarin Stone. Picasso basin, from £195; shelf, from £395; Lusso Luxe wall-mounted basin mixer, £275, all Lusso Stone. Metal frame mirror, £249, West Elm

MAIN EN SUITE
A recessed shelf is a sleek storage solution.
Mimica Bianco Ravenna matt porcelain floor and wall tiles, from £42sq m, Mandarin Stone

DECORATING TIP *'To pick the perfect wall colour, paint swatches on paper and hang them around the room to see how the shade will look at different times of day'*

basement has a contemporary feel compared to the original floors of the house and includes a store room, a gym, two guest bedrooms with en suites and sliding doors to the garden. Above, the flat roof has become an expansive terrace, accessed through French doors from the kitchen. 'Not only did we gain plenty of space for friends to stay, but we also have direct access to the garden,' says Rachael.

On the floor above, a wall between the kitchen and dining room was removed to create an open-plan space complete with seating area. The couple also reconfigured a series of small ancillary rooms into a spacious utility-boot room and separate cloakroom. 'We used a backdrop of soft greys throughout to link the rooms and create a calm, easy-to-live-with feel, with other colours occasionally introduced to add more depth,' explains Rachael. The same colour palette continues upstairs, which includes the main bedroom suite, newly enlarged with a dressing area created by converting a former bedroom, and a nursery for baby Nancy, born two months before the project was complete and the family were finally able to move in.

'I used to work in sales and marketing, but left my job to manage this project,' says Rachael, who shares images of her home on Instagram @rachaelsomervilleinteriors. 'I absolutely loved it. I've always been interested in interiors, but growing up in rural Wales, I didn't come across many designers and never thought I could make it my career. Now I know differently, and I'm very tempted to follow my passion and take on more projects in the future.'

Stripped back

Naomi Stuart and her partner Richard Fetherston removed decades of dated decoration to enhance the original beauty of their Victorian country cottage

FEATURE NAOMI JONES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRENT DARBY

Eight years ago, when they realised their new romance had turned into something more serious, Naomi Stuart and Richard Fetherston felt it was time to swap their two separate properties in different Hertfordshire towns for a home they would choose, renovate and decorate together. After viewing and discounting 45 houses, the couple finally found this quaint and very pretty Victorian two-bedroom cottage in a peaceful Buckinghamshire village.

'It was a little further away from our main business premises than we would have liked,' says Naomi, who is owner of an online sustainable and ethical fashion brand (ambreclothing.co.uk). 'But when we saw Grove Cottage for ourselves, any reservations we had disappeared,' she explains. The potential to reveal the original beauty in the building once we peeled back the many layers of decoration was undeniable.'

Having moved into the cottage just before Christmas 2013, the initial phase of work took place early the following year. 'We swapped the modern white radiators for a traditional cast-iron design and added electricity and sturdy boarding to the loft so we would have some much-needed extra storage space,' explains Naomi. 'Combining belongings from two homes is tricky enough at the best of times, but especially so in a two-bedroom cottage and we soon realised the quirky door sizes and tight spaces were not designed to accommodate our larger pieces of furniture. But having to source new items just added to the excitement of buying my first home with Richard.'

The couple were also keen to bring out the best in all the original doors, floorboards and beams, wood being one of the most important features. It

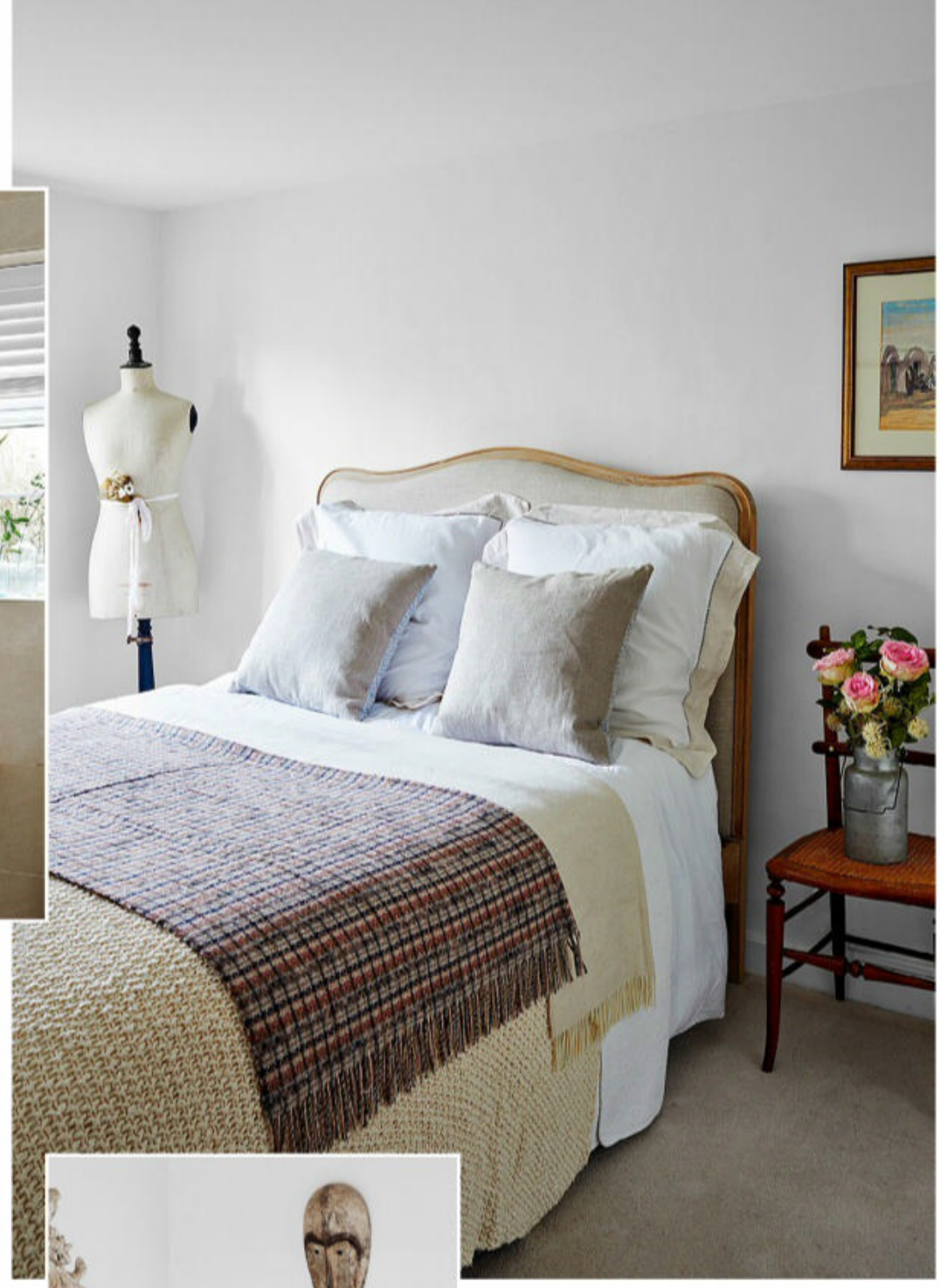
DINING ROOM
Worn wood finishes add to the rustic feel. Try the Wardley oak dining chair, £310, Neptune. Walls in Wimborne White estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

KITCHEN
A curved breakfast bar creates space for eating and working, as well as giving a sense of flow. Jerusalem White Gold tumbled limestone flooring, from £46.80sq m, Mandarin Stone. For a similar bar stool, try the Ola graphic weave rattan, £295, Graham and Green

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian cottage, built in 1839
LOCATION Buckinghamshire
ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2013
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Richard and I had separate homes in Hertfordshire before buying this together,' says Naomi.

SITTING ROOM
Natural tones and textures create a cosy feel.
Armchair, price on request, Antique French Chair and Sofa Co; covered in Ditsy Blue cotton, price on request, Peter John Interiors. Dauntsey footstool, from £455, Willow & Hall



DESIGN ADVICE

'Never buy items in isolation – consider how everything will work together as a whole scheme'

was pretty hard going, though, as Naomi explains: 'Over the years, the woodwork had all been stained dark, but we wanted to restore the original colour while retaining signs of wear and age; rather than using a sander, which would be too aggressive, we carefully removed the stain by hand using paint remover, a scraper and wire wool, after which we treated it all with Danish oil.'

Phase two of the renovation took place from 2017-2019. 'By this point, Richard and I had lived in the cottage for a few years and figured out how we used the space,' says Naomi, who shares her DIY and design journey on Instagram @grove_cottage_. So, four years ago, with a couple of trusty tradespeople ready to help them here and there, the pair rolled up their sleeves once more to strip back layer upon layer of wallpaper, carpet, tiles and crazy paving. They also added French doors to replace the window in the kitchen and built a double-dormer upstairs to allow for a small en-suite wet room for the main bedroom.

'It's amazing how much came out of this little cottage,' says Naomi, who, with Richard, has updated the interior with a subtle French-inspired scheme. 'But we are delighted with how it looks now, and not one day goes by that I don't feel grateful for our home and this incredible location where a picturesque walk can start as soon as we step out the front door. Now, more than ever, this place is a real sanctuary.'

BATHROOM
Naomi dressed this room with pretty vintage finds.
For a bath like this, try the Colorado Premiercast, £314, Bathstore. Find a similar vintage zinc milk churn, around £80, Etsy

BEDROOM
A French-style bed is simple yet elegant.
Try the Sienna bed, £1,299 for a double, Feather & Black. Vinterior sells vintage mannequins, from £260. Try the Reyna chest of drawers, £629, Swoon. The White Wooden Window Pane mirror, £52.95, Melody Maison, is a good alternative

DINING AREA
The leaf motif wallpaper connects inside and outside perfectly.
Maeby herringbone-topped dining table in mango wood, £599; Theon dining chairs, £199 each, all Cult Furniture

PATIO
This delightful outside room is a great suntrap.
Oyster beige composite decking, £41.89sq m, The Outdoor Look

Contemporary THEATRE

Fantastical patterns combined with bold colours create drama in Tamara MacDonald's family home

FEATURE ALISON GIBB | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DOUGLAS GIBB

KITCHEN
Tamara and Martin extended the original kitchen across the back of the house for an enlarged, sociable space. Similar kitchen, £25,000, 1909. Stools, £95 each, Maisons du Monde. Brass pendant chandelier, £150, Graham and Green

SITTING ROOM DETAIL
Tamara created a theatrical bar area in an alcove, compete with a hanging gold skull.
Hoback gold metal chair from Beliani is similar, £319 a pair. Sheepskin rug, £39, John Lewis & Partners

SITTING ROOM
'We tried to create an adult area here and instead of a TV, we have a record player and board games,' says Tamara.
Matera leather sofa, £2,719, Heal's. Anglepoise floor lamp, £198, Graham and Green

SITTING ROOM DETAIL
'I love the diving mask,' says Tamara. 'It belonged to Martin's late father, who worked as a deep-sea diver'

HOME TRUTHS

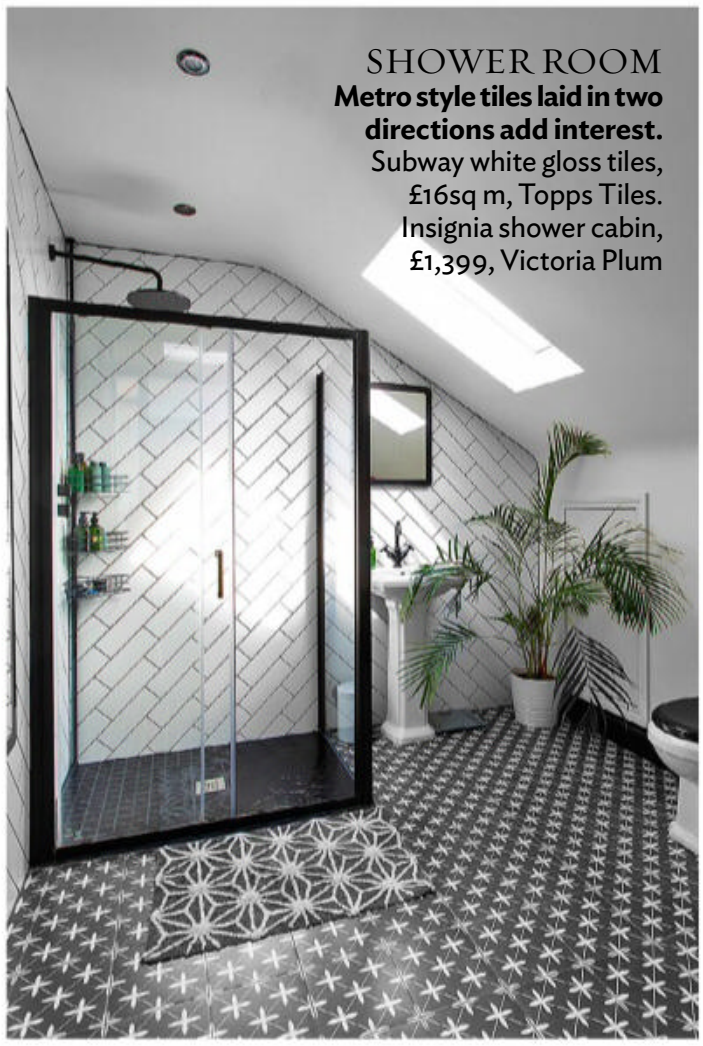
THE PROPERTY
Terraced villa, built in 1920
LOCATION Glasgow
ROOMS Sitting room, TV room, kitchen-diner, cloakroom, four bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2016
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We sold our flat in London before returning to Glasgow to be closer to our families,' says Tamara.

Tamara MacDonald and her husband Martin bought their Glasgow home long distance from London, knowing they wanted a good-sized family house within the catchment area of a good school. 'My dad showed us around on FaceTime and we immediately knew we wanted the property,' says Tamara. 'It was in need of renovation but Martin and I were very happy to undertake a project and we didn't want to live with someone else's taste, so it felt less wasteful to buy something in relatively poor condition.'

The south-facing garden, with a stand-alone garage they could convert into a recording studio, made it a must-have for the creative couple. Martin is a film editor and Tamara is a singer-songwriter who, during lockdown, set up a female music collective, Hen Hoose, with the aim of supplying female-composed music to the film and advertising industry. They were even asked to produce the music for the Scottish government's COVID-19 vaccine advertising campaign.

Settling in took a while for the couple and their children, Matilda, eight, and Hal, four. 'We stayed at my parents' house for a couple of months in advance of moving in, to get the messiest jobs done and focused on creating a fun home and space for the children,' says Tamara. 'They were a little disorientated at first, starting new schools and making new friends and the house was a bit of a building site for a while. The renovations took about a year and a half in the end and included a new extended kitchen, new

MAIN BEDROOM
The sumptuous blue velvet bed is deeply dramatic. Boutique Hotel throw, £250, John Lewis & Partners. Angel Boutique bed in Midnight Velvet, £1,650, Robertsons



SHOWER ROOM
Metro style tiles laid in two directions add interest. Subway white gloss tiles, £16sq m, Topps Tiles. Insignia shower cabin, £1,399, Victoria Plum

BEDROOM
'This peaceful space doubles as a recording studio,' says Tamara. Birds Sinfonia wallpaper by Christian Lacroix, £84 a roll, Designer Wallpapers

DECORATING TIP ***'Try not to worry too much about your colour choices – you can always paint over them!'***

bathrooms and we decorated throughout. The house had not been touched since the 1970s, so we had to completely gut the place.'

While wanting to update their home, Tamara and Martin also wished to preserve the existing period features and added some art nouveau and art deco hints and touches, including gold edging and repeated organic motifs. Glasgow is steeped in the influence of Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the couple were inspired by his love of natural forms and his elegant, unmistakable sense of proportion.

As a singer and performer, Tamara effortlessly creates a sense of drama and occasion around her. She studied fashion at Central Saint Martins in London before embarking on her career as a musician and her artistic training and love of pattern are still with her. 'My love of colour is huge,' she says, 'I design all my own stage outfits and I perform in character so some of my outfits are quite outlandish. I have a great aunt who was a milliner and I have definitely inherited her love of hats and always include elaborate headpieces in my stage gear.'

Tamara's approach to decorating her home is equally bold and deeply instinctive, 'I choose wallpapers as additional artwork for my home,' she explains and says that Martin is her ideal collaborator as he is a detail person and likes to plan ahead rather than always rely on instinct and spontaneity. The beautiful light switches and carefully colour-coordinated bookshelves, for instance, are all his input.

Having been here for five years now, the move has proved a great success and the pair say that coming from London to Glasgow, the space and grandeur offered in a terraced house in this vibrant city feels too good to be true. 'The kids have made friends, our careers are flourishing – we have definitely done the right thing,' says Tamara.

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no.4

BRIGHT & BEAUTIFUL

A property that had been untouched for 30 years provided the perfect blank canvas for Annie and Richard Radley to fill with colour and pattern

FEATURE AMELANIE WHITEHOUSE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MALCOLM MENZIES

KITCHEN
The wallpaper behind the splashback adds both zing and fun to the kitchen. The grid pattern created by the tiles is cleverly repeated on the floor. 'We wanted the space to feel playful and interesting and not be serious,' says Annie.
Bien Fait Chicoutimi wallpaper, £297 for three rolls, Smallable. Raku Sapporo tiles, £2.59 each, Claybrook Studio

KITCHEN-DINER
The spectacular light fitting is made of humble wire-netting while the window seat with built-in storage is a happy shot of contrasting colour. Meshmatics chandelier, from £1,933, Moooi. Halikko bar stools, €504 each, Made By Choice. Black-framed windows, price on request, Fabco Sanctuary

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian terrace
LOCATION
South-east London
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, 'den' on mezzanine, cloakroom, utility room, snug, five bedrooms (one en suite,) two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2016
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We were renting a flat nearby,' says Annie.

DINING AREA
Eliza, now three, with Annie, relaxing on the window seat.
Window seat cushion in About Flowers colour 2 Tahiti, price on request, Dedar. Storage painted in Marigold traditional oil gloss, £35 for 1ltr, Little Greene

SITTING ROOM
A dark chimney breast provides a modern contrast to the marble fireplace.
Aero brass shelving unit, £399, Swoon

NURSERY
Orangey window frames are complemented by hand-embroidered blinds.
Window frames in Orange Aurora intelligent satinwood, £37 for 1ltr, Little Greene

After a two-year wait to find the right property, and losing one they'd set their heart on, Annie and Richard Radley were delighted to find an unmodernised Victorian terrace just waiting for them to stamp their very individual mark on. What's more, it was opposite a small park, making it ideal for their three children.

'The property had not been touched for 30 years, which was perfect for the kind of renovations we wanted to carry out,' says Annie. 'We loved the good Victorian bones of the house and wanted to keep the faith with these while giving the inside some TLC and adding a modern extension to the rear. It had a quirky layout which was different to other Victorian properties we'd viewed.'

CREATING MORE SPACE

Phase one of the renovation work began in 2017, when they gutted most of the inside, replumbed, rewired, replastered, repainted, and repaired all the original floorboards.

'We installed an en suite in the main bedroom, gutted and replaced the family bathroom and removed a toilet to make the adjoining box room larger,' says Annie. 'Unfortunately, the new bath didn't fit and we had to slice off large chunks of architrave, then restore them.'

In the smaller of the second floor bedrooms, they took space from the loft to create a high, double-bed 'deck', and converted separate loft storage space into a new mezzanine 'den' by opening up the loft access onto the hallway, raising the ceiling and insulating the roof and walls.

A HELPING HAND

This was a huge project for the Radleys to undertake when working full-time. 'The biggest challenge was trying to manage all the separate tradespeople ourselves,' remembers Annie. 'We had to be on hand at all times and educate ourselves on electrical, plumbing and structural issues. It was almost overwhelming.'

So when it came to phase two of the renovations, they decided to bring in a professional – interior designer Cassidy Hughes, who'd been invaluable when renovating a friend's home – to design the nursery, guest room and den on the top floor.

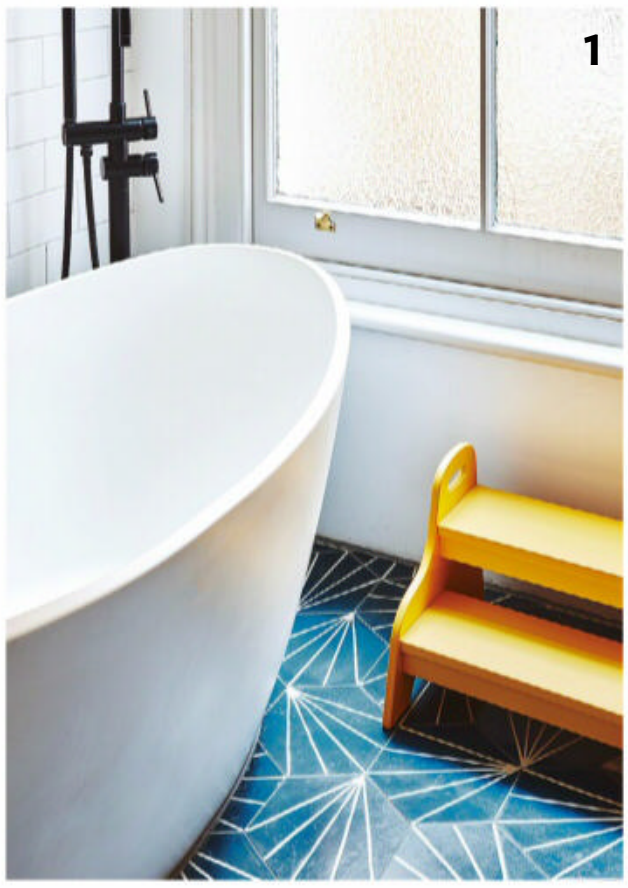
The final phase took place over the summer and winter of 2019, when the small kitchen and rear living room were knocked through and extended into the garden. The dark dining room is now a ground-floor bathroom and utility room. The rear extension retains the shape of the original bay window but is cleverly modernised using metal-framed windows and French doors.

