

Colour wheel

Highly personal colour choices helped Andrew and Cara Pazdon make their first house together feel like home

FEATURE ALISON GIBB
PHOTOGRAPHY CHRIS WAKEFIELD

HOME TRUTHS

THE PROPERTY

Semi-detached house, built in 1920

ROOMS Sitting room, kitchen-diner, utility room, study, cloakroom, four bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom

LOCATION West London

SITTING ROOM

Curved lines and fresh colours, combined with a convivial seating arrangement, have ensured this welcoming room a joy to entertain in. Walls in Sugar Bag Light, Farrow & Ball. Green ottoman, Sean Symington



Cara and Andrew bought their west London home wanting more space for their two cats, Calvin and Grant. 'We had been living very centrally in London,' Cara shares, 'and although it was great to be able to walk to Buckingham Palace, we knew we wanted a garden.'

Cara had spotted the work of interior designer Sean Symington online and immediately fell in love with an image of his cockapoo on a coral sofa. 'I love coral and realised he was the designer for us,' she laughs. 'We engaged him sharply after we moved in as we quickly realised we had too many ideas and needed a professional to focus them,' Andrew says.

'The house was in good condition and structurally sound when we moved in, but it felt cold,'

he explains. 'The colour palette was all greys and stones, and we wanted our house to feel homely.' Sean set about skilfully weaving together Cara's favourite shades of corals and mustards with Andrew's preferred blues and greens, not an easy combination but the results are delightful. Sean has added pattern as well with wallpaper and fabrics in bold, unexpected designs that Andrew and Cara would never have considered without his guidance.

Works of art also received the Sean treatment, and he placed much of the couple's collection in a stunning gallery wall above the dining table which tells so many stories of them as a couple and of their families. 'We are delighted with the way Sean has mixed old and new,' explains Cara. 'He has



SITTING ROOM

Sean has skilfully incorporated all the couple's favourite colours in this room, creating a cosy scheme that perfectly reflects the personalities of the owners and feels warm, vibrant and inviting.

Snowdrop sofa, Sofa.com. Fern framed prints in Ochre (from a set of six), Oka. Murphy table lamp in Yellow, Pooky



BREAKFAST AREA

The kitchen is beautifully fitted in dark wooden cabinetry and opens to both a comfortable breakfast area and a dining space overlooking the garden.

Round Tulip table, Swivel UK. Chairs made bespoke by Sean Symington with the backs covered in Quantock velvet by Fermoie. Halo chandelier, Pooky

**‘OUR COLLECTION OF ART ON OUR GALLERY WALL
IN THE DINING SPACE BRINGS US SO MUCH JOY’**



DINING AREA

This light-filled space overlooks the garden, making it a favourite spot in the house. Cara inherited the dining chairs from her great-grandfather and was delighted that Sean could reupholster them and give them a new lease of life. Bench made bespoke by Sean Symington; in De Nimes, Farrow & Ball. Cushions all made in fabrics from Fermoie and Pierre Frey, Sean Symington. Table, Konk Furniture



'PAINTING WOODWORK IN A TONING COLOUR
LOOKS REALLY SMART AND MODERN'

STUDY

The zebra motif wallpaper in Andrew's workspace is a fun note and the bookcases have been painted in a perfectly toning shade of rich blue.

Faubourg wallpaper in Blue, Schumacher. Bookcases in Stiffkey Blue, Farrow & Ball. Brass pendant light, Sean Symington. Stafford leather chair in Smoked Blue, Oka

reupholstered some dining chairs that belonged to my great-grandparents. He did the same with several vintage armchairs that we bought on eBay as well and brought them all to life again.'

The result is a unique and highly individual home, with a strong sense of history. Andrew and Cara felt Sean really listened and has created a space that is perfect for them as a couple at this stage in their lives. 'Working with Sean gave us the confidence to really test our limits when it came to our choices and push the boundaries of interior design,' explains Cara. 'We are both perfectionists and I think without his support our selections might have been a lot safer, for fear of getting it wrong.'

Their palette is warm and summery but works equally well in winter they realise, now that they have lived in the house for a full year.

Tackling the whole house at once was a mixed blessing: 'We had a tighter budget and deadline than if we had taken it in stages,' Andrew explains, 'but of course, in the end the reward of the house being finished in record time was a wonderful luxury.'

Cara is from London, but Andrew moved to the UK 12 years ago from the US. 'Completing this house has made me feel fully at home here at last,' he says. 'I actually think Sean has managed to inject a little bit of New Hampshire into a few corners!'

seansymington.com



MAIN BEDROOM

This peaceful sanctuary is decorated in all Cara's favourite tones from nature: terracotta, coral and pale green.

Walls in 60% Granite Green, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. Bespoke headboard by Sean Symington; in Pineapple Silhouette in Watermelon by Soane Britain. Cagney wall light in antiqued brass, Pooky; with petite scalloped lampshade, Maison Maison



BEDROOM

Richly decorated in a bright orange tropical fruits patterned wallpaper and a matching Roman blind, this guest bedroom doubles as a craft space and a retreat for Cara.

Balangan wallpaper and blind fabric, Manuel Canovas. Bamboozle table lamp, Pooky. Gathered Bedwyn lampshade in Fuchsia Wicker, Fermoie

BEDROOM

Statement patterned fabrics bring country house charm to this welcoming guest space.

Rushmere wallpaper, Colefax and Fowler. Picture rail in Tea Green, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint. Headboard in Indienne Peacock, Sanderson. Armchair in Rydal, Jane Churchill

