



PRETTY IN PINK

A playful palette, lively patterns and fanciful flourishes bring zest and wit to Sean Symington's Victorian terrace, providing a masterclass in joyful interior design



KITCHEN Sean wanted to keep the Bath stone fire surround, so he opted for alcove units on either side. Custom **cabinetry** in Setting Plaster, Farrow & Ball. **Marble flooring**, Mandarin Stone. **Range cooker**, Lofra



‘The house reflects my personal aesthetic

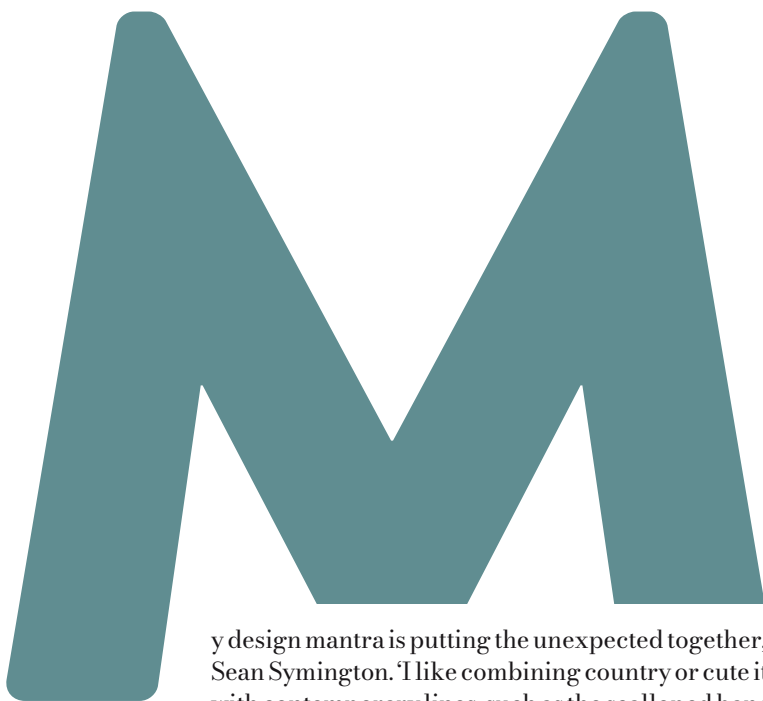
– I’m not afraid of colour and pattern

and I wanted my home to be an example

of how you can push boundaries’

DINING AREA A scalloped banquette in pretty gingham breaks up the slick lines of the extension and introduces a playful element. Fish art TV, Samsung. Wall light, Vaughan. Banquette in fabric by Romo





y design mantra is putting the unexpected together,' says Sean Symington. 'I like combining country or cute items with contemporary lines, such as the scalloped banquette and tulip table in my kitchen-diner. I love the contrast.'

The interior designer's Victorian terrace in Bath is awash with the unexpected. The kaleidoscopic interior is a far cry from his first viewing, when it was a dingy student house with a bed in virtually every room. 'I knew it would scare people because it needed lots of work,' Sean says. 'It was all very closed – even the corridor had a door. I didn't know the sitting room had a fireplace because there was a chest of drawers in front of it.'

Also offputting was a 1970s lean-to and a bathroom off the kitchen that the students shared. But Sean could see the house's promise. 'I knew I could open it up,' he says. His instinct, however, was to keep the sitting room separate, as he likes to have a defined formal room.

Making the most of the space was key. The house was reconfigured, with the ground-floor bathroom replaced by a cloakroom and utility, while a bedroom upstairs was partitioned to create a new bathroom. 'It allowed us to have more rooms but not compromise the space,' Sean says. The lean-to was replaced with an airy part glass-roofed extension which involved digging down to increase ceiling height, while a loft conversion provides a bright bedroom at the top of the house. The main bedroom features a wall of wardrobes, but the layout caused difficulties. Sean wanted to position the bed in front of the chimney breast, freeing up a wall for storage, saying: 'We had to widen the chimney breast to accommodate a king-size bed.'

The beating heart of the home is undoubtedly the kitchen-dining-living area. 'The kitchen needed the most love as it was dark and cold, but we were able to create one big open area,' explains Sean. The Bath stone

fire surround is a hero feature and frames the range, but it meant Sean was limited on what else he could do with the space. 'We tried to pack in as much storage as possible.' Offering a worktop as well as drawers, the generous island also houses the dishwasher and sink. Alcove units on either side of the range, concealing a microwave and coffee station, open to another of Sean's surprises. 'I painted the interior a deep red to give it that punch of colour when the doors are open. I like that unexpectedness.'

Colour and pattern are an integral part of Sean's style and he was keen for the palettes to flow throughout. 'The whole house is pinks, blues and greens,' he notes. The sitting room is a modern twist on stately-home style, embracing a bold backdrop of blue walls, interspersed with pastel pinks and peppered with playful prints, all overseen by the portrait of a commanding Georgian gentleman.

The extension, meanwhile, is a symphony of colour and pattern that focuses on pinks and blues and features a striking chequerboard floor. The pattern-laden dining and sitting areas are offset with warm white walls, while an eye-catching fish artwork turns out to be a TV. Sean has cleverly linked the hero Pierre Frey fabric motif through to the cloakroom, where it is showcased as a statement wallpaper. This careful curation and skilful colour and pattern blending have ensured the end result is a small but perfectly formed interior.

seansymington.com

AT HOME WITH

OWNERS Sean Symington, interior designer, lives here with his partner Panos Maghsoudlou and their cavapoo, Penny.

HOUSE A Victorian terrace comprising kitchen/dining room, sitting room, drawing room, utility room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms.



SOMERSET HOUSE



LIVING AREA 'We spend a lot of time in here,' says Sean of this space, which has heaps of storage. **Sofa**, Sofa.com. **Chair and cushion** in Pommes de Pin, Pierre Frey; **fringing**, Samuel & Sons. **Wall light**, Pooky. **Shade**, Fermoie







SITTING ROOM Sean introduced texture with a grasscloth wallpaper. The portrait was sourced from a dealer. **Wallcovering** in Tantalising Teal, Phillip Jeffries. **Woodwork** in Sugar Bag Light, Farrow & Ball

BEDROOM The hero in this scheme is the floral fabric, while structural supports were clad in timber for a country touch. **Sofa, curtains and cushion** in fabric by Pierre Frey. **Walls** in Lilac Pink, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint



MAIN BEDROOM The headboard fabric is a favourite of Sean's so he added the matching half canopy for a fun finish. **Headboard and canopy** in Tiger Palm, Schumacher; lined with fabric by GP & J Baker

MAIN BEDROOM 'We invested in window treatments and upholstery. I had fun playing with gorgeous textiles and fringes as they play such an important part in the feel of the house.' Walls in Red Earth, Farrow & Ball

SEAN'S COUNTRY LIFE

SIMPLE PLEASURES 'I absolutely love living in Bath. The combination of nature and the unified Georgian architecture never gets old. Sometimes I have to pinch myself that I live in such a beautiful place.'

PLACE TO VISIT 'We often take our dog for leisurely strolls in Castle Combe. The undulating hills and expansive landscapes offer splendid opportunities for exploration and outdoor adventures.'

PLACE TO EAT 'One of our favourites is Walcot House (walcothousebath.com), conveniently located practically at our doorstep.'

PLACE TO SHOP 'We often venture to nearby Tetbury, renowned for its antiques shops and homeware stores. It's like stepping into a treasure trove with places like Brownrigg (brownrigg-interiors.co.uk) and Lorfords (lorfordsantiques.com) beckoning us with their exquisite finds.'