STATEMENT STYLE

The house was decorated in bold brights, with orange repeated as a signature shade throughout. 'We're both drawn to colour and Cassidy helped give us the confidence to choose the colours and finishes that we really loved,' says Annie.

Furnished with an eclectic yet cohesive mix of vintage and modern, the result is a wonderful combination of complementary colours, patterns and shapes, with attention focused on details like handles, fabrics and flooring. Sculptural lights add drama. 'The only thing we will never buy is very expensive soft furnishings,' says Annie. 'It's impossible to take the risk when sharing a house with two cats!

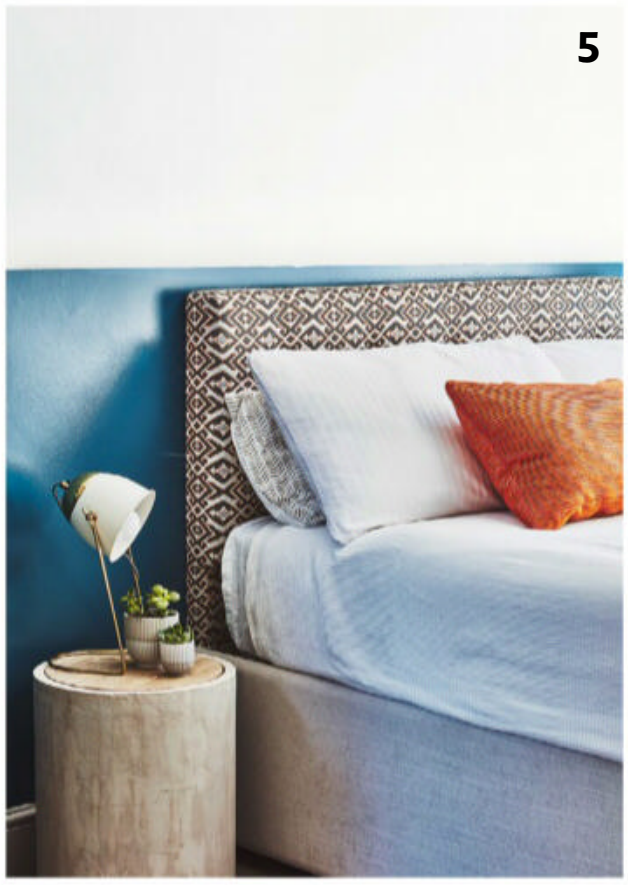
'We're very happy with the way it has turned out and, with another addition to our family on the way, and after such a lot of effort and time spent on the renovation, we want to stay and enjoy our home for at least the next 10 years.'



1 BATHROOM
The mustard and teal combination is an unusual but effective colour scheme in the family bathroom.
Steps in Yellow Pink intelligent satinwood, £37 for 1ltr, Little Greene. Dandelion tiles in Marine/Bone, €175 for a box of 18, Marrakech Design. Oasis Stone Resin freestanding bath, £1,395, Lusso Stone, is similar

2 & 6 GAMES ROOM
The games room is a 'snug' on the second floor, ingeniously accessed by rungs in the wall and filled with cosy beanbags.
Moon Crescents wallpaper, €120 a roll, Bartsch. Ayra bean bag chairs, from £99 each, Made. Ranarp floor lamp, £50, Ikea, has this look. Similar Hyde overhead pendant, £270, by David Hunt, The Lighting Company

DECORATING TIP
'Choose your paint schemes well in advance – don't wait until your decorator is hovering over you! And be prepared to get really into the detail of a renovation, because you'll be living with the end result'



3 MAIN BEDROOM
The sophisticated blues are picked out in the painting, while the area framing the bed houses much-needed storage and hides an en suite and wardrobe.
Wall (behind bed) in Railings estate emulsion; other walls in Strong White estate emulsion, both £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. *Indigo Rock 17* painting by Jen Garrido, £130, King & McGaw

4 CLOAKROOM
A vibrant wallpaper complements the retro vanity unit and wall tiles.
Cole & Son Nautilus wallpaper, £100 a roll, Beut. Ribbon washstand, €2,349, Sebastian Herkner

5 BEDROOM
A two-tone effect breaks up the expanse of wall and makes the covered headboard stand out.
Similar Spicy round side table, £176, Maisons du Monde. Lower wall in Blue Blood pure flat emulsion, £51 for 2.5ltr, Paint & Paper Library

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COUNTRY conversion

Emily Hutchings and Raymond Seager gave a 300-year-old farm building an eco-friendly update

FEATURE VIVIENNE AYRES | **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY ELTES

DINING AREA
Mismatched chairs add an eclectic yet homely touch.
Engineered oak floor in Nature Grade, from £92.16sq m, Beach Bros. Cider Mill table, from £2,960, I & JL Brown, is similar. Try Retro large pendant in pewter, £89, Industville

KITCHEN

Striking patterned tiles and rich blue cabinets make a bold statement in the vaulted space. Cabinets by Yealm Kitchens, painted in Hague Blue estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Havana encaustic tiles, £121.75sq m, Terrazzo Tiles

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Grade II-listed 300-year-old barn
LOCATION Devon
ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, snug/TV room, utility room, five bedrooms, three bathrooms
PURCHASED 2016
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a Victorian terraced house in Hackney in east London,' says Emily.

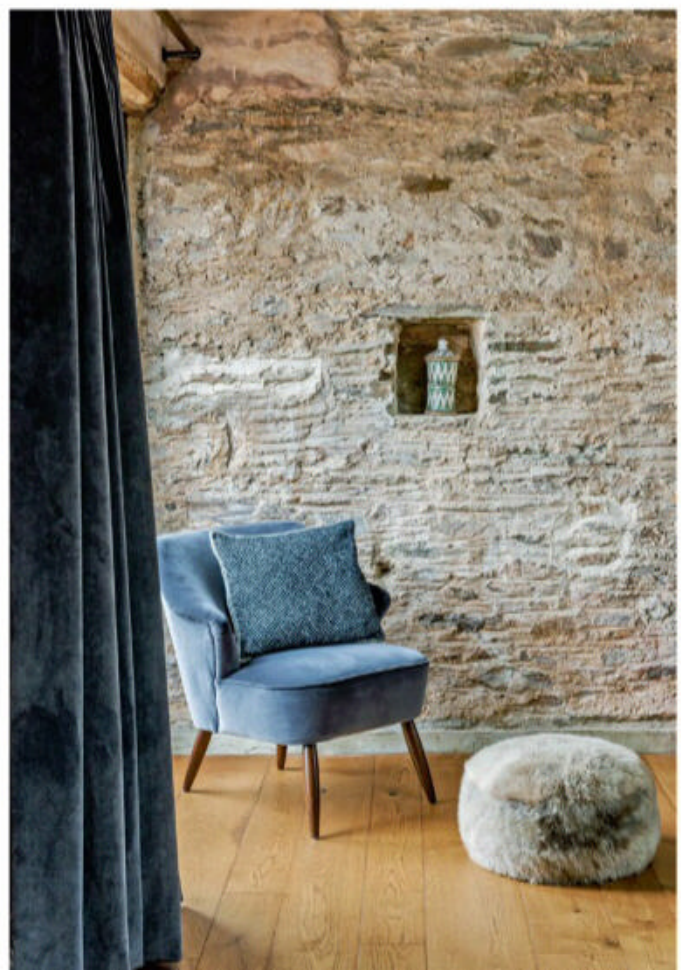
Having spent every family holiday in Devon since she was four, Emily Hutchings was eager to escape the rat race in London and move to the county. The dream was to run a holiday accommodation business with husband Raymond Seager, and give their children, Archie, six, and Lottie, four, new life in the country.

In London, Emily had a career in publishing, which wasn't compatible with living in Devon, so she retrained as a reflexologist and acupuncturist. Raymond, too, was keen to leave his job as a consultant in the City. The search for a suitable house with an outbuilding that could be converted into a holiday let began, with weekends spent travelling from London to Devon. 'It was an intensive search because we were so clear about what we wanted to achieve,' remembers Emily.

Everything fell into place when a three-bedroom farmhouse with a separate barn close to Totnes came on the market. 'It was over our budget but it was perfect,' says Emily. 'We'd seen at least 22 properties and just knew we could create something amazing here.'

Once the couple had moved into the farmhouse opposite the barn, Raymond began project-managing and was on site every day. For Emily and Raymond, it was important that the barn was eco-friendly. 'We've laid 4.5km of piping in 700m of trenches in our field

INSPIRATION ***'Most of the bedrooms in the barn are themed around the beauty***



SITTING AREA
Autumnal tones create a cosy feel.
Rebel three-seater sofa in Teal, from £1,099, Snug, is an alternative option. Curtains and cushions made using Date Palm Floral fabric in Tobacco by Ralph Lauren, £79.99 for 3mx300cm, eBay

SNUG/TV ROOM
Tactile fabrics such as velvet and sheepskin provide a softer counterpoint against the stone walls.
Handmade Devon sheepskin pouffe by The Forest & Co, £102,40, Notonthehighstreet.com, has this look. Soho Home Dolly velvet chair in Marine, £525, Amara, is similar

BEDROOM
Emily has brought the outside in with her choice of woodland-inspired wallpaper and natural colour palette.
Bosky wallpaper in Verdure, £74.35m, Lewis & Wood. Margot bed, £1,095, Loaf. Rattan hanging chair, £229, Folk Interiors, is similar

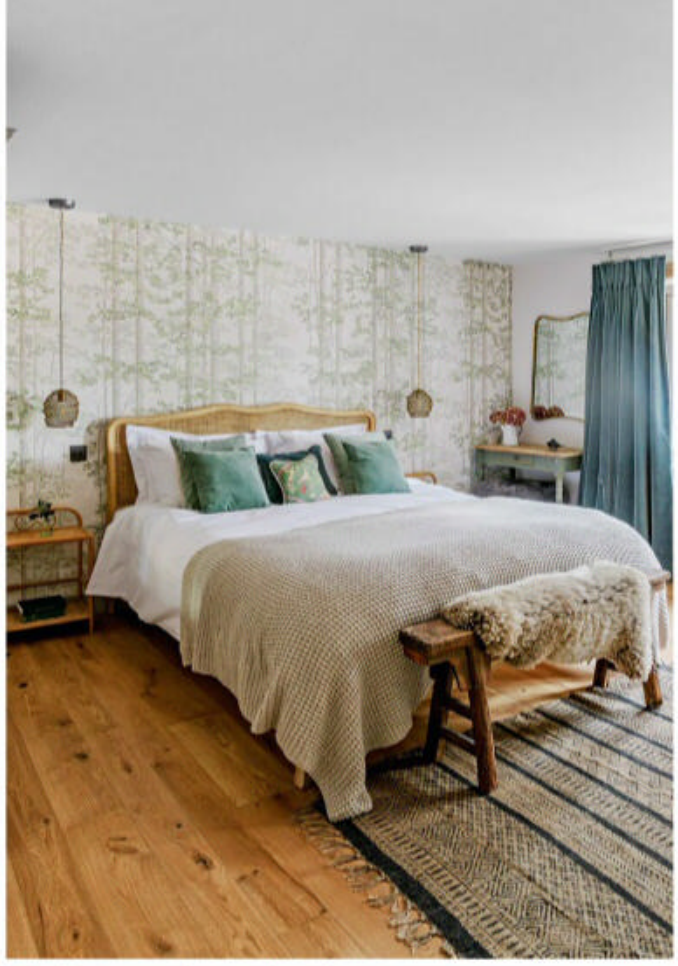
for the ground source heating,' says Emily, 'while 120 solar panels provide our electricity. The main difficulty was incorporating enough insulation without disrupting historic features.'

The renovation was as sympathetic as possible to the age of the building. 'The plan was to restore the original features, so we kept the trusses in the top room exposed and cleaned all the beams,' says Emily. 'The barn is zoned to allow you to spend time together but also seek out your own little havens.'

To make the most of the first-floor space, the floor was strengthened and a staircase installed. Walls were moved and added to create five bedrooms and three bathrooms on the ground floor. In the grounds, a hot tub was installed and an indoor swimming pool in a separate outbuilding was refurbished. There's also a one-bedroom cottage next door, which can be rented out along with the barn (willowsrest.co.uk).

Emily enlisted the help of local interior designer Siobhan Hayles to create a modern country look with a luxurious edge. 'Siobhan understood what we wanted and challenged us to take bold decisions,' says Emily. 'We wanted every room to feel special and different, so the colours vary in each one.'

All the hard work has definitely paid off. 'We're so proud of what we've created,' says Emily. And rightly so; this renovation proves that sometimes dreams really do come true.'



of the natural world, with wallpaper evoking the outdoors for a truly relaxing feel'

BEDROOM
Bleached wood panelling and nautical blues lend a maritime atmosphere.
Shoreditch bed, from £475, Next. Navy blue soft wool throw, £80, Cox & Cox. Eichholtz Vivienne mirror, £600, Sweetpea & Willow, is similar in style

BEDROOM
A palette of rich forest greens and teals makes for a luxurious sleep zone.
Ivy by Barneby Gates wallpaper, £74.40 a roll, Wallpaper Direct. Try HK Living Palm Trees cushion, £18, Nordic Nest

BATHROOM
A painted washstand with pretty turned legs reflects the traditional farming heritage of the building.
Garden Trading Aldsworth shelf ladder, £165, Naken Interiors, is comparable. Milano Elizabeth wall-mounted crosshead basin mixer tap in brushed gold, £149.99, Big Bathroom Shop, would work here

no. 6

Just what the doctor ordered

Katy and Sy Dodman have transformed this once-ramshackle doctor's surgery into a beautiful home

FEATURE SALLY SMITH | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RACHAEL SMITH

KITCHEN

Classical kitchen units reflect the age and elegance of the property. Kitchen from Wren's Infinity range in Pebble and Baltic finish, £22,000 incl appliances. Dar Academy five-bar ceiling pendant, £256, Lighting Direct. Anastasia bouquet, £175, 123 Flowers

DINING ROOM

Retaining the original fireplace adds a traditional feel to this former doctor's waiting room. For original period fire surrounds, price on request, try Westland London. Padstow dining table, £499, Marks & Spencer

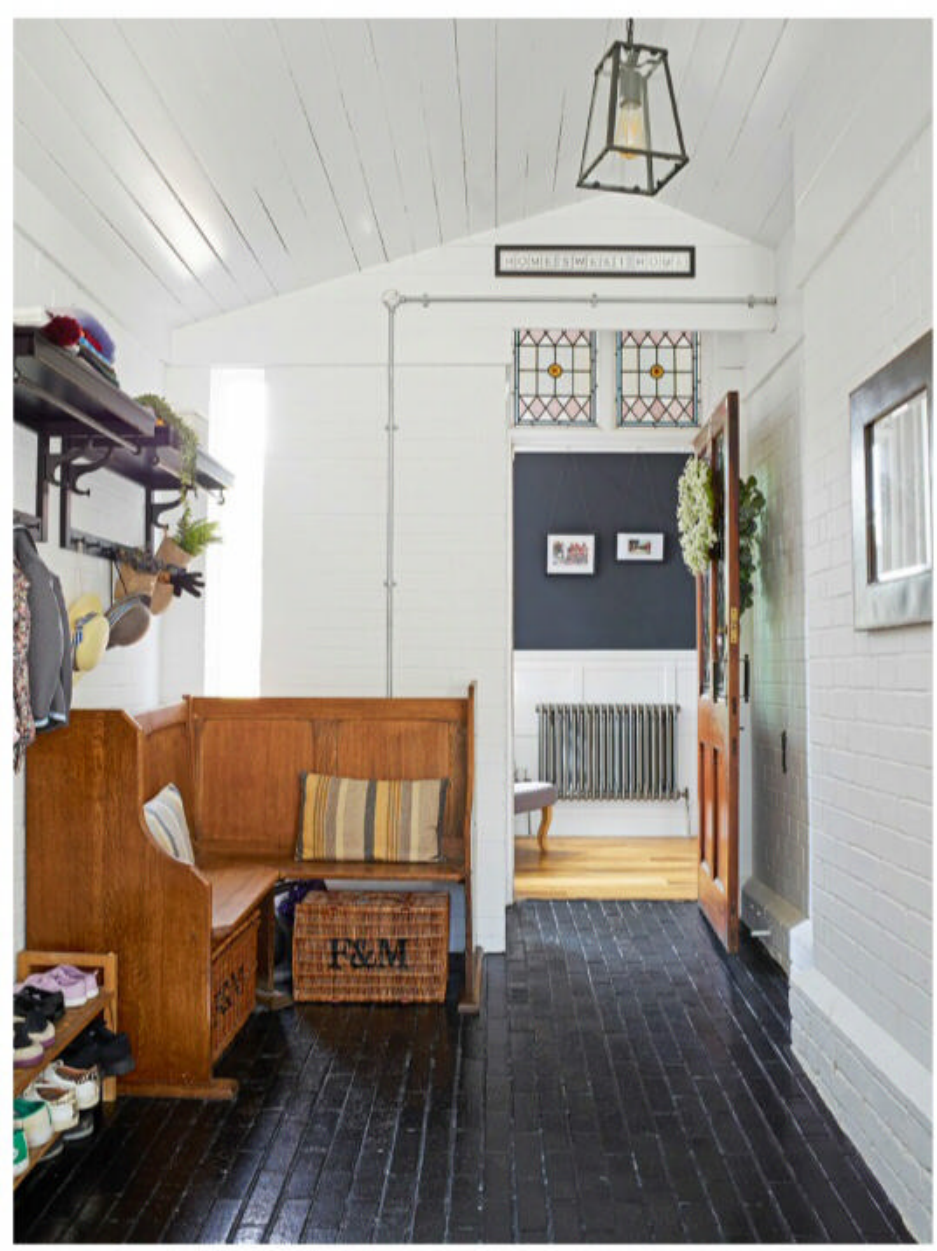
HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Three-storey Victorian semi
LOCATION
Northamptonshire
ROOMS Sitting room, dining room, kitchen-family room, boot room, utility room, cloakroom, six bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2018
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We used to live in a detached new build in Oxfordshire,' says Katy.

FAMILY AREA
'Adding French doors brought this room alive,' says Katy.
Circular apartment mirror, £100, Dunelm. Padstow side table, £179, Marks & Spencer

HALLWAY
The bespoke white panelling contrasts beautifully with the navy walls.
Engineered flooring in Golden Smoked Oak, £45sq m, Direct Wood Flooring. For a similar chair, try the Elgin, £929, Heal's

BOOT ROOM
Painted floorboards and brickwork add charm to this practical space.
Try the Searchlight Voyager tapered 4-light ceiling pendant, £89.99, Lighting Direct



For Katy and Sy Dodman, it was only a matter of time before they moved back home to the town in Northamptonshire where they both grew up. 'We've moved seven times in the last 10 years,' says Katy. 'It's been quite exhausting and we were ready to settle down and spend more quality time with our families,' says Katy.

The first house they viewed was conveniently placed on a wide and leafy road just a five-minute walk from the station, but the pair felt it wasn't for them. 'It was a mess and needed a lot of renovation work, and I was overwhelmed with the thought of such a massive project,' says Katy. 'Instead, we put an offer on a more finished property up the road, but that fell through.'

While Katy was ready to find a place to rent long term, Sy hadn't given up on the first house, which was formerly a doctor's surgery, and eventually convinced Katy that they could take it on. 'He'd found a builder who was happy to work with us, so I felt confident we could manage it,' says Katy. The couple rented a house close by for six months to oversee the work and things were going well until two weeks before they were due

SITTING ROOM

A dark yet vibrant wall colour makes this a cosy space.

Walls in Drawing Room Blue estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Faux-fur throw, £40, H&M Home. Window shutters, £1,500, Shuttercraft

DECORATING TIP ***'Be daring and introduce darker colours to a scheme – we did and we don't regret it'***

MAIN BEDROOM
'We opted for Roman blinds instead of traditional curtains,' says Katy.
Similar Roman blinds in Willow Leaf Hedgerow fabric, from £79, Laura Ashley

BATHROOM
Bevelled metro wall tiles and dark accents add an industrial feel.
Metro tiles, £20sq m, Topps Tiles. Sottini enamel bath, £915; Utopia Downton freestanding vanity units, price on request, all The Bathroom Studio, Kettering

BEDROOM
The pink-and-white colour combination is an elegant look.
Pink tassel chandelier, £20, Matalan

to move in. 'The builder stopped turning up,' says Katy. 'It was such a shock, especially as we still needed to get the electrics and plumbing finished. Luckily Sy managed to persuade all the tradesmen back to finish the job.'

The couple reconfigured the layout to create a light-filled open-plan kitchen, and incorporated a good-sized utility and downstairs cloakroom. 'We haven't actually increased the square footage of the ground floor but it feels so much bigger,' says Katy.

Although the rooms are grand, the walls and ceilings were covered in layers of woodchip wallpaper. 'It was too chaotic to make any big decisions so initially we just painted everything white,' adds Katy. Eventually, each room was decorated in colours that reflect the character of the house, yet with a modern twist.

'The house has always felt special to us, that's why I set up an Instagram account @tresco_trio at the start of the renovation,' says Katy. 'I kept motivated by posting pictures of our progress and it's been fantastic to share our story. I'm so proud that we stuck with it – it's going to be such a happy day when we can finally show everyone how much we've achieved.'

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Picture PERFECT

Sarah and Tobin Aspinall jumped at the chance of Hamptons style in the heart of rural Shropshire

FEATURE MARISHA TAYLOR
PHOTOGRAPHY JAMES FRENCH

UTILITY ROOM
This is a practical but stylish space that doubles up as a boot room. Vintage wooden trough, £80, Wren & Regan

HALLWAY

'The parquet flooring is original to the house and still in beautiful condition,' says Sarah.
Ikkuna mirror, £350, Oka, is a close match

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Detached property built in the early 1970s
LOCATION Shropshire
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, snug, five bedrooms, three bathrooms, separate office and garages
PURCHASED 2017
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We previously lived in a four-bedroom barn conversion closer to town,' says Sarah.

