

no. 3

BRIGHT & beautiful

Vivid paint hues and colourful fabrics have been skilfully woven together to give Flora and Henry Shaw's terrace individuality

FEATURE ALISON GIBB | PHOTOGRAPHY DOUGLAS GIBB

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Victorian terrace, built in 1895

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, cloakroom, five bedrooms (one en suite), two bathrooms

LOCATION South London





DINING AREA

A bespoke banquette in a colour pop faux leather creates a family hub.

Banquette seating designed by Sean Symington; and made by Hill Magee. Yoda Keramik oval table, £3,840, Cattelan Italia. Pols Potten Cosy dining chairs in Blue velvet, £469 each, Amara

‘We’re so glad we went for bold colour – it feels individual and paint colours can easily be changed’



Flora and Henry Shaw knew that they needed more space and realised that the best way to get exactly what they wanted was to buy a property that needed a bit of work. ‘We wanted a home that suited us as a family, and this way, we wouldn’t have to compromise,’ Flora explains.

From the outside, the Victorian terraced house appears unassuming, but the couple had ambitious plans. ‘We hired an architect but soon realised how much attention to detail was required in order to achieve the level of finish that we hoped for,’ she says. ‘We felt overwhelmed by how time-consuming it would be to tackle the décor ourselves.’ So they engaged interior designer

Sean Symington, who is based in the Cotswolds and has a growing, nationwide reputation due to his spirited combination of flamboyant colour and pattern. ‘Sean helped us to focus and plan an interior that was so much more individual than we would have managed on our own,’ Fiona says.

The couple saw that the best way to maximise the potential of the house for themselves and their two young daughters, Rachel, eight, and Clara, four, was to add a rear extension to enlarge the kitchen. This included floor-to-ceiling windows so that they could enjoy the garden all year round, while guest accommodation was created in the basement and new bathrooms installed. The whole house was decorated throughout, with

HALLWAY

Graphic monochrome floor tiles deliver the wow factor.

Kelly Wearstler Liaison floor tiles, price on request, Ann Sacks London. Ziggy 4 console table, £1,700, Porada. Eternal Sun mirror, £1,500, Ron Gilad

KITCHEN

The cabinetry had been installed before the couple bought the house, and they had it adapted to suit them, painting it in strong contrasting hues.

Bespoke kitchen cabinetry in Oval Room Blue; island unit in Brinjal, both estate eggshell, £74 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Similar flooring, Painswick, from £99.95sq m, Luxury Flooring and Furnishings



SITTING ROOM

The starting point for the wonderful colour scheme was the vibrant rug.

Walls in Inchyra Blue estate emulsion, £54.50 for 2.5ltr, Farrow & Ball. Michel Club sofa, £8,725, B&B Italia. Framis rug, £3,773, The Rug Company. Cube lamps, price on request, Julian Chichester. Shade in Yellow Wicker, from £110, Fermoie





‘The basket slotted underneath the bedside table stores loads of things – it’s a simple and stylish solution’



neutral shades as a backdrop to create a unifying thread in an interior which is full of surprises. ‘Many of the clever fitted solutions were made bespoke by Sean,’ Flora says, ‘and even some of the freestanding furniture, such as the golden velvet ottoman and the deep-green, glossy side tables in the sitting room were made by him.’ The result is a very distinctive, luxurious interior.

‘We both work from home more now,’ Flora says, ‘so we need spaces that are tucked away and private, but we also want to enjoy being together as a family. The large kitchen-diner has been a great success; our older daughter can do her homework at the table and our younger daughter can play happily in here for hours.’ The sitting

room at the front doubles as a wonderful snug for the family too, while the uplifting colours that Sean suggested are much bolder than anything they might have chosen themselves. ‘We both love abstract art and the rich vivid tones make the ideal backdrop for our collection,’ Fiona says.

The finished result is a delight. ‘We feel that the architectural details are of a high standard and that, thanks to Sean, the interior of our home reflects the beauty and vibrancy of modern London,’ says Flora. ‘The parks, the museums and the art galleries that we enjoy on our doorstep are an inspiration and we’re thrilled to have their essence echoed inside our home.’ 25
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