When first approaching Sarah and Tobin Aspinall's home, you feel you've been transported across the Atlantic to the Hamptons. The classic design echoes the architectural style of the East Coast of America, and conjures up romantic images of relaxed, sophisticated living. So, it is no surprise that when the couple spotted the property on Rightmove, they booked a viewing for the very next day. 'Our house wasn't even on the market,' says Sarah, who owns interior business, Wren & Regan, 'but we instantly fell in love with the impressive white facade. It was certainly not a property you see every day in Shropshire!'

The couple had been living in a barn conversion close to Shrewsbury, with Tobin's two boys, Leo, now 15, Sam, 13, and their daughter L'Wren, now six. 'We needed more space and Tobin wanted to move further into the countryside, but I was keen to stay closer to town,' recalls Sarah. The location offered the perfect compromise, surrounded by farmland, but within walking distance to the local village. And the property didn't disappoint either. Although dated, it had been well maintained and with a large footprint and grounds, the couple could see its potential.

Renovation work started almost straight away. The house was rewired, the windows and doors replaced, the main bathrooms updated, and in the grounds the couple designed and had built an office and garages for Tobin, who owns a motor vehicle company. However, the biggest element of the project was rethinking the kitchen and dining room, which involved knocking down the dividing

FAVOURITE ROOM

'The kitchen is a great space to entertain and relax in, the functional layout works perfectly for our family'

KITCHEN

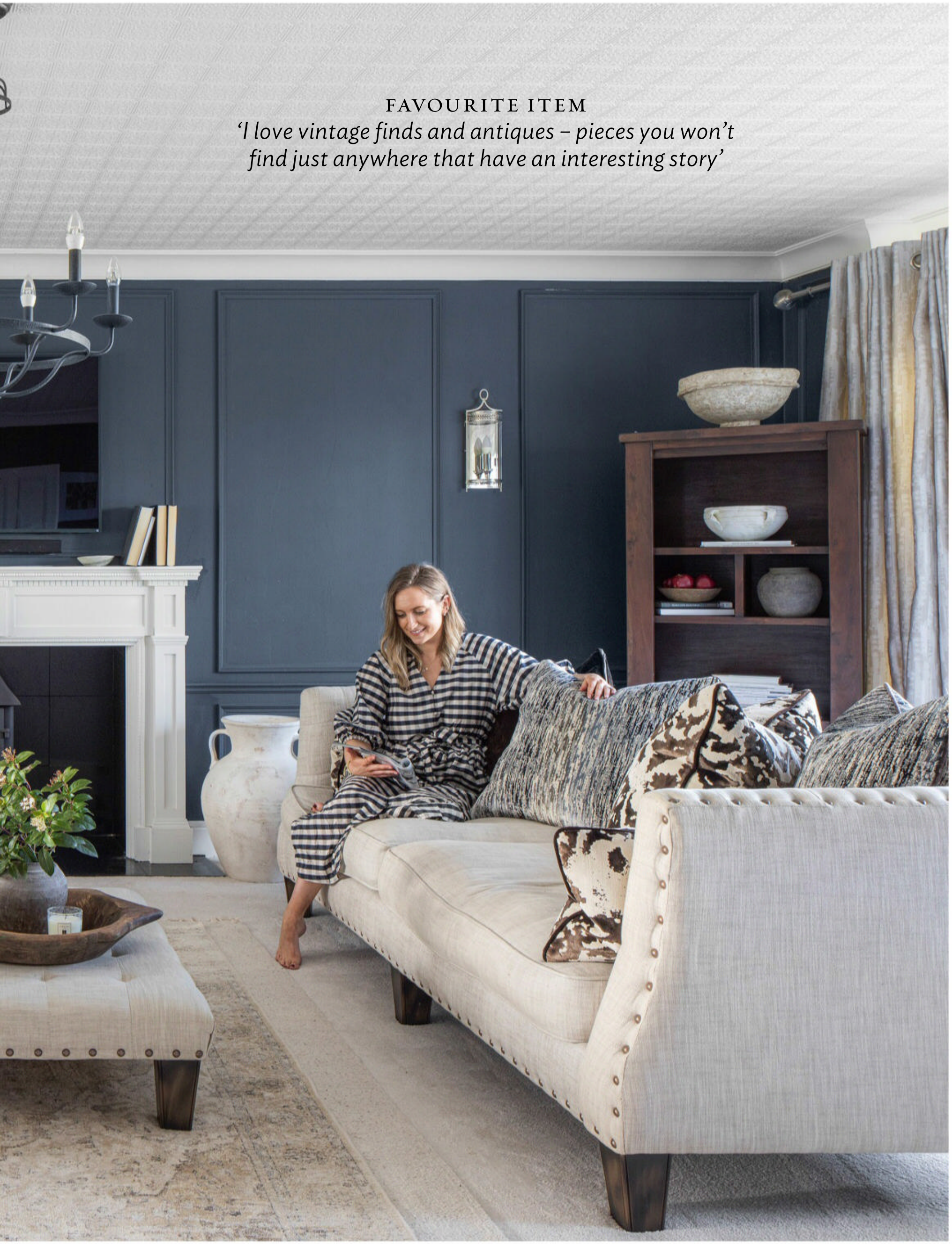
'As the kitchen was the most expensive room to renovate, we chose a classic style that would age well,' says Sarah. Washington cabinetry; polished granite worktops and splashback in River Valley White, all price on request, The Kitchen Depot

DINING AREA

Wooden furniture and upholstered chairs against the dark panelled backdrop give the dining area a cosy country feel. Rustic Brown extending table, £1,890; Rustic Brown bench, £630, both a close match from Hearnes of Beaconsfield

SITTING ROOM

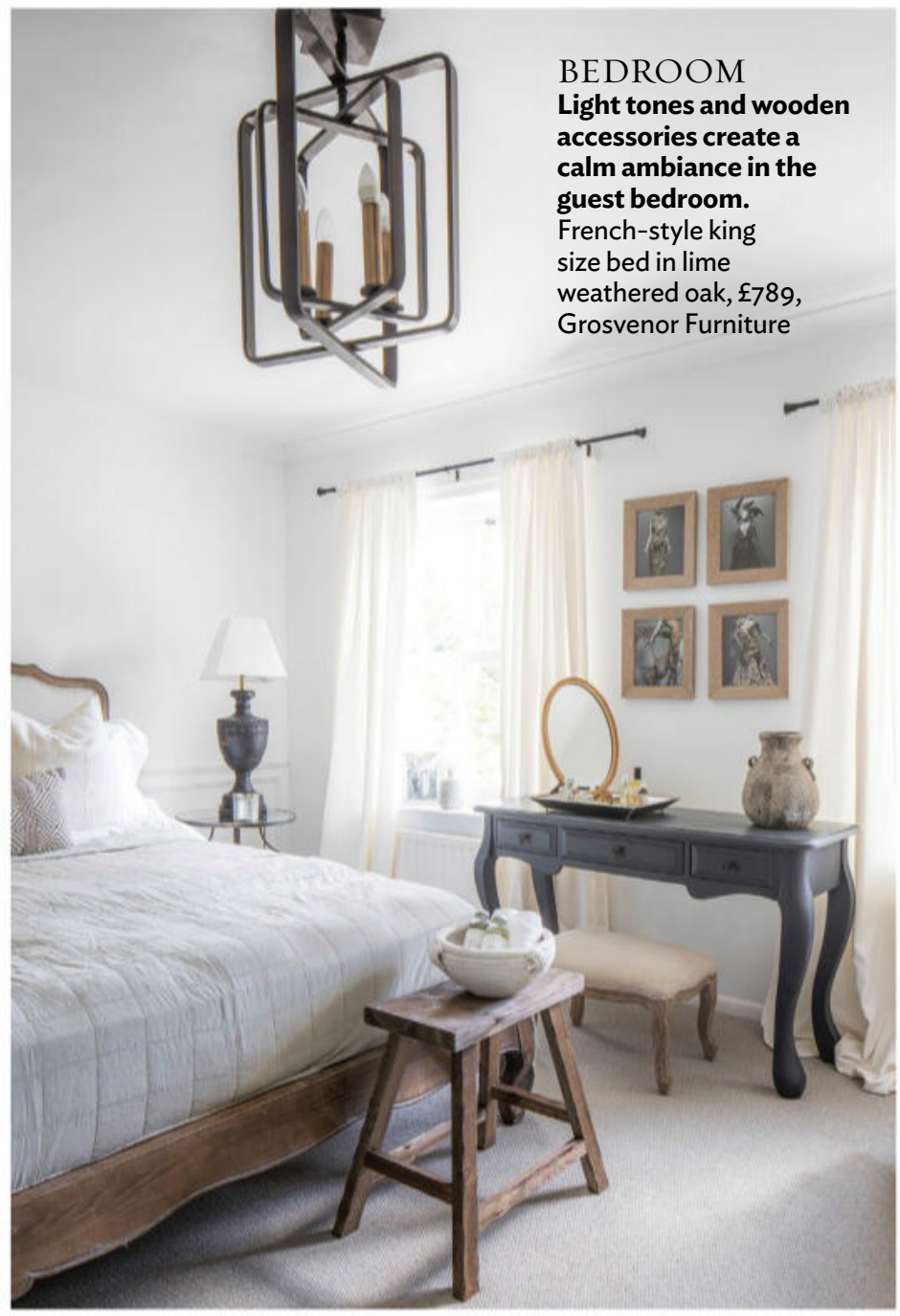
'I initially struggled with the layout of this room as it is so long but arranging the sofas either side of the fireplace has created a focal point,' says Sarah. Wall in Railings estate emulsion, £49.50 per 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Carrington four- seater sofa in Aaron Oyster, £1,250, Listers Interiors, has a similar look



FAVOURITE ITEM

'I love vintage finds and antiques – pieces you won't find just anywhere that have an interesting story'

BATHROOM
The arches in the bathroom give the space an elegant, classical feel.
Balthazar double ended bath, £4,999, Burlington Bathrooms. Antique Rajasthan cupboard, £785, Wren & Regan



BEDROOM
Light tones and wooden accessories create a calm ambiance in the guest bedroom.
French-style king size bed in lime weathered oak, £789, Grosvenor Furniture

MOST PROUD OF
'What we have achieved having never renovated before. We have found our style with no major hiccups along the way!'

wall between the two spaces and replacing two small windows with large French doors. 'The separate rooms just didn't work for us as a family, so we created one open-plan area with new doors that flood the room with light and allow us views of the garden and beautiful countryside beyond,' says Sarah.

When redesigning the room, the couple wanted it to feel spacious and bright but in-keeping with the traditional elements of the house, so steered away from colours and materials that felt too modern. Instead they opted for a classic Shaker style kitchen in neutral tones, together with timeless marble worktops and splashbacks, adding natural and industrial elements to bring warmth and personality into the new space. 'It was a style that worked for us, and an aesthetic we continued throughout the rest house,' says Sarah. Inspired by the creative process, her online business Wren & Regan was born in 2020, working alongside business partner, Vicky Regan, sourcing and selling the sort of items that had turned her house into a home.

'It was far from plain sailing at times,' recalls Sarah. 'It was our first renovation and we often underestimated the costs and timings, which frustratingly held things up, but we are proud of what we have achieved.' Work on the house wound down during the lockdowns of 2020, which on the flipside meant they could just enjoy living in their home. 'This year, we've started with work on the main bedroom, and we are beginning some more exciting renovations. It is such a pleasure working on and improving this house and we still get the same thrill pulling up outside as when we first set eyes on it.'

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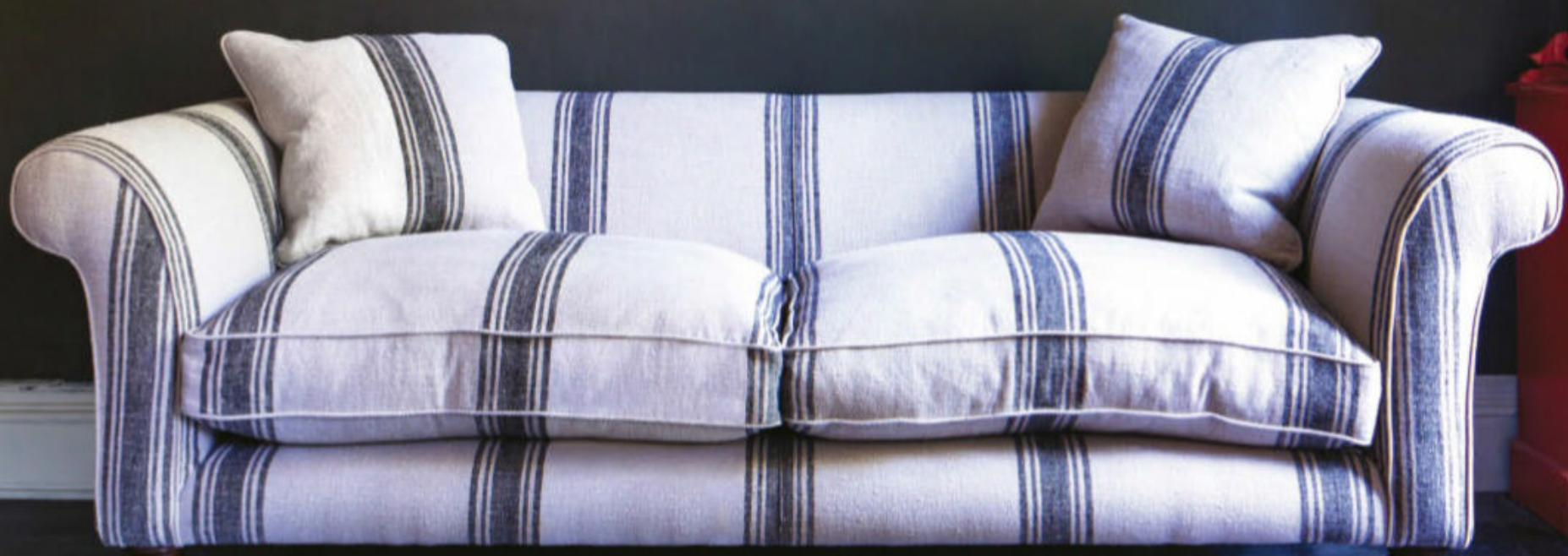

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HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Late-Victorian semi
LOCATION
West Sussex
ROOM Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, office, five bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom, art studio
PURCHASED 2009
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a three-bedroom 1970s semi nearby,' says Kitty.

CREATIVE FLOW

For artist Kitty McCurdy and her husband Kieran, bringing life back to a forlorn period property on the coast was a challenge they both relished

FEATURE & STYLING MARISHA TAYLOR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES FRENCH

KITCHEN-DINER
'Knocking through walls to open up this room created a multifunctional space,' says Kitty.
Theodore oak dining chairs, £270 for two, Perch & Parrow. Quickstep Soft Oak flooring, £23.99sq m, Flooring Supplies

LIVING AREA
A large corner sofa defines this area.
Copenhagen sofa in Casual Plain Natural, £1,999; Copenhagen armchair, £499, both Marks & Spencer. Fjord Nest of vintage tables, £108.50, Maisons du Monde

DECORATING ADVICE ***'Go with your instinct and don't be overly cautious – walls can be repainted just like a canvas'***

KITCHEN
Part of an old joist was used as a window ledge, adding a warm, rustic touch.
Try Homebase's matt white floating shelf, £13

SITTING ROOM
A collection of old mirrors found in charity shops and fairs makes a quirky feature.
Try the Chukka brass floor lamp with Empire shade, £451, Pooky

Landscape artist Kitty McCurdy (kittymccurdyart.co.uk) and her husband Kieran grew up in West Sussex and have always been fond of Southwick on the coast. 'It's centred around a leafy green with ancient Saxon churches and a traditional high street,' says Kitty. 'And with the Sussex Downs and sea only a stone's throw away, I have a constant source of inspiration for my artwork.'

Over a decade ago, while living in a smaller property nearby with their baby daughter Orla, now 13, the couple were on the hunt for a larger property locally, when a characterful five-bedroom Victorian house came up. 'We knew instantly it was the one for us and snapped it up,' says Kitty.

WAITING GAME

But there was much to do. The house hadn't been decorated for years, textured swirls covered the walls and many original features were missing. The kitchen was small and dated, with a playroom, cloakroom and a garden that could only be accessed from the side. 'We wanted to extend out and open up the back rooms,' says Kitty. However, plans took a back seat with the arrival of Osheen in 2010 and then Rory in 2012.

STEADY PROGRESS

For next few years the couple focused on the smaller tasks when time and money allowed, such as skimming over the textured walls and reinstating period features. It wasn't until 2017 that the work began in earnest. Living in the house for almost a decade meant the couple knew exactly what they wanted to achieve. 'Our wonderful architect Darren from LCE Architects was completely on board with our vision and drew up perfect plans,' says Kitty.

Over five months, the kitchen and playroom were extended out to the width of the house with the central walls knocked through to create an open-plan space. A new kitchen was installed and a cloakroom and utility room built in the centre of the space helped divide the area into three zones – kitchen, dining and living. The downstairs now has clear vision from one end of the house to the other, allowing the couple to relax wherever the children are playing.

SERENE SANCTUARY

The couple have since reconfigured their bedroom, freeing up space for an en suite and storage with beautiful views from their room of the village green. The icing on the cake is an outhouse built in the side return for Kitty's art studio. 'It gives me space away from the children to create and keeps the new extension clutter-free,' says Kitty.

'Although we're a family of five, the place never feels overcrowded,' says Kitty. 'It's balanced with plenty of space to disperse to. With all the work behind us, we're now delighted with our home – it's exactly how we wanted it to be and it's a joy to live in.'

MAIN BEDROOM
'We changed this room's layout so we could enjoy the view of the green from our bed,' says Kitty.
Try Carpetright's Super Sublime Saxony carpet in Platinum Tonal, £34.39m. Vermont Dove Grey eyelet curtains, from £30, Dunelm

MAIN BEDROOM
The dark wall adds drama.
Wall in Valspar Midnight Serenade premium blend v700 emulsion, £31 for 2.5ltr, Homebase. Sinnerlig bamboo pendant light, £40, Ikea

FAVOURITE ASPECT ***'I love the way the house flows – it's ideal for our family life'***

MAIN EN SUITE
Marbled walls provide a touch of luxury and glamour.
For a similar wall-mounted cabinet, try the Roper Rhodes Pursuit vanity unit, £870, Victorian Plumbing

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BEST OF BOTH WORLDS

A considered blend of country chic and contemporary cool makes the most of Lucinda Bullock-Webster's terrace

FEATURE EMMA J PAGE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JONATHAN BOND/TOM ST AUBYN

KITCHEN-DINER

A series of skylights and a generous picture window draws the eye seamlessly from the living area to the rear of the house. Build by Home Republic Ltd and designed by LBW Interiors. Cemento Light Grey floor tiles, £32.04sq m, Mandarin Stone

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Victorian terrace
LOCATION
Southwest London
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms, cloakroom
PURCHASED 2017
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We moved here from a smaller terrace in Battersea,' says Lucinda.

 'The new kitchen has changed our lives. Weekends are nicer –

KITCHEN
Floor-to-ceiling steel framed doors introduce plenty of light to this extended rear space.
Chelsea Shaker cabinetry, £13,000 including appliances, Wren Kitchens. Imperial White quartz, £2,780, Mayfair Granite

DINING AREA
An antique oak kitchen table and mismatched chairs soften this otherwise contemporary scheme.
Antique table, £1,600, Hobson May Collection. Windsor chairs in Blue, £76 each, Royal Design

With a love of both the city and the countryside, it's no surprise that interior designer Lucinda Bullock-Webster combined rural and urban styles when she renovated her south London home. Having lived in Windsor and Buckinghamshire before relocating to London four years ago, she's had plenty of time to hone her style, which she describes as 'classic, comfortable and authentic'.

She shares this home with husband James and children Evie, nine, Pandora, seven, and Wolfie, four. 'We were looking for more space as our family expanded and I'd had my eye on the terraces on this street, because they are slightly taller and wider than the surrounding houses,' she says.

Though the property had plenty of potential, there were tweaks to be made to improve its layout. The couple used online architects Resi to help them achieve a simple side extension at the rear to widen the kitchen and introduce more light. A sleek, contemporary picture window incorporating a deep padded inset seat is the star of the show. 'It's great because it provides additional seating without an armchair

we can sit round the table for hours and keep an eye on the children while they play'

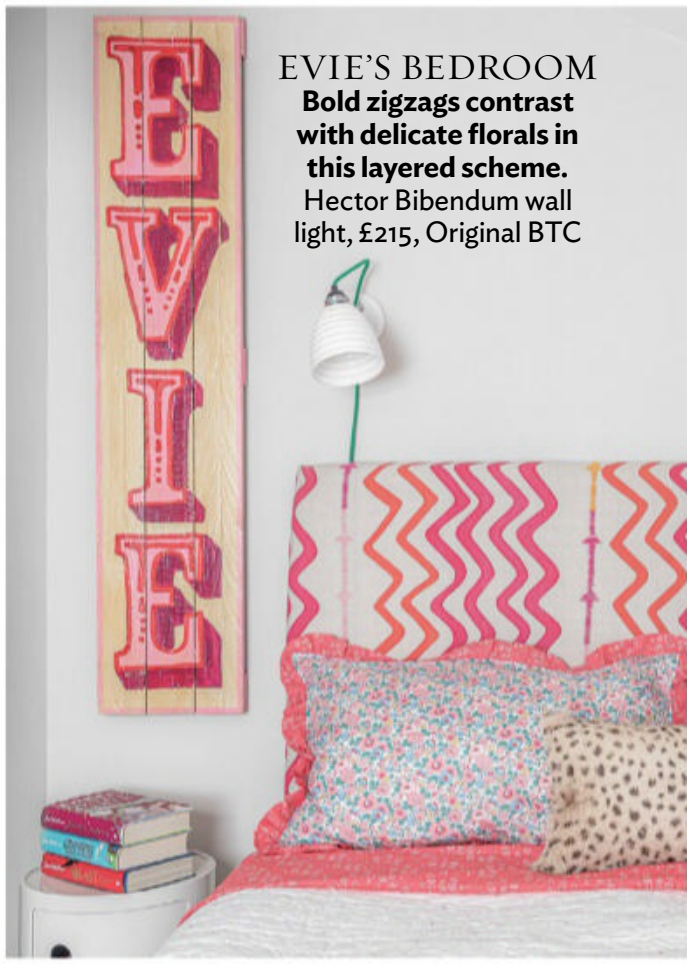
SITTING ROOM
Plenty of texture, from sisal and velvet to colourful fabric prints, add depth to this sociable space.
Carter coffee table, £580, Neptune. Lohals rug, £80, Ikea. Blind in Serengeti Aqua fabric, £87m, Thibaut. Bluebell sofa, £1,620, Sofa.com

taking up extra room,' she says. 'I also had it made just high enough so that our dog, Treacle, can't jump onto it.'

The contrast between the simple, functional kitchen cabinetry and the mellow, lived-in dining area, with its rise-and-fall pendant and colourful artwork, encapsulates the ease with which Lucinda blends contemporary and rustic. The sitting room has a classic feel, with its pediment-topped bookcases, heirloom artwork, wall scones and original fireplaces, yet sisal flooring, a travertine table and over-scaled round mirrors add a contemporising note. 'I naturally veer towards the traditional country look,' says Lucinda, 'and I enjoy the challenge of making that work in a busy urban home. For me, that means quite a simple treatment, with flashes of colour and pattern.'

Those flashes lend this home a sense of easy gracefulness. 'We've used quite a lot of green, from the cushions in the kitchen to the colour of the cloakroom walls,' says Lucinda. 'I find it a grounding tone that works so well with other hues.' Other creative touches include painting the inside of the bookshelves in the sitting room in an off-black. 'It adds

BATHROOM
A simple treatment of grey tiling throughout introduces cohesion in this compact eaves room.
Fusion Light Grey matt porcelain tiles, £34.80sq m, Mandarin Stone



EVIE'S BEDROOM
Bold zigzags contrast with delicate florals in this layered scheme.
Hector Bibendum wall light, £215, Original BTC

PANDORA'S BEDROOM
Pineapple wallpaper adds a sense of fun in this room.
Pineapple Red/Pink wallpaper, £93 a roll, Barneby Gates

instant depth and moodiness, plus it's a great way of helping the TV to blend into the background.'

Throughout, pops of pattern add dynamism, from the trailing ivy wall lights in the kitchen to the pink pineapple studded wallpaper in Pandora's room or the softly patterned curved upholstered headboard in the couple's bedroom, above which hangs a series of woven African baskets. 'I like designs that are playful, such as the Kit Kemp Rick-Rack fabric used in Evie's bedroom,' says Lucinda. 'They are the kind of patterns that work so well for both adults and children.'

Despite its pulled together look, Lucinda says that she and James have different tastes, and so perhaps the biggest challenge during the renovation was finding middle ground. That meant a bit of trial and error, such as having to send back a contemporary dining table that proved too large for the space and replacing it with an antique, curved oak piece that both of them loved. 'It's turned out to be probably our favourite piece in the house,' reflects Lucinda. 'These schemes have come together organically, which is perhaps the best way to turn a house into a home.'

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Where old meets new

Bee Osborn's sensitive restoration of a former village post office is a masterclass in the art of combining traditional and modern-day style

FEATURE ALI HEATH | **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRENT DARBY

BOOT ROOM
Pretty storage and decorative finds combine for a scheme that's beautiful yet practical.
Walls in bespoke paint colours, Studio Osborn. Basket, from a selection, Station Mill Antiques & Interiors. Try straw Panama hat, from £19, Kurt Geiger at Fenwick

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Cottage, built around 1530, with a 16th-century barn extension
LOCATION The Cotswolds
ROOMS Two sitting rooms, kitchen-diner, snug, utility room with shower room, boot room, garden room, three bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2017
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We lived in a house in Clapham before moving here,' says Bee.

DINING AREA
Bee designed the oak and resin table, which adds a rustic touch to this open-plan space.
Bespoke dining table, price on request, Studio Osborn. Try the natural wicker conical pendant shade, £195, Nkuku. Recycled glass bottles, £40 each, Garden Trading. Steel glass doors, price on request, The Cotswold Casement Company

KITCHEN
This lofty space is clad in beautiful reclaimed wood from an old schoolhouse.
Barn Sawn cabinetry, price on request, Studio Osborn. Range cooker, from £8,700, Everhot. Montague bar stools, from £275 each, Neptune. Mixer tap, approximately £214, Crosswater

Bee Osborn was looking for a property to rent when she accidentally found her present home. 'I'd been looking for an out-of-town rental as my youngest daughter was starting school in the Cotswolds,' says Bee. She knew the area well, yet despite searching long and hard, she couldn't find anything suitable.

Then fate took a hand. 'On a final drive back to London, I stopped to buy a sandwich,' says Bee. 'Next to the village shop, I spotted a "For Sale" sign in the undergrowth. I was immediately drawn to the cottage and made an offer 10 minutes later. It reminded me of my childhood home, and that resonated with me. Three weeks later, it was mine.'

The two-up two-down cottage was tired and in need of renovation, but Bee was undaunted by the prospect of the work that lay ahead. The property had once been the village post office and benefited from a large stone barn at the back where delivery horses would have been kept in days gone by. 'I stood in the barn with its leaking corrugated roof and imagined how it could connect with the cottage,' explains Bee, who envisioned an extension linking the two properties. 'I wanted to keep the integrity and authenticity of the old stone walls, yet bring the structure into the 21st century.' The barn now boasts large steel windows and doors and links seamlessly to the cottage via a series of steps down to a stylish bespoke kitchen and up to a family snug area. A new boot room adjoins a utility and shower room, with a sliding barn door. Upstairs, Bee created an en-suite bathroom to complement the main bedroom.

Bee started renovating in earnest in March 2020, just as lockdown began. She and her daughters lived in the cottage with a makeshift kitchen, and beds in the sitting room, but now all agree it was definitely worth it. 'The extension has such extraordinary proportions,' says Bee. 'They add a contemporary elegance.'

Finding the house coincided with major life changes for Bee, who has settled into country living. 'The cottage is now my main home,' she says. After many years spent renovating properties, Bee studied with the Inchbald School of Design and runs her own interior design consultancy (studio-osborn.com). Her Battersea design team has also relocated to a house in nearby Chipping Norton.

Building the extension took six months. With the works finished, Bee was free to finesse the decor. Storage was planned and every nook was used, with the help of bespoke cabinetry. Throughout the house, Bee's love of art, passion for symmetry and statement collections are clearly evident.

The project was hard work, but Bee and her daughters couldn't be happier in their new home. 'The extension has become a wonderful space for entertaining family and friends,' says Bee. 'We feel lucky to have found this place.'

MAIN SITTING ROOM
The large inglenook fireplace, with its woodburning stove, is the impressive focal point here.
Try the Clearview 750 stove, from £1,782, Clearview Stoves. Trays, cushions and small wooden tables, all Studio Osborn. Nkuku's Noko wicker lamp, £195, is similar

DECORATING TIP

'Every object in your home should have a story and a meaning – for me, that's what makes a home'

EN-SUITE BATHROOM
A striking freestanding bath gives this space a luxurious boutique hotel-style ambience.
Stainless steel bath, from £2,620, BC Designs. Petrified wooden stool, price on request, Studio Osborn. Small Huck wall light and shade, £604, Porta Romana

MAIN BEDROOM
Bee has cleverly decorated with mirrors to enhance this room's sense of light and space.
Similar large flagon table lamp, £105, Loaf. Oversized upholstered headboard, Studio Osborn. Try Oka's small linen cushion covers, from £35 each

HIDEAWAY HOME

A minimalistic approach to interior design has enabled Stacey Kent and Jim Tomlinson to focus on the music in their life

FEATURE JULIET BENNING | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANNA STATHAKI

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Renovated period home
LOCATION North London
ROOMS Sitting room/dining area, kitchen, music room, games room, cloakroom, three bedrooms (one en suite), dressing room, bathroom, loft room
PURCHASED 2002
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We were both students living in rented homes,' says Stacey.

SITTING ROOM
A mix of materials, including wooden flooring and concrete wall panels, adds interest. 'The concrete has a lovely mustardy grey colour and the rough texture brings warmth to the room,' says Jim.
Concrete walls, price on request, Concrete LCDA. Vera armchairs, £3,061.70 each, Chaplins. Ikea's Lovbacken side table, £45, is a good alternative

DINING AREA
Chic statement pendant lights create an intimate atmospheric feel at the table after dark.
For a similar light, try the Voronoi III pendant, from £207, Tala. Walls in Shaded White estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Latina dining chair in Ice Grey, price on request, Casa Design

INSPIRATION ***'We love modern design, so we chose to use concrete wall panels'***

KITCHEN
Handleless units were chosen for a sleek look. Cabinets, price on request, Point 5 Kitchens. Pendant lights, price on request, Tala. Lem bar stools, £329.60 each, La Palma at Nunido

LAST WORD ***'The structural changes we made to the property mean that we now***

When Stacey Kent and Jim Tomlinson bought their first home together, they knew it would need to be tranquil. As jazz musicians, the pair are frequently out on tour, meaning that the peace of their north London hideaway is all the more appealing upon returning. 'We were drawn to the location for its closeness to Heathrow – over the years we've travelled to over 55 countries,' says Stacey.

As soon as they encountered what was to be their future home, Stacey and Jim were enamoured. 'We knew there was so much potential for us here,' says Stacey. 'Because of our hectic lifestyles, one of the things we were looking to create was this haven. The garden, with its mature trees and playing foxes really contributes to this – we feel surrounded by mother nature.' From the outset, Jim particularly loved the generous proportions of the rooms. 'The spaces just feel great to be in,' he says.

Living with the house in its original configuration until 2018, Stacey and Jim decided to invest in some architectural changes that would maximise enjoyment of their home. Enlisting the help of Charlie Avara of design and build firm, All Done Design, they extended their bedroom into an enclosed balcony space and knocked walls down on the ground floor to create a large open-plan sitting room and dining area. Floors were levelled and a loft room was created. 'We didn't need four bedrooms so we sacrificed one to make our bedroom larger and combine it with a bathroom overlooking the garden,' explains Stacey. 'Charlie's approach is to tailor the service to your needs. She facilitated everything, like sourcing finishes and was really open minded. We'd travel around and take

MAIN BEDROOM
A selection of rugs warm up the smoked oak floor.
Walls in Purbeck Stone estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Redondo small armchair, price on request, Moroso. Ukiyo side table, €452, Moroso at Ambiente Direct. Acapulco chair (on balcony) £109, Alice's Garden

use the whole house from top to bottom – there's no space we haven't utilised'

photos of things we saw out in the world and the team would listen to all our ideas and work out how to incorporate them.'

Stacey says the fairly minimal decor is prompted in part by the couple's careers. 'When you're trained as a musician, you're encouraged to bring as little with you as possible while on tour, so we're really good at packing but we also have a very streamlined interior at home,' says Stacey. Jim agrees, saying, 'We like a visually quiet living space'. The pair chose a neutral backdrop of wall colours, which is enlivened with accent colours in the furnishings and sumptuous textures of fleece and velvet.

Above all, this is a sociable house. 'We often have friends over and love sitting in the garden with the fire pit and the guitar,' says Stacey. One can't help but envy the neighbours who might overhear a world class jazz recital on any given evening.

BATHROOM
Recessed shelves make a practical storage space.
For a similar freestanding bath, try the Verona, £599.95, Victorian Plumbing

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Rising to the CHALLENGE

Interior designer Jo Tutton and her husband Nigel returned to their Welsh roots and spent several years restoring a run-down former village police station

FEATURE ALISON GIBB | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DOUGLAS GIBB

SNUG
Jo and Nigel's second sitting room also doubles up as a study.
Antique desk, price on request, Soho Home Vintage. Reinstated timber fire surround in Worsted estate eggshell, £64 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Lohals sisal rug, £99, Ikea

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Detached house, built in 1872
LOCATION Monmouthshire
ROOMS Sitting room, morning room, snug, kitchen-diner, laundry room, garden room, studio, four bedrooms (one en suite), three bathrooms
PURCHASED 1994
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We were living in Edinburgh before moving back to this area, where we both grew up,' says Jo.

KITCHEN
Painted Shaker-style cabinetry and stone flooring creates a timeless feel.
Bespoke cabinetry, Classic Kitchens Direct. Walls in Architect White true matt emulsion, £52 for 2.5ltr, Zoffany. Try Audley Conical ceiling light, £195, The White Company

HALLWAY
The imposing front door provides a nod to the house's Victorian heritage.
For similar limestone flooring, try Dijon Grey, £70.80sq m, Mandarin Stone. Black metal chandelier, £154, Maisons du Monde, has this look

GARDEN ROOM
Jo bought many of the things in this room while living in Mexico.
The Bluebell corner sofa from Sofa.com has a similar design. The Savoy rattan butler's tray table, £180, Kalinko, would work in this space

When interior designer Jo Tutton and her husband Nigel decided to move back to their Monmouthshire roots, they both agreed they wanted a project. 'Nigel is a property developer and we're both artistic and creative,' says Jo. 'Neither of us would want a property that was already done. We both wanted to put our stamp on our home.'

The couple soon found a house that fitted the bill perfectly. 'It was located in a village and had once been used as the local police station,' says Jo. 'The house is near where we both grew up and we fell in love with it as soon as we walked up the drive, but it was definitely a challenge. There were patterned carpets and lino on top of two inches of concrete on all the floors and woodchip absolutely everywhere! All the period features had been covered up and the bathroom suite was turquoise.'

Jo and Nigel decided to buy the house although they were both working full-time and had four young children at the time. 'Nigel would often spend whole weekends working on the renovation,' says Jo. They stripped the house back to its bare bones, reinstating the fireplaces, ornate door frames and flagstone floors, and exposing the lovely chamfered stonework. 'Luckily, the roof was in good condition,' says Jo, 'but we found dead crows and their nests before we opened up the fireplaces.'

With the bulk of the renovation work complete, Jo and Nigel decided to build a two-storey extension and transform the existing conservatory into a garden room. Then, just after work had begun on the extension, Nigel was offered a job in the Gulf of Mexico and the whole family had to

DINING AREA
'I sourced the butcher's block from the local village school when they auctioned it off at a fundraising event,' says Jo.
Tolix-style metal stools, £59 each, Cult Furniture

relocate. 'It was good being away from the mess, but tricky being so very far away,' says Jo. 'But we still managed to build the extension and create the new garden room.'

With the building work complete, it was time to re-envision the decor. Jo and Nigel's choices were firmly led by the history and architecture of the house as well as their hectic lifestyle. 'Our lives are so frantic and busy so I want a soothing retreat when I come home – clashing colours and jazzy patterns wouldn't work for me at all,' says Jo. 'The house is quite dark inside, so I used a subtle, neutral-toned palette to lighten things up.'

Despite the hard work and disruption, Jo cheerfully admits she enjoyed the whole process, despite the occasional gruesome find. Renovating the house was the inspiration for setting up her own interior design business (@jotuttonlifestyleandinteriors).

The finished house strikes the perfect balance between comfortable family base and successful conservation project. 'Our four children are all grown up now and spread across the globe, but this is still home,' says Jo, who now enjoys working on the garden. 'Restored and cared for once again, this lovely home and garden give you a real sense that you are shielded from the elements, whether you are inside or out.'

INSPIRATION *'I was influenced by the history and architecture of the house, and styled the decor around the original features we uncovered'*

MAIN BEDROOM
Pale colours and linen bedding enhance the sense of light and space in this tranquil room.
Henley brass bedstead, £750, Feather & Black. The bedside tables were bought at a junk shop in Edinburgh; for similar, try Pamono

BEDROOM
A pink and cream palette gives this a soft, feminine feel.
Middleton Pink estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball, is a similar wall paint colour. Burford metal bed frame, £399, Crazy Price Beds, has this look

BATHROOM
'I replaced the dated 1970s suite with a salvaged freestanding bath,' says Jo.
Salcombe bath, £1,618.75, The Cast Iron Bath Company, is a similar style. Wooden bath rack, £24; handmade soaps, £3 each, all Baileys Home Store

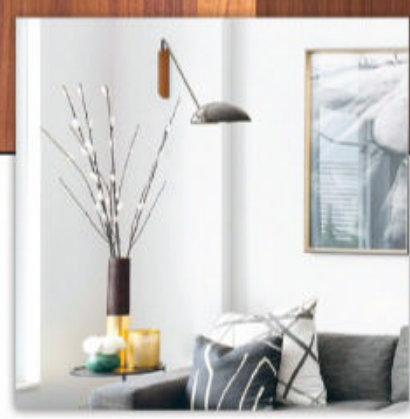
GARDEN
Jo and Nigel have spent several years restoring both their house and garden.
Hannah four-seater cast aluminium metal garden set, £539.95, Lazy Susan, is an alternative option

ONE SIZE FITS ALL

Inspired by this apartment's clean lines, Ally and Stephen Pang have created a home that works for their whole family

FEATURE KARINE MONIÉ | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DANIEL WANG PHOTO

KITCHEN-DINER
'The idea was to add as much functionality as possible in this area,' says Ally.
Calligaris Pentagon dining table, £1,111, Furniture Village. Try the Erica bar stools, £79.95 each, Furnwise. Sideboard, $3,500, Jonathan Adler. Mirror, $1,500, RH



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Two-storey apartment
LOCATION
Brooklyn, New York
ROOMS Kitchen-diner/living area, three bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2018
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Our previous home was a charming 1940s cottage in Kansas,' says Ally.

LIVING AREA
Bold monochrome lines create a playful space. Jigsaw metallic coffee table, £797.50, Andrew Martin. Lina swivel chair in Maharam Mode fabric in Surf, price on request, Architonic. Wall sconce, $150, CB2. Magazine holder, $300, Worlds Away

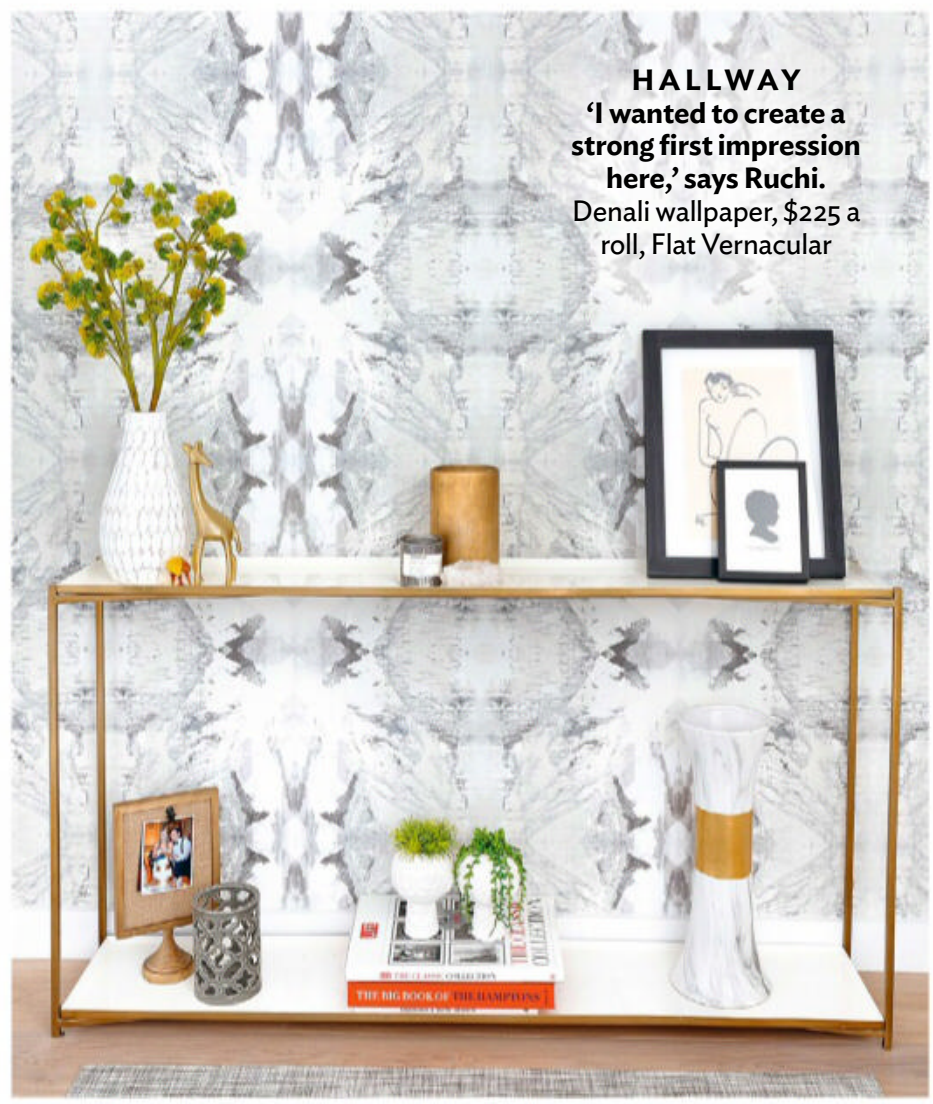
FAVOURITE FEATURE ***'We love the open concept as it enables us***

Relocating from one part of the country to another is not always easy, especially when it comes with other big decisions. 'We were house-hunting from afar and only had two days to view places and decide,' says Ally Pang, who wanted to find a home with her husband, Stephen, and their son, Miles, now five. When they discovered the perfect apartment in Brooklyn, New York, they called on help to take it to another level.

Designer Ruchi A Mohan of DesignbyRUCHI, immediately saw the existing beauty of the space and envisioned how she could make it come together. 'My first conversation with the homeowners was full of open communication, aligned design vision and instant connection,' says Ruchi. 'The relationship was fantastic – there was a shared excitement for the space and everyone was involved, including Miles.'

Surprisingly, Miles' room was one of the biggest challenges Ruchi had to tackle. 'It was supposed to be a superhero-themed room but I wanted to make sure the space would grow with him,' says Ruchi. 'We started with the wallpaper and out of all the options I presented, Miles selected the Tumbling Blocks design because he liked the name. It really set the tone.'

In the open-plan space that comprises the kitchen, dining area and sitting room, the palette is



HALLWAY
'I wanted to create a strong first impression here,' says Ruchi. Denali wallpaper, $225 a roll, Flat Vernacular

MILES' BEDROOM
Built-in storage makes the most of the space. Ikea's Trofast storage unit, from £31, would work here. Try the Klara single cabin bed, £244.99, Wayfair. Tumbling Blocks wallpaper in Cobalt, price on request, Schumacher

all to be in the same space while doing different things'

MAIN BEDROOM
A neutral ivory palette helps create a serene, luxurious retreat. Nuvolette wallpaper, £350 a roll, Cole & Son. Clio shagreen bedside table, $1,000, RH

light and airy. 'In the sitting room, the clients wanted to reuse their dark grey sofa and there was the existing kitchen with walnut cabinets' says Ruchi. 'I kept walls white so the room would feel neutral and used fabrics in greys and ivory to add softness.' Touches of black in the base of the coffee table, the dining room sideboard and the bar stools add to the contemporary look.

Ruchi used different materials depending on the space to create visual surprises and bring character to every nook. For example, the walnut sideboard injects warmth and connects the two ends of the room, while brass details in the vintage light fixture are repeated throughout the space. 'I wanted the home to feel inviting and have a sense of style,' says Ruchi.

The main bedroom evokes a restful luxe retreat, and features multiple textures and layers in upholstery and bedding. Pale wallpaper and bedside cabinets also help to create the perfect calming ambience.

Ruchi's scheme certainly met with the owners' approval. 'As we worked with Ruchi, we were able to land on details that were modern and young with vintage and family heirlooms thrown in, while keeping the look sophisticated,' says Ally. 'Miles was only three at the time and between him and our dog, Gunner, we also needed a home that was comfortable yet practical.' The result clearly speaks for itself.

Worth the wait

Taking the time to plan a stunning, light-filled extension to their home paid off handsomely for Laura and Kevin Purdy

FEATURE AMELIA THORPE | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL CRAIG

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
End-of-terrace house, built in about 1900
LOCATION
South-east London
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, office, utility room, cloakroom, four bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2012
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We moved here from a smaller terrace close by,' says Laura.

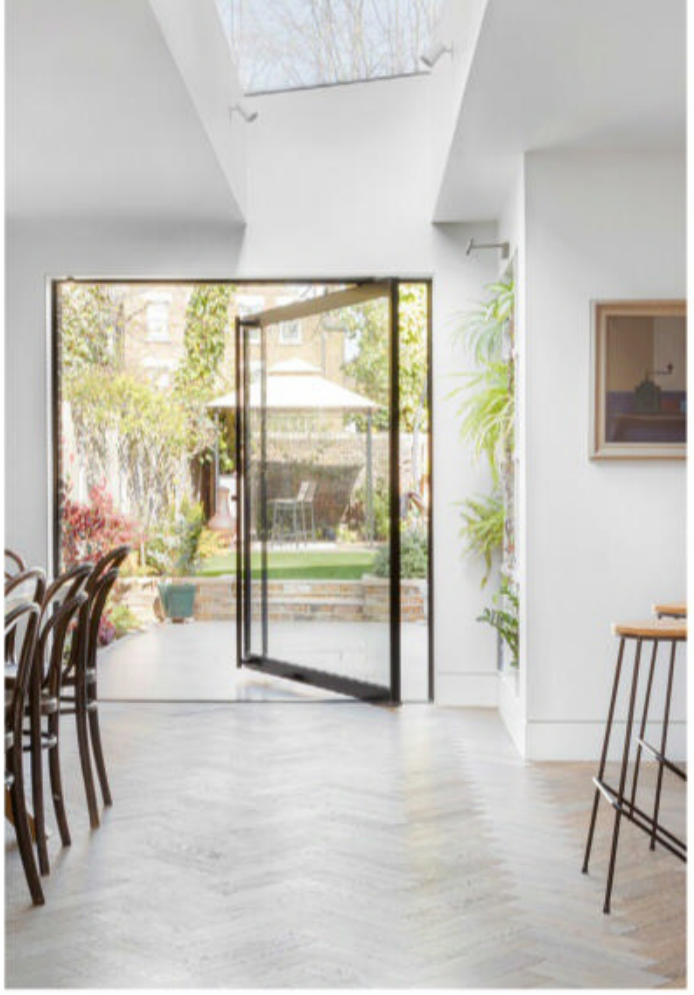
DINING AREA
The table is made from floorboards, recycled from the old kitchen, and the chairs were salvaged from an Italian cafe.
Similar Thonet 14 chairs, £171 each, Royal Design. Try the Brooklyn Cone pendant light, £69, Industville

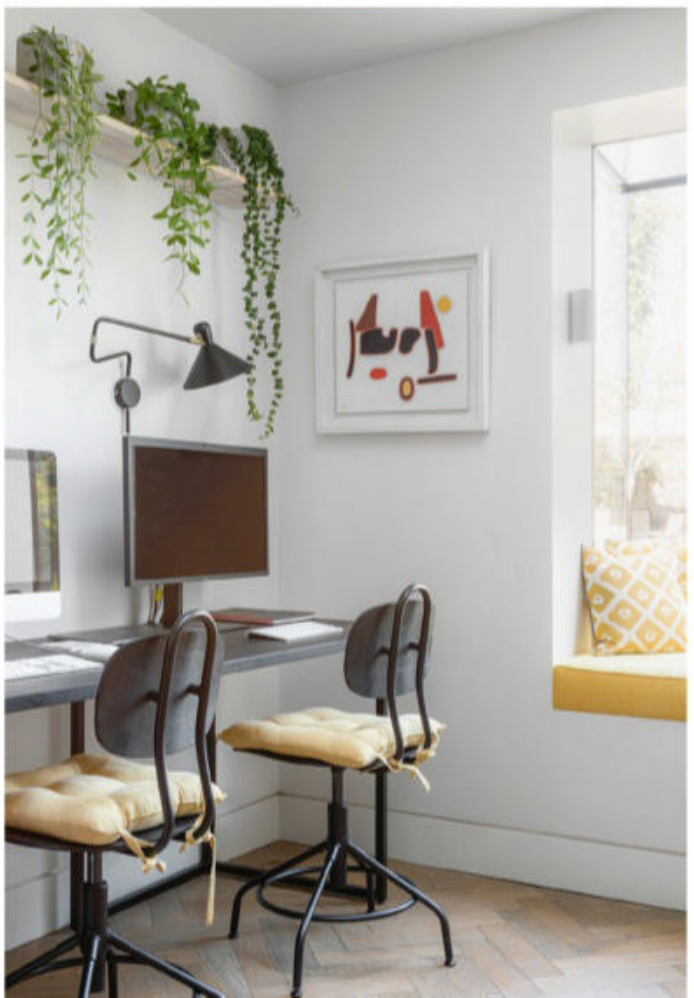
SITTING ROOM
Laura and Kevin sanded and oiled the original floorboards, bringing out the natural beauty of the woodgrain.
Innermost Circus 56 pendant light, £410.55, Beut. The Salisbury sofa, £1,199, Marks & Spencer, is a good alternative

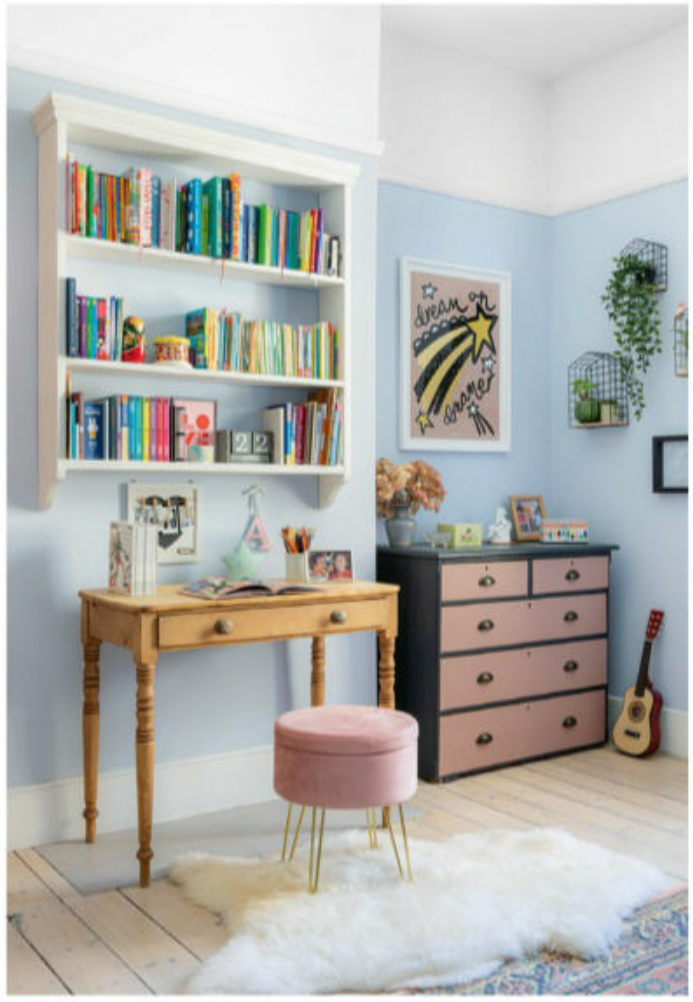
LAST WORD ***'I was so delighted to be starting work on the extension after living here for so many years. I can honestly say I enjoyed every minute'***

OFFICE
Finished just in time for lockdown, the double desk area has workstations for both Laura and Kevin.
Kullaberg swivel chairs, £50 each, Ikea. Ogilvy swing arm wall lamp, £59, Made

KITCHEN-DINER
Traditional in style yet modern in colour, the cabinetry makes a big impact in the new extension.
Bespoke units, Pineland Furniture; painted in Off-Black with cupboard in Sulking Room Pink modern eggshell, both £73 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Bespoke Carrara marble splashback and quartz worktop, Diespeker & Co







Tempted by the generous, high-ceilinged rooms, Laura and Kevin bought their three-storey Victorian house nine years ago. Determined to refresh its dated decor, the couple, both graphic designers, immediately began an extensive refurbishment project. 'We started at the top of the house and painstakingly worked our way down, tackling all the renovations ourselves,' says Laura. 'We blitzed everything as fast as we could, but by now we had two young children, so our progress wasn't speedy.'

However, those years gave them time to save for an extension to create a more family-friendly space on the ground floor. By building over the side return at the rear of the house, the pair realised they could double the size of the existing kitchen, improve its connection with the garden and make space for a dining area and separate office. 'Having a father as an architect was a major advantage,' laughs Laura. 'He retired to Cornwall to sail and paint and is now in his seventies, but he was keen for one last hurrah – and embarked on the design and drawings for us, all done by hand.'

After finding a friendly team of builders, work on the extension began. The family, including Alice, now nine, and Maxwell, seven, camped out in the sitting room, where they made a temporary kitchen. 'My freelance work allowed me to be on site, making day-to-day decisions, and my father hopped on the sleeper train fortnightly, arriving in Paddington at 5am to be ready for a site meeting at 7.30am!', recalls Laura. 'I enjoyed the whole process and felt so lucky to be able to complete – and then enjoy – the extension during lockdown.'

The design of the extension is contemporary with a super-size glazed pivot door affording a wonderful view of the garden, but the structure itself is built of reclaimed bricks so that it sits comfortably with the Victorian architecture. 'I love mixing old and new to create a sense of character and soul,' says Laura. Walls were painted white to accentuate the roomy, light-filled space, wood flooring was added and Shaker-style kitchen cabinetry was chosen for warmth and personality. 'Injections of colour, such as the pink of the larder cabinet and the ochre cushions in the home office catch the eye and draw you in,' she notes.

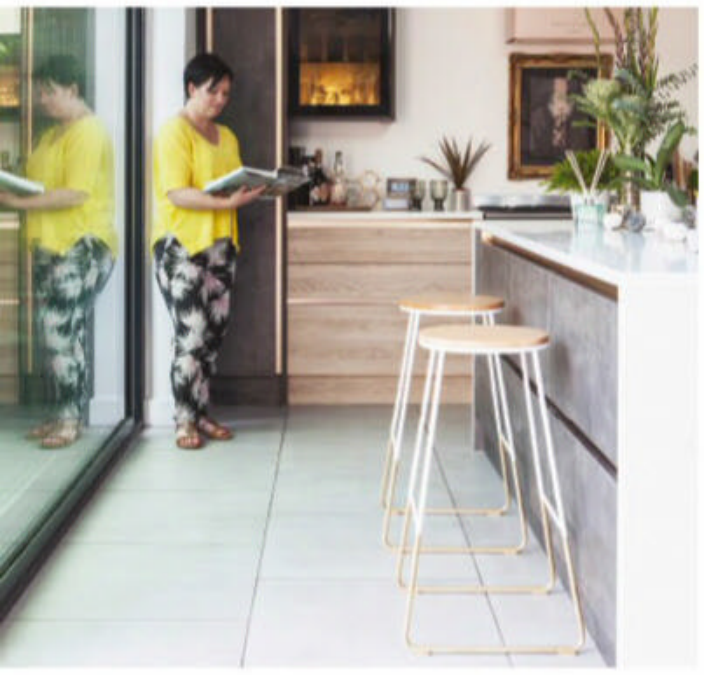
Laura says she and Kevin share similar taste and adopted the same old-meets-new approach throughout the house. Original features, including fireplaces and cornices, have been restored, and the couple spent hours and hours sanding, lye bleaching, oiling and buffing the floorboards in the whole house to create a beautiful finish.

Rooms are filled with antiques, as well as family photographs and paintings, many created by Laura's artist grandfather and passed down through generations. 'I like to respect the era of the architecture to an extent,' she says, 'although it doesn't need to be slavish, nor bland – I love to use colour, pattern and contemporary pieces to bring the rooms alive. It's a wonderful home and we're so happy here.'

MAIN BEDROOM
Picture rails were fixed to the walls with the room painted white above and dark blue below to add depth to the scheme.
Walls in Hague Blue estate emulsion, £49.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

ALICE'S BEDROOM
Laura painted a vintage chest of drawers to complement the wall print.
Walls in Atlantic Surf 5 emulsion, £36.78 for 2.5ltr, Dulux. Chest of drawers painted in Graphite chalk paint, £21.95 for 1ltr, Annie Sloan, and Sulking Room Pink modern eggshell, £73 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Sheepskin medium rug, £39.99, Sheep.Style

BATHROOM
This room was arranged so the basin and large mirror are the focal point.
Duravit DuraSquare basin, £646; Crosswater Totti II wall-mounted basin mixer, £339, both Fountain Direct. Try the ICE bathroom wall light, £37.32, National Lighting



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no. 15

HOME TRUTHS

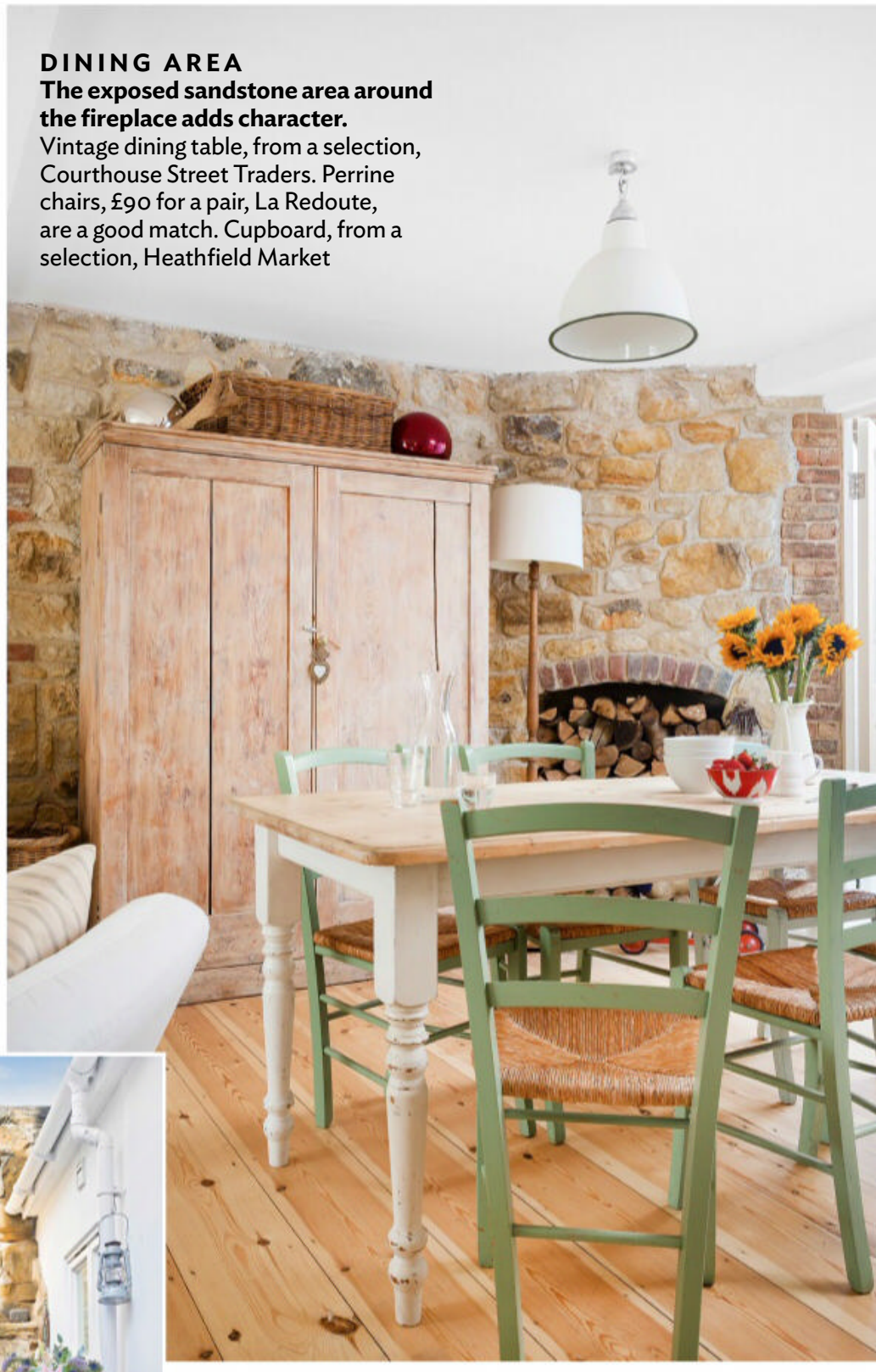
THE PROPERTY
Terraced cottage built in 1837
LOCATION
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex
ROOMS Sitting room/dining area, kitchen-diner, utility room, two bedrooms, bathroom
PURCHASED 2016
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'We owned an early Victorian building with a large shop and a flat above,' says Helen.

SEA CHANGE

Helen Robinson has turned a dark and unloved cottage into a bright and inviting space with a Mediterranean feel

FEATURE AMY MAYNARD | **PHOTOGRAPHY** RICHARD GADSBY

SITTING ROOM
Helen has added colourful accessories to stand out against the white-washed walls.
Vintage coffee table, from a selection, Courthouse Street Traders. Try Hampstead sofa, £1,749, Heal's. Mirror, Ferris wheel, green side table and beach poster, all from a selection at SHOP



DINING AREA
The exposed sandstone area around the fireplace adds character.
Vintage dining table, from a selection, Courthouse Street Traders. Perrine chairs, £90 for a pair, La Redoute, are a good match. Cupboard, from a selection, Heathfield Market

COURTYARD GARDEN
This bijou area is just big enough for a table and chairs.
The Daemyn aluminium bistro set, £379.99, Wayfair, would work in this space

18+

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KITCHEN
A table in the centre makes this a sociable space.
The table and chairs were sourced from junk shops; for similar, try the Chester dining set, £939, The Cotswold Company. Round chopping board, from a selection, SHOP. 'A' letter, price on request, Tilt Originals

It's hard to imagine that behind the doors of a quaint period cottage set back from the sea in an East Sussex town lives a pioneer of the New Romantic fashion movement. Helen Robinson's story is a fascinating one. On first-name terms with big names on the 1980s music scene, she was part of a group of young designers in London who were changing the face of fashion. It is little wonder, then, that she has been equally adept when it comes to designing interiors.

SEASIDE DREAMS

Helen moved to St Leonards-on-Sea from London in 2000, and has her homeware store, SHOP, in the town. Having lived in several properties dotted around the area, she bought a pretty terraced cottage in 2016. 'Four families would have once lived in this house,' she says. 'Now it's just me, although my daughter Holly, who also runs SHOP, is nearby.'

NEW LOOK

The cottage has undergone an incredible transformation. 'When I bought it, everything inside was painted custard yellow and there was lots of orange pine,' says Helen. 'I literally stripped everything back.' She replaced the kitchen, bathroom, windows and roof – as well as having the property rewired, replumbed and totally redecorated. The main bedroom was also opened up into the eaves. Filled with colour and personality, Helen's cottage now has a warm, Mediterranean feel

SNUG LAYOUT

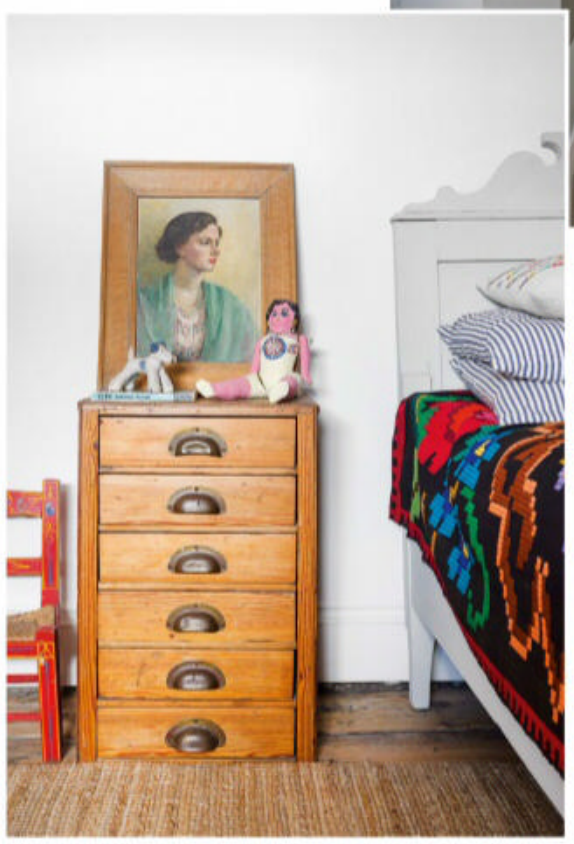
On the ground floor, the house features an open-plan sitting and dining room plus a utility room and bathroom. Stairs lead down to the kitchen, with its pale units and open shelving. As well as a small front garden, there is also a rear patio with a sandstone wall that continues the Mediterranean vibe.

Helen's knack for sourcing accessories is a long-held talent. 'When I started my shop, PX in Covent Garden, in the late 1970s, I remember being in a taxi and I saw people gutting the old MI5 building. This was way before architectural salvage but I went and bought things from the site and fitted them into the shop to give it an industrial vibe,' she recalls. This ability has served her well and her hard work in the cottage shows at every turn.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

When Helen undertakes a project, she gives it her all, thanks to a work ethic instilled at a young age. 'I went into a factory as a trainee cutter when I was 17 because I had no qualifications,' she says. Her rise to the top of the fashion scene in the UK is evidence of her determination. 'If I want to do something, I just do it.'

BATHROOM
Bare wooden floorboards add to the rustic feel.
Hambledon wall peg rail, from £25, Garden Trading. For ornate mirrors, from £22.95, try Melody Maison



INSPIRATION *'I've always wanted to live in Greece and Helen is a Greek name, so I gave the house a Mediterranean feel'*

MAIN BEDROOM
Helen's wonderful eye for colour is apparent here.
Antoinette bed, £1,245, Loaf. Painting over the bed, from a selection, Wayward

BEDROOM
Helen has made this a playful space for guests.
Bespoke shelving unit, Dan Dunton. Bedspread, from a selection, SHOP

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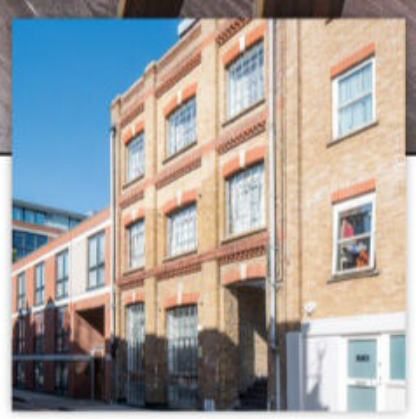
KITCHEN
The partition screens the kitchen but allows light to pass through to the living area.
Diamond Gloss White mosaic 3D tiles, £52sq m, Tiles Direct. Green enamel Revo pendant, £110, Vinterior

CAPITAL gains

Pauline Gidoin paired designer pieces with high-street finds in her cool yet comfortable London apartment

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | **STYLING** MARISHA TAYLOR | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES FRENCH



HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Third-floor apartment in a converted shoe factory built in the late-1940s
LOCATION East London
ROOMS Kitchen-living-dining room, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom
PURCHASED 2017
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'I was renting a flat in a modern block in Shoreditch,' says Pauline.

LIVING AREA
'The rug zones the space,' says Pauline. She chose a leather sofa to provide a vintage look and designed a bank of ceiling-high cupboards for storage.
Berber rug, £490, Ibaba Home. Margot chair in Pink cotton velvet, £499; Dallas sofa in Outback Tan, £2,099, both Made. Vitra Eames LCW cowhide plywood chair, £2,310, Innes. Ceiling-height cupboards painted in Purbeck Grey estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball

For architect Pauline Gidoin, home had been a succession of modern rented flats until she finally bought her ideal apartment. 'I'd been living in Hong Kong for 10 years and then I moved to London,' says Pauline, who is French. 'As I got to know London, I remembered how much I'd missed the architecture of older buildings, which I'd appreciated when I studied in Paris.'

After being immersed in Hong Kong's hectic lifestyle for so long, Pauline craved living somewhere quiet, but also within easy reach of bars and restaurants. 'I really liked the vibrancy of Brick Lane in the East End, the mix of cultures and the artistic feel,' she says. 'When I found my flat in an old, converted shoe warehouse on a quiet street I fell in love with the high ceilings, brick walls and original steel-framed windows.'

Pauline cast an architect's eye around the flat recognising that the main living space – comprising a kitchen, living and dining area – was packed with too much oversized furniture. She also noted the rooms were significantly lacking storage.

'Good room proportions meant I could design storage without impacting the space,' she says. 'I created a walk-through storage area at the entrance of my bedroom, which acts like a buffer to give the sleeping area privacy.' Pauline also designed a bank of floor-to-ceiling cupboards for the living area. 'I created a niche for the TV, displaying books and ornaments, too, which I've lined with oak,' she adds. 'The

DINING AREA
'I sourced a dining table for a perfect fit behind the partition wall,' says Pauline.
Solid industrial dining table, £725, Cosy Wood. Vitra Standard chairs by Jean Prouvé in oak, £659 each, The Conran Shop. *Monochrome Abstract No 2* poster, £36.95, Desenio

FAVOURITE FEATURE
'I love how the black frame of the kitchen partition repeats the style of the original metal windows'

MAIN BEDROOM
Mid-century elements are mixed with cosy fabrics.
Skye bed, £749, Made. Berkley sideboard (below), £1,082, Maisons du Monde

KITCHEN
A retro fridge suits the space.
Smeg fridge, £1,789, Marks Electrical

BEDROOM
Sage walls temper the industrial feel.
Tolix chair, £220, Made In Design

BATHROOM
Pauline clad the bath with a wood-effect design.
Rustic Oak Wood-effect tiles, £16.95sq m, Walls and Floors

cupboards are painted a warm, pale grey and have minimal lines and discreet handles so the furniture doesn't crowd the room.'

Another clever change was adding the steel-framed glazed partition to zone the kitchen. 'I like to cook but this means we don't see the mess afterwards,' says Pauline. 'We use this concept a lot in French flats – the low wall hides the worktops and high glazing keeps the space feeling open.'

Throughout the flat, colour is discreet – flashes of green in the vintage factory pendants, a soft pink velvet chair, warm blue bedroom storage – and materials authentic, including exposed brick walls, steel-framed windows and a worn wood floor.

'I didn't want an aggressive colour scheme – perhaps that's a reaction to living in "neon" Hong Kong for so many years,' explains Pauline. 'I worked with the architecture of the flat but didn't focus entirely on the industrial aesthetic because too much of these materials can feel cold. Instead, I picked out touches of black metal and oak in every room but mixed in soft leather, a thick wool rug and cushions.'

Inspired by her own project, Pauline has set-up Millimetre Architecture, an interior architecture and design studio. 'In Hong Kong, I spent years learning how to be inventive with space planning and how to design for clients in a big firm, but I'm enjoying working for myself in London now,' she says. 'It's lovely to finally have my own home and to live somewhere that is filled with life and history.'

RUSTIC REVIVAL

Timeworn accessories, grainy woods and natural materials create a unique ambience in Anneke Herbers' atmospheric home

FEATURE SARA BIRD | **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAN DUCHARS/CONTENTED NEST

SITTING ROOM
Dark coloured chalk paint walls evoke a moody-hued backdrop. A striking statue and artwork draw the eye.
Similar tub chair, £99, Habitat

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Country house
LOCATION Northern Netherlands
ROOMS Sitting room, entertaining area, kitchen, dining area, cloakroom, two bedrooms, bathroom
PURCHASED 2008
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a different part of the Netherlands,' says Anneke.

For Anneke Herbers, it was a case of keeping it in the family when it came to the country house she now lives in – it originally belonged to her parents. 'At first the house was a base for my father and my daughter Marjon to keep and breed horses in the paddocks and stables at the rear of the property,' she explains. Then in 2000, as her father grew older, he invited Marjon to take over the house, so she could continue working with the horses. Eventually Anneke and her late husband Gerhard also moved in to help and be near the family.

Moving into the house helped Anneke establish her interior style (herberslifestyle.nl/en). 'The decor was very different in those days to what it is now,' she explains. The exterior of the property has a rustic, cabin-like feel about it, yet inside the walls were decorated with old-fashioned plaster and there were lots of inherited pieces that were tricky to work with. Anneke went back to basics and started afresh, while being mindful of how her parents had lived and used their home. 'Key to my look is my love of country style,' says Anneke. 'I'm drawn to down-to-earth and unassuming pieces.' The furniture and accessories she has carefully curated sit harmoniously together in the cabin, set against glorious views of the pastures and paddocks beyond. The look feels authentic to the surroundings, and the connection with nature can be seen in Anneke's choice

DINING AREA
Oak furniture creates a warm and cosy look that tones with the wooden ceiling and floor.
Lighting, from a selection at Herbers Lifestyle. Similar Camargue dining chairs, £195 each, Oka

SITTING ROOM
Linen fabrics, raw wood furniture and woven baskets add textural interest.
Sofa and coffee table, from a selection, Herbers Lifestyle. Similar large Ribbed Pale Grey aged ceramic table lamp, from £104, Cowshed Interiors

KITCHEN
Anneke kept the original floor and added handmade oak units.
Similar Simply Bumpy white splashback tiles, £13.80sq m, Topps Tiles. For similar wall colour, try Graphite paint, £41.95 for 2.5ltr, Annie Sloan

ENTERTAINING SPACE
Anneke converted an old garage into a party space, retaining the original features such as the arched window. Table and seating, Herbers Lifestyle

MAIN BEDROOM
The Scandinavian-style scheme incorporates raw woods and a white palette. Similar Optical white linen stone washed duvet cover, £114.99, LinenMe. Luxurious sheepskin rug, £150, Nordic House, is a close match

BATHROOM
The tadelakt plaster finish was done by Anneke herself. A separate shower and basin station gives a more practical flow to the room. Similar Monza Modern Round Thermostatic Shower, £129.95, Victorian Plumbing

INSPIRATION
'I enjoy DIY and the making process. Much of the interior is down to a can-do decorating approach'

of materials used across the walls, floors and furnishings. The house radiates texture, from chalky tactile paints and hand-plastered finishes on the walls, to warm grainy woods, etched marble details and soft, scrunched linens.

The style throughout is both refined and elegant, but effortlessly relaxing and timeworn in equal measures. Anneke was keen to design sociable yet cosy spaces for friends and family to gather in, and this led to an open-plan design with a carefully coordinated, cohesive feel.

Anneke has chosen to decorate using a natural palette that's inspired by the surrounding landscape and the inherent colours of the materials used to build her home – clay, sun-baked reeds and hewn timber beams.

There is low-key pattern – seen in embroidery details, tiles and antique carving – which evokes a serene feel. Lamps and lighting are kept to a minimum. And, as is frequently seen in North European homes, candles are dotted throughout the space, lit to add ambience and warmth.

This home features many unique touches and details, from the mixing of chalk paint colours to the updated and upcycled finds, including a beautiful wrought-iron gate that was personalised by Gerhard. The house is also filled with artisan-crafted, handmade and imperfect pieces, each with its own story behind how it was made, recycled and created.

'I hope my home is a successful marriage of authentic styling, natural character and of-the-landscape colours,' says Anneke. 'I wanted to make a warm and open-hearted home that will age and mellow with grace and poise.'

Taken from *Home for the Soul* by Sara Bird and Dan Duchars of the Contented Nest (£19.99, Ryland Peters & Small)

SITTING ROOM DETAIL
The glass jug and pair of glass candlesticks add vintage charm.
Similar glass candlestick, £39, Susie Watson Designs

Restful retreat

A traditional colour palette and a mix of well-loved furniture gave Sarah Laming's seaside cottage a relaxed holiday feel

FEATURE JANE CRITTENDEN | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAMES FRENCH | **STYLING** MARISHA TAYLOR

SITTING ROOM
The red vintage floor lamp brings a touch of bold colour to the muted scheme.
West German red floor lamp, £100, eBay. Nanda wicker chair is similar, £239.99, Wayfair. Botanical fern cushion is similar, £13, Sass and Belle

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY
Four-storey Georgian cottage
LOCATION
Broadstairs, Kent
ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner/living area, four bedrooms, two bathrooms
PURCHASED 2016
PREVIOUS PROPERTY
'Our main home is an Arts & Crafts house in London,' says Sarah.

Sarah Laming wanted her seaside holiday cottage to feel like a relaxed extension of home, sourcing vintage furniture and finds to instantly cloak rooms in a loved and lived-in mood. From the start, she had a picture in her mind. 'I imagined catching a glimpse of a worn and well-loved desk through the doorway of my daughter's room with a painting propped up against the wall and a low hanging light,' she says. 'I liked the idea that someone was in the middle of something and had just popped out of the room, so the minute we arrived here on holiday, we'd feel comfortable and at home.'

Sarah, an interior designer, and her husband, Guy Murphy, a CEO of a boutique marketing consultancy, know the seaside town of Broadstairs well. They've visited friends on many occasions and returned for holidays with children, Polly, 15, and Billy, 18. 'We were really keen to buy a fisherman's cottage, but there aren't many here compared to other seaside towns,' she says. 'Ours is a captain's cottage, typically Georgian with one room at the front and one room at the back on each of the four floors.'

Sarah began the project by reconfiguring the layout. She created two bathrooms using space from bedrooms; a large bathroom became a fourth bedroom; and she opened the lower ground floor into a kitchen-dining/living area. After decorating in a restful grey-white, she layered fabrics, furniture and art in sage

green, blue-greys and dusky pink. 'The colours reflect traditional Georgian decoration and worked with my need to create a sense of history and calmness throughout,' she says. 'Textures are important, too. I love rustic, chipped and scuffed furniture that would have been loved once upon a time – pieces with soul, which have lived their own history.'

As an avid Instagram user (@ahometomakeyousmile) Sarah took inspiration from favourite designers, Ben Pentreath, Daniel Slowik and Jasper Conran, liking their flair for styling rooms by layering books and art, textures and textiles. 'I love how they bring out stories with carefully chosen antiques,' she says. 'I took note of that, hunting out lamps, rugs, throws and original paintings to decorate our cottage.'

Despite the seaside location, Sarah steered away from obvious nautical themes, with the exception of a French oil seascape hanging in the sitting room and a sailboat in the kitchen. 'I would have bought these things anyway,' she says. 'Especially the oil painting, as I only ever buy real art because I know the artist has put love into their work. I don't spend a lot, mostly the paintings come from eBay or car boot sales. What's important is that the art is authentic as that adds to making the cottage feel like a home rather than a generic holiday house.'

Although decorated and fully furnished, the cottage continues to evolve. Sarah always has an eye out for a pretty painting, adding to the joy that comes from their family holidays here. 'I love that the cottage has been created by us, for us,' she says. 'Everything I've bought, I've chosen with care, and that's what makes being here feel so special. Every time we arrive here and walk inside, we relax and switch straight into holiday mode.'

DINING AREA
The rustic French table reflects Sarah's love of relaxed and lived-in decoration.
French table, £180, Fabulous Vintage Finds. Walls in Dover Cliffs eggshell, £60 for 2.5ltr, Fired Earth. Raga basket is similar, £30, La Redoute

BATHROOM
'I wanted a hint of colour and a pink vintage basin is perfect,' says Sarah.
For a modern option, try Edwardian basin in Confetti Pink, £279, Luxury Bathroom Solutions

POLLY'S BEDROOM
'I had an image in my mind of the desk, mirror and light before we'd even started,' says Sarah. 'This is my favourite room.'
Mid-century desk, £320; mirror, £60, both Fabulous Vintage Finds. Wesoko Palm Leaf pendant is similar, £99, La Redoute

MAIN BEDROOM
French antique shutters make an eye-catching headboard.
Vintage French shutters, £240, Fabulous Vintage Finds. Bolster cushions, £98 each, Anthropologie. Milton concrete stool, £300 for a set of two with outdoor table, Habitat

GARDEN ROOM
Natural soft furnishings ensure the indoor and outdoor spaces merge into each other, while climbing plants provide privacy between neighbours.
Off White Odenzen tub chair, £219.99, Beliani, is similar. Tree trunk side table, £89, Za Za Homes, has this look. Woodcutter's bench, £770, Free Range Designs, is an alternative

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Regency townhouse
LOCATION Chelsea, London
ROOMS Sitting room, drawing room, kitchen-diner, snug, garden room, two bedrooms (both en suite), shower room, yoga room
PURCHASED 2015
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'I lived in an apartment in Knightsbridge,' says Louise.

URBAN OASIS

Every floor of Louise Bradley's townhouse has been designed to perfectly suit her lifestyle

FEATURE SERENA FOKSCHANER | **PHOTOGRAPHY** PAUL RAESIDE

KITCHEN-DINER
On winter nights, the basement sparkles with light reflected in the mirrored walls and metal surfaces.
For a similar dining table, try the Komodo 8-10 seater, £4,191, Abacus Tables

It took almost three years of house hunting before interior designer Louise Bradley found the right property. 'There was something wrong with everything I looked at,' she says. 'It might be that the back of the house was overlooked by other houses or the drawing room was on the left-hand side whereas I'm right-handed. In short, they were not the blank canvases every designer craves.'

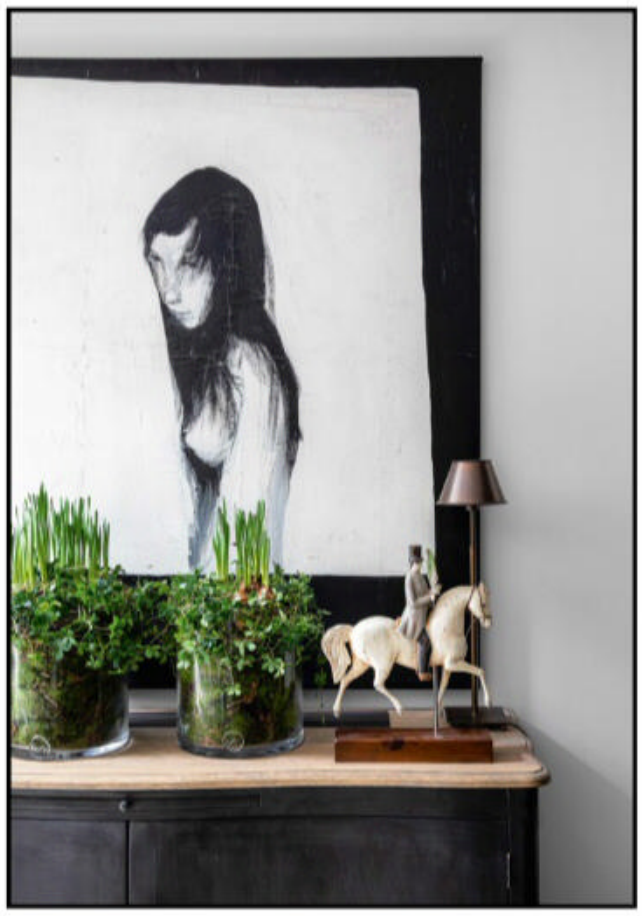
Eventually Louise found a four-storey stucco fronted townhouse in Chelsea 10 minutes from her design studio (louisebradley.co.uk). 'It sits at the end of two parallel terraced streets, but instead of being back-to-back with another property, the house looks out onto gardens and all the rear windows have fabulous views of tall trees and plants,' she says. 'Although I'm in the middle of town, the house has a tranquil feel, almost like being in the country.'

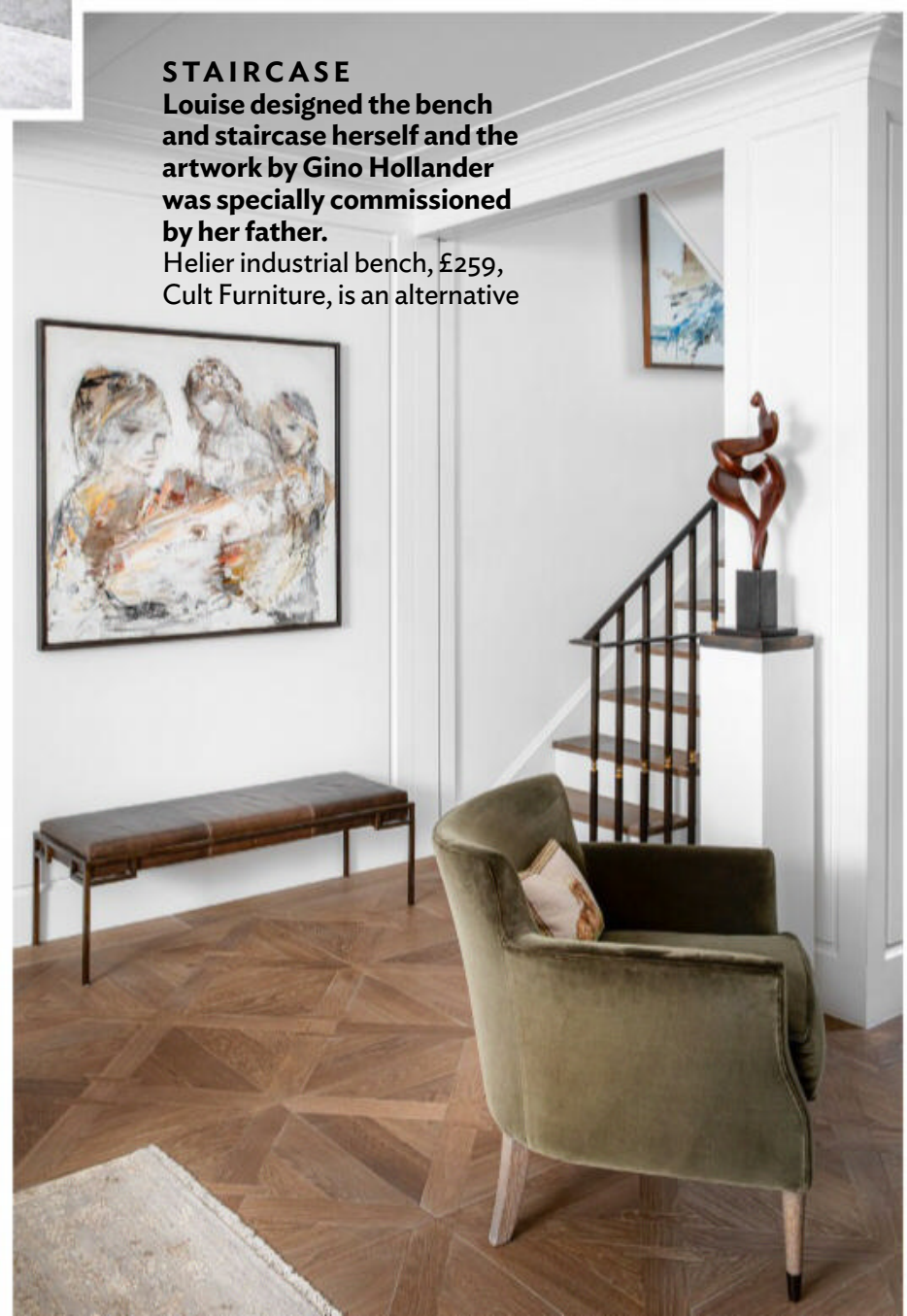
After almost 30 years of designing interiors for other people, Louise knew exactly how she wanted her new home to look and feel. 'It had to be a place that reflected the way I want to live, where I could close the front door and be transported away from city life,' she says.

The house was taken back to a shell by LDB Construction and it took almost two years to reconfigure the space. A major part of the work was digging out the basement floor to raise the ceiling in the new kitchen-diner.

On the ground floor, the original hallway was removed to create a much larger drawing room,

SNUG
The bespoke sideboard conceals an air cooling system.
Try Godiva white horse on stand, £60, Shropshire Design





STAIRCASE
Louise designed the bench and staircase herself and the artwork by Gino Hollander was specially commissioned by her father.
Helier industrial bench, £259, Cult Furniture, is an alternative

DRAWING ROOM
The chandelier brings elegance to the more formal drawing room. Louise designed the bespoke shelving units.
Hilary Batstone has similar antique chandeliers, from around £5,000.
Mahi shelving unit, £395, Nkuku, is an alternative

DECORATING TIP ***'I veer towards neutral colours – Little Greene's Slaked Lime gives a soft and warm feeling to any room'***

BEDROOM
A four-poster bed echoes the luxurious feel of the interior.
Metal modern four-poster bed, £3,189.99, Decur, has this look. Gold metal starburst mirror, £159.99, Woodcock & Cavendish, is similar. Hay Crinkle bedspread in Anthracite, £117.64, Connox, would work here

while a glazed garden room was created by extending into the side return. 'I wanted an indoor-outdoor space that I could spend all year in,' says Louise. 'So I worked with Creepers Landscape Design to create a mini courtyard with artificial grass and potted plants.'

Upstairs Louise turned the sitting room into a large main bedroom. 'The joinery houses a hidden mirrored door through which you access the en suite,' she says. Not needing a guest loo on this floor, it was knocked out to create a window overlooking a roof garden with centrepiece sculpture by Michael Speller.

The second floor – once two cramped bedrooms – is a now a guest suite with a secret wardrobe for overspill clothes. Finally the top floor houses Louise's yoga room and a shower room.

As Louise has her own design studio, much of the furniture and lighting is bespoke. She even designed the bronze balustrade herself as a feature running through all floors. 'I prefer an interior to be muted and classic for a cohesive feel,' she says. 'You can add colour in cushions, fabrics and art.'

Now Louise and her two miniature dachshunds, Bebe and Ellie, can enjoy the restful sanctuary she worked so hard to achieve. 'As soon as I step inside my home I feel instantly peaceful and connected to nature,' she says. 'It's wonderful to curl up on the sofa on my own surrounded by my art and gaze out at the canopy of greenery behind, but I also love seeing the house filled with friends.'

MAIN EN SUITE
Designed as a peaceful retreat from a busy working life, Louise added an indulgent egg bath.
Neptune bath, £2,990, Castello

EN SUITE
The clever pivoting mirror, designed by Louise, allows guests to take advantage of the view.
Stone Two oval washbowl, £1,252.84, C.P Hart. Rotating wall mirror with shelves behind, £75, Rockett St George, is an alternative

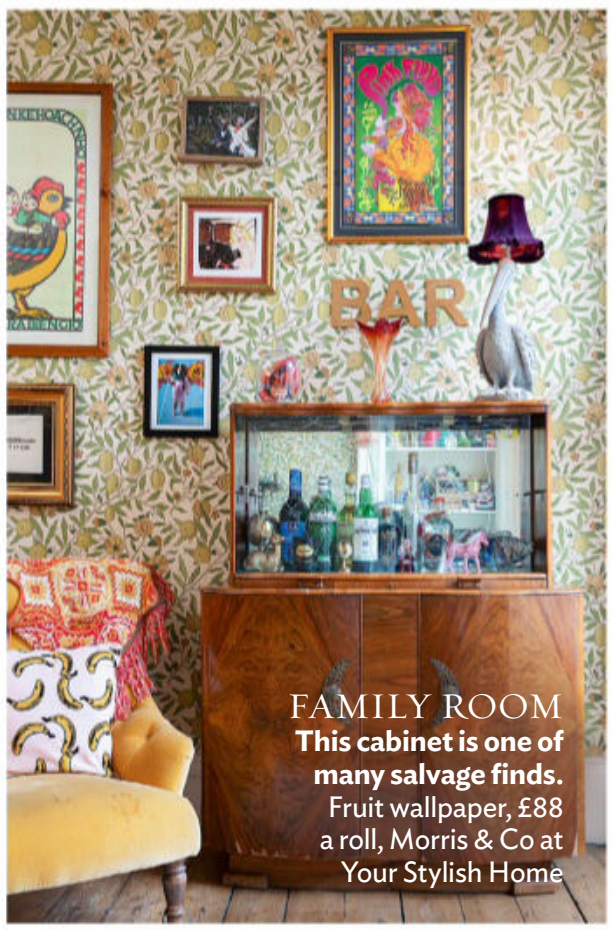
MAIN BEDROOM
Antiqued mirrors amplify the scale of the room, while antique French embroidered pillows add a homely feel.
Lily Quartz occasional table, £4,995, Louise Bradley

KITCHEN
A generous veg rack adds a rustic note. Try Reclaimed Britain at Etsy for a similar vegetable holder

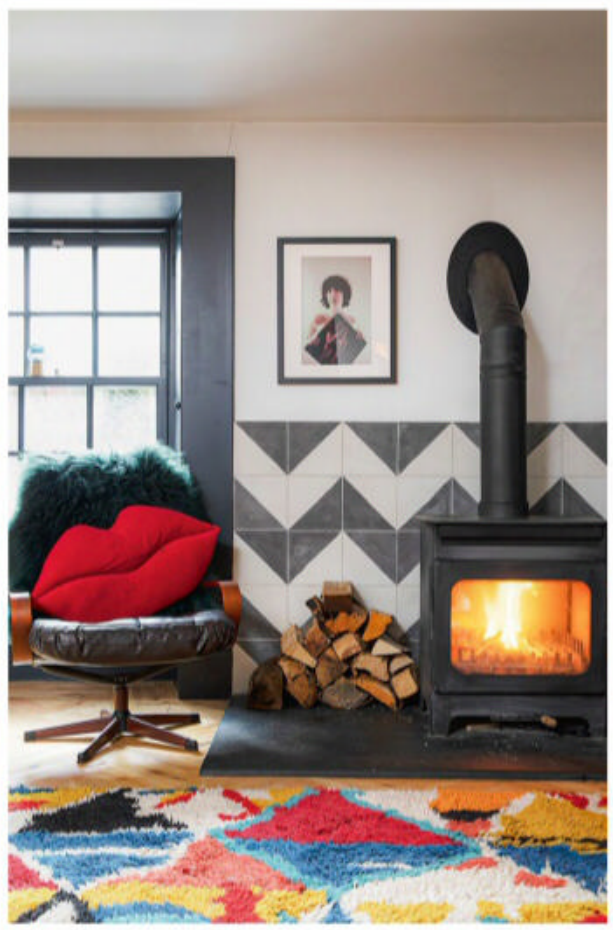
BRIGHT SPARKS

With its vibrant interior full of eye-catching touches, Emma and James Pais' Edwardian home has become the party house of the street

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** KATIE LEE



FAMILY ROOM
This cabinet is one of many salvage finds. Fruit wallpaper, £88 a roll, Morris & Co at Your Stylish Home

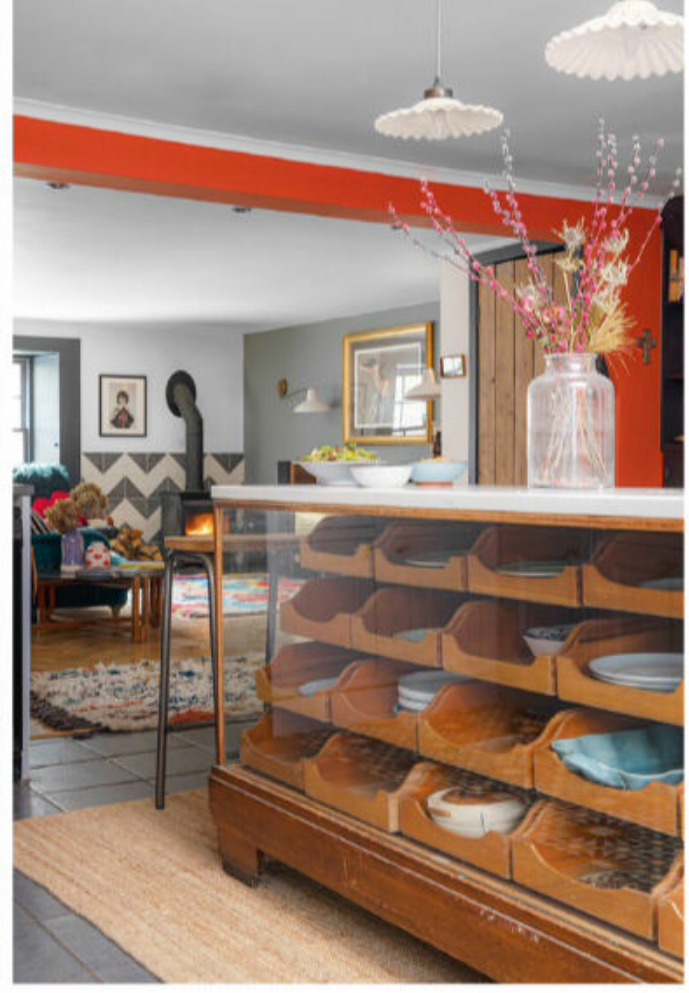


HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY Three-storey Edwardian townhouse
LOCATION Glasgow
ROOMS Sitting room, family room, kitchen-diner, three bedrooms, bathroom, shower room
PURCHASED 2014
PREVIOUS PROPERTY 'We lived in a Victorian semi in south London,' says Emma.

FAMILY ROOM
A bright yellow wall – ideal for showing off some of the couple's art collection – and lipstick pink sofa provide a joyous clash of colour.
Saturday two-seater sofa in Peony cotton velvet, £1,640, Sofa.com, is similar. Wall in Hustle at 5pm matt emulsion, £45 for 2.5ltr, Fired Earth

SITTING ROOM
With strong wall colours, Emma chooses accessories in slightly more nuanced accent tones.
Mexicana Grey cushion, £39, Graham and Green



KITCHEN
The ingenious use of a haberdashery unit to create the kitchen island shows Emma's skill for upcycling.
Large narrow pleat porcelain light, £220, deVOL, has this look. Large glass vase, £67.50, Bell & Blue at Notonthehighstreet

DINING AREA
'I'd seen these tiles in a garden and thought they would work so well alongside the exposed brickwork in here,' says Emma.
Black Split Shift tiles, £180sq m, Bert & May

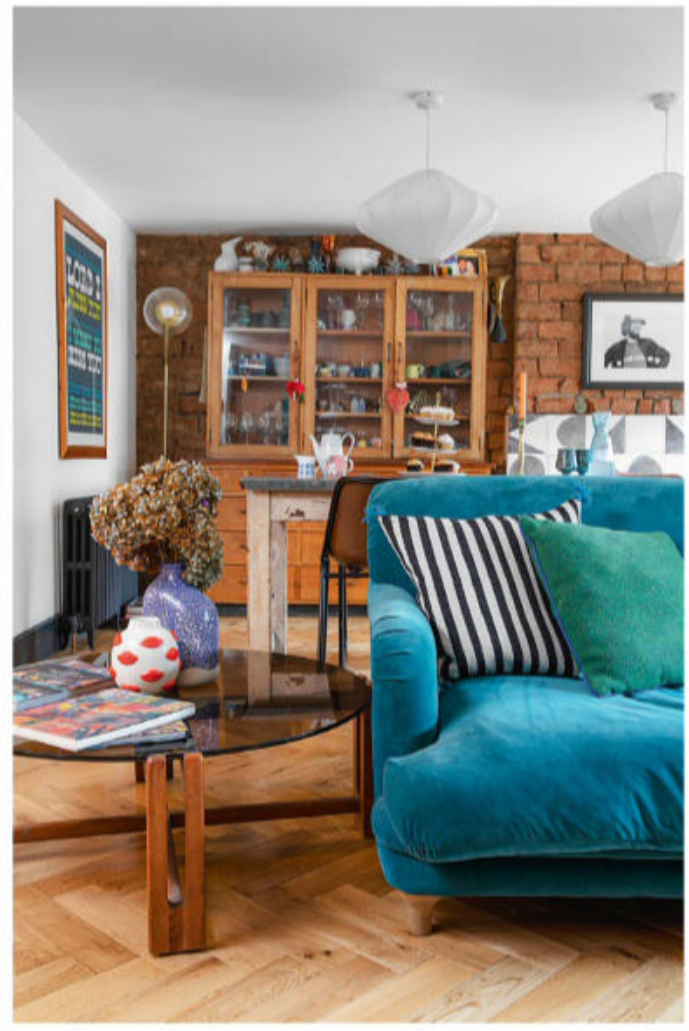
After living in London for 17 years, Emma and James Pais decided to take the plunge and move to Glasgow, where Emma had lived as a young child. 'Our daughter Skye was three at the time and we wanted to be closer to her grandparents,' says Emma. After doing their research, the couple fell in love with Strathbungo, a conservation area in the south of the city, so focused their search there.

On a trip north, Emma viewed eight properties in one day and was smitten with a three-storey Edwardian house. 'Although the décor was dark and dated, the house had loads of potential,' she says. 'The rear faced south so I knew it could be much brighter. I sent pictures to James, and he loved it too.'

By the time the family arrived in Scotland, James already had a new job in advertising, but Emma was still looking, so she turned her attention to painting and papering. 'I'm quite intuitive – I know what colours I want – but it's good to live in the space and see how the light works with different paint and wallpaper samples,' says Emma. 'I always make mood boards: it's like a jigsaw finding out what works best.'

Having been drawn to the sash windows and ornate cornicing, the couple were keen to

KITCHEN
Varied flooring zones the kitchen and brings pattern and texture to the space.
Try Tiphede rug, £10, Ikea



BEDROOM
The rich wallpaper adds drama and gives a cocooning feel.
Rabarber wallpaper, £73.20 a roll, Borastapeter at Jane Clayton

preserve the property's original features while sympathetically modernising it. Converting the basement from 'a dark burrow' with a kitchen, utility room and den into a dual-aspect open-plan kitchen-diner/sitting room was a game changer, creating a space in which the family could cook, relax and entertain. The work required the support of two steel joists, but was delayed 'as our first builders didn't complete the job effectively, so the bathroom above fell through the ceiling!' Emma says. 'Luckily, a neighbour recommended some brilliant builders who rectified everything.'

Today, the house reflects the couple's love of art and music, with bold colour choices, from deep teal to zingy yellow, and vintage furniture. The basement has come into its own as the party room and is now the place that neighbours flock to for a good old knees-up.

'We've also paved part of the garden to create a dining area with a boho structure at the back where we can screen outdoor movies in summer,' says Emma, who now works in advertising and is channelling her passion for interior design into her own business (Instagram @spais_studio_interiors). 'We're really very lucky, as there's such a great community atmosphere here,' says Emma. 'I just couldn't imagine living in a better street.'

SKYE'S BEDROOM
Old cinema seats and a popcorn popper add vintage flair.
For vintage cinema seats, try Vinterior. Bumble side table, £64, Habitat. LED metal heart wall light, £21.99, Under The Willow Tree, is similar

SHOWER ROOM
'I'd always wanted rose gold shower fittings,' says Emma, 'and I was happy to find a gold-trimmed screen to match.'
Luxe rose gold shower, £495; Mayfair brushed gold shower screen, from £695, both Lusso

MAIN BEDROOM
The couple moved this room to the top floor as it's cosier and calmer.
Rosalie double bed in Evergreen, £1,200, Sofa.com, has this look. Classic Cat poster, £89, Le Gun

SITTING ROOM
Emma opted for a green wall to make the lips image 'sing'.
Lips artwork, Sara Pope

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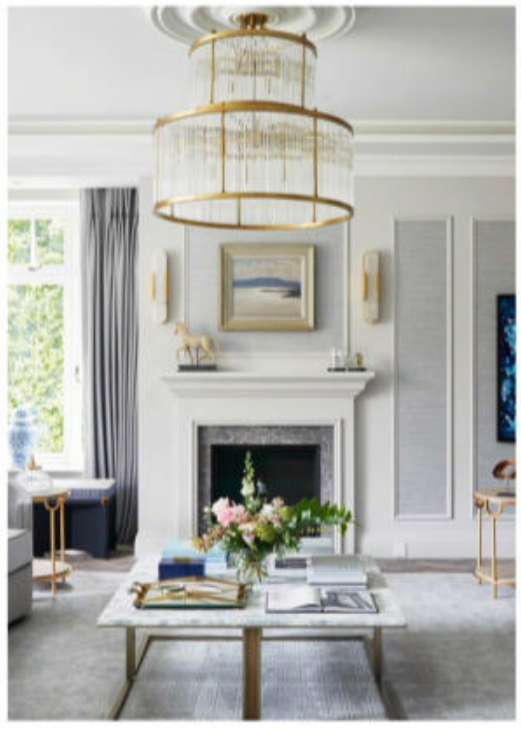
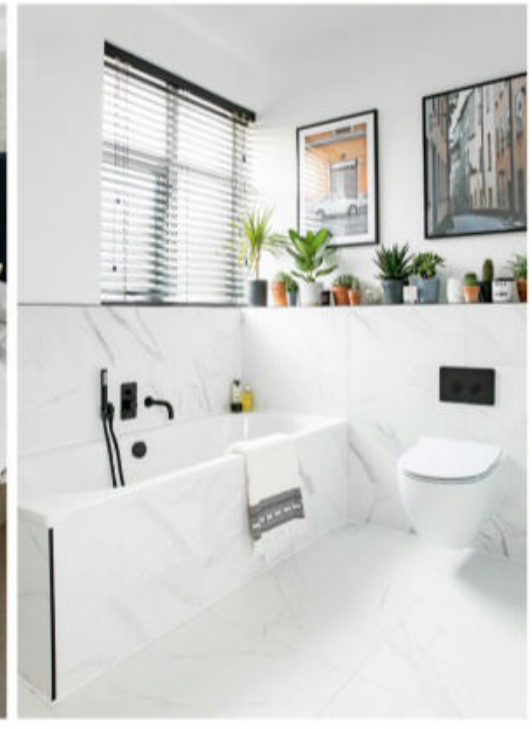
ROOMS IN FOCUS

We look at a specific project in five amazing houses to give advice and inspiration in detail





FULL OF SURPRISES

Featuring beautiful metallic accents and secret workspaces, this glamorous kitchen reworked by Laura and James Brightman is more than the sum of its parts

FEATURE CATRIONA SUMMERHILL | **PHOTOGRAPHY** MARY WADSWORTH

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS Laura and James Brightman
HOUSE A period villa in Holland Park, north London
WORK Removing an existing lower ground floor pool to make way for a new kitchen, which incorporates two dining areas and a hidden home office

When Laura and James Brightman moved into their period London villa, they knew they had a big project on their hands. 'We embarked on a full gut and renovation of the property, more or less back to the brick,' says James. So when it came to their new kitchen, the Brightmans had the freedom to craft a timeless design that artfully blended form and function to showstopping effect.

THE BRIEF

'We wanted a multifunctional space that would be timeless yet inviting,' says James. To help them realise their dream design, the couple took inspiration from the handcrafted kitchens on display in the Roundhouse showroom. 'We loved the bold use of brass and marble,' says James. The wish list also included formal and informal dining areas, a breakfast bar, a home office space and generous storage.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

To create the smart look that the Brightmans were after, the Roundhouse design team suggested an impressive run of white floor-to-ceiling cabinets to house the fridge, freezer and a pocket-door breakfast bar, which can be hidden from sight when not in use. Under-counter units were chosen for the opposite wall, while a prep sink, storage drawers and built-in microwave are housed in the island. At the opposite end of the room, a cleverly disguised home office was built to match the tall white cabinets, and Crittall windows were installed to link the lower ground floor to the garden and flood the kitchen with light.

MATERIALS USED

To soften the kitchen's pure-white look, eye-catching slabs of beautiful grey-veined Arabescato marble were used for the splashback and island top, while glamorous brass accents were introduced to create the wow factor the Brightmans wanted. 'The stainless-steel counters and smooth poured-concrete flooring have a great industrial feel and work well with the marble,' says James. They also provide a subtle backdrop for the 'antique' brass on the island and extractor hood, which were given an acid wash to help them take on a natural patina with the passage of time.

FINISHING TOUCHES

'Attention to detail is what gives this kitchen its star quality,' says James. In particular, a sound system was built into the wall cladding, with grooves cut into the furniture plinths to allow for the very best conduction of sound. There is even a charging area for a handheld vacuum cleaner built into one of the tall cabinets.

LESSONS LEARNT

'I think we've come to appreciate the importance of a coordinated team,' says James. 'Because everything is linked and sequencing can be challenging, having an architect and a builder who work well together is essential.'

STATEMENT STYLE

The distinctive grey veining of Italian Arabescato marble is teamed with luxurious brass accents. On the island, the brass was given an acid wash so it will acquire a warm patina with age. Elsewhere, brass handles and trims continue the theme.
Bespoke Classic **cabinetry** and Urbo handleless **island**, Roundhouse. Similar pull bar cross **handle** in brass, from £58; furniture **knob** cross in brass, £40 a pair, Buster+Punch. For Arabescato **marble** slabs, try Find Surfaces. For stainless-steel **worktops**, try MPM Engineering. Blanco Claron **sink**, from £431.89, Building Supplies Online. Quooker Flex Pro3 all-in-one **tap**, £1,150, Quooker. Wolf dual-fuel **range** with griddle ICBDF486G, price on request, The Appliance Centre. For over-hob **extractor hoods**, try Westin. Built-in **microwave oven** M7240TC, £1,179, Miele. Integrated column **freezer** ICBIC-18FI-LH, POA; integrated column **refrigerator** ICBIC-30RID-LH, POA, both Sub Zero & Wolf. Form **bar stool**, £230, Normann Copenhagen at Royal Design, is similar. Try the Anit **candlesticks**, from £10 each, Nordic Nest. Raawii Strøm **bowl**, £60, Amara, has this look. Steel **windows**, price on request, Crittall

WORKING WONDERS

The bespoke home office space, which has a walnut interior, is seamlessly hidden when the pocket doors are closed.
Bespoke joinery, Roundhouse. Try Oxford Modern stool, £84.99, Furniture Box

SITTING PRETTY
Tulip chairs were favoured for the family dining area as they are a more versatile option than the originally planned banquette seating.
Similar Tulip-style side chair, £99, Fusion Living

THINKING BIG

In pursuit of their perfect kitchen-living space, Sara and Adam Dewhurst knew they had to go all-out with their design plans

FEATURE LINDA CLAYTON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** JAKE FITZJONES | **STYLING** SHANI ZION FITZJONES

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS Sara and Adam Dewhurst
HOUSE A five-bedroom detached Victorian property in West Yorkshire
WORK A ground-floor renovation, including a large orangery-style extension to create space for an open-plan kitchen-diner and living area

CALLED TO THE BAR
Full stave beech creates a butcher's block-inspired breakfast bar at one end of the limestone-topped island.
Orangery extension, Westbury Garden Rooms. Beech breakfast bar, around £2,000; Birr black Belgian limestone island worktop, £3,900, both Mowlem & Co. Wiversfield wide plank engineered wood flooring, £138.40sq m, Naked Floors, is similar

Creating a sociable, open-plan living space is a dream coveted by many, but for Sara and Adam Dewhurst, improving the connections to their rural surroundings was just as important. Having moved to a leafier part of Yorkshire to bring up their daughters, they were keen to enjoy the changing landscape. 'Although the house was a warren of rooms with a small, dark kitchen, the garden took our breath away,' says Sara.

THE BRIEF

Forging a link between the kitchen and the outdoors was a priority for the couple. Sara had also set her sights on a Shaker-style kitchen with a modern twist. She started a pinboard on Pinterest and soon realised all her favourite images came from Mowlem & Co. 'Sara had a clear idea of the look she wanted, but just needed help with the layout and detailing,' says Mowlem & Co's director Julia Brown, who was on hand to guide Sara around the showroom.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

Taking the bold move to relocate the kitchen to the back of the house and add a generous full-width orangery-style extension flooded the space with light. This L-shaped area is now home to a kitchen with an island, breakfast bar and walk-in pantry, as well as separate dining and living areas. 'Lifting the island off the floor with longer legs is a great way to make it appear less dominating,' says Julia. 'This is particularly important if you're going for a substantial island, which could easily overpower the room.'

MATERIALS USED

Inspired by moody Yorkshire skies, Sara chose a palette of blue-greys to provide a soothing scheme that connects to the landscape. These hues complement the wide-plank oak flooring and quartz and limestone worktops, creating a restful, understated look. Adding subtle glamour is the mirrored silver-leaf splashback, which helps reflect light.

FINISHING TOUCHES

To give the classic Shaker cabinetry a fresh, modern look, Sara chose smoked bronze hardware with rugged knurled grips. 'That's the true beauty of Shaker design – it can be taken in a contemporary direction without losing its authentic charm and classic craftsmanship,' explains Julia.

LESSONS LEARNT

'Proportion is everything, particularly when it comes to the size of the island, which we spent a lot of time plotting,' says Sara. 'It had to be big enough to have presence, but without dominating the room. If you're unsure about the size of an island, ask your builder to mock-up a "box" and position it in the space, or simply spray paint the dimensions onto the floor to give you a better idea of size.' Much to Sara's delight, the island now sits comfortably within the room, acting as a division between the kitchen and living area. 'It's impossible to feel anything but happy here,' says Sara. 'The light, the space and the garden views make me smile every day.'

ALL IN THE DETAILS

The breakfast bar sits higher than the island worktop to define the two areas. An easy-to-clean glass splashback, which is hand-gilded on the reverse with silver leaf to create an elegant antiqued pattern, adds texture and character. Bespoke Shaker-style **kitchen**, from £40,000, Mowlem & Co. For a similar **splashback**, try silver leaf verre églomisé panels, from £768sq m, Rough Old Glass. Brooklyn antique large flat industrial pendant **lights**, £89 each, Holloways of Ludlow. Hee **bar stool**, £189, by Hay at Nest, is similar. Eternal Statuario quartz **worktop**, from £400sq m, Silestone. Bespoke Cache Twin built-in **extractor**, from £3,200, Westin. M Series transitional convection **steam oven** ICBCSO30TM/S, £6,780; M Series transitional **single oven** ICBSO30TM/S, £7,080; **warming drawer** ICBWWD30O, £2,760; **range top** with chargrill and griddle ICBSRT484CG, £9,900, all Wolf. All **refrigerator** column ICBIC-30RID, £10,740; All **freezer** column ICBIC-18FI, £9,420, both Sub-Zero. Fusion Square Pro3 3-in-1 boiling water **tap** in stainless steel, £1,300, Quooker. Kubus undermount stainless-steel **sink** KBX11055, £550, Franke. Furniture **knobs** in smoked bronze, £73 a pair, Buster & Punch

GLASS ACT

Open shelving in the walk-in pantry is ideal for displaying a collection of pretty baskets and ceramics.

For steel-framed doors, try Crittall. Pantry painted in Down Pipe estate eggshell, £67 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Staffordshire blue quarry floor tiles, price on request, Ketley Brick, have this look

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HIDDEN WONDERS

Custom curved furniture, dramatic lighting and a secret bar bring wow factor to the sitting room of this new build home

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** HELEN CATHCART

PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER Sara Cosgrove Studio
HOUSE Detached new build in Dublin
WORK To zone and add character to the sitting room, incorporating storage and a new focal point

TALKING POINT
Sara has created a sociable space where eight people can sit comfortably.
Custom sofas by Sara Cosgrove Studio, upholstered in fabric from The David Collins Studio Collection for Baker

After moving into their new build house, the owners realised the sitting room would need a makeover to add character and improve the flow. To ensure they got it right, they brought in interior designer Sara Cosgrove of Sara Cosgrove Studio.

THE BRIEF

With an unusual L-shape and two key entry points, the space was tricky to plan. The location of the chimney stack next to the window limited the placement of furniture, too. 'Our client wanted it to work as both a relaxing and entertaining space with an elegant feel, but were unsure if they needed a TV,' says Sara. 'They wanted a serene feel while being able to dim the lights in the evening to create a convivial mood.'

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

To zone the space, a dining table was situated in the bay window and Sara designed the Italian marble fireplace as a focal point for the seating area. 'We ended up going slightly narrower and higher on the fireplace to maximise the beautiful ceiling height,' she says. 'There's also a secret bar matched in with the panelling so it's completely seamless when the doors are shut. A removable panel behind one of the side units gives flexibility to install a TV at a later date.'

FINISHING TOUCHES

Classic powder blue was chosen for the colour scheme with rich mustard accents and a few darker-toned pieces of furniture for a slightly masculine feel. 'Art sourced at auction, plus a custom marble coffee table and chandeliers really add to the wow factor,' says Sara.

LESSONS LEARNT

Good planning was invaluable on this project. 'It took me many months to really figure out how the space was going to work,' says Sara. 'The bookcase on the back wall was a last-minute addition and I'm really glad I took the time to get it right as it worked out beautifully.'

Thankfully the client was wowed by the end result. 'They understood how tricky the space was to resolve,' says Sara. 'So by creating the secret bar, having a fireplace as a focal point, separating the dining area and adding lots of sensible storage for crockery, all the design brief requirements were met.'

SETTING THE TONE

As the sitting room is the first space you encounter off the hall, it needed to be warm, welcoming and sophisticated. Cabinetry custom designed by Sara Cosgrove Studio, price on request, and created by Gem Joinery. Mae clear **table lamp**, £701.50, Heathfield & Co, is similar. Rut Dark Grey Melange **rug** is similar, £734, RugVista. Etsu **wallpaper** by Romo, £76 a roll, Jane Clayton. Roman **console table** (in hallway) by Terence Conran, £3,345, Benchmark Furniture. Eichholtz Avery **chandelier** (in hallway), £1,600, House of Isabella

ZONING THE SPACE
A dining area in the bay window makes the most of the L-shaped room.
Devonshire dining chair in Dove Grey, £255, La Residence Interiors, is an alternative. Similar coffee table by Loom, from £1,805. Pendant lights custom designed by Sara Cosgrove Studio, price on request, and made by Mullan Lighting. Katia side table, £525, Andrew Martin

CREATING CALM

By eschewing bold colours and focusing on luxe textures, the designer of this new build bedroom has created a sophisticated space

FEATURE KAREN WILSON | **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANDREW HENRY INTERIORS

PROJECT DETAILS

DESIGNER Andrew Henry Interiors
HOUSE Five-bedroom detached new build in Reigate, Surrey
WORK To bring a luxe hotel feel to a main bedroom and make the most of the views

LUXE LOOK
Tactile fabrics such as linen, silk and velvet teamed with warm brass evoke the feel of a deluxe five-star hotel.
Nobilis Esprit de Matieres wallpaper collection, £120 a roll; bespoke headboard, £995, both Andrew Henry Interiors

GOING GREEN
Neutral bespoke curtains are a wise choice to ensure the beautiful view remains the main attraction.
Bespoke curtains and track, £1,250, Andrew Henry Interiors

no. 24

After moving into their newly built detached house in Reigate, Surrey, the owners were keen to transform the generous main bedroom from a blank canvas into a luxurious retreat. To ensure they got it right, they called in Andrew Henry, director of Andrew Henry Interiors.

THE BRIEF

'The client wanted the look and feel to be along the lines of a high-end boutique hotel,' says Andrew. 'They wanted to create a lavish adult sanctuary with walk-in dressing room and en suite – somewhere to relax and unwind after a busy day running their own business. It had to flow with the rest of the house and complement the greenery outside.'

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

'As it's a well-proportioned space, we were able to incorporate a super king-sized bed, bespoke winged headboard and separate seating area,' says Andrew. 'Positioned next to the Juliet balcony, the seating space was created to take in the views overlooking Reigate Common and Windmill.'

To create a relaxing and inviting space, Andrew used a colour palette of sophisticated neutrals, layering different textures including linen, silk and velvet. 'To add a touch of drama, we created a bespoke midnight blue velvet winged headboard,' he adds. 'The use of blues had been incorporated elsewhere in the home, but this space was designed to be more restful than others. Including a tonal palette alongside the rich blues in the bedroom helped to elevate the space while still creating a natural flow throughout the home.'

As with many new build homes, the house already had downlighters in the ceiling as standard. 'We wanted the space to feel cosy and inviting so incorporated ambient lighting in the form of table and floor lamps,' says Andrew.

FINISHING TOUCHES

Andrew's attention to detail has paid dividends and the owners were delighted with their new look bedroom. The use of high thread count Egyptian cotton bedding and a sumptuous throw, alongside bespoke soft furnishings and cushions, all helped tie the space together while adding a touch of opulence.

'A successful interior design scheme may not always be about using strong colours,' he says. 'A calm palette can often be equally as sophisticated.'

WRAPAROUND
A bespoke velvet winged headboard introduces a hint of blue – tying in with tones used throughout the rest of the house – and creating a comforting, cocoon-like feel.
RV Astley Antique mirror **chest of drawers**, £1,423, Viva Lagoon, is similar. RV Astley Kenley antique brass **table lamp**, £331, Olivia's. **Mirror** framed R08, £141, Mirror For You, has this look. Liang and Eimil Altro occasional **chair**, £861.30, Shropshire Design. Bespoke **cushions** and bed **throw**, £550, Andrew Henry Interiors

PROJECT DETAILS

OWNERS Jennie Roe and Greg Lawson
HOUSE A five-bedroom detached house in East Sussex
WORK Two bathrooms were knocked into one to create a spacious room, which was part of a whole house renovation

MODERN CONVERSION

Jennie Roe and Greg Lawson removed a wall between their cramped bathroom and even pokier en suite to create this light and spacious room

FEATURE KATE HILL/VANESSA RICHMOND | **PHOTOGRAPHY** LIZZIE ORME | **STYLING** KATE HILL

no.25

Jennie Roe and her partner Greg Lawson had been renovating the ground floor of their house when they turned their attention to the two bathrooms on the first floor, neither of which fulfilled their needs. They asked their architect to help redesign the upstairs rooms and, with some clever reworking of the layout, created a large bathroom that ticked all the boxes.

THE BRIEF

The couple wanted a contemporary bathroom with a big, walk-in shower – a calm space where they could enjoy relaxing as well as dashing in and out of easily in the mornings.

DESIGN SOLUTIONS

As the bathroom and en suite shower room backed onto each other, they were able to knock through to create one larger room and moved a door to give more wall space. The new shower went against this wall, and the most obvious place for the bath was under the window. 'I've always loved Crittall doors,' says Jennie, 'so chose a metal frame-effect shower screen and teamed it with a low-profile shower tray for a wet room look.' The small gap that was left was just the right size for a basin at the end of the bath. A full-height wall was built inside the shower area to conceal the plumbing and this is continued at a lower level to hide the cistern.

'This room was so small before that it was stressful to use,' says Jennie. 'Now there's space to move around and we love coming in here.'

FINISHING TOUCHES

'I am a big fan of a contemporary and clean monochrome look,' says Jennie, 'but we added some pictures of Italy, plants and candles to make the room feel more cosy. We took inspiration from the shower panel and found a black-framed basin unit, black taps and radiator, then added terracotta towels for a warmer flash of colour.'

LESSONS LEARNT

'It's best to get help with a complete bathroom renovation,' Jennie says. 'We really benefited from having an architect work out how to merge the rooms and an interior designer friend who taught me how to draw a scale plan of the new space.'

CLEAN LINES

The new streamlined design enhances the new space and the monochrome style creates a contemporary look. Bette Starlet **bath**, £546.30, QS Supplies. M-Line wall-mounted **bath spout**, £135; concealed **mixer** with diverter, £398; **shower handset,** £71, all BagnoDesign. Similar Crosswater wall-hung **WC**, £815, Drench. Reina Diva curved ladder **radiator**, £129.95, Victorian Plumbing. Luxe 600 **vanity unit**, £770, Lusso Stone. Trio Diallo **wall lights** in black, £15.49 each, DM Lights, have the same look

CHIC LOOK
Jennie was inspired by Crittall-style doors when it came to choosing the shower frame. The black lines on the glass panel are digitally printed onto the glass.
One shower panel and brace, £1,399, Matki. Matt Black tile trim, £19.99 for 25mm; similar Torrano Calacatta porcelain tiles, £36.89sq m, all Topps Tiles

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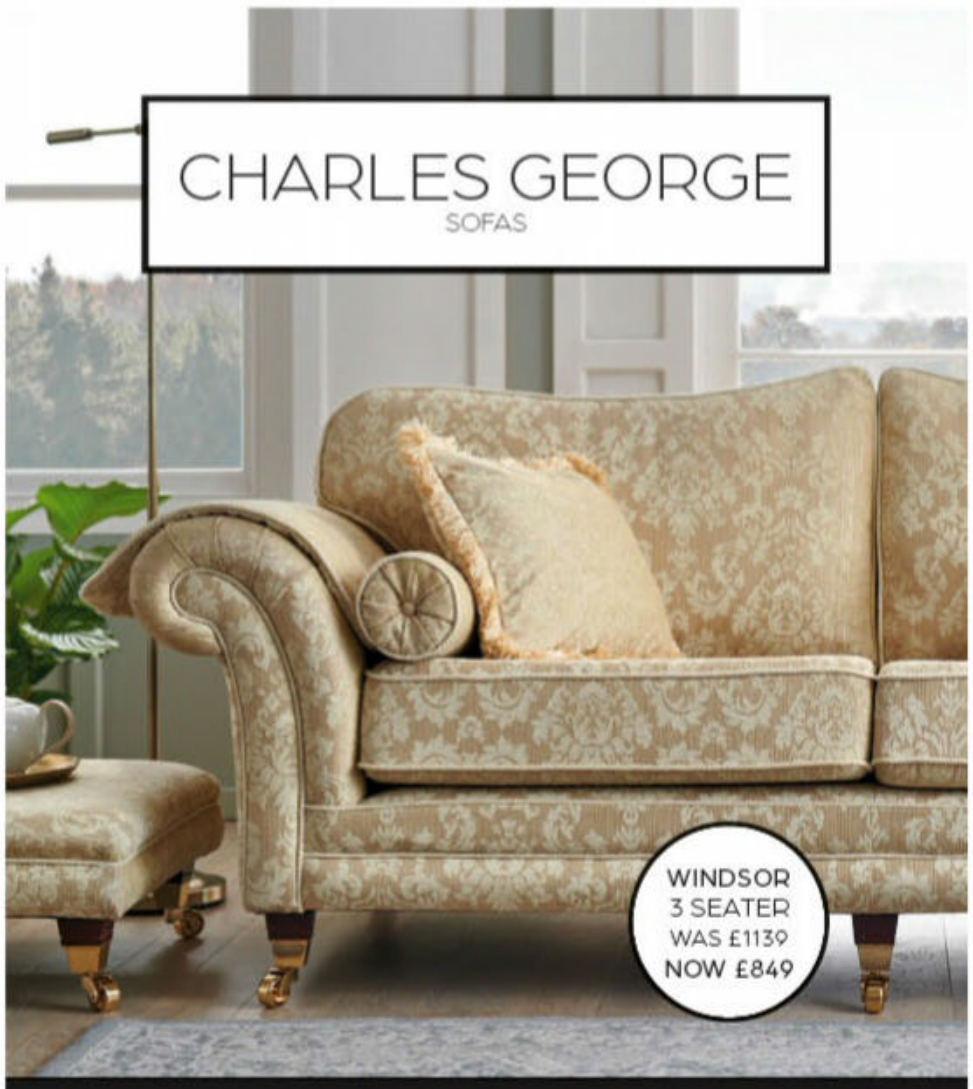

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ROOM ENVY

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

The Bull Inn pub in the pretty south Devon town of Totnes is a labour of love by Geetie Singh-Watson, who has created a haven committed to ethical sustainability. Everything that enters the kitchen is certified organic and comes from mostly local suppliers. Geetie has taken a similar approach with the pub's decor. The building has undergone extensive restoration, with lime-plaster walls, solar panels and a heat recapture system that warms the ground floor.

Designed with environmental impact in mind, each of the bedrooms has a chic, pared-back scheme, with reclaimed, recycled and handcrafted furnishings. Guests can sleep soundly on mattresses made in nearby Exeter with organic fibres and Dartmoor wool, covered in local, organic Greenfibres bed linen. Our favourite bedroom is Room no. 5, a large double room with rose-hued panels, raw ochre plaster walls and an exposed Victorian fireplace, offering a comfortable, cosy space with a subtle 'rough luxe' vibe.

On a practical note, there's ample space for storage, provided by cleverly designed built-in nooks and a large mahogany dresser. A vintage desk, reupholstered armchair and standard lamp at the window give a traditional nod to the building's 18th-century past, while the room's muted tones, simple lighting (bespoke Rodney Lomas lamps finished with porcelain shades from Pippi & Me Ceramics), rustic hemp flooring and discreet Bluetooth and Wi-Fi sound system keep the style firmly in the present.

FEATURE JACKY PARKER

